

Town of Washington Vermont
Annual Report



Hands Mill Dam March 2020

TOWN REPORT FOR FY23
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

In Appreciation of HARRY ROUSH



Harry has been contributing to the Town Washington since moving here in 1982. The following list is just a portion of the dedication and value he has given to all of us. Many of these positions involved attending a lot of trainings and workshops, both in person and virtual, and he worked on more projects than we could ever hope to find and reference.

- 1982: Joined the Fire Department and is still a volunteer member
- 1989-2001: Fire Chief
- 1983: First elected as Lister, now in his 41st year of on and off
- 1996: Became the Enhanced 9-1-1 Contact
- 1998: Washington's Citizen of the Year
- 2004-2017: Emergency Management Coordinator
- 2011: FEMA administrator for the town after Tropical Storm Irene
- 2011-present: Justice of the Peace (and as such, also on Board of Civil Authority)
- 2013-2024: Moderator
- 2013-2023: Planning Commission/ Board of Abatement
- 2015-present: Assistant Town Clerk (Harry retired from this position at the end of 2022, but returned in March 2023 to mentor the new town clerk)
- 2020: became Project Manager for Hands Mill Dam/Buswell House removal
- 2021- present: diligently administering the ARPA reporting since 2021
- 2023: appointed to the Bid Committee for Buswell House removal
- Leading Authority: on maps, including but not limited to his institutional knowledge of changing property maps

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GENERAL INFORMATION
Office Hours/Meetings/Permits/Other

Town Clerk Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Closed Fridays. **Contact:** washingtontownclerk@gmail.com. Phone/Fax 1-802-883-2218.

Treasurer/Delinquent Tax Collector: by appointment. **Contact:** washingtondtcollector@gmail.com, 1-802-883-2218

Closed: New Year's Day, Town Meeting, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

Meetings:

Board of Civil Authority	As needed	6:30 p.m.	Town Hall
Fire Department	Each Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Fire Station
Library Trustees	Second Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Calef Library
Listers	Every Tuesday	4 -6 p.m.	Town Hall
Planning Commission	As needed	6:30 p.m.	Town Hall
Recreation Department	As needed	7:00 p.m.	Member home
School Directors	Second Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Rotating schools
Selectboard	First Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Town Hall
Zoning Board of Adjustment	As needed	6:30 p.m.	Town Hall

Contact a selectboard member or the town clerk at least 7 days prior to the next meeting if you would like something added to the next meeting agenda. ZOOM information will be posted on the town's social media prior to each selectboard meeting, and other meetings as requested.

Permit Regulations-most applications can be found at the town hall

- A **Building** permit is required prior to any new construction or addition to an existing structure.
- A **Burn** permit is required prior to any outdoor burning, other than during the winter when snow is on the ground. Contact the fire warden, Ryan Bresette, 802-272-0892
- A **Driveway** permit is required prior to construction of a new driveway or any change in an existing driveway. A 911 number will be assigned as part of this process. If your access is from Vermont Route 110, you will need a state permit, not a town permit.
- A **Floodplain Development** permit is required for development in a flood hazard area.
- An **Overweight Vehicle** is required for the operation of an overweight vehicle on town roads.

- A **Sub-Division** permit is required prior to any subdivision of land. In addition to a town permit, you will need a subdivision permit from the State of Vermont.
- A **Wastewater** permit is required prior to new construction or subdivision. Your licensed designer needs to apply on your behalf to the VT Agency of Natural Resources. After a permit is approved, a copy is to be given to the Washington town clerk to be kept on file.

Green Mountain Passport: a discount program for legal residents of Vermont who are at least 62 years of age or a veteran of the uniformed services. The one-time cost is \$2.00 and is good for free admission to Vermont State Parks (daytime), Vermont state historic sites, and events which are fully state sponsored. This is issued at the town hall.

Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles: at any time, there are different DMV forms available at the town hall, including but not limited to accident reports for ATVs/snowmobiles/vehicles, vehicle bill of sales, disable parking placard application, lost registration forms.

The 2022 Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Nick Bresette. Nick has served our community in different roles Including as a selectboard member and volunteer firefighter.



Duties of Officials, Appointed, and Elected Positions

- **Animal Control Officer**-enforces state and town ordinances dealing with the care, treatment, licensing and impounding of animals as stated in the ordinance.
- **Auditors**- per 24 V.S.A. § 1681 examine and adjust the accounts of all town officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer.
- **Ballot Clerks**- check-in and check-off voters to ensure accuracy in counts.
- **Board of Civil Authority**-made up of the Justices of the Peace, the town clerk, selectboard members. Duties include reviewing the voter checklist to be sure that only town residents are listed, and hearing abatement petitions.
- **Cemetery Commissioners**-all matters relating to the town's cemeteries.
- **Delinquent Tax Collector**-collection of past due property taxes.
- **FEMA Administrator**-collect, organize and submit all FEMA related town paperwork.
- **Health Officer**-investigates possible public health hazards and risks, takes action to prevent remove or destroy such hazards, enforcing health laws rules and permit conditions, enforcing all above.
- **Justice of the Peace**-participate as member of board of civil authority, assist with elections including taking absentee ballots to homes of those who are homebound, serve as member of tax abatement committee, officiate at weddings.
- **Listers**-determine the fair market value of property, review and complete property transfers.
- **Notary Public**-notarize paperwork after verifying identity, inclination and mental acuity of the signer.
- **Planning Commission Members**-write a long-term comprehensive town plan.
- **Recreation Department**-overseers of Carpenter Park, including rental and activities
- **Road Commissioner**-oversees the road highway crew
- **Road Foreman**-responsible for day-to-day road highway crew operations.
- **Selectboard Members**-have the general supervision of the affairs of the town.
- **Town Clerk**-duties include but not limited to land record preservation by receiving and recording real estate transactions such as mortgages, deeds and liens. Issues dog licenses, marriage licenses, files all state and town paperwork that comes into the office that needs to be kept.
- **Town Treasurer**-keeps the town's accounts, investing money with approval of the selectboard, keeps records of taxes voted, pays orders authorized by selectboard.
- **Tree Warden**-responsible for trees on public property.
- **Zoning Administrator**-oversees town's permitting process for land use and development.
- **Zoning Board of Adjustment**-hears appeals of decisions rendered by the zoning administration.

The population of Washington was 1032 at the 2020 census.

As of December 26, 2023, we have 822 registered voters.

ELECTED POSITIONS

Town Moderator (term expires 2024) 1 year term----- Vacant
Town Clerk (appointed term expires 2024) -----Lois Deberville
Assistant Town Clerk-----Harry Roush

Selectboard: 3-year term

Term expires 2024 -----Robert Blanchard
Term expires 2025 -----A.J. Galfetti
Term expires 2026 -----Sheila Duranleau

Delinquent Tax Collector 1 year term expires 2024 -----Scott Blanchard
Treasurer (appointed term expires 2024) -----Scott Blanchard

Auditors-3-year term, three vacant seats.

Cemetery Commissioners: 3-year term

Term expires 2024 -----Robert Farnham
Term expires 2025 -----Anthony Ziter
Term expires 2026 -----Robert Blanchard

Listers: 3-year term

Term expires 2024 -----Diane Donovan
Term expires 2025 -----Vacant

Library Trustee: 5-year term

Term expires 2024 -----Maxine Durbrow
Term expires 2025 -----Lori Beede
Term expires 2026 -----Harriet Blanchard
Term expires 2027 -----Andrea Poulin
Term expires 2028 -----Linda Beede

Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment: 1, 2, 3-year terms

Term expires 2024 (appointee)----- Vince Vermette
Term expires 2024 (appointee) -----Joe Bresette
Term expires 2024 -----Peter Carbee
Term expires 2024 -----Melissa Metivier
Term expires 2024 -----Joyce Waters
Term expires 2025 -----Jack Peterson
Term expires 2026 -----Gary Winders
Term expires 2026 -----Robert Farnham

Recreation Department: 3-year term

Term expires 2024 -----Vince Vermette
Term expires 2025 -----Robert Blanchard
Term expires 2025 -----Danielle Bresett
Term expires 2026 -----Carol Poulin
Term expires 2026 -----Ann Wade

APPOINTMENTS

Animal Control Officer----- Robert Lowe
Central VT Regional Planning Commission Rep-----Peter Carbee
Central VT Solid Waste Management District Rep----- Peter Carbee
Emergency Management Coordinator-----Robert Blanchard
Enhanced 9-1-1 Contact-----Harry Roush
Health Officer----- Gary Winders
Road Commissioner-----Jesse Lambert
Road Foreman-----Elwin Chambers
Tree Warden-----Josh Bell
Zoning Administrator-----Gary Winders

Justices of the Peace

Scott Blanchard, Peter Carbee, Carol Davis, Raymond McCormack, H. Brooke Paige, Harry Roush,
Anna Strong

Vermont House of Representatives

Carl Demrow
PO Box 531
Corinth, VT 05039
1-802-828-2238/cdemrow@leg.state.vt.us

Vermont Senate

Mark MacDonald
404 MacDonald Road
Williamstown, VT 05679
[1-802-433-5867](tel:1-802-433-5867)

United States House and Senate

Senior Senator-----Bernie Sanders [1-800-339-9834](tel:1-800-339-9834)
Junior Senator-----Peter Welch [1-202-224-4242](tel:1-202-224-4242)
Representative-----Becca Balint [1-202-225-4115](tel:1-202-225-4115)

CURRENT COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED, APPOINTED, AND TOWN POSITIONS
(As of July 2023, all compensation is run through payroll)

Animal Control Officer	\$3,600 annually
Auditors	\$210 annually
Assistant Town Clerk	\$21.50/hour
Ballot Clerks	\$13.67/hour (minimum wage)
Board of Civil Authority	\$0
Cemetery Commissioners	\$40
Delinquent Tax Collector	8% of delinquent taxes collected
FEMA Administrator	\$23.00/hour
Health Officer	\$100.00 annually
Janitorial	\$50 bi-weekly
Library Trustees	\$0
Listers	\$20.00/hour
Planning Commission Members	\$100.00 annually
Recreation Department	\$0
Road Commissioner	\$1,000 annually
Road Crew	\$25.00/hour
Road Foreman	\$28.00/hour
Selectboard Members	\$750 annually
Town Clerk	\$22.50/hour
Town Treasurer	\$23.50/hour
Tree Warden	\$0
Zoning Administrator	\$1,500 annually

Mileage = the federal mileage rate is used to reimburse for use of personal vehicles on own business. The current rate is 65.5 cents per mile

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
MARCH 5, 2024 TOWN MEETING WARNING**

The legal voters of the Town of Washington in the County of Orange are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Washington Village School in said Town on the 5th day of March, 2024 at **2:00 p.m. to act on the following articles. The polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.**

- Art. 1 To elect a Moderator for a 1-year term.
- Art. 2 To elect necessary officers/positions for the Town and School District by Australian Ballot System.
- Art. 3 Will the Town vote to collect taxes on real property in two installments with the first installment due on September 15, 2024 and the second installment due on February 15, 2025?
- Art. 4 Shall the names of delinquent taxpayers who owe more than one year's taxes and The amounts owed be printed in the Town Report?
- Art. 5 Will the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ _____ for the operating budget of the Washington Fire Department and Fast Squad for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025? (Requested \$85,781)
- Art. 6 Will the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ _____for the operating budget of the Calef Memorial Library for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025? (Requested \$62,463)
- Art 7 Will the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ _____ for the Calef Memorial Library Capital Improvement Fund established at the March 5, 2019, Town Meeting? (Requested \$5,000)
- Art. 8 Will the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ _____ for the care of old Cemeteries for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025? (Requested \$6,000)
- Art. 9 Will the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ _____ to support the operating costs of the Recreation Department for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025? (Requested \$4,000)
- Art. 10 Will the Town voters authorize the Town to spend \$1,145,419 for expenses for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025, of which \$900,249 will be raised in taxes?
- Art. 11 Will the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ _____ to level fund the amounts requested from all or some of the service agencies in this report? (Requested \$10,842)

Agency	Request
Barre Area Senior Center	\$500
Center for Independent Living	\$440
Central VT Adult Basic Education	\$725
Central VT Council on Aging	\$800
Central VT Economic Development	\$400
Central VT Home Health & Hospice	\$2,200
Clara Martin Center	\$1,639
Elevate Youth Services	\$250
Family Center of Washington County	\$300
Green Mountain Transit Agency	\$635
Orange County Restorative Justice	\$350
Public Health Council of Upper Valley	\$103
Safeline	\$1,000
Washington Agricultural Association	\$1,500
Total	\$10,842

Dated: January 30, 2024

SELECTBOARD

Sheila Duranleau, Chair Sheila Duranleau

AJ Galfetti AJ Galfetti

Robert Blanchard Robert S. Blanchard

ECHO VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL WARNING AND ARTICLES

Town of Washington Warning

The legal voters of the Town of Washington, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Orange Town Hall on March 4, 2024 at 6:00 o'clock in the evening (PM) to act upon the following articles:

Article I To elect the Echo Valley Community School District Moderator for the ensuing 2024-2025 year.

Article II To see what sum of money, if any, the Echo Valley Community School District will pay the School Directors, District Treasurer, and District Clerk.

Article III To see if the Echo Valley Community School District will authorize the Board of Directors of the Echo Valley Community School District to borrow money on the notes of the School District or otherwise, in anticipation of taxes.

Article IV To see if the voters of the Echo Valley Community School District approve the Echo Valley Community School District Board to expend \$7,187,478 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year for the Echo Valley Community School District.

Article V To see if the Echo Valley Community School District will vote to apply \$25,000 of the FY23 audited fund balance to be placed in the Echo Valley Community School District Capital Improvement Fund.

Article VI To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

The legal voters of the Town of Washington, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Washington Village School on Tuesday March 5, 2024 between the hours of eight o'clock in the forenoon and seven o'clock in the evening (8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.) to vote by Australian ballot upon the following article:

Article VII To elect by Australian ballot the following officers of the Echo Valley Community School District for the ensuing year:

One School Director for the Town of Washington for a Three (3) Year Term on the Echo Valley Community School District Board.

One District Clerk for the Echo Valley Community School District for the ensuing 2024-2025 year.

One District Treasurer for the Echo Valley Community School District for the ensuing 2024-2025 year.

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
MARCH 7, 2023 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

The legal voters of the Town of Washington in the County of Orange and State of Vermont met in the Washington school campus on the 7th day of March, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

The moderator, Harry Roush, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Unless he hears an objection, the moderator will govern the meeting by the Roberts Rules of Order, identify yourself, speak clearly and loudly, address the moderator and no other individuals. Once the article is moved and 2nd by the body, moderator will restate the motion before it comes under consideration and debate. The person making the motion has the opportunity to address the article first. Once a person speaks on the article, he/she may not speak on it again until all other voters have had the opportunity to speak on it. A person may speak twice on an article, 5 minutes each. A division of the house may be requested by any one voter. Paper ballots may be requested by any 7 voters.

Voter has right to challenge moderator should he/she feel he is ruling incorrectly.

Moderator asked non-town voters to stand.

Art 1 To elect all necessary officers for the town and school district for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot system. The polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

No action required.

Art 2 Will the town vote to authorize the select board to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and other revenue?

Brooke Paige moved the question, Peter Carbee seconded.

Discussion: Why are we borrowing money if we have taxes, is there a reason we don't have the money? Nick Bresette (outgoing select board chair): this is in anticipation of natural disaster, etc, don't usually have to borrow any money. Harry Roush: short-term borrowing until 1st tax bill. Carried by ayes.

Art 3 Will the town vote to collect taxes on real property in two installments with the first installment due on August 15, 2023, and the second installment due on November 15, 2023?

Nick Bresette made motion; Brook Paige seconded. Carried by ayes.

Art 4 What amount will the town vote to pay the town officers?

Brooke Paige made motion that all town officers be paid same rate as last year, Maxine Durbrow seconded.

Discussion after second reading: Tom Babic: does this include only selectboard, who does it include, town clerk/treasurer? Harry read off the officers it covers. Peter Carbee asks for it to be amended to include auditors, planning, zoning adjustment, selectboard, listers, health, zoning administrator. Brooke Paige seconded Peter's amendment. Sheila Duranleau: confusing, please put names in next year's town report. Carried by ayes.

Art 5 Will the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$_____ for the operating budget of the Washington Fire Department and Fast Squad for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024? (requested \$84,622)

Ryan Bresette: discrepancy between article warned and what was asked.

Scott Blanchard made motion to amend, Peter seconded. Carried by ayes

Sherry Beede made motion to accept, Jill Skillin seconded. Carried by ayes.

Art 6 Will the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$_____ for the Calef Memorial Library Capital Improvement Fund established at the March 5, 2019, town meeting? (requested \$5000)

Discussion on what was asked last year, Maxine Durbrow said \$4000. Peter Carbee asked what's coming down the line, Maxine replied a new roof. Replied affirmative to question of next year putting what came in and went out in library report. Maxine made motion to approve, Joyce Wadkins seconded. Carried by ayes.

Art 7 Will the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$_____ for the operating budget of the Calef Memorial Library for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024? (requested \$61,369)

Sherry Beede moved to accept as written, Joy Driscoll seconded. Discussion: different amounts in library budget as in selectboard's budget. Nick Bresette: loan payment is part of the debt payment for the town but it is in the town budget already. Brooke Paige: by approving this won't we need to reduce the town budget. Nick: no, it's already calculated. Jen Lambert: what kind of traffic and use is the library getting as it's a lot of money? Maxine said internet access is popular, but the librarian's report didn't get put into the town report. Brooke moved the question, carried by ayes.

Art 8 Will the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$_____ for the care of old cemeteries for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024? (requested \$6000)

Sheila Duranleau moved to accept as written, Maxine Durbrow seconded. Ryan Bresette pointed out the incredible job done by Boomer and crew, and strongly urged the voters to approve the request. Carried by ayes.

Art 9 Will the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$_____ to defray the operating cost of the Recreation Department for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024? (requested \$4000)

Discussion: Danielle Bresette spoke on behalf of the rec department on its past and upcoming agendas. Scott Blanchard spoke on behalf of accepting the article as written, spoke on the community good the department has always done. Brooke Paige made motion to accept, Peter Carbee seconded. Carried by ayes.

Art 10 Will the town voters authorize the town to spend \$872,075 for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024, of which \$627,005 will be raised in taxes?

Discussion: Nick Bresette said there's a discrepancy as numbers got skewed, article amount is correct, budget amount is incorrect. Difference was \$1273.00. Brooke Paige made motion to accept, Sheila Duranleau seconded. Carried by ayes. Note: pages 13 and 14 are reversed.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Message from the Selectboard Chair

At the end of my first year on the selectboard, I am thankful for the engaged and supportive community that I have lived in for 44 years and I am excited for the potential I see for our small town. However, for many reasons and without placing blame on any individuals, we have discovered that we have some catching up to do in many areas before we can reach our full potential as a community. I hope that I have been able to craft an objective message that is both informative and encouraging.

Where we have been

In order to understand where we are going; we must understand where we have been. To do this I took a look back in time and studied our town reports from 2016 - 2022. I found that we have not been investing in the fundamental infrastructures that are necessary for running a town. When I say infrastructure, I mean the basic systems needed to ensure the town can address the requirements set forth in statute and meet the needs of the community. Once developed, these systems need to be attended to in a sufficient and consistent manner over time. When this is done, it allows town staff and officials to focus over and above the basics to enhance what the town has to offer.

My review showed that over this time span we have budgeted and/or spent very little on building maintenance, technology (computers, software, website), security, law enforcement, personnel and compensation, and finances. Why does this matter?

- Our municipal building is in a state of disrepair. The outside is filthy and has mold and rust due to deferred maintenance. This must be addressed in the spring and a regular schedule of maintenance developed and followed. The barn door is broken and does not close, posing a security risk, the stairs were splintering and falling apart, the indoor lightbulbs were blown, we have had a broken window in the front for quite some time and the outdoor siding is cracked in many places and missing in others.
- While we did purchase a few laptops this past year, there is software that can assist with tax payment and collection and payroll and financial management. People who are in positions that do this work are currently working without up-to-date tools to be accurate and effective. We are currently paying an accounting firm to do our payroll which can be done with the appropriate software and training. The past selectboard was wise to make this move but now it's time to develop our own systems and bring this task inhouse.
- Currently we are using a few borrowed household cameras on the outside of the town building to deter unsafe activity in the parking lot. This system is hap hazard at best. We need an actual system to ensure the safety of our community. We receive many complaints about this.
- Currently we contract for 2.5 hours of law enforcement a week which is insufficient to demonstrate a presence in our town or to address several of the important issues that have been brought to our attention with the expectation of action and results.

- We have not had a town audit for at least 7 years, maybe more. We receive many concerns about this.
- There are few to no annual reports from the treasurer, the delinquent tax collector and the town clerk over this period of time. This makes it near impossible to know what was happening in these three positions that are vital to the stability and health of the town.

In the past, my uninformed perception was that these fundamental systems were in place and functioning, with occasional bumps in the road like all things. But I can only conclude from my look back, from my conversations with Sullivan Powers and Company, and from what I have experienced in the last 10 months that they were not.

Where we are now

The good news is that we have come a long way in 10 months and I am confident, based on what has been accomplished, that we are well positioned to make significant progress in building the fundamental systems necessary to run the town. Once established, they must be maintained or we will be right back where we were. We have secured contractors who will address some of the building and security issues. We have collected thousands of dollars in delinquent taxes and are learning about the required steps for tax sales. We have worked with Sullivan Powers and Co. to understand our financial landscape and have ideas to better support the financial operations of the town. This will all take time and, of course, some will come with a cost. But there is also a cost to doing nothing.

Town government operations have become more complex and challenging dealing with municipal, state and federal laws and regulations, financial matters and the inability to engage people to serve in some positions. I fear if we do not provide our officials and staff with the basic tools to fulfill their roles, people will not run for office and our employees will choose to work elsewhere. In the past we had 3 elected auditors but they all resigned after years of not receiving the necessary materials to fulfill their roles and now we also have 3 lister positions open with no candidates. When vacant, the responsibilities for these positions as defined in statute fall to others to do or for the town to hire out, which also comes at a cost.

You might be interested in reading these two fairly recent letters in VT Digger. They echo what I am hearing from many municipal leaders.

[Chris Campany: Understanding the story of town government, and its limitations - VTDigger](#)
[Don Keelan: Vermont towns need to merge - VTDigger](#)

Where we hope to go

The FY25 selectboard proposed budget has a larger increase than has been recommended in the past. There are ups and downs in all of the budget sections, while the ups are minimal in most of them, they do add up.

The majority of the increase is in the highway budget which proposes to hire 3 full time employees to help us do more than basic maintenance, and hopefully to get ahead of things and prepare for future weather-related events. With increased staff comes an increase in wages, payroll taxes and compensation. We have also increased highway materials to a level that

reflects FY23 spending, but we did not propose a material reserve or a salt shed which have been on the selectboard wish list for several years.

Just like Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, our basic needs must be met before we can move on to other more complex needs like the great suggestions we have heard this past year from the community. More grants for roads and bridges, a salt and equipment shed, more recreational structures/opportunities in Carpenter Park, security for Carpenter Park, electronic payments for taxes, community programs, a fully functioning website, etc.

I believe 2024 holds much promise for our little town. The July flood reminded us of what we have always known, that we are a compassionate and caring community. I want to thank our dedicated road crew, our elected and appointed officials, the community for sharing your voices at our meetings, and to all of our volunteers for making Washington a great place to live, to play, and to raise a family.

Sheila Duranleau, Selectboard Chair

Town Audits: In the 2019 Washington Town Report, the auditor's statement simply says "To the best of our knowledge, the financial statements and reports show the financial activity and financial position of the town for fiscal year ending December 31, 2018". This is not actually an audit report. There are no auditors reports back as far as 2016, in fact it's difficult to tell the last time the town underwent an audit.

A statement from Sullivan Powers and Company regarding an FY23 audit states "The problem for 2023 pertains to the payroll and revenue collection during that time. The source documents are not there and we have made some educated guesses on some of the transactions. Furthermore, there were some cash deposits that we didn't know what they were for. These are the reasons why a true audit can't be done. Auditing FY 24 should not be a problem."

Underbilling of Tax Revenue in FY 2024: The taxes to be raised for FY24 based on the approved budget at Town Meeting was \$820,511. The lodged Grand list amount was \$1,073,981.00. Based on the amount to be raised and the Grand list, the required Municipal Tax Rate should have been .7640. The tax rate actually set was .6100, hence 15.4 cents too low. This lower rate caused the Town to under bill Municipal Taxes by \$165,393.

In comparison, the Municipal Tax rate for FY 23 was .6916 and the Grand list was slightly lower. The amount of Municipal Taxes needed to be raised in FY 23 was \$757,212 based on the approved budget. In FY 23, the tax rate was also slightly low, as the rate set only billed \$733,785 for this year, thus a \$23,427 shortfall. The tax rate for FY 23 should have been 2.5 cents higher or .7130. **The Town already has a plan to place to ensure that this doesn't continue to happen.**

Potential Solutions for Underbilling:

- 1) In FY25, assess an additional 15.4 cents in Municipal Tax on top of the FY25 approved Budget.
- 2) The same as the above, but reduced for excess revenues as a result of collecting a lot of prior year delinquent taxes.
- 3) Utilization of ARPA Funds, or a combination of this and the excess revenues as discussed above.
- 4) Borrow money that is needed to cover the shortfall after the excess revenues, but then spread the 15.3 tax rate shortfall over a three-year period. We could raise an additional 5.1 cents extra for three years. This will cost the Town some interest.

Please familiarize yourselves with these options as we will have a non-binding ballot vote at Town Meeting so the Selectboard understands how the voters would like to handle this shortfall. Be sure to fill out a non-binding ballot with your choice.

Highway Department: Fiscal year 2023 saw several road improvement projects for the town of Washington. The largest project was completed on the Williamstown Road. This is a Class 2 town highway that sees a lot of traffic. The increased traffic had proved to be troublesome during mud season. With the help of a grant funded by the state of Vermont we were able to repair a large portion of this road. 2 separate projects were put out to bid: 1,000 ft of roadway reconstruction with 2 culvert replacements, and another project with 12 culvert replacements. Both projects were completed by Avery Excavation. The 1000 ft of road reconstruction began approximately 1000ft north of the Stellar RD intersection and continued to the Williamstown line. This section was dug down 1', fabric laid down, 9" of Dense Graded crushed stone, then topped with 6" of 1.5" crushed stone. Excavated material was retained by the town on there property adjacent to the Williamstown Road to be utilized in future projects as needed. The town road crew assisted with hauling and placing the new material, while Avery preformed the excavation needed and replaced the culverts. Once the culverts were changed, and cut completed, the road was resurfaced from the town line to the Stellar RD intersection. The remainder of this road is scheduled for completion in FY 24 with another resurfacing grant primarily funded by the state of Vermont.

A grant project was also awarded for Creamery Road. This grant includes a culvert replacement, stone lined ditches, and roadway resurfacing from the bridge to the top of the first hill headed towards the Orange town line.

The road crew did also spent time making some repairs to the garage to conform with a VLCT safety audit. These repairs were done in house when the weather wouldn't allow for highway maintenance work outside.

Winter 2023 saw continued break downs with the town's dump trucks. This made our need to get on a replacement schedule even more apparent. Problems with required emission systems

plagued even our newest 2021 Western Star. Fortunately, that truck has an extended warranty that also covers towing. Numerous other breakdowns on our 2017, and older 2011 6-wheeler put us well over budget on repairs. After much deliberation, the selectboard decided to order a 2024 Western Star 47x 10-wheel dump to replace the 2017 international. The 2017 ate up most of our budget for repairs alone, and had proved to be very unreliable. Our new 2024 truck is an 18 month build and is expected to be delivered by fall of 2024 (FY 25).

Spring of 2023 saw increased snowfall and a rapid warming for the month of April. Once again, our roads quickly deteriorated. Crews worked to be as proactive as possible before things broke up completely. This year, larger stone was dumped into some of the typical problem areas to try and firm them up. Just as things began to dry out and we began shaping roads back up, our typically reliable grader broke down. There was a wiring harness for the emissions system that needed to be replaced. This took several weeks, and the grader eventually had to go to Milton CAT for major repairs. Fortunately, the Town of Corinth stepped up and loaned us their spare grader. It was a much smaller and older unit, but it did the job for us. We will be trading trucking for the hours of grader use this coming summer 2024. Corinth was very flexible on this trade with us and we are thankful for their help.

Flood Response/FEMA: While outside of FY23, which this annual report covers, we would be remiss if we didn't include some information on the impact of the July 2024 flood. Lois drafted a piece on page 46 that provides a timeline on activity during and directly following the event. In addition, Ben, our FEMA administrator's report can be found on page 47. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the intense work that Ben has done for the Town. Federal programs are notorious for being so complicated that many forego them all together. Ben has persisted through months of calls, meetings, site visits, detailed submissions and resubmissions, etc. to ensure we receive the highest amount of reimbursement possible.

CVFiber: We invited Lucas Stubbs the operations manager of CVFiber to the November selectboard meeting for an update. He shared that they are building in Calais, Worcester, and Middlesex and will be working their way towards Washington from there. The speed of which they can build will be mostly based on the amount of grant money they are able to acquire, which is why it is tough forecast, but most likely it will not be until 2025.

Municipal Energy Resilience Program Grant (MERP): Act 172 (2022) gave MERP \$45 million to support dependable and sustainable connections to critical municipal services for all Vermonters. Municipally owned buildings in cities, towns, incorporated villages, fire districts, and all other governmental incorporated units (except school districts) are eligible. MERP targets communities in need of energy resilience investments, often having excessive energy burden (the portion of income spent on heating, electricity, and transportation). MERP provides the following funding opportunities (no match required):

- Up to \$4,000 Community Capacity Building [Mini Grants](#)
- Free building [Energy Resilience Assessments](#).
- Up to \$500,000 Implementation Grants for weatherization, thermal efficiency, and supplementing/replacing fossil fuel heating systems with more efficient renewable or electric versions.

We have been approved for grants to complete Energy Resilience Assessments to the Calef Memorial Library and the Town Hall, which is our priority. Once the assessment is completed, we will hold community meetings to gather ideas for finishing the upstairs to include a community space and an emergency heating and cooling shelter. Hopefully to include a rooftop generator and battery storage on site to reduce day to day operational costs and ensure function during emergencies.

Municipal Technical Assistance Grant (MTAP): We have also been approved for MTAP funds (again, no match required). These funds are intended to assist communities that have a high need for State and Federal grants but lower capacity for accessing and applying for those resources. This is a technical assistance grant to advance projects related to:

- Water supply and wastewater infrastructure;
- Housing;
- Community recovery, workforce development, and business support;
- Climate change mitigation and resilience; and
- Other community economic development projects identified by a municipality and approved by the State.

The foundation for this support is the Town Plan, currently our plan is expired. More and more state grants are requiring towns to have an approved Town Plan that lists specific projects as goals to pursue. Therefore, initially we will utilize this project to support the Planning Commission to update our Town Plan which will include an Energy Plan and Climate Resilience & Mitigation Planning. This will help with the renovations in the town hall as well.

Staff Personnel Policies and Compensation: Much of FY23 was spent developing a set of personnel policies for town staff. This was done in conjunction with Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). These policies provide comprehensive guidance on the Town's expectations and employees rights and benefits. Personnel policies demonstrate a level of commitment to employees and show that we value their time and efforts in caring for our community. It will be important to keep these policies up to date as federal, state and local issues change.

SELECTBOARD PROPOSED BUDGET

	FY 23 Budget	FY 23 Actual	FY 23 Variance	FY 24 Budget	FY 25 Budget
TOWN OFFICERS					
Auditors	630	0	630	630	630
Ballot Clerks	400	1,102	(702)	400	1,000
Health Officer	100	0	100	100	100
Selectmen	2,250	2,250	0	2,250	2,250
Zoning Administrator	1,500	1,585	(85)	1,500	1,500
Planning Commission	800	700	100	800	900
ZBA	700	400	300	700	700
FICA/MC/New State Tax	0	0	0	0	490
Total Town Officers' Salaries	6,380	6,037	343	6,380	7,570
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE					
Town Clerk and Treasurer	40,000	38,183	1,817	44,000	36,000
Town Treasurer - 2025	0	0	0	0	13,500
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees	6,000	11,713	(5,713)	6,000	6,000
Assistant Treasurer/Town Clerk	0	8,423	(8,423)	0	11,500
Recording Fees	5,000	5,470	(470)	0	0
Admin Assistant - Harry	12,000	5,175	6,825	20,000	0
Office Cleaning Payroll	0	0	0	0	1,300
FICA/MC/New State Tax	5,000	5,276	(276)	4,000	5,525
AA - FICA/MC	900	399	501	1,200	0
Town Clerk Health	0	0	0	0	2,040
VMERS - Retirement	0	0	0	0	2,500
Accounting Software/ Services	16,500	14,215	2,285	16,500	16,500
Bank Fees/Service Charges	0	238	(238)	0	0
Building Maintenance	1,000	1,910	(910)	1,500	5,000
Electricity	1,600	2,314	(714)	1,600	2,000
Charter Communications/Internet	1,200	1,170	30	1,200	1,200
Copier Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0
Fuel	3,400	4,407	(1,007)	4,000	4,000
Notices	300	677	(377)	300	300
Notices - Tax Sale	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	0
Mileage	0	71	(71)	0	300
Office Equip - Tech Services	400	1,825	(1,425)	6,000	4,000

Office Supplies/ Services	4,000	6,928	(2,928)	6,000	2,000
Postage	2,000	862	1,138	1,000	2,500
Printing	4,000	2,056	1,944	2,000	4,000
Telephone	600	951	(351)	1,200	1,200
Training	0	259	(259)	0	250
Unifirst - Mats	1,100	1,348	(248)	900	0
Total Town Clerk's Office	106,500	113,870	(7,370)	118,900	121,615
LISTER'S OFFICE					
Support Services	400	0	400	400	400
Lister Education	500	0	500	500	500
VALA	200	100	100	200	200
Mileage	350	17	333	350	350
Salaries	8,000	4,338	3,662	8,000	6,000
FICA/MC/New State Tax	459	332	127	459	485
Apex Software	390	215	175	390	390
Postage	100	11	89	100	0
Tax Maps	500	0	500	500	100
Equipment/Supplies	0	315	(315)	0	0
Total Lister's Office	10,899	5,328	5,571	10,899	8,425
PLANNING/ZONING OFFICE					
Notices	200	0	200	200	200
Secretary	200	0	200	200	0
FICA/MC	50	0	50	50	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0
Total Planning/Zoning Office	450	0	450	450	200
INSURANCE					
VLCT - WC	10,000	0	10,000	12,000	12,000
VFD - WC	2,000	0	2,000	2,200	0
VLCT - Liability	25,000	41,933	(16,933)	25,500	25,500
Total Insurance	37,000	41,933	(4,933)	39,700	37,500

OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES							
Animal Control Officer and PR Taxes	3,600	2,700	900	3,600	3,900		
Casella	1,300	2,038	(738)	1,500	1,700		
County Tax	26,000	53,559	(27,559)	28,000	24,000		
Dog Expenses	250	237	13	250	1,250		
Educational Workshops	100	10	90	100	100		
Green Up	500	220	280	500	400		
Hands Mill Dam Annual Fee	5,000	700	4,300	5,000	700		
Stormwater Mgmt	240	0	240	240	0		
Humane Society	500	0	500	500	500		
Law Enforcement	10,000	6,669	3,331	10,000	20,000		
Legal Fees	300	0	300	300	300		
Legal Fees - Tax Sale	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	0		
Misc Repairs	0	280	(280)	0	0		
Solid Waste MD	1,050	1,032	18	1,050	1,050		
Street Lights	2,700	3,729	(1,029)	3,000	3,300		
VLCT Dues	2,400	2,480	(80)	2,400	2,600		
VLCT - Unemployment	500	55	445	500	500		
Water	130	98	32	130	150		
CV Reginal Planning Com dues	1,273	1,276	(3)	1,273	1,273		
Barre Town Ambulance	50,100	50,058	42	53,400	56,000		
First Branch Ambulance	8,000	6,963	1,037	8,862	9,500		
Other Operating Expenses	114,943	132,104	(17,161)	121,605	127,223		
ARTICLES WARNED:							
SERVICE AGENCIES							
Adult Basic Education	725	725	0	725	725		
Barre Senior Center	500	500	0	500	500		
Center for Independent Living	440	0	440	440	440		
Clara Martin Center	1,639	1,639	0	1,639	1,639		
CV Council on Aging	800	800	0	800	800		
CV Economic Development	400	0	400	400	400		
CVHHH	2,200	0	2,200	2,200	2,200		
Family Center of Wash. County	300	300	0	300	300		
GMTA	635	635	0	635	635		

Homeshare	300	300	0	300	0
O.C. Restorative Justice	350	350	0	350	350
People's Health and Wellness	500	500	0	500	0
Public Health Council	103	103	0	103	103
Safeline	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	1,000
Youth Services Bureau	250	0	250	250	250
Washington Agricultural Assoc	0	0	0	1,500	1,500
Total Service Agencies	10,142	6,852	3,290	11,642	10,842
OTHER DEPARTMENTS					
Fire Dept./Fast Squad	83,872	61,272	22,600	83,622	62,711
Fire Dept Debt Payment	0	23,070	(23,070)	0	23,070
Calef Library Cap Fund	4,000	4,000	0	5,000	5,000
Calef Library Budget	59,182	38,082	21,100	61,369	42,413
Calef Library Debt Pay	21,000	21,077	(77)	20,600	20,050
Cemetery Commission	5,000	0	5,000	6,000	6,000
Recreation Dept.	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total Other Departments	177,054	147,501	29,553	180,591	163,244
Total Town Expense without HW	463,368	453,625	9,743	490,167	476,619
HIGHWAY:					
Personnel Costs					
Salary - Full Time	100,000	91,422	8,578	105,000	176,800
Salary - Part Time	20,000	17,522	2,478	22,500	0
Overtime	17,000	14,228	2,772	10,000	33,000
FICA/MC/New State Tax	11,000	10,156	844	11,000	17,000
Health Insurance	12,000	9,408	2,592	12,000	45,000
Disability Insurance	270	197	73	270	0
Retirement	7,300	7,322	(22)	7,300	14,700
Total Personnel Costs	167,570	150,255	17,315	168,070	286,500
Garage					
Garage Repairs	6,000	1,412	4,588	6,000	5,000

Garage Heat	4,000	906	3,094	4,000	6,000
Garage Electric	2,500	2,955	(455)	3,000	3,000
Garage Phone	700	659	41	700	700
Garage Internet	0	0	0	0	720
Garage Water	260	303	(43)	260	300
Garage Supplies	2,500	2,895	(395)	3,000	5,000
Total Garage	15,960	9,130	6,830	16,960	20,720
Vehicle Expense					
Repairs/Maintenance - Vehicle	40,000	96,926	(56,926)	50,000	70,000
Blades/Cutting Edges/Chains	7,500	3,674	3,826	10,000	10,000
Diesel Fuel	42,000	53,843	(11,843)	50,000	60,000
Towing	0	8,844	(8,844)	0	5,000
Total Vehicle Expense	89,500	163,287	(73,787)	110,000	145,000
Road Materials/Maintenance					
Gravel	30,000	38,139	(8,139)	40,000	60,000
Sand	45,000	42,403	2,597	45,000	50,000
Calcium Chloride	8,500	12,078	(3,578)	10,000	10,000
Salt	500	0	500	500	500
Ditching Stone	0	0	0	0	20,000
Roadside Mowing	8,000	6,000	2,000	8,000	8,000
Watershed Mgmt Fee	0	1,765	(1,765)	0	1,800
Outside Contract Services	10,000	2,169	7,831	15,000	15,000
Equipment Rental	0	0	0	0	12,000
Mileage	0	320	(320)	0	0
Plowing/Sanding - Chelsea	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	12,000
Bridges	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000
Bridge Reserve	0	0	0	0	10,000
Culverts	7,500	0	7,500	7,500	10,000
Road Supplies	10,000	653	9,347	10,000	10,000
Grant Expenses	0	169,620	(169,620)	0	0

Total Road Materials/Maintenance	154,500	273,147	(118,647)	171,000	244,300
Debt/Equipment Reserve					
Debt - Grader	34,179	34,179	0	34,179	34,179
Debt - 2017 Dump Truck	20,687	22,803	(2,116)	20,687	20,687
Debt - 2011 Dump Truck	13,018	12,559	459	13,018	0
Debt - 2021 Dump Truck	21,500	0	21,500	21,500	21,500
Debt - 2024 Dump Truck	0	0	0	0	50,000
Equipment Reserve Fund	10,000	0	10,000	20,000	20,000
Total Debt/Equipment Reserve	99,384	69,541	29,843	109,384	146,366
Total Highway Budget	526,914	665,360	(138,446)	575,414	842,886
Total Town Budget	990,282	1,118,985	(128,703)	1,065,581	1,319,505
Less Articles Warned Separately	(187,196)		(187,196)	(192,233)	(174,086)
Total Selectboard Budget	803,086	1,118,985	(315,899)	873,348	1,145,419
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Budget
Income					
Interest on Del Taxes	20,000	50,043	30,043	20,000	15,000
Delinquent Tax Fees	6,000	10,881	4,881	6,000	6,000
State Aid to Highways	120,000	121,325	1,325	130,000	122,000
Current Use	75,000	74,899	(101)	77,000	78,000
Copier Income	0	17	17	0	0
Dog License	1,200	164	(1,036)	1,200	1,200
Interest Income	0	2,316	2,316	0	2,000
Zoning Permits	150	60	(90)	150	150
Liquor License	70	0	(70)	70	70
Marriage License	200	330	130	200	200
Miscellaneous	400	9,373	8,973	400	400
Green Up	200	1,378	1,178	200	200

Civil		100		0		(100)		100		100
Recording Fees		5,000		11,952		6,952		5,000		5,000
State Pilot		3,800		3,696		(104)		3,800		3,800
Land Use W/D Fee		0		4,274		4,274		0		0
Calef Library Ins.		250		0		(250)		250		250
State Equalization		700		713		13		700		700
OW Permit		0		166		166		0		100
BBR/GIA Grant Income		0		0		0		0		10,000
Unbudgeted Grants		0		151,360		151,360		0		0
Estimated Revenue		233,070		442,947		209,877		245,070		245,170
Total Selectboard Taxes to be raised		570,016						628,278		900,249
Article Taxes to be raised		187,196						192,233		174,086
Total taxes to be raised		757,212						820,511		1,074,335

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott Blanchard

I was appointed interim treasurer in August 2023 after the previous appointee resigned. I've done my best to learn the system, and with the help of Lois and the folks at Sullivan Powers & Co. I've made some great strides in getting a system that seems to be working.

Along with Chad Hewitt we have been able to, with the records we had, give an account of FY23 budget. Going forward, the FY budget-the year we are currently in- is kept up to date weekly, and the selectboard and others can see in real time how much of their budget has been used at any time during the year.

Unfortunately, we still have a long way to go to straighten out the mess that was left us by the previous treasurer including missing payments, fines and interest to the IRS over payroll withholdings.

A miscalculation in the tax rate will leave us in excess of \$160,000 short of what we budgeted to spend in the current year.

Last, but not least, the \$400,000 or so that we have spent on the flood that happened in July, a large portion which we hope to get from FEMA. We are still not sure of when we will be reimbursed, and we will surely be required to get a bridge loan to make it till June.

We hope to make some changes for the coming year: a new filing system, some online bill paying to reduce costs in checks, postage and envelopes, hopefully a town credit card for small purchases to avoid cumbersome reimbursements, and a better system of bill approval by the road crew.

I hope during the winter months we'll have time to implement these changes. I do believe that even as bleak as it looks now, we can pull out of this situation in the next couple of years as long as we work together. Thanks.

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Scott Blanchard

After being elected last March and taking office I began to organize the nearly \$350,000 in uncollected tax that span over ten years. After extensive digging through old receipt books and deposit slips, I was able to come up with what I thought was owed to the town. I billed accordingly, many people were billed that had paid, but through meetings was able to prove their payment, and I thank them all for the patience.

I was able to collect between March 10th and October 1st \$237,392.70 in tax, penalty and interest. This report is as of 12/8/23, the names listed in this book owe more than one year, there is a column of recommended action. Some properties are in probate court, others have been abandoned and need to be abated and the rest will be sold at tax sale.

As for this past year's collection as of the 22nd of November we had \$125,990.09 go delinquent after a seven-day grace period. As of this report, 12/8/23 \$40,000 of that has been collected. I intend to get the town to a point where we all pay our taxes in full and on time. Thanks to all the timely tax payers.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF LISTERS

The Division of Property Valuation, State of Vermont, does an equalization study yearly by state law. This study compares the sales prices of properties against the town's listed values. This study generates the Common Level of Appraisal and the Coefficient of Dispersion*. Simply said, this develops a ratio of how sales values are increasing or decreasing within the town. The COA, or Common Level of Appraisal, would ideally be 100%. Our CLA for 2022 was 87.94%.

The COD or Coefficient of Dispersion would ideally be 0. In 2022 ours was 22.15. The Town of Washington is not in good standing. The extremely high prices of property have had a negative effect on the CLA and COD statewide. If the current ratios stand, the state could require the town to do a reappraisal within the next two years. We should add that approximately 70% of the towns in Vermont are in the same situation as Washington. In the spring of 2022, the legislature passed a bill that will do the following:

“If the Director of Property Valuation and Review determines that a municipality's education grand list has a coefficient of dispersion greater than 20, the municipality shall reappraise its education grand list properties.”

This affects Washington. Unless the state changes the manner that they look at appraisals the town will be required to do a reappraisal within six years. Duplicate copies of all appraisals and property record cards are in 3 ring binders available for your perusal in the town hall. The above are public records and can be viewed by anyone.

Homestead Declaration

It is to your financial advantage to file your Vermont Homestead Declaration annually. Persons who own property in Washington and don't reside on it are charged a higher property tax rate.

A Homestead Declaration (State form HS-122) must be filed each year by VT resident homeowners who own and occupy property as their principal home on April 1. Persons who hold a life estate to a home or who transferred the home into a revocable trust also file a Homestead Declaration.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

The Town of Washington voted a \$40,000 property value reduction for eligible veterans in 2010. Written applications for the exemption are filed with the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs. VOVA provides the listers with the names of approved resident property owners. To be eligible, veterans or their widowed spouse, must be receiving one of the following: minimum of 50% disability compensation, or a disability pension paid through the Veterans' Administration or any military department, or a dependent's and indemnity compensation, or death compensation.

*: Coefficient of Dispersion: a high COD means that within your town many taxpayers are paying over or under their fair share. A COD over 20 necessitates a reappraisal. (32 V.S.A. section 4041a)

Submitted by

Harry Roush, Lister

Diane Donovan, Lister

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON'S GRAND LISTS, TAX RATES AND AFMV

YEAR	GRAND LIST	TAX RATE	RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE	NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE	AFMV (%)
2009	100403650	0.4900	1.0186	1.3575	98.92
2010	100049050	0.4947	1.1798	1.3647	98.99
2011	100439050	0.4960	1.7527	1.8699	98.77
2012	101462750	0.5164	1.3210	1.3972	102.13
2013	101985950	0.5006	1.3067	1.4100	100.95
2014	101820750	0.4550	1.3401	1.5007	144.38
2015	103660924	0.4643	1.2366	1.3420	111.72
2016	104880277	0.4900	1.2746	1.3740	106.30
2017	104834987	0.5100	1.3192	1.4440	104.22
2018	105202480	0.5500	1.2801	1.5160	101.38
2019	103346670	0.5900	1.3892	1.6031	99.44
2020	104457069	0.6949	1.4112	1.6372	97.85
2021	117348800	0.6520	1.4168	1.6474	91.70
2022	117860313	0.6916	1.3614	1.5987	87.94
2023	118742264	0.6100	1.3416	1.5818	*

* INDICATES STATE WILL NOTIFY IN DECEMBER 2023

TEN YEAR HISTORY OF THE CURRENT USE PROGRAM

YEAR	PARCELS	ACRES	MUNICIPAL TAX
2013	117	13896	\$72,550
2014	120	13840	\$72,313
2015	119	13771	\$67,264
2016	119	13771	\$65,040
2017	120	13868	\$67,818
2018	123	14255	\$72,408
2019	124	14280	\$86,522
2020	123	14245	\$82,223
2021	123	13887	\$75,314
2022	125	13947	\$78,795
2023	126	14042	\$68,296

11/07/2023
04:55 pm

Town of Washington Grand List
Form 411 - (Town code: 693)
Main District

Page 1 of 4
Town Of Washington

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)						
REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Nonhmstd Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value	
Residential I R1	172	28,308,100	0	28,308,100	28,308,100	
Residential II R2	184	48,524,300	0	48,524,300	48,524,300	
Mobile Homes-U MHU	24	389,300	0	389,300	389,300	
Mobile Homes-L MHL	41	3,477,700	0	3,477,700	3,477,700	
Seasonal I S1	22	1,509,700	0	1,509,700	1,509,700	
Seasonal II S2	93	18,477,500	0	18,477,500	18,477,500	
Commercial C	6	1,158,600	0	1,158,600	1,158,600	
Commercial Apts CA	3	639,700	0	639,700	639,700	
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0	
Utilities-E UE	3	4,322,800	0	4,322,800	4,322,800	
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0	
Farm F	7	3,209,800	0	3,209,800	3,209,800	
Other O	0	0	0	0	0	
Woodland W	0	0	0	0	0	
Miscellaneous M	126	8,667,900	0	8,667,900	8,667,900	
TOTAL LISTED REAL	681	118,685,400	0	118,685,400	118,685,400	
P.P. Cable	1	56,864		56,864	56,864	
P.P. Equipment	0	0			0	
P.P. Inventory	0	0			0	
TOTAL LISTED P.P.	1	56,864		56,864	56,864	
TOTAL LISTED VALUE		118,742,264	0	118,742,264	118,742,264	
EXEMPTIONS						
Veterans 10K	8/8	80,000	0	80,000	80,000	
Veterans >10K		240,000			240,000	
Total Veterans		320,000	0	80,000	80,000	
P.P. Contracts	1	56,864			56,864	
Contract Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0	
Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0	
Non-Apprv(voted)	0/0	0			0	
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			0	
Total Contracts	1/0	56,864	0	0	0	
FarmStab Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0	
Farm Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0	
Non-Apprv(voted)	0/0	0			0	
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			0	
Total FarmStabContr	0/0	0	0	0	0	
Current Use	0/0	0	0	0	0	
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0	
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0	
Sub-total Exemptions		376,864	0	80,000	80,000	
Total Exemptions		376,864	0	80,000	80,000	
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		1,183,654.00				
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			0.00	1,186,622.64	1,186,622.64	
NON-TAX 27 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411						

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023

As always, we would like to take the time and thank our supporters who donate to our cause. It is always appreciated and welcome.

2023 was a relatively quiet year regarding emergency responses. The biggest and perhaps most critical emergency faced was the July flooding. Firefighters were active for more than twelve hours straight both monitoring and securing numerous affected areas. With that comes hours of cleaning, replenishing and placing equipment back in service.

Residents need to recognize the importance of having volunteers that are willing to spring into action. And not just in the volunteer fire dept. Volunteering in general is a diminishing reality in today's society. The fact is without volunteers of any capacity within any organization, small towns like ours will not function. People do not realize the work it takes both behind the scenes or on the forefront, and may just take it for granted. The amount of work to keep things running smooth can be quite surprising to the uninformed. Please consider taking an interest sooner than later.

In July the truck bay floor in the station was replaced. Approved ARPA funds were used for this project thus not impacting any local tax dollars spent. Work was completed within a couple weeks due to working around the flooding.

We continue to explore options regarding replacement or updating Engine #1 the so-called "workhorse" of the FD. Engine 1 is a 1995 pumper truck approaching 30 years old. The prices of new apparatus in my opinion are above and beyond justifiable given the amount of activity the department sees. Engine 1 is still in good shape and fully functional and certified. The truck does have some known issues however. We are exploring the idea of refurbishment. This option could realistically give us maybe another 10 years of service out of the truck. Buying a used truck is another option and is always a gamble. Engine 1 was purchased brand new in 1995 and has been housed in the same truck bay since delivery. In other words, we know the truck inside and out. It is also still the best performing piece of apparatus we own. The members feel the truck has plenty of life left. In the near future we will be meeting with vendors and building a plan on work to be performed and getting quotes together. There is approximately \$100,000 saved in the apparatus replacement fund that should more than cover the cost of this project.

For comparison purposes the average price of a new comparable truck is more than \$400,000. That's not to mention build times are in the three-year range thus further driving the price up.

As always, we are looking for new members! We meet each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. We are especially looking for the younger generation to become involved to help keep our future secure. Stop in and see what we are all about and maybe grab an application. We would be glad to have you.

- Please make sure your e911 address is clearly posted and visible from the roadway.
- Check and replace batteries in smoke and co detectors twice yearly.
- Maintain a clean chimney and exhaust vents including dryer vents
- Keeping driveways clear of snow and ice is always helpful to us as well

- Please do not modify or silence any type of alarm that is sounding prior to calling 911. Doing so decreases our ability to identify the potential issue at hand.
- Burn Permits are required by law! If your fire is not in a secure pit or ring you need a permit. If snow is covering the ground, there is an exception. **NO TRASH BURNING** – It is against the law!!! Call Ryan @ 802-272-0892 to obtain a permit.
- **IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY!!!** Do not call a member of the department. It hampers our response in your time of need.

As always, stay safe and watch out for one another.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Bresette, Chief of Department

CALL STATISTICS 2023

- Building / Chimney fire-0
- Wildland-2
- MVA-12
- Search/Rescue-3
- Smoke/CO alarms-1
- Trees / Wires-2
- Medical assist-2
- Hazardous conditions-2
- Flooding-2
- Vehicle fires-1
- Mutual aid-8

DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Ryan Bresette -Chief
James Miller- 1st Asst Chief
Nick Bresette -2nd Asst Chief
Jeremy Farnham -Captain
Kyle Bedard- Lieutenant
Maxine Durbrow-Admin Lieutenant / Treasurer
Harry Roush-Admin Lieutenant / Secretary
Ryan Aldrich
Paul E Beede

Justin Moore
Curtis Morse
Jan Spargo
David Martineau
Veronica Lowe
Robert Lowe
Andre Dessereau
Daniel Cyr
Roger Bresette

**WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FY 2023**

Operations Account:

Balance, July 1, 2022	\$12,628.85
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INCOME:

Town of Washington FY 2023 Budget	
Allocation	\$61 ,272.00
Historical Society reimbursement for flag	56.99
Checks donated back	196.97
 Total Income	 \$61 ,525.96

EXPENSES:

Heat	\$3,484.08
Telephone	686.20
Firehouse Maintenance	2,399.53
Equipment & Apparatus Maintenance	
Fuel & Oil	662.81
Dispatch service	8,680.00
Radio Maintenance & Batteries	1 ,789.50
Capital Fire Mutual Aid dues & Active 911	568.00
Training	550.00
VT State Firefighters Assn.	303.00
Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services	896.00
Office supplies, postage, box rent	245.19
Water & Hydrant fee	270.00
Battery, Tire & Equipment	102.99
Firefighting	7,330.00
Apparatus Replacement Fund	15,000.00
Protective Gear	5,952.36
Long Term Debt (Paid from Selectboard Budget)	0.00
SCBA Maintenance	1 ,440.03

EMS Supplies & Equipment	424.72
EMS Training	243.00
Fire Equipment	\$10, 196.89
Total Budget Expenses	\$62,572.50
Transfer to Apparatus Replacement Fund	-7,000.00
Balancer June 30, 2023 .	\$4,582.31

1) Battery, Tire & Equipment Account - TD
Bank

Balance, June 30, 2023 \$4,357.53

2) Apparatus Replacement Fund - Northfield Savings Bank

Balance, July 1, 2022	\$57,566.68
2022 /2023 Budget Appropriation	15,000.00
Orange Reimbursements	
Orange Retainers 2022/2023	5,000.00
Transfer from Operations Checking	7,000.00
Transfer to NSB 18 month CD	-75,000.00
Interest Earned 2022/2023	216.76
Balance June 30, 2023	\$16,643.44

3) Apparatus Replacement Fund *NSB 18-month CD

Opened 4/20/23	
Transfer from Apparatus Replacement Fund	\$75,000.00
Interest Earned	492.93
Balancer June 30, 2023	\$75,492.93

4) Emergency Management Account-NSB 9-month CD

Opened 4/20/23	
Balance June 30, 2023	\$1,016.17

**WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FAST SQUAD
Budget FY2025**

	<u>FY2023</u>	FY 2023	FY 2024	Proposed
	Budget	<u>Expenses</u>		FY2025 Budget
Heat	\$3500.00	3,484.08	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Telephone	700.00	686.20	700.00	700.00
Firehouse Maintenance	2,500.00	2,399.53	3,500.00	2,500.00
Apparatus Maintenance	3,500.00	1,348.20	3,500.00	3,500.00
Fuel & Oil	1,000.00	662.81	1,000.00	1,000.00
Dispatch Services	8,700.00	8,680.00	8,950.00	9,560.00
Radio Maint. & Batteries	1,500.00	1,789.50	1,500.00	2,000.00
CFMAS Dues & Active 911	1,000.00	568.00	2,000.00	2000.00
Training	600.00	550.00	600.00	600.00
VT State Firefighters Assn.	350.00	303.00	350.00	350.00
V.F.I.S. Insurance	1,152.00	896.00	1,152.00	1,000.00
Office supplies & postage	200.00	245.19,	200.00	200.00
Water & Hydrant Fee	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00
Battery, Tire & Equipment	500.00	102.99	0.00	0.00
Firefighting	6,000.00	7,330.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
Apparatus Replacement Fund	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Protective Gear	3,000.00	5,952.361	3,000.00	5,000.00
Long Term Debt	22,600.00	22,600.00	22,600.00	22,600.00
SCBA Maintenance	1,000.00	1,440.03	1,000	1,000.00
EMS Supplies & Equipment	500.00	424.72	500.00	0.00
EMS Training	300.00	243.00	300.00	0.00
Fire Equipment Replacement	10,000.00	10,196.89	8,000.00	8,000.00
Totals:	\$83,872.00	85,172.50	\$83,622.00	\$85,780.00

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The Cemetery Commissioners oversee the care and maintenance of the seven cemeteries in Washington. Weather permitting, the cemeteries are open each year from May 1st until November 1st. Following is a list of the cemeteries:

Maple Hill on the Carrier Road

Cheney at the corner of Turnpike and Cheney Roads

South Washington on Scales Hill

Clough off of Hart Hollow Road

Caswell off of Keene Road

Fish on the Poor Farm Road

Weeden or Bohanan off Jail House Road

Current Lot Prices (includes perpetual care and deed fees):	
One grave lot	\$450
Two grave lot	\$700
Three grave lot	\$925
Four grave lot	\$1,200
Five grave lot	\$1,425
Six gave lot	\$1,650

Installing Corner Stones: \$80

Installing Grass Markers: \$80

Interment Rates:	Adults:	\$725 Tuesday through Friday
		\$825 Saturday, Sunday, Monday and holidays
	Infants:	\$440 Tuesday through Friday
		\$540 Saturday, Sunday, Monday and holidays
	Cremations:	\$440 Tuesday through Friday
		\$540 Saturday, Sunday, Monday and holidays

In order to keep proper burial records, all burials need to be approved by the Cemetery Commissioners prior to burial, no matter how remote the cemetery may be. It is legal to bury remains on your property as long as you follow the Department of Health's guidelines. You do need to designate and identify the area as well as file a written description for the town's land records, including Green Burials.

We had requested an additional \$1,000 for locating and marking previously unmarked graves in Weeden/Bohanon Cemetery on Jail House Road. The markers have been purchased. We will install these granite ones as soon as they are sandblasted.

There are more graves to be located and markers to be installed.

We are requesting \$6,000 for the care and maintenance of all Washington cemeteries.

Your continued support will be appreciated.

Robert Blanchard Anthony Ziter Robert Farnham



**CALEF MEMORIAL LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

“I don’t have to look far to find treasures. I discover them every time I visit a library”

- Michael Embry

The library has enjoyed another successful year, with a growing number of new patrons and an increase in the number of items borrowed. Our largest challenge this year was, as with many in town, the flood of July 2023. The library lost the entire contents of the basement, and is in the process of having walls and bookcases rebuilt. The accessibility lift will be back in operation shortly. Much gratitude goes out to employees and volunteers who assisted trustees with the clean-up, allowing professionals to swiftly come in and begin the necessary demolition and drying out process.

This year the library collaborated with the Washington Village Store for a fantastic Halloween Trick-or-Treating event that was enjoyed by all. With the assistance of a Summer Program Grant, the Library was able to provide school supplies to many of our local youth, and acquired a canopy that can be utilized for future outdoor events. Book Club and Story Time remain popular programs. Please let us know of any additional programs you would like see instituted.

Internet access continues to be popular, and is used by patrons both inside and outside of the library. The food shelf continues to grow in popularity with a large increase in use. Donations are greatly in need and very much appreciated. The food shelf’s refrigerator/freezer was lost in the flood and will be replaced so that we can continue to offer perishable goods.

In addition to routine maintenance, this year saw completion of much needed brick repair. A big thank you to Tony Ziter for performing the brick repointing! The Trustees continue to identify and plan for other necessary capital improvements, including; installation of a new roof, and renovation or replacement of the front walkway and stairs.

Once again, the Trustees give special recognition to Fred Blanchard and Bruce Murray, who are always at the ready to assist with projects to improve or maintain the building and grounds.

The library remains a valuable asset of the town, providing a wide variety of services. The Trustees extend our sincere appreciation to all those who so generously support our library throughout the year

Board of Trustees

Andrea Poulin, Chair

Maxine Durbrow, Treasurer

Lori Beede, Secretary

Harriet Blanchard

Linda Beede

Library Director

Bethany Beebe

Assistant Librarian

Val Ferris

CALEF MEMORIAL LIBRARY					
Proposed Budget for FY2025					
	Budget FY2023	FY2023 Expended	Budget FY2024	Proposed Budget FY2025	
Adult Books	\$2,800.00	2,142.07	2,800.00	2,800.00	
Young Adult/Children's Books	600.00	159.95	600.00	600.00	
Media Collection	600.00	312.50	300.00	300.00	
Computer Supplies & Maintenance	300.00	163.46	300.00	300.00	
Insurance	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Salaries	18,720.00	19,489.00	21,216.00	22,464.00	
Payroll tax FICA	1,160.60	1,208.40	1,315.00	1,393.00	
Payroll tax Medicare	271.40	282.60	308.00	326.00	
Postage & Box rent	200.00	181.20	200.00	200.00	
Library Programs	350.00	189.17	350.00	350.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	4,000.00	3,894.26	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Supplies	700.00	110.50	700.00	700.00	
Telephone	700.00	578.68	700.00	700.00	
Internet	1,300.00	1,319.76	1,300.00	1,400.00	
Heating oil	2,500.00	2,691.03	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Electricity	1,500.00	1,710.93	1,800.00	1,800.00	
Water	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	
Mileage reimbursement	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	
Food shelf	0.00	478.00	0.00	600.00	
Workshops/Training	150.00	0.00	150.00	50.00	
Computer Sinking Fund	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Memberships	800.00	603.64	800.00	700.00	
Interlibrary Loans	700.00	436.78	700.00	600.00	
Total	38,082.00	36,581.93	40,769.00	42,413.00	
Accessible Addition Loan	21,100.00	21,100.00	20,600.00	20,050.00	
TOTAL	\$59,182.00	\$57,681.93	\$61,369.00	\$62,463.00	

CALEF MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Treasurer's Report for FY 2023

Checking Account Balance, June 30, 2022	\$7,630.20
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Checking Account Income:

FY 2023 Town Appropriation	\$38,082.00
Fidelity Charitable Donation	100.00
Copies, Book sales, Misc	251.64
Interest on Account	11.59

Total Income	\$38,445.23
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EXPENSES:

Adult Books	\$2,142.07
Young Adult/Children's Books	159.95
Media Collection	312.50
Computer supplies/maintenance	163.46
Insurance	250.00
Salaries	19,489.00
Payroll Tax - FICA	1,208.40
Payroll Tax - Medicare	282.60
Postage & office	181.20
Library Programs	189.17
Repairs & Maintenance	3,894.26
Supplies	110.50
Telephone	578.68
Internet cable fee	1,319.76
Heating oil	2,691.03
Electricity	1,710.93
Water	130.00
Computer fund	250.00
Memberships	603.64
InterLibrary Loans/Book Club	436.78
Food Shelf	478.00

Total Budget Expenses	\$36,581.93
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Checking Account Balance, June 30, 2023	\$ 9,493.50
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TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

by Lois Deberville

What a whirlwind 2023 was as I navigated the office as your town clerk! I was fortunate to have worked not only with Carol Davis for 6 months before she retired, but also with a great support team headed up by Assistant Clerk/Lister/Moderator/Fireman and all-around knowledgeable guy, Harry Roush. The support by community members has also been very appreciated.

Harry, the king of mapping, is able to answer most any inquiries regarding local maps and properties. He also was the lead in obtaining the grant to remove both the Hands Mill Dam and the Vermette/Buswell house, both of which were in dire condition. This was evidenced in real time during the July flood.

Embracing the important role of town record keeper, one of my ongoing pet projects has been the organization of such documents as, but not limited to, the town's ordinances, policies, selectboard minutes, town meeting minutes, and vital records. These are in dated binders for easy referencing. Stop by to look through the binder of newsprint articles on the town. Any that folks would like to donate for inclusion would be welcomed.

The office vault contains land records and other information from as far back as 1793. Many of these were handwritten in great detail. These records are all of ours to enjoy, and they can lead one down a fascinating rabbit hole of town history, including family data which otherwise may be forgotten. There is also a copy of the Town Charter, which I hope can be transcribed out of the flowing handwriting of 1793.

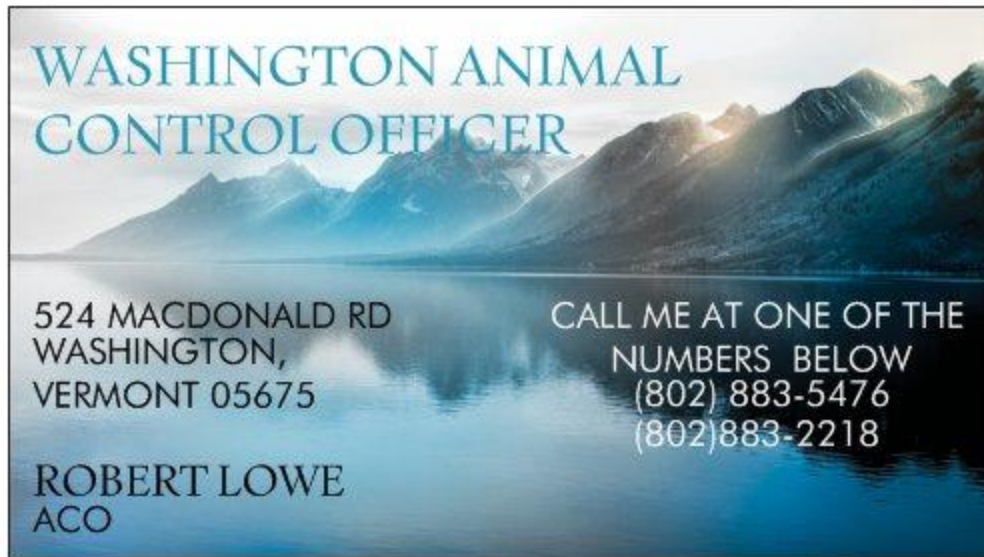
Using our new Records and Retention Management Policy, we abide by state statutes on what paperwork needs to be retained and for how long, and what is redundant and may be shredded. We have enlisted the services of SecurShred, which comes to the office on a monthly basis to dispose of sensitive information in a manner which respects the privacy of the town residents, taxpayers and employees.

Harry and I worked with the selectboard on obtaining items that would make the office more efficient, including two new computers for use by myself and the assistant clerk and listers, plus a laptop which was instrumental in keeping accurate track of the July flood damage and is used by the FEMA admin, Ben Tiefenthaler. Plans were implemented on upgrading the security system, and having new exterior steps and hand rails built, along with a bulletin board for town notices. Future goals include re-starting the town newsletter, accepting electronic payments, and renovating the upstairs rooms of the town hall for community use.

Paperwork related to town projects may be obtained at the town hall, such as permits for driveways, sub-divisions and construction, plus marriage license applications, Green Mountain Passports, Fish & Wildlife permits to post land, voter registration, motor vehicle paperwork, and copies of all ordinances and policies. Stop by the office with your photo ID. should you need something notarized.

Copies of the 2024 "Fish & Wildlife Guide & Regulations", and "Vermont Hunting & Trapping Guide Official Regulations" are available at the town hall.

Please continue to check in on the Washington, VT, Town Clerk's Facebook page, and the website at washingtonvt.org. All meetings are live-streamed on Zoom with each link posted on both the Facebook page and website. I am a **Notary Public** and am available during office hours, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-12:30, 1-5. Closed Fridays.



Date: 01/01/2024

With the start of the new year means new pets coming and more pets out running about. The rise in calls last year is to be expected with covid behind us people are getting new animals and outside more. Spring time is usually the time for new life in stray cats and dogs. The calls range from everything from wildlife calls like skunks to animal cruelty calls have started to increase again. I estimate I took phone calls and responded around 175+ calls last year. I have tried to resolve things civilly with people and try not to be the mean person. Last fall we also revamped the animal control policy to new fine amounts and to include all poultry and livestock. Also, as of November was able to get a ticket number to write our own tickets for the violations and they will also be thru the orange county sheriff office for processing tickets.

With hope of a rabies clinic if we can get it going in March or April if we can get a vet to do it. Ability to do both the rabies and registration at the clinic. Everyone is asked to remember to register your dogs and renew kennel permit also. If you have an issue, feel free to call my home phone 802-883-5476 leave message or my cell 802-461-3318. Please respect the time of a call I ask nothing after 8 pm unless it is an emergency. I try to return calls as soon as I can, but I have a fulltime job also that requires my time also.

Thank you to everyone and may this year be blessed and little less water.

Sincerely;

Animal Control Officer
Robert L Lowe

WASHINGTON RECREATION 2023-24 REPORT

Events & Activities

Washington Recreation held a successful Field Day event this past summer, and we look forward to continuing this annual tradition. We'd like to thank the Washington Fire Department, Calef Library, and Jerf's Lawn Care & Tent Rental for their participation in the day.

We plan to hold a Big Slide in late February or March and a 2024 Washington Field Day in July. We will share event information through flyers around town, the town newsletter, and the Washington Community Facebook page. We'd like to thank the Washington community for your continued support.



Carpenter Park Rental Information

Carpenter Park is a great space for tournaments, birthday parties, anniversaries, or other family gatherings and can be reserved for a small fee. Please email washingtonvtrec@gmail.com to reserve the space.

Park amenities include: two playing fields with dugouts, a 20 x 30' shelter with table and BBQ pit, lights, and power, paved basketball court and swing set, and 1.5 miles of hiking trail with marshland and an 8 x 12' observation deck.

Financials

Washington Rec. is working to get our financials in order. We would like to appoint a treasurer to manage our accounts and expenses, and we are working with the Selectboard to rectify discrepancies we identified when reviewing our accounts.

Submitted by:

Fred Blanchard
Vince Vermette
Carol Poulin
Ann Wade
Danielle Bresette



WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

While the historical society has been quiet, folks are still researching and collecting information that pertains to the town and its people.

Thanks to the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program grant, we are hoping to use some funds to have a professional assess the condition of the town hall's upstairs. This wonderfully large space is under-utilized, and will be an emergency shelter space as well as have room to hold historical memorabilia. There will be a call to volunteers when we are able to finally tackle that space.

In the vault there are 5 volumes of the John Clough family, an "Architectural History Spring 2003 Research Project of Washington VT" by Sherilyn Lafley, a list of burials from the 1770s-1972 compiled by Beth Brodne, ledgers of vital records going back into the 1800s, land records from 1793, as well as many other town records, some hundreds of years old. There are also drawers of very old school ledgers. While these records must remain in the vault, they are public domain and are available for inspection and perusal at the hall during business hours.

In 1979 the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation gave the town a binder full of photos of over 60 Washington homes, with information ranging from style of homes to what each used to be known as.

If anyone has old newspaper articles about the town to donate, they are being compiled in a spiral bound notebook for folks to look through.

There are still some copies of Beverly Farnham's "The History of Washington Vermont" which are for sale at \$40 each. This 229-page book is a treasure trove of articles, perspectives, recollections, and photos.

Thank you to Boomer Farnham who has been in charge of setting up the Memory Tree which is in its 17th year. This was a pet project of Josephine Farnham, Boomer's mother, who was a very active founding member of the Washington Historical Society.

The 2023 'Spirit Award' goes to two other founding members, Eva Beede and Madeline Beede, on behalf of their dedication to preserving Washington's history.



Oh, What A Night! July 10, 2023

By Lois Deberville

The night of July 10, 2023, brought the worst flooding Vermont has seen since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. All 14 counties in Vermont were declared a State of Disaster by Governor Phil Scott.

Washington was hit hard. The Hands Mill Dam gave way, pushing and carrying lots of debris, including a shed and a camper, from the property at 16 Woodchuck Hollow RD via the Jail Branch River. The Jail Branch is 16 miles long and the mess will be long felt along village properties.

Members of the volunteer fire department were in the village in the middle of the rainy night, assessing damage. At 3:30 a.m., Harry Roush was pounding on our daughter's door, letting us know to move our vehicles due to the impromptu river that was then cascading down through the village.

The selectboard appointed a FEMA administrator to be the town's liaison with the federal government agency. Ben Tiefenthaler has spent countless hours doing his own visual inspections and taking photos of the badly hit roads, and meeting with FEMA. Please see Ben's report in this town report.

July 17: Selectboard members were joined by Representative Carl Demrow and MaCaden Lyford (AOT) touring the damaged roads and entering the data into the state system to share with FEMA.

July 18: FEMA had the National Guard deliver 42 heavy duty fans and 4 humidifiers at no cost. At the time of this writing, there are still a handful of fans at the town hall available for distribution. The selectboard submitted requests to the AOT for bridge inspections and hydraulic studies

July 19 & 27: Donna Thunder Moran took it upon herself to bring us buckets of cleaning supplies from the Salvation Army. Donna also brought cases of bottled water.

July 26: Joyce Waters brought us 10 water sample kits donated by the Department of Health in Barre.

July 26: Bolduc had delivered a container for residents to dispose of flood-related metal. Washington was paid over \$400 for the scrap metal, and was out none of its own money.

July 28: The National Guard dropped off N95 masks, gloves, and several Tyvek suits.

August 3: Multiple resource stations were set up at the town hall, including FEMA and the Vermont Department of Health. The Vermont Department of Health set up shop to administer free tetanus, whopping cough and pertussis shots.

August 15: Ceres crew was sent out to pick up debris that folks set out along the roads, and sent a crew out at a later date when they realized some places had been missed. The AOT also sent out its own crew to pick up a pile of debris left at the town hall yard. I was pretty psyched to see "Snow Wolf" on the job! This truck had been named by students of Echo Valley Elementary School!

August 24: AOT's initial estimation of damages to our roads/bridges/culverts = \$2,698,388.00

July 11-until complete: the road crew along with volunteer construction workers have been steadily working to make all town roads passable.

FLOOD RESPONSE AND FEMA REPORT

The heavy prolonged rainstorm of this past July 10th into July 11th stands alongside the Great Flood of 1927 and Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 as the three most catastrophic statewide flooding events in recorded history. For the town of Washington, the extent of damage to our roadways and the flash flooding in the upper reaches of our various headwaters far surpassed what we experienced in Irene.¹ A drainage by drainage comparison with the damages of the 1927 flood would be a useful further study.

THE RAIN

The primary and most obvious element contributing to the flooding was the rain. Its intensity and duration was familiar enough to anyone here during Irene or in lesser unnamed storms that have come before or since. But what couldn't be seen in the rain alone was how unusual, even unprecedented for a storm of this magnitude, it was in its path: it began not south in tropical waters, moving northward and then northeast up along the coast, as in the storms of 1927 and 2011, but came instead from due west, aided by unseasonably strong winds on July 9th, pushing it across the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley towards New York and Vermont.² By the morning of July 10th, as it entered central Vermont, the storm was intensified again—first, by a high pressure system from the north, which resisted it and so prolonged its passage; and then by its rise up the ridgeline of the Greens, which emptied the storm clouds as they rose, now in a slow lingering procession. Just as in the storm of November 3rd into November 4th, 1927, it was not simply torrential rains, but torrential rains *slowed*, and then *intensified in their rise over the Greens* that resulted in such historic amounts.

In both events, the areas recording greatest precipitation came along the ridge of the Green Mountains. In 1927, the greatest amounts came high up in the peaks of the southern Greens in Somerset, where a storm-high 9.63" fell over two days. In the northern Greens, the most affected region was northeastern Washington County, centered around Calais, Vermont where more than 9" fell over a five-day span. In the penumbra of that most affected region was Washington, which received somewhere between seven and nine inches over that longer five-day span.³

The historic rains of this past July showed a similar distribution, with the most intense southern pocket centered around the near 9" of rain that fell in Mount Holly in the southern Greens. This time, though, the greater rainfall amounts were in the north, and centered on a small basin of intervale hill towns to the east of the Greens. At its center, again, was Calais, which recorded a storm-high 9.20" over the two-day event. But as this storm skewed more to the east, the stretch that Calais was at the center of was something like an elongated catchment between the Greens on the west and a minor range of granitic mountains to the east, those that up north divide the expanse between the Greens and the Whites into two valleys. This range starts from the north up at Burnt Mountain in Montgomery and comes down to Spruce Mountain in

¹ This is borne out in the town's FEMA claims for that disaster and, succinctly, in the opening to the Selectmen's Report within the 2011 Annual Report: "We were very lucky in Washington to have escaped the brunt of the floods that ravaged a great deal of Vermont this year" (AR, 2011: 16).

² Is this a new potential pathway for major rainstorms, or an aberration brought about by a still unlikely confluence of factors? Of the common path, that of tropical storms forced inland and carried northwards up along the coast, a 1929 study examining historic rainstorms in New England posits that "[t]he great storm of November, 1927, and perhaps all storms producing abnormally high rainfall in the past have been of this nature." This claim is apparently based on an investigation of the twelve greatest storms in New England history, from the January 7-8 storm of 1770 to the then recent Great Flood of 1927, finding that "these were all storms of the Atlantic coast type" (Kinnison, "The New England Flood of November, 1927", *US Geological Survey Paper 636*, 1929: pages 47 and 85 respectively).

³ For recorded rainfall amounts here, I am relying on a composite map created by the National Weather Service station in Burlington, Vermont called "North Country Total Precipitation~ November 1-6, 1927" and available as Figure 3 in their *The Great Vermont Flood of 1927, November 3-4* (<https://www.weather.gov/media/btv/events/1927Flood.pdf>).

Plainfield, St Cyr and Knox Mountain in Orange, and then Michigan Hill, the height of land in Washington. Travelling along this ridgeline one would pass through the hard hit towns of Hardwick, Woodbury, and Calais, and looking just southwest of these into that elongated interval stretch, you'd see the devastations in the lowlands of Montpelier, Barre, and then the narrow valley floodings of Washington.

For our town, the National Weather Service reported no total rainfall amounts from the two-day storm. Above us, Barre reported 7.8" at 10:58pm on the tenth with rain still falling. Below us, Chelsea reported 7.03" at 7am on the eleventh. Paul Beede in the village, who keeps the only rain gauge I know of in town, reported to me a total rainfall amount thereof about 9". Placed beside other gauge recordings for that period, it would place Washington village among the two or three highest recorded rainfall amounts in the state.⁴

CONDITIONS PRONE TO FLOODING

Historic rainfall alone, though, does not make for historic flooding. The month of June had received about a third more rainfall than usual in Orange County, with most of it coming in an extremely wet second half of the month.⁵ As with the Great Flood of 1927, when the heavy rains came, the soil was already saturated, and rivers and brooks began the morning of July 10th at medium to high levels. And so, from the beginning, there was little ground-level absorption before the rains started sheeting down hillsides, raising brooks and ponds to the edges of their banks, and gathering their erosive forces across town.⁶

Then there is the specific topography and distribution upon this of waterways and roadways throughout our town. Of Washington's thirty-nine square miles, most is hilly, and a fair amount, precipitously so. A wide band of rugged hills bisects the town west to east: along that western edge, it effectively separates the headwaters of the Winooski-draining Jail Branch headed north from those of the White-draining First Branch pitched south. These two drainages part ways in clear view up in the Heights, just a ways from 110.⁷ As one heads east along this central ridgeline, a mile or so after East Orange Road breaks off from West Corinth, a narrow descent carries you down, and splits the ridgeline into northern and southern walls. This minor east-west valley scares up pasture springs and headwaters in its higher mountainous reaches, and drains down from both steep-angled sides of East Orange Road, facing out towards a third drainage, the Connecticut-headed Waits River. Our waters are not the deep-trenched or wide-channeled rivers of a Bradford or a Montpelier; but radiating out from the town's rugged center are densely branched headwaters in every direction, starting up in the hills and finding their steep ways down into slender valley floors. The

⁴ This was relayed through his daughter, who added that his gauge tops off at 5 1/2". He poured it out on the 10th, when it topped off, and then collected somewhere close to 4" after that before the rains stopped on the morning of Tuesday, the 11th. The only other recorded rainfall amounts I'm aware of greater than 8.5" for the two-day event were those in Mount Holly (8.66" at 6:48pm on 7/10), Plymouth (9.05" at 7:18pm on 7/10), and Andover (8.65" at 7:20pm on 7/10). These totals are taken from a consolidated spotter report issued by the National Weather Service site in Burlington at 2:32pm on July 11th (<https://www.weather.gov/media/btv/events/July2023Flood/PNS.pdf>).

⁵ This is based on archived data from the Northeast River Forecast Center. For June 2023, Orange County, Vermont received 6.39" of rain, almost 2" more than an average year as reported here: <https://www.weather.gov/nerfc/ESSJUN>. The dry first half of the month, and extremely wet second half of the month is maybe best shown by the gauge readings on the East Orange Branch of the Waits River. You can see here (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/01139800/#parameterCode=00065&period=P365D&showMedian=false>) how the low brook levels of early June spiked on the June 13th, 17th, and 27th. And then spiked again on July 5th.

⁶ Similar conditions were lying in wait on November 2nd, 1927: "At the time of the storm, the ground had been thoroughly saturated by heavy rains which fell from the 18th to the 21st of October. The natural lakes and swamps had been filled, and most of the rivers had been raised to medium high stages, so that practically all the surface storage available had been utilized less than two weeks before the storm" (Kinnison, 45).

⁷ Put into broader context on pages 17-18 in Murthy's "Bedrock Geology of the East Barre Area, Vermont", *Vermont Geological Survey*, Bulletin 10, 1957.

old center of town, halfway between Scales Hill and Pepper Road, the site of the legendary log house jail, is just about rightly placed to be called a three-ways crossroads: high ground that maybe once could've seen out to the starts of three different rivers.

How this figures into conditions for flood damage comes with the laying out of roads along these brook-lined natural passes and valleys afforded by the landscape.⁸ To take just one path up into the headwaters of the First Branch of the White, every reach of water there is traced by a road. If it were a sugarbush, your mainline would be the First Branch itself, forking down in Chelsea behind the 110 Quick Stop, where Hart Hollow Brook turns off to the northeast. But following our mainline northwest, we are road along brook all the way through the Chelsea valley. Just after crossing into Washington, a first reach of headwaters starts out due west, and brings a road along with it (the Williamstown Road). That brook then divides itself, due west it leads a lateral road up into the ledge and steep ascent of Stellar Road, and tacking north it keeps crisscrossing the brook all the way into Williamstown. Further up, another lateral heads off onto Poor Farm—brook and road together; and then up again, a short pair of droplines connecting in Pray Road, before another lateral stretches out onto Tilton, whose own pinwheeling reaches allow only .05 of its half mile of roadway to cling to class three status. All these roads are yoked to waters. On the steeper east side of that mainline, only Sky Acres makes a go of a road. It scrambles up amidst an assemblage of unmaintainable and discontinued roads, veering from the headwaters-tied TH-42 as soon as it can, and stretching out east, trying to find the old safety of the Washington Turnpike. On every single one of these roadways this past July, jammed beside brooks in narrow draining confines, there were washouts, overwhelmed culverts, and roadways chasmed out into freestone quarries. Destruction so vast and complete that to have contracted out all the repairs would've cost the town well over \$1.3 million dollars in this one half of a headwaters alone.⁹

⁸ The best visual aid I know of for seeing this roads-along-waterways pattern in our town is via the ANR town watershed map (https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/DEC/WSMD/Rivers/docs/SA_SWS/StreamAlterations_Washington.pdf). It's worth noting that the town's first north-south road almost slaloms up through town in a desperate attempt to avoid coextensive paths with these waterways. In Whitelaw's 1796 map, you can see a southeast to northwest main route, on what today would be a route that starts from Ryder Road in what's currently a Wildlife Management Area, and then progresses to Scales Hill, Jail Branch, and on to Pepper, after which it takes West Corinth over to some now irrecoverable crossing west, and exits town by way of Carrier Road (<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3750.la002034/?r=0.448,0.559,0.264,0.106,0>). The second, and more direct north-south road, followed the current Washington Turnpike Road for most of its length. Again, it begins at the south end of town by *avoiding* both headwater branches of the White River, splitting the difference in the valley between, and then midway up town swoops in a graceful arc west *in order to keep wide* of the southernmost reaches of the Jail Branch before finally sidling up to the brook on the safer flatland where 110 now exits town to the north. Both early roadways and the waterways they keep from can be seen most clearly on Whitelaw's updated 1810 map (<https://curiosity.lib.harvard.edu/scanned-maps/catalog/44-990095538430203941>). By Walling's 1858 map of Orange County, something like the current system of roads is already in place (<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3753o.la001188/?r=0.361,0.296,0.247,0.099,0>). It's hard to know, with no other map prior to Walling containing this kind of detail for the town of Washington, just how limited the Whitelaw maps might be to marking main thoroughfares, or what distinction was made between a road and an infrequently passable path back in 1858. What changed, I wonder, to encourage more roadways to follow these flash-flood prone headwaters?

⁹ The estimate this is based off is the \$1,329,428 arrived at by state Agency of Transportation technician, Macaden Lyford, who toured our most damaged road sites on the morning of July 17th. From data collected during his inspection and measurements, he compiled a document entitled "Town of Washington rough estimate" that broke down anticipated costs into highly atomised pieces, assuming contracted work, and standard VTrans rates. In the case of those roadways on just this westernmost branch of the headwaters of the First Branch, Macaden gave estimates for Stellar, Williamstown, Sky Acres, and Poor Farm. Relatively inexpensive repair costs to Pray Road, and significant damages on Tilton Road were not a part of his estimate.

So there was the historic rainfall, but then there was what those torrential rains met: (1) soils that shed and pooled it on impact, having been heavily saturated by a wet June and recent storms; (2) dense headwater systems at medium to high levels, primed for quick-rising and flash-flooding; (3) steep, hilly terrain that drains these headwaters into brooks running along narrow valley floors; and (4) a roadway system that follows these brooks along the slender valleys and narrow passes which all these soon-to-flood headwaters pour into. And add to this (5) a largely reforested landscape, that in normal weather conditions works to support and hold in place all these soil saturating rains; but in torrential events of this sort, the forests quickly become storehouses of destruction. Upturned and slid down into brook channels, whole trees were shot downstream, scouring the banks as they went and charging wingwalls and drylaid abutments like battering rams against these junctions of water passage. Flipped around, their root masses and branch wreckage, the stuff of castoreal dreams, was put to work damming up culverts, and millponding brooks at narrow passages.

Here is a rough picture of what took place, separated out into drainages, when torrential rains hit a landscape primed for flooding in all these ways on the morning of July 10th:

HEADWATERS OF THE JAIL BRANCH (WINOOSKI DRAINAGE)

The first road that washed out in town was MacDonald Road, up near the Bock residence. An excavator had arrived that morning, and our two-person road crew at the time, Nick Benoit and Josh Bell, were up trying to get some last preparations in place for the grant work that was slated to start once the weather cleared. But the rains were coming too hard, and the culvert that grant was written to upsize was now overwhelmed with water gushing out over the roadway. Somewhere around 3pm, "bridge closed" signs were placed on either side of the culvert site, and Nick and Josh headed back to the village with the excavator. At the intersection of MacDonald and Carrier they met Fred Blanchard who'd seen that the 12' old fuel barrel culvert on Carrier Road Ext. was getting plugged up already with upstream debris. By this time, more than 3" of rainfall had already been reported south of us in Chelsea.¹⁰

Around 4pm, the town fire station received its first call from dispatch, reporting a tree down over the southbound lane of 110 between Richardson and Tilton.¹¹ Volunteer firefighters responding to the call headed south, and on their way were slowed by water streaming over the highway down from Cheney Road.

Just north of the village, on the main stem of the Jail Branch, the pond by the trailer park up above Donna Road had broken open and rushing waters, carrying debris along with them, were slowly plugging up the 110 culvert next to the old Calef House. As the water level rose, the fire department quickly barricaded off 110: engine number one on the south side; the utility truck to the north. Soon the road was overtopped, and then, in quick succession, the roadbed below the pavement was gashed away, and unsupported, the pavement itself dropped out.

¹⁰ 3.23" at a location in SSW Chelsea at 2:03pm (from the spotter report previously cited in footnote 4 above).

¹¹ This and what follows is partly drawn from talks with fire chief Ryan Bresette on 1/9 and again on 1/24, as well as an account from Fred Blanchard on 1/9. Town highway supervisor, AJ Galfetti read an earlier draft, and the two of us have talked over every road in town that was damaged in July, some countless numbers of times. Timestamped photographs have also helped, as well as various reports from town residents. Trying to reconstruct a sequence of often concurrent or overlapping events like this, all of which took place in the middle of an emergent situation, would be benefitted by more accounts of direct observation. Any corrections or additions or confirmations of events laid out in these rough sketches would be extremely helpful. Pictures, too. They can be sent to me at ben.washingtonroads@gmail.com, and will be acknowledged in a future iteration of this document, one that will likely be accompanied by a detailed summary of the claims and reimbursements filed with FEMA, which at that point will have been completed.

Even before the Agency of Transportation could get out to the Calef House culvert, less than a mile south a trailer and shed were picked up and carried down the brook, slipping under the Buzwell bridge where West Corinth and Woodchuck Hollow meet. Back behind them, the Hands Mill Dam stood breached, with water from the Jail Branch's eastern headwaters gushing through. Slowly the main stretch of town started taking on water, at first in the brooks on either side of 110. Soon brown waters were wading out across the main stretch of 110 itself.

A few hours later, sometime between 10 and 11pm, the Donovan pond broke and that last push of water added to the western Jail Branch headwaters already gorged finally overtook the plugged 12' fuel barrel culvert on Carrier Road Ext, washing out its sides and sheeting water out over the top. A foot of water rushed out and over 110, and every reach of the Jail Branch headwaters was now broken open: MacDonald, Johnson Lane, and Carrier Extension to the west; Cheney and Turnpike dead center; the Hands Mill Dam and Vermette Lane to the east; and further up, all this water was gushing through the cavity blown open at the Calef culvert on 110. The fire department pulled back their barricade of 110 to Lowery Road, knowing that was the last arterial road out to the north if the massive pipe arch bridge on Creamery Road was overtopped. Somehow, though, while all those flooded Jail Branch waters joined just north of the village and made their way up towards the arched granite headwall on the inlet side of that bridge—somehow their rise stopped just short of the deck, leaving only a half dozen sink holes and some backscouring to show for all that force gathered up from behind them.

One last inexplicable surge came at 3am in the morning, sending an inch plus of water over 110 for nearly an hour. Town moderator, lister, assistant town clerk, Hands Mill Dam decommissioner, and, naturally, volunteer firefighter Harry Roush was out with fire chief Ryan Bresette monitoring the scene. A call was put back out to the ten first responders who'd been out checking roads and keeping watch from 5pm to 11pm. The surge, though, was short-lived, and when it died down, a surveying of damages in the early morning hours began.

HEADWATERS OF THE FIRST BRANCH (WHITE DRAINAGE)

The sequence of floodings and road washouts in the southwestern corner and lower southern parts of town had fewer direct witnesses and took place, at least partly, in later surges of rain overnight. Sometime in the three o'clock hour, Rusty Beede called in to report that the bridge at Poor Farm South was getting clogged up with debris. The town's volunteer firefighters were gathering then, and when they headed south to attend to the downed tree on 110, fire chief Ryan Bresette had them continue on to survey the roads below. By that time, the Williamstown Road up to Stellar was still passable, but at the junction between the two and down to the granite corduroy culvert on Stellar, water was washing over the road and had effectively shut it off from its upper reaches. Cones went down and they headed to the next road up.

When they turned off 110 onto Poor Farm Road, the bridge at the southern end was gone. The 16' granite deckers that had repaired it after the 1927 Flood were washed aside. Gone, too, was the poured concrete deck installed five years ago to reinforce it. Of its eastern abutment wall, all that was left was a half-enroaded mess of split granite and scattered fieldstone. This got gones, too, and from there they headed back north to the emerging chaos in the village.

An hour or so later, around 6:30, another call from down south reported a mudslide just below Batchelder. The rains were in torrents now, and it was all that could be done to get cones out to mark off the swathe of road that would have to be driven around.

At roughly the same time, Erika Butler, halfway up Stellar Road, watched as a narrow passage of brook dammed up by upstream debris, was millponding waters behind it. Just before leaving to get indoors, she saw those waters start to overtop the banks and make a second brook out of the road. The damage suffered over the next thousand feet our FEMA site inspector in September would call as bad as anything he'd seen

in all his inspections across the state. The roadbed was chasmed out to ledge and bedrock most all the way down, and between the lower Stellar damage and this washout, that roadway alone was estimated at a repair cost of just over a million dollars.¹²

Sometime within the next few hours, culvert failures at Sky Acres (one) and Tilton (two) caused those roads to be closed off, and sometime after these last visits, two further mudslides poured down from the heights further up 110, effectively closing intratown traffic through our primary north-south thoroughfare. The largest of these spread out a little ways further south from the first mudslide past Batchelder. Robby Perdue reported 300' of trees, rock, and sediment from a steep ravine wall out across the highway in one 6' high windrow.

The next morning, roadway checks revealed that most of the Williamstown Road was gone, its massive corrugated culverts bared, and huge swathes of washout lining eaten away at its sides. Both the southern and northern ends of Pray Road had vanished, too, leaving 110 without a passable sideroad from the southern entry of town all the way up to the height of land. Every brook had flooded and taken the roadway with it.

The eastern fork of these headwaters, while not as steeply bound-in, was equally washed out in each place where headwaters and roadway travelled together. The intersection of White Hill Road and Scales Hill was blown through and the last safety cones the town owned marked what was obvious to sight. The upper reaches of Corinth Corners was badly gouged and side-eroded, and its two culverts were pipes without roadway. Even some of the southern stretch of Hart Hollow, an old road that tries to stay to broader valleys, and is equipped with fifty-six culverts, couldn't escape significant back scouring and stone dislodgement to the outlet wall of its largest one, above Grass Road.

HEADWATERS OF THE EAST ORANGE BRANCH (WAITS DRAINAGE)

Out in the northeastern corner of town, the headwaters of the Waits River were fairly well held in its channels along East Orange Road around five o'clock. A significant reach up Notch Road, dividing below Mason into two hill-climbing smaller tributaries, was raging but within banks at this time as well. By 5:57pm, a chronically undraining ditch on the east side of Notch, just past Paden's pond, was starting to laterally erode most of the side of the road, and was streaming out across it in sheets and runnels.¹³

Sometime between then and 9pm, I'd guess that the first of two 5' culverts failed a hundred feet south of Mason Road. Waters overtopped the inlet wingwall on the east side of the brook, and for the next three hundred and fifty feet, massive halves of roadway calved off from that same side, as deep as eight feet down in places. Somehow these waters found the brook again before the bridge, and a brief island of whole span roadway was spared before another larger span picked up at the second 5' culvert—this one 650' long and in its fullest extent taking the whole roadway apart and dropping down to the valley subfloor five feet below. Along with Stellar, Notch Road was our second major disaster site. Each estimated at \$1 million dollars or more in repairs.¹⁴

Further east, a separate reach of the East Orange Branch took out the eastern side of Denton, and Woodchuck Hollow Extension, crossed by a tributary, had chasmed open in multiple spots and lost huge tracts of roadway.

¹² The total combined roadway repair estimates made by VTrans technician Macaden Lyford for Stellar Road was \$1,033,661.

¹³ This is clearly shown in a short video taken by Sarah Teel and in her observations at that time. Currently that three-second video footage is the only captured imagery of Notch Road I've been able to gather from the 10th.

¹⁴ Macaden Lyford's estimate here was for \$1 million exactly. It's unclear why Notch lacked the broken-down estimates of component repairs attached to Stellar and some of the other roads.

All told, twenty-eight damage sites on twenty-one roadways reached claimable proportions: twelve trace out along the contours of the Jail Branch headwaters; eleven follow the headwaters of the First Branch of the White River; and four are along the beginnings of the Waits. Only one, the damages on Plumb Lane, fall outside close proximity to one of these headwaters.

REPAIRING AND REBUILDING

Early that next morning, fire chief Ryan Bresette met with our selectboard at 6am to brief them on the extent of damages. By 8am, road foreman Nick Benoit, highway supervisor AJ Galfetti, and selectboard member Fred Blanchard met at the town firehouse with a group of local contractors brought together in a matter of hours. Each was sent off to a different section of town to start restoring access to stranded residents, redecking impassable bridges, unplugging culverts, and making a road system again from the chasmed out and side-eroded leavings of the flood.

Over the next three days, bridges at Poor Farm South (Mike Avery) and Johnson Lane (Jeff Moran) had their abutments resecured, and were redecked and reintegrated into previously washed out roadways. Other roads overtaken in the storm were re-opened: MacDonald at two junctures, Carrier Road Extension, lower Stellar Road at the granite corduroy culvert, Tilton just across from 110, Pray at its southern end, and Scales Hill at the intersection with White Hill. Work was underway by then, as well, on reopening the Williamstown Road (Tim Ward), and the culvert crossing at the bottom of Sky Acres (Avery). And by the special selectboard meeting on Thursday, the 13th, only a few class three roads remained fully impassable.

Differences in that meeting, however, ended with the resignation of the town road crew, just three days into a federally declared disaster that had us looking out towards a summer and fall requiring unprecedented town-wide road rebuilds and repairs. The extent and likely cost of those came into clearer focus the following Monday, July 17th, when AJ, selectboard chair Sheila Duranleau, state representative (and former Mason Road resident) Carl Demrow, and Macaden Lyford of the Vermont Agency of Transportation spent a long and early-starting morning touring the town's most damaged roadways. The estimates that resulted from that tour placed town road repair costs at just under \$2.7 million dollars, with the complete devastation of Notch Road and middle Stellar Road accounting for more than two-thirds of the projected total.¹⁵ Even with the eventual prospect of a 75% cost share with the federal government through FEMA, and a 15% cost share with the state, there was at that time no clear path forward how we could manage such enormous upfront and unbudgeted costs. Those cost shares are only *reimbursements* for invoices that must be already paid by the town. And even the prospect of defraying some of the costs by having our own budgeted roadcrew work on them, this was now in jeopardy, as there was no road crew at all.

But then, in those first days after losing our previous road crew, highway supervisor AJ Galfetti started to assemble a new one. Mike Tagliavia from a few miles away in Corinth put in an application, and with significant experience hauling and driving truck, he was hired and began on the 17th, the day of the damages tour. Three days later, on July 20th, Jesse Lambert was named roads commissioner, and set out immediately to talk with Elwin Chambers, our past road foreman who'd moved out to South Dakota and was back for a bit, but working up north and with no definite plans for staying. Jesse and AJ offered Elwin the foreman position, and on July 31st Elwin was back up on the town grader, working MacDonald Road into shape and getting his bearings on the damages out in front of him.

For a little while, Mike hauled for contractors, and then on Woodchuck Hollow Extension and Denton Road started hauling for Elwin who fixed washouts, packed down topdressing, and reditched out the roadsides. By August 21st, AJ had hired a third budgeted member of the road crew, and Owen Dudley began, out with Elwin and Mike, taking on Turnpike as their first road together. The three of them changed

¹⁵ Total damage estimates in Macaden Lyford's report came to \$2,689,388 for the fourteen roads he surveyed.

out and upsized the two unseated culverts, got ditches retrenched, and laterally eroded washouts filled with new stone tied back into the preexisting roadway. From Turnpike, they went to the more extensive repair work of Corinth Corners, and again brought a badly damaged expanse of road into a state better than it had been prior to the storm.

Their work together on Turnpike, and Elwin's skill as an operator, made turning larger projects over to them something AJ could feel confident in doing. And while the town didn't have the millions of dollars that VTrans had estimated for contractor-repaired roads, they did have an added surplus of \$234,457 that delinquent tax collector Scott Blanchard had been recovering bit by bit since last March. This was already at work, helping to pay off invoices coming due, and along with the temporary bump from July property taxes, could cover material costs if Elwin as operator, and Mike and Owen hauling and assisting where needed, could rebuild those two completely devastated roadways that remained in Notch and Stellar. The following week, beginning on 9/11, they did just that on Notch Road, with significant help from Jesse, who came down and ran the excavator all through a rainy Wednesday, getting a culvert unplugged, a steep embankment slope shored up with big stones, and helping keep Elwin freed up to work back and forth on the dozer and roller, building road up and out ahead. For a road completely destroyed, which VTrans had estimated would cost \$1 million dollars to restore, Elwin, Mike, Owen, worked for seven days, with Jesse pushing things along on that Wednesday. Load after load, Elwin tied-in staggered layers of 3" dense grade over and up, and then finished it off with inch-and-a-half packed roller-tight. The bulk of our costs came from the caravans of stone hauled in from Martin's Quarry in Bradford: 158 loads in total. By the road's reopening on September 19th, we'd spent \$52,024.31 in materials, rented equipment, and outside labor. Not only do we stand to be reimbursed for 90% of that, but also for 90% of the already budgeted labor hours of our road crew and the machine hours of our trucks and grader.

A similar, though only partial rebuild, took place on Stellar two months later, and again, for less than a tenth of the estimated cost. And once Stellar had reopened in the days prior to Thanksgiving, just before the snows arrived for good, it meant every road in town was open and plowable for the winter, and under AJ's watch, we'd somehow managed this without borrowing any money and going into sizeable debt.

At the close of this season of roadwork in late November, the town of Washington had paid out in invoices \$354,007.05 for those road repairs caused by the prolonged rainstorm of July 10th through the 11th. All of these expenses will be claimed in the coming months, along with payroll and machine hours involved in work rebuilding our flood-stricken roads. For all approved claims, the town stands to receive a 75% cost share from FEMA, and a 15% cost share from the state of Vermont. This means, if the lengthy documentation required for all claimed damages is approved and reimbursed in full, the town will be repaid for all but \$35,400.71 of its unbudgeted costs. But since it did budget for a three-person roadcrew, and that road crew did the bulk of our flood damage repairs, we expect to be reimbursed for those already budgeted payroll hours. In effect, this should result in tens of thousands of dollars we already expected to pay, now returned to us. We also anticipate reimbursement for machine hours on the town's equipment at FEMA-set rates. 90% of the machine costs for those hours, considering just the town's '21 six-wheel dump truck alone, will easily exceed \$10,000 in unbudgeted returns. As a rough estimate, then, provided that our documentation meets FEMA's requirements, and that our claims are approved, we should recover all the entirety of the \$354,007.05 that we've paid out in front. And more likely than not, we should receive some amount in excess of this, due to reimbursements for labor and machine costs we had already budgeted for.

Further costs, however, will come in the spring, as part of the town's pursuit of significant improvements to certain bridges and culverts that FEMA offers the opportunity for upgrading. This process allows towns, in specific cases, to rebuild especially stricken parts of their roadways not just back to how they stood before the storm; but improved to be able to withstand that storm, if it should come again, or one even greater. The cost share for these projects should be within a similar range, and the expert work of our roadcrew and fiscal awareness of our highway supervisor has put us in a position to be able to meet these upfront costs

and take full advantage of the preventive opportunities FEMA affords, rather than just the restorative ones. And in the meantime, AJ, Jesse, Elwin, and Fred are already looking towards grants and budgetary measures that will put our class three roadways on a schedule of town-wide rebuilds. It seems likely that Washington will again find itself near the peak rainfall center of future storms, and the challenge now is how to anticipate these with our current infrastructure in mind.

Ben Tiefenthaler, FEMA administrator for the town of Washington



VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2023

BIRTHS

CHILD'S NAME	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	MOTHER	FATHER
Evelyn Belle Jones	F	March 23, 2023	Natosha Jones	Adam Jones
Daisy Mae Macauley	F	March 25, 2023	Kimberly Bartlett	Mitchell Macauley
Jules Xavier Blackwell	M	April 1, 2023	Christiana Blackwell	Walker Blackwell
Lucian Ray Beede	M	May 8, 2023	Abbie Beede	Tyler Beede
Skyler Zay Flint	M	June 25, 2023	Katrina Flint	Derek Flint
Oliver William Satre	M	July 22, 2023	Felicia Brocar-Dyke	Devin Satre
Samuel Perry Wright	M	Sept. 13, 2023	Emily Wright	Glenn Wright
Noah Michael Roy	M	Nov. 15, 2023	Meaghan Roy	Richard Roy
Braelyn Ellen Stone	F	Nov. 17, 2023	Megan Dow	

MARRIAGES

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE OF MARRIAGE
Linda Rose Rogers	Washington VT	David Alan Pecor	Washington, VT	February 14, 2023
Milagros Montenegro	Rutland VT	Garrett David Royce	Washington, VT	March 18, 2023
Tamara Jean Race	WRJ VT	Edward Earl Emmons	Washington, VT	July 1, 2023
Debra Jayne Nichols	Washington VT	Peter James Badger	Washington, VT	September 9, 2023
Megan Leigh Lytle	North Carolina	Dylan James Rendflash	Washington, VT	December 18, 2023
Meredith Farrell Cox	Washington VT	Nicholas Edward Benoit	Washington, VT	December 31, 23

DEATHS

NAME	AGE	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF DEATH
Norton E. Austin, Jr.	81	January 26, 2023	Washington, VT	Berlin, VT
Percy Robert Smith	85	February 24, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington, VT
Armond O. Vermette	81	February 28, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington,
Dorothy R. Carrier	91	April 7, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington, VT
Gary John Chapin	72	April 11, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington, VT
Linda R. Rogers	73	May 23, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington, VT
Ruth A. Bapp	79	June 22, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington, VT
Claudette M. Samson	80	July 7, 2023	Brooksville, FL	Washington, VT
Michele Elizabeth Demar	33	August 3, 2023	Northfield, VT	Washington, VT
Steven Michael Foster	44	August (?), 2023	Washington, VT	Pomfret, VT
Wayne Lawrence Beede, Sr.	77	September 2, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington, VT
Emma L. Gingras	91	October 11, 2023	Washington, VT	Williamstown, VT
Barbara G. Lyons	73	November 4, 2023	Washington, VT	Washington, VT

DOG LICENSE/RABIES CLINIC INFORMATION

Per 20 V.S.A. §3581: If your dog or wolf-hybrid is 6 months or older you must bring in proof of its current rabies shot to the town clerk's office by April 1 of each year and purchase a license. This is a state law no matter if you live within the village or further out. With each license, you will receive a metal tag engraved with your dog's or wolf-hybrid's license number as well as the town clerk's phone number. If you become a dog's or wolf-hybrid's owner after April 1st, you must license the animal within 30 days in order to not incur the late fee.

A person who owns a working farm dog and who intends to use that dog on a farm pursuant to the exemptions in section 3549 of this title shall cause the working farm dog to be registered as a working farm dog and shall, in addition to all other fees required by this section, pay \$5.00 for a working farm dog license. The owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid shall cause it to wear a collar and attach a license tag, issued by the municipal clerk, to the collar.

If your dog can not receive a rabies vaccine for a medical reason, then we will accept the vet's written statement attesting to that. The list of owners with the name, breed, and tag number of their dog(s) is given to the local animal control officer in case a dog goes missing or is involved in an attack.

Fees for 2023:

Spayed or neutered by April 1 = \$9.00 After April 1 = \$11.00

Not spayed or not neutered by April 1 = \$13.00 After April 1 = \$15.00

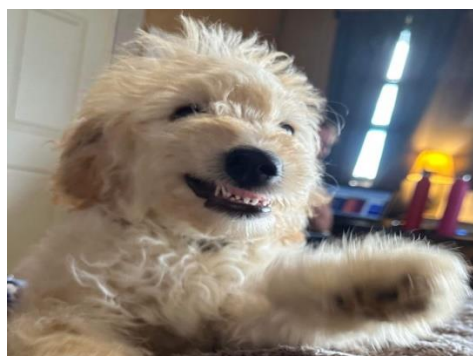
Kennel fee: \$25.00 Working Farm Dogs: \$5.00 additional per dog.

\$4.00 of each fee goes to the state for the purpose of funding the dog, cat and wolf-hybrid spaying and neutering program (VSNIP). \$1.00 of each fee goes to the state for rabies control.

2023 Report: 95 individual dogs were licensed, and one kennel license was issued.

17 licensed were not spayed or neutered. 78 were spayed or neutered.

Total fees collected: \$1,031



THE 2024 RABIES CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS IS SATURDAY, MARCH 9th FROM 12:30 – 2:30 AT THE FIRE STATION. DOGS MAY BE LICENSED THERE AS WELL.

THE KATIE BEEDE & CHRIS CHALOUX MEMORIAL AWARD

The Katie Beede & Chris Chaloux Memorial Award is a cash award for Washington high school students. The purpose is to recognize young people who touch others' lives as Katie and Chris did with qualities of courage, compassion, dignity and friendship. It was established in 2006 under the direction of the Beede Family, and turned over to the town in 2011.

Criteria

1. The applicant must be a high school senior with a current Town of Washington High School Voucher.
2. Applicants must **submit an essay to the town clerk by the 1st of February** stating how they feel they have demonstrated some or all of the qualities of courage, compassion, dignity and friendship. The essay must also state how they intend to use the award.
3. The amount of the award in any given year will be determined by the selectboard. (It is anticipated that the awards will range from \$250-\$500 at the discretion of the selectboard.)
4. The winner will be announced at Town Meeting.
5. The selectboard reserves the right not to award to any participant in any given year.

THE DEBRA SUE BLANCHARD COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

The Debra Sue Blanchard Community Service Scholarship is a cash award for college students of Washington. This endowment was created to provide significant assistance for higher education and to reward community service. This award is to be administered by the town, specifically awarded by a majority vote of the selectboard.

Criteria

6. Scholar must have lived in Washington for at least four years prior to graduation from high school.
7. Award of (see schedule below) will be given at the beginning of scholar's second semester **and** the completion of one hundred (100) hours of community service to the Town of Washington.
8. Each applicant must **submit an essay to the town clerk by the 1st of February** explaining their intent for the award and the importance of community service.
9. The winner will be announced at Town Meeting.
10. Students may apply and be awarded multiple times as long as they remain successfully enrolled in higher education.
11. In the event there is no award given in any specific year, it is at the discretion of the selectboard to award to two students in any following year.
12. The selectboard reserves the right not to award to any participant in any given year.



November 13, 2023

Town of Washington
Attn: Lois Deberville, Town Clerk
2895 Route VT 110
Washington, VT 05675

Dear Ms. Deberville:

On behalf of the Clara Martin Center, we would like to request that the amount of \$1,639 be placed on the warning for Town Meeting 2024. This is the same figure asked for in prior years.

The pages following are a detailed informational summary, a short narrative about the Clara Martin Center for the town report, and a financial statement. Either summary may be used for inclusion in your town report. The detail show consumers served from Washington for our FY **2023**.

If you have any questions, or require further information from us, please do not hesitate to call me at (802) 728-4466 ext. 563. Upon request we will send an annual report, when available.

Sincerely,

Christie Everett
Director of Operations
Clara Martin Center



FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

Elevate Youth Services (formerly *Washington County Youth Service Bureau*) is a private, non-profit, social service agency. Our mission is to “Promote safety, competence, and confidence as youth create their path through adolescence and into adulthood.” We envision communities that value youth, ensure their well-being, and see them thrive. We accomplish this through a variety of services including: youth & family counseling; emergency shelter and housing assistance for runaway and homeless youth; support for pregnant/parenting teens; adolescent substance use treatment; a transitional living program for young men returning from jail; a teen center; support for youth involved in foster care; and a 24 hour crisis service. EYS also operates 2 statewide coalitions that focus on youth initiatives.

Request for Fiscal Year 2025:

- **Funding Request:** \$250
- **Website Address:** www.elevateyouthvt.org
- **Telephone Number for Services:** 802.229.9151
- **Physical and Mailing Address:** Physical location: 652 Granger Road, Barre, VT 05641
- **Written Report/Job Title by:** Nicole Bachand, Associate Director

Fiscal Year 2023 Service Report:

During the past year (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) Elevate Youth Services provided the following services to **4 young people and families in Washington** (numbers reflect an unduplicated count. All youth service received intensive services:

- **1 Youth and their Family** were assisted by the **Country Roads Program** that provides 24-hour crisis intervention, short-term counseling, and temporary, emergency shelter for youth who have runaway, are homeless, or are in crisis.
- **2 Youth** were provided with **Substance Abuse Treatment** through the **Healthy Youth Program**. This includes substance abuse education, intervention, assessments, treatment and positive life skills coaching. Support is also available for families.
- **1 Youth** was served through the **Youth Development Program** which provides voluntary case management services to youth ages 15-22, who are, or have been, in the custody of the State through the VT Department for Children and Families.

Last year’s funding request represents a cost of approximately \$62.50 per person served. This is only a small fraction of the cost of the services provided. Most services provided involved multiple sessions, counseling services were provided by certified or licensed counselors, and emergency temporary shelter included 24-hour supervision, meals, and transportation. Referrals to our services come from parents, school staff, other organizations, the VT Department for Children and Families, the VT Department of Corrections, churches, police, and young people themselves. Many are received through our 24 hour on-call crisis service. EYS is a private, non-profit agency. Programs are funded by foundations, state and federal government, donations, towns, Medicaid, private insurance and fundraising activities. For more information about EYS, please contact us at **802-229-9151** or info@elevateyouthvt.org.

Thank you for your continued support!

**THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING #03-0271000
TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

SUMMARY REPORT

Request Amount: \$365.00

For over 44 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'23 (10/2022-9/2023) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible.

Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **17** people and provided **7** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

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

During FY'23, **4** residents of **Washington** received services from the following program:

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:

1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at **www.vcil.org**.

Orange County Restorative Justice Center

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJC) is a community-based restorative justice agency, offering cost-effective alternatives to the Family, Criminal, and Civil Courts and the State Corrections system. We remain committed to our mission and vision—building and advocating for just communities by providing restorative programs to address legal issues, wrongdoing, conflict and the needs of harmed parties; and connecting participants to services that improve the health, well-being and positive behavior of individuals and the community.

We want the everyday life in Orange County communities to be safe, just and provide opportunities for all people to thrive. We offer 11 programs to Orange County residents: Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), Community Restorative Practices training, Court Diversion, Driver's License Reinstatement, Pre-Trial Services, Reparative Panels, Restorative Re-entry after Incarceration, Safe Driver Education, Transitional Housing, Victim Assistance and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, 289 people were referred to us for services. Local volunteers provided 1,203 hours of their time to support 272 Restorative Meetings. We served 62 harmed parties (victims) and distributed \$9,107 in restitution to those who experienced losses due to crime. OCRJC helped: 53 people connect with counseling services, 17 people access our emergency support fund, and 22 people reinstate their driver's license. We secured 4 apartments for transitional housing and had 70 people in our Safe Driver program.

In FY23, OCRJC worked with 6 people who live in or whose incidents took place in Washington. For each incident referred to OCRJC, the person responsible and the individuals impacted by the crime are offered services.

OCRJC's FY23 operating budget was \$534,247. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County.

The Town of Washington appropriated \$350 for FY23 to support our work. **OCRJC requests \$350 in 2024 to support ongoing programs.**

Thank you for your support! For additional information, find our website at <https://ocrjvt.org> or contact Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, at 802-685-3172 or info@ocrjvt.org.



I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of Green Mountain Transit, the provider of essential public transportation services in our region.

Our rural communities are the backbone of our state, and we understand the unique challenges and opportunities that come with living in such a beautiful, yet often isolated, setting. We take great pride in the role we play in connecting our residents to vital services, job opportunities, educational institutions, and cultural experiences.

While we receive funding from various sources, including grants, the financial sustainability of our services is an ongoing challenge. It is with this in mind that we kindly request your support in the form of an annual contribution. Your financial support will directly benefit our rural communities and help ensure the continued availability and expansion of our transportation services.

It is with recognition and appreciation for all levels of support that Green Mountain Transit (GMT) would like to submit a funding request for FY25 in the amount of **\$635.00** be placed before voters for consideration. The requested funding directly supports GMT's ongoing operations and the amount is based on a fair share calculation applied to the municipalities GMT serves.

Please feel free to contact me at 802-540-1098 or jamie@ridegmt.com to arrange a meeting or if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to working together to ensure a brighter, more connected future for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jamie Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jamie' and last name 'Smith' clearly distinguishable.

Jamie Smith, Director of Planning and Marketing

101 Queen City Park Rd, Burlington, VT 05401 | T: 802-540-2468 F: 802-864-5564
6088 VT Route 12, Berlin, VT 05602 | T: 802-223-7287 F: 802-223-6236
375 Lake Road, Suite 5, St. Albans, VT 05478 | T: 802-527-2181 F: 802-527-5302

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.

Local Partnerships in Learning

Serving Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties

October 26, 2023

Town of Washington
2895 VT Rt. 110
Washington, VT 05675

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (CVABE) has provided free adult education and literacy instruction for residents of Washington for over fifty-seven years. We are grateful to the Washington voters for their long-time generous support of our programs. **This year, CVABE requests level funding from town voters, in the amount of \$725.** This funding is key in helping Washington residents who need basic education to improve their lives.

We respectfully request that an article be placed before the voters at your annual Town Meeting.

Thank you for your assistance. If further information is needed, I welcome you to call me at (802) 476-4588.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Kravitz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Kravitz

CVABE Development and Outreach Director

bkravitz@cvabe.org



The Fiscal Year 2023 is already clouded by the events in the first days of Fiscal Year 2024, when devastating floods reached our community and harmed many people, homes, buildings, and businesses.

It is difficult to contemplate the twelve months preceding that given all we have been through. But nonetheless and in contrast to what was to come, Fiscal Year 2023 was strong in the Central Vermont Economy. Downtown businesses were finally seeing pre-pandemic levels of revenue and activity and there was hope that prosperity was returning post-Covid.

The Central Vermont Job Fair, returning to its normal April date and with expanded hours and food offerings; great activity in our small business loan program with two new borrowers; and the conclusion of the second round of Covid-responsive Technical Assistance program, this time funded by the Small Business Administration under the umbrella of the Community Navigator Pilot Program. In the two rounds of RDC-led technical assistance, over 800 Vermont businesses have connected on federally-funded projects like website development, photography, legal assistance, bookkeeping and accounting, marketing support, and more.

In June, the State of Vermont passed legislation to fund a third round of this program, called the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange. 183 awards will be made to small business owners to complete similar projects, this time with no Covid-19 relationship required. The new version of the program is geographically equitable and will prioritize rural businesses, and businesses owned by New Americans, BIPOC, women, LGBTQIA+, justice-involved individuals, those with disabilities, veterans, Mature Vermonters and Young Vermonters.

In the spring and summer, CVEDC hosted a pilot program including UVM and the Patrick Leahy Rural Institute to fund and support Central Vermont Internships. 12 employers participated and hired UVM interns with whole or partial wage subsidies made through the program. The employers and interns also received professional development support to make the most of this program.

CVEDC assisted many businesses with grant applications, many Covid-responsive. We saw over \$3million awarded to our region through ARPA-funded Community Resiliency and Recovery Program, the Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Program, and the Buildings and General Services RDC grants.

This June, CVEDC led the Governor's cabinet and the Washington County delegation on the final stop in the "ARPA Tour" which brought resources and eyes to projects in rural areas. We visited Plainfield, Berlin, Montpelier, Waitsfield, and Waterbury on this fun day of programming.

In Fiscal year 2023, CVEDC has worked hard to expand the reach of its services. We are focused on ensuring our tools and programs are available to all and have made special efforts to reach business owners in rural communities, and to be aware of best practices for a diverse and equitable client group. We have doubled our business membership and newsletter reach, and our newsletter continues to be an effective tool for communicating opportunities to our community.

WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Washington Agricultural Association (WAA) is a non-profit group (501c3) that offers youth and adults educational and recreational experiences to influence and shape their personal growth and sense of community while expanding their knowledge of agricultural, industries, and lifestyles that make Washington and Vermont unique.

Once again, we want to extend our sincere appreciation to all for helping us to have a very successful second year! We added more of what we heard you liked, additional movies and music in the park. Unfortunately, we did have to cancel some of our events due to the weather. We were especially disappointed cancel our Fall Festival in October but at the last minute we arranged to join with the Baptist Church and held a pumpkin decorating and craft day, which included their very popular popcorn machine.

We want to thank our local partners who have supported so many of our events this past year. The Recreation Department, the Fire Department, the Washington Snowflyers, the Central VT ATV Club, Echo Valley Community School, the Washington Baptist Church, The Pub, Lambert Farm and Roccia Di Cambio Farm. Two of our Music in the Park events were local fund raisers and while we are not surprised, we are very grateful for the generosity of this community. We raised over \$1,500 each for the Washington Village Store to assist with flood damage and for Morgan Aldrich as a contribution to a new handicapped accessible vehicle.

2023 Activities included:

- Paint and Sip, partnership with The Pub in Williamstown.
- Five concerts in Carpenter Park sponsored by various community donors.
- Two movies, partnership with OUR House of Central VT, Lambert Farm and Echo Valley Community School.
- Equine Demo/Therapy Day, sponsored by Poulin Grain, Montpelier Agway, Central Supply-Randolph, Roy Folsom, and Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance.
- Pumpkin decorating and craft day, partnership with the Washington Baptist Church and Roccia Di Cambio Farm.
- Candy cane guessing game.
- Santa's visit at the Town Hall, partnership with the Washington Fire Department, Snowflyers and the Baptist Church.

2024 brings a new slate of officers and planning for lots of fun and activities. We encourage anyone who is interested to join us for our monthly meetings to brainstorm, plan and help with events. Our meeting dates, usually the second Monday of the month, can be found on our FB page and on the window at the Town Hall. **We respectfully request the voters of Washington to approve \$1,500 at Town Meeting to support 2024 activities. Thank you for your consideration.**



P.O. Box 68 Washington VT, 05675 - WashingtonAgInc@gmail.co - Follow us on FB



The Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (PHC) is our region's trusted leader in public health, supporting the people, professionals, and organizations who, together, make our communities healthier places to live, work, and play. Our mission is to improve the health of all Upper Valley residents. We do this in four keyways:

1. Unify the public health priorities of the region to promote collaboration and progress towards shared goals.
2. Work alongside health and human services organizations and policy makers to develop actionable plans and best practices to address the community's priorities.
3. Aggregate and disseminate important public health information across the region and bring people together to share ideas, experiences, and expertise.
4. Function as a backbone support for underserved members of the community by serving as fiscal sponsor for program development, providing technical assistance, and advocating for health equity.

PHC is recognized by the State of New Hampshire as one of its regional public health networks and collaborates closely with White River Junction District Office of the Vermont Department of Health.

Our work in 2023 included:

- Released a new Community Health Improvement Plan that describes the collaborative strategies partners will use to address community health priorities.
- Hosted regular meetings for PHC partners to share information and provide opportunities for problem solving.
- Distributed COVID test kits to social service organizations for vulnerable residents.
- Provided staff support to Upper Valley Strong as the coalition responded to the flooding.
- Hosted six flu clinics in rural communities with support from Dartmouth Health, Geisel School of Medicine, and local partner, providing over 1,500 free vaccines.
- Served as host for the Upper Valley Community Health Equity Partnership, a program funded through a grant from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Collaborated with local school districts and the Hartford Community Coalition to provide summer meals for children in the region.

PHC appreciates the opportunity to serve the residents of Washington and will continue to work hard to meet your needs in 2024. **We requested the continued support of \$103 in the Town of Washington's Town Appropriations to support the work of the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley.**

For more information about PHC, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org.

**Central Vermont Council on Aging
2024 Appropriation Request,
Town of Washington**

CVCOA Mission Statement: support Central Vermonters to age with dignity and choice.

Amount of Request: \$800 (level funding)

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is the primary agency serving older Vermonters age 60 and over as well as their families and caregivers throughout the 54 towns of Central Vermont. CVCOA is a nonprofit organization that assists older adults to remain independent for as long as possible. All services are made available to our clients at no charge, without regard to health, income, or other resources.

CVCOA continues to be a leader in healthy aging and has recently been recognized nationally for our development of arts and technology programs that help enhance social connection. Through initiatives like this and our upcoming medically tailored and therapeutic meals program, CVCOA is finding innovative ways to improve the lives of older adults in Central Vermont.

The funding provided by the 54 Central Vermont towns we serve is essential to CVCOA, and directly serves its mission of supporting older adults and family caregivers in leading self-determined, healthy and dignified lives in their homes and communities. We accomplish this by connecting older adults to a

wide array of benefit programs, resources, services, and healthy aging opportunities needed to thrive.

The financial allocation from the Town of Washington provides resources to support the well-being of older Vermonters in Washington and ensures that CVCOA can continue offering individualized support and options counseling. We have included more information about CVCOA's programs and services following this letter. Please also review the Town Report attached to this email. All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Washington for their ongoing commitment to the health, independence, and dignity of older adults in the community. Thank you for your contribution to making the Central Vermont communities what they are today.



383 Sherwood Drive
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: 802.262.3292
www.fcwcvt.org
familycenter@fcwcvt.org
Find us on Facebook

FAMILY CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
Serving families in the Town of Washington

The Family Center of Washington County respectfully requests funding of \$300.00 in the budget to go before the voters in 2024. This request is level to the funding received in past years from the voters of Washington. Funds will be combined with other town funds and used to support the prevention and community development services offered by the Family Center.

In FY'23 we offered services for children, youth and families, including: Early Care and Education, Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention, Family Support Home Visiting, Child Care Financial Assistance, Child Care Referral, Welcome Baby Outreach, Family Supportive Housing Services, Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project, Specialized Child Care Supports, Reach Up Job Development, Food Pantry, Diaper Bank, Parent Education, and Playgroups for children from birth to five. For more information about Family Center programs and services, please visit: www.fcwcvt.org.

Among the 13 individuals in Washington who benefited from the Family Center's programs and services from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 were:

- *2 families who received Information & Referral, including consulting our Child Care Referral services, receiving assistance in finding child care to meet their needs, answering questions related to child care and child development, and receiving information about other community resources available.
- *5 families who received Child Care Financial Assistance.
- *2 individuals who participated in our Playgroups. Playgroups are free, open to all families with children birth to five, and have no eligibility requirements. Children have a chance to play with others in a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment. Parents talk to other parents, draw upon each other for support, learn new skills from Playgroup Facilitators and get information about community resources.
- *4 individuals who were served by one of our Home Visiting services, providing parent and family education and support or Early Intervention with a child aged birth to 3.

Thank you for your continued support.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Barre Area Senior Center

www.barreseniors.org

This year, the Barre Area Senior Center (BASC) was able to fully reopen our doors in June 2022 after the COVID pandemic. Since reopening we have welcomed community members back through our doors to participate in programs, enjoy trips, and socialize together through shared activities. BASC currently serves 291 active members from 16 different towns. In addition, BASC has an open door and welcomes anyone to participate regardless of membership status.

Our mission is to provide access to programs and resources that help older adults live independently and remain active. Programs ranged from arts & crafts, dance, fitness, trips, health & social services and nutrition. We partnered with more than a dozen organizations throughout the year to offer programs, events, and educational seminars. We were able to continue to offer Foot Clinics free of charge at our center thanks to funding awarded through an Agewell grant. In May, BASC hosted a 50th Vietnam War Commemoration Pinning Ceremony which was well received.

We have a broad volunteer base that allows volunteers to share their expertise in a variety of capacities. We thank our volunteers and participants for their dedication in making these programs successful. BASC is looking forward to the next year with hope and excitement to grow our supporters and participants, make new community connections, increase programming, expand our hours, trips and wellness activities. BASC relies on donations, fundraisers, voter-approved funding, grants and monetary gifts for its operating costs. Currently BASC is open 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9:00-12:00 on Friday, with additional hours when needed to accommodate programs and events.

Our community partners include Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice, VT Humanities Council, Central VT Career Center, Central VT Council on Aging, and AARP. Community collaboration allows BASC to share knowledge and resources that benefit participants of BASC.

BASC wishes to thank Washington Town voters for the generous support you have given us throughout the year. Without your support we would not be able to offer the programs and events to our members and community.

The Barre Area Senior Center is requesting to be included on the FY25 Ballot for level funding of \$500.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Stinson, Director of Operations
131 S. Main St. #4, Barre, VT 05641
802.479-9512
Email: director@barreseniors.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/barreareaseniorcente



Safeline

Advocacy | Prevention | Education | Social Change

PO Box 368
Chelsea, Vermont 05038
safelineinfo@safelinevt.org
www.safelinevt.org
office: (802) 685-7900
fax: (802) 685-7902
501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

Town of Washington
c/o Lois Deberville
2895 VT Route 110
Washington, VT 05675

Dear Lois,

Safeline very much appreciates the ongoing Town Appropriations support from the Town of Washington. Your financial assistance is a critical component for helping us continue our work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Washington. **Safeline respectfully requests the same amount as last year's approved appropriation of \$1,000 from the Town of Washington for 2024.**

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

43 services were provided for 4 victims who identified themselves as residents of Washington. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. 2 females and 2 males received services. These services included: 2 Relief from Abuse protection orders; 8 safety planning; 7 crises intervention; 8 information/referrals, 7 case management; and 5 hotline calls.

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

Enclosed, please find a brief report of our services for inclusion in the Washington Town Report.

Thank you for considering our request. Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Linda Ingold
Executive Director

Safeline strives to end physical, emotional and sexual violence against women and children through direct service, education, advocacy and social change.



Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice

2023 ANNUAL SERVICE REPORT: WASHINGTON

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (CVHHH) is a full-service, not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Association that provides intermittent, short-term medical care, education, and support at home to help Central Vermonters recover from an illness, surgery, or hospital stay and manage their chronic disease. We serve 23 communities in Washington and Orange Counties and care for people of all ages. Our services include home care, hospice, and maternal-child health care. We also offer public foot-care clinics and flu vaccinations. In addition, we offer long-term care and private care services and free grief support groups.

CVHHH is guided by a mission to care for all Central Vermonters regardless of a person's ability to pay, their geographic remoteness, or the complexity of their care needs. CVHHH embraces new technology and collaborates with other local providers to ensure that central Vermonters' care needs are met. To learn more, visit www.cvhhh.org.

CVHHH Services to the Residents of Washington Jan 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 *

Program	# of Visits
Home Health Care	476
Hospice Care	144
Long Term Care	71
Maternal Child Health	23
Palliative Care Consultative Service**	5
TOTAL VISITS/CONTACTS	719
TOTAL PATIENTS	45
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	60

**Audited figures are not available at the time of report submission. These preliminary figures are annualized based on the number of visits from January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023, and are not expected to vary significantly. **New service line as of April 1, 2023*

Town funding is imperative in ensuring that CVHHH will provide services in Washington through 2024 and beyond. For more information contact Sandy Rousse, President & CEO, or Kelly Finnegan, Community Relations & Development at 223-1878.

ACTIVITIES RECAP 2023



Painted by Emily Poulin in 2023

Rabies Clinic for Dogs & Cats, February 25, 2023

The clinic was administered by the Chelsea Animal Hospital, and hosted at the Washington fire station.

Green Up Day, May 6, 2023

Thanks to the efforts of town residents, the road crew took 2540 pounds of trash to the CV Landfill, and fifty-nine tires to Budzyn Tire. The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District awarded the town \$400 towards the cost of the green up trash disposal.

FEMA Assistance, August 3, 2023

FEMA reps and others from multiple resources set up shop at the town hall to assist community members with any paperwork needed after the flood.

Trick or Treating, October 31, 2023

Continuing Carol's tradition of welcoming all trick-or-treaters into the town hall.

17th Annual Memory Tree Lighting, December 3, 2023

This was a gathering of folks with the reading of the names of those we've lost. It was hosted by the Washington Historical Society at the town hall.

Walk-in Clinic at the Town Hall for Covid and Flu Shots, December 7, 2023

36 people were served in conjunction with the Vermont Center for Independent Living and CDR Health.

17th Annual Washington Elves Project- Sponsored by the Washington Fire Department & Fast Squad. Thank you to all who contributed gifts, money, and to Rob & Veronica Lowe for doing the shopping.

A wedding! December 18, 2023

Those of us who were at the town hall enjoyed an impromptu wedding ceremony in the town hall. The couple wished they had brought a broom to jump over, but Fred came to their rescue with a shovel.

Santa's Visit-December 22, 2023

Inclement weather postponed Santa's originally planned visit to the town hall, and then other circumstances happened. We were fortunate to have Santa's Magic Elf and Helper Elf come instead.

Thank you to the Washington Fire Department for coming to the rescue with their ride, the Sno-flyers for providing cookies made by Ellen Blanchard, Mary Peterson for taking photos, and Jay Peterson for showing up on the double when called! Thank you to Josh Bell for arranging the visit of SD Ireland's truck that featured 40,000 pink and white lights.



2022 Santa and Magic Elf



2023 FEMA & other resources



2023 No trick-or-treaters were turned away.

2023 Memory Tree



2023-SD Ireland truck of 40,000 lights



2023-Magical Elf, Helper Elf, and Magical Toddler.

OFFICIAL BALLOT
TOWN MEETING DAY ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS-VOTE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS BALLOT

- * Use BLACK PEN OR PENCIL to fill in the oval ☐.
- * To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval ☐ to the right of the name of that person.
- * To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write that person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval ☐ to the right of the name.
- * Do not vote for more candidates than the 'VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN' specifies per position.
- * If you make a mistake or tear or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.
- * A successful write-in candidate must accept the nomination before it's considered valid.

<p>FOR TOWN MODERATOR: 1 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>BEN TIEFENTHALER <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>	<p>FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE: 5 YEARS Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>MAXINE DURBROW <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>
<p>FOR TOWN CLERK: 1 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>LOIS DEBERVILLE <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>	<p>FOR PLANNING COMMISSION and BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: 1 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>JOSEPH BRESETTE <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>
<p>FOR TOWN TREASURER: 1 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>SCOTT BLANCHARD <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>	<p>FOR PLANNING COMMISSION and BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: 2 YEARS Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>
<p>FOR DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR: 1 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>SCOTT BLANCHARD <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>	<p>FOR PLANNING COMMISSION and BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: 3 YEARS Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>VINCE VERMETTE <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>
<p>FOR SELECTBOARD: 3 YEARS Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>ROBERT BLANCHARD <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p>JOSH D. BELL <input style="float: right;" type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/>	

<p>FOR LISTER: 1 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="text"/></p> <hr/>	<p>FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR: 3 YEARS Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>GLENN MACK <input type="text"/></p> <hr/> <p>DOMINIQUE LAFOND <input type="text"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="text"/></p> <hr/>
<p>FOR LISTER: 2 YEARS Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="text"/></p> <hr/>	<p>FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT: 3 YEARS Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p>VINCE VERMETTE <input type="text"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="text"/></p> <hr/>
	<p>DISTRICT CLERK FOR ECHO VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR ENSUING 2024-2025 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="text"/></p> <hr/>
	<p>DISTRICT TREASURER FOR ECHO VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR ENSUING 2024-2025 YEAR Vote for not more than 1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Write-in <input type="text"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">THIS AREA LEFT BLANK</p>