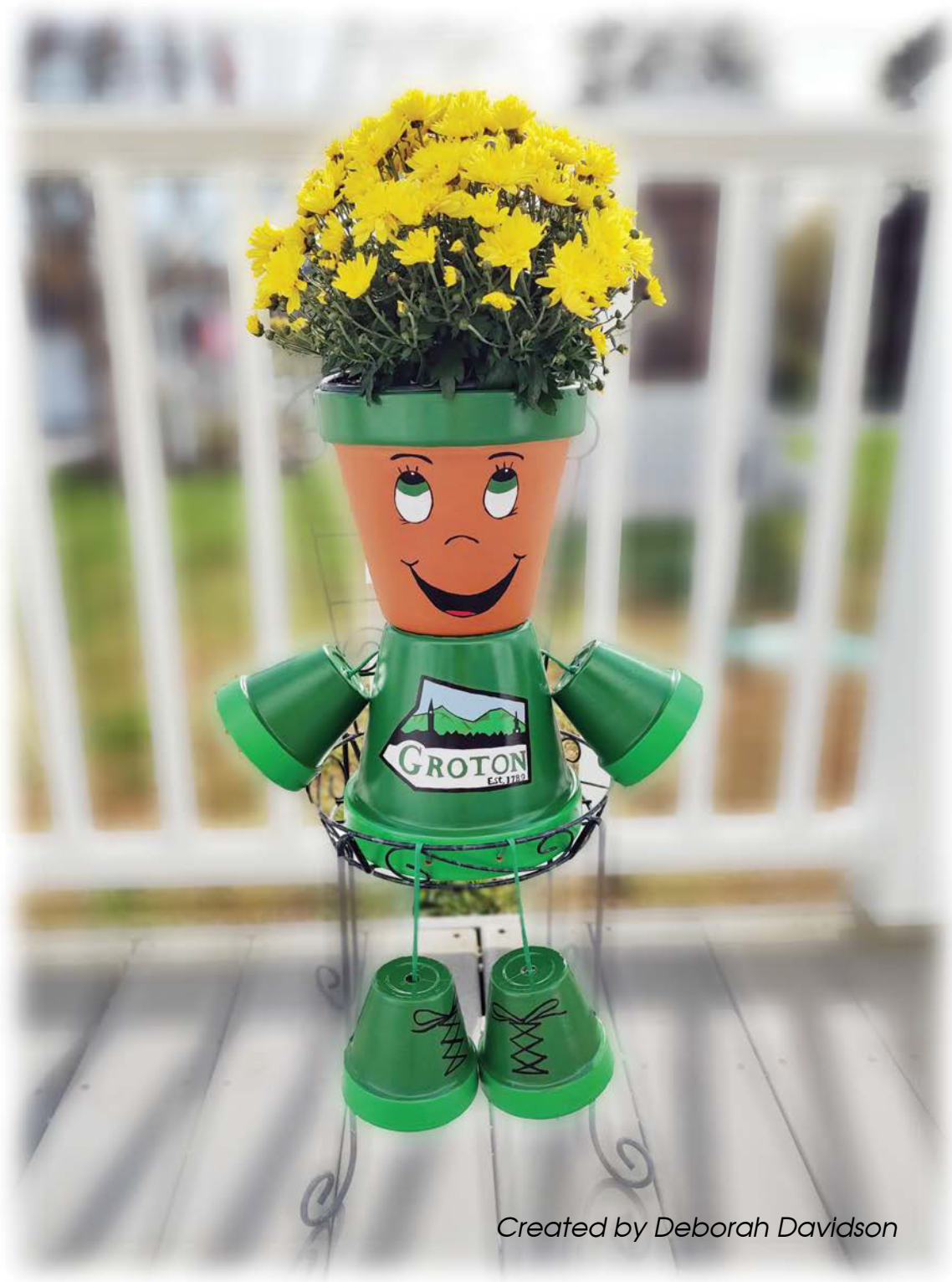


2023 Annual Report

Groton, Vermont



Created by Deborah Davidson

**Report of the Town Officers
for the year ending December 31, 2023**

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PHONE NUMBERS

Select Board	Zachary Conaway	584-3791	zconaway@grotonvt.com
Select Board	Aaron Smith	584-3308	asmith@grotonvt.com
Select Board Chair	Tristan Vaughan	584-3423	tvaughan@grotonvt.com
Select Board Secretary	Lisa Hart	584-3131	secretary@grotonvt.com
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	584-3276	townclerk@grotonvt.com
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	584-3131	treasurer@grotonvt.com
Highway Department	Harold Hatch	584-3209	grotonhwy@fairpoint.net
	Phillip Palmer		
Town Constable	Mark Puffer	802-535-7658	markpuffer.groton@gmail.com
Fire Chief	Vacant		grotonfire@fairpoint.net
Asst. Fire Chief	Wayne Knott	584-3855	
Forest Fire Warden	Vacant		
Forest Fire Warden Deputy	Justin Carle	584-4288	
Zoning Admin./Asst. Health Officer	Dan Webster	584-4108	danjacs@charter.net
Health Officer	Tristan Vaughan	584-3423	
Animal Control Officer	Vacant		
Pound Keeper	Michele Boyer	802-439-5827	
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	584-3189	cdt@grotonvt.com
Assessor	John Westinghouse	584-3155	assessor@grotonvt.com
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	584-3155	assistantassessor@grotonvt.com
Librarian	Sarah Spira	584-3358	grotonlibraryvt@gmail.com
Cemetery Commissioner	Brent Smith	584-3765	breann801@gmail.com
	Steven Batchelder		batchelder81@gmail.com
	Sue Plant		susan.plant@vermont.gov
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	802-535-5643	
Emergency Mngmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	584-3765	
Justice of the Peace	Linda Nunn	584-3881	Dorothy Knott 584-3243
	Tirone Dyer	584-3730	Deborah Jurist 584-3049
	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	584-3876	Carrie Peters 584-3341
	Brent Smith	584-3765	

Town Elected Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Moderator	Brent Abare	2024	1 Year
Road Commissioner	Harold Hatch	2024	3 Years
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	2026	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	2024	3 Years
Select Board	Tristan Vaughan	2025	3 Years
	Aaron Smith	2024	3 Years
	Zachary Conaway	2026	3 Years
BMU District #21 Director	Allison Ingerson	2025	3 Years
	Sasha Emerson	2024	3 Years
	Alissa Smith	2026	3 Years
Library Trustee	Dawn Evans	2025	3 Years
	Jennifer Gaiss	2024	3 Years
	Donna Russo-Savage	2024	3 Years
	Wayne Knott	2025	3 Years
	Deborah Jurist	2026	3 Years
Cemetery Commissioner	Brent Smith	2025	3 Years
	Steven Batchelder	2026	3 Years
	Susan Plant	2024	3 Years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	2026	3 years
Town Constable	Mark Puffer	2024	1 Year

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
911 Coordinator	Brent Smith	2024	1 Year
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Deborah Jurist	2024	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	Michelle Boyer (resigned)	2026	3 Year
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	2024	1 Year
Church Clock Winder	Joseph Lorenzo	2024	1 Year
Deputy Health Officer	Daniel Webster	2024	1 Year
Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	2024	1 Year
FAST Head of Services	Brenda Bruleigh	2024	1 Year
Fence Viewers	Wayne Dyer	2024	1 year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2024	1 Year
	Ken Murray	2024	1 year
Fire Chief	Wade Johnson, Sr. (resigned)	2024	1 Year
Forest Fire Warden	Wade Johnson, Sr. (resigned)	2026	5 Year
Green Up Coordinator	Alissa Smith	2024	1 Year

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board, cont.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
Health Officer	Tristan Vaughan	2024	1 Year
Inspectors of Wood, Lumber & Shingles	Kenneth Ricker	2024	1 Year
	Robert Dorr	2024	1 Year
IT	Gary Lamberton	2024	1 Year
NEK CUD Representative	Michael Gaiss	2024	1 Year
NEK CUD Alternative	Terrence Curran	2024	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Alternative	Mike Nahmais	2024	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Supervisor	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	2024	1 Year
NVDA Alternative	Mark Gleicher	2024	1 Year
NVDA Representative	Brent Smith	2024	1 Year
Planning Commission	Michael Nahmais	2024	3 Year
	Steve Hart	2024	3 Year
	Michael Welch	2024	3 Year
	Brent Smith	2024	3 Year
	Emily Pratt	2024	3 Year
	Dawn Evans	2024	3 Year
	Jennifer Rogers	2024	3 Year
Select Board Assistant	Lisa Hart	2024	1 Year
Select Board Secretary	Lisa Hart	2024	1 Year
Town Report	Lisa Hart/Carrie Peters	2024	1 Year
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	2024	1 Year
Weigher of Coal	Frank Lapham	2024	1 Year
Zoning Administrator	Daniel J. Webster	2024	1 Year
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Aaron Smith	2024	1 Year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2024	1 Year
	Mark Gleicher	2024	1 Year
Board of Civil Authority	Select Board Members	Tristan Vaughan, Zac Conaway, Aaron Smith	
is made up of:	Justices of the Peace	Linda Nunn	Brent Smith
		Tim Dailey Sr.	Tirone "Toni" Dyer
		Deborah Jurist	Carrie Peters
		Dorothy Knott	
Board of Abatement	Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	
is made up of:	Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	
	Select Board Members	Tristan Vaughan, Zac Conaway, Aaron Smith	
	Assessors	John Westinghouse, Dorothy Knott	
	Justices of the Peace	See above	

WARNING
TOWN OF GROTON, VT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Groton Community Building on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 am., to transact the following business from the floor:

ARTICLE 1 To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont:

Moderator	One Year Term
Selectboard Member	Three Year Term
Treasurer	Three Year Term
Road Commissioner	Three Year Term
Cemetery Commissioner	Three Year Term
Constable	One Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
BMU School Board Director	Three Year Term

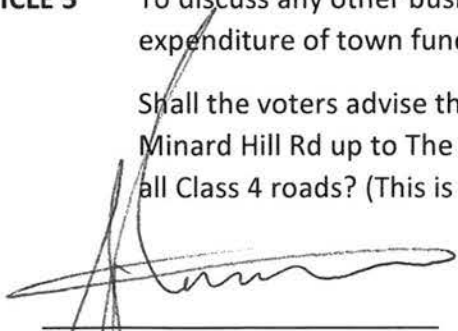
ARTICLE 2 To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 3 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 1, 2024, by physical or electronic delivery to the tax collector before 5:00 PM est., as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment)

ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,245,208 of which \$958,248 shall be raised by taxes and \$286,960 by non-tax revenues?

ARTICLE 5 To discuss any other business proper to come before this meeting, this does not include the expenditure of town funds or other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

Shall the voters advise the Selectboard to allow ATV use on the following roads: The Great Rd, Minard Hill Rd up to The Great Rd, Powder Spring Rd to Quarry Rd, Railroad Bed, Annis Rd, and all Class 4 roads? (This is a non-binding, advisory article) 17 VSA 2660(d)



Tristan Vaughan, Selectboard Chair

Zachary Conaway, Selectboard

Aaron Smith, Selectboard

Dated this 17th day of JANUARY, 2024

I hereby certify that the foregoing
was recorded before posting.

Attest, Cassie Peters Town Clerk

Special Selectboard Meeting-Approved
March 1 2023
1476 Scott Hwy Groton VT 05046
Located in Community Building Kitchen /Meeting Area

In Attendance: Tristan Vaughan, Zachary Conaway, Aaron Smith, Lisa Hart, Dorothy Knott, Dawn Evans, Dan Webster, Mike Nahmias, Brent Smith

Public Hearing Meeting Called to Order: 5:30pm

Adjustments to the Agenda: none

Review Zoning Bylaws & Discussed

Updated map in the Zoning Bylaws

Planning commission had their open meeting (September 2022) to review Bylaws. Some clerical errors were found and have been corrected. NVDA representative had mentioned making a shore-land district to follow state regulations and change to multi-unit dwellings. Discussion of added Floodplain but commission felt this may create a delay and was suggested to create a stand-alone Bylaw and then it will include the updated FEMA maps.

Dan mentioned that the Planning Commission has done a wonderful job on this project.

Brent Smith mentioned due to Dan doing such a thorough job as Zoning Administrator that new questions and concerns were being addressed in this process.

Aaron spoke for the three selectboard that they were very happy with the Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission.

Zac spoke that this was great to see the town residents come together for this project and this will help our community.

Tristan spoke to the appreciation of all these members and their hard work.

THANK YOU!

Open to the public:

Next steps:

- SB will sign
- Town Clerk will sign
- Send the Bylaws to State of Vermont and Regional Planning Commission

Adjourn 5:40pm

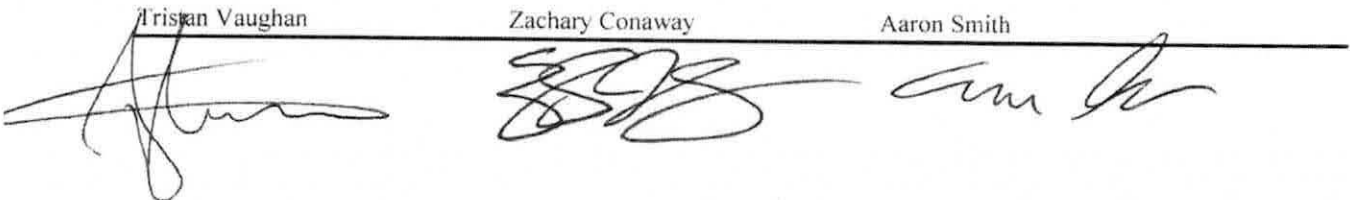
Respectfully Submitted

Lisa JL Hart
SB Secretary-(Interim Appointment)

Tristan Vaughan

Zachary Conaway

Aaron Smith

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink, each positioned below its respective name. The signature for Tristan Vaughan is on the left, Zachary Conaway is in the middle, and Aaron Smith is on the right. A horizontal line is drawn across the page, passing through the middle of the signatures.

Annual Town Meeting Minutes
Town of Groton, Vermont
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Brent Abare, Moderator, opened the meeting with announcements that the polls were open for voting on the BMU School Budget. He listed off the available information on the back tables, and that the BMU Senior Class is selling refreshments along with the Friends of the Library selling desserts. He reminded everyone of the Rabies Clinic that will be held the following night.

Brent opened it up to anyone wanting to express any words of encouragement. Peter Lyon spoke, as well as Alissa Smith. Brent Abare led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Brent went over the Roberts Rules of Order. Brent called the meeting to order at 10:12a.m.

Article 1-To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont.

Moderator-Brent asked for nominations, Peter Lyon nominated Brent Abare, Susan Gordon seconded. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast one ballot for Brent Abare for Moderator for a 1 year term.

Selectboard Member-Mike Gaiss nominated Zachary Conaway, Alissa Smith seconded. Blenda Lakin nominated Ronson Smith, Robin Cavusoglu seconded. Zac spoke about his previous 3 year term and accomplishments. Ronson Smith was not in attendance. A paper vote was done with Zac receiving 56 votes, Ronson receiving 13 votes, 1 vote for Brent Abare and 1 abstention. Zachary Conaway was elected as Selectboard member for a 3 year term.

Town Clerk-Dan Webster nominated Carrie Peters, Tristan Vaughan seconded. There were no other nominations. Brent Smith moved that nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Carrie Peters for Town Clerk for a 3 year term.

Cemetery Commissioner (1 year)-Viola Emerson nominated Sue Plant, Dave Emerson seconded. Mary Grant nominated Aaron Smith, Aaron declined. Phillip Palmer nominated Steven Batchelder, Lise Shallberg seconded. Sue and Steven spoke. A voice vote was done but no clear winner could be determined so a hand vote was done. Sue received 33 votes, Steven received 16 votes, Sue Plant was elected as Cemetery Commissioner for a 1 year term.

Cemetery Commissioner (3 year)-Brent Smith nominated Steven Batchelder, Zac Conaway seconded. Phillip Palmer asked to have nominations cease and the Clerk cast 1 ballot for Steven Batchelder for Cemetery Commissioner for a 3 year term.

Constable-Zac Conaway nominated Mark Puffer, Tristan Vaughan seconded. Nominations cease, Clerk cast 1 ballot for Mark Puffer for Constable for a 1 year term.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes-Dan Webster nominated Carrie Peters, Gary Lamberton seconded. Nominations cease, Clerk to cast 1 ballot for Carrie Peters for Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a 3 year term.

Library Trustee(1 year)-Dawn Evans nominated Donna Russo-Savage, Jennie Gaiss seconded. Nominations cease, Clerk cast 1 ballot for Donna Russo-Savage for Library Trustee for a 1 year term.

Library Trustee(3 year)-Jennie Gaiss nominated Deborah Jurist, Dawn Evans seconded. Nominations cease, Clerk cast 1 ballot for Deborah Jurist for Library Trustee for a 3 year term.

School Board Director(1 year)-Zac Conaway nominated Alissa Smith, Sue Gordon seconded. Nominations cease, Clerk cast 1 ballot for Alissa Smith for School Board Director for a 1 year term.

School Board Director(3 year)-After discussion, Alissa Smith was nominated by Jeanie Denson, seconded by Robin Cavusoglu. Nominations cease, Clerk cast 1 ballot for Alissa Smith for BMU School Board Director for a 3 year term.

Article 2-To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Dawn Evans moved the article

Susan Gordon thanked the residents of Groton for their continued support of the NEK Council on Aging. The NEK Council on Aging supports the elderly in our town and also the Groton Lunches with Friends. No further discussion, motion was carried by voice vote.

Article 3- Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 3, 2023 by 5:00 pm, e.s.t. as the deadline for the payment of taxes?(postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment)

Jeanie Denson moved the article, Sue Plant seconded. No discussion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Article 4-Shall the Town Establish a reserve fund to be called the "Computer Equipment Reserve Fund", to be used for purchasing and updating the Town's computer equipment, in accordance with 24 V.S.A 2804?

Dawn Evans moved the article, Viola Emerson seconded. No discussion, the motion was carried by voice vote.

Article 5-Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2000 to fund the Computer Equipment Reserve Fund?

Dawn Evans moved the article, Michael Evans seconded. Lise Shallberg wanted to know if the town could defer putting money into the fund and have the \$2000 go towards the Fire Dept. Zac Conaway spoke about needing to put funds into a newly established Reserve Fund. Tom Page said we would have to vote to amend the article. Gary Lamberton spoke on the need to replace the Town computers. Zac Conaway said how the Select Board listened to the reasoning and made a decision. Aaron Smith spoke to the old Town Computer Reserve fund. Tom called the question, Dawn Evans seconded, the motion carried by voice vote. Brent Abare explained to Lise the proper way to reconsider an Article.

Brent Abare asked if it would be okay to pause and have Joe Parsons, our State Representative for Orange/Caledonia District, address the body. Hearing no objections Joe spoke and thanked the community for trusting him to represent them. Joe talked about the multitude of Bills at the State House. He said he was staying for a while and would talk with anyone with questions or concerns.

Article 6- Shall the Town Establish a reserve fund to be called the "Highway Building Repairs Reserve Fund" to be used for the general upkeep and repairs of the town highway garage, in accordance with 24 VSA 2804?

Dawn Evans moved the article, Sue Plant seconded. Ellen Cady questioned how the Reserve funds work. Tristan Vaughan spoke to how the Reserve fund has money set aside every year for major upkeep that isn't budgeted for yearly in the regular budget. Zac Conaway further explained how a Reserve fund is used. Aaron Smith also explained how the amount can change for the needs of what the reserve is for. Once money is built up, less money can be put in. Susan Gordon asked if the money continually goes in to the Reserve fund year after year. Zac Tristan and Aaron explained how the Select Board decides how much money to go into each Reserve fund yearly. Susan Gordon talked to the fact that once a reserve fund is established it can stay in the budget year after year.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Article 7- Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$5000 to fund the Highway Building Reserve fund?

Theresa Eastman moved the Article, Alissa Smith seconded. Blenda Lakin asked about making an amendment to the article lowering the amount from \$5000 to \$3000. Andrew Sullivan seconded. Blenda Lakin said she wants to save a little everywhere we can. Sue Plant asked for clarification on how the \$5000 amount came up. Tristan Vaughan explained how the budget is discussed many times during meetings and then asked Harold Hatch if he would like to speak to the Reserve fund and the amount. Harold Hatch explained how every year he has \$5000 in his budget for building repairs and how whatever he doesn't use in that year does not stay for that use so he asked to put that money into a reserve fund so money could build up for replacement of the salt shed or other major repairs to the Highway buildings. Dawn Evans said she is going to vote against the amendment because she trusts the process that led to the \$5000 figure. Tristan talked to the process of going over the budget during the meetings and how they work hard to come up with a budget and how anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Tristan said they are here to represent the town and look towards the future and to have a good plan for the town with littlest cost. Blenda Lakin asked for clarification on the fact that there is not an additional \$5000 being added to the regular budget for the same thing. Harold and the Selectboard confirmed that was correct. Blenda Lakin then retracted her amendment. Original article was carried by voice vote.

Article 8- Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,202,853 of which \$889,813 shall be raised by taxes and \$313,040 by non-tax revenues?

Sue Plant moved the article, Jeanie Denson seconded. Lise Shallberg spoke about the 8.7% cost of living adjustment that the Select Board approved for the town officials & employees and she talked about the health insurance. She expressed concern that we need more funds to go to our Fire Department and Emergency Services. Altoon Sultan spoke about the people who work for the Town. She feels they are doing a wonderful job and deserve our respect and thanks and not a bunch of complaining about how much money they make. The room showed support with loud applause. Bill Paton asked for clarification on where the Highway Building Reserve fund money was in the Town Report. He was told it was on page 27. No other discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Article 9- To discuss any other business proper to come before this meeting, this does not include the expenditure of town funds or other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

Sue Gordon moved the article, Jeanie Denson seconded. Alan Eastman discussed the invasive species, Japanese Knotweed. Alan is hoping to do something about the threat of this plant. There is no easy way to get rid of it and the weed is taking over. Alan would like the town to be proactive about this situation. Zac responded that it would be great if Alan could get together Sarah Spira and the Library and possibly set up an educational seminar.

Mike Gaiss spoke about NEK Broadband and how far it has come along. The more people who sign up and express interest then the higher priority Groton will be given. Mike expressed thanks to the Selectboard, Carrie, Lisa and Dan for all the steps that were taken so far that has helped accelerate the progress and Groton should start seeing the benefits of that by the end of the year. Mike felt this is a great example of the Town coming together to get this project going. Mike also shared that there is an open alternate representative to the NEK Board. Zac thanked Mike for all his hard work and dedication to the program and the positive impact that High speed internet will have for the town. The room showed thanks with applause.

Mike Nahmais spoke about the VOREC grant that was secured for the Town to do work on the railroad bed. Mike thanked Cross VT Trail for their help, Forest Park and Rec, Gary Lamberton, Mike Gaiss and Norwich University. Designs are being done for a bridge that will go from behind Sarkys Restaurant across the river to the old stump dump area. Mike discussed the importance of the acquisition of GMP property and how the Rail bed is a great link to the entire State. The room showed thanks with applause.

Gary Lamberton spoke of all the hours of work done this past year on the rail bed cutting back the brush and wood from Rickers Pond to Ryegate. This will make it ready for the new material and grading that will happen with the grant. The room showed thanks with applause.

Wade Johnson, Sr spoke about the Fire Dept. and costs that are needed. The selectboard has done a good job and he is thankful that most of the training is paid for by the State. The department is trying to keep up with the cost of the equipment and Wade thanked the selectboard for all their help and support. The room showed thanks with applause.

Martha Montague praised the new Librarian, Sarah Spira. Martha spoke about the great job Sarah is doing and that the kids love to come to the library and the library is a great place to be. The room showed support with applause.

With no further discussion Brent Abare adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Peters

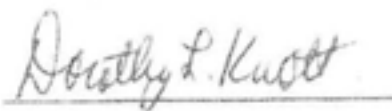
Town Clerk



Moderator
Brent Abare



Selectboard Member
Tristan Vaughan



Justice of the Peace
Dorothy Knott

WARNING
BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21
ANNUAL MEETING
AND
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

March 4 & March 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 (the “District”), comprising the legal voters, respectively, of the Towns of Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River, are hereby NOTIFIED AND WARNED to meet at the Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River, Vermont on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00PM to transact the following business from the floor:

Article 1:

To elect the following officers as required by law and to authorize the Board of School Directors to fix their compensation:

Moderator

Clerk

Treasurer

Article 2:

To hear and act on the reports of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 officers for the past year.

Article 3:

Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year?

Article 4:

To transact any other business thought proper under this warning.

Said meeting shall be followed immediately by a public informational hearing regarding the proposed budget and other business, to be voted on by Australian Ballot, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified and warned to meet at the following locations:

Ryegate:

Town Hall in Ryegate Corner

Groton:

Groton Community Building in Groton

Wells River:

Village Garage in Wells River

On Tuesday, March 5, 2024 between 10:00 in the morning and 7:00 in the evening there will be a vote by Australian Ballot on the following question:

Article #1:

Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$10,427,288.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Signed by the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 Board of School Directors at Wells River, in the County of Orange and State of Vermont this 22 day of January, 2024



Angeline Bogie



E. Paul Hazel



Sasha Emerson



Allison Ingerson



Daniel LaCoss



Kendall Lambert



Kristen Murray



Kelsey Root-Winchester



Alissa Smith

Recorded on this date prior to posting, January 22, 2024.



Lauren Nelson
Clerk

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21

Official Ballot

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

To vote on the article as it appears on the ballot, place an "X" in the appropriate box.

Article #1:

Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$10,427,288.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

If in favor of the Article, make an (X) in this box. YES ☐

If opposed to the Article, make an (X) in this box. NO ☐

2024 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2023 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY - 2023	Budget FY - 2024	Notes
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
SELECTBOARD				
Selectboard & Secretary Wages & Payroll Taxes	7,691	7,616.45	7,796	
Selectboard Assistant Stipend	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	
Advertising, Postage, Supplies, Training & Mileage	835	517.82	835	
1. SELECTBOARD TOTAL	9,726	9,334.27	9,831	
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER				
Clerk	42,930	42,893.78	44,240	
Treasurer	49,850	49,826.83	51,400	
Assistant Treasurer	6,920	6,913.08	7,160	
Unused Vacation	600	600.00	600	
Payroll Taxes & Retirement	12,811	12,745.49	13,720	
Health Insurance	56,344	53,214.22	63,940	
Training & Mileage	600	288.08	600	
2. CLERK & TREASURER TOTAL	170,055	166,481.48	181,660	
OFFICE EXPENSES - CLERK & TREAS				
Dues, Postage & Supplies	4,500	4,705.87	4,900	
Telephone/Internet	2,300	2,516.45	2,400	
Land Records Online	1,920	1,760.00	1,920	
NEMRC Disaster Recovery&Support,	3,417	3,775.20	3,355	
3. OFFICE EXPENSES	12,137	12,757.52	12,575	
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION				
Del Tax Collector Wages	10,000	9,206.26	10,000	Wages off set by Delinquent Tax Penalty
Payroll Taxes/Retirement	1,277	1,180.17	1,324	Revenue (wages paid by penalty portion
Postage,Supplies,Telephone & Advertising	900	839.79	900	of delinquent tax payments)
NEMRC Disaster Recovery	625	625.00	705	
Training & Mileage	30	28.00	30	
4. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION TOTAL	12,832	11,879.22	12,959	
TOWN REPORT				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	564	563.26	673	
Postage & Supplies	500	376.52	500	
Printing & Reproduction	1,385	1,385.00	1,700	
5. TOWN REPORT TOTAL	2,449	2,324.78	2,873	
ELECTIONS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	431	324.19	3,059	
Postage, Supplies & Advertising	1,175	969.15	975	
Training & Mileage	125	60.00	125	
6. ELECTIONS TOTAL	1,731	1,353.34	4,159	
ASSESSORS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	44,089	38,454.86	46,310	
Dues, Postage & Supplies	850	817.14	950	
Telephone/Internet	1,700	1,825.87	1,800	
Training & Mileage	400	320.00	600	
NEMRC, Cards, Disaster Recov & GIS Mapping	9,195	6,983.67	10,174	
7. ASSESSORS TOTAL	56,234	48,401.54	59,834	

2024 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2023 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY - 2023	Budget FY - 2024	Notes
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES				
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp, Unemp Ins	9,711	9,675.91	9,180	
8. INSURANCE TOTAL	9,711	9,675.91	9,180	
Professional Audit/Services	800	0.00	400	
Attorney Fees	2,000	0.00	1,000	
IT Services & Tech Equipment	6,615	6,637.86	6,618	
9. IT, TECH, LEGAL & PROF. SERV. TOTAL	9,415	6,637.86	8,018	
NVDA Dues	836	836.00	836	
VLCT Dues	2,394	2,404.00	2,400	
10. DUES TOTAL	3,230	3,240.00	3,236	
Money Order Fee,Wire Fee & Interest Expense	100	186.28	200	
Caledonia County Tax	14,500	11,401.00	12,000	
11. COUNTY TAX & INTEREST EXP TOTAL	14,600	11,587.28	12,200	
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES TOTAL	36,956	31,141.05	32,634	
1-11 ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	302,120	283,673.20	316,525	
12. PLANNING COMMISSION				
Stipend & Payroll Taxes	539	538.25	539	
Postage, Printing & Reproduction	220	0.00	220	
Training & Mileage	0	30.00	50	
PLANNING COMMISSION TOTAL	759	568.25	809	
13. ZONING				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	2,584	2,430.71	2,589	
Postage & Supplies	55	33.00	55	
Training & Mileage	200	70.00	200	
ZONING TOTAL	2,839	2,533.71	2,844	
12. & 13 PLANNING AND ZONING TOTAL	3,598	3,101.96	3,653	
TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	0	0.00	0	
PUBLIC WORKS				
14. TOWN CLOCK TOTAL	677	676.78	678	
Ryegate/Groton Recycling	9,000	9,579.93	11,500	
NEKWMD-Assessment	1,044	1,043.04	1,142	
Green Up Day	300	240.00	300	
15. SOLID WASTE TOTAL	10,344	10,862.97	12,942	
16. STREETLIGHTS TOTAL	8,400	9,240.33	8,700	
COMMUNITY BUILDING				
Building Repairs & Maintenance	4,500	3,690.13	4,500	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	2,500	2,433.97	2,500	
Electricity & Fuel Oil	12,100	12,293.30	12,900	
17. COMMUNITY BUILDING TOTAL	19,100	18,417.40	19,900	
TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	6,998	2,422.14	4,315	
Cleaning	8,000	7,904.00	8,000	
Mowing	5,500	4,875.00	5,500	
Beautification	2,000	2,008.43	3,000	
Park Electricity	400	707.74	650	
Knotweed Removal	0	0.00	3,000	
Property Upkeep	10,000	10,053.50	8,000	
Supplies & Mileage	325	69.27	325	
18. TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TOTAL	33,223	28,040.08	32,790	

2024 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2023 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY - 2023	Budget FY - 2024	Notes
19. TREE WARDEN TOTAL	323	322.95	324	
Zoom Fees	180	188.88	0	
Town Website	915	915.00	915	
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0.00	0	
20. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES TOTAL	1,095	1,103.88	915	
14-20 PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	73,162	68,664.39	76,249	
COMMITTEES				
Recreation Committee	1,875	1,031.44	1,875	
COMMITTEES TOTAL	1,875	1,031.44	1,875	
PUBLIC SAFETY				
21. ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL	739	1,003.23	902	
22. HEALTH OFFICER TOTAL	1,506	1,395.63	1,994	
23. EMER SERVS INSURANCE TOTAL	10,121	9,864.76	9,454	
EMER SERVS GENERAL EXPENSES				
Ambulance Contract	44,280	44,280.00	52,536	
Repairs-ES Building	1,250	1,779.02	1,250	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	1,150	752.39	1,100	
Telephone/Internet	1,700	1,687.00	1,300	
Electricity, Fuel Oil, Propane	5,500	4,330.52	5,500	
Dispatch Fees	3,000	1,875.00	3,000	
24. EMER SERVS GENERAL EXP TOTAL	56,880	54,703.93	64,686	
FAST				
Wages, Stipend & Payroll Taxes	17,440	11,884.61	15,318	
Supplies	3,500	3,223.38	4,500	
Training & Mileage	6,000	1,996.09	6,000	
25. FAST EXPENSES TOTAL	26,940	17,104.08	25,818	
FIRE DEPT				
Wages, Stipend & Taxes	10,765	8,542.07	10,787	
Dues	2,500	2,168.00	2,500	
Gasoline & Diesel	3,150	1,333.00	3,150	
Tanker Loan Payment	20,321	20,320.59	20,321	
Repairs & Maintenance	12,000	8,714.49	10,000	
Supplies	3,200	2,300.46	3,000	
Training & Mileage	5,750	6,100.33	5,200	
26. FIRE DEPT EXPENSES TOTAL	57,686	49,478.94	54,958	
27. FOREST FIRE EXPENSES TOTAL	1,108	851.33	1,208	
Town Constable Wages & Payroll	5,168	3,875.40	3,236	
Supplies	200	0.00	200	
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp	754	754.00	670	
Sheriff's Contract	13,500	6,607.50	10,000	
28. LAW ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	19,622	11,236.90	14,106	
21-28 PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	174,602	145,638.80	173,126	

2024 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2023 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY - 2023	Budget FY - 2024	Notes
CEMETERY				
Contracted Work, Riverside Cemetery	900	880.00	1,600	
Mowing	11,460	11,460.00	12,500	
Dues & Supplies	700	337.39	700	
CEMETERY EXPENSES TOTAL	13,060	12,677.39	14,800	
LIBRARY				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	24,631	26,285.19	38,480	
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1,148	1,183.27	1,357	
Building Rent	18,000	18,000.00	18,000	
Books & Digital	4,500	4,838.79	4,500	
Supplies	2,000	2,077.61	2,000	
Telephone/Internet	1,800	1,743.70	1,800	
Software/Support, Legal Fees & Misc.	1,200	811.34	1,400	
LIBRARY EXPENSES TOTAL	53,279	54,939.90	67,537	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS				
Caledonia Home Health	1,350	1,350.00	1,350	
NEK Learning Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Human Services	920	920.00	920	
NEK Youth Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Council on Aging	700	700.00	700	
Rural Community Transportation	800	800.00	800	
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
Community Restorative Justice	250	250.00	250	
Groton Lunches With Friends	2,400	0.00	0	
Green Up Vermont	100	100.00	100	
Umbrella	650	650.00	650	
VT Family Network	250	250	250	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	9,820	7,420.00	7,420	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS				
Computer & Office Equip Fund	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
Comm Bldg Improvement Fund	5,000	5,000.00	0	
Emer Servs Bldg Improvement Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
Emer Servs Vehicles Fund	24,000	24,000.00	24,000	
Emer Servs Durable Equip Fund	20,000	20,000.00	20,000	
Constable Durable Equip Fund	0	0.00	0	
Reappraisal & Tax Maps Fund	1,200	1,200.00	5,000	
Recreation Fund	0	0.00	0	
Professional Services Fund	21,000	21,000.00	24,000	
Town Emergency Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
CB Property Expansion	0	0.00	0	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	83,200	83,200.00	85,000	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 714,716	\$ 660,347.08	\$ 746,185	

2024 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2023 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY - 2023	Budget FY - 2024	Notes
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES				
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES				
HWY LABOR				
Road Commissioner Wages	59,405	58,020.20	61,200	
Equipment Operator Wages	49,900	49,971.22	54,080	
Overtime Wages & Unused Vacation	9,600	11,020.98	9,600	
Temporary Help Wages	3,500	3,915.01	3,500	
Health Insurance	49,201	48,728.27	36,000	
Retirement & Payroll Expenses	15,904	15,514.38	16,824	
HWY LABOR TOTAL	187,510	187,170.06	181,204	
HWY PACIF, WC INSURANCE TOTAL	17,057	17,186.06	18,885	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK				
Roadside Mowing	6,500	8,006.56	8,500	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK TOTAL	6,500	8,006.56	8,500	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE				
Culverts	4,500	4,499.98	4,500	
Signs	500	279.40	500	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL	5,000	4,779.38	5,000	
HWY MATERIALS				
Sand	16,000	15,892.00	18,000	
Salt	10,800	9,919.23	12,000	
Chloride	12,000	12,351.00	12,000	
Gravel	30,000	21,288.97	30,000	
HWY MATERIALS TOTAL	68,800	59,451.20	72,000	
HWY OPERATING EXPENSES				
Gasoline & Diesel	23,000	30,494.48	28,200	
Rental Equipment	200	0.00	0	
Seeder & Material	1,500	1,044.61	1,500	
Supplies	1,000	1,607.03	1,000	
Uniforms	3,500	3,489.36	3,500	
Training	150	0.00	150	
Radios & Pagers	500	578.40	500	
HWY OPERATING EXP TOTAL	29,850	37,213.88	34,850	
EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	25,000	20,767.76	25,000	
HWY GARAGE REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	8,750	7,941.41	9,550	
SIDEWALK/TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	3,230	1,656.74	5,484	
Gasoline	0	145.00	0	
Propane	800	844.17	800	
Bldg-Tractor Garage	100	68.99	100	
Repairs-Tractor (2004 John Deere)	400	145.99	400	
SIDEWALK/TOWN PROPERTY TOTAL	4,530	2,860.89	6,784	
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES TOTAL	352,997	345,377.20	361,773	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION				
Hwy Equipment Reserve	70,140	70,140.00	72,250	
Hwy Infrastructure Reserve	10,000	10,000.00	10,000	
Hwy Paving Reserve	50,000	50,000.00	50,000	
Hwy Building Reserve	5000	5000	5000	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION TOTAL	135,140	135,140.00	137,250	
HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTAL	488,137	480,517.20	499,023	
GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTALS	1,202,853	1,140,864.28	\$ 1,245,208	

2023 Actual Revenues & 2024 Estimated Revenues				
	2023 Estimated Revenues	2023 Actual Revenues	2024 Estimated Revenues	
TOWN REVENUES				
TAX REVENUES (no education taxes)				
Current Taxes	483,727.58	333,714.62	521,225.00	
DELINQUENT TAX REVENUES				
Delinquent Tax Principal	0.00	98,929.64	0.00	
Delinquent Tax Interest	9,000.00	6,176.03	9,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty Revenue	10,000.00	8,020.33	10,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN TAX REVENUES	502,727.58	446,840.62	540,225.00	
STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES				
Current Use/Hold Harmless	45,000.00	50,921.00	48,000.00	
PILOT(Payment in lieu of taxes)	95,000.00	104,979.08	97,000.00	
TOTAL STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES	140,000.00	155,900.08	145,000.00	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES				
Interest Earned	300.00	1,761.19	1,000.00	
Misc Revenue	0.00	1,246.15	0.00	
Workers Comp Insurance Refund	0.00	2,408.00	1,500.00	
TOTAL MISC REVENUES	300.00	5,415.34	2,500.00	
TOWN CLERK REVENUES				
Recordings, Vault Revenue	7,000.00	6,891.00	6,000.00	
Marriage & Dog Licenses	1,700.00	2,529.50	1,900.00	
Liquor/Tobacco Licenses	140.00	70.00	70.00	
Copies & Faxes Revenue	1,200.00	1,071.00	800.00	
Cott System Online Revenue	0.00	210.00	0.00	
Motor Vehicle Renewals	50.00	36.00	0.00	
TOTAL TOWN CLERK REVENUE	10,090.00	10,807.50	8,770.00	
ASSESSOR REVENUE	750.00	823.00	790.00	
ZONING REVENUE	800.00	930.00	800.00	
COMMUNITY BLDG REVENUE	2,100.00	4,401.00	2,100.00	
FAST REVENUE (from Town of Ryegate)	10,000.00	8,770.89	10,000.00	
EMERGENCY SERVICES INSURANCE REFUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SHERIFF TICKET REVENUE	2,000.00	1,161.73	1,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN REVENUES (Not including tax revenue)	185,040.00	202,405.90	189,960.00	
Proposed 2024 Town Budget			746,185.00	
Use of Fund Balance			35,000.00	
2024 Anticipated Revenues			189,960.00	
Difference to be raised by 2024 TOWN Taxes			521,225.00	
HIGHWAY REVENUES				
Hwy Current Tax Revenue	410,137.00	410,137.00	437,023.00	
State Hwy Aid	64,000.00	106,292.70	32,000.00	
Seyon Road Plowing	0.00	2,947.09	0.00	
Hwy Insurance Claims	0.00	2,070.67	0.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY REVENUES(Not including tax revenue)	64,000.00	111,310.46	32,000.00	
Proposed 2024 Highway Budget			499,023.00	
Use of HWY Fund Balance			30,000.00	
2024 Anticipated HWY Revenues			32,000.00	
Difference to be raised by 2024 HWY Taxes			437,023.00	
TOTAL Estimated Tax Revenue needed for 2024			958,248.00	

2023 - RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY & BALANCES			
Reappraisal Fund		Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/22	63,173.88	Bank Balance 12/31/22	45,276.40
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received on account	258.94	Interest earned on account	183.28
2023 Budget appropriation	1,200.00	2023 Budget appropriation	20,000.00
Disbursements:	0.00	Disbursements:	
Bank balance on 12/31/23	64,632.82	Reynolds & Sons	10,880.63
		Burlington Communications	\$3,733.60
Community Building Improvement Fund		Bank balance 12/31/23	50,845.45
Bank balance on 12/31/2022	88,541.31	Constable Durable Equipment Fund	
Revenues:		Bank balance on 12/31/2022	7,073.22
Interest received on account	366.34	Interest received on account	28.36
2023 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	Disbursements:	
Sold old folding chairs	66.00	J & J Dog Supplies	\$129.30
Disbursements:	0	Bank balance on 12/31/2023	6,972.28
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	93,973.65		
		Highway Equipment Fund	
Emergency Service Building Improvement Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/22	106,223.50
Bank balance on 12/31/2022	54,258.11	Revenues:	
Revenues:		Interest received on account	401.98
Interest received on account	205.20	2023 Budget appropriation	70,140.00
2023 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	Disbursements:	
Disbursements:		United Ag & Turf	3,740.00
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	54,258.11	Bank balance on 12/31/23	173,025.48
Emergency Service Vehicle Fund		Highway Paving Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/2022	116,432.62	Bank balance on 12/31/22	64,571.78
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received on account	499.06	Interest received on account	217.97
2023 Budget appropriation	24,000.00	2023 Budget appropriation	50,000.00
Disbursements:	0	Grant funds	37,182.24
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	140,931.68	Disbursements:	
Restoration Fund		Pike Industries	64,700.00
Bank balance on 12/31/22	26,807.24	Bank balance on 12/31/23	87,271.99
Revenues:			
Interest received on account	110.29	Highway Infrastructure Fund	
Funds received from Recordings	2,356.00	Bank balance on 12/31/22	103,495.73
Disbursements:		Revenues:	
Bank balance on 12/31/23	29,273.53	Interest received on account	198.57
		2023 Budget appropriation	10,000.00
Recreation Committee Fund		Grant funds	91,769.80
Bank balance on 12/31/22	14,208.62	Disbursements:	
Interest received on account	57.99	Mathews Excavating	103,000.00
Donation	18.00	Bank balance on 12/31/23	102,464.10
Disbursements:	0.00		
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	14,284.61	Community Building Property Expansion Fund	
Town Emergency Fund		Bank Balance 12/31/22	23,362.92
Bank balance on 12/31/22	15,756.72	Interest Received on account	66.88
Interest Received on account	69.36	Disbursements:	
2023 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	Ruggles Engineering	7,853.23
Disbursements:	0.00	Gensburg & Greaves	220.00
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	20,826.08	University of VT	9,778.66
Sidewalk Fund		Bank Balance 12/31/23	5,577.91
Bank balance on 12/31/22	2,490.36	Computer Equipment	
Interest received on account	10.18	New fund established	
Bank balance on 12/31/23	2,500.54	Interest earned on account	2.03
Professional Services Fund		2023 Budget appropriation	2000.00
Bank balance on 12/31/22	979.83	Bank Balance 12/31/2023	2,002.03
Revenues:		Highway Building Repairs Fund	
Interest received on account	10.20	New fund established	
2023 Budget appropriation	21,000.00	2023 Budget appropriation	5000.00
Disbursements:		interest earned on account	5.07
Town Audit- Sullivan & Powers	21,000.00	Bank Balance 12/31/2023	5,005.07
Bank balance on 12/31/23	990.03	Total of all Reserve Bank balances	854,835.36

Reserve Fund Articles as voted by year with description of purpose and balance as of December 31, 2023

Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund

March 4, 2003, Article 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00?

The Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund was established on March 4, 2003 in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of building up a Reserve Fund to pay for future appraisals and updates of the property values listed in the Grand list and update the tax maps on a yearly maintenance schedule of the Town of Groton. **Balance \$64,632.82**

Community Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Community Building Improvement Fund was established for the purpose of building up a reserve fund to finance future upgrades and improvements to the Community Building. The monies for this fund are to be used only for the improvement and upgrade of the Community Building. **Balance \$93,973.65**

Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund is to be used for improvements to the Groton Fire Station.

Including but not limited to: Heating plant, Electrical, insulation, Painting, Door Replacement, Generator installation, internal plumbing and other improvements as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$54,258.11

Emergency Services Vehicles Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 10: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Vehicles Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Vehicles Fund shall be used for the replacement of Vehicles to include, Rescue Vehicle/Ambulance, Engine, Forest Fire Vehicle other vehicle as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$140,931.68

Restoration and Preservation Reserve Fund

March 7, 2006 (1st Warned as ARTICLE 7): Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be funded by the \$1.00 per page recording fee? (Up graded in 2010 see below)

March 2, 2010 (2nd Article on Warning): ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature?

The voters of the Town of Groton established a Municipal Records Reserve Fund for the restoration and preservation of "town records" in accordance with VSA Title 24, Section 2804 including, but not limited to, land records, vital records and, proper vault storage of town records. This fund is not to be used for anything other than the restoration, preservation, conservation and computerization of records, to be funded by revenue of not less than \$3.00 per page.

Section 1671 (a) (1) and (6) of this section and this reserve fund shall be retroactive to July 1, 2009. The exact amount shall be determined by the local legislative body.

Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital Records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature? **Balance \$29,273.53**

Recreation Reserve Fund

March 7, 2010: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Recreational Committee and establish a reserve fund of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be used by the Recreational Committee for any projects and/or activities?

The recreation reserve fund was established and covered large, extraordinary expenses. And will cover short falls in committee events when donations for such events lag. **Balance \$14,284.61**

Town Emergency Reserve Fund

March 4, 2014: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the creation of an Emergency Reserve Fund for the purpose of unforeseen Emergencies?

Town of Groton Emergency Reserve Fund is created for the sole purpose of providing financial stability to the Town in the case of a severe emergency. Money is to be set aside to support serious issues only with a goal to maintain the fund at 10% of the total budget. When looking for examples of where the application of the money would likely be required, the instance of Tropical Storm Irene applies where the Welton Road Bridge was seriously damaged.

Balance \$20,826.08

Sidewalk Fund

March 3, 2015: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve account to be called “Sidewalk Fund” for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks in the amount of \$15,000.00?

Balance \$ 2,500.54

Professional Services Fund

March 1 2016: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of reserve account to be called “Professional Services Fund” for the purpose of audit consulting services and to fund the reserve fund with \$4,533.00.

Balance \$ 990.03

Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town establish a Reserve Fund to be called the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable Fire Department and FAST equipment in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804?

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 7: What sum of money, shall the Town approve to raise and appropriate to fund the establishment of the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Reserve Fund? “Not to exceed \$18,000.00”

Balance \$ 50,845.45

Constable Durable Equipment Fund

March 3, 2020: ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund to be called the Constable Durable Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable equipment associated with the performance of Constable Duties in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

And appropriate \$4,950.00 to fund this Reserve account?

Balance \$ 6972.28

Highway Equipment Reserve Fund

March 7, 1999: ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Highway Equipment Fund with the funds from the highway budget, in the amount of \$15,000.00 As budgeted this year, to be used for capital expenses within that department? (24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804)

This fund is to be used for replacement of Highway Department Equipment and unforeseen major capital repairs that could arise. The Highway Department will maintain a replacement schedule and update it annually. At the present time the trucks and grader will be replaced with new, and the loader, backhoe and chipper will be replaced with used.

Funding of this fund is a line item in the highway budget that is increased three percent annually. Other funds would come from the sale of surplus equipment and settlements from insurance claims.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain reliable equipment that will allow the Highway Department to provide a reasonable level of service to the needs of the highways infrastructure while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$173,025.48**

Highway Paving Reserve Fund

March 4, 2007: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton establish a Paving Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,306.00 of unspent 2007 Highway fund?

This fund is to be used for paving Class 2 and Class 3 projects that follows the parameters of the VTRANS Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program.

Projects shall include detailed work for the preservation of any Class 2 town highway for resurfacing and reconstruction based on identified needs. Eligible activities include preliminary engineering, construction, and construction inspection/management.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Class 2 and Class 3 paved highways while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 87,271.99**

Highway Infrastructures Reserve Fund

March 6, 2012: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund for bridges, culverts and highway infrastructures to initially be funded by a \$2000.00 addition to the 2012 Highway Budget?

This fund is to be used for large highway projects that it would not be feasible to fund in a single year and projects that could take several years to plan and complete.

This fund could also be used to leverage highway grant funds that may become available for smaller projects that maybe unforeseen when setting budgets.

Funding of this fund will be for the annual line item in the highway budget. Additional funding will come from grant funds when in kind work exceeds the actual matching cost of a grant. An example would be in kind work (equipment time and labor) performed by the Highway Department that was reimbursable expenses.

The Highway Department will continue to maintain and update the bridge and culvert inventory at <http://vtculverts.org/> and use the data to aid in replacement schedule. Large structures over 20 feet span are inspected by VTRANS every two years and reported to the Select Board.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Highway Bridges, Culverts & Infrastructures while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 102,464.10**

Community Building Property Expansion Fund

March 2, 2021: Article 5: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing and implementing a new septic system, addressing the drainage issues, memory wall etc., and to fund it by depositing \$40,000 from the general Fund Surplus? **Balance \$ 5,577.91**

Computer Equipment Reserve Fund

March 7 2023: Article 4: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called “Computer Equipment Reserve Fund”, to be used for purchasing and updating the Town’s computer equipment, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804? **Balance \$ 2002.03**

Highway Building Repairs Reserve Fund

March 7 2023: Article 6: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Highway Building Repairs Reserve Fund” to be used for the general upkeep and repairs of the town highway garage, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804? **Balance \$ 5,005.07**

2023 Grant Activity

Revenues

St. of VT-Grant in Aid	\$	16,500.00	
Boulder Beach Paving	\$	110,071.06	
Powder Spring Rd Culvert Grant	\$	101,070.90	
Minard Hil Grant	\$	9,400.00	
Library Summer Performer	\$	300.00	
Library Winnie Bell	\$	500.00	
VOREC		0.00	Will receive as work is completed
FEMA-Seyon Pond Rd		0.00	Will receive in 2024
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	237,841.96	

Expenses

St. of VT-Grant in Aid	\$	1,471.25
Boulder Beach Paving	\$	110,071.06
Powder Spring Rd Culvert	\$	101,070.90
Library-Summer Performer	\$	300.00
Library Winnie Bell	\$	500.00
VOREC	\$	543.10
FEMA-Seyon Pond Rd	\$	7,189.62
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	221,145.93

Potential or Pending Grants for Groton

VT EV Charger Grant-applied- pending

*Put a charging station near Veterans Park

Municipal Energy Resilience Program –applied- town visit will happen in February 2024

*Three town building's reviewed for energy efficiency plans

VT Urban & Community Forestry /Tree Grant- \$6,411-applied, pending

* Place tree's in village and near ball fields and cemetery

USDA Community Connect Grant & Community Center-applied, pending

*Bring fiber-broadband to Groton and create Community Center with-in Rural Edge Building

VOREC – awarded \$225,000-progress to start in 2024

*Town owned Railroad Bed work , establish Parking area and Trailhead

Leahy/USDA Grant –awarded \$200,000, combined with Town ARPA \$251,000 to start in 2024

*Repair drainage and parking lot area around Community Building

2023 Gross Wage Summary Report

Employee	Position	Gross
BOYER MICHELE	Animal Control Officer	\$500.00
BRULEIGH BRENDA L.	EMT/Head of Service	\$3,900.00
BRULEIGH CHARLES E.	EMT/ Fire Fighter	\$1,650.00
CONAWAY ZACHARY J.	SelectBoard /Health Officer	\$1,500.00
CURTIS DEREK J.	EMT	\$2,400.00
DANFORTH MATTHEW R.	Fire Fighter	\$407.98
FISHER CHARLES M.	Fire Fighter	\$322.98
GANDIN BENJAMIN A.	Snow Removal/CB Maint	\$2,376.00
GENEREAUX MAIREAD	EMT	\$60.00
GREEN MEGAN S.	FireFighter	\$327.98
HADLEY GEORGIA R.	EMT	\$330.00
HART LISA	Treasurer, SB Assistant, Interim SB Secretary, Ballot Clerk, Town Report	\$54,030.83
HART STEVEN	CB Maintenamce	\$1,026.00
HATCH HAROLD J.	Road Commisioner	\$65,838.50
JOHNSON WADE A. JR	Fire Fighter	\$1,022.98
JOHNSON WADE A. SR	Fire Chief/FireFighter	\$2,471.36
KNOTT DOROTHY L.	Ast Assessor/FireFighter	\$28,178.88
KNOTT HENRY E.	EMT	\$1,710.00
KNOTT WAYNE C.	Fire Fighter	\$922.98
LAMBERTON GARY F.	IT Person	\$1,500.00
LAPHAM FRANK	Fire Fighter/ CB Maint	\$727.00
LOURENCO JOSEPH M.	Clock Winder	\$350.00
MURRAY STEVEN A.	Tree Warden	\$300.00
NAHMIAS MICHAEL H.	Planning Committee Chair	\$500.00
ORMISTON LOUIE G.	EMT	\$995.00
PALMER PHILLIP E.	Hwy Equipment Operator	\$53,173.90
PETERS CARRIE A.	Town Clerk, Assist Treasurer,Town Report	\$50,320.18
	CDT-wages are not paid by town	\$9,206.26
PUFFER MARK L.	Constable	\$3,600.00
RUSSO-SAVAGE STUART	EMT	\$270.00
SMITH AARON J.	Selectboard / EMT	\$2,867.98
SMITH BRENT D.	Temp Hwy	\$4,050.01
SPIRA SARAH A.	Librarian	\$24,417.20
VAUGHAN TRISTAN T.	SelectBoard	
	Zoning Admin/ Health Officer/ Asst Animal	
WEBSTER DANIEL J.	Controll Officer	\$1,500.00
WESTINGHOUSE JOHN K.	Assessor	\$8,531.25
Totals- Employees Reported: 35		\$331,285.25

TOWN OF GROTON
BALANCE SHEET BY FUND-2023

ASSET	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	FAST Restricted	Total
CASH ACCOUNTS										
CB-General Fund	232,405.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	232,405.68
CB-ARPA Funds	-	251,451.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	251,451.43
CB-Customer ACH Deposits	0.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.47
CB-HRA acct	619.93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	619.93
Petty Cash	56.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56.38
CB-Perpetual Care CD	-	-	-	93,853.91	-	-	-	-	-	93,853.91
CB-Perpetual Care	-	-	-	1,491.11	-	-	-	-	-	1,491.11
CB-H.Hosmer Trust	-	-	-	3,300.28	-	-	-	-	-	3,300.28
WRSB-Development Funds	-	-	-	15,719.30	-	-	-	-	-	15,719.30
CB-Cemetery Lot Fund	-	-	-	9,179.60	-	-	-	-	-	9,179.60
WRSB MJ Ricker Hall Trust	-	-	-	1,065.40	-	-	-	-	-	1,065.40
TD Roosevelt Carter Trust	-	-	-	5,254.72	-	-	-	-	-	5,254.72
Library Funds	-	-	-	-	27,155.38	-	-	-	-	27,155.38
Library Endowment Fund	-	-	-	-	48,507.55	-	-	-	-	48,507.55
Library Capital Improvement	-	-	-	-	12,195.64	-	-	-	-	12,195.64
Library ACH Account	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	-	-	-	9.00
Library I-Bond	-	-	-	-	20,000.00	-	-	-	-	20,000.00
Library American Fund Stock	-	-	-	-	23,369.59	-	-	-	-	23,369.59
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	851,965.86	-	-	-	851,965.86
General Fund CD Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	206,924.63	-	-	-	206,924.63
Grant Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Food Shelf	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,173.46	-	9,173.46
FAST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Total CASH ACCOUNTS	233,082.46	251,451.43	0	129,864.32	131,237.16	1,058,890.49	0	9,173.46	-	1,813,699.32
Due To/From Acct	(60,148.62)	0	72,705.42	(1,137.97)	(4,758.34)	(14,386.58)	8,796.52	(1,070.43)	0	(0.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	172,933.84	251,451.43	72,705.42	128,726.35	126,478.82	1,044,503.91	8,796.52	8,103.03	-	1,813,699.32
Liability	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	FAST Restricted	Total
Health Ins Payable	263.94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	263.94
Accounts Payable	8,421.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,421.02
Prepaid Taxes	2,144.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,144.01
Tax Clearing Account	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Fees Due the State of Vt	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Liability	10,828.97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,828.97
Fund Balance	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery	Library	Reserves	Grants	Food Shelf	FAST	
Fund Balance General Fund	(25,296.92)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(25,296.92)
Fund Balance ARPA	-	(38,167.48)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(38,167.48)
Fund Balance Highway	-	-	40,930.26	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,930.26
Fund Balance Cemetery	-	-	-	4,968.25	-	-	-	-	-	4,968.25
Fund Balance Library	-	-	-	-	1,126.57	-	-	-	-	1,126.57
Fund Balance Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	(148,506.90)	-	-	-	(148,506.90)
General Fund CD Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	206,924.63	-	-	-	206,924.63
Community Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	93,973.65	-	-	-	93,973.65
Comm. Bldg. Property	-	-	-	-	-	5,577.91	-	-	-	5,577.91
Computer Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	2,002.03	-	-	-	2,002.03
Emer Servs Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	54,258.11	-	-	-	54,258.11
Emer Servs Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	140,931.68	-	-	-	140,931.68
Emer Servs Durable Equip	-	-	-	-	-	50,845.45	-	-	-	50,845.45
Reappraisal/ Tax Maps	-	-	-	-	-	64,632.82	-	-	-	64,632.82
Recreation	-	-	-	-	-	14,284.61	-	-	-	14,284.61
Restoration/Preservation	-	-	-	-	-	29,273.53	-	-	-	29,273.53
Town Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	-	20,826.08	-	-	-	20,826.08
Prof. Services Res Fund	-	-	-	-	-	990.03	-	-	-	990.03
Constable Durable Equip.	-	-	-	-	-	6,972.28	-	-	-	6,972.28
Hwy Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	173,025.48	-	-	-	173,025.48
Highway Paving	-	-	-	-	-	87,271.99	-	-	-	87,271.99
Highway Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	102,464.10	-	-	-	102,464.10
Highway Building Repairs	-	-	-	-	-	5,005.07	-	-	-	5,005.07
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	2,500.54	-	-	-	2,500.54
Grants Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,696.03	-	-	16,696.03
Food Shelf Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(967.16)	-	(967.16)
FAST Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	187,401.79	289,618.91	31,775.16	123,758.10	125,352.25	913,253.09	(7,899.51)	9,070.19	613.89	1,672,943.87
Fund Balance Current Year	(25,296.92)	(38,167.48)	40,930.26	4,968.25	1,126.57	131,250.82	16,696.03	(967.16)	-613.89	129,926.48
Total Fund Balance	162,104.87	251,451.43	72,705.42	128,726.35	126,478.82	1,044,503.91	8,796.52	8,103.03	0.00	1,802,870.35
Total Liability & Fund Balance	172,933.84	251,451.43	72,705.42	128,726.35	126,478.82	1,044,503.91	8,796.52	8,103.03	0.00	1,813,699.32

Delinquent Tax Report as of 12/31/2023

Name	Tax Year	Total Principal Outstanding	As of 12/31/2023
ADAMS, MICHAEL	2023		
BATCHELDER, BARBARA	2023		
BOYCE, DOUGLAS	2023	Tax Year 2017	\$2,209.66
CALVELLO, NICHOLAS	2021-2023	Tax Year 2020	\$393.84
CAMP MUFFET	2023	Tax Year 2021	\$7,823.19
CASSERLY, CAIL	2023	Tax Year 2022	\$17,468.30
CLAPP, ALAN	2023	Tax Year 2023	71,393.79
CORBETT, MARY	2021-2023		
CROWN, SHAWN	2023	TOTAL	\$99,288.78
DANA, TERRY	2023		
DARLING, DONNA	2023		
DARLING, HENRY	2023		
DARLING, JAMIE	2023		
DARLING, SHAWN	2023		
DICKEY, CHRISTY	2023		
FEESER, GRETCHEN	2022-2023		
FIFIELD, JASON	2023		
FULFORD, HEIDI	2023		
GOODRICH, ROBERT	2017, 2022, 2023		
GRANT, JEFFREY	2023		
HAND, SARKIS	2022-2023		
HART, RONALD	2023		
HERBERT, LARA	2023		
LEE, DAVID	2023		
LEPENVEN, LARRY	2023		
LORD, JOHN	2023		
LUCAS, CONNOR	2020-2023		
LYON, PETER	2023		
MERRYFIELD, MICHELLE	2021-2023		
NURSE, STEFAN	2023		
O'BRIEN, MICHAEL	2023		
PALMER, JAYME	2022-2023		
PATCHEL, BRANDON	2023		
PHILLIPS, PAMELA	2023		
PINETTE, KEVIN	2022-2023		
PROCTOR, SHARON	2023		
QUINTAINE, MARIE	2023		
ROZMANITH, ANTHONY	2023		
SHIWLALL, MARJORIE	2021-2023		

Properties that paid in full	
01/01/2024-printing of the Town Report	
Larry Lepenven	
Christy Dickey	
Balance as of printing	\$97,694.25

See www.grotonvt.com for Policy on Collection of Delinquent Taxes

Property Transfers January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

SELLER	BUYER	ACRES	ADDRESS
Estate of Francis Killay	Dunbar, Elaine & Trask, Wade	13.4	3175 State Forest Rd
Newton, Kenneth & Brian	Williamson Properties LLC	3.2	78 State Forest Rd
Thomas, Mary	Thomas Realty Inc	163	1558 Goodfellow Rd
SJJ Holdings LLC	O'Brien, Michael	12	2312 Scott Hwy
Rood, Rodney & Julie	Neville, John & Ilana	2.88	238 Ricker Mill Rd
Roy, John & Brittany	Woodworth, Sandra	1.9	228 Powder Spring Rd
Murray, Kenneth & Barbara	Sutherland, Charles & Marsha	55	Great Rd
Murray, Kenneth & Barbara	Murray, Steve & Tanya	72.5	N. County Rd
Estate of Melanie Fioravanti	Gimson, Ryan	11.29	1058 Redbrook Rd
Berlejung, Paul & Mary	Ayers, Patrick	74	2003 N. County Rd
Taylor, Robert & Lori	Majestic Properties LLC	1.4	1308 Powder Spring Rd
Lesieur, Ronald	Powder Spring Landing LLC	1	1362 Scott Hwy
Estate of Charlotte Sanville	Lee, Arthur & Vicki	5.4	172 Cochran Rd
Wilder, Nancy	Batchelder, Donna & Cliff	14.8	HI Goodwin Rd
Lavoie, Hermas	Lavoie, Keith	7.1	354 Grimes Acres Rd
Robbins, John & Patricia	Kugler, Neil & Sandra	33.6	412 N. County Rd
Brian Naughton Childrens Trust	Heathbrook Valley LLC	59.6	28 Heath Brook Rd
Achilles, Albert & Diane	Cochran, Troy & Peggy	14.8	HI Goodwin Rd
Biastre, Albert	St. Amour, Linda & Douglas	66	72 Levi Pond Rd
Guptil, Pamela	Lee, David	0.39	530 West Shore Dr
Estate of Diana Aubrey	Emerson, Sasha	0.67	1462 Scott Hwy
Taylor, Jessica	Siegle, Carla & Daniel	0.91	694 Powder Spring Rd
Lyndes, Bruce	Larow, Richard & Joan	2.66	540 Branch Brook Rd
Hall, Raymond & Pearl	Delgado, Hernan	50	299 Moose Run Dr
Borek, Kyle & Sauber, Sophia	Wienecke, Alex & Dylan	24	27 Westville Rd
Beamis, Shirley	Harrington, Michael & Ginger	1.1	Goodfellow Rd
Neuhausser, Karl & Joanne	Pallatto, Frank & Dealmeida, Deborah	2.29	Minard Hill Rd
Berg, Fred	Holmberg, Megan	135	Goodfellow Rd
Berg, Fred	Holmberg, Megan	10.1	129 W. Glauchester Rd
Allard Lumber Co	Whitehead, Theodore	90	Greens Rd
Slarskey, Michael	Marsh, Alaina	2.7	122 W. Glauchester Rd

FY2024 ANR PILOT REPORT

TOWN OF	DEPARTMENT OF	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Acres	FMV Sum of FY22 PILOT	
Groton	Environmental Conservation	Groton Lake Dam Site	3	\$63,100.00	\$383.48
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	LEVI POND WMA	259.2	\$78,800.00	\$478.90
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	PINE MOUNTAIN WMA	372	\$372,800.00	\$2,265.65
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	St. Hilaire Parcel	100	\$80,100.00	\$486.80
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Big Deer Campground	25	\$28,600.00	\$173.81
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Bolder Beach	25	\$109,900.00	\$667.91
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Forest Land	11,702.03	\$13,207,200.00	\$80,265.44
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Groton State Forest - Seyon Pond	26	\$106,700.00	\$648.46
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Kettle Pond Campground	20	\$86,000.00	\$522.66
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lake Groton Cottage Lots	2.07	\$3,000.00	\$18.23
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lyon Acq. Seyon Block	42	\$29,700.00	\$180.50
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Natural Woodlands Area	149	\$105,300.00	\$639.95
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Page Acquisition	25.7	\$24,300.00	\$147.68
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Campsite & Frontag	39	\$175,100.00	\$1,064.15
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Damsite	13	\$12,500.00	\$75.97
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Stillwater Campground	42	\$136,100.00	\$827.13
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	TNC/Moffatt Acquisition	329	\$250,000.00	\$1,519.35
Groton Total			13,174.00	\$14,869,200.00	\$90,366.07

Current Use

Overview

In 1978, the Vermont legislature passed a law establishing the Use Value Appraisal of Agricultural, Forest, Conservation and Farm Buildings Property. Today, this program is known as "Current Use" and is administered by the Division of Property Valuation and Review within the Vermont Department of Taxes.

The purpose of the law was to allow the valuation and taxation of farm and forest land based on its remaining in agricultural or forest use instead of its value in the marketplace. The primary objectives of the program were to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest land in production, help slow the development of these lands, and achieve greater equity in property taxation on undeveloped land. Benefits for land enrolled in the program were first distributed in tax year 1980.

Participation in the program has grown as it has evolved. The two most significant changes have been the inclusion of conservation land owned by qualifying nonprofit organizations and the exemption from all property taxes of eligible farm buildings. When an application is approved and recorded in the municipal land records, a lien is established on the enrolled land to recover a land use change tax should all or any portion of the enrolled land become developed.

To ensure that parcels with a use value appraisal are appraised by the local assessing officials consistent with the appraisals for non-enrolled parcels an annual audit is conducted on three towns with lands enrolled program.

Benefits

Land will be taxed based on its use value which is established annually by the Current Use Advisory Board.

Requirements and Terms

Property must be managed according to the approved forest or conservation management plan and according to state standards. It will be inspected at least once every 10 years. The main objective in requiring a management plan is to assure that the land is managed carefully. It is not intended to force a landowner into a particular type of management. A private consulting forester may be asked to prepare, or help prepare, a management plan which meets the landowner's objectives as well as the state standards.

A management plan for forestland and conservation land also includes maps that meet the Current Use Program Mapping Standards. Agricultural land does not require a management plan but does require maps that meet the map standards. These maps are typically prepared by a consulting forester. The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) has a number of shapefiles that are available for creating these maps.

A Forest Management Activity Report must be filed by Feb. 1 with the Vermont Department of Taxes to report any management activity which occurred in the previous year. The Department of Taxes will send the relevant FMAR data to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. If you have any questions regarding your FMAR after it has been submitted, you should contact your county forester. Please wait 14 days after you have submitted the FMAR to contact your county forester.

For further details on Use Value Appraisal of Forestland in Vermont review the online brochure or visit the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation website.

Development and Penalties

Once land is enrolled, it is subject to a contingent lien. If this land is *ever* developed, a lien for the amount of the land use change tax is placed on the land. Once the land use change tax is paid, the lien is released. The land use change tax is calculated as 10% of the fair market value of the developed parcel or portion of a parcel. When a portion of a parcel is withdrawn or developed, the fair market value of the portion is determined by valuing the portion as a stand-alone parcel.

In this program, development includes any of the following:

- Transfer where one or more of the resulting parcels is less than 25 acres
- Construction of buildings, roads, or structures not used for forestry purposes
- Commercial mining, excavation or landfill activity, or cutting timber contrary to the management plan or contrary to state standards

The obligation to pay this tax runs with the land in perpetuity. The tax is not due unless and until the land is developed; however, it may be prepaid if the landowner wishes to clear the title.

2023 Use Values

The Current Use Advisory Board established the Use Values for the 2023 tax year on January 23, 2023.

Property Type	Amount
Agricultural Land	\$456/acre
Forest Land	\$187/acre
Forest Land Greater than one mile from a Class I, II, or III Road	\$140/acre

2023 Current Use Exemptions

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>LAND USE ACREAGE</u>	<u>LAND USE EXEMPT AMOUNT</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>
ALLARD LUMBER COMPANY	\$ 66,300	90.00	\$ 50,600	\$ 157
ANAGNOSTAKIS CHRISTOPHER	\$ 112,800	101.00	\$ 71,500	\$ 413
BANKS KEELIN/MCCLEARY NORA	\$ 471,900	113.20	\$ 107,500	\$ 3,644
BASTON DANIEL	\$ 209,100	233.50	\$ 170,400	\$ 387
BECK DARREN D	\$ 232,400	49.00	\$ 44,500	\$ 1,879
BERLEJUNG MARY BLANDFORD	\$ 275,000	59.00	\$ 62,700	\$ 2,123
BUCKLER STEVEN REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 243,100	57.45	\$ 77,600	\$ 1,655
CHANANIE JUDITH W	\$ 92,800	51.00	\$ 54,100	\$ 387
CHANDLER HARRY & JUDITH	\$ 462,100	267.08	\$ 275,600	\$ 1,865
CLAPP ALAN B	\$ 287,900	219.00	\$ 252,500	\$ 354
CLOUGH RICK	\$ 206,500	45.70	\$ 37,200	\$ 1,693
CRUM NICOLE ERICH GREG	\$ 184,700	124.76	\$ 115,900	\$ 688
CUTONE RICHARD J	\$ 431,500	129.00	\$ 112,900	\$ 3,186
DANIELS LAWRENCE SR.	\$ 303,900	131.50	\$ 128,800	\$ 1,751
DEMARTINO PAUL REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 155,100	84.34	\$ 114,800	\$ 403
DOSCINSKI LEONARD & PATRICIA	\$ 457,800	102.70	\$ 125,700	\$ 2,921
DUCHARME HELEN	\$ 80,700	69.69	\$ 68,800	\$ 119
EATON HENRY W	\$ 397,700	55.50	\$ 73,100	\$ 3,246
EDWARDS LESLIE E	\$ 223,200	33.00	\$ 35,200	\$ 1,880
EMERSON CHRIS W	\$ 225,100	71.00	\$ 65,400	\$ 1,597
ENGLE STEPHEN B TRUSTEE	\$ 773,200	810.00	\$ 372,600	\$ 4,006
FLEURIE FAMILY TRUST	\$ 406,900	382.00	\$ 231,400	\$ 1,755
FOSTER-JERRY LUND MOUNTAIN TRUST	\$ 443,200	688.43	\$ 281,000	\$ 1,622
FROST BARBARA J	\$ 60,700	30.20	\$ 31,500	\$ 292
GOODINE ALLEN	\$ 160,900	87.00	\$ 91,600	\$ 693
GOSSELIN EDMUND	\$ 72,000	33.00	\$ 50,700	\$ 213
GREENOUGH BRADLEY	\$ 250,900	122.00	\$ 82,700	\$ 1,682
GRIMES & NOLAN REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 169,300	107.00	\$ 127,400	\$ 419
HAMLETT NANCY	\$ 251,400	44.00	\$ 46,100	\$ 2,053
HERSEY MARK	\$ 100,700	123.00	\$ 69,100	\$ 316
KERSAKEN VENTURES LLC	\$ 723,900	633.85	\$ 287,200	\$ 4,367
KLEIN MARTIN P	\$ 313,100	93.40	\$ 112,600	\$ 2,005
MARTELL GROTON LLC	\$ 882,000	334.02	\$ 182,700	\$ 6,993
MEADOWSEND TIMBERLANDS LTD	\$ 135,000	128.00	\$ 113,100	\$ 219
MOORE DONALD F JR	\$ 59,100	28.40	\$ 54,200	\$ 49
NIEMASZYK WALTER	\$ 492,300	366.17	\$ 363,500	\$ 1,288
NOYES BRET D	\$ 201,700	164.00	\$ 141,100	\$ 606

2023 Current Use Exemptions continued

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>LAND USE ACREAGE</u>	<u>LAND USE EXEMPT AMOUNT</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>
OLIVER LOGAN	\$ 221,800	40.50	\$ 50,800	\$ 1,710
OLIVER TROY A	\$ 204,000	45.00	\$ 41,700	\$ 1,623
PAGE KEITH R	\$ 95,200	35.00	\$ 35,900	\$ 593
PARK FORESTRY NY LLC	\$ 658,600	995.40	\$ 486,700	\$ 1,719
PIGEON POND LLC WANDA GABLE	\$ 2,401,000	1072.00	\$ 903,900	\$ 14,971
POWERS CRAIG	\$ 297,600	32.47	\$ 34,900	\$ 2,627
PUFFER MATTHEW J	\$ 473,200	201.00	\$ 62,100	\$ 4,111
QUINTIN STEVE	\$ 146,200	73.00	\$ 64,700	\$ 815
RUGGLES PATRICIA A LIFE ESTATE	\$ 268,500	43.00	\$ 59,000	\$ 2,095
SMITH BRENT	\$ 196,800	39.00	\$ 43,500	\$ 1,533
SMITH SARA	\$ 192,400	42.70	\$ 53,800	\$ 1,386
STARR TIMOTHY	\$ 137,200	35.80	\$ 40,000	\$ 972
SWEET TREE HOLDINGS 1 LLC	\$ 770,700	760.00	\$ 672,200	\$ 985
THOMAS PAUL A	\$ 192,000	109.50	\$ 108,500	\$ 835
THOMAS PAUL A	\$ 81,000	63.10	\$ 55,200	\$ 258
THOMAS REALTY INC	\$ 240,100	160.50	\$ 159,300	\$ 808
TIMBERVEST PARTNERS III VERMONT	\$ 198,100	224.80	\$ 156,800	\$ 413
VIENS ROBERT G & MARIA L	\$ 351,300	231.50	\$ 165,300	\$ 1,860
WARD RYAN T	\$ 427,500	180.50	\$ 146,200	\$ 2,813
WATERHOUSE CINDY J & LEE J	\$ 350,300	111.50	\$ 135,400	\$ 2,149
WEAVER ERIN	\$ 323,800	36.00	\$ 56,000	\$ 2,678
WELCH CHRISTINE	\$ 396,800	134.50	\$ 139,000	\$ 2,578
WOSKO REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 267,600	32.00	\$ 35,000	\$ 2,326
Grand Totals	\$ 19,507,600	10,960.66	\$ 8,389,200	\$ 110,784
		Homestead	\$ 1,341,000	\$ 42,769
		Nonhomestead	\$ 7,048,200	\$ 68,015

Groton SelectBoard

It is great to have Town Meeting in person again and we thank the community for their support.

The Selectboard has been working with NEK Broadband to obtain the much needed internet service for the Groton Community.

The Town has been notified from the State of Vermont that we need to do a Reappraisal. The Assessors will be doing a Statistical Reappraisal in 2024.

The Selectboard has worked with the Planning Commissioners and Zoning Administrator and have updated the Zoning By-laws.

This summer we reviewed and updated the Town Policies.

The Selectboard has hired the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department and they are in town controlling speed through out the village.

Big projects and ideas are coming to Groton. The drainage problem around the Community Building and Fire Station will be fixed and this will also add parking improvements.

Several grants have been applied for:

- VOREC grant which will accommodate the better use of the Rail Trail.
- EV Charging Station in the village.
- Community Center Grant for the village.
- Energy Grant for all Town Buildings
- Tree Grant for the beautification for the town.

We have been working and trying to control the Knotweed concern in the community.

Vermont has had a crazy summer with all the rain and flooding. We have been approved for some FEMA funding.

The Town has purchased and have been updating town computers.

We have done some work on the Ballfields and the fences and we had the Gazebo in Veteran's Park painted.

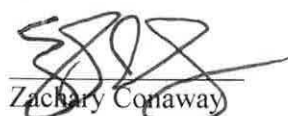
Selectboard meetings have been going well.

All are welcome to come to our meetings.

Thank you



Tristan Vaughan



Zachary Coraway



Aaron Smith

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

77 Barre Street
P.O. Box 947
Montpelier, VT 05601
802/223-2352
www.sullivanpowers.com

Richard J. Brigham, CPA
Chad A. Hewitt, CPA
Jordon M. Plummer, CPA
VT Lic. #92-000180

September 7, 2023

Selectboard
Town of Groton, Vermont
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Groton, Vermont as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022.

The financial statements and our report thereon are available for public inspection at the Town Office.

Sullivan, Powers & Co.

Treasurer Report

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C., the Town of Groton's independent auditors, performed the town audit and provided a report on September 7 2023 to the Select Board for year ending 2022.

The Town audit report and financial statements are available at the town office for review. Please contact the office if you're interested in a copy. The 2022 audit can also be found on Groton Town website under Town Treasurer.

If you have any questions please contact me. 802-584-3131 or Treasurer@grotonvt.com or stop by the office.

I'm grateful to be working for our community.

Thank you,

Lisa JL Hart

Town Treasurer

ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included \$350 billion in pandemic-related aid for state and local governments. Vermont will receive more than \$1.25 billion of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding from ARPA. While the legislature and the governor will determine how more than \$1 billion of that funding will be spent, Congress directed nearly \$200 million of that funding directly to Vermont's cities, towns, and villages. City councils and select boards will have discretion over how to spend their allocations. The State of Vermont will not be allowed to add any additional rules to the roughly \$200 million distributed directly to municipalities.

ARPA Funds Groton has received: 289,360.40

The Select Board has decided to use ARPA Funds and Leahy Grant/ USDA funds to repair the drainage around the Community Building. This will in turn upgrade the parking lot allowing for ADA compliance. Also the back area behind the building will have parking and a more aesthetic appeal.

In April the town has sent 40,800.00 to NEK Broadband to bring broad band to our community.

Town Clerk's Report

For 2024, our office will be busy with multiple elections. The first election will be March 5th with the Presidential Primary and Town Meeting Day. For the Presidential Primary you will be asked which ballot you wish to vote on. This is the mandatory process for this election. Your choice will also be documented as well. Next on August 13th is the State Primary Election and lastly on November 5th is the General Election. Remember, absentee ballots must be requested by the voter for any election other than the November 5th General Election as all ballots will be mailed from the State. You can log on to your voter page at www.mvp.vermont.gov and update your information or request an absentee ballot.

Dog licensing for 2024 has begun and are due by April 1st. Last year we licensed 293 dogs. The town worked hard at trying to get all dogs up to date on their rabies and licensing requirements.

A reminder that there is a mail slot to the left of my door inside the entranceway. This is available 24/7 to drop off any correspondence (tax payments, dog license paperwork, marriage applications, birth/death certificate applications, building permits, etc.)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. (802) 584-3276 or townclerk@grotonvt.com or stop by the office.

I continue to enjoy working for our community.
Respectfully,
Carrie Peters

Assessor's Office

The Town of Groton recently received an order from the State of Vermont to conduct a reappraisal. We are planning to do a Statistical Reappraisal. Statistical update is a revaluation of all town properties but unlike a complete reappraisal does not require On-site property inspections except to confirm validity of data for a sample of properties. The goal must be to implement new values for all properties to reflect 100% of fair market value. The first step of this process is for the Assessor's to complete an initial data quality study to check and update property information for 5 % of the taxable parcels in Groton. We have randomly selected 44 parcels for this study and will be visiting these properties in the first part of the year.

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION- Please remember to file a Form HS 122 when you file your Income Taxes. **~THIS HAS TO BE DONE EVERY YEAR~**

ADDRESS CHANGES- Please send address changes to the Assessor's Office. This will help us to have up to date information when it is time to mail tax bills and other information to you.

INFORMATION REQUESTS- Please fill these out in a timely manner and return to the Assessor's Office.

THANK YOU

John Westinghouse
Assessor

Dorothy Knott
Assistant Assessor



State of Vermont
Department of Taxes
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Agency of Administration

Phone: (802) 828-5860

January 5, 2024

00210

Town Clerk
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

2023 Equalization Study Results

This letter serves as notification of the results of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)'s 2023 equalization study. Every year we are required to certify the equalized education property value (EEPV or EEGL) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont town (32 V.S.A § 5406). This letter also communicates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for your town and explains how it will impact your homestead and nonhomestead education tax rates.

Education Grand List (from 411):	\$130,786,495
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	\$168,918,765
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	77.43% or 0.7743
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	28.65%

For a copy of your town final computation sheet and final certified sales report, please view those in your VTPIE account. The **education grand list** listed here is what was reported by your town to the state on the 411 form with your town's cable (if applicable) and tax increment financing (TIF) amounts (if any) included. This number represents the town's total property value that is subject to the education property tax (from the most recent grand list available) and serves as the numerator in the computation of the CLA. Please note tax revenue from any TIF property value is subject to allocation (32 V.S.A. § 5404a).

The **equalized education grand list (EEGL)** represents PVR's statutorily-mandated estimate of total fair market value of the education grand list in your town and serves as the denominator in the computation of the CLA. To find out more about how the equalization study is conducted, how to read the certified sales report, and additional instructions on how to appeal your results, please see the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

The **common level of appraisal (CLA)** is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your town is generally listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A § 4041a). The homestead and nonhomestead tax rates in your town will be adjusted by your town's CLA (32 V.S.A § 5402).



The nonhomestead rate in your town will be the statewide nonhomestead rate divided by your CLA. The homestead rate will be the town homestead rate (which is determined by the per-pupil spending of any school district(s) to which your town belongs) divided by the CLA. A CLA greater than 100% will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment.

To get answers to many common questions about tax rates and how they are determined and to see how the current year property tax rates for your town were calculated, please see the Department's education tax resources at tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates

The **coefficient of dispersion (COD)** is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your town. It is calculated as the average of the (absolute) difference of each sales ratio (list price divided by sales price) in the study from the median ratio. That result is then divided by the median ratio to get the COD, which is expressed as a percent (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A high COD means that within your town many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less than their fair share. A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

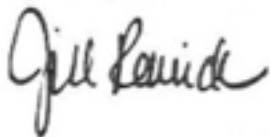
Appeals: A municipality may petition the director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of its EEPV and/or COD (32 V.S.A. § 5408). All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the municipality's legislative body. Petitions should contain a plain statement of matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy being sought. **PVR must receive petitions by the close of business on the 35th day after the mailing of this letter.**

Additional instructions on appeals can be found in the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

If your town completed a reappraisal this year, your results are contingent on reappraisal acceptance (also known as the "three-prong test").

If you have any questions, please contact your **District Advisor**, or call 802-828-5860.

Sincerely,



Jill Remick, Director
Property Valuation and Review

cc: Chair, School Board
Chair, Selectboard
Superintendent of Schools SD027

Homestead Declaration Information

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. Here is the information you as the property owner need to know about the Vermont Homestead Declaration.

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either nonhomestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile.

All property is considered ***nonhomestead***, unless it is declared as a ***homestead***. The education property tax rate levied on nonhomestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. It is **your** responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:

- You are a Vermont resident
- You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, 2023.

Please note: If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2023, you may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2023 calendar year.

Nonhomestead Property

Property is considered nonhomestead if one of the following applies:

- Your property is leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year.
- The property is used exclusively for commercial, including rental, purposes.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

How to File

Online - Taxpayers may file returns using myVTax, our free, secure, online filing site.

Paper Returns - If you cannot file and pay through myVTax, you may still use the paper forms. The Homestead Declaration is filed using Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim. Use our filing checklist that follows to help you get started.

Many people file their Homestead Declarations at the same time they file their Vermont income tax returns. However, if you apply to extend the time to file your income tax return, the Homestead Declaration **must still be filed** by the April filing deadline. Even if a person is not required to file a Vermont Income Tax Return, the declaration must be filed by the deadline.

<https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/HS-122-2022.pdf>

Groton Highway Report

- 2023 was a challenging year for the budget, Phillip and I worked hard to stay within the budget but continue to maintain and improve our roads. The 2 heavy rain events this year added extra strain on the budget, but we managed to stay within budget.
- The Highway Dept. had 2 Grants for Boulder Beach road, one was for repaving and the other was for ditching and stone lining the ditches to protect them from washing out.
- We worked with other departments on projects, supplying labor and equipment time, saving them money.
- The grant we received from the State of Vermont two years ago for the Powderspring road got postponed until this year. The precast concrete box was utilized somewhere else in the state that needed it after the July flooding
- Phillip and I try our best to control cost while maintaining a level of service that keeps up with the needed maintenance of the roads.
- I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Groton for all the support in helping us do the best job possible.
- Here are a couple reminders:

23 V.S.A. § 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across highways prohibited

(a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the agency of transportation (in the case of state highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a state highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.

(b) Nothing in this section should be construed to be in derogation of any municipal ordinance regulating the deposit of snow within the limits of town highways. (Added 1997, No. 150 (Adj. Sess.), § 17.)

- Article 7.1 from the Town of Groton Highway ordinance:
Winter Parking- Parking within a town right of way, including turnarounds and/or Cul de sacks, shall be prohibited between November 1 and March 31 of each year except for town owned parking areas where there will be no parking between midnight and 6:00 am. Violators will be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

Town Garage Phone-584-3209 Harold's Pager 290-1355

Harold hatch (Cell) (802)424-7918 or stop by the garage



Reflecting on the past year at the library, two words come to mind: connection and community. Central to our work at the library in 2023 was creating a library building that fosters connection, community and is welcoming to all. **We remain dedicated to our mission: To assemble, preserve, organize, and make freely available to the people of the Town of Groton, books and other resources for education, enlightenment, and recreation.**

We worked towards this mission in 2023 by expanding our hours of operation to include Saturday mornings, and adding two additional hours of service, bringing our open hours up to 17 hours per week. Partnerships with local and regional organizations supported our efforts to expand services and outreach, as well as offer programs for a wide range of ages, interests, and stages of life.

We welcomed 3475 library visits this year! This represents a near doubling of numbers over 2022.

Upgrades to our Wi-Fi network enhanced the strength of our signals for faster, more reliable coverage in and around the library. We purchased an additional computer for patrons to use: there are now 4 public computers available. We invested in updates to our early literacy collection and educational activities.

We invite you to take advantage of all our Library has to offer in the coming year:

- Browse our collection of physical books- both Fiction and Non-Fiction for all levels of readers.
- Flip through the magazines and newspapers over a cup of coffee courtesy of the Friends of the Library in our sunny Living Room.
- Use your library card to access audiobooks and e-books online via two different apps: Libby by Overdrive and the Palace Project. Also available on demand are digital resources like Udemy, a free online learning platform, and The Vermont Online Library of databases, among others.

This is all made possible through the support of our incredible volunteers and community. Funding for our library comes from our Library Endowment, Annual Appeal, the Friends of the Groton Free Public Library and the Groton Taxpayers.

We're excited to share with you all that we have planned for the coming year, and hope to welcome you to the library for opportunities to learn, grow, and connect in 2024. Stay informed about upcoming programs by visiting us at the library or online! Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at our website: www.grotonlibraryvt.org, or find us on Facebook.

Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Spira, Library Director

Trustees: Dawn Miller Evans, Jennie Gaiss, Deborah Jurist, Wayne Knott, Donna Russo- Savage

2023 By the Numbers



543
Library
Cardholders



3475
Library
Visits



3541
Books & Digital
Materials Borrowed



958
Volunteer
Hours Worked



117
Programs
Offered



352
Computer
Sessions

2024 Library Budget vs. 2023 Actual Spent			
Expenses paid from Town General Fund			
	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Librarian wages	22,880.00	24,417.20	25,168.00
Library Assistant Wages (new)			10,504.00
Payroll taxes	1,751.00	1,867.99	2,808.00
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1,148.00	1,183.27	1,357.00
Building rent	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Supplies-Library	2,000.00	2,077.61	2,000.00
Books & Digital	4,500.00	4,838.79	4,500.00
Telephone/internet	1,800.00	1,743.70	1,800.00
Software/support	1,000.00	811.34	1,300.00
Misc Exp.	200.00	-	100.00
TOTAL	53,279.00	54,939.90	67,537.00
Library Budget vs. Expenses			
Expenses paid by Library Fund	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Programs Expense	2,000.00	1,544.44	2,500.00
Postage	500.00	496.77	500.00
Elevator Expense	200.00	425.00	575.00
Books & Digital	1,000.00	981.04	1,000.00
Training & Mileage	250.00	30.00	250.00
Computer Maintenance	300.00	369.29	300.00
Computers	2,000.00	1,983.98	1,000.00
Furnishings	200.00	-	700.00
Misc - Expense	500.00	279.99	1,000.00
Investment Loss			
Total	6,950.00	6,110.51	7,825.00
Library Fund Revenue			
Funds are Deposited into Library Fund		42.72	
PayPal revenue		854.43	
Dividends American Funds		1,694.90	
Annual Appeal/Donations		5,982.88	
Interest income		361.55	
Program revenue		52.93	
TOTAL		8,989.41	

Library funds are not Town funds, they are controlled by the Library Trustees.

Groton Free Public Library Operating Fund

March 7, 2006, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the existing accounts and the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Groton Free Public Library fund to be funded by grants, gifts, donations, fund raising, existing library investments and other non-taxation sources said fund to be used for library improvements, managed by the library Board of Trustees and dispensed by the Town Treasurer?

Operating expense account funded by annual appeal donations, memorial funds, interest from Endowment and dividends from American Funds.

Balance \$27,155.38

Endowment Fund

Endowment funds are composed of monies that have been gifted to the Library in the form of bequests or donations. Endowment monies are not meant to be used to fund routine operational activities or salaries. Endowment funds are to be used at the discretion of the Groton Library Board of Trustees. Any requests for release of endowment monies must be voted on and approved by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board is responsible for overseeing the use/investment of all endowment funds. The Library Board alone holds the power to direct investments and distribute money/assets for the Library.

Amendment: 7/13/2015, The Library Trustee Board voted to remove all financial limitations on endowment requests.

Balance \$48,507.55

Capital Fund Certificate of Deposit

Anonymous gift restricted to capital improvements or non-budgeted items at the discretion of the Library Trustees.

Balance \$12,195.64

American Funds

Investment of funds realized from sale of book in 1991. Dividends are deposited in Community Bank Fund for use toward the Library portion of the monthly operating expense of the building.

Balance \$23,369.59

Library Pay Pal Fund

Fund Account was established to receive money electronically for Annual Appeal Donations.

Balance \$9.00

Series I Bond

October 5 2022 Library Trustee's decided to move 10,000.00 from the Capital Fund CD and opened a Series I bond account. Maturity Date 10-01-2052

Balance \$10,820.00

Series I Bond

March 9 2023 Library Trustee's decided to move 10,000.00 from Capital Fund CD and open a Series I bond Account. Maturity Date 04-01-2053

Balance 10,344.00

Groton Cemetery Commission Report

The Cemetery Commission has been working very hard this year. Despite the record-breaking rainfall and regional flooding throughout the summer, our cemeteries are looking quite nice. With two new commissioners, Sue Plant and Steve Batchelder, along with our seasoned veteran Brent Smith we've accomplished a lot. We've improved the condition of the "old" and "new" cemetery on Route 302 by removing brush, a rather drippy old pine tree and an overgrown burning bush. We've added signs to our trash barrels to discourage household trash, filled in a hole by the old well, purchased new signs, and are purchasing a new gate. With the help from Alan Eastman, we removed and mitigated an invasive species. Deep appreciation to Alan for his expertise and willingness to undergo a daunting project! The stone cleaning by Tom Gandon is right on schedule and we look forward to expanding Tom's excellent work this coming year. We also appreciate the (almost) daily drive-through Commissioner Steve Batchelder has done to make sure we're aware of everything going on in our cemeteries!

One of the most exciting projects our Commission has undertaken is the review and design of the Riverside Cemetery. This vacant piece of land was purchased by the town for a beautiful new cemetery. As we look to the future and realize its potential, we first wanted to talk to the Agency of Natural Resources to discuss the location of the current wetlands and establish where a viable area would be to have gravesites. We met onsite with Ned Swanberg, Vermont Flood Hazard Mapping Coordinator and Regional Floodplain Manager, to walk the property and discuss our options. Ned identified the watershed area and told us what we could and could not use it for. He also informed us of an invasive species of honeysuckle that should be removed. Sue Plant drew up a map that outlined our results, which Ned endorsed. As a result, we now have the information we need to move forward with the area for gravesites, well above the watershed area, and an area for parking. Next to the river we hope to have a beautiful, public, Tranquility Park. A place where families can gather and have a picnic, walk, or bike along a path and have access to the river. What a wonderful asset to the town of Groton this will be! We look forward to seeing it come to fruition!

Thank you for your support,
Brent Smith
Steve Batchelder
Sue Plant

Cemetery Plot Pricing for 2024

Size	# of traditional burial sites	# of cremation sites	PLOT PRICE	PERPETUAL CARE	FEES	TOTAL FOR RESIDENTS	TOTAL FOR NON RESIDENTS
12'x4'	1	4	\$100	\$200	\$230	\$530	\$1980
12'x8'	2	8	\$200	\$300	\$230	\$730	\$3495
12'x12'	3	12	\$300	\$400	\$230	\$930	\$5095
12'x16'	4	16	\$400	\$500	\$230	\$1130	\$6690
12'x20'	5	20	\$500	\$600	\$230	\$1330	\$8295

Fees include:

Recording cost \$15.00

Cornerstones \$140.00

Setting of cornerstones \$60.00

Administrative costs \$15.00

The cost of grave and cremation urn preparation is set by the contractor at the time of service.

Plots must be paid in full at the time of purchase.

2023 Cemetery Budget vs. 2023 Actual Spent
Expenses paid from Town General Fund

	2023 Budget	Actual	2024 Budget
Contracted Work	700.00	700.00	1400.00
Riverside Cemetery	200.00	180.00	200.00
Mowing	11,460.00	11,460.00	12,500.00
Supplies	700.00	337.39	700.00
Total	13,060.00	12,677.39	14,800.00

Revenues paid To Cemetery Accounts

Cemetery Lot Sales	930.00
Corner stone revenue	520.00
Corner stone setting fees income	240.00
Perpetual Care Revenue	900.00
Recording Fee Revenue	75.00
Development Funds (non-resident lot sale)	2800.00
Interest Revenue	2687.72

Total Revenue	8152.72
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Expenditures paid From Cemetery Accounts

Deposited to Development Funds	2800.00
Recording fees	60.00
Corner stone's expense	400.00
Restoration of Old Stones	700.00
Misc Expense(signs, plot buyback, xtr cleanup)	1772.47
Roosevelt /Cater Expense(Tree Service)	952.00

6684.47

Cemetery Funds Balances 12/31/23

	Balances
CB Perpetual Care-MM	1491.11
WGSB H. Hosmer –Savings	3300.28
WRSB Development/ Lot Sales-Savings	15,719.30
CB Cemetery Lot-MM	9179.60
WRSB MJ Ricker Hall Trust-Savings	1065.40
TD Bank Roosevelt Carter Trust-Savings	5254.72
CB Perpetual Care CD-Opened in 2023	93,853.91
Total	129864.32

GROTON CEMETERY RULES

Revision 10/7/23

Cemetery Hours of Operation

The cemetery will open on May 1st and close on November 1st. Burials will be performed after the ground has fully thawed in the spring and will cease after November 1st unless authorized by the Cemetery Commissioners.

Flowers, Flags, and Personal Memorabilia

All flowers, natural and artificial, should be removed from the cemeteries by Oct. 1. The flags will remain on the graves until Veteran's Day in November. Any flowers, plants and flags left in the cemetery may be removed by the maintenance workers.

Footings

In order to facilitate mowing and for the long-term stability of the stones, all the monuments will be set on a cement foundation with footings which extend four inches outward from the monument.

Monuments, Cornerstones, Vaults, Urns and Grass Markers

A cemetery official will have the final say on the placement of all monuments, cornerstones, vaults, urns, and grass markers. Cemetery Commissioners will be responsible for placing cornerstones. All monuments will be set on a 4' (minimum) cement foundation with footings set 4" from the monument. Cremation urns may be interned on any plot with or without existing burials. The addition of a memorial stone is limited to the lot size. The Sexton must be notified of the urn interment and is responsible for the digging and placement, for the location to be officially registered. There is an additional cost for this service. For the number of cremations allowed on the plot, see the current Cemetery Pricing chart. All burial vaults will be made of concrete.

Plantings

Plantings should be small and low maintenance, nothing that will grow to a size which would impede on the surroundings and the ability to maintain the area. They must be clearly marked and only planted between monuments (not in front or behind) in order to cut grass with trimmers. Should maintenance issues arise, the Cemetery Commissioners will assess the situation and do what is deemed necessary to bring the plot into compliance.

Purchasing Lots in a Groton Cemetery

Lots are for sale containing as few as 1 burial plot and up to 12 plots. Lots sold at resident prices will have the resident's name only listed as owner on the deed. Non-residents cannot be listed as co-owners on lots purchased at residential prices. The initial of the owner's last name will be engraved on the cornerstones. There is a price list available through the town clerk.

Specifying Individuals to be Buried in a Lot

At the time of purchase the deed holder can fill out a form that will specify the individuals who can be buried in a specific lot. This document can be notarized and filed with the deed for the current recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to sell a lot or portion of a lot, they must first sell it back to the town at the same price that it was originally purchased for. Then the town will sell the lot to the new owner based on current pricing.

Corner stone for this new lot may not be required if the Commissioners approve.

Please be aware that the only way to securely guarantee who shall be buried in any given lot is for that person to own it. In cases where there might be a family dispute, we suggest that the parties take all steps possible to make clear who shall be allowed to use a lot.

Perpetual Care

Perpetual Care fees cover emergency repair and general upkeep of the cemetery. If you are interested in purchasing a lot in the Groton cemetery, please contact the Town Clerk.

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

This year fire season there were two forest fires, which were in the Town of Groton.

The requirements to obtain a burn permit are as follows: you need to obtain a burn permit by calling the forest fire warden within 12-24 hours of burning grass or brush. The only time that you are not required to get a burn permit is when there is significant amount of snow in the area in which you are burning. This also depends on the time of the year such as early fall and late spring when we may have early now storms. It is always best to contact me with any questions or doubts in burning. When there is a ban on burning, it will be announced on WYKR and on the Groton website.

I must also remind people that in order to burn woodpiles such as debris from buildings other than brush, you must obtain a different permit from the Environmental Air Pollution Office. Their address and phone number are as follows: Air Pollution Control Division, Department of Environmental Conservation, Building 3 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0402, telephone #802-241-3840.

If you want a permit during the week, you need to contact me or the Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Justin Carle, the night before so you can get your permit. This has been one of the problems that I have had because I do work during the day Monday thru Friday. You can contact me during the week after 5PM at 584-3628, Justin Carle at 584-4288.

Due to the large area of Groton, which is covered by forest, it is difficult to survey the area from time to time and because of that, there have been a lot of illegal burns which go unnoticed which could be a potential hazard to others and their homes if the fire warden is not aware of them. If caught without a permit, you could be issued a fine plus cost of equipment and personnel that come to the scene.

There has been a concern since the stump dump has been closed. What do we do about our leaves and brush? You can burn your own brush as long as you obtain a burn permit but as far as leaves go, the law prohibits the burning of leaves. If you have a concern about what to do with your leaves, give me a call.

There is also a growing issue on trash burning. There is a state law now which has been in effect since 2005 making it illegal in the State of Vermont to burn trash. The Town of Groton has now passed a Trash Burning Ordinance. You can obtain a copy of this at the Town Clerk's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade Johnson, SR, Forest Fire Warden

2024 Update - Wade Johnson Sr. has resigned.

Please reach out to Justin Carle until a new Forest Fire Warden has been appointed.

GROTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Introduction

This year has been a busier year for the Groton Volunteer Fire Department. Our success is due to a dedicated group of fire fighters and their commitment and sacrifice in training and going to fire calls in all hours of the night and day as well as in all types of weather. I want to take this time to say thanks to all our Fire Department members for the work they have done.

If you are interested to see what we do, you are invited to see your tax dollars at work. Our monthly activities are as follows:

- 1st Tuesday – Business Meeting
- 2nd Tuesday – Work Detail
- 3rd Tuesday – Drill
- 4th Tuesday – Officer Meeting
- 5th Tuesday – when months have a fifth Tuesday, we either have special speakers or extra drills.

Business Meeting

We go over a lot of business in our Fire Department. We go over the training schedule, past months fire/FAST calls, maintenance on vehicles, and concerns with fire fighters, recruitment and retention issues, and discuss finances with the Fire Dept. budget and also moneys that are used by the Corporation for some of our fire gear and donations which we would like to share what our department went over and above what is asked.

Donations/In Memory of:

Fred Whitcomb Memorial Scholarship Fund raffle tickets

Widows Sons Vet Ride 2023

Tri-Village Fire Department

We R Hope, Inc.

Items Purchased Sweatshirts

Work Detail

On this Tuesday, we maintain and operate the equipment and keep everything up to date. This also includes inspection of vital life-saving equipment such as SCBA's.

Drills

A time to focus are drills on areas to protect our community such as:

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Chimney Fires

CO Activation/Smoke

Structure Fires

Cold Water Rescue

Snow Machine Accidents

Search and Rescue for those lost in woods

Hazmat

We also have training courses which we obtain without cost to the town from the Vermont Fire Academy:

Level 1 & 2

Hazmat

PADO (Pumper Apparatus Driver Operations)

Other Training

CPR

Flagger Training

Officer Meeting

Currently, we have a time where the chief and officers go over ideas concerns and challenges of the Department which also, we prepare for agenda items of the monthly business meeting.

Other Activities Coin Drops Chicken Barbecue Fundraiser

Fire Calls for the Year 42 as of 12/4/2023

Conclusion

As you can see, putting out fires is not all we do. We are a close fire department family and we care the community we serve. If you would like to be part of the team, come in and join us. We are looking for a few good men and women. We have 911 signs which you can purchase and if you need CO and Smoke Detectors for your home, please contact us which we install and give for free.

Respectfully submitted, Wade A Johnson, SR GVFD Chief

2024 Update~ Wade Johnson SR. resigned in December 2023.

Groton Ryegate FAST Squad

**** DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES ****

Did you know - according to Responder Safety (respondersafety.com), in 2023 there have been 42 line of duty deaths of emergency services and tow operators hit by vehicles while operating at an emergency scene on roadways? Since 2019 there have been 247 of these unnecessary deaths. Vermont law requires an operator to move over to the other lane when encountering emergency vehicles. When not safe to do that, drivers are required to slow down to a safe and reasonable speed for the conditions. Beyond it being the law, it is the right thing to do for first responders - in other words, your friends and neighbors.

If you've seen some new faces with the FAST Squad, that's because we're up to 11 licensed EMS providers, the most we've ever had (to our knowledge). Does that mean we have enough and don't need more? NOPE, we always need help. As volunteers we're not always available to respond to calls. Even with 11 providers, there are still some calls we have no FAST members available for. People still receive emergency help, Woodsville Ambulance still comes to provide services, just without FAST support.

Call volume for 2023 was down from last year's high of 242, we finished with 174 calls for assistance. Our hope is that our community members are healthier! We hope that the lower call volume continues through 2024. Either way, we're prepared to continue providing emergency medical services to you.

We finished 2023 significantly under budget. 2023's lower call volume was one factor with GRFS completing the year under budget (-36%). Our training line item spend was also well under budget, the annual VT EMS Conference we expected to return in 2023 was delayed to spring of 2024. Our 2024 budget plans for a majority of our 11 licensed providers to attend; this is an excellent opportunity to obtain excellent training and apply those hours to recertification requirements.

Based on anticipated budget, we've submitted a budget that is more or less level funded (\$25,818 (96%)) with last year's budget.

FAST - GROTON RYEGATE FAST SQUAD ACCOUNT

2023

NOTE: This account is not funded by taxpayer dollars. These funds are from fundraising efforts and donations but the account is maintained by the Town Treasurer and listed under the Town's Federal ID number.

FAST Squad Account

Bank account balance on 12/31/22	613.89
Interest received	0.00
Check to Groton Fire Department Association	- 613.89
Bank account balance on 08/31/23	
Closed Account	0.00

Resource List

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline – 988

Substance Abuse – VT Helplink – call 802-565-LINK(5465) or visit VTHelplink.org for free and confidential alcohol and drug support and referral services if you or someone you know needs help

Vermont Suicide Prevention Hotline – 800-273-8255

The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence –
Domestic Violence Hotline – 800-228-7395

Sexual Violence Hotline – 800-489-7273

Central Vermont Council on Aging –
59 N. Main St #200, Barre VT 05641 - 800-642-5119

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging –
481 Summer St #101, St Johnsbury VT 05819 - 800-642-5119

Green Mountain Support Services –
93 James Road, Morrisville VT 05661 – 802-888-7602
1222 Main St. Suite 102, St Johnsbury VT 05819 - 802-424-1636
After Hours on call Pager: 802-741-7515 or you can e-mail info@gmssi.org

VT Office of Veteran's Affairs – 802-828-3379 or Visit the website at veterans.vermont.gov
Veterans in Crisis – 800-273-8255 – Press 1 to reach the VA Hotline – Counselors are available 24 hours.

Pathways Vermont – Supportive Services for Veterans and Families -PO Box #127 Winooski, VT 05404 - info@pathwaysvermont.org 888-492-8218** *Final outcome of individual unknown at time of writing.*

Zoning Administrator's Report

This year was a different sort of year for Zoning Applications. Through the first seven months of the year, we were behind by about forty percent for Zoning Applications compared to previous years. After July, things picked up and we ended up with twenty three applications so we were only down about ten percent over the average year.

We had several issues this year pertaining to Zoning. The biggest issue has been and continues to be that people do not apply for the Zoning Permit and start to build, or do not get the proper State Permits prior to starting a project. If you have any questions in regards to either needing a Permit or needing the proper Permits from both the State of Vermont and the Town of Groton, please contact me. I will either have the answer or I will get you the answer as quickly as I can. In one instance, a person started digging a foundation prior to the Permit being approved and ended up moving the entire foundation thirty five feet as they were encroaching on the neighbor's property and did not adhere to our setbacks. Other issues were not having State approved Potable Water Permits or Wastewater Permits. The number of issues with the Shoreline Protection Act Permit were way down from previous years. That speaks highly of the gentlemen that are our contractors in those areas. They are doing a great job making sure their Clients have the proper Permits.

I have spent a great deal of time this year in answering questions to potential home or land purchasers for our area. There seems to be a great deal of interest in purchasing property in the Town of Groton. That says a lot about our town and our town Leadership in regards to the direction we are going.

Once again, feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding the Town of Groton Zoning. I can be reached at (802) 584-4108 or at: daniacs@charter.net it has been my pleasure to work with you and for you the last year as Zoning Administrator. It has also been a pleasure to work with the Planning Commission on several projects. They handle the Subdivision process after that Zoning Application is filed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Webster
Town of Groton Zoning Administrator

Planning Commission

Groton's Planning Commission continues to meet regularly and perform the functions assigned to the Commission. In the past year, the Planning Commission has updated the Town's Zoning Bylaws and updated the Town's All Hazards Mitigation Plan. The Commission has also met with Flood Plain Managers from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to discuss upcoming updates to FEMA flood maps and floodplain regulations. Commissioners have continued to work on the Vermont Outdoor Recreation (VOREC) Grant and look into and apply for other grant opportunities that could benefit the Town and Townspeople. Our meetings are open to the public and all are encouraged and welcome to attend. We generally meet on the third Tuesday of the month, though we do plan around commissioner's calendars, so keep an eye on the Town Website for our confirmed meeting dates. In the coming year, the Planning Commission will have plenty of opportunities for our neighbors and residents of Groton to provide comments and input on plans that the Town is putting forward. The two major planning projects in 2024 are an update to the Town Plan, which will include a survey of Townspeople, and the Groton Gateway Park planning, which is part of the VOREC grant. Public input is a big part of the Gateway Park planning as well, so look out for more information regarding that.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the members of the Groton Planning Commission and the Town's Zoning Administrator, Dan Webster, for their outstanding attendance and thoughtfulness in the past year. The Commission's accomplishments are a credit to the Commissioners who attend and contribute to each and every meeting and we couldn't do it without you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Nahmias – Chairperson – Groton Planning Commission

Recreation Committee Report 2023

Do you have Recreation Committee ideas? Do you need sponsorship of a Recreational activity? Please don't hesitate to reach out to any Recreation committee member!

2023 Notable Activities and Events

Music in the Park

The Recreation Committee sponsored advertising and the *opening act* for the Music in the Park Event that occurred July & August 2023.

Halloween Party

The Rec. Committee was a sponsor for the Jazzy's Children's Fund Annual Halloween Party and hosted the "Haunted Gingerbread Houses" activity station. This popular event is free for all families and includes crafts, games, giveaways and snacks. We welcomed about 50 children this year.

Swim Lesson Research

For many years Groton sponsored a swim program at Boulder Beach but it was discontinued years ago when Red Cross discontinued their program. Presently, the *Aquatic Connection* seems to be the prevalent group that offers swim lessons in the NEK. <https://theaquaticconnection.com/>. Meeting summary:

- Aquatic Connections does all the administration and billing involved
- Registration is done online
- They are fully insured and have their own waiver
- They provide all advertising and Posters
- Cost is \$115/student for 30 or less, \$110 for more than 30. Additional \$250 - \$500 fee for travel
- Red Cross certified instruction

As a community it is very easy to appreciate the benefits of teaching children to swim, there are so many rivers and ponds throughout our local area. It's also easy to justify swim lessons in terms of the danger to children who do not know how to swim. Swim lessons can also be viewed as lifelong gift that we can give our resident children. However, what has to be determined is the funding.

Winter Lantern Walk

Groton Recreation sponsored the SD Ireland Holiday Mixer to appear as part of the Groton Free Public Library's Winter Lantern Walk.

Upcoming Events to Watch for in 2024

Be on the lookout for a Barn Quilt (paint-along) announcement.



Collaboration on a public bike station for the town.

Recreation Committee Members:

Lisa Hart, Janet Page, Michael Gaiss and Jennie Gaiss

The Groton Food Shelf

The Groton Food Shelf would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous donations of food and/or money.

Groton United Methodist Church

Groton Baptist Church

Skinny Pancake

Kirsten Murch & Alan Massey

Town of Ryegate

Ryegate Presbyterian Women

BMU Finding Our Stride

Susan Fullerton

Mike & Jennie Gaiss

The Blue Mountain Grange

BMU School

Ken & Barb Nelson

Carolyn & Malcolm Darling

Judy Thrasher in memory of Norman & Marion Murray

If we missed you we apologize and please know your donation was greatly appreciated.

The Food Shelf gave out 16 Thanksgiving Baskets and 15 Christmas baskets plus gift cards to Ocean State Job Lots for parents to choose gifts for their children.

If you are in need please call 584-3276, Mon-Thurs. or email townclerk@grotonvt.com to set up a time to pick up food.

<u>Food Shelf 2023 Beginning Balance:</u>	\$9,070.19
Donations:	\$3,620.00
Interest Earned:	87.36
Expenses: (Food, gift cards, personal care items, donations)	\$4,674.52
Ending Balance:	\$8,103.03

Resources:

3SquaresVT 1-800-479-6151

Vermont Food Bank, 1-800-585-2265

Vermont 2-1-1, dial 211 or go to vermont211.org



Groton Historical Society - The Peter Paul House

Groton Historical Society is now open monthly for the first time in decades, thanks to Brent Smith and other members

The Sleeping Sentinel, Groton's most famous hero

And

Bristol Bill, our most notorious outlaw, were a focus of attention this year.

Deborah Jurist unwound the facts and myths of both stories using documented sources and presented them to the public at the Peter Paul House. Both stories, the most complete ever, are now on the website www.grotonvthistory.com look under "Learn about Groton"



Groton Weddings were on display and their professional presentation by Phyllis Burke, has prompted plans to present them at the Vermont Historical Society in 2025.

Articles of Association were updated with help from member Dawn Evans approved by the members. Two Directors were added to our dedicated roster of officers, Allen Goodine a lifetime resident of Groton and Louise Reynolds a newcomer who is also the newsletter editor.

The Newsletter continues to feature our own citizens as well as items in our collection, and happenings in the GHS.

Future Projects:

- *Storage Space: GHS must dedicate space and resources to a growing collection.
- *Improve atmospheric conditions: Create dehumidification in storage areas.
- *Newsletter printing: The printer we have been using is old and GHS needs to make plans for the future.

Annual membership fee is \$25 and lifetime membership is \$175.

You can now pay dues and donate online at www.grotonvthistory.com

See you at the Peter Paul House in 2024,

Deborah Jurist - President

Groton Community Club Report

The Groton Community Club had another successful year.

The Groton Community Club continues to support the community and the Groton seniors going on to further education following graduation. This year, The Groton Community Club held two successful events.

In February, we held a Chicken BBQ Ride In. The Upper Valley Grill hosted this event, and 200 Chicken meals were prepared. Snowmobile riders and locals enjoyed the meals while raising money for the Groton Community Club.

The annual Chicken Pie Supper was held with overwhelming support and attendance. We continued with three seating's and a to-go option for meals. Over 500 meals were sold. The rain didn't stop us from also selling our vintage sweatshirts at the fall foliage parade.

The Groton Community Club provided \$3,600 in scholarships to Groton seniors furthering their education. We thank our community for the support and look forward to another year ahead!

Tracy Emerson
Secretary

The Buckaroo's of 302

The Buckaroos of 302 stand at 294 members as we look to improve upon last year's membership. The July flooding event took a toll on some sections of trails, especially on the Rail Road bed. We were fortunate to come away with minimal damage compared to other areas. The 302A trail by Silver Ledge is currently closed due to a large section washing out, if we receive enough snow, we will work to fill in the washed out areas and open the trail. A huge thank you to Matt Puffer for working to repair washouts and resetting culverts. Our volunteer crew re-decked one bridge by Ricker's Mill/CA4 as well as needing to completely replace two bridges on the 2014 trail by Seyon Lodge. For trail work, we worked on cutting back the 2014 trail as well as the 302/2004 trail. We'd like to thank our volunteers for all that they do and the hours that they put in every fall to keep our 60 miles of trails in top shape. We were able to go around and open gates by snowmobile on opening weekend but warm weather and rain has put a pause on grooming until we receive more snow and cold weather. Finally, we would like to specifically thank Mike Gaiss and Mike Nahmias for the countless hours they have volunteered working on the VOREC grant awarded to the Town of Groton.

Current list of officers:

President - Taylor Lamberton; Vice President - Kevin McDonnell; Secretary - Stuart Russo-Savage;
Trail master - Gary Lamberton; Media Coordinator - Suzanne Pare; Treasurer - Dwaine Smith



Groton Community Garden

In its third season, the Groton Community Garden opened its free produce stand behind the Community Building. The stand served as a popular distribution point for produce, not only from the community garden, but also from local gardeners wanting to share their harvests. In the off-season, the stand serves as the garden's storage shed.

Thanks go to Lance Mills and his woodworking class at the Riverbend Career and Technical Center for building the produce stand/equipment shed and to Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb & family for designing the stand and transporting it to Groton. We also thank Lois and Jim Bostrum for increasing the accessibility of the garden with two customized raised beds (trugs).

Also, in 2023, the community garden expanded its shared programming with the Groton Free Public Library and the Growing Peace Project with a Three Sisters garden honoring the wisdom of Groton's ancestral Abenaki people, who wisely planted corn, beans and squash clustered together in their gardens. The library invited local children and their families for a special story time at the Three Sisters garden.

The Groton Community Garden enjoys an active partnership with the Growing Peace Project and support from many others across the community. We welcome volunteers and plant donations for our 2024 season. Contact us at grotoncommunitygarden@gmail.com

Green Up Day

Green Up Day 2023 was another successful day of cleaning up and beautifying our road ways. This year we had 39 volunteers, disposed of 54 bags and 26 tires. In 2022 we had 40 volunteers, and disposed of 79 bags, 38 tires and 2 refrigerators. It is my hope that we had less trash this year, because folks did such a fantastic job last year and so there wasn't as much litter on our road ways.

Green Up Day takes place every spring on the first Saturday of May, this year that will be May 4, 2024. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets and bags around April 20, 2024, at the Town Office, the Groton Free Public Library and at the Upper Valley Grill.

As always, thank you to all our volunteers!

See you in the spring!
Alissa Smith
Green Up Day Coordinator



The Invasive Species Working Group

Has your property been invaded by Japanese knotweed? If so, please respond; see below.

Japanese knotweed is a rapidly growing non-native, plant that has invaded most of the properties along the Wells River, as well as many other locations in Groton. It is frequently mistaken for bamboo. It has large, heart-shaped leaves that are quick to shade out native species. It takes over roadsides, residences, and community areas, threatens our riverbanks, fish and wildlife habitats, and increases fire danger. It will target weak spots in buildings, crack masonry, split pipes and ravage foundations. It infiltrates even the smallest cracks and winds its way through drains and septic systems, blocking and eventually breaking pipes. The damage can be extremely costly to a property owner, as well as lowering property values, even to the extent of preventing a potential sale.

How it spreads: While the 6-10 feet tall stems of the plant look menacing, the real issue is the underground rhizomes that rapidly invade new areas. Up to 2/3 of the mature plant's biomass is stored underground in its system of rhizomes. Cutting or mowing knotweed only removes the above ground portion and only serves to stimulate the rhizome to send up additional shoots. The rhizomes can go down 8 feet, so digging is unlikely to remove them, and every small piece of rhizome can produce another plant. In addition, the cut stems can generate new plants. Moving contaminated soil is one of the major routes for transmission to another location, whether it be a result of road or building construction, or the result of flooding. New plants spread by the July 2023 flood have already sprouted in some areas.

How to control Japanese knotweed: For small patches of knotweed, suggested approaches for control include smothering for 5 years, or direct injection of herbicide into stems. For large patches, which is the majority of the problem in Groton, the only effective control requires foliar spraying with herbicide. This requires cutting stems in early July, allowing the stems to regrow, and then spray in late summer when the rhizomes are further depleted of energy. Success with this approach is considered better than 85% control, not 100%, so needs to be repeated for several years. Every landowner can control their own patch of knotweed using strategies that we have posted on the Groton town website:

(<https://cdn.townweb.com/grotonvt.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SOP.pdf>)

Progress: Over the past year, the working group has evaluated and tested several of the approaches described on the town website. We have engaged a local contractor who is licensed to spray herbicide on large patches and by the river. Our volunteers have met with many residents and provided assistance and consultation. We are also submitting a grant to the Fish and Wildlife Department to support treatment along the Wells River through downtown.

How you can help

- If your property has been invaded, let us know your name, location, and approximate size of patch
- Stay alert for any new invasion (a major problem after the July flood) and report it to us. The sooner it is recognized, the more likely it can be controlled
- If you have a brush cutter and are willing to volunteer, your help next July would be appreciated

How we can help

- We can visit and survey your patch of Japanese knotweed
- We can recommend possible solutions
- We may be able to provide volunteer help
- For large patches, or near water, we can link you up with our Vermont-certified contractor

Our current working group: Alan Eastman, Cindy Spoor, Dale Thorenson

Contact: Alan.R.Eastman@Dartmouth.edu

VOREC Grant Update

The Town of Groton was awarded a \$225,000 Vermont Outdoor Recreation (VOREC) Grant from the State of Vermont's Department of Forest Parks and Recreation to complete the following:

- + Overhaul the town-owned railbed (similar to the work the State did to their railbed in 2020)
- + Establish a parking area and trailhead near the Village on Town property
- + Improve signage and wayfinding along the railbed
- + Acquire the Former Lower Groton Hydroelectric Dam property from Green Mountain Power
- + Develop a concept master plan for the Groton Gateway which would link the Village and the Railbed by way of green space such as the GMP property mentioned above and the stump dump

This is an exciting year for the beloved railbed as all of the work listed above will be taking place in 2024! **Expect parts of the trail to be closed during reconstruction starting this Spring and please respect all signs that indicate the railbed is closed and do not enter construction areas.**

Besides construction work on the trail, the Groton Planning Commission will be working on the concept master plan for the Gateway Park Project with plenty of opportunity for the community to provide input. There will be information gathering for ideas through a public meeting and a survey. The planning project is expected to kick off in June with community engagement and then continue into the development of the concept master plan. Feel free to share any thoughts or ideas in advance as well.

It has been through the hard work of many volunteers that this grant was awarded to the town and many volunteers have helped support these projects through hundreds of hours of on-the-ground trail work. This has been truly an all hands on deck effort. Everyone who's worked on this recognizes that Groton is best known for its trails and the railbed is our signature trail bisecting our town and connecting lowlands and the village to the forest and beyond (plus all points in between!).

The VOREC Grant team would like to thank the Buckaroos of 302 and all their volunteers for the incredible amount of trail work done to prepare the railbed for construction. Big thanks also go to Greg Western of the Cross Vermont Trail Association for his assistance in planning and his knowledge on all things railbed. Greg has been an essential part of our team trekking out to Groton for our meetings and providing all sorts of guidance. Greg could be listed below but we chose to thank Greg here instead.

Your All-Volunteer VOREC Grant Team,

Michael Nahmias, Groton Planning Commission

Gary Lamberton, Buckaroos of 302 Snowmobile Club

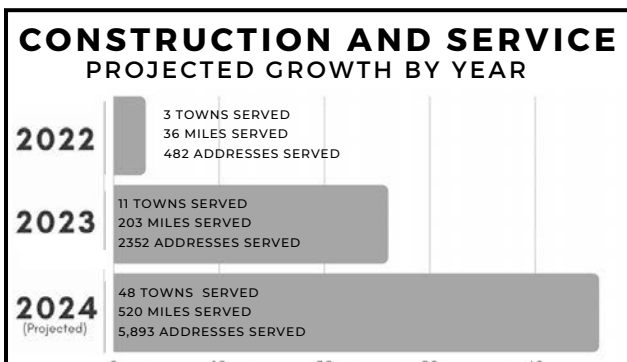
Mike Gaiss, Groton Recreation Committee

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

In 2023, NEK Broadband put in place the additional staff, funding and infrastructure needed to continue delivering on its promise to bring high-speed, reliable internet to unserved and underserved communities in the NEK. We've made significant progress in building the "backbone" of our network throughout the region. This "backbone" of interlocking fiber optic cable will provide extra reliability for our internet service. We received a USDA ReConnect grant of 17.5 million to cover most of Essex County, thus freeing up more funds to expand our network build in the rest of the NEK. This year, we also increased our construction capacity and our ability to purchase and store more materials so that we can increase the speed of our buildout.



2352 
SERVICE AVAILABLE
WE NOW OFFER SERVICE TO
2352 ADDRESSES IN THE
NEK.

179 
CUSTOMERS SERVED
IN 2023, WE OVER DOUBLED
THE NUMBER OF
CUSTOMERS SERVED.

203 
MILES SERVED
AT THE END OF 2023, WE
NOW HAVE 203 MILES OF
FIBER NETWORK SERVED
THROUGHOUT THE NEK.

NEK 
BROADBAND

GRANTS & FINANCING

- We were awarded a USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000 that will cover most of the addresses in Essex county and Eastern Orleans and Caledonia counties.
- The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$17.94 million in construction funding, bringing the total investment in NEK Broadband to \$38.9 million to date.
- Our 2022 financials were given an unqualified "clean" opinion (evaluation) by our auditors.

BUILDING CAPACITY

- We are up to 6 full-time staff.
- We now have active warehouses in Danville, St. Johnsbury and Brighton for the storage of construction materials.
- We are working with state and vocational partners to train and increase the workforce in the NEK to help build our network.

BUDGET SUMMARY

OVER \$15,876,591 HAS BEEN INVESTED IN NEK COMMUNITY-OWNED BROADBAND.

2023 BUDGET TO ACTUAL (PROJECTED)			2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	Budget	Actual 2023 (Projected)	Projected Surplus from 2023	\$355,546
Administrative Grant Revenue	\$2,252,718	\$996,599	Administrative Grant Revenue	\$2,564,532
Operations Revenue	\$747,767	\$222,790	Operations Revenue	\$852,455
Capital Grant Revenue	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Capital Grant Revenue	\$36,200,196
Total Cash In	\$31,785,773	\$11,530,536	Total Cash In	\$39,617,183
Administrative Cost	\$1,847,194	\$852,862	Administrative Cost	\$1,885,621
Operational Cost	\$586,601	\$235,395	Operational Cost	\$678,912
Construction Cost	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Construction Cost	\$36,200,196
Total Cash Out	\$31,219,083	\$11,399,404	Total Cash Out	\$38,764,729
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$682,205	\$131,132	Annual Net Cash Flow	\$852,455
Increase in Capital Assets	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Increase in Capital Assets	\$36,000,196

ABOUT NEK BROADBAND

We are a Communications Union District (CUD), a municipal entity representing our 51 member communities in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties, plus Wolcott in Lamoille County. Our district is building high-speed broadband internet infrastructure for underserved communities in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at get.nekbroadband.org.

NEK Broadband (NEKB) Communication Union District (CUD)

We entered 2023 with the goals of having premises along our ARPA buildout area (Great Road-Minard Hill-Powder Spring corridor + Mt Ara Road + Annis Road) connected with broadband service by the end of 2023 / early 2024.

In terms of progress during the year, NEKB deployed an Optical Line Equipment (OLT) shed in Groton this year, one of four OLTs built by NEKB this year. This is a critical piece of infrastructure for essentially “lighting up” premises when in a position to do so. NEKB has also paid Green Mountain Power (GMP) for the make ready work to get to the Groton OLT from Peacham.

In addition to the above progress, several unexpected challenges and setbacks occurred during the year that have impacted the above plans and goals. These include:

- GMP’s estimated make-ready pole costs for the Village and Powder Spring area came in around 70 times higher than normal. NEKB picked up the costs for the make ready work down to the OLT. It was decided to include the GMP make ready costs in the Community Connect Grant application, tying the timing of deployment up the Powder Spring corridor to the success of receiving this grant.
- NEKB continues to encounter challenges regarding the availability & reliability of construction crews assigned to build out the network in Groton and the greater area. This along with the ripple effect from work not being completed first in other dependent areas, has impacted the rollout schedule in Groton. NEKB has had to replace work crews and continues to cast a wider net to source other crews.

For the ARPA buildout area, with the exception of the Powder Spring corridor (and Annis Rd) the current expectation on timing is that NEKB should be able to get to some people in this area by late spring 2024.

USDA Community Connect Grant & Community Center

In June, we opportunistically teamed up with NEKB and they applied for a highly competitive \$2,119,899 USDA Community Connect grant. The total project size for the above initiative is \$3,055,434. This includes the grant amount, 15% in matching funds provided by NEKB (\$317,985), and the costs incurred by NEKB (\$617,550) for related infrastructure work that would need to be done.

If awarded, the funds will be used to:

- Bring fiber broadband connectivity to over 250 premises in Groton and South Ryegate.
- Create a new Community Center in Groton (thank you RuralEdge!) and outfit the Groton Free Public Library and the S. Ryegate Library with equipment & other technology (~\$150,000 for this).
- Install a Wi-Fi Hotspot at the newly relaunched Groton Nature Center that will enable year-round accessibility for residents, visitors, first responders.

Over 300 volunteer hours went into this application along with a considerable time investment by NEKB. We had 113 residents respond to our grant survey, with 40 residents indicating that they may be able to volunteer to help support the community center. In addition, over 30 businesses, organizations, schools, libraries, and state agencies provided us with letters of support for our application.

In December 2023 we learned that the USDA published a correction notice regarding the Community Connect Grant and that they will have to start a new application window. Our application will essentially be “reset,” giving us the opportunity to modify our application and re-submit again in February 2024. We are reevaluating next steps with NEKB.

In summary, we’re experiencing firsthand how challenging it can be to deploy rural broadband. It takes time, money, and perseverance. Supply chain issues, workforce availability & reliability, unpredictable costs make it more difficult. Progress is being made though and we expect that to continue into 2024.

Caledonia County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff James Hemond
970 Memorial Drive St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
P: (802)748-6666 F: (802)748-1684
Email: caledoniasheriff.net

Upon taking office of February of 2023 I was eager to make positive changes within the department. I immediately sought qualified competent applicants to add to the department's depleted roster. During the spring and summer I was able to add four new deputies to the ranks resulting in 11 deputies employed with the department. I reconnected with area Law Enforcement Fire, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Human Services Agencies not only in Caledonia County but State wide. Much of these relationships resulted in opportunities to train, assist with service to community members and law enforcement and combine resources to best serve the community. We completed our annual financial audit for the department in 2023 and it resulted in no findings or problems of any kind.

We continue to add vehicles to our fleet, 3 new patrol cruisers were purchased, replacing an aging fleet that have served us well. We have 9 marked cars, a transport van for prisoner transports, and one unmarked car for civil process service. The radar cart was deployed throughout the county providing speed deterrence where deployed.

It was my great pleasure to return to security services at this year's Caledonia County Fair. This would not have been possible without the dedication of my staff, but also much appreciated help from The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. The department was also contacted throughout the year by several towns for contracted patrols. Of the 17 towns in the county the department provides services to 13 of these towns. Due to staffing shortages it has been difficult to provide consistent services to these communities but we are working hard to improve as well as increase our presence to provide consistent, quality, and cost effective Law Enforcement Services to you all of you. As much as possible we maintain an active presence with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We have been involved with drills and evacuation plans and will continue to assist as needed. The department maintains a Take Back Drugs Location serving as a drop off for expired, unused and no longer needed Rx medications. 2023 saw the expiration of many deputies body armor. Grant money provided by the US Department of Justice sees to it that *every* six years body armor is replaced to provide every sworn member of Law Enforcement access to daily worn body armor. I took this opportunity to upgrade body armor providing all of us with the most protection available. The department also purchased Axon body worn cameras with funds received from a grant from the state of Vermont. I continue to apply for grants and seek funding to provide the most modern, quality, cost prohibitive equipment for the department to best serve the community.

I would like to announce the retirement of Sergeant Steven Gadapee and Deputy Gilbert Roberts. Each served over 30 years as Law Enforcement Officers and will be missed.

Having served with the department for 18 years I will continue to make my best effort to serve all of you in this wonderful community whether you live, work, play or raise a family. I am always available for any questions or comments here at the office and feel free to visit our Facebook page as well.

Respectfully;

James Hemond

Caledonia County Sheriff

Annual Town Yard Sale at Community Building Parking Lot

Saturday of Memorial Weekend the town held their 2nd annual yard sale.

We would like this to be an annual event rain or shine.

Tables and chairs are available to rent for the day.

This year it will be held on May 25 2024

8:00 am – 1:00

Sign -up sheet will be available at office entranceway prior to event



Groton Lunches w/ Friends

AKA~ Senior Meals

After four plus years of service to the greater Groton Community, Groton Lunches w/ Friends sadly closed its doors early in June 2023. A Vermont state approved senior meal site, GLWF was sponsored by the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. With their support and encouragement, the site served nutritious lunches every Thursday at noon, and delivered Meals on Wheels to qualified area residents. For those area residents seeking similar programs, the NEKCOA continues to sponsor meal sites in Ryegate and West Barnet.

The GLWF organization will always be grateful for the financial support that was received from our town over the years we served the community, and we were happy to return to the town 6 months' worth of our 2023 appropriation.

Our small but very dedicated volunteer staff was plagued with scheduling conflicts and illnesses and were unable to round up the additional volunteers needed to cover the necessary planning and preparations. We miss all our weekly attendees and hope you are choosing to support out neighboring sites.

Ryegate serves lunches on Tuesdays and West Barnet serves lunches on Wednesday and Friday every week.

Thank you for the pleasure of serving our community over these past few years.

Jean Denson Pierce
GLWF Volunteer Coordinator
Groton, Vt. 05046



NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 1075 LYNDONVILLE, VERMONT 05851

(802)626-3532 OR (800)734-4602 FAX (802)626-3519

www.nekwmd.org

November 13, 2023

NEKWMD

Member

RE: NEKWMD DRAFT 2024 BUDGET

Please find enclosed the NEKWMD draft budget for 2024.

The proposed 2024 budget represents an increase of 6% compared to the 2023 budget - \$52,148. The increase is due primarily to the addition of employer sponsored health insurance. The good news is the District hauling fees and tire fees will remain unchanged in 2024. There is a \$0.10 increase in the per capita assessment to help offset health insurance costs.

There are several key items likely to affect member towns in 2024. These include:

- A per capita assessment of \$1.16 will be assessed in 2024. This represents a \$0.10 increase compared to 2023. This assessment is necessary to pay for costs associated with health insurance (\$54,500 of the estimated \$72,000).
- The proposed surcharge rate for 2024 is \$26.75/ton - an increase of \$0.76/ton.
- Stop charges for servicing District schools and recycling facilities will remain unchanged. Schools will be charged \$33/stop and recycling facilities will be charged \$49/stop.
- Fee for compost totes is expected to remain the same in 2024 -\$10.00/tote.
- The per ton charge for tires will remain the same in 2024. Individual tire prices shall remain unchanged.

There will be 2 public hearings to receive comments on the 2024 proposed budget. The first shall be held on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 5:30 pm. The second public hearing shall be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 5:30pm. Both meetings shall be held via ZOOM with in-person option available at the District office located at 224 Church Street in Lyndonville.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.
Most sincerely,


Paul A. Tomasi
Executive Director

**TOWN OF RYEGATE
TOWN OF GROTON**

JULY 20, 2023

Dear Groton/Ryegate recyclers,

Enclosed with this letter you will find your 2023/2024 recycling sticker. You are receiving this sticker as a resident and taxpayer of our two towns. You can choose whether to attach the sticker to the vehicle that you take to recycling or if you have more than one car that goes to recycling you can simply have the sticker with you when you come.

For many years we have enjoyed a "the more the merrier" approach to recycling and have welcomed recyclers from other towns and states. Now, however, we have to pay Northeast Kingdom Waste Management for every trip they make to East Ryegate to pick up our recycling. This cost has been borne by the taxpayers of Groton and Ryegate but not by our visitors from elsewhere. And so, we are introducing the stickers. Recyclers from other towns will still be welcome to recycle with us but they will need to purchase a sticker at \$25.00 per annual sticker. Considering what it costs to throw away a bag of trash, \$25.00 for a year of unlimited recycling is quite a bargain. At this time, we are only estimating how much money the sale of the stickers will raise but we will be able to fine tune the program in the future.

The stickers will be available for purchase at either the Ryegate or Groton Town Clerk's office or at the recycling station in East Ryegate. Residents who do not receive a sticker with their tax bill can pick one up at the Town Clerk's offices at no cost, but you will need to verify your resident status with the clerk. We expect to allow a grace period while we all get used to the new program and to allow for the difference in the mailing dates of the tax bills in the two towns.

This program will go into effect October 1, 2023.

Thank you for your understanding and happy recycling!

Groton and Ryegate Selectboards

**RYEGATE/GROTON RECYCLING CENTER
BULK WASTE PRICING**

Effective June 1, 2023

Mattress:

King or Queen-\$20.00

Full or Twin-\$10.00

Box Spring:

King or Queen-\$10.00

Full or Twin-\$5.00

Couch-(Regular)-\$20.00

(Sectional)-\$30.00

Recliner-----\$10.00

Wooden Chair or Rocking Chair-\$5.00

CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION

Full Pick-up Truck or Equivalent

(Floor to side rails)

Full---\$40.00

Half---\$20.00

Quarter---\$10.00

NOTE

To be broken down as much as possible and stacked in the dumpster

TIRES

Up to 17 inches-\$4.00

The price is more for Larger Tires

Town Building's Use Policy

Town Buildings play an important role in our community and we hope to promote their use while continuing to meet the growing cost of maintenance. We ask that those using the facilities contribute a portion of the money required to cover the cost of cleaning, utilities, heating and general upkeep.

Taxpayer money provides for the bulk of this financial burden but a portion of the increased maintenance cost is due to the increased use and needs.

Increased activity has also required that our scheduling policy be updated to allow for more residents and diverse activities to be accommodated.

All Town Buildings will be available for public use providing there is no conflict with Town-sponsored activities.

Town Building usage by town residents shall take precedence over non-resident, non-profit, or private use.

Space will be scheduled in hourly segments with a fee of \$10.00 per hour for residents & \$15.00 per hour for non-residents. The daily charge for renting Tables and Chairs and taking them off site:

- Plastic 8 Foot Table- \$1.00
- Metal folding chairs-\$.50

There will be a separate \$50.00 cleaning and damage deposit at the time the reservations are made and paid in advance. It will be returned after the space has been determined to be clean and damage free, within 7 days after space use.

Multiple day events will cost minimum \$100.00 plus the \$50.00 deposit fee.

A Donation for the use of Ballfields and Parks would be appreciated.

Funeral related events will be charged a flat fee of \$20.00 for non-resident and free to residents.

Town of Groton will need to be listed as Certificate Holder for General Liability Insurance. Specifics can be found at the Town Treasurer's Office.

The Town Building Sign-Up Sheet and Release of Responsibility Form will be available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.

It is the responsibility of the individuals or groups using Town Building's to clean the rented space and to remove their trash & take with you after each use.

The key must be returned promptly after the function. Keys shall not be duplicated.

Misuse of any of the Groton Town Building Facilities and/or premises and/or failure to comply with the above policy, or any of the rules will result in immediate revocation of permission to use any of the facilities in the future.

Updated September 14, 2022

Veterans Exemption

The Local Agreement/Veterans Exemption reduces a Veterans property value by \$40,000. The State of VT pays the taxes on \$10,000 and the town covers the remaining taxes on \$30,000.

This was approved by the Town in 2009.

To be eligible for exemption, Veterans must meet one of the three criteria listed below

- Receive Disability compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive Improved Pension (also called Non –Service Connected Disability Pension) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military.

To be eligible for the exemption, Survivors must be the un –remarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death.

Form can be found at the Town Clerks office or go to www.veterans.vt.gov for more information.

VOTERS ONLINE REGISTRATION

Beginning January 1, 2017, eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of the election.

Registration is available during all normal business hours of your town or city clerk's office on day's preceding the election and during polling hours on Election Day. 17 V.S.A. § 2144

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page:
<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- Check registration status
- View information on upcoming elections
- Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours
- View a sample ballot
- Request and track an absentee ballot

Online registration can be found at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

More information can be found at
<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

Presidential Primary Election-March 5, 2024

What many people like about Vermont is that voters do not have to register with a specific political party. In State and Federal Primaries, voters may vote for whatever party they choose.

Unlike the State Primary in August when voters get all available party ballots but may only vote on one party's ballot (discarding unvoted ballots when checking out), at the Presidential Primary in March, voters are required, by State Statute, to choose the party's ballot they would like to vote on when they check in at the entrance checklist, receiving only that ballot.

Statute 17 V.S.A. § 2704 reads, "A person voting at the Primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter's choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the secretary of state, to indicate the voter's party choice. The names of all candidates on the ballot shall be listed in alphabetical order. Each voter may vote for one candidate for the presidential nomination of one party, either by placing a mark opposite the printed name of a candidate as in other primaries, or by writing in the name of the candidate of the voter's choice.

(Added 1979, No. 199 (Adj. Sess.), § 1, eff. May 6, 1980; amended 1995, No. 38, § 4; 2003, No. 59, § 43.)"

What many people don't like is ONLY being allowed to vote for one party at the Primaries. People like to mix 'n' match their candidate picks. Voters should rest assured that they may mix 'n' match party selections at the November General Election when there is one ballot for all parties.

Absentee ballots will need to be requested for this election.

Statewide Primary Election- August 13, 2024

A primary election is an election in which registered voters select a candidate that they believe should be a political party's candidate for elected office to run in the general election. The Primary is also used to choose convention delegates and party leaders. Primaries are state-level and local-level elections that take place prior to a general election. Vermont utilizes an open primary system, in which registered voters do not have to be members of a party to vote in that party's primary. Offices voted on will include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, State Senate, State Representative and High Bailiff. At this Election voters will receive all available party ballots (usually three), but will only vote on one and return the other ballots unvoted.

Absentee ballots will need to be requested for this election.

General Election- November 5, 2024

Presidents and Vice Presidents are elected every 4 years. In the U.S. Congress, Senators are elected every 6 years and Representatives are elected every 2 years. There will be one ballot with the parties "mingled" among the offices. The State of Vermont will be mailing the ballots to **all** Active voters.

There is **no** need to request an absentee ballot for this election.

IN PERSON VOTING IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR ALL ELECTIONS!!!



<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

<https://olvr.vermont.gov/>



MARRIAGES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>
MARCH 15, 2023	KAYLA ANN WOODWORTH	JAMES DANIEL BLYTHE
MAY 19, 2023	STEVEN ALLEN MURRAY	TANYA DENISE DARLING
JULY 7, 2023	TERRY HERBERT WILLIAMS	NANCY LYNN HAMLETT
SEPTEMBER 9, 2023	TIMOTHY BRIAN DERBY	RACHAEL CORMICLE
OCTOBER 12, 2023	JOSHUA DAVID KOSAKOWSKI	JENNIFER LYNN KIDDER
DECEMBER 5,, 2023	MARK HENRY BISSONNETTE	SANDRA JEAN WOODWORTH
DECEMBER 21, 2023	T.E. WILLIAMS	PHOEBE MARGARET POTTER

BIRTHS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MOTHER</u>	<u>FATHER</u>
ADRIAN JANE WELLS	BRIANNA MURPHY	WILLIAM WELLS
AVA-MARIE EMMA WELLS	BRIANNA MURPHY	WILLIAM WELLS
EILA LOUISE ROWE	MEGAN FOY	JEFFERY ROWE
JERNIE MAE GILDA GAFFNEY	TABERTHER ST.LAURENT	KEITH GAFFNEY
JAMESON PATRICK GEARY	LINDSAY GEARY	JOHNATHAN GEARY
BLAKELY JILL GOCKLIN	CHELSEA DUNHAM	SKYE GOCKLIN
ALINE ELISE FENNIMORE	LEAH RUTHERFORD	CLAYTON FENNIMORE

DEATHS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>
RICHARD ALLAN PALMER	66
JOHN PORTER LORD	74
SANDRA DENNIS	74
DONALD CALVIN DARLING	86
DANA DWAYNE KENNEDY	83
SHAWN B. CORBETT	58
GLORIA J BRIMBLECOMBE	81
CHERYL JUNE WILSON	88

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

St. Johnsbury Local Health Office | 107 Eastern Ave, Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, VT
802-748-5151 | AHS.VDHSJohnsbury@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The St. Johnsbury Local Health Office serves towns in Caledonia, southern Essex and a portion of Orange counties.** Some highlights of 2023 are below. For more information on our work and the areas we serve, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury



Pregnant People, Infants and Children

Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) team received 1 of only 13 national Premiere Level 2023 WIC Breastfeeding Awards of Excellence.

- In 2023, our WIC Program **helped more than 775** pregnant people, infants and children under 5. We offer **healthy food**, breastfeeding **support**, nutrition **education** and community service **connections**.
- We worked with Salvation Farms to give families free local fresh **seasonal produce**.
- To make our services **more accessible**, our staff provided tele-WIC and expanded to 5 community clinic sites, including 2 daycares.



Collaborations and Collective Impact

Our team participates in many collaborative efforts in our community. Some 2023 highlights include:

- **NEK Prosper!** - The Caledonia & Southern Essex County Accountable Health Community - working to leverage relationships and collaborative action to build community health equity.
- **NEK United** - Bringing together public health and community leaders to work towards advancing health equity and well-being for all. Our work together will bring limited national funding to our region.
- **Radon Test Kit Distribution** - Our pilot program worked with town clerks, librarians and health centers. It led to an increase in test kits distributed in Caledonia and Southern Essex counties.



Prepared and Responsive

Our team is prepared to respond to changing community needs and emerging public health threats. In 2023 our staff:

- **Investigated** reports of infectious diseases and outbreaks.
- **Vaccinated** uninsured or underinsured people with COVID, flu, Mpox and other immunizations.
- Distributed free **home drinking water test kits** after historic flooding affected many in our community.
- Joined the collaborative NEK long-term **recovery planning efforts** post-flooding.
- Supported the Northeast Kingdom **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**—contact us to volunteer!



TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (**VSNIIP**), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law by six months of age.** Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics as well as humane societies during the month of March. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

Licensing a dog:

- 1) Helps identify your dog if lost.
- 2) Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but still needs immediate medical attention}.
- 3) Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}.
- 4) Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT.

For an Application for VSNIIP and a List of Participating Offices, send a S.A.S.E. (a 9" Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope) to: VSNIIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Or, to download and print, go to: VSNIIP.VERMONT.GOV Indicate if it's for a cat, dog or both. Once *fully* completed, you will mail it back. If approved, you will receive your Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pay the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog registration. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit. Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they've made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let's keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator 1-800-HI VSNIIP (1-844-448-7647)

ALL DOGS MUST BE LICENSED BY APRIL 1, 2024!

Dog License Fees

Intact Male or Female Dogs - \$14.00 by April 1st

Altered Male or Female Dogs - \$10.00 by April 1st

After April 1st additional fees will be added

VERMONT STATE LAW

In accordance with VSA 20 (3581) all Dogs shall be licensed by April 1st of each year.

Or

You will be in violation of this Vermont Statute and of The Town Ordinance.

Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3621, the Groton Selectboard will issue a warrant to impound or find homes or destroy all unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids in the town. Pursuant to the warrant and 20 V.S.A. § 3624, the Constable and Animal Control Officer are required by law within 90 days to destroy all such unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids within the town.

WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE YOUR ANIMALS, BUT STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO IMPOUND UNLICENSED DOGS!

A person who fails to license a dog or wolf-hybrid in the required manner shall be fined up to \$500.00.

You will need to show a recent rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate if your dog(s) has been altered. If you no longer have this animal please contact the Groton Town Clerk to let her know.

Groton Town Clerk's hours - Monday through Thursday 8:00 am –4:00 pm

Available other times by appointment

Contact the Town Clerk (584-3276) to register your Dog(s).

THERE IN NO RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULED IN GROTON FOR 2024



**TOWN OF GROTON
1476 SCOTT HIGHWAY
GROTON, VT 05046**

Presort Std
US Postage
PAID
Burlington, VT
Permit #165