

# COLCHESTER

A scenic photograph of a lake, likely Lake Umbagog, with a vibrant rainbow arching across the sky. Several sailboats and motorboats are anchored in the water. The background shows a dark, forested shoreline under a soft, overcast sky. The image is framed by dark foliage in the corners.

101<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL TOWN REPORT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



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# ***PART A***

## ***TOWN OF COLCHESTER***





COLCHESTER, VT.  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
Jan. 11 AD. 2023 AT  
11 O'Clock 28 Min. A M  
Recorded in Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Land Records.  
Attest: Chesca Paquette  
Asst. Town Clerk

**WARNING**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**Monday, March 6, 2023, 7:00 PM**  
**VOTE BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM**  
**COLCHESTER, VERMONT**

The legal voters of the Town of Colchester, Vermont are notified and warned to meet at the Colchester High School Auditorium, Laker Lane, in said Town on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM to act on the following articles not involving voting by Australian ballot (Articles 1-5):

**ARTICLE 1**

To choose a moderator, if elected moderator is not present.

**ARTICLE 2**

To act on reports of the Town Officers.

**ARTICLE 3**

To set compensation, if any, to be paid to the Selectboard.

**ARTICLE 4**

To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

**ARTICLE 5**

To adjourn said meeting and to reconvene at the Colchester High School, Laker Lane, in said Town on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, for voters in District 19 and District 20 to vote for Town Officers and to transact any other business involving voting by Australian Ballot with voting to begin at 7:00 a.m. and to close at 7:00 p.m. (Early voting information below.)

**ARTICLE 6 - Town Municipal Services Budget**

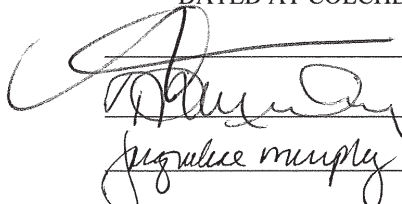
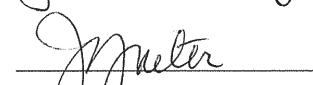
"Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester approve total general fund expenditures of Fifteen Million, Twenty-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$15,028,386) of which Twelve Million, Six Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand, One Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$12,622,189) shall be raised by taxes and Two Million, Four Hundred Six Thousand, One Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars (\$2,406,197) by non-tax revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023?"

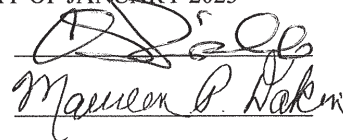
**ARTICLE 7 - Colchester Recreation Center**

"Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Colchester in the amount of \$6,907,000.00, subject to available grants-in-aid, be issued under Section 703(c) of the Town Charter and Subchapter 1 of Chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable from the existing 1% local option sales tax over a period not to exceed ten years. and shall the Town use \$9,000,000.00, in previously collected local option sales taxes that are restricted to voter approved capital projects, for the construction of a Recreation Center?"

**Early/Absentee Voting:** You may request a ballot be mailed to you through the Vermont's Voter Registration system at "My Voter Page" at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>, pick one up at the Town Clerk's Office, or request one by phone to the Town Clerk's Office at (802) 264-5520. Completed ballots can be deposited into the drive up drop box or mailed using the provided return envelope. **If mailing, be sure to allow time for postal transit! Ballots must be received in the Town Clerk's Office by 12:00 PM or Drop Box by 4:30 PM on Monday, March 6, 2023 or brought to the polling location at Colchester High School on Election Day, March 7, 2023.**

DATED AT COLCHESTER THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2023

  
Suzanne Murphy  
  
Town Clerk

  
Marion P. Rakem  
Colchester Selectboard



**Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

77 Barre Street  
P.O. Box 947  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
802/223-2352  
[www.sullivanpowers.com](http://www.sullivanpowers.com)

Fred Duplessis, CPA  
Richard J. Brigham, CPA  
Chad A. Hewitt, CPA  
Wendy C. Gilwee, CPA  
VT Lic. #92-000180

January 5, 2023

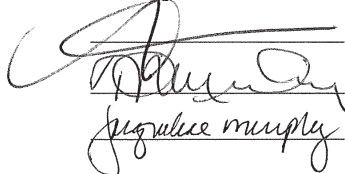
Selectboard  
School Board  
Town of Colchester  
Colchester, Vermont 05446

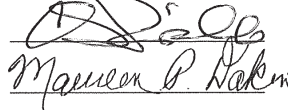
We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Colchester, Vermont and the Colchester School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022.

The financial statements, our reports, and the management discussion and analysis are available for public inspection at the Town and School District offices and web sites.

*Sullivan, Powers & Company*

DATED AT COLCHESTER THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2023

  
Suzanne Murphy  
Town Clerk

  
Marion P. Baker  
Colchester Selectboard

Members of The American Institute and Vermont Society of Certified Public Accountants



# DIRECTORY

## MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Aaron Frank, Town Manager	802.264.5509
Renae Marshall, Deputy Town Manager	802.264.5509
Bob Vickery, Assessor	802.264.5671
Kathi O'Reilly, Economic Development	802.264.5508
Lara Alemy, Finance Director	802.264.5653
Chad Bouvier, Human Resources	802.264.5504
Glen Cuttitta, Parks & Recreation	802.264.5640
Cathyann LaRose, Planning and Zoning	802.264.5606
Bryan Osborne, Public Works	802.264.5620
Julie Graeter, Town Clerk	802.264.5521
Kelly McCagg, Burnham Library	802.264.5661
Town Office Fax	802.264.5503

## POLICE | FIRE | RESCUE

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency, Colchester Police	802.264.5556
Doug Allen, Chief of Police	802.264.5555
Stephen Bourgeois, Fire Chief	802.862.4415
Scott Crady, Rescue Chief	802.264.5594
Michael Cannon, Tech. Rescue Chief	802.264.5590
Stephen Gutierrez, Harbor Master	802.264.5555
Stephanie Gingras, Animal Control	802.264.5556

## WATER SERVICE

District #2 (Malletts Bay)	802.862.4621
Champlain Water District	802.864.7454
Town of Essex (Fort Ethan Allen)	802.878.1344

## COLCHESTER SCHOOLS

Colchester School District	802.264.5999
Amy Minor, Superintendent	802.264.5999
Colchester High School	802.264.5700
Colchester Middle School	802.264.5800
Malletts Bay School	802.264.5900
Porters Point School	802.264.5920
Union Memorial School	802.264.5959

## OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Dig Safe VT	811
GMT - Green Mountain Transit	802.864.2282
SSTA- Special Services Transportation	802.878.1527
Colchester Post Office (Malletts Bay Ave)	802.655.1376
Cemetery Lots, Clerk's Office	802.264.5520

## CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Age Well (Meals on Wheels)	<a href="http://www.agewellvt.org">www.agewellvt.org</a>
Boy Scouts of America	
Cub Scouts Pack 665	<a href="http://www.pack655.org">www.pack655.org</a>
Troop 601	<a href="http://www.troop601vt.org">www.troop601vt.org</a>
Troop 658 (Winooski)	<a href="http://www.bsatroop658.org">www.bsatroop658.org</a>
Colchester Community Chorus	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/colchestercommunitychorus">www.facebook.com/colchestercommunitychorus</a>
Colchester Community Food Shelf	<a href="http://colchesterfoodshelf.org">colchesterfoodshelf.org</a>
Colchester Historical Society	<a href="http://www.colchestervt.gov/422/colchester-historical-society">www.colchestervt.gov/422/colchester-historical-society</a>
Colchester Lions Club	<a href="http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colchestervt">www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colchestervt</a>
Colchester-Milton Rotary Club	<a href="http://www.cmrotary.org">www.cmrotary.org</a>
Fellowship of the Wheel	<a href="http://www.fotwheel.org">www.fotwheel.org</a>
Lake Champlain International	<a href="http://www.mychamplain.net">www.mychamplain.net</a>
Malletts Bay Lakers Snowmobile Club	<a href="http://www.vtvast.org/malletts-bay-lakers.html">www.vtvast.org/malletts-bay-lakers.html</a>





# HOURS, DAYS, FEES & MEETINGS

## COLCHESTER SELECTBOARD

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd.  
Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor  
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM

## CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd.  
Champlain Room, 2nd floor  
Meet as warned or noticed

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd.  
Champlain Room, 2nd floor or location per agenda  
3rd Monday at 6:00 PM or per agenda

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd.  
Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor  
2nd (& 4th as needed) Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Colchester's Burnham Memorial Library  
898 Main St.  
3rd Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd.  
Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor  
1st (& 3rd as needed) Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM

## RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd.  
Champlain Room, 2nd floor  
2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 AM

## TOWN MEETING AGENDAS

<https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

## COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Colchester High School Library  
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM

*For school information visit the Colchester School District website: [www.csdvt.org](http://www.csdvt.org)*

## HOURS OF BUSINESS

Town Hall   Monday - Friday	7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Police   Fire	24 hrs.
Rescue   Technical Rescue	24 hrs.
Library	Varies

Please visit the library's website for updated hours.

## TOWN CLERK FEES

Amusement License (full year)	\$100.00
Catering Permit	No Fee
Certified Copy of Vital Record	\$10.00
Document Recording (per page)	\$15.00
Dog Licenses - <i>Rabies certificate required</i>	
By April 1st, Spayed   Neutered	\$15.00
Not Spayed or Neutered	\$20.00
After 4/1 Spayed   Neutered	\$20.00
After 4/1, Not Spayed   Neutered	\$25.00
Green Mountain Senior Passport	\$2.00
Liquor License 1st class	\$115.00
Liquor License 2nd class	\$70.00
Marriage License (incl. certified copy)	\$70.00
Mylar Recording	\$25.00
Notary Public Services	No Fee
Passport Processing	\$35.00
Passport Photo	\$10.00
Peddler License	\$80.00

## TOWN OFFICE OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Presidents' Day
Memorial Day	Independence Day
Labor Day	Veterans Day
Thanksgiving	Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve (1/2 day)	Christmas Day
New Year's Eve (1/2 day)	New Year's Day



# ***ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS***

## ***AS OF JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 & WITH TERM EXPIRATION***

### **BOARD OF ETHICS**

Inge Schaefer, Chair	Terms (3 yrs.) expire: 9.30.2023
Scott Perren	9.30.2024
Karen Richard	9.30.2025

### **CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wanda Morin	2.28.2024
Theresa Carroll	2.28.2024

### **CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

Jacki Murphy	6.30.2023
Pam Loranger (Alternate)	6.30.2023

### **CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**

Liz Hamlin-Volz	5.31.2024
Renae Marshall (Alternate)	5.31.2024

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION** Terms (4 yrs.)

Theresa Carroll, Chair	9.30.2024
Patrick Volz, Vice Chair	9.30.2024
Lisa Halvorsen	9.30.2023
Alyx Belisle	9.30.2025
Timothy Moran	9.30.2022
Liz Hamlin-Volz	9.30.2023

### **FIRE WARDEN** Terms (4 yrs.)

Stephen Bourgeois	6.30.2026
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### **HEALTH OFFICERS**

Seth Lasker	7.31.2024
Cathyann LaRose	1.31.2025

### **TREE WARDEN**

Bryan Osborne	3.31.2023
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### **WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT REP.**

Susan Gilfillan	9.30.2023
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### **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

Matthew Gamage, Chair	9.30.2022
Evan Fitzgerald	9.30.2022
Zafir Bludevich	9.30.2022
Angela MacDonald	9.30.2024
Mickey Palmer (Alternate)	9.30.2022
Bert Severin	9.30.2022

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Rich Paquette, Chair	9.30.2023
Robert Scheck	9.30.2022
Rebecca Arnold	9.30.2022
Sarita Austin	9.30.2022

### **RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Adriane Martin, Chair	9.30.2023
Ruth Blauwiel	9.30.2023
Richard Pecor	9.30.2022
Jim Neary	9.30.2022
Glenn Cummings	9.30.2023
Scott Perren	9.30.2023





# ***ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS***

## ***AS OF JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 & WITH TERM EXPIRATION***

### **LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

	Terms (5 yrs.) expire:
Toni Josey, Chair	3.2026
Leora Black	3.2023
Carol Anderson	3.2025
Brent Litterer	3.2027
Rebecca McMahon	3.2024

### **LISTERS**

	Terms (3 yrs.) expire:
Geri Barrows	3.2024
Angela MacDonald	3.2023
Charlotte Gardner	3.2025

### **MODERATOR**

	Terms (1 yr.) expire:
Scott Barrett	3.2023

### **SCHOOL BOARD**

	Term	Expire:
Lindsey Cox, Chair	2 yr. term	3.2023
Nic Longo, Vice Chair	3 yr. term	3.2025
Felix Anderson	2 yr. term	3.2024
Ben Yousey-Hindes	3 yr. term	3.2023
Laurie Kigonya	3 yr. term	3.2024

### **SELECTBOARD**

	Term	Expire:
Pam Loranger, Chair	3 yr. term	3.2024
Tom Mulcahy, Vice Chair	3 yr. term	3.2025
Jacki Murphy, Clerk	2 yr. term	3.2023
Charlie Papillo	1 yr. term	3.2024
Maureen P. Dakin	1 yr. term	3.2023

### **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

	Terms expire: 1.31.23
Carol Anderson	Sarita Austin
Leora Black	Ruth Blauwiekel
Patrick Brennan	Mary Brennan
Wendy Critchlow	Maureen Dakin
Peg Gillard	Julie Hulburd
Jon Lynch	Sarah Leeuw
Marie-Reine Pepin	Don Sargent
Curt Taylor	

### **CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT**

	Terms (2 yr.) expire:
Karen Richard	3.2023
Aaron Frank (Alternate)	3.2023

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Last Monday in January	Election Petitions Due
First Monday in March	Town Meeting
First Tuesday in March	Town Meeting Election
March 15	Taxes Due
April 1	Dog Licenses Due
August 15	Taxes Due
First Tuesday in November	Election Day
November 15	Taxes Due





**Pam Loranger, Chair**

**Tom Mulcahy, Vice-Chair; Jacki Murphy, Clerk;**

**Charlie Papillo & Maureen P. Dakin, Members**

I have been honored to serve the Colchester community for another year as your Selectboard Chair. Tom Mulcahy remained our Vice Chair, Jacki Murphy our Clerk, and Selectboard Member Charlie Papillo was joined by Maureen P. Dakin, elected in 2022.

Your Town Selectboard members run for office and make decisions without political party affiliations. We represent the community by making Town policy, coordinating with about eighty-five volunteers on Town policy boards, and overseeing the delivery of municipal services by your Town staff and volunteers.

## **Town Milestones**

**Malletts Bay Sewer Project:** Thanks to you, the citizens and voters, the Malletts Bay Sewer Project gained approval on Town Meeting Day 2022. Leading up to that day, your Town staff proposed an alternative funding source for Malletts Bay Sewer, incorporated the Planning Commission's alternatives analysis, and made a new proposal to the Selectboard for this long-needed sewer project. The project will be funded solely by grants and user fees from the 289 properties to be served by this system, and no property or local option taxes will be used. In addition to addressing human waste bacteria through the installation of the new sewers, the overall Malletts Bay Initiative that this project falls under includes improvements to land use planning/zoning and stormwater management to reduce phosphorus, nutrients, and other pollutants caused by stormwater runoff.

**Renewable Energy Efforts:** Work has continued in securing and permitting a third 150kW solar farm to meet our goal of producing all electric energy used by the Town with local, affordable and renewable sources. The purchase of an electric vehicle and an EV charger for Town use, and plans for purchasing EV chargers for public use, are major steps towards our renewable energy goals. Additionally, energy efficiency and energy sourcing improvements have taken place in Town buildings, including insulating the Colchester Rescue building, retiring an SUV, installing solar powered speed signs by Colchester Police, installing motion sensor lighting at park bathrooms, and improving energy efficiency through major repairs at the Town Fire stations.

**Affordable Housing:** There has been significant development towards affordable housing in our community through our work with the Champlain Housing Trust and the approval of the Southeast Quadrant of Severance Corners as it relates to housing and affordable housing. In sum, over three years, Town staff have attended meetings, drafted letters, and advocated for and received \$650,000, which will be used to assist the Champlain Housing Trust in building 36 mixed-income, multi-family housing units serving about 72 people at 245 Severance Road. This leverages a total of \$12,000,000 in funding for 24 affordable apartments for households below 60% of median income, three apartments affordable to below 80%, and nine market rate apartments.



# **SELECTBOARD**

## **ANNUAL REPORT - CONTINUED**

As well as working in public-private partnerships to close the affordable housing gap, Colchester continues through various State of Vermont programs, to provide temporary housing for over 10% of the previously unhoused residents of the State, well in excess of the Town's 3% share of the State population. In addition to providing shelter in some of our low-cost hotels, the unmet health and human service needs are addressed by Colchester emergency services.

**Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence Trainings:** We can do a better job serving all members of our community through education and understanding of others with different backgrounds and perspectives. We held trainings on diversity, equity and inclusion and made them available for all Town staff, public safety volunteers, the Selectboard, and volunteer board and commission chairs to increase our knowledge on these topics. The Police Department has continued their cultural awareness and anti-bias training and has increased funding for supportive services, such as community outreach, under contract with the Howard Center and the Essex Community Justice Center.

**COVID & Communications:** The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the necessity to offer more services online. During this time, Town staff increased the availability of services offered online for a variety of departments and increased communication efforts. We now offer a range of Town services via our website, including permit and parcel information, documentation for real estate closings, indexes of board and commission meeting agendas, minutes, ordinances, the Town charter, and more. Our continued presence on media outlets and our weekly newsletter maintain our transparency and information-sharing efforts as well.

**Police Services Review:** As your elected civilian oversight body, the Selectboard examined four critical areas of the Colchester Police Department: recruitment, leadership, policies, and training. The Selectboard reviewed the Department's General Order #1 which, through an act of the Selectboard, creates structure of the department, its guiding principles, and rules of conduct. The Selectboard supported the creation of a civilian position responsible for evidence collection and management and the expansion of existing camera use to include body-worn cameras in the Department, despite significant initial and ongoing costs of doing so. The Selectboard publicly engaged with the Department on key policies related to use of force, evidence and property, pursuit, fair and impartial policing, workplace behavior, complaints and internal investigations, employee selection, promotions and transfers, search and seizure, and encounters involving mental health. The Department also maintains partnerships with the Colchester School District, Colchester Fire Department, Colchester Rescue, the Howard Center, other local and federal law enforcement, and the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations. The Colchester Police contributes to this unit via donation of an officer and vehicle, which in return gives Colchester Police superior investigations for vulnerable populations.

**Causeway Reversion:** After several years of increasing storm damage to the Causeway, staff negotiated with FEMA and the State of Vermont to provide approximately \$1.8M of Causeway repair funding, with the Town providing an estimated \$30,000. Because the State has more resources to maintain the Causeway's conditions, its ownership has been reverted back to the State of Vermont to insure \$999,999 in uninsured and non-FEMA eligible damage in any given year is not a burden on the Colchester taxpayers.

# SELECTBOARD

## ANNUAL REPORT - CONTINUED

**Route 2 Speed Reduced:** Tragically, a life was lost this past summer near the Clay Point intersection with Route 2. The Selectboard responded to citizens' requests to reduce the speed and improve safety along this corridor. A Colchester contingent comprised of Selectboard members and staff met with VTRANS and were successful in reducing the speed from 55 mph to 50 mph with an agreement to pursue other safety messages for the Limited Access portion of US-2 from the I-89 interchange in Colchester to the easterly end of the Sand Bar State Park.

**Broadband:** According to the State of Vermont, 104 or 1.5% of the commercial and residential addresses in Colchester lack cable speed internet. Since Act 71 was signed by the Governor in June 2021, Town staff have exhaustively evaluated opportunities for Colchester to utilize the financial resources the State has dedicated to broadband expansion. There are significant challenges for Colchester to be able to access the available broadband, but Town staff continue to research and work towards providing improved broadband to residents.

**Water Supply Services:** The Champlain Water District now controls four of the six local water supply systems in Colchester and is working to consolidate them to turn ownership over to the Town. This has simplified billing and repair, as well as upgrades and capital planning.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** Your Selectboard is committed to using your resources wisely and ethically. We value a long-term sustainable approach to funding your municipal services. Our outside, independent audits are clean. FY 2023 Tax Rate is 0.63% higher than what it was in FY 2015, both in the rate and the amount paid to the Town for municipal services taxes. In FY 2023, an owner of a property valued at \$300,000 would pay just \$11 more in municipal services taxes than they did in FY 2015. The Town Manager's section of this report provides examples of how we stretch your resources.

**Volunteer Appreciation:** The Town of Colchester runs on engaged and involved volunteerism ranging from the eighty-five people who serve on boards and commissions to the hundreds who volunteer in Fire, Rescue, Technical Rescue and Town events. Civic participation often starts at the grassroots. Here is the heart of the community at work. It is due to their dedication and commitment that our services are enhanced and augmented in more ways than we can count or give adequate credit to.

Please join the Selectboard in acknowledging those who help govern and operate your Town government in an inclusive and effective manner, making Colchester an enjoyable, safe and attractive place to live, work, play and learn.





# TOWN MANAGER REPORT

AARON FRANK



## Manager's Report Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Governance and municipal service delivery are the two major aspects of town government. First there is governance related to municipal services delivery. Colchester has both direct democracy from individual voters and representative democracy from elected and appointed officials. Municipal service delivery, or the business side of government, is operated by your Town staff and, thankfully, many volunteers. We try hard to operate Town services efficiently, as if they were a private business, while respecting that the Town is owned by the community.

Colchester's governance relies on direct democracy—votes of the voters—for the most significant issues, including the Town Charter, which lays out how the Town operates; the annual municipal services budget; and the capital expenses requiring multi-year authorizations or use of the local option taxes. It also relies on representative democracy with 30 elected and 55 appointed officials that represent the community in the local governance of the Town of Colchester and who develop policy and provide guidance to Town staff in providing services to the community.

Furthermore, the Town of Colchester's rights, responsibilities and authorities are granted to us by the State of Vermont. The Town Charter is developed and approved by the community through a vote by the voters. The Charter is not valid until it is voted into state law by the legislature. The State of Vermont holds all rights not specifically designated to local communities, as our rights flow from the State of Vermont, and there are significant limits to what the Town can do. It can take years to change Town rights and responsibilities, but this approach allows our elected state officials to consider local versus state responsibility in a manner whereby duplication of services and duplication of taxation are avoided in favor of a fair and workable partnership in service delivery.

The purpose of a town government is to provide services to residents and property owners that the private sector, state and federal government do not—and for which a majority of voters are willing to pay. Town staff takes pride in offering the best service possible with available resources. Most Town services require old-fashioned “boots on the ground” work, and this requires people who are trained, dedicated and consistently available in adverse weather; on nights, weekends and holidays; and sometimes in the most challenging situations. People are our greatest asset in providing services, and all Town departments serve our residents, but direct public services are provided by the following departments:

- **Assessor:** assessment data, ownership records, property sales information, tax maps, and more
- **Burnham Memorial Library:** books, E-books, periodicals, media, programs for all ages, public use of the Meeting House, and more
- **Economic Development:** aids businesses in Colchester through outreach, information, and assistance with accessing state and federal funding and business resources
- **Parks and Recreation:** A.C.E. before-and-after school program, summer camps, parks maintenance, programs and events for residents of all ages, and more
- **Planning and Zoning:** planning, development review, building and zoning permits and inspections
- **Public Works:** stewardship of highway, stormwater, sewer, and vehicle/equipment/facilities projects from development through maintenance and replacement
- **Colchester Police:** community protection, emergency response, disaster response
- **Colchester Rescue:** emergency medical and disaster response

# TOWN MANAGER REPORT

AARON FRANK - CONTINUED

- **Colchester Fire:** fire prevention, firefighting, hazardous materials and disaster response
- **Colchester Technical Rescue:** emergency response in extreme situations requiring specialized training: flood, swift water, rugged terrain, tight spaces, disaster, and more
- **Town Clerk/Treasurer:** vital records, licenses, passports, deed recording, collection of municipal service and State education taxes, elections, and more

A Town Manager serves multiple roles: a policy support to the Selectboard (legislative and judicial branch of local government); a general manager of the staff providing the services and policies funded and authorized by the voters and the Selectboard; and a coordinator among staff and about 85 volunteers serving on 13 boards and commissions who all provide policy input to or from the Town.

## **Significant employee changes in FY 2021-22 include:**

**Welcomes:** Leah Sanguinetti, Assistant Town Engineer, Public Works; Shawn Combs, Highway Maintenance I, Public Works; Susan Bliss, Library Associate, Burnham Memorial Library; Kevin Breen, Parks Maintenance I, Parks & Recreation; Cathynn LaRose, Planning & Zoning Director, Planning & Zoning; Tarisa Starks, Police Officer, Colchester Police Department; Kyle Sturgis, Police Officer, Colchester Police Department; Silas Sardaro-Crawford, Police Officer, Colchester Police Department; Aldin Jusupovic, Police Officer, Colchester Police Department; Kirk Dressing-Kirkorian, Associate Planner, Planning & Zoning; Tyler Tandy, Highway Maintenance I, Public Works; Shantel Longe, Police Records Clerk, Colchester Police Department; Michelle Collins, Career Firefighter, Colchester Fire Department; Seth Lasker, Special Projects Manager, Manager's Office; Alicia Tebeau-Sherry, Communications Coordinator, Manager's Office; Lorena Bortz, Finance Assistant, Finance Department; Anders Proft, Police Officer, Colchester Police Department; Reilly Grant, Library Associate, Burnham Memorial Library; James Hardy, Jr., Highway Maintenance I, Public Works; Brett McCreary, Environmental Engineering Technician, Public Works; Shannon Maloney, Career Captain – Paramedic, Colchester Rescue; Meghan Malone, Library Associate, Burnham Memorial Library

**Farewells:** Jordan Cota, Parks Maintenance I, Parks & Recreation; Richard Giroux, Police Officer, Colchester Police Department; Meghan Duell, Police Officer, Colchester Police Department; Kelsey Psaute, Library Associate, Burnham Memorial Library; Adam Francis, Career Firefighter, Colchester Fire Department; Justin Pero, Public Works Coordinator, Public Works; Coline Redeker, Career Captain – Paramedic, Colchester Rescue; Eric Metivier, Highway Foreperson, Public Works

**Retirements:** Susan Gamberg, Library Associate, Burnham Memorial Library, retired after 21 years with the Town; Patricia Spacapan, Police Records Supervisor, Colchester Police Department, retired after 35 years with the Town; Wanda Morin, Assistant Town Clerk, Town Clerk's Office, retired after 25 years with the Town

## **Improvements made in FY 2021-22 that will impact the future of Colchester include:**

- Proposed alternative funding source for Malletts Bay Sewer, incorporated Planning Commission alternatives analysis and made new proposal to Selectboard for Malletts Bay Sewer, which ultimately gained approval of the voters on Town Meeting Day 2022
- Implemented hazard mitigation plan update while making our plan more Colchester-centric, achieving acceptance by state and federal authorities in advance of other plans, and resulting in substantial funding should we again be declared a federal disaster location
- Assisted Fire Chief with continued transition to Town-wide department, including incorporating support service functions into other Town departments; expanding leadership to include a half time assistant chief; completed a condition assessment of fire facilities and equipment; implemented a maintenance and repair program with public works for all department vehicles and equipment; removed duplicative fire equipment, purchasing replacement fire equipment and vehicles; and created multi-year capital plans for fire buildings and facilities



# TOWN MANAGER REPORT

## AARON FRANK - CONTINUED

- Selected software and began process of archiving and digitizing HR records and systems
- Moved the public and inter-governmental aspects of Health Officer to the Town Manager and Economic Development Director during COVID, obtaining health, human service and business resource information and providing it to the community
- Worked with Police Chief to update general orders, continued ongoing sharing of police services information and policy, held cultural awareness and anti-bias training, implemented body worn cameras, increased funding for supportive services such as Community Outreach under contract with the Howard Center and continued support of the Community Justice Center
- Expanded library digital collection funding and use, which has substantially increased
- Airport Park pickleball courts were completed with significant community involvement/funding
- Over three years, attended meetings, drafted letters, and advocated for and received \$650,000, which will be used to assist Champlain Housing Trust in building 36 mixed-income multi-family housing units serving about 72 people at 245 Severance Road and leveraging a total of \$12,000,000 in funding for 24 affordable apartments for households below 60% of median income, three apartments affordable to below 80%, and nine market rate apartments
- Coordinated energy efficiency and energy sourcing improvements across Town departments and buildings to continue work towards our local, affordable and renewable energy goals
- Began efforts to take ownership of 885 East Lakeshore Drive due to stormwater needs and continued to enforce Town rights related to zoning and shoreland protection at Mongeon Bay Properties on East Lakeshore Drive
- Brought back Pictures of Progress, a visual depiction of municipal service efforts at Selectboard meetings, and continued newsletter with a focus on departments, volunteers, boards and commissions

**Town management and staff maintain their commitment to fiscal responsibility.** In addition to the examples above, and by your Selectboard, other cost-saving measures include:

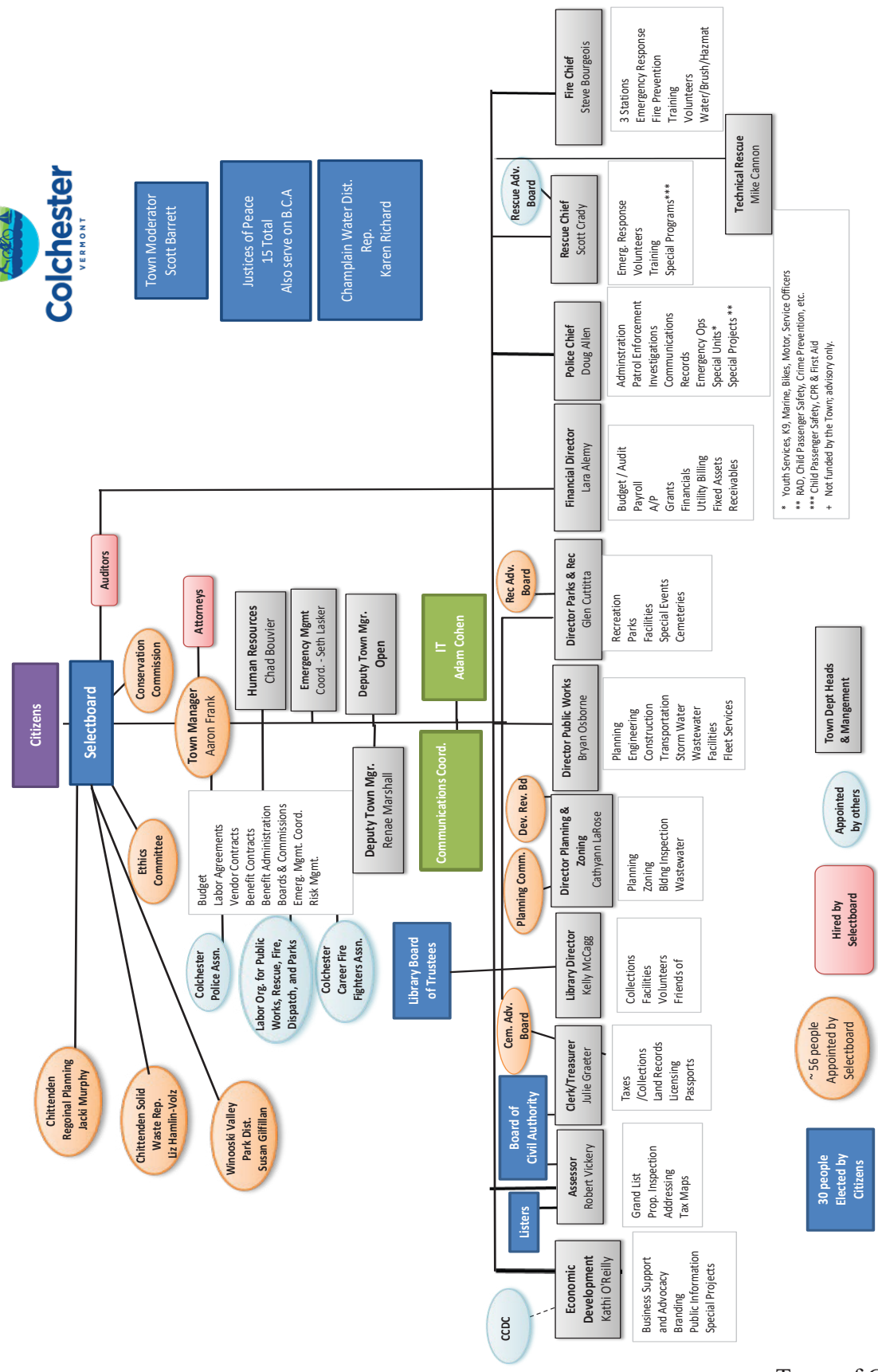
- Evaluated options for federal funding, advocated with state and federal officials to gain \$3M more in federal funds, and reviewed options and made recommendations for use of funds to Selectboard which voters ultimately approved as part of the funding for the Malletts Bay Sewer
- Successfully appealed the State Equalized Educational Grand List, annually saving the taxpayers roughly \$180,000 in State taxes in FY22
- Avoided a 21% increase in healthcare costs by negotiating and using a high deductible plan
- Converted to bi-weekly payroll across all workgroups, which accommodated staff time needed for increased federal reporting
- Completed revenue contract negotiations with Verizon for the Center Fire Station for \$978,000 over 20 years, refinanced two fire trucks saving \$60,000, replaced \$1.3M of fire equipment with a \$269,000 truck, and navigated decisions on whether to participate in state or local Opioid settlement
- Obtained over \$1M in federal funding to replace lost revenues and cover excess costs during COVID; saved enough money during COVID spending freezes, layoffs and furloughs to purchase a new solar farm and equipment for technical rescue; made up for deficit created by inflation cost escalation for DPW vehicles and ambulance; and provided \$260,000 in funding to offset tax increases in FY 23
- Proposed five-year capital plans to the Selectboard and Planning Commission with approximately 29% or \$2,757,500 expected to come from state and federal grants

Finally, I'd like to thank the Selectboard for their thoughtful and collaborative approach to governance, and you, our residents, for your continued support of your Town's ongoing efforts and our progress on goals for the future. It is my privilege to serve as your Town Manager!

# TOWN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2022 Town Organizational Chart







## PUBLIC WORKS

BRYAN OSBORNE, DIRECTOR

**Pedestrian improvements** include the installation of rapid flashing beacons at crosswalks on Rt. 2A in the Village.

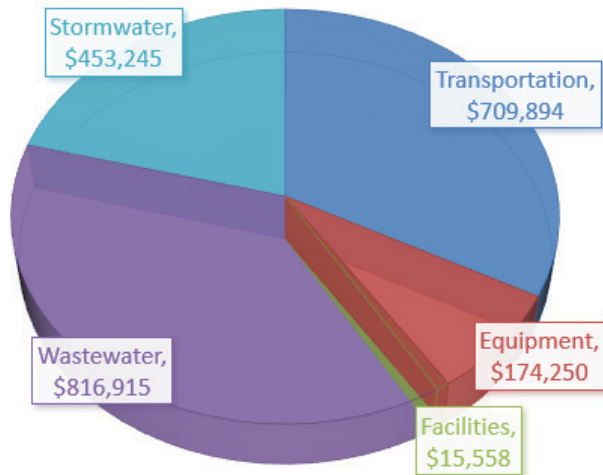
**Building projects** include the Center Fire Station roof replacement.

**Efficiency projects** include the installation of an Electric Vehicle Charger at the Town Offices.

**Stormwater projects** include the stormwater outfall at the Police Station; continued work on Phosphorus Control Plan, 3 acre and Municipal General Roads permit compliance; Shore Acres Stormwater Treatment Improvements; stormwater upgrades on Coon Hill, Galvin Hill, Porters Pt. Rd. and Reynolds Dr.; and 1,000 ft. of pipe lining.

**Grant awards** totalled \$228,200 for FY23.

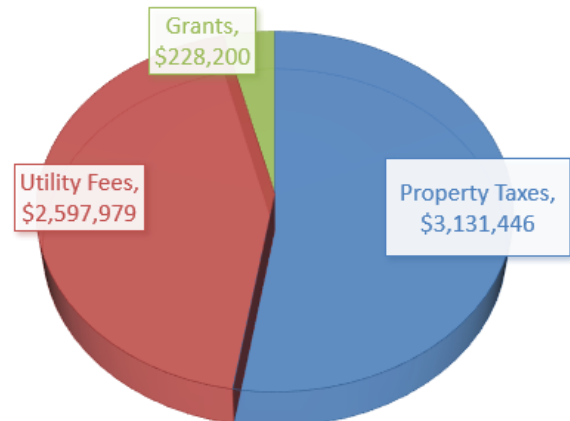
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



**Roadway projects** include the Prim and West Lakeshore Drive Intersection; Bayside Intersection; Paving of Severance Road, Farnsworth Road, Old Sawmill Road and Fastnet Circle; and installation of a temporary bridge on Creek Farm Road.

**Safety projects** include spot sidewalk repairs and spot roadway milling and paving repairs throughout the community.

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES



### Did you know?

Public Works maintains 92 miles of roadways, 42 miles of sidewalks and bike paths, 900 street lights, 2,700 sewer and stormwater structures, 38 miles of sewer and stormwater piping, 13 pumping stations, 15 public buildings, and 117 pieces of equipment.

# COLCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

STEPHEN BOURGEOIS, CHIEF



**2021 marked the second year of the newly formed Colchester Fire Department.** The department continues working to recruit and retain volunteers, and the daytime and Saint Michael's Fire staff have been crucial in the response to daytime calls when our volunteer staff numbers are low. The department continues to standardize equipment, bunker gear, and training, while also maintaining and upgrading apparatus and stations. Below are some

accomplishments from this last year.

- Responded to 1,049 calls for service
- Our members completed over 2,400 hours of training
- Had a new roof installed at our Center Fire Station
- Had new flooring and carpet installed at our Center Station
- Purchased ballistic gear for our use and trained with Colchester Police and Colchester Rescue in active shooter response
- Completed annual safety testing on

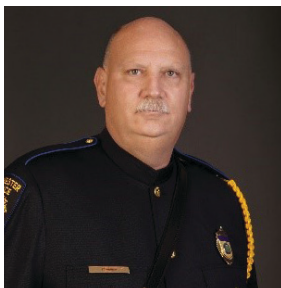


our hose, air packs, ladders, and pumps



The department will continue to work with the other Colchester emergency services, Colchester Rescue, Colchester Police, and Colchester Technical Rescue to provide you with the best service possible with the available resources. We would also like to thank the citizens of Colchester for your continued support.





# COLCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOUGLAS ALLEN, CHIEF

**Our efforts** at recruiting new staff were rewarded this year with six new officers hired and trained. This challenged our officers who serve and field train staff, but we came through with new officers ready to serve the community.



**We said good-bye** to a long standing member of our department. Pat Spacapan retired after 35 years of dedicated service to CPD as our records clerk. We welcomed Shantel Longe as a replacement for Sheila Kaiser who became our senior records staff member.

**For the first time in our history**, a civilian position was created to take on the responsibilities for processing, collection, and storage of evidence and property that enters the department. This critical position allows us to free up a sworn officer for other duties. Jonathan Wheeler transferred from our Communications staff to take on this new challenge.



**Our Body Worn Camera initiative** was realized this year. At a cost of over \$100,000 in total, cameras for each officer were purchased along with associated technology.

Initial funding for this equipment was realized through seized assets.



**A vehicle was obtained** from Vermont Department of Liquor and Lotteries that CPD has converted into a Command Vehicle. The camper style vehicle is outfitted with separate areas and communications capabilities that allow for a variety of operations during major emergency events.

# COLCHESTER RESCUE

## SCOTT CRADY, CHIEF



**Rescue had a total incident volume of 1,990 in FY 22.** This is a four percent increase over last year and a nineteen percent increase over a three year period. Colchester's incident volume continues to increase, even as surrounding EMS agencies staff more shifts and add additional ambulances to help cover the increasing volume which Colchester had previously covered in past years.

**In the fall and into the spring,** a number of our providers worked with the State of Vermont to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations to the general public.

**Colchester Rescue took delivery of a new ambulance** with a Braun patient compartment in the fall of 2021 replacing our aging 2011 ambulance.

**Colchester Rescue has continued to maintain a roster of over 50 active EMS providers.** Providers who have moved on from Colchester Rescue have done so to attend medical school and jobs out of the area after college. Colchester Rescue continues to have a

waiting list of promising applicants to join our organization as openings become available.

**Colchester Rescue implemented a Senior Attendant training program.** This program is designed to advance providers knowledge and skills in patient care and crew management so that they can lead EMS incidents under the supervision of a more experienced EMS provider. To date, we have had eight EMS providers successfully complete this program.

**Colchester Rescue completed Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) training** and acquired the equipment necessary to respond to a hostile threat or environment. This training was completed alongside members of Colchester Police and Colchester Fire departments. With this training, gear and equipment, Colchester Rescue has personnel who can deliver life saving interventions to victims of a hostile threat. We continue to hold classes and training to ensure our operational readiness for such an event.







# COLCHESTER TECHNICAL RESCUE

MICHAEL CANNON, CHIEF

## FY 22 Year in Review



The 26 volunteer members of Colchester Technical Rescue responded to a total of 33 emergency calls, the majority being water rescue related.

Our members completed over 2,072 hours of training and an additional 620 call hours. Our team remains fully staffed.



The Team established 13 sets of new technical dive regulators and breathing air tanks. The equipment was funded with a State Homeland Security Grant and allows us to operate at a safer level of public safety diving.



Members performed outreach training to other partner agencies, which offers continuity of operations when we are called upon to assist each other.

Our team continues to partner with Colchester Rescue, Police and Fire to offer the best possible service to our community.



# PARKS & RECREATION

GLEN CUTTITTA, DIRECTOR



## Did you know?

The Parks Department is responsible for maintaining over 400 acres of parks/natural areas and 11 miles of bike/pedestrian paths. It includes: 13 parks, two beaches, six bike/pedestrian paths, four pump stations, one seasonal ice rink, Nordic ski trails, and the grounds of all municipal buildings (Library, Rescue, Police, Fire, Town Meeting House, and Town Hall).



## Special Events held in 2022:

- Winter Carnival (Outside Campus)
- Easter Egg Hunt (partnership with Lion's Club)
- Touch-A-Truck
- Fourth of July Fun Run,

Parade, Concert, Food Trucks and Fireworks

- Colchester Triathlon
- Bayside Park Summer Concert Series
- Dinner with Santa



## Department Accomplishments:

- Offered 65 different weekly camps throughout the summer
- Summer Track Program placed First in the State Track Meet
- Repair and resurfacing to Bayside Park Tennis Courts
- Repair and resurfacing to Bayside Shuffleboard Court
- Repair and resurfacing to Fort Ethan Allen Tennis Courts
- Resurfacing to Bayside Skate Park

- Steps to Bayside Beach repaired
- Causeway connector path was resurfaced
- Waterbottle filling station installed at Bayside Park
- 178 Students enrolled in the A.C.E. Before & Afterschool Program
- Hired two new Recreation Coordinators: Courtney Phelps & Brooke Fox
- Youth Lacrosse and Youth Basketball programs continued to flourish







# **BURNHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**KELLY MCCAGG, DIRECTOR**

**The Burnham Memorial Library** is an integral part of Colchester that provides a trusted, essential public service; bringing together people of all ages to connect them to information, learning, and life-long enrichment. The goal of all library programs and services is the building and strengthening of community.



## **2022 Year in Review**

- 77,603 items circulated (books, movies, music, magazines, passes)
- 5,462 ebooks downloaded
- 9,403 audiobooks downloaded (more than double the number in 2019)



- 385 programs provided to patrons of all ages
- 4,194 people attended these programs
- 79 story time collections were delivered to local schools & daycares
- 574 people were able to obtain a library card thanks in part to our new online registration form
- 178 community meetings were held in



the Library Meeting House

- 1,659 items were shared via Interlibrary Loan
- Regular partners include: Colchester Parks Department, Niquette Bay State Park, UVM Extension, CSWD, and AARP



**These unique times** are causing us to look beyond classic library services, and we appreciate your patience and continued support as we discover new ways to learn and grow together as one community.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KATHI O'REILLY, DIRECTOR



**The tracking, delivery and communication of resources for businesses** who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be at the forefront of the Economic Development Department. New federal and state opportunities are still being released, and we monitor and communicate these out to the business community regularly.

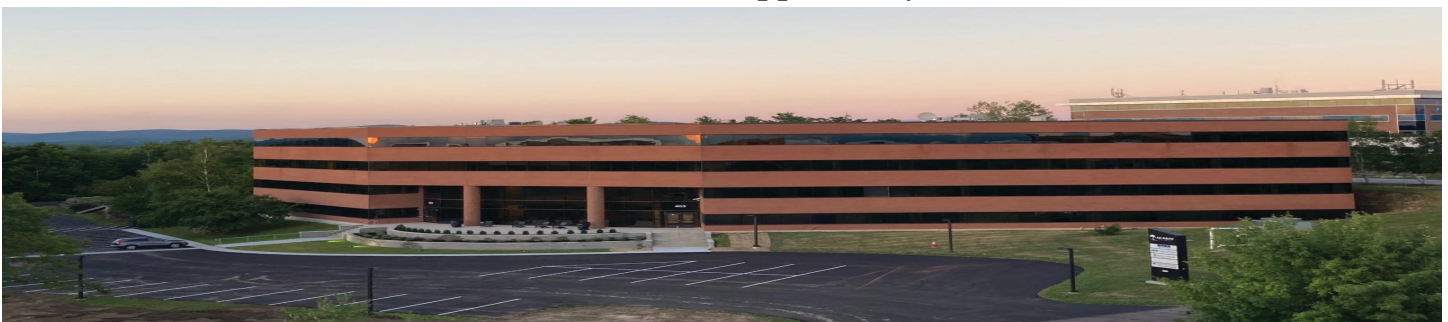
**Some businesses in Town** continued to feel the constraints of the pandemic. Although changes made in the previous fiscal year assisted many with transformations and adaptations that allowed them to succeed, it was also problematic for some, including, but not limited to, difficulty with supply chain issues, staffing, and employee housing.

**This past year,** Colchester continued to have shuttered businesses that will not recover or reopen, but we also had new businesses and additional investment as well. The US Citizen & Immigration Services office opened on Water Tower Hill and brought with it jobs to Town.

We embraced a few new eateries with the opening of Dominos and the reopening of the Guilty Plate that is under new ownership, just to name a few!

**We continue to work** closely with land owners, commercial landlords, developers and commercial realtors to assist with any business that is looking to open, expand or relocate to Colchester and the opportunities associated with this type of investing. We believe that the management of growth and development, balanced with the preservation of our natural assets and quality of life, is the best approach to economic development in our Town.

**We look forward to the future** and whatever our new normal is going to be, and we will continue to reassess our services and delivery of services as Colchester businesses continue to restructure and adapt to state, national and world issues. We continue to support our business owners and their employees, and we ask that you buy local at every opportunity.







# TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S OFFICE

*JULIE GRAETER, TOWN CLERK & TREASURER*

## Town Clerks Office

- VT State Legislative Reapportionment was completed. The Town Clerk staff and Board of Civil Authority reviewed and made recommendations on the proposed State Representative voting districts within Colchester.
- Started using a new online dog licensing software where your dog's photo can be attached.
- The Town Clerk's staff was able to get back to annual trainings, which increase Clerk's specific knowledge and professional skills.

## Wanda Morin, long time Asst. Town Clerk, retired in January 2022.

She started in July

1995 and provided service to the Colchester residents for twenty-six and a half years. Wanda has a lot of historical and current knowledge that supported not only the community but the Town of Colchester staff. Luckily, she still supports us by being the Sexton of our six town cemeteries.

I would like to thank

Wanda for her many years of steadfast work completed with care and diligence.



## Fun Dog Statistics

<b>Most Popular Dog Breed</b>	Labrador Retriever
<b>Most Popular Dog Color</b>	Black
<b>Most Popular Name</b>	Buddy/Bella
<b>Oldest Dogs</b>	16 years old

## Colchester Cemeteries

There were twenty burials and nine lots sold. Lots are available in the Munson, Champlain and Old Methodist Cemeteries.



## Highlights

- Memorial Day was celebrated by the annual placing of flags on our Veterans buried in the six Town cemeteries
- Wreaths Across American continued their traditional ceremony in December. A wreath was placed on every veteran's grave at the Fort Cemetery.
- Thanks to a concerned resident, two compromised trees at Mallets Bay Cemetery were removed. As well, two very large pines were removed over the winter in the Munson Cemetery due to their deteriorating condition.

## Town Statistics

<b>Registered Dogs</b>	965
<b>Land Record Books Added</b>	21
<b>Mylars Added</b>	48
<b>Passports Processed</b>	946
<b>Births</b>	175
<b>Deaths</b>	482
<b>Marriages</b>	91
<b>Registered Voters</b>	12, 201

# PLANNING & ZONING

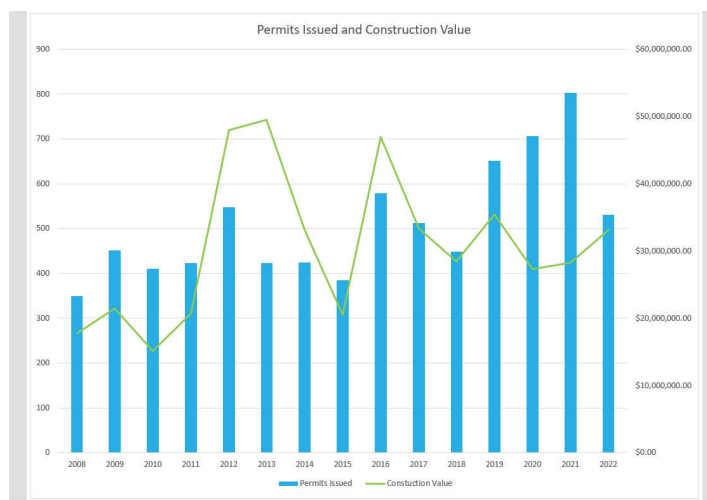
## CATHYANN LAROSE, DIRECTOR



### FY 2022 Planning & Zoning Annual Report

**Fiscal Year 2022** encompassed the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This was a time of departmental evolution and cultivation as new staff successfully settled in to serving the community needs for permitting and building.

**The department** is committed to ongoing excellent customer service, along with consistent and objective permit and development review. We will continue to work with the community and on behalf of the community to uphold Colchester as a special place to live, work, and recreate.



### Insightful numbers:

- The Department issued more than 530 permits, including building, wastewater, and sign permits. In addition to these permits, we also authored more than 250 Bianchi letters, assisting the community in the transfers of Colchester properties.
- While the number of permits decreased from the prior fiscal year, the value of these improvements increased. Over \$33 million in land development was permitted generating more than \$275,000 in permit revenue.
- Permits for 70 new homes were issued that include 34 single family homes and 36 units in multi-unit arrangements.
- The Development Review Board returned to in-

person meetings. Over the course of 12 months, they reviewed 58 applications, including site plans, conditional uses, subdivisions, and appeals.

- The Planning Commission drove a comprehensive set of amendments for Supplement 43 to the Development Regulations, holding public hearings that were then approved by the Selectboard in October, 2021. They also began public outreach and consideration of amendments to East Lakeshore Drive.

**Staffing news:** Denise Johnson-Terk left the department in August 2021 to pursue a new job opportunity. Denise worked on behalf of the Town for more than 15 years. Best wishes, Denise! The Fall of 2021 was busy: Seth Lasker began work assisting the department as the Town's Building Inspector and Town Health Officer; Cathyann LaRose joined the department as Director in October, and Kirk Dressing-Kirkorian began soon after in the role of Associate Planner.



**The department extends appreciation** to everyone that we have worked with throughout this past fiscal year. To our Development Review Board and Planning Commission volunteers, your selfless service to the community is genuinely valued and our gratitude is immeasurable. To our community members, we express a warm and sincere thank you for your continued support and the warm smiles you often bring to our front counter.





## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

ROBERT VICKERY, ASSESSOR

***“Ensuring that no property owner pays more than their fair share”***



### **FY 22 Year in Review**

- \$18.9 million in Grand List Growth
- 493 Site inspections
- 435 Change of Assessment Notices mailed (does not include Current Use Notices)
  - 328 increases in assessments
  - 106 decreases in assessments
- Largest changes
  - Severance Corners Village Center LLC finished construction of a 61-unit apartment complex increasing the value of the complex by \$1,923,100

### **Fun Facts:** Understanding property categories and their ratios

The State Department of Taxes categorizes properties into three property classes. These property classes are broken down into 15

property categories. The State takes all the valid sales over a three-year period for each category and compares the sale prices with the assessed values. This comparison gives the State a ratio for each category. These ratios are used in determining: the Equalized Educational Grand List, the State Property Education Tax Rate, the accuracy of municipalities Grand Lists, Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), and the need for a municipality to conduct a reappraisal.

**On a municipal level we break down these categories even farther into:** property types, neighborhoods, uses, building styles, land sizes and more. We take a deeper dive into the categories and ratios in order to maintain an equitable Grand List. When we find there are inequities, we then can make adjustments to that category of property to ensure taxes are distributed fairly.



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUBMITTED BY BONNIE L. POTTER, VICE PRESIDENT

- In honor of Veterans Day, we especially remembered those who rest in peace in Munson Cemetery and highlighted the memorial honoring Colchester Veterans located on the Village Green in front of the Burnham Memorial Library.
- Members Robert Furst and Bonnie Potter served as volunteer judges for Vermont History Day, a state-wide education program that encourages students to develop research and critical thinking skills through project-based learning and the study of history.
- During Black History Month, we remembered and honored the 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers who served at Fort Ethan Allen from 1909-1913.
- The Town of Colchester dedicated last year's Town Report to the Colchester Historical Society for "researching, preserving, and sharing our community history."
- During Women's History Month in March, we featured historical information about Electa "Etta" Burnham for her efforts in forming and funding the Burnham Memorial Library.
- The Self-Guided Historical Driving Tour was launched as a fun way for people to learn about some of Colchester's historical sites on their own time and at no cost. See <https://colchestervt.gov/3257/Driving-Tours>.
- The historical Colchester Log Schoolhouse was open to the public for the summer months and hosted by volunteers each weekend. Located at Airport Park, the Schoolhouse serves as a visitor information center, interpretive venue for schools, and a museum. For the first time ever, fun and educational "make and take" classes were offered for students ages 6-10 by volunteer Michelle Penca. See <https://colchestervt.gov/477/Log-Schoolhouse-Restoration> for more information.
- When spring arrived, volunteer gardeners met at the Historical Society building to weed, plant, and mulch the perennial and annual garden beds.
- First Lieutenant James Burt Porter (1929-1953) of Colchester was one of those honored at the Korean War commemoration held at the Vermont Military Museum in June. Member Bonnie Potter represented the Colchester Historical Society at the event.
- Our Facebook page achieved more than 1,000 followers.



Thank you and congratulations to several businesses and organizations that celebrated these historic milestones this year, including:

- Coates Island – 150 years of family ownership by the Coates family
- Saint Michael's Playhouse – 75 years of live, professional summer theater
- Colchester Rescue Squad – 60 years of improving the health and well-being of our community
- Claussen's Florist, Gardens & Perennial Farm – 50 years of growing top quality plants
- Colchester Technical Rescue – 33 years of aiding those in peril, serving Colchester and surrounding communities
- Colchester Log Schoolhouse – 15 years of its operation as a visitor center and museum

**To learn more about the Colchester Vermont Historical Society**, please visit our website at <https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society> and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterVermontHistoricalSociety>. New members are always welcome, and several interesting volunteer opportunities are available.



*Claussen's in the early 1970s*



*The original St. Michael's Playhouse, 1947*



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SUBMITTED BY THERESA CARROLL, CHAIR

## In FY-2022, the Conservation Commission:

- Invited Dr. Declan McCabe, a St. Michaels' College biology professor, to lead a walk through the St. Michael's College Natural Area to introduce Commission members to the area's natural resources, history, use by college classes, and student projects, including installation of trail cameras
- Conducted an annual site visit to Law Island to assess usage and condition of trails and campsites for purposes of reporting to the Lake Champlain Land Trust
- Met with representatives from the Lake Champlain Land Trust, Vermont State Parks, and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in July to discuss concerns over increased activity on Law Island, including illegal fire pits, cutting of trees, and partying
- Assisted with a free tree giveaway in September held in collaboration with the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program and Community Canopy, an Arbor Day Foundation program. A total of 155 trees were available for distribution to residents.
- Met with Melanie Laquerre, Colchester High School's Green Team adviser, to discuss projects, including Green Up Day, for team members to engage with and assist Commission members
- Coordinated the 26th Green Up Day for the Town. A total of 347 volunteers picked up 4.68 tons of trash and 883 tires along roadsides, the bike path, and parks on May 7 with more than 300 high school students cleaning up the school grounds the previous day.
- For a total of 42 volunteer hours, we planted annuals at Lower Bayside Park, the flagpole bed by The Pickled Perch, and the two traffic islands across from Malletts Bay School for Colchester Blooms!
- Wrote a letter of support for the Winooski Valley Park District's application for funding through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's Enhancement of Recreation Stewardship and Access Grant Program
- Conducted a site visit to the Wolcott Family Natural Area, a Winooski Valley Park District acquisition, to assess changes since the Commission's last visit in 2021 when the park was still under development and not yet open to the public.
- Mentored Colchester High School student Maeve McCullagh for a second year as a student member of the Commission through the Town's Get Engaged Program, designed to encourage student participation on Town boards and commissions



# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## Proposed Budget FY24

The proposed FY24 municipal services budget maintains our current level of Town services and addresses additional resource needs. These needs include those in IT due to expanding cybersecurity threats and increased service fees for department-specific software and internet connectivity, as well as a Civilian Evidence Technician in the Colchester Police Department and additional resources needed for data storage and transmission required for Body Worn Cameras and Digital Evidence Software, approved by the Selectboard.

This overview discusses the municipal services budget, capital funding, estimated tax rate, and long-term fiscal constraint. The tax impact of the municipal services budget, along with previously approved capital items, is a 5.7% increase to municipal service property taxes. Examples of the impact are noted below.

<i>Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Increase (Compared to FY 23)</i>			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$66	\$99	\$132
Monthly	\$5.50	\$8.25	\$11.00
Weekly	\$1.27	\$1.90	\$2.54

**Town Municipal Services Budget:** The Budget is comprised of twenty-five service categories. The expenses of four of these service categories have been reduced and twenty-one have increased. The municipal services budget increase is 8.3%. Changes are comprised of:

- CPD Civilian Evidence Technician: Hired a civilian to oversee collection, logging, storing, and as appropriate, disposing of evidence and property that come into our possession. This position was previously filled by a rotating assignment of a police detective. Due to the increasing responsibilities and time commitment to this role, it was determined that we would be better served hiring a civilian. (+\$102,000)
- Information Technology (IT): Resources needed to address expanding cybersecurity threats, increased fees for department-specific software and internet connectivity. (+\$95,417)
- Increased cost for fuel: Unleaded prices are estimated to increase 23% and diesel prices are projected to increase 31% from what was budgeted during the current year. (+\$40,000)
- Increased Costs for Health Insurance: Health carrier raised its rates by 18%. These costs would have been much higher had we not aggressively negotiated directly with multiple insurance companies. (+\$210,000)
- Increased Costs for all Petroleum-based Products: Petroleum-based products, such as oil, grease, diesel exhaust fluid, have already increased 20-38% from what was budgeted during the current fiscal year as well as cost increases for other equipment maintenance supplies needed. (+\$20,000)
- Increased Costs for Legal Counsel: Due to recent price increase notifications from various law firms, we have increased our FY24 budgeted funds for legal counsel to reflect the increase in attorney fees. (+\$30,000)

**Capital Funding:** The Municipal Services Tax Rate is also impacted by previously authorized voter-approved taxes to support capital projects, which are funded by fixed dollar amounts, fixed tax rates, or long-term financing. These total \$1,592,070 for FY24. Local option taxes fund voter-approved bond/lease purchase payments of \$452,849, leaving \$1,139,221 to be raised from property taxes. The certainty of capital funding through multi-year authorizations allows us to maximize grant revenues and minimize borrowing for planned replacements of vehicles, equipment, and capital repairs to parks, roads and buildings. The property tax funded capital is \$1,139,221 and increased by \$10,897 or just under 1% from last year.



# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

**Tax Rate:** The Town Municipal Services Budget and Capital Funding total \$13,761,411 net of non-property tax revenues. With an estimated 1.05% growth in the Grand List, the estimated municipal services tax rate for FY 2024 is \$0.6080. The tax rate is estimated to increase by \$0.0330 (a little less than three and a half cents per \$100 of assessed property value) or a 5.7% increase over the prior year.

### Tax Impact:

<i>FY 24 Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Impact</i>			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$1,216	\$1,824	\$2,432
Monthly	\$101.33	\$152.00	\$202.67
Weekly	\$23.38	\$35.08	\$46.77

<i>Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Increase (Compared to FY 23)</i>			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$66	\$99	\$132
Monthly	\$5.50	\$8.25	\$11.00
Weekly	\$1.27	\$1.90	\$2.54

**Long Term Fiscal Constraint:** In June 2022, the Selectboard set the FY 23 municipal services tax rate of \$0.5750 per hundred dollars of assessed property value. This rate was just 0.63% higher than the rate of \$0.5530 set seven years ago for the FY 2015 municipal services tax bills. Based on 2022-23 taxes, Colchester's municipal services taxes are the second lowest per resident among the seven inner Chittenden County communities.

### 2022-23 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES FROM TOWN LISTER/ASSESSOR'S DATA

Colchester is 15% below average for inner Chittenden County.

Williston	\$ 645
<b>Colchester ( 2nd lowest)</b>	<b>\$ 735</b>
Essex Town	\$ 795
Winooski	\$ 789
Burlington	\$ 919
So. Burlington	\$ 932
Essex Jct.	\$ 987
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$ 816</b>



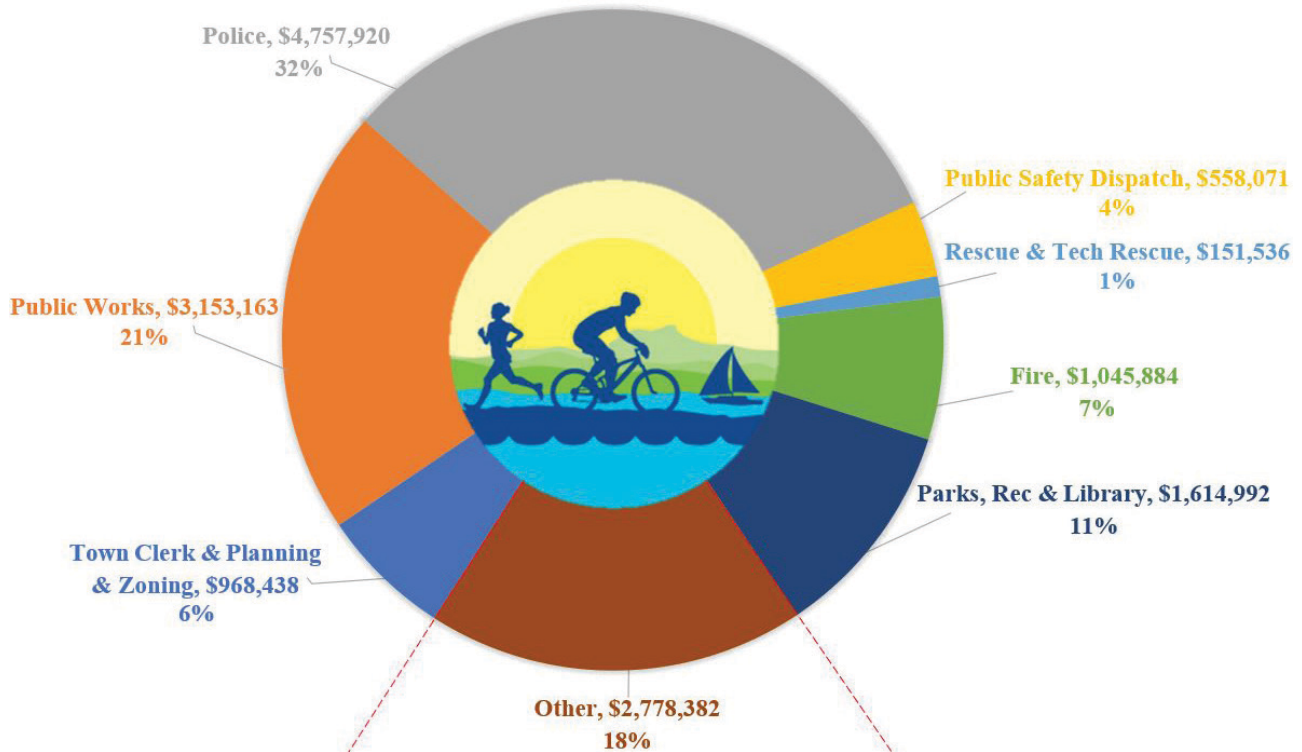
### Comparison - Inner Chittenden County Town Tax Rates

# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

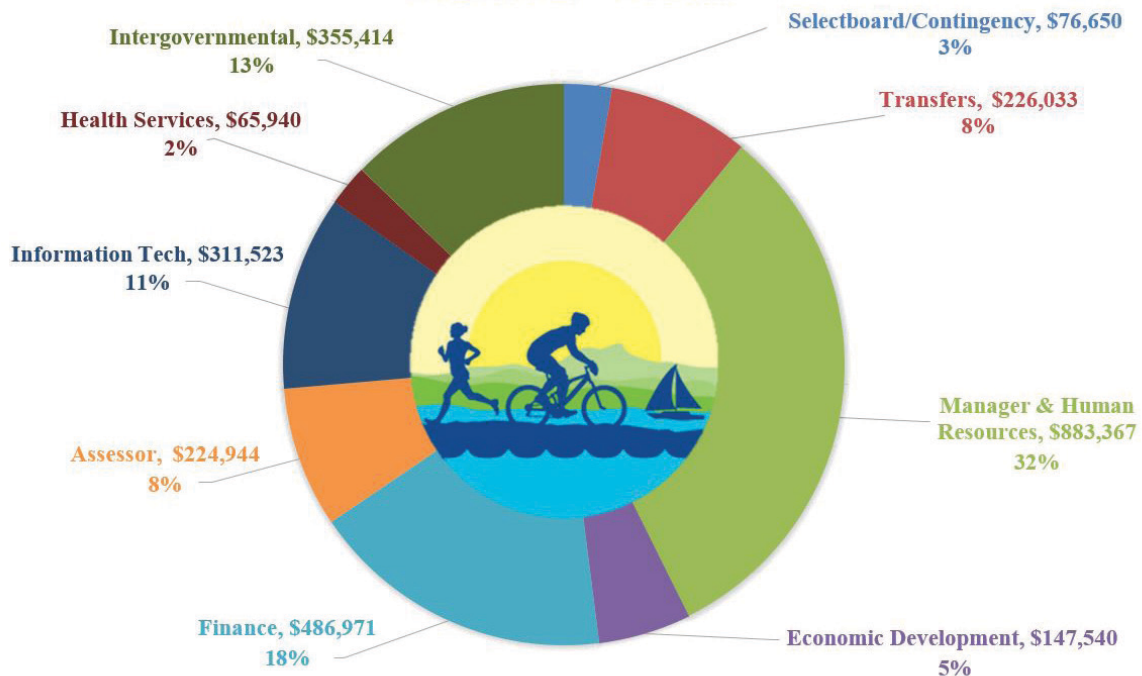
### FY24 BUDGET FOR YOUR TOWN SERVICES

**\$15,028,386**



### FY24 BUDGET FOR YOUR TOWN SERVICES

#### DETAIL OF "OTHER"





# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

### Town of Colchester Proposed FY 24 General Fund Budget

#### Revenues

Revenue Type	Proposed FY 24	FY 23	% Change From FY 23	\$ change from FY 23
Property Taxes	\$ 12,622,189	\$ 11,750,230	7.4%	\$ 871,959
Other Revenues	\$ 2,406,197	\$ 2,129,987	13.0%	\$ 276,211
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 15,028,386</b>	<b>\$ 13,880,217</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>\$ 1,148,170</b>

#### Expenses

Dept	Proposed FY 24	FY 23	% Change From FY 23	\$ change from FY 23
Selectboard	\$ 76,650	\$ 75,574	1.4%	\$ 1,077
Transfers	\$ 226,033	\$ 226,033	0.0%	\$ -
Civil Board	\$ 40,359	\$ 45,298	-10.9%	\$ (4,939)
Manager	\$ 883,367	\$ 831,826	6.2%	\$ 51,541
Economic Development	\$ 147,540	\$ 137,074	7.6%	\$ 10,466
Finance	\$ 486,971	\$ 458,097	6.3%	\$ 28,874
Assessor	\$ 224,944	\$ 233,831	-3.8%	\$ (8,886)
Town Clerk	\$ 401,982	\$ 369,083	8.9%	\$ 32,899
Planning & Zoning & DRB	\$ 526,097	\$ 469,585	12.0%	\$ 56,512
Information Tech	\$ 311,523	\$ 203,669	53.0%	\$ 107,854
Police	\$ 4,757,920	\$ 4,145,007	14.8%	\$ 612,913
Dispatch	\$ 558,071	\$ 543,908	2.6%	\$ 14,163
Fire Departments	\$ 1,045,884	\$ 945,478	10.6%	\$ 100,406
Rescue	\$ 108,911	\$ 230,193	-52.7%	\$ (121,283)
Tech Rescue	\$ 42,625	\$ 42,063	1.3%	\$ 563
Public Works-Admin	\$ 747,751	\$ 707,240	5.7%	\$ 40,510
Highway	\$ 1,570,368	\$ 1,436,999	9.3%	\$ 133,369
Maintenance Facility	\$ 473,788	\$ 487,381	-2.8%	\$ (13,593)
Stormwater	\$ 151,940	\$ 142,000	7.0%	\$ 9,940
Buildings	\$ 209,316	\$ 197,062	6.2%	\$ 12,254
Health Services	\$ 65,940	\$ 64,897	1.6%	\$ 1,042
Parks	\$ 494,327	\$ 479,811	3.0%	\$ 14,517
Recreation	\$ 283,523	\$ 265,252	6.9%	\$ 18,271
Library	\$ 837,142	\$ 807,652	3.7%	\$ 29,490
Intergovernmental	\$ 355,414	\$ 335,203	6.0%	\$ 20,211
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,028,386</b>	<b>\$ 13,880,217</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>\$ 1,148,170</b>

# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

### COLCHESTER PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET

Account	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY24 Budget	\$ Inc/Dec from FY 23	% Inc/Dec from FY 23 Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>					
PROPERTY TAXES	11,323,902	11,750,230	12,622,189	871,959	7.4%
VETERAN EXEMPTION	(33,133)	(30,000)	(33,000)	(3,000)	10.0%
INTEREST DELINQ TAXES	61,960	40,000	55,000	15,000	37.5%
PENALTIES DELINQ TAXES	99,736	62,500	77,500	15,000	24.0%
RECORDING FEES	186,382	185,000	160,000	(25,000)	-13.5%
CLERK FEES	87,943	67,155	72,300	5,145	7.7%
STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	229,865	206,960	212,694	5,734	2.8%
MISC PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE	27,458	27,600	28,100	500	1.8%
BUILDING/ZONING PERMITS	276,566	265,000	353,600	88,600	33.4%
PLANNING & ZONING FEES	114,859	93,500	114,600	21,100	22.6%
MISC POLICE REVENUE	78,192	69,500	68,500	(1,000)	-1.4%
MISC RECREATION REVENUE	17,806	10,000	18,000	8,000	80.0%
GRANT REVENUE	19,826	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER FROM SEWER FUND	135,520	128,776	132,953	4,177	3.2%
TRANSFER FROM STORMWATER	110,787	131,520	157,812	26,292	20.0%
TRANSFER FROM CEMETERY FUND	35,000	0	0	0	0.0%
GENERAL REVENUE	218,012	191,516	215,090	23,574	12.3%
833 BLAKELY LEASE REVENUE	47,733	30,992	60,174	29,182	94.2%
PILOT & CURRENT USE	333,191	325,635	336,874	11,239	3.5%
REDUCTION IN FUND BALANCE	0	66,000	116,000	50,000	75.8%
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	0	258,333	260,000	1,667	0.6%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>13,371,604</b>	<b>13,880,217</b>	<b>15,028,386</b>	<b>1,148,170</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

### COLCHESTER PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET

Account	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY24 Budget	\$ Inc/Dec from FY 23	% Inc/Dec from FY 23 Budget
<b>SELECTBOARD</b>					
SALARIES & WAGES	8,500	7,500	8,500	1,000	13.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	650	574	650	77	13.3%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	0	67,500	67,500	0	138.1%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Select Board</b>	<b>9,150</b>	<b>75,574</b>	<b>76,650</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

### TRANSFERS

TRANSFER TO FIRE CAPITAL	0	226,033	226,033	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO CEMETERY FUND-SPENDABLE	35,000	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>226,033</b>	<b>226,033</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

### CIVIL BOARD

SALARIES & WAGES	15,270	27,543	25,835	(1,708)	-6.2%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	2,808	6,155	7,424	1,269	20.6%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	1,152	4,000	2,500	(1,500)	-37.5%
EQUIPMENT	922	600	600	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	1,540	7,000	4,000	(3,000)	-42.9%
<b>Total Civil Board</b>	<b>21,693</b>	<b>45,298</b>	<b>40,359</b>	<b>(4,939)</b>	<b>-10.9%</b>



# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

MANAGER					
SALARIES & WAGES	436,290	502,094	501,798	(296)	-0.1%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	162,343	212,031	213,768	1,737	0.8%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	701,935	93,200	134,800	41,600	44.6%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	6,304	2,500	7,000	4,500	180.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	35,232	22,000	26,000	4,000	18.2%
<b>Total Manager</b>	<b>1,342,105</b>	<b>831,826</b>	<b>883,367</b>	<b>51,541</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
SALARIES & WAGES	82,550	82,928	87,076	4,147	5.0%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	37,423	41,646	45,964	4,318	10.4%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	3,429	12,500	14,500	2,000	16.0%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Economic Development</b>	<b>123,402</b>	<b>137,074</b>	<b>147,540</b>	<b>10,466</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

FINANCE					
SALARIES & WAGES	259,551	263,789	279,966	16,178	6.1%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	97,028	107,808	119,305	11,497	10.7%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	72,895	83,500	84,700	1,200	1.4%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	3,074	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>432,548</b>	<b>458,097</b>	<b>486,971</b>	<b>28,874</b>	<b>6.3%</b>

ASSESSOR					
SALARIES & WAGES	116,411	117,601	124,324	6,723	5.7%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	48,500	53,730	58,620	4,890	9.1%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	29,011	62,000	41,500	(20,500)	-33.1%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	55	500	500	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Assessor</b>	<b>193,977</b>	<b>233,831</b>	<b>224,944</b>	<b>(8,886)</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER					
SALARIES & WAGES	252,729	236,973	244,826	7,854	3.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	92,570	99,260	120,306	21,045	21.2%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	19,495	20,250	22,250	2,000	9.9%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	12,669	12,000	14,000	2,000	16.7%
MISCELLANEOUS	2,221	600	600	0	0.0%
<b>Total Town Clerk/Treasurer</b>	<b>379,683</b>	<b>369,083</b>	<b>401,982</b>	<b>32,899</b>	<b>8.9%</b>

PLANNING/ZONING					
SALARIES & WAGES	206,103	248,258	297,843	49,585	20.0%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	83,301	127,877	148,654	20,777	16.2%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	77,337	89,950	76,100	(13,850)	-15.4%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	1,315	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Planning/Zoning</b>	<b>368,055</b>	<b>469,585</b>	<b>526,097</b>	<b>56,512</b>	<b>12.0%</b>

# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
SALARIES & WAGES	136,051	123,288	130,285	6,996	5.7%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	41,966	46,531	51,871	5,341	11.5%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	43,612	28,850	124,267	95,417	330.7%
EQUIPMENT	6,654	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	55	0	100	100	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Information Technology</b>	<b>228,338</b>	<b>203,669</b>	<b>311,523</b>	<b>107,854</b>	<b>53.0%</b>

POLICE ENFORCEMENT					
SALARIES & WAGES	2,400,748	2,505,581	2,813,678	308,098	12.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	999,579	1,199,526	1,409,693	210,167	17.5%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	287,291	282,900	418,549	135,649	47.9%
EQUIPMENT	118,685	55,000	75,000	20,000	36.4%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	10,770	10,000	11,000	1,000	10.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	88,123	92,000	30,000	(62,000)	-67.4%
<b>Total Police</b>	<b>3,905,197</b>	<b>4,145,007</b>	<b>4,757,920</b>	<b>612,913</b>	<b>14.8%</b>

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH					
FUNDING FOR LOCAL OR REGIONAL	508,253	543,908	558,071	14,163	2.6%
<b>Total Public Safety Dispatch</b>	<b>508,253</b>	<b>543,908</b>	<b>558,071</b>	<b>14,163</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

FIRE					
FIRE RADIO TOWER LEASE	0	0	0	0	0.0%
DAYTIME COVERAGE PILOT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
FIRE PREVENTION & SUPPRESSION	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SALARIES & WAGES	346,372	367,607	416,618	49,011	13.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	188,064	172,871	213,157	40,286	23.3%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	105,906	137,100	137,100	0	0.0%
EQUIPMENT	92,344	153,500	164,609	11,109	7.2%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	109,076	107,000	107,000	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	2,594	7,400	7,400	0	0.0%
CAPITAL AND TRANSFERS	226,033	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>1,070,390</b>	<b>945,478</b>	<b>1,045,884</b>	<b>100,406</b>	<b>10.6%</b>

RESCUE					
EXPENSES/TRANSFER TO RESCUE FUND	230,404	230,193	108,911	(121,282)	-52.7%
<b>Total Rescue</b>	<b>230,404</b>	<b>230,193</b>	<b>108,911</b>	<b>(121,282)</b>	<b>-52.7%</b>

TECHNICAL RESCUE					
SALARIES & WAGES	8,182	9,000	9,000	0	0.0%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	1,699	2,063	2,325	262	12.7%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	43,037	26,700	27,000	300	1.1%
EQUIPMENT	2,373	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	77	300	300	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Technical Rescue</b>	<b>55,368</b>	<b>42,063</b>	<b>42,625</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

PUBLIC WORKS - ADMIN					
SALARIES & WAGES	408,750	478,663	506,952	28,289	5.9%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	140,258	185,627	193,677	8,050	4.3%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	65,059	41,500	45,672	4,172	10.1%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	1,638	1,450	1,450	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Public Works-Admin</b>	<b>615,704</b>	<b>707,240</b>	<b>747,751</b>	<b>40,510</b>	<b>5.7%</b>



# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

HIGHWAY DEPT					
SALARIES & WAGES	451,192	556,710	591,624	34,915	6.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	258,848	327,154	384,392	57,239	17.5%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	190,362	172,276	191,390	19,114	11.1%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	378,987	380,860	402,962	22,102	5.8%
MISCELLANEOUS	92,693	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Highway Dept</b>	<b>1,372,082</b>	<b>1,436,999</b>	<b>1,570,368</b>	<b>133,369</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

MAINTENANCE FACILITY					
SALARIES & WAGES	239,534	283,093	257,940	(25,153)	-8.9%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	83,481	106,863	115,216	8,353	7.8%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	62,399	53,275	49,482	(3,793)	-7.1%
EQUIPMENT	2,966	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	38,195	39,150	46,150	7,000	17.9%
MISCELLANEOUS	325	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Maintenance Facility</b>	<b>426,899</b>	<b>487,381</b>	<b>473,788</b>	<b>(13,593)</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>

STORMWATER					
SERVICES & UTILITIES	137,532	142,000	151,940	9,940	7.0%
<b>Total Stormwater</b>	<b>137,532</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>151,940</b>	<b>9,940</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

BUILDINGS					
SALARIES & WAGES	47,635	62,095	80,000	17,905	28.8%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	18,256	24,467	38,966	14,499	59.3%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	109,746	106,300	86,150	(20,150)	-19.0%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	1,272	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	132	700	700	0	0.0%
<b>Total Buildings</b>	<b>177,042</b>	<b>197,062</b>	<b>209,316</b>	<b>12,254</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

HEALTH SERVICES					
VISITING NURSE ASSOC	36,000	36,000	36,000	0	0.0%
HOWARD MENTAL HEALTH	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CHAMPL VALLEY AG ON AGING	0	0	0	0	0.0%
STEPS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	550	550	550	0	0.0%
TURNING POINT	1,000	1,000		0	0.0%
AGE WELL			1,000	0	0.0%
ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT	23,453	20,847	21,890	1,042	5.0%
ANIMAL CONTROL FEES	375	6,500	6,500	0	0.0%
VT CARES	0	0		0	0.0%
<b>Total Health Services</b>	<b>61,378</b>	<b>64,897</b>	<b>65,940</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

PARKS					
SALARIES & WAGES	203,561	227,385	242,351	14,966	6.6%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	70,137	86,226	90,396	4,169	4.8%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	145,930	139,200	139,581	381	0.3%
EQUIPMENT	7,720	10,000	5,000	(5,000)	-50.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	16,124	17,000	17,000	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	13,077	0	0	0	0.0%
CAPITAL AND TRANSFES	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Parks</b>	<b>456,549</b>	<b>479,811</b>	<b>494,327</b>	<b>14,517</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

## CONTINUED

RECREATION					
SALARIES & WAGES	148,978	154,995	162,743	7,749	5.0%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	49,235	52,558	58,280	5,722	10.9%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	46,709	54,200	59,000	4,800	8.9%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	2,933	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	1,700	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Recreation</b>	<b>249,555</b>	<b>265,252</b>	<b>283,523</b>	<b>18,271</b>	<b>6.9%</b>

LIBRARY					
SALARIES & WAGES	399,212	446,882	452,035	5,153	1.2%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	161,699	210,670	219,430	8,761	4.2%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	133,900	144,900	160,477	15,577	10.8%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	5,416	5,200	5,200	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Library</b>	<b>700,227</b>	<b>807,652</b>	<b>837,142</b>	<b>29,490</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

CEMETERY					
SALARIES & WAGES		0		0	0.0%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS		0		0	0.0%
SERVICES & UTILITIES		0		0	0.0%
EQUIPMENT		0		0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS		0		0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS		0		0	0.0%
<b>Total Cemetery</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

INTERGOVTL EXPENDITURES					
LCR CHAMBER	0	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
VT COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS	1,000	500	500	0	0.0%
GBIC	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
CHITT CO REGIONAL PLANNING	25,994	26,630	28,044	1,414	5.3%
WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT	49,725	53,073	55,143	2,070	3.9%
VLCT	22,394	24,000	24,227	227	0.9%
GMT ADA	48,000	33,000	48,000	15,000	45.5%
GMT Routes (Rt 15 & Rt 7)	43,628	51,000	51,000	0	0.0%
SSTA (E&D)	13,477	30,000	29,000	(1,000)	-3.3%
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORG	0	0	0	0	0.0%
COUNTY TAX	104,498	110,000	112,000	2,000	1.8%
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2,500	2,500	3,000	500	20.0%
<b>Total Intergov Expenditures</b>	<b>314,216</b>	<b>335,203</b>	<b>355,414</b>	<b>20,211</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>13,414,745</b>	<b>13,880,217</b>	<b>15,029,386</b>	<b>1,148,170</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
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# COLCHESTER RECREATION CENTER

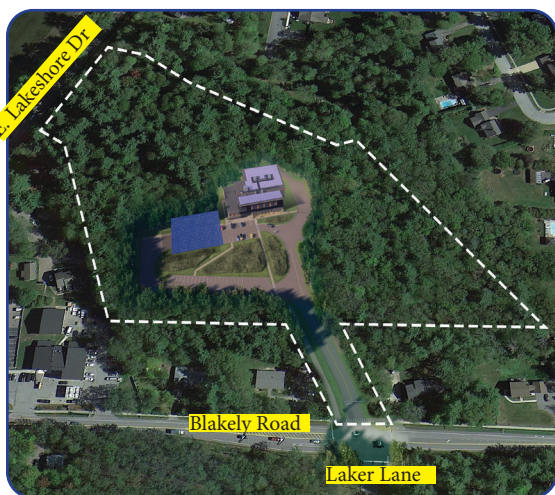


## WHAT IS THE COLCHESTER RECREATION CENTER?

The Colchester Recreation Center will be considered by voters on the Town Meeting Day ballot in March 2023. The construction of the Colchester Recreation Center, a 29,427 square foot multi-generational facility, responds to a community need that has been identified over the past 20 years through multiple surveys, community outreach and engagement.

The Colchester Recreation Center will include:

- Full-size, multi-purpose gymnasium
- Locker rooms
- Classrooms and studio space
- Elevated walking/running track
- Kitchen
- Cardio/weight room



## LOCATION

The Colchester Recreation Center will be located on the town-owned 14-acre parcel, known as the Bayside/Hazelett property, with proposed access on Blakely Road, directly across from Laker Lane.

## COST & FUNDING

### **Project Cost: \$15,907,000**

- Includes site development, building, equipment and solar arrays.

### **How will it be paid for?**

- This project will be paid entirely from current and future proceeds generated from the existing 1% Local Option Tax (LOT).

### **What is the LOT?**

- The 1% Local Option Tax was approved by voters on Town Meeting Day in 2015.
- LOT proceeds must be used for existing or future voter-approved capital projects.
- Estimated LOT Balance: \$9,468,285

### **Funding Plans:**

- \$9,000,000 in available proceeds from the LOT.
- \$6,907,000 loan that will be repaid from LOT proceeds over a 10-year period.
- \$15,907,000 paid entirely from LOT proceeds.

**NO PROPERTY TAXES will be needed for this project.**

### **How will operating costs be paid for once the Recreation Center is open?**

- Membership and facility use fees will cover the operating expenses.

**NO PROPERTY TAXES will be used for operating costs of the Colchester Recreation Center.**

## NEXT STEPS

If approved by Colchester voters on the Town Meeting Day ballot, March 7, 2023, construction is anticipated to be completed by spring of 2025.



# REPORT OF DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

## JULIE GRAETER, TOWN CLERK

### Town of Colchester Report of Delinquent Tax Collector

Status Report as of June 30, 2022

<b>Taxes, Interest and Penalties billed, collected and balances due for fiscal 2021/2022:</b>				
	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Billed Net	\$50,650,615	\$33,798	\$98,375	\$50,782,788
Collected	\$50,516,337	\$24,430	\$88,434	\$50,629,201
Due	\$134,278	\$9,368	\$9,942	\$153,587

<b>Current and Prior Year Taxes, Penalty and Interest Due:</b>						
<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>
07-08						
08-09						
09-10						
10-11	1,355.97	1,463.97	1,571.97	1,679.97	1,787.97	1,895.97
11-12	3,928.32	3,508.84	3,756.01	4,078.45	3,643.23	2,240.90
12-13	4,313.12	4,668.09	5,073.21	5,071.95	4,294.54	2,206.31
13-14	9,032.09	6,941.98	5,430.23	5,313.99	4,630.55	2,310.84
14-15	17,380.13	14,792.49	6,926.90	6,182.34	5,024.03	2,847.32
15-16	34,762.91	27,933.83	11,345.32	7,622.84	6,947.43	3,617.48
16-17	212,575.00	72,660.98	34,537.29	15,825.06	15,318.97	9,638.11
17-18		146,697.78	47,877.13	21,763.50	20,951.23	7,350.49
18-19			176,701.26	47,935.63	31,654.89	10,615.17
19-20				200,134.23	57,821.93	17,346.58
20-21					168,516.38	62,492.59
21-22						153,587.37
Totals	\$283,348	\$278,668	\$293,219	\$315,608	\$320,591	\$276,149
% Uncollected						0.54%



# ANNUAL ENERGY REPORT

The Town of Colchester seeks to reduce energy use, produce energy locally, save residents and businesses money in the provision of municipal services, and set an example for the community. Along with continuously researching state and federal grant opportunities to leverage energy investments, this year we have been spending a significant amount of time and financial resources on alternative energy projects:

**Solar Farms:** We are working to find a replacement solar site for the one previously proposed adjacent to the industrial park on Hercules Drive, which was ultimately rejected by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources last year, due to the State's multiple competing environmental goals. We are in the permitting process with a site off of Mercier Drive, for which the Selectboard approved \$32,000 for permitting on February 8, 2022. This project, if constructed, will bring the Town from producing about 66% of the electricity consumed in the provision of municipal services by local cost-effective renewables to about 100%.



Our current two solar farms generate solar energy credits, which are used to offset Green Mountain Power electric bills. These credits expire if unused for 24 months. As we increase our production of these credits in hopes to offset all our electric energy use, we have put into place a tracking system to be sure that the credits are used as intended. Additionally, on July 28th, 2022, the Selectboard transferred \$558,000 to the Capital Equipment and Facilities fund for use on the next permitted solar farm.

**Colchester Recreation Center:** We are working to develop the Community Recreation Center to produce electricity equivalent to that consumed in the Center, by the three fire stations that were transferred to Town ownership after the above noted goal was set, and by the Town's expanded sewer system. There will likely be a very substantial solar component to the proposed project.



**Electric Vehicle/Charging Stations:** In 2021, the Town purchased a used Nissan Leaf for use by Town staff when conducting inspections or site visits. Soon after, an EV charger was purchased and installed behind Town Hall for Town vehicle use only and is used to power the Town's EV. Public electric car chargers at the Recreation Center and at Town Hall are being planned as well. The Town Hall charger may be completed in the next 12 months and is dependent on supply chain and professional installation. An estimated cost including installation comes to approximately \$16,000. When we've looked into car chargers previously, grant funded options required the Town to give away free electricity to the users. We do not anticipate Town taxpayers would appreciate the Town giving away free "fill-ups," funded by all taxpayers. Instead, we plan to use Town funds, as the budget allows, to purchase car chargers that charge users for electricity actually used.





# ***LOCAL SERVICES***





# WATER SUPPLY SERVICES

Drinking water in the Town of Colchester is provided by three entities, which are legally separate from your Town government: Colchester Fire District #2, the Town of Essex, and the Champlain Water District. The Town does not provide water. Colchester residents who have questions about their water quality, billing, or service should contact their water provider directly.

**Fire District #2** provides water service to the Malletts Bay area and a portion of Blakely Road onto Malletts Bay Avenue. Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Fire District #2 Office, 838 Church Road. The annual meeting is held on the 4th Monday in January.

Water and Hydrant Maintenance 802.862.4621

**Prudential Committee** One and three-year terms expire upon vote at Annual Meeting

K. Michael Whalen, Chair	3 years (exp. 2023)
Brad Martin	1 year (exp. 2023)
Joe Hart	3 year (exp. 2025)
Charles Thackara	1 year (exp. 2023)
Angela MacDonald	3 years (exp. 2024)
Rena Barrett	1 year (exp. 2023)

**Champlain Water District (CWD):** The Champlain Water District provides water to the Exit 16 and Water Tower Hill area, Young Street, Valleyfield, and Morehouse Drive neighborhoods on the Southern portion of Malletts Bay Avenue, and the Route 15 corridor between Winooski and Fort Ethan Allen.

**Main Phone** (including emergencies) 802.864.7454

## **CWD Staff**

Jay Nadeau 802.864.7454 x4817

## **Board of Commissioners**

CWD Commissioner 3-year term	Karen Richard (exp. 2024)	802.497.2168
Alternate, 3-year term	Aaron Frank (exp. 2023)	802.264.5509

**Web** <http://www.champlainwater.org>

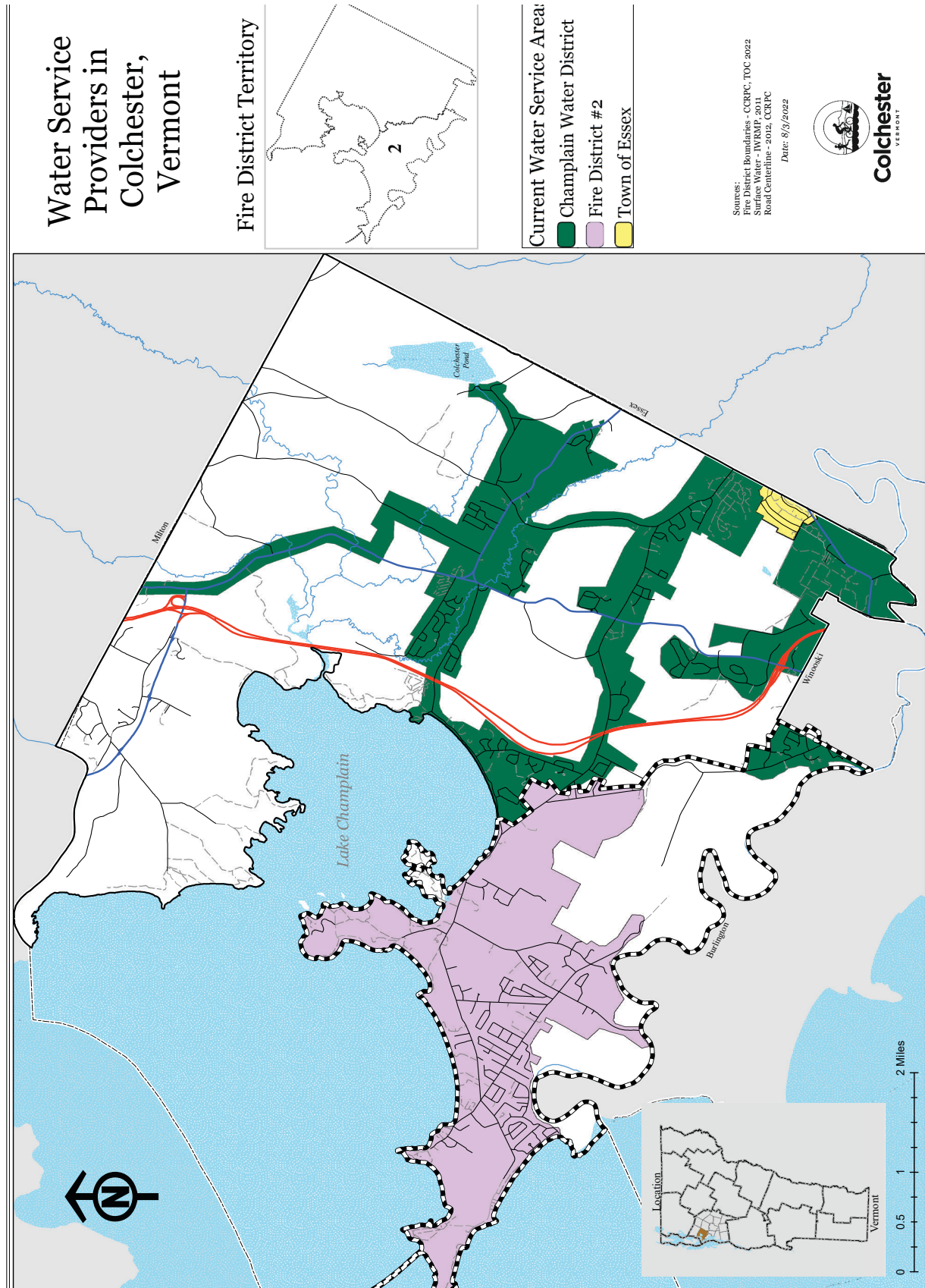
**Fire District #3** transferred their assets and responsibilities to the Champlain Water District in 2022.

**The Town of Essex** provides water to Fort Ethan Allen.

Main Phone: 802.878.1344

Web <http://www.essex.org>

# WATER SUPPLY SERVICES MAP





# CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT



## CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

Dedicated to Quality Water & Service

First In The Nation ~ Excellence In Water Treatment, Partnership For Safe Water



### MANAGEMENT LETTER – FY 2021-2022

Champlain Water District (CWD) is a regional municipal organization supplying drinking water and fire protection to the following (12) municipal water systems since 1973: South Burlington, Shelburne, Williston, Essex, Essex Junction, Village of Jericho, Winooski, Milton, Colchester Fire District #1, Colchester Fire District #3, Colchester Town, and the Mallets Bay Water Company. This past year CWD celebrated our 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of continuing to maintain the Partnership for Safe Water Program's Excellence in Water Treatment Award criteria. CWD was the first water supplier in North America to receive the Excellence in Water Treatment Award in 1999, and is presently one of 16 water utilities that have attained this level of water treatment optimization, which signifies continuous performance protective of public health. CWD has maintained this level of excellence through successful submission of a comprehensive annual report that is reviewed for water quality test results, as well as demonstration and documentation of the operational tenacity toward continued quality improvement as required by the Partnership for Safe Water Program. The Partnership for Safe Water program utility membership collectively serves a total population of over 100 million people, or two-thirds of the U.S. population using surface water as their source of drinking water. In June of 2015, CWD was chosen as the People's Choice Award winner as the best tasting drinking water in North America at the American Water Works Annual Conference and Exhibition.



Over the past year CWD has steadily continued its efforts toward completion of its Ten-Year Master Plan (2016-2026). CWD's accomplishments over this past fiscal year are as follows:

- Continued Phase II of a water transmission pipe condition assessment plan, titled Pipe Integrity Program (PIP), toward potential replacement of aging underground infrastructure using a GIS based risk prioritization scoring matrix and satellite leak detection.
- Partnered with other water systems nationally through Isle Utilities to identify and understand the current state of pressure monitoring and leak detection solutions.
- Continued to manage a long-term asset management contract with Veolia for on-going inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of (15) of CWD's welded steel water storage tanks and (3) of CWD's non-welded steel water storage tanks.
- Instituted a program to monitor tank temperature stratification in our tanks to analyze tank turnover and water quality. The data will be used to identify measures and improvements to continue to provide high quality drinking water.
- Continued to manage a long-term asset management contract with Veolia for on-going inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of (3) Adsorption Clarifiers and (8) Multimedia Filters at CWD's Water Treatment Facility.
- Rehabilitated Adsorption Clarifier #2.
- Began an annual partnership with Chittenden Solid Waste District for disposal of our drinking water treatment residuals (DWTRs) at their composting facility in Williston where the DWTRs are mixed with topsoil.
- Continued our annual transmission system valve replacement program.
- Began an annual replacement program for valves and actuators at CWD's Water Treatment Facility.
- Continued investment with Efficiency Vermont to optimize daily energy usage and reduce overall annual electrical costs.
- Continued implementation of a long-term asset management database system for all CWD property, plant, and equipment.
- Completed construction of the Colchester South Tank Loop project.
- Continued construction of the Essex West Pump Station project, which includes the new Essex West Pump Station and rehabilitation of the existing Essex East Pump Station. Construction is anticipated to be completed in FY22-23.
- Installed security fencing around the perimeter of CWD's Water Treatment Facility utilizing a Homeland Security Grant.
- Began planning for future improvements: Water Treatment Plant HVAC Improvements, Chemical Feed and Storage Addition, Lake Water Pump Station Improvements, South Filtered Water Tank, and SCADA Improvements.

We thank our employees and elected officials for their effort, support, and dedication in allowing CWD to be proactively managed and operated to supply a drinking water product protective of public health. As always, we welcome anyone who wishes to tour our facility. Please call 864-7454 to arrange a tour, or if you have questions, or need further information on CWD.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Shand, Chair CWD Board of Water Commissioners  
Joe Duncan, CWD General Manager

# WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT

## WVPD's Parks

*Colchester Pond  
Natural Area*

*Delta Park*

*Derway Cove*

*Derway Island  
Nature Preserve*

*Donohue Sea Caves*

*Essex Overlook Park*

*Ethan Allen Homestead*

*Heineberg Wetlands*

*Macrae Farm Park*

*Mayes Landing*

*Muddy Brook Park*

*Muddy Brook  
Wetland Reserve*

*Old Mill Park*

*Riverwalk Trail*

*Salmon Hole Park*

*Winooski Gorge*

*Wolcott Family  
Natural Area*

*Woodside Park*

*Valley Ridge*

**Ethan Allen Homestead  
Burlington, Vermont 05408**

Tel: (802) 863-5744 Email: [info@wvpd.org](mailto:info@wvpd.org) [www.WVPD.org](http://www.WVPD.org)

Fax: (802) 865-0647

Nick Warner, Executive Director

## Winooski Valley Park District Annual Report: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

The Winooski Valley Park District's mission is to plan, acquire, and manage lands and waters within the boundaries of its member municipalities for purposes of conservation, preservation of natural areas, establishment of parks, and resource-based education and recreation.

WVPD's 1,781-acre portfolio features over 13 miles of shoreline and offers 25 miles of trails across 19 parks in the lower Winooski River Valley. In Colchester that includes Colchester Pond Natural Area, Delta Park, Macrae Farm Park, and the Wolcott Family Natural Area. Susan Gilfillan is Colchester's representative on the Board of Trustees and serves as Vice-Chair.

### **FY22 Park Improvements and Activities in Colchester:**

**Colchester Pond:** Completed trailhead improvements to reduce erosion. 2022 Recreational Trails Program Grant was awarded for \$30,000 for trail maintenance and upgrades to the Loop Trail to be completed Summer 2023. Thank you to the Colchester Conservation Commission for providing a letter of support for the Recreational Trails Program Grant.

**Colchester Pond Farmhouse:** Pressure tank replaced; new refrigerator installed. First floor windows to be replaced Fall 2022/Winter 2023.

**Macrae Farm Natural Area:** Graded and completed major maintenance on entrance road leading to Macrae Farm bridge.

**Wolcott Family Natural Area:** Finished parking lot fencing and entry kiosk, continued Poison Parsnip management, completed bridge and boardwalk approaches, puncheon installed over wet areas, and upgraded signage. Park fully opened to the public late Spring 2022.





# WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT

## CONTINUED

### **Financial Sustainability:**

To maximize the investments made by member communities, WVPD enhances revenues by providing contracted park maintenance and trail construction services for municipal clients, leverages resources and obtains grants, sponsorships, donated labor, supplies and expertise for park acquisitions and major projects, while leasing buildings, farm fields, and a picnic shelter.

Parks are maintained by a professional crew, supplemented with hundreds of volunteer hours each year from local schools, businesses, non-profits, and community organizations. Volunteers remove invasive plant species, assist/sponsor programs and events, build and repair trails, plant trees and shrubs, and provide expertise to WVPD staff.

Onsite partner organizations/tenants include the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center, Burlington Forest Preschool, New Farms for New Americans, Janet Munt Family Room, Vermont Community Gardening Network and others using the park system for programs, studies and events.

To achieve its broader mission, WVPD works closely with conservation non-profits, land trusts, conservation commissions, and philanthropic organizations to build the park portfolio and organizational capacity over time in a sustainable manner.

### **Activities for Residents and Tourists:**

WVPD's 19 regional parks are all managed for permanent conservation and free public access. Featuring nature trails, scenic overlooks and wildlife viewing, hiking trails, picnic facilities, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails, canoe/kayak launches, fishing accesses, community and specialty gardens, and various forms of agriculture, the growing park system continues to serve the recreational needs of area residents and visitors. Two parks – Ethan Allen Homestead and Colchester Pond Natural Area – host resident caretakers who open and close park gates and provide security in return for reduced rent.

In the 1930's era "Museum Barn," three organizations provide important public services – and funding streams for WVPD. The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum (providing tours of Ethan and Fanny Allen's 1787 restored farmhouse, historic lectures, programs, and special events) and the Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center (expanding to provide museum displays, educational programs, and events) provide a broad range of experiences, cultural enrichment, and public education. The Burlington Forest Preschool provides year-round, licensed, and nature-based educational programming.

### **Programs at WVPD Parks:**

Area school groups, colleges and universities, and other conservation focused organizations utilize WVPD's parks regularly, which are also the focus of numerous collegiate and post-graduate studies. The Burlington Area Community Gardens, the Vermont Garden Network, The Janet S. Munt Family Room, and New Farms for New Americans lead educational gardening and sustainable agriculture programs at WVPD's Ethan Allen Homestead. WVPD is working to expand these opportunities through building new partnerships and enhancing existing relationships.

More than ever, people need natural areas to stay in touch with the local landscapes that sustain them. In turn, natural areas need protection and management to assure people and wildlife can peacefully coexist. In an era of forest decline and water quality challenges, WVPD will continue to prioritize high value conservation properties for acquisition and management. WVPD has and will continue to provide services in park planning and park maintenance. WVPD's presence in Colchester greatly enhances education, conservation, and recreation. Colchester's annual support makes it possible for thousands of Vermonters and tourists to explore our ecologically diverse system of natural areas embedded within the most developed county in Vermont. Thank You!

# CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT



**Chittenden Solid Waste District**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

1021 Redmond Road  
Williston, VT 05495

EMAIL: [info@cswd.net](mailto:info@cswd.net)

TEL: (802) 872-8100

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

## **CSWD Fiscal Year 2022 Summary**

Thanks to conservative budgeting and significant belt-tightening, the Chittenden Solid Waste District remained on strong financial footing in Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). The District's FY22 total operating expenses were \$12,336,755 and operating revenues were \$16,569,666 for a net surplus of \$4,232,911. This surplus was applied to CSWD's reserves following the Board-approved prioritization schedule (see "Budget Memo" under FY2023 Budget on the Financial Information page of [cswd.net](http://cswd.net)).

The residents, businesses, and institutions of our 18 member towns and cities generated an estimated 305,389 tons of materials to be managed in calendar year 2021, compared with 270,207 tons in 2020, with the increase likely due to increased construction and overall economic activity. Chittenden County continues to be among the national leaders in landfill diversion, with an estimated 66.7% of those materials recovered in 2021 via composting (food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings), anaerobic digestion, and recycling of Blue-Bin materials, Special Recycling, and Construction and Demolition materials. (The 2021 Diversion Report was posted in October 2022.)

This foundation enabled CSWD to focus on strengthening our infrastructure and our commitments to our members, staff, and our mission: To reduce and manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound, efficient, effective, and economical manner.

## **STRENGTHENING CSWD'S INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Preparing for a New Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)**

In March 2022, the CSWD Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of CSWD submitting a bond request to the voters of Chittenden County in the November 2022 General Election enabling CSWD to borrow \$22 million to build a new Materials Recovery Facility.

### **Organics Diversion Facility: Phase 1 work completed, foodware ban implemented**

The first phase of a three-part expansion of CSWD's Organics Diversion Facility (or ODF – where Green Mountain Compost is made) was completed in FY22. This phase included implementation of a windrow turner that replaced four pieces of heavy equipment and reduced windrow-turning time from two weeks to three hours. The completion of a new curing and sales area enabled staff to remove all sales traffic to a separate gate, decreasing congestion and increasing safety for all facility users.

Due to increased contamination from non-compostable materials, the ODF began accepting only food scraps, paper towels, napkins, newspaper, paper bags, and certified compostable bags used for lining food scrap collection containers as of January 1, 2022. CSWD provided just shy of a year of notice to vendors, commercial and institutional consumers of compostable products, food scrap haulers, and the public. A blog post on the drivers for this decision is on the CSWD website.



# CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

## CONTINUED

### **New Administration Building approved**

COVID-19 demonstrated the necessity of healthy and safe working facilities and the shortcomings of CSWD's Administration offices at 1021 Redmond Road in this regard. CSWD's Board of Commissioners approved planning for new offices to be pursued into FY23.

Other operational changes included the end of CSWD operation of the Drop-Off Center in Richmond after almost 30 years. CSWD submitted a bid for continued operation of the facility, but the Richmond Selectboard voted to award the contract to Casella Waste Systems when CSWD's lease expired on December 31, 2021. Though it was not the outcome we desired, the removal of this facility reduced CSWD operating expenses, enabled us to deploy experienced staff to other sites, and provided an opportunity for CSWD to re-evaluate our community's needs.

### **STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYEES**

CSWD was not immune to the labor shortages experienced across Vermont, and the Board of Commissioners convened an Ad Hoc Committee to review employee compensation and benefits, ensuring the District is competitive in the labor marketplace and the compensation structure is clear and fair.

The Board adopted a Declaration of Inclusion at their May meeting, with staff forming a Justice, Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee devoted to ensuring and exploring opportunities for implementation of the Declaration's principles.

The CSWD Board passed resolutions recognizing retiring employees Nancy Plunkett (30 years) who implemented mandatory recycling in Chittenden County in 1993 and expanded CSWD's education and research programs, and Lee Tuure (29 years), who transformed "town dump" locations into CSWD's beloved Drop-Off Centers. The Board also recognized the volunteer service of Commissioners Abby Foulk (Shelburne-nine years) and Doug Taff (Hinesburg-12 years).

CSWD staff reported on the 2021 (biannual) Household Solid Waste Survey Report, with key findings including that 93% of respondents reported a favorable impression of CSWD, and strong support for bonding for a new MRF. The survey also revealed opportunities for CSWD to provide more communication on appropriate materials management, particularly to new residents. Staff began the process for amending the CSWD Solid Waste Management Ordinance, which will wrap up in FY23.

Overall, FY22 proved an extremely busy year as CSWD staff and Board of Commissioners rebooted projects stalled by the pandemic and looked ahead to opportunities to build on the District's 35 years of public service to Chittenden County.

### **Paul Ruess**

Chair, Board of Commissioners

### **Sarah Reeves**

Executive Director

# CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



110 West Canal Street, Suite 202  
Winooski, Vermont 05404-2109  
802-846-4490  
[www.ccrpcvt.org](http://www.ccrpcvt.org)

## FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT Colchester

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a political subdivision of the State created by the municipalities of Chittenden County in 1966 for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. Its vision is to be a preeminent, integrated regional organization that plans for healthy, vibrant communities, economic development, and efficient transportation of people and goods while improving the region's livability. The CCRPC serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible for comprehensive and collaborative transportation planning involving municipalities, state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in Chittenden County. The CCRPC works to ensure implementation of the regional transportation plan and provides technical and planning assistance to its member municipalities, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

The CCRPC is governed by a 29-member board consisting of one representative from each of the County's 19 municipalities; transportation representatives from VTrans, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Burlington International Airport (BIA), and a rail industry representative; and, at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, and housing/socio-economic. The legislative body of each Chittenden County municipality selects its own representative and alternate. The full CCRPC selects the at-large representatives.

The CCRPC appreciates the continued opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect and improve the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County. In FY22, the CCRPC invested approximately \$5.9 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$4.5 million in Federal and State investment with \$250,400 in municipal dues and another \$175,000 in local match for specific projects—a more than 10:1 return on local investment.

Colchester representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY22 were:

- CCRPC Representative: Jacki Murphy | CCRPC Alternate: Vacant
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Bryan Osborne
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC): Cathynn LaRose
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC): Karen Adams
- Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC): Aaron Frank, Seth Lasker

For a more detailed version of the CCRPC's FY22 Annual Report for Colchester, please visit <https://bit.ly/3POMiP1>



# HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

2022



THE  
University of Vermont  
HEALTH NETWORK

## Home Health & Hospice

### OUR PROGRAMS

Adult Home Health  
Hospice & Palliative Care  
McClure Miller Respite House  
Family & Children's Program  
Long-Term Care  
Adult Day Program  
Foot Care

**The UVM Health Network—Home Health & Hospice cared for 684 Colchester residents in the last year.**



**Colchester residents received \$1,387,202 in free or charity care in the last year.**

## 2022 Annual Report for Colchester

### Care at Home. For All Ages and Stages of Life.

Vermont's oldest and largest non-profit home health and hospice agency and the only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. The University of Vermont Health Network—Home Health & Hospice is part of a health system. This ensures that care at home is integrated for individuals and families in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties.

### OUR IMPACT

#### HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE BY THE NUMBERS



**138,522**

Hours of care provided



**4,307**

Patients served, at all ages and stages of life



**4,224**

Days of care provided at McClure Miller Respite House

### Compassionate Care that Places People at the Center.

**Services and Support. All based on our patients' goals.**

We provide a wide range of high-quality care at home for adults with acute and chronic illnesses, help families through pre- and post-natal visits and pediatric therapies, and offer hospice care for those at end of life.

### Experience Matters.

**Our patient and family experience of care ratings surpass Vermont and National averages.**

The way our patients experience care is important to us. [Medicare's Care Compare website](#) publicly displays our ratings, demonstrating that our patients and their caregivers rate us highly for home health and hospice care and would recommend our agency to their friends and family.



# ***PART B***

## ***COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT***





# SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SCHEDULE OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
BUDGET (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) AND ACTUAL  
GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenue:			
Regular Instructional:			
General State Support Grants	\$ 35,469,616	\$ 35,469,616	\$ 0
Other State Revenue	856,354	994,926	138,572
Tuition	1,014,000	1,315,607	301,607
Other Local Revenue	200,000	202,936	2,936
Special Education Support:			
State Revenue	5,564,971	6,486,895	921,924
Federal Grants	978,470	833,377	(145,093)
Tuition	0	84,840	84,840
Interest	15,000	8,862	(6,138)
Total Revenue	44,098,411	45,397,059	1,298,648
Expenditures:			
Regular Instruction:			
Direct Instruction	19,992,951	19,815,084	177,867
Support Services- Student	2,100,859	2,179,719	(78,860)
Support Services- Instruction	1,276,968	1,120,255	156,713
Support Services- General Administration	661,375	630,171	31,204
Support Services- School Administration	2,166,407	2,131,248	35,159
Support Services- Central Services	1,957,249	1,829,099	128,150
Support Services- Other	0	12,000	(12,000)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	3,775,469	4,086,612	(311,143)
Student Transportation	1,631,772	1,508,703	123,069
Special Education Support:			
Direct Instruction	8,932,643	8,821,860	110,783
Support Services- Student	1,514,828	1,415,162	99,666
Support Services- Instruction	85,928	52,603	33,325
Support Services- School Administration	492,818	464,491	28,327
Student Transportation	550,026	678,170	(128,144)
Debt Service	459,118	442,803	16,315
Transfer to Food Service Fund	0	65,000	(65,000)
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	0	40,822	(40,822)
Total Expenditures	45,598,411	45,293,802	304,609
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ (1,500,000)	\$ 103,257	\$ 1,603,257

