

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## Town of Orwell, Vermont

For the Year Ending  
December 31, 2023



*Courtesy of Sue James*

Please bring this report with you to:  
Town of Orwell Meeting  
◆ Tuesday, March 5, 2024 ◆ 10:00 a.m. ◆

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

### FIRE/FIRST RESPONSE - 911

### POLICE - 911 or 802-388-4919

*Animal Control* - Gary Murdock 802-989-4017 \*\*\* *Health Officer/Temp Animal Control* - Kent Anderson 802-948-2156

*Forest Fire Warden* - Allen R. Alger, Sr. - 802-948-2212

### IMPORTANT ORWELL DATES

**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

SVUUSD School Meeting - 6:30pm

Fair Haven Union High School

**MARCH 5, 2024**

Town Meeting - 10:00 am Orwell Town Hall

**MARCH 22, 2024**

Rabies Clinic at the Orwell Fire House

5:00pm to 7:00pm Dogs can be licensed at this clinic

**APRIL 1, 2024**

**ON OR BEFORE - 2024 DOG LICENSE REQUIRED**

Liquor/Tobacco Licenses expires on due date yearly

**May 4, 2024**

Green-Up Day

M-F 8:00am to 2:00pm

Hazardous Waste Center at ACSWMD in Middlebury

Sat 8:00am to 2:00pm

Business hazardous waste by appointment

**May 26, 2024**

Orwell Memorial Day Parade 1:30pm

### **2024 Report for Mount Independence State Historic Site**

497 Mount Independence Road Orwell, Vermont 802-948-2000

[www.historicsites.vermont.gov/mount-independence](http://www.historicsites.vermont.gov/mount-independence)

\$8.00 for adults, \$1.00 for ages 6-14, free for children under 6

2024 Days and Hours: Friday, May 24 through Sunday, October 20, 10:00am-5:00pm

Planning for 2024 events is underway. Please check event listings later at [www.historicsites.vermont.gov](http://www.historicsites.vermont.gov) or [www.mountindependence.org](http://www.mountindependence.org) or call the site at 802-948-2000 after it opens.

Mount Independence Coalition member you receive free admission to Mount Independence and all other Vermont State-owned Historic Sites. See [www.mountindependence.org](http://www.mountindependence.org) for information. Holders of Green Mountain Passports also receive free admission-available for all Vermont Veterans and Vermont residents ages 62 and up from you Town Clerk's office for a one time \$2.00 fee.

The Mount Independence book, Strong Ground: Mount Independence and the American Revolution, continues to be available through the site when it opens. This fascinating and beautifully illustrated book shows the importance of this historic place to our nation.

Planning is in the works for one or two more programs before the museum opens, and once open several guided hikes into history, nature walks including another wild mushroom foray, and a variety of history talks and programs in the museum.

- Saturday, May 18 Early Bird Nature Walk, 8:00-11:00am

Bird expert Sue Wetmore is your guide. Meet in front of the museum, wear walking shoes, and bring your binoculars if you have them. Plan on spending the morning on this delightful walk, before the museum opens for 2024. Show your Mount Independence Coalition membership card, Green Mountain Passport, or pay the site admission fee.

- Friday, May 24: Opening Day, 10:00am
- June 8-9: Vermont Days Weekend

Free admission at the Vermont State Historic Sites and day use State Parks

- July 15-19: Freedom and Unity Teacher Workshop, led by the Vermont Archaeological Society  
Includes one day at Mount Independence. Applications due end of March <https://vtarchaeology.org/250th/>
- August 16: Bennington Battle Day

Free admission at all Vermont State Historic Sites

- August 31 and September 1: Soldiers A-top the Mount Living History Weekend, during site hours  
Reenactors will be encamped at the site for this annual program. Please note that Sunday's offerings may be more limited than on Saturday.

**NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

**PROPERTY TAXES DUE**

**PLEASE PAY TOWN TREASURER AT THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ORWELL**

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## Auditors' Report

Feb. 3, 2024

The undersigned, Auditors of the Town of Orwell, Vermont, have examined the accounts and reports of the various town officers and organizations for the 2023 calendar year. We declare them to be correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

The financial statements submitted herewith represent fairly the financial positions of the Town of Orwell for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Town of Orwell prefers to operate on a cash rather than an accrual basis. To the best of our knowledge there are no outstanding expenses or receipts unaccounted for.

The reports and projects presented by various social service agencies have been accepted as is without further consideration or inspection. We view the requests by the 60 Plus Club and St. Paul's Cemetery similarly. Copies of the various agency reports are available at the Town Clerk's office.

We thank all the people who have helped make our town government work over the years and especially wish to honor Tom Audet for his 7 years of service on the Select Board. And a big thank you to Robin Severy for her 5 years as auditor.

2023 brought us almost back to normal. The parade was back in full force, Green Up occurred and we ventured out to celebrate holidays and special occasions with friends and family. But Covid is still out there....stay well, stay safe!

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Hilton  
Danielle Rougeau  
Karen Rowland

Auditors, Town of Orwell



Bone Builders

*photo courtesy Frances Stone*



## TOWN OFFICERS 2023

MODERATOR	Michael R. Audet
TOWN CLERK	Elizabeth "Betty" Walker
TOWN TREASURER	Bryan S. Young
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS	Bryan S. Young
SELECTMEN	
Thomas Audet - 3 year	Term Expires 2024
Gary Murdock - 2 year	Term Expires 2024
Bill Goddard - 2 year	Term Expires 2025
Andrea Treadway - 3 year	Term Expires 2025
Rex D. Corey - 3 year	Term Expires 2026
AUDITORS	
Karen Rowland	Term Expires 2024
Ed Hilton (2 year of a 3 year term)	Term Expires 2024
Danielle Rougeau	Term Expires 2025
LISTERS	
Jean Audet	Term Expires 2024
Becky Quesnel	Term Expires 2025
Cheryl Tudhope	Term Expires 2026
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	
Rae Anne Barry	Term Expires 2024
Loretta Lee	Term Expires 2024
Anna "Kathy" Buxton	Term Expires 2025
Cindy Werner	Term Expires 2026
Emily Casey	Term Expires 2027
Sarah Harris	Term Expires 2027
Amy Buxton Torrey	Term Expires 2027
Virginia Wilson	Term Expires 2028
Karen DeMoy	Term Expires 2028
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS	
Joanne Hornbeck	Term Expires 2024
Diane Jackson	Term Expires 2025
Jeff Wachelka	Term Expires 2026
Wayne G. Hall	Term Expires 2026
Arlene Batschelet	Term Expires 2028

FIRST CONSTABLE		Allen R. Alger
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		Sandy Korda
DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		Robert G. Arnebold
ASSIST. TOWN CLERKS		Sharon Macedo
ASSIST. TREASURER		
TAX COLLECTOR		Bryan S. Young
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR		Diane Jackson
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE		
Glen Cousineau	Richard O. Buxton, Jr.	Lisa Limoge
Michael R. Audet	Stephanie Corey	
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR		Stephanie Corey
ASSIST. ZONING ADMINISTRATORS		Thomas J. Purdy, Sr.
LIBRARIAN		Kate Hunter
LIBRARIAN'S ASSISTANTS		Heather Ewing
		Michelle Goddard
HEALTH OFFICER		Kent Anderson
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR		Edward Tracey
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		Gary Murdock
		Kent Anderson
TREE WARDEN		Allen M. Alger
ORWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF		Paul Metcalf
FIRST RESPONSE RESCUE SQUAD		Peter W. Ochs
PLANNING COMMISSION/DRB MEMBERS		
Joe Andriano, Chair	Rex Corey, Vice Chair	Dan Redondo
Sharon Macedo, Sec.	Cian Quinn	David Burtch
Carter Mealey	Michelle Wigginton	



# WARNING

THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ORWELL, VERMONT,  
ARE HEREBY WARNED TO MEET AT THE TOWN HALL IN SAID ORWELL,  
ON

**TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M.,**

TO TRANSACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS:

**PLEASE NOTE:** The vote under Articles One will be by Australian Ballot. The Polls will be **open from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2024**, at the Orwell Town Hall.

1. To Elect all Town Officers, required by law, as follows by Australian Ballot:

1 Town Moderator for one year	Michael R. Audet
1 Town Clerk for one year	Elizabeth "Betty" Walker
1 Town Treasurer for one year	Bryan S. Young
1 Trustee of Public Funds for one year	Bryan S. Young
1 Select Person for three years	Robert Barnes
	Gary Murdock
	Les Wood
1 Select Person for two years	
1 Auditor for three years	
1 Auditor for two years	Edward Hilton
1 Lister for three years	Jean Audet
1 Library Trustee for five years	Rae Anne Barry
1 Library Trustee for five years	Becky Maden
1 Cemetery Commissioner for five years	Susan James
1 Delinquent Tax Collector	Diane Jackson
1 First Constable for one year	Allen R. Alger

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to accept the Town Officers report submitted by the Auditors?

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to accept the report of the Board of Trustees of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library, Inc?

4. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to appropriate funds for the following town projects (each item to be voted separately)?

A. \$18,000.00 for the operating expenses of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library Building for 2024?

B. \$4,500.00 for the purchase of books and materials by the Orwell Free Library?

C. \$200.00 for St. Paul's Cemetery in order to defray a portion of the 2024 maintenance costs?

D. \$2,200.00 for the 2025 operating expenses of the Orwell Parade Committee?

E. \$750.00 for the Sixty-Plus Club of Orwell, funds to be used to defray the costs of operating said club for the Senior Citizens of the Town of Orwell?

F. \$1,000.00 for the 2024 operation of the Orwell Youth Recreation Program?

G. \$5,000.00 to complete the painting of the exterior of the Library Building requested by the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library Board?



5. Shall the Town of Orwell vote to have the Treasurer collect taxes on real property on or before November 12, 2024, by delivery to Treasurer postmarked on or before that date?
6. Shall the Town of Orwell vote delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer rents to have an 8% penalty charged against them and a 1% interest per month added from the due date?
7. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to conduct the next annual municipal meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, 2025, per 17 VSA §2640? (Election of Town Officers by Australian ballot will be on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.)
8. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to accept the proposed 2024 Town Budget in the amount of **\$1,778,547.80** of which **\$926,262.91** shall be raised by taxes and **\$852,284.89** to be raised by non-tax revenues?
9. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell accept the proposed 2024 Sewer Budget in the amount of **\$103,440.54**, such amount to be raised by user rents and dumping fees?
10. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for the following Social Services and other requests by petition (each item to be voted separately)?
  - A. Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc. **\$1,500.00**, funds to be used to help pay part of the cost of providing mental health care to town residents?
  - B. H.O.P.E., Inc. **\$1,750.00**, funds to be used to help defray part of the cost of providing housing, fuel, food, clothing, and other essential items?
  - C. Addison County Women Safe, Inc. **\$1,250.00**, funds to be used to support their mission to work toward the elimination of physical, sexual, and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change?
  - D. Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc. **\$5,000.00**, funds to help defray costs for providing home health care services to infants, children and adults referred by their physicians, regardless of their ability to pay?
  - E. RSVP Retired & Senior Volunteer Program **\$320.00**, funds to support RSVP?
  - F. Tri-Valley Transit **\$830.00**, funds to maintain and improve transportation services for elders, persons with disabilities, and the general public?
  - G. Addison County Readers, Inc. **\$350.00**, funds for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under five years of age?
  - H. Addison County Restorative Justice Services Inc. **\$740.00**, funds to provide restorative justice projects for offenders who have potential to learn from their mistakes and avoid incarceration and a criminal record?
  - I. Turning Point Center of Addison County **\$1,000**, for the purpose of supporting its mission to assist persons, their families, and their friends in recovery from substance use disorder and addictive behaviors?

11. To transact any other business which may legally come before the Town.

Signed and dated at Orwell, Vermont on this 22 day of January 2024.

Orwell Select Board

Thomas Audet, Chair

Rex Corey  
Rex Corey

Bill Goddard  
Bill Goddard

Gary Murdock  
Gary Murdock

Andrea Treadway  
Andrea Treadway, Vice Chair



Bank of Orwell Scrip      courtesy First National Bank

## NOTICE TO VOTERS

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION CALL  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE  
1-800-439-8683  
(Accessible by TDD)

### **BEFORE ELECTION DAY:**

#### **CHECKLIST POSTED: February 4, 2024**

(No later than 30 days before election - 17:2141, 2501.

*Please make certain that your name is on the checklist. If it is not,*

**Register to Vote.** Same Day Registration (17:2144[a]). There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the Town Clerk's Office or going online to [olvr.vermont.gov](http://olvr.vermont.gov).

SECRET PARTY CHOICE. You do not register by party in Vermont.

### **EARLY OR ABSENTEE BALLOTS:**

**When** - Voters, no later than **3:30 p.m.** on the day before election, in the Orwell Town Clerk's Office on **MONDAY, March 4, 2024** (17:2531[a], 2532[a][1]).

**How** - Request either in person, in writing, by telephone or online at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov).

**Who** - Voter or family member may apply all three ways. Non-family member with written authorization by the voter may apply in person.

**ONLY A VOTER SHALL TAKE A BALLOT OUT OF THE TOWN OFFICE.** (17:2537)

On ballot requests by other than a voter, ballots must be **MAILED** to voter.

### **EARLY OR ABSENTEE VOTING -**

1. Vote in the Town Clerk's office before the deadline.
2. **Voter** can have ballots mailed or may take **their** ballots out of the clerk's office and then either return in person, via someone else or by mail to the Town Clerk before **7:00 p.m. on Election Day**.
3. If ill or disabled request that two Justices of the Peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

**ONCE VOTED AND RETURNED, AN ABSENTEE BALLOT CANNOT BE RETURNED TO THE VOTER FOR ANY REASON.**

### **POSTING OF SAMPLE BALLOTS: On or before February 24, 2024**

(No later than 20 days before election - 17:2522[a]).

### **AT THE POLLS:**

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, explain the situation to your Town Clerk and ask that it be put back on.

If the problem isn't cleared up to your satisfaction, have the Town Clerk or a Select Person or other member of the Board of Civil Authority call an immediate meeting of the members of the board who are present.

If you are still not satisfied, you may appeal to a judge who will settle the matter that day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-8683 for more information.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place, let them know that a ballot may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you know voters who have physical disabilities, are visually impaired, or cannot read, let them know they may bring a friend or relative who is a registered voter to help them to vote.

### **DO NOT:**

- A. *Knowingly vote more than once, either in the same town or in different towns.*
- B. Mislead the Board of Civil Authority about your own or another person's eligibility to vote.
- C. *Hinder or Impede a voter going into or from the polling place.*
- D. Leave campaign materials in the voting booth or building containing a polling place.
- E. *Socialize in a manner that will disturb other voters.*
- F. Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

**For HELP or INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683).**

**If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated**, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

**If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process**, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

**If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process**, you may report this to the Civil rights division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Australian Ballots**

If you have any questions after reading the following, or at any time during the voting process, ask your Town Clerk or another Election Official.

### **CHECK IN:**

1. Go to "ENTRANCE" checklist table.
2. **GIVE YOUR NAME**, and if asked, your residence to the Election Official in a *clear audible voice*.
3. Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the Election Official.

### **ENTER:**

1. Take your ballot(s) from the election official and enter a voting booth. Fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate(s) or issue(s) you want to vote for. Follow the directions on the ballot as to how many to vote for (Example- "Vote for not more than two").
2. To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank line labeled "WRITE-IN" on the ballot.

**IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT ask an Election Official for another ballot.**  
**The limit is three ballots.**

### **CHECK OUT:**

1. Go to the "EXIT" checklist table.
2. **GIVE YOUR NAME** to the Election Official in a *clear, audible voice*.
3. Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the Election Official.
4. **VOTE** by placing your voted ballot(s) in the "VOTED BALLOTS" box(s).
5. Leave the voting area by passing outside the guardrail.

To save a lot of confusion, I am asking that voters, **when voting on a paper ballot at Town Meeting, to please vote only on the Article under debate. PLEASE do not ask the Election Official, at that time, for your Australian Ballot.**

Thank you for your help.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth "Betty" Walker, Town Clerk  
Sharon Macedo, Assistant Town Clerk

# **ABSTRACT OF GRAND LIST**

## **2023 Tax Rate**

Total Listed Value of Real Estate	\$ 153,059,300.00
<b>TOTAL GRAND LIST</b>	<b>\$ 1,530,593.00</b>

### **VOTED AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED BY TAXES**

Wright Memorial Library Operations	\$ 15,000.00
Orwell Free Library	2,500.00
St. Paul's Cemetery	200.00
Orwell Parade Committee	2,200.00
Orwell 60-Plus Club	750.00
Orwell Youth Recreation Program	1,000.00
Wright Memorial Library Painting	10,000.00
Select Board Budget	828,275.13
Counseling Service of Addison County	1,500.00
H.O.P.E.	1,750.00
Addison County Women Safe, Inc.	1,250.00
Addison County Home Health & Hospice	5,000.00
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	320.00
Tri-Valley Transit	775.00
Addison County Readers, Inc.	350.00
Addison County Restorative Justice Services	740.00
Turning Point Center of Addison County	1,000.00

<b>TOTAL TAXES TO BE RAISED BY TOWN</b>	<b>\$ 872,610.13</b>
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<b>TAX RATE</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAX BILLING</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>872,610.13</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>0.5702</b>
		<b>TOTAL GRAND LIST</b>		<b>1,530,593.00</b>		

Municipal Rate Set by Select Board =

STATE SET HOMESTEAD TAX RATE = 1.3151

STATE SET NON-RESIDENTIAL RATE = 1.5605

Grand List 2023	1,530,593.00
Grand List 2022	1,519,835.00
Grand List 2021	1,523,290.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan S. Young, Treasurer

**TOWN OF ORWELL**  
**2023 STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

Balance December 31, 2022	\$	407,259.25	
Agency of Natural Resources		7,320.82	
ARPA Recovery Fund		-	
Beer & Tobacco Licenses		210.00	
Book Restoration Fees		3,981.00	
Borrowings			
Tax Anticipation		72,000.00	
Clean-Up Day		2,209.90	
Collector/Collected Taxes		113,945.59	
Penalties		9,115.67	
Warrant Interest		11,360.38	
Copier Fees		2,188.25	
Current Use Recording		60.00	
Dog Licenses		3,974.00	
Clerk Fees		12,330.00	
Grant Receipts		23,885.94	
Insurance Claims		3,358.43	
Interest Income		38.78	
PILOT Payment State Property		7,547.00	
Reappraisal Payment- State		778.00	
Transfer from Reappraisal Fund		24,857.50	
Refunds		537.21	
Rental Income, Old Town Garage		2,200.00	
Sale of Equipment		3,070.00	
Speed Control		6,229.40	
State Highway Aid		233,776.88	
State Hold Harmless		98,424.00	
Tax Adjustments- State, School		36,097.29	
Tax Receipts Total		2,581,767.15	
Zoning Fees		3,315.00	
Tax Paid Slate Valley USD			1,833,036.59
Payment of Borrowings			109,800.00
Payment of Select Board Orders			1,262,156.96
Line Items Paid			44,335.00
Bank Fees			29.00
Balance December 31, 2023			422,479.89
<hr/>			
	\$	3,671,837.44	\$ 3,671,837.44

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan S. Young  
Town Treasurer

**TOWN OF ORWELL  
RESERVE FUNDS 2023**

**Reappraisal Fund**

Balance December 31, 2022	\$	70,320.34		
2023 State Payment Received		6,613.00		
Interest Income		1,393.66		
Transfer to General Fund				24,857.50
Balance December 31, 2023			\$	53,469.50
	\$	78,327.00	\$	78,327.00

**Book Restoration Fund**

Balance December 31, 2022	\$	14,180.33		
2022 Fees Received		4,408.00		
Interest Income		429.39		
Balance December 31, 2023			\$	19,017.72
	\$	19,017.72	\$	19,017.72

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan S. Young  
Trustee of Public Funds

**TOWN OF ORWELL  
SCHEDULE OF INDEBTEDNESS 2023**

	Balance 12/31/22	Borrowed	Paid	Balance 12/31/23
<b><u>Town of Orwell</u></b>				
Fire Truck	264,600.00	-	37,800.00	226,800.00
Tax Anticipation 2023	-	72,000.00	72,000.00	-
<b><u>Sewer Fund</u></b>				
Lagoon Project	\$ 416,217.52	\$ 73,717.52	\$ 101,217.52	\$ 388,717.52

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan S. Young  
Town Treasurer



**TOWN OF ORWELL  
2023 PAYROLL**

**General**

Allen R. Alger	270.00	
Joseph Andriano	375.00	
Jean Audet	4,536.50	
Thomas Audet	2,000.00	
Rex Corey	2,125.00	
Stephanie Corey	777.00	
Devon Duquette	247.50	
Heather Ewing	4,176.00	
Michelle Goddard	2,332.50	
William Goddard	1,750.00	
Kate Hunter	31,529.63	
Diane Jackson	4,694.32	
Sharon Macedo	28,014.76	
Carter Mealey	375.00	
Gary Murdock	1,750.00	
Becky Quesnel	4,973.60	
Cian Quinn	156.25	
Danielle Rougeau	715.88	
Karen Rowland	923.38	
Robin Severy	529.13	
Andrea Treadway	1,750.00	
Cheryl Tudhope	9,917.57	
Elizabeth Walker	58,331.50	
Bryan Young	25,798.23	\$ 188,048.75

**Highway**

Allen M. Alger	79,017.56	
Benjamin Alger	336.00	
James Booska	1,320.00	
Francis Oldenburg	8,616.00	
Peter Parent	63,940.12	\$ 153,229.68

**Sewer**

Diane Jackson	184.66	
Edward Tracey	21,100.00	\$ 21,284.66

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan S. Young  
Town Treasurer

# Orwell Selectboard Report 2023

The Select Board has continued our ditching projects following the Vermont DOT plan prepared for our roads. We are now about 2/3<sup>rd</sup> complete. State funding is assigned to each section upon completion. Recent rain events still caused damage but much less where we have completed the upgrades. The highway department will emphasize culvert size and ditch debris going forward. Our purchase of 3-point hitch “hurricane” blowers removes much of the smaller sticks and leaves during the fall season.

Route 22A was resurfaced creating a much smoother road, but this has brought with it faster road speeds. We continue to work with the County Sheriffs by increasing hours of patrolling. The Sheriff reports he expects to provide Orwell more hours as his department is hiring more deputies. The 22A intersection is much safer now as the no parking zone is better defined and enforced.

Town citizen safety also needs to include our surveillance of other health concerns such as animal rabies. Orwell will continue to enforce Town and State laws concerning this very serious disease. The Town’s Animal Control Officer has full Select Board support to pursue all dog registrations and vaccinations for rabies. We encourage Orwell citizens to take advantage of the annual rabies clinic at the Orwell Fire House each spring and to ensure dogs are registered as the penalties for non-registered dogs have increased substantially with the updated animal control ordinance.

Orwell’s future should include an updated Gazebo. Covid-19 and supply chain issues have caused the project some delays, but the committee planning the project continues looking forward for some State and Federal grants to assist paying for project costs.

Moving forward Orwell has another need for the storage of sand/salt needed for highways. The Select Board has spent much time discussing a new building to replace an older shed by considering storage for both sand/salts. There are many efficiencies to be gained purchasing product and reducing ground water runoff. We need to address both these needs as State laws move in that direction.

I would like to thank the voters for allowing me the opportunity to serve Orwell these past years. I have enjoyed working with the many Select Board members and the Town Clerks. I also wish to thank all Town Employees, Committee Members, Volunteers and the many Townspeople who have given their time and talent to benefit Orwell, Thank You.

Respectfully submitted by Thomas Audet on behalf of the Orwell Select Board:

Thomas Audet, Chair  
Rex Corey

Andrea Treadway, Vice Chair  
Bill Goddard

Gary Murdock

**\*\*GREEN UP DAY IS SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024\*\***

*MANY THANKS TO ALL the Green Up helpers for 2023*

*Cindy Watrous and Barbara Young - another great job of service for Orwell*

**The Select Board cannot succeed with this project without your help.**

*In order to keep our Town looking beautiful, we continue to need volunteers for  
the 2024 Green Up/ State Road-side cleanup.*

**This Year Cindy Watrous and Barbara Young will be glad to sign you up for  
Green Up/Road Side Day.**

**Sign-up sheet will be at Buxton's Store.**



Downey's Tractor

*photo courtesy Kitty Hall*

CATEGORY		2023	2023	2024	
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	
Balance forward General Fund		49,821.50	407,259.25	422,479.89	
Agency of Nat'l Resc-F&W		7,000.00	7,320.82	7,000.00	
Beer /Tobacco Licenses		140.00	210.00	210.00	
Better Roads Grant		15,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Book Restoration Fees		3,500.00	3,981.00	3,800.00	
Borrowings - Tax Anticipation		0.00	72,000.00	0.00	
Borrowings - Line Items/Capital		0.00		0.00	
Clean-up Day		1,500.00	2,209.90	0.00	
Copier Fees		2,000.00	2,188.25	2,000.00	
Current Use Rel/App Recordings		400.00	60.00	60.00	
Delinquent Penalties		0.00	9,115.67	0.00	
Delinquent Tax Collected Past Yrs		75,000.00	66,842.33	60,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Current Yrs		0.00	47,103.26	0.00	
Delinquent Tax Interest		7,000.00	11,360.38	7,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Legal Fees		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dog Fees/Kennel		3,500.00	3,974.00	3,500.00	
Fees		10,000.00	12,330.00	10,000.00	
Grand List- Act 60-Reappraisal State		775.00	778.00	775.00	
Grand List-Reappraisal Fund Transfer		77,000.00	24,857.50	54,000.00	
Grant-Library Summer Program		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grant Receipts		0.00	23,885.94	0.00	
Grant-in-Aid		15,900.00	0.00	0.00	
Insurance Claims		0.00	3,358.43	0.00	
Interest Income		0.00	38.78	60.00	
Legal Settlement		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Misc. Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Pilot Payment		6,000.00	7,547.00	6,000.00	
Refunds		0.00	537.21	0.00	
Rent, Old Town Garage		2,400.00	2,200.00	2,400.00	
Sale of Equipment		0.00	3,070.00	0.00	
Sheriff Contract		2,500.00	6,229.40	6,000.00	
State Highway Aid		145,000.00	233,776.88	150,000.00	
State Hold Harmless Payment		85,000.00	98,424.00	90,000.00	
State Paving Grant		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Tax Adjustment w/State, School		25,000.00	36,097.29	25,000.00	
Tax Receipts		828,275.13	704,395.56	926,262.91	
Zoning Fees		2,000.00	3,315.00	2,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME		1,364,711.63	1,794,465.85	1,778,547.80	

		2023	2023	2024
CATEGORY		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Ambulance		12,500.00	12,500.00	16,107.00
Animal Control		1,500.00	600.00	1,500.00
ARPA Expenditures		0.00	103,542.94	73,108.50
Ball Field		3,500.00	3,843.75	2,000.00
Ball Field Repairs		0.00	0.00	4,200.00
Bank Service Charge		60.00	29.00	60.00
Better Back Roads Exp		0.00	0.00	0.00
Borrowings - Tax Anticipation		0.00	72,000.00	0.00
Borrowings - Line Items/Capital		0.00	0.00	0.00
Cemeteries		15,000.00	15,000.00	16,100.00
Clean-up Day		15,100.00	11,174.49	100.00
Dues and Fees		18,000.00	17,693.96	18,000.00
Election Fees		250.00	150.00	500.00
Emergency Services Dispatch		5,500.00	2,770.00	3,500.00
Fire Truck	Principal	37,800.00	37,800.00	37,800.00
	Interest	6,615.00	6,615.00	5,686.00
Fire Department				
	ACFA/VSFA Dues	600.00	264.00	600.00
	American Tower Rent	1,100.00	1,165.80	1,100.00
	Building Maintenance	5,000.00	1,374.27	5,000.00
	Electricity	1,700.00	1,506.58	1,500.00
	Equip Vehicle Repair	10,000.00	4,158.98	9,000.00
	Equip Purchase	13,000.00	10,650.32	9,000.00
	Fire Extinguisher	1,000.00	296.88	1,000.00
	Heat-Propane	2,000.00	2,095.98	2,000.00
	Hose Test	4,000.00	1,844.50	3,000.00
	Hydrant & Pond Maint	1,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
	Insurance	8,260.00	8,015.76	9,638.75
	Radio Repair	4,000.00	2,902.00	3,000.00
	Sewer Rent	333.00	333.00	347.00
	Telephone	400.00	278.66	300.00
	Training	1,000.00	2,332.50	1,000.00
	Turnout Gear	11,000.00	12,459.51	11,000.00
	Well	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
	Total Fire Department	64,393.00	49,678.74	87,485.75
First Response				
	American Tower Rent	1,100.00	1,165.80	1,100.00
	Building Maintenance	1,500.00	734.25	1,500.00
	Dues	200.00	250.00	200.00
	Electricity	600.00	502.20	600.00
	Equip Vehicle Repair	600.00	0.00	600.00
	Equip Purchase	1,850.00	4,305.00	3,850.00
	Heat - Propane	2,000.00	948.57	1,000.00
	Insurance	1,300.00	902.00	1,341.00
	Oxygen	100.00	0.00	100.00
	Personnel - Health	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Radio Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Radio Repair	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Sewer Rent	333.00	333.00	347.00
	Supplies	3,000.00	1,529.62	2,000.00
	Telephone	1,200.00	278.58	300.00
	Training	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	Total First Response	16,283.00	10,949.02	15,438.00

			2023	2023	2024
<b>CATEGORY</b>			<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Fuel & Oil			36,000.00	35,906.74	36,000.00
Gasoline			5,000.00	3,727.06	5,000.00
Health Insurance			0.00	0.00	24,000.00
Highway Improvements					
	Chloride		27,000.00	20,873.65	27,000.00
	Contracted Services		50,000.00	52,162.00	50,000.00
	Culverts		8,000.00	1,581.60	8,000.00
	Ditching		3,000.00	1,806.30	3,000.00
	Equipment Rental		15,000.00	5,644.00	15,000.00
	Gravel		100,000.00	101,604.51	150,000.00
	Paving		80,000.00	78,912.90	100,000.00
	Salt, for Winter		50,000.00	56,028.25	50,000.00
	Sand, for Winter		70,000.00	66,086.53	70,000.00
	Signage/Guard Rails		1,500.00	358.38	1,500.00
	Snow Removal		1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Stone		10,000.00	5,923.41	10,000.00
	Training/Other		500.00	0.00	500.00
	Total Highway Improve		416,000.00	390,981.53	486,000.00
Highway, Equipment Maintenance					
	Chains		4,500.00	1,387.80	4,500.00
	Equip Purchase		5,000.00	654.62	10,000.00
	GMC Pickup 2017		4,000.00	3,208.96	4,000.00
	Grader		5,000.00	5,154.49	12,000.00
	Loader		5,000.00	254.94	5,000.00
	Mack Truck 2017		10,000.00	25,693.61	10,000.00
	Mack Truck 2019		10,000.00	5,234.11	10,000.00
	Miscellaneous Parts		3,000.00	5,748.65	3,000.00
	Oil, Grease, Filters		4,000.00	2,629.77	4,000.00
	Road Side Mower		5,000.00	1,807.77	5,000.00
	Shoes,Edge,Plow		6,000.00	8,020.92	6,000.00
	Small Equip Repair		500.00	292.49	500.00
	Sundries		500.00	0.00	400.00
	Tools		2,000.00	71.59	2,000.00
	Wetland Permit		2,400.00	0.00	2,400.00
	Total Equip Maint		66,900.00	60,159.72	78,800.00
Insurance			25,000.00	24,433.24	28,378.24
Interest on Borrowings			2,000.00	604.77	2,000.00
Library Grant Match			0.00	0.00	20,000.00
Listers					
	Dues		400.00	440.00	400.00
	Equip Purchase		1,500.00	290.59	2,450.00
	Lister Maps		1,000.00	1,650.00	2,500.00
	Postage		3,000.00	673.85	3,000.00
	Supplies & Licensing		750.00	288.49	2,300.00
	Total Listers		6,650.00	3,342.93	10,650.00
Legal Fees			5,000.00	3,185.89	5,000.00
Mack Truck Note 2019	Principal		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Interest		0.00	0.00	0.00

			2023	2023	2024
<b>CATEGORY</b>			<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Mileage			1,200.00	657.62	1,200.00
Misc. Exp			350.00	0.00	1,000.00
Payroll			371,250.00	341,278.43	406,000.00
Payroll Retirement			13,500.00	14,524.23	25,000.00
FICA + MCARE			28,400.63	26,107.82	31,059.00
Total Payroll			413,150.63	381,910.48	462,059.00
Planning Commission/DRB			3,500.00	11,843.56	3,500.00
Property Appraisal			85,000.00	25,447.30	70,000.00
Property Tax Adjustment			1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Street Lights			5,000.00	4,421.66	5,000.00
Sundries/Rental Unit			720.00	980.00	1,000.00
Sheriff Contract			20,000.00	21,251.26	30,000.00
Town Clock			2,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Town Green					
Bandstand			16,000.00	1,980.00	38,020.00
Grounds			2,500.00	5,500.00	1,000.00
Maintenance & Improvements			3,000.00	224.67	3,000.00
Mowing			5,000.00	5,655.00	5,000.00
Electricity			300.00	312.15	300.00
Town Garage					
Electricity			2,500.00	2,360.82	2,500.00
Heat - Propane			2,500.00	1,658.05	2,000.00
Garage Repairs			8,000.00	6,894.90	12,000.00
Salt Shed			0.00	5,215.00	100,000.00
Storage Building			0.00	0.00	12,586.31
Sewer Rent			666.00	666.00	694.00
Waste Removal			1,000.00	1,097.08	1,000.00
Total Town Garage			14,666.00	17,891.85	130,780.31
Town Office					
Book Restoration Reserve Transfer			4,408.00	4,408.00	3,981.00
Book Restoration			500.00	770.00	500.00
Books - Land Records			1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
Books - Microfilm			1,000.00	37.50	500.00
Building Repair			1,500.00	702.18	1,500.00
Copier			2,300.00	2,242.04	2,300.00
Electricity			1,300.00	1,269.57	1,300.00
Equipment Purchase			4,200.00	3,507.40	5,000.00
Equipment Repair			1,500.00	174.00	1,000.00
Heat - Propane			1,300.00	1,466.07	1,300.00
Postage			2,500.00	2,578.64	3,500.00
Roof Replacement			0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Sewer Rent			666.00	666.00	694.00
Supplies			3,000.00	3,219.32	2,500.00
Telephone			4,000.00	4,086.04	4,000.00
Waste Removal			1,000.00	1,059.87	1,100.00
Total Town Office			30,774.00	26,186.63	45,775.00
Town Report & Ballots			1,500.00	1,035.00	1,500.00
<b>TOTAL ORDERS BUDGETED/PAID</b>			<b>1,364,711.63</b>	<b>1,371,985.96</b>	<b>1,778,547.80</b>
Borrowings Paid					
Balance 12/31/23				\$422,479.89	
<b>TOTAL</b>					



## ARPA Funds Summary

### ARPA Recovery Fund Awards

Received 2021	181,597.56
Received 2022	<u>181,683.19</u>
Total ARPA Recovery Funds Received	363,280.75

### ARPA Recovery Fund- Projects Funded/Committed

	2022	2023	Budget 2024
Sewer Plant Ditching/Drainage	5,343.00		
Town Well- Engineering	500.00	2,500.00	
Town Well- Drilling & Installation			20,401.50
Cemetery Improvements		19,600.00	
Equipment Storage Building		76,937.94	52,707.00
Salt/Sand Shed Engineering		4,505.00	
Totals by Year	5,843.00	103,542.94	73,108.50
Grand Total			182,494.44
Amount dedicated to Payroll and General Services in 2023 (Applied generally to ensure compliance with federal deadlines)			<u>180,786.31</u>
Total ARPA Expenditures			363,280.75

The Town intends to fund the following projects in the 2024 regular budget:

Town Green	24,000.00
Ballfield Improvements	4,200.00
Town Office Roof	15,000.00
Town Well	5,000.00
Library Grant Match	20,000.00
Equipment Storage Building Elec.	12,586.31
Salt/Sand Shed Construction	<u>100,000.00</u>
	180,786.31

**Town of Orwell**  
**Taxes Billed vs. Collected 2023**

Total Taxes Billed	3,014,220.05
Less State Payments	(348,192.53)
Net Taxes Due	2,666,027.52
Less Uncollected 2023 Taxes Due in 2024	(77.44)
Less Taxes Collected	(2,579,822.56)
2023 Tax Warrant	86,127.52
Less Delinquent Taxes Collected	(47,103.26)
2023 Delinquent Taxes Due as of 12/31/23	39,024.26

**Town of Orwell**  
**Delinquent Tax Report 2023**

Tax Year	Balance 12/31/22	Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/23
2019	5,250.80	-	5,250.80	-
2020	10,276.90	-	9,434.43	842.47
2021	23,078.22	-	9,707.69	13,370.53
2022	63,105.54	-	42,449.41	20,656.13
2023	-	86,127.52	47,103.26	39,024.26
Totals	101,711.46	86,127.52	113,945.59	73,893.39

**TOWN OF ORWELL- DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**  
**STATEMENT OF FUNDS 2023**

Balance December 31, 2022	\$ 46.39	
Delinquent Taxes Collected	113,945.59	
Warrant Interest Collected	9,115.67	
Penalties Collected	11,360.38	
Savings Interest Earned	31.07	
Payments to Town		134,421.64
Balance December 31, 2023		77.46
	\$ 134,499.10	\$ 134,499.10

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Jackson  
Delinquent Tax Collector

**Town of Orwell**  
**Delinquent Tax List- December 31, 2023**

<b>2020</b>	57 Sanford St, LLC <b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 842.47</b>
<b>2021</b>	Cawley, James & Christina H & B Land Holdings Kenney, Donald Valley Stock Farm LLC <b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 13,370.53</b>
<b>2022</b>	Cawley, James & Christina H & B Land Holdings Hall, Louis & Phyllis Kenney, Donald Legault, Chad Rohne, Kyle & Amy Valley Stock Farm LLC <b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 20,656.13</b>
<b>2023</b>	Cawley, James & Christina Crocker, David Euber, Eric Helios Solar Jiyaan Holding LLC Kehoe, Thomas Krol, Jessica Legault, Chad Metcalf, Christopher Rohne, Kyle & Amy Runstein, Richard Sherman, Leona (Estate) Tatour, Duna Valley Stock Farm LLC Wist, John Joseph and Charles Bundy Wist <b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 39,024.26</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 73,893.39</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Jackson, Collector

**TOWN OF ORWELL  
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS  
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Cash and Securities December 31, 2022	\$	149,080.16
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Interest Earned in 2022, distributed in 2023		(12.95)
Gain (Loss) on Eaton Vance Fund		6,108.61
Interest Earnings- Munger Fund		581.38
Perpetual Care Added		200.00
Interest Earnings to be distributed in 2024		165.15

Cash and Securities December 31, 2023

Combined CD	
School Fund	2,989.75
Lake View Cemetery	1,000.00
Coates Cemetery	1,084.18
Town- McQuade Fund	214.50
Wright Memorial Library	22,961.25
Orwell Free Library	1,000.00
Mountain View Cemetery	47,441.77
Accrued Unallocated Interest	165.15
Mountain View Cemetery- Munger Fund	30,204.71
Mountain View Cemetery- Eaton Vance	49,061.04

	\$	156,122.35		\$	156,122.35
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Dividends Received- Eaton Vance	\$	723.50
Interest Earnings		1,290.34

Paid to:

SVUSD for benefit of Orwell School	\$	50.43
Town of Orwell- fbo Lake View Cemetery		16.87
Town of Orwell- fbo Coates Cemetery		18.29
Town of Orwell		3.62
Wright Memorial Library		387.34
Orwell Free Library		16.87
Mountain View Cemetery		1,520.42

	\$	2,013.84		\$	2,013.84
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Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan S. Young  
Trustee of Public Funds

**TOWN OF ORWELL  
STATEMENT OF THE TOWN CLERK  
December 31, 2023**

<b>Dog Registration:</b>	<b># of Dogs</b>	<b>Fee/dog</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	1	\$7.00	\$7.00	
	165	\$9.00	\$1,485.00	
	0	\$11.00	\$0.00	
	21	\$13.00	\$273.00	
	87	\$17.00	\$1,479.00	
	33	\$21.00	\$693.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>307</b>		<b>\$3,937.00</b>	
1 Pet Dealer Permit			<u>\$37.00</u>	
1 Replacement Tags			\$0.00	<b>\$3,974.00</b>
<i>307 Dogs and 1 Pet Dealer Permit</i>				<b>\$3,974.00</b>
<b>Money to the Town Treasurer:</b>				
1 Pet Dealer Permit			\$37.00	
Dog Fees			\$2,405.00	
<i>State Rabies &amp; Spay/Neuter Program</i>			<u>\$1,532.00</u>	
		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,974.00</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth "Betty" Walker  
Town Clerk



INKA photo courtesy Ted Michel

RIP



IGOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP     Executive Director: VVSA

## Orwell Development Review Board Annual Report 2023

The Planning Commission and Development Review Board had an active year. The Planning Commission spent most of the year working on the update to our Town Plan. Orwell's Town Plan was due for an update, and so two years ago we applied for and were granted a Municipal Planning Grant in order to make the update. Working with Addison County Regional Planning, we sent out a survey to every address in Orwell, compiled the results, and held a public meeting to go over the conclusions that we could draw from those results. From there, we made minor tweaks to the existing town plan, updating it based on what we learned. Once these updates were complete, we held a hearing to review the town plan updates and then approved them, forwarding our work to the Selectboard for their final approval.

The Development Review Board continued to hear permit applications and appeals and make decisions based on our town's Land Use Regulations. These regulations will be the focus of our work in 2024, as we seek to streamline them to make them more user friendly and understandable

### 2023 Development Review Board Members:

Joseph Andriano, Chair

David Burtch, Alternate

Rex Corey, Vice Chair

Sharon Macedo, Secretary/Member

Carter Mealey, Member (till June 2023)

Cian Quinn, Member

Daniel Redondo, Member

Michelle Wigginton, Member



Ice Crystal on Windshield

*photo courtesy Sue James*



# Lister Report 2023

The inspection of all the Town properties for 2024 reappraisal has been completed. The Town has been required by Vermont State law to assess all properties at 100% of fair market value. This will be reflected in the new assessment of all properties.

Alyth Hescocock of RCC ( Real Capital Consulting), inspected every property in the town. Some time in May or June every property owner in Orwell will receive a notice of their final assessment. This notice will contain every property owner's new appraisal, acreage, and old appraisal. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any Lister.

Cheryl Tudhope

Jean F Audet

Becky Quesnel

## Zoning Activity 2023

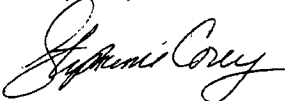
### Permits:

- New Construction – 4
- Additions – 2
- Porches and Decks – 5
- Farm Related – 3
- Garages, Accessory Structure or Additions Thereto – 15
- Extensions – 2
- Certificates of Compliance for Real Estate transactions – 6
- Certificate of Compliance for completed building permit - 3

Please note, once a permit is issued, it is valid for 12 months and includes your Certificate of Completion. It is up to you to notify me when you are done your building project so that I can return to verify the project was completed in accordance with your permit and issue the Certificate of Completion. If you are nearing the 12-month mark and your construction is not complete, contact me for an extension. Failure to complete construction or request your C of C within the 12-month timeframe will result in an additional permit fee.

Zoning regulations can be a bit challenging to navigate, so if you have a building project in mind, I welcome your questions during the planning stages. Often times, a quick phone call in advance can help you avoid unnecessary delays. You may also schedule time for to meet with me in person at my real estate office by calling 802-353-8150 or emailing me at [Stephanie@AdirontRealEstate.com](mailto:Stephanie@AdirontRealEstate.com).

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie Corey

Zoning Administrator

TOWN OF ORWELL  
VERMONT  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 7, 2023

Town meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Moderator, Michael R. Audet, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Robert Martin, and a moment of silence.

Announcements: On the front table there is Information on the Social Services. Cindy Watrous has a sign-up sheet for Green-up Day for May 6, 2023.

The Select Board introduced themselves to the assembly.

Joe Andriano, Orwell's Representative, introduced himself. The most important thing is communication. What goes on in Montpelier he posts everyday on Social Media. There is a newsletter on the front table with his contact information. Top on the list is the Affordable Heat Act. This is the #1 thing that he has heard from people about. He hasn't heard from anyone who is in favor of it. People are wondering how they are going to pay for their heating bill. This bill has now been changed into a two-year study. Louis Hall asked what were his feelings about the Sargeant of Arms and did he think it would do any good to involve the Sargeant of Arms in the AHA bill. Joe feels the office is good, but no, he feels that it would not help. Linda Hutchins asked about the Camp Sunset issue. The Vermont Land Trust has a non-profit buyer. They are checking the septic system and all permits. They will be moving forward with the purchase. Gerry Audet said there was a case in Rutland where a man was involved in many arrests. The Judge says the State Statutes wouldn't let him deny this man bail. Joe Andriano said this is important. He is not sure what direction is needed to make sure that the bad guys stay in jail with no bail. He has heard of no movement. Wayne Hall asked if Joe has heard what the use is going to be for Sunrise Lake. He has only heard that it is a non-profit buyer. We should have the non-profit buyer come to the community to let us know of their plans. Joe said all he knows at this time is that it is going to be for the community. Ramona Akpo-Sani said there are some people in jail in Vermont that are still in there because there is no place for them to go, no housing. Joe Andriano said this issue leaves people in jail, the hospital, etc. They are working on reforming the Act 250 to loosen up availability to build. Joe mentioned that he is also the Chair on the Planning Commission/Development Review Board in Orwell and they have been working on the regulations to make it simpler and more sensible. The State is also working on this.

1. As per the Warning, Town Officers were elected by Australian Ballot. The polls were open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Results of the Australian Ballot follow these minutes.
2. Paula Barnes **moved** to accept the reports of the Town Officers submitted by the Auditors. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
3. Peter Stone **moved** to accept the report of the Board of Trustees of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library, Inc. Susan James **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
4. The voters of the Town of Orwell voted on the following town projects separately:
  - A. Paula Barnes **moved** to appropriate \$15,000.00 for the operating expenses of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library Building for 2023. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

B. Joe Tapauskas **moved** to appropriate \$2,500.00 for the purchase of books and materials by the Orwell Free Library. Paul Stone **seconded** the motion. Kate Hunter, Librarian, reported that they have projects they are looking to get done with grant funding from the State and Federal Government. They would like to make the bathroom more accessible, open space in the back half of the building, and restore the front door and windows. Kate thanked all for supporting their fundraisers every year. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

C. Gerry Audet **moved** to appropriate \$200.00 for St. Paul's Cemetery in order to defray a portion of the 2023 maintenance costs. Virginia Wilson **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

D. Paula Barnes **moved** to appropriate \$2,200.00 for the 2024 operating expenses of the Orwell Parade Committee. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

E. Paula Barnes **moved** to appropriate \$750.00 for the Sixty-Plus Club of Orwell, funds to be used to defray the costs of operating said club for the Senior Citizens of the Town of Orwell. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

F. Paula Barnes **moved** to appropriate \$1,000.00 for the 2023 operation of the Orwell Youth Recreation Program. Susan James **seconded** the motion. Jean Audet asked who is involved in the Recreation Program. Andrea Treadway stated that Maxine Saville is in charge. Sherri Young headed this in the past. This is back on the Warning because of COVID in the past two years. Generally this is done by a parent who has children involved. Maxine Saville has children involved. The \$1,000 request is for the cost of operation and insurance. The Town now owns the Ballfield on 22A. This helps keep the cost down for kids who cannot afford to join. Dan Redondo thinks this is a great idea. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

G. Peter Stone **moved** to appropriate \$10,000 for painting of the exterior of the Library building requested by the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library Board. Paula Barnes **seconded** the motion. Peter Stone asked if anybody got a price or is this just an estimate. Bob Martin, Treasurer, Wright Memorial Library Board, state that they have received one bid and one inquiry so far. Bids close March 31, 2023. The Wright Memorial Library Board has \$8,400 left over to apply to the painting if needed. Miles Tudhope stated that we pay for all the expenses of the Orwell Library and operating expenses & maintenance. We should own it. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

5. Sue James **moved** to have the Treasurer collect taxes on real property on or before November 10, 2023. Paula Barnes **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

6. Paula Barnes **moved** to vote delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer rents to have an 8% penalty charged against them and a 1% interest per month added from the due date. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. Miles Tudhope asked when are we going to start collecting some of these delinquent taxes? Diane Jackson stated that we have collected a large sum of delinquent taxes. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

7. Peter Stone **moved** to conduct the next annual municipal meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024, per 17 VSA §2640. (Election of Town Officers by Australian ballot will be on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. See Article One.) Paula Barnes **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

8. Paula Barnes **moved** to accept the proposed 2023 Budget for the Town, in the amount of \$1,363,366, of which \$826,929.50 shall be raised by taxes and \$536,436.50 to be raised by non-tax revenues. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The non-tax revenue is everything on the Income sheet except the "ARPA money" and "Tax Receipts". Wayne Hall inquired about clean-up money on page 17 of the Town Report in the amount of \$1,500. Thomas Audet answered that this is potential scrap metal income. Wayne Hall said that Cindy Watrous, Barbara Young, and himself are on the Clean-up Day Committee. The sign-up sheet is on

the front table and after that you can please sign up at Buxton's Store. The collection for the green bags will be at the Town Garage. The kids who bring in green-up bags from cleaning roadside will get a reward. Again, usable items will be set aside and are free for the taking. If you pick up clean bottles, bring clean bottles to the bottle drop at the Library to benefit the Library and the Historical Society. Thomas Audet stated that they are anticipating a big turnout for clean-up, if the budget passes today. We need volunteers. Will need to work on a traffic pattern to make things run smoothly. We will reach out for volunteers once the budget passes.

Peter Stone asked why the "Payroll" was higher. Thomas Audet said the cost of living is higher. Andrea Treadway also explained that an extra \$30,000 was put in the budget for a part time road crew person to help out the Road Crew and let them be able to take off some of their much deserved time off. We support our Road Crew and this will bring down money spent for contracted services. Wayne Hall thanked the road crew for a great job. The assembly applauded.

Dan Redondo thinks we should invest in audio equipment. We should take advantage of it. There is a more effective way to reach out to people. Keep in mind that we are an aging population.

Wayne Hall inquired about the ARPA carry-over. This is what is left that has not been spent yet.

Gary Murdock stated that an ARPA Committee was formed to make decisions and then recommendations to the Select Board. The Committee has finished their work and have recommended to the Select Board to allocate funding to the Ballfield, Cemeteries, including the Catholic Cemetery, the Town Office Roof, a well at the Firehouse, the Bandstand, and Library matching funds. Money has also been set aside for the Town Shed Project. This was opened up to the public. At the next Select Board meeting this list from the ARPA Committee will be approved. Sharon Fletcher asked what the Town Garage Project is. Andrea Treadway stated that there are State mandates for salt sheds. We also have a lot of equipment stored in an offsite location. The addition for the Town Garage is to store this equipment. We are hoping the amount that was set aside will cover this project. Andrea Treadway stated that she has looked at grant revenues.

Peggy Park is concerned at the speed on 22A. She has seen vehicles trying to pass tractor trailers. She has seen the Sheriff, but not in her area. She went to the State Police and they told her to have the Town hire them. We are not being taken care of locally. Gary Murdock agreed with her 100%. Speed is terrible everywhere. The Sheriff is short-handed. The new local Sheriff is very responsive. He has been writing tickets. He caught someone doing 73 mph in a 25 mph zone on North Orwell Road and he is spending more time on 22A. Louis Hall asked if we get anything when he writes tickets. Gary Murdock stated that we get a per cent of the funds. Joe Andriano stated that this is something that is bigger than Orwell. It is a State issue. We are trying to support our law enforcement. Route 22A is the shortest route so the GPS takes vehicles that route. The question is how do we make this road safer? Thomas Audet said the Town has looked into the flashing speed sign, but 22A is a State road. Joe Taparuskas said there are cameras that record the license plates and speeding tickets get sent out. Gary Murdock said he doesn't think they can do that anymore. This is an enforcement issue. Wayne Hall said what's important is that the Sheriff is here. Sharon Fletcher said the Sheriff should get out of his car so the children can see him. Christine Pouliot said she travels daily on 22A to Orwell Village. She has noticed that traffic has slowed down in Town, but 22A, she has never seen anything like it. It's been a long time since she has seen law enforcement on 22A. Jim Dougherty said that it has been better with the 40 mph on 22A. Peggy Park asked if we could decrease the 40 mph area on 22A. She was told by the State Police to wait and see when they expand 22A. It will be a freeway. Gary Murdock said 22A is a death trap for the Sheriff and State Police to pull people over. Previously the Sheriff was only able to patrol 20 hours a month in Orwell. We have given the new Sheriff more hours in our budget. We will recommend more hours in next years budget. Wayne Hall asked Peggy Park if she called the State Police about her complaints. She said she went to see them and they told her that there is only so much they can do. Andrea Treadway, said at one of the Select Boards next meetings they will discuss this with the Sheriff to patrol this area. Pat Ullom asked if tickets could be written for bumper riding? Gerry Audet said do you realize how long it took to get something done at the 22A/Route 73 four corners? Bob Arnebold said we should purchase an old vehicle and dress it up to with blue lights to look like a police car and park it on 22A. Vanessa Almony said the State Police does have plans for review on the AOT website for 22A at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/vt22a>.

**The motion passed by voice vote.**

9. Gerry Audet **moved** to accept the proposed 2023 Sewer Budget in the amount of \$101,930.77, such amount to be raised by user rents and dumping fees. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

10. The following articles for funds for Social Services and other requests by petition were voted on separately. *[When requested, people knowledgeable about a specific service gave brief outlines of services provided to Orwell citizens through funds for the following Social Services.]*

- A. Theresa Nolan **moved** to appropriate **\$1,500.00**, for Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc., funds to be used to help pay part of the cost of providing mental health care to town residents. Sarah Harris **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
- B. Paula Barnes **moved** to appropriate **\$1,750.00**, for H.O.P.E., Inc. funds to be used to help defray part of the cost of providing housing, fuel, food, clothing, and other essential items. Paul Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
- C. Peter Stone **moved** to appropriate **\$1,250.00**, for Addison County Woman Safe, Inc., funds to be used to support their mission to work toward the elimination of physical, sexual, and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change. Paula Barnes **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
- D. Sheri Young **moved** to appropriate **\$5,000.00**, for Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc., funds to be used to help defray costs for providing home health care services to infants, children and adults referred by their physicians, regardless of their ability to pay. Theresa Nolan **seconded** the motion. Bryan Young, Board Member, stated that 46 individuals were served in 2022. Sharon Fletcher appreciates the support from the community. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

Dan Redondo noted that the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders from Orwell School have attended the meeting. Mike Audet, Moderator, described to them that the assembly before them consists of Orwell taxpayers/citizens. The Select Board is our Town Fathers, and Mother. They are people who volunteer to make the town what it is, which is what you are here to learn. Max Saville asked "What challenge does the Town Hall have?" Peter Stone answered that it is an old building that needs a lot of work. The plan is to re-do the kitchen this summer. There is little storage. The heat and electric need updating. Real Quesnel asked "Why can't kids under 18 vote?" Joe Andriano said there is something called the Bright Line Rule. In the law we have to draw a line. The age was once 21 year olds. People wanted a voice so it was lowered to 18 year olds. Joe Andriano said "How do we make sure childrens concerns are met when they cannot vote? They should write letters to their Representative". Porter Barnes asked "What challenges does democracy have?" Joe Andriano said that the biggest challenge is people needing to get more informed. People need to advocate for what they believe in. Get involved, serve on the Select Board and other offices. Frances Stone said your challenge is to stop the "I'm right, your wrong" and instead say "I will listen to you and respect you and expect the same". Miles Tudhope said the biggest is that people don't use their civic duty to vote.

- E. Paula Barnes **moved** to appropriate **\$320.00**, for RSVP, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, funds to support RSVP. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. Louis Hall would like to hear a report. Eileen Toomey stated that Bone Builders meets every Tuesday and Thursday at the Orwell Firehouse. Francis Stone stated that this is an important program, free to those that need to use it. Those in attendance that attend Bone Builders were asked to stand. The **motion passed** by voice vote.



- F. Paula Barnes **moved** to appropriate **\$775.00**, for Tri-Valley Transit, funds to maintain and improve transportation services for elders, persons with disabilities, and the general public. Susan Arnebold **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
- G. Gerry Audet **moved** to appropriate **\$350.00**, for Addison County Readers, Inc., funds for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under five years of age. Cindy Werner **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
- H. Peter Stone **moved** to appropriate **\$740.00**, for Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Inc., funds to provide restorative justice projects for offenders who have potential to learn from their mistakes and avoid incarceration and a criminal record. Paula Barnes **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.
- I. Ramona Akpo-Sani **moved** to appropriate **\$1,000.00**, for Turning Point Center of Addison County, for the purpose of supporting its mission to assist persons, their families, and their friends in recovery from substance use disorder and addictive behaviors. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

Information of these Social Services can be found on the Orwell website. For free health and human services information & referral services Dial 2-1-1.

11. To transact any other business which may legally come before the Town.

Wayne Hall thanked the community members that volunteer on the Orwell First Response and the Orwell Fire Department. The assembly applauded.

Paul Stone stated that there are handouts on the table with information on the Declaration of Inclusion.

Dan Redondo said that the Declaration of Inclusion is a grassroots community effort. It's what we stand for as a community. This was presented to the Select Board at their last meeting. This is who we are and what we strive to be. Dan read the Declaration of Inclusion (see attached). The idea is to vote no against discrimination. Andrea Treadway stated that a lot of citizens came to the Select Board meeting. Andrea suggested that this be spoken at a Town Meeting to include more of the town. At a future Select Board meeting this will be on the agenda to make a more informed decision. Paul Stone said that this is in the Town's Personnel Policy. John Sullivan said that this is the law and we should just practice it. Theresa Nolan thinks we should sign it. She understands that this is a part of the Town's hiring practice. We should think of the values of a resident of Orwell that this states as a community. Gerry Audet feels uncomfortable if we vote on this today. Liz Orr said that this starts at home with our children, our grandchildren, the neighbors children, etc., by them watching us and hearing us. This is just a piece of paper. It's not about a piece of paper. It's about all of us taking part in raising a community. Joe Andriano said that he agrees that it is about how we act. He has heard from minority communities and this matters to them. This is important to Governor Scott. Having people feel comfortable to come to Vermont. This has turned into a program called IDEAL Vermont, a Racial Equity Advisory Panel by Governor Scott. Sheri Young asked if this is going to be a living document? For those of you who started this, you will always be exclusive instead of inclusive. You need to get it all set, write it, and vote on it next year. Frances Stone said that this piece of paper is saying what all of you are saying. Things only hold up if all are willing to hold up this piece of paper. It is important. Ramona Akpo-Sani said it can be changed and put in it what you want to see. This is just a start. It teaches our children that this is what the Town is all about. We need to look at all papers to see there is no hidden biases.

It makes it open. Theresa Nolan appreciates Joe Andriano's comments. By signing this it is an important message for our children and others to see. We are sending a message if we don't sign it. Siegrid Mertens said that this statement says a lot. Inclusion includes the right and the left. This town is the closest to that. This is a loving town, although some of us have had bad experiences. James Dougherty said he would sign it today. By joining other towns, because this is happening here in case you don't know it, we speak out against racism and discrimination.

James Dougherty **moved** to have a non-binding vote on this Vermont Declaration of Inclusion to set a state of the room for future adoption. William Logan **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

Paula Barnes would like to see more of the town involved than just what's in this room. Andrea Treadway said she is not against it, but there is more to it.

Peter Stone hopes everybody votes today. We are doing a lot at the school, the budget is up, as are salaries and insurance. We are doing a lot on this building. Re-doing the kitchen this year. Running the best school with what we have.

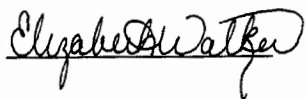
Siegrid Mertens is very happy with the school. Support our kids. When we vote no to the district, we vote no to the kids.

Russell Young reminded the assembly that we can't discuss Town Meeting Articles at Town Meeting.

Mike Audet announced that there will be a Rabies Clinic at the Orwell Firehouse on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5 PM to 7 PM.

Susan James **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 PM. Russell Young **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by voice vote.

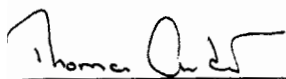
Attest:



Date:

3/16/2023

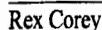
## Orwell Select Board



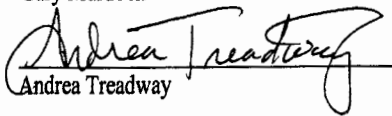
Thomas Audet, Chair



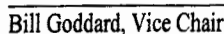
Gary Murdock



Rex Corey



Andrea Treadway



Bill Goddard, Vice Chair



## ***Town of Orwell Wastewater Treatment Facility***

### ***Calendar Year 2023***



Orwell Treatment Lagoon Aeration System

The Town of Orwell Wastewater Treatment Facility continues to meet and exceed ANR, DEC permit compliance. Through a proactive approach and support by the Select Board the facility continues to operate in an efficient and effective manner.

With recent storm events the ditching project continues to perform as designed and has protected the lagoon treatment system from being overwhelmed with run off.

The facility discharge permit renewal application has been completed and has been deemed by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources as administratively complete. Steps to complete the permitting process will continue as the State reviews and drafts a new permit.

The users of the Town of Orwell Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Town in general are fortunate to have a Select Board that supports the efforts to provide a well-maintained Town and Facility. Their commitment to a proactive approach has provided a Facility that the Town can be proud of.

As always the staff of the Wastewater Treatment Facility welcomes visitors and will be more than happy to conduct a tour of the Facility to any interested parties.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward Tracey

TOWN OF ORWELL - SEWER REPORT				
CATEGORY		2023	2023	2024
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>				
Balance Forward		22,558.77	22,558.77	21,488.44
Borrowings		0.00	0.00	0.00
Delinquent Collector Penalty		0.00	406.20	0.00
Delinquent Rents Collected		0.00	5,076.23	0.00
Interest - Warrant		0.00	336.45	0.00
User Rents		61,372.00	55,585.35	63,952.10
Dumping Fees		18,000.00	19,846.57	18,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>101,930.77</b>	<b>103,809.57</b>	<b>103,440.54</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Bank Fees		24.00	71.72	24.00
Evaluation Project		0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance				
	Property & Liability	588.00	588.00	677.00
	Workers Compensation	1,200.00	1,162.00	1,278.00
Laboratory		700.00	645.00	700.00
Lab: Sludge Testing		0.00	0.00	0.00
Lab: WET Test		0.00	0.00	0.00
Lagoon Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan Payment	Principal	45,603.91	27,500.00	44,882.09
	Interest	9,500.00	9,323.90	9,500.00
Payroll		21,240.00	21,284.66	22,089.60
Payroll expenses		0.00	0.00	0.00
	FICA & MCARE	1,624.86	1,628.28	1,689.85
Postage		200.00	182.00	200.00
Project Costs		0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs	Building	500.00	17.25	500.00
	Equipment	1,500.00	96.07	1,500.00
	Other	250.00	0.00	250.00
Mileage		800.00	978.17	850.00
Miscellaneous Expense		800.00	306.00	800.00
Sundries		250.00	286.39	300.00
Supplies	Chlorine	1,000.00	1,466.00	1,600.00
	Equipment	1,000.00	948.30	1,000.00
	Lab Chemicals	100.00	426.64	550.00
	Other	500.00	733.24	500.00
Training & License		350.00	296.00	350.00
Utilities, Electricity		13,500.00	14,034.64	13,500.00
Propane		700.00	346.87	700.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>101,930.77</b>	<b>82,321.13</b>	<b>103,440.54</b>
Balance December 31, 2023			21,488.44	
<b>TOTALS</b>				

# Town of Orwell Delinquent Sewer Report 2023

Tax Year	Balance 12/31/22	Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/23
2020	150.00	-	150.00	-
2021	566.20	-	566.20	-
2022	2,376.00	-	1,590.91	785.09
2023	-	5,774.55	2,769.12	3,005.43
Totals	3,092.20	5,774.55	5,076.23	3,790.52

## TOWN OF ORWELL- DELINQUENT SEWER COLLECTOR STATEMENT OF FUNDS 2023

Balance December 31, 2022	\$	4.38		
Delinquent Rents Collected		5,076.23		
Warrant Interest Collected		336.45		
Penalties Collected		406.20		
Savings Interest Earned		1.30		
Payments to Town				5,818.88
Balance December 31, 2023				5.68
	\$	5,824.56	\$	5,824.56

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Jackson  
Delinquent Tax Collector



*photo courtesy George Macedo*

**TOWN OF ORWELL- SEWER FUND  
2023 STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

Balance December 31, 2022	\$	22,558.77		
Borrowings		73,717.52		
Collector/Collected Rents		5,076.23		
Penalties		406.20		
Warrant Interest		336.45		
Dumping Fees		19,846.57		
User Rents		55,585.35		
Payment of Borrowings			101,217.52	
Payment of Select Board Orders			54,821.13	
Balance December 31, 2023			21,488.44	
<hr/>				
	\$	177,527.09	\$	177,527.09

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan S. Young  
Town Treasurer

**Town of Orwell  
Delinquent Sewer Rents- December 31, 2023**

<b>2022</b>	Bouffard, Jonathan	477.00		
	Mitchell, Orin & Brook	149.09		
	Nichols, Sheila	159.00		
	<b>Subtotal</b>		\$	<b>785.09</b>
<b>2023</b>	Bouffard, Jonathan	666.00		
	Christian, Michael & Michele	19.00		
	Kemp, Adam & Mercedes	169.00		
	Minyati, Solange	312.43		
	Mitchell, Orin & Brook	666.00		
	Montello, Nicholas & Emily	169.00		
	Nichols, Sheila	666.00		
	Racine, Samantha & Dylan	338.00		
	<b>Subtotal</b>		\$	<b>3,005.43</b>
	<b>Total</b>		\$	<b>3,790.52</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Jackson, Collector

# ORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY --- MUSEUM

2023

## Annual Report

Our focus for 2023 was on the museum's collection: creating storage space, determining provenance and developing a searchable inventory for research and access. Volunteers shifted, cleaned and tagged items, answered research questions, and found inspiration for future exhibits.

Donations to the museum included papers and portraits related to the Buell farms on Horton Road, Eagle Inn artifacts, and local business ephemera. Another significant gift came from an anonymous donor: a new heat pump. Not only will it benefit collection preservation and patron comfort, it also allows us to expand museum programming and community service. We are incredibly grateful and excited for the opportunities ahead.

I want to thank OHS directors Page Nolker (VP and Secretary), Kathy Buxton (Treasurer), Jane Reidel (Secretary), and Jim Rowe; the Wright Memorial Board; former curator Sandy Korda; librarian Kate Hunter; and Arlene Batschelet. Special thanks to Martha Hill, whose expertise and dedication were invaluable this summer. And to all who donated bottles, the redemption funds allowed us to purchase insulation materials, preservation supplies and a flat file.

This is your museum, and our mission is to preserve the writings, stories and objects that reflect this community. We are open by appointment, and will train volunteers.

Contact us at: [ohsvermont@gmail.com](mailto:ohsvermont@gmail.com)

Thank you for a great year. Daniell Rougeau, OHS President



## ORWELL FREE LIBRARY

### 2023 Report

OFL enriches the lives of those in our community, providing an access point for information and a gathering place for residents of all ages. In 2023 we began the process of preparing our operations and the building for the future.

Like many in our area, the library was not immune to the challenges of accessing high speed internet. Since accessing information takes many forms, including getting online, we worked with the Wright Memorial Board to improve OFL's connection. As of December 23, Orwell Free Library took

over responsibility for the internet and upgraded to a fiber connection. Increasing our internet speeds makes our village center wireless network significantly more useful to residents and visitors.

Attendance at workshops and events was higher than ever. We celebrate the grant funded programs and summer camp and thank the community members who offered their expertise at programs. Our robust schedule created educational opportunities for all ages just minutes from home.

Pulling locals together through common interests is vital to our mission. This year demonstrated our role as a public gathering place. Coffee hour, fiber crafters meet up, homeschool hangout, the Orwell Artists, the new writing group, and town committees all used the space to gather, learn, and work.

The building that houses the library is feeling the strain of all this activity. With guidance from the 2021 OFL Strategic Plan and commitment from the building owners, we worked throughout 2023 to plan for a future that restores, builds capacity, increases accessibility, achieves resiliency, and is sensitive to the financial challenges of today. This work will continue into 2024 and beyond.

OFL extends recognition and appreciation to the Wright Memorial Library Board for their efforts towards the upkeep of our building.

At the library, we offer:

- free 24/7 WIFI.
- public computers.
- computer, device, and internet help.
- a community meeting place.
- a public gallery.
- online libraries.
- a place to donate used books & media.
- VR and 3D printing.
- a "Library of Things" including an egg incubator, wood moisture reader, projector & screen, Kindle, board games, puzzles, RODE microphone, and more to borrow.
- passes to local attractions.
- quiet & comfortable work space.
- over 10,000 lendable items.

#### 2023 Circulation and Usage

Borrowed items: 4589 books, 2023 eBooks & audiobooks,  
323 kits & things, 365 interlibrary loans sent and received  
5461 library visits, 192 programs offered, 1769 program attendees,  
676 items added to the collection, 71 new patrons, 264 volunteer hours logged

Respectfully,  Kate Hunter, Librarian

ORWELL FREE LIBRARY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2023

Opening Balances January 1, 2023

Checking	\$ 2,430.31	
Savings	14,826.11	
Total Opening Balances		<u>\$ 17,256.42</u>

Receipts

Town Appropriation	2,500.00	
Trustee of Public Funds	16.87	
Interest on Savings	18.59	
Grants	6,950.00	
Donations - General & Memorial	6,312.00	
Fundraising:		
Book/Plant/Bake Sales	14,326.03	
Adopt An Author	281.68	
Bottle Returns	1,290.84	
Quilt Raffle	156.00	
Copier Fees	123.25	
Lost Items Payment	22.95	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 31,998.21</u>
Total Opening Balances and Receipts		<u><u>\$ 49,254.63</u></u>

Disbursements

Books/eBooks/DVDs/CDs	\$ 4,875.39	
Digital	2,642.21	
Media	621.43	
Magazines	149.45	
Kits	356.57	
Grant Expenses	6,788.71	
Advertising	424.59	
Furniture/Equipment	944.10	
Institutional Memberships	215.00	
Postage & Box Rental	367.54	
Staff Continuing Education	63.99	
Presenters	702.50	
Fundraising Supplies	475.19	
General Operating Supplies	1,371.10	
Programming Supplies	1,832.89	
Hardware & Software	1,521.23	
Subscriptions	1,391.52	
Staff Appreciation	3,800.00	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 28,543.41</u>

Closing Balances December 31, 2023

Checking	\$ 3,340.49	
Savings	17,370.73	
Total Closing Balances		<u>\$ 20,711.22</u>
Total Disbursements and Closing Balances		<u><u>\$ 49,254.63</u></u>

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Buxton, Treasurer

*photo courtesy Donna Sbardella*



# Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library

## Annual Report 2023

The Wright Memorial Library Board would like to thank Randy Edson ( Plumbing ), Mike Dundon (Carpentry ), Alan Wilson (Electric ), and Joanne Hornbeck (interior painting ) for their timely support of the libraries projects.

Efforts are continuing to improve the appearance, useability and safety of the building. The main room of the building has been painted. A dehumidification system has been installed in the basement to help protect library and Historical Society material. A heat pump has been installed on the second floor, which has no heat, so that historical society members may work in the main room. Two covers over heat pump condensers have been repaired and a new one installed over the new pump condenser. Repairs have been made to the rear door storm door. Outdoor light fixtures were replaced and installed properly. Painting of the exterior of the building was commenced. All but the front of the building and shutters have been painted. The project ran out of money as a result of repair work being more extensive than expected by our board and the paint contractor. We anticipate finishing the project in the forthcoming spring.

Once again, we thank George, Jill and Hamilton Helmer for their generosity and support of the Wright Memorial Library. Their support and generosity over the years has played an integral part in the development and growth of the library.

We thank the community for their continued support in anticipation of new projects in 2024.

Our sincere thanks to Tom Pinsonneault who recently had to resign from the board. Tom served on the board for many years and will be greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Wright Memorial Library Members:

Ann Nichols

Laura Coro

Jim Dougherty

Martha Hill

Bob Martin



Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library  
Annual Report - 2023

<b>Balance as Dec. 31 2022</b>	\$10,115.39	
		\$10,115.39
Receipts:		
Town Appropriations	\$25,000.00	
Trustee of Public Funds	\$387.34	
Donation - 1/6/2023	\$2,000.00	
Donation - 10/10/2023	\$5,300.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		\$32,687.34
<b>Total opening balance plus receipts</b>		\$42,802.73
Disbursements:		
Cleaning & Supplies	\$1,415.00	
Telephone/Internet	\$1,248.53	
Sewer	\$666.00	
Insurance	\$2,637.00	
Mowing/Plowing	\$80.00	
GreenMtn. Power	\$2,323.53	
Repair & Maintenance	\$11,583.65	
Building Painting	\$17,142.05	
Misc.	\$323.90	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		\$37,419.66
<b>Ending Balance as of December 31, 2023</b>	\$5,383.07	\$5,383.07
<b>Total Disbursements and Closing Balance</b>		\$42,802.73

Respectively submitted,



Robert J. Martin  
Treasurer

# **Orwell Volunteer Fire Department**

## **2023 Annual Report**

In 2023, OVFD answered 36 calls:

Canceled - 1  
Smoke Conditions - 3  
MVA - 12  
Public Service (car lockouts) - 2  
False Alarm - 2  
Technical Rescue - 4  
Fire - 3  
CO Alarm - 1  
Traffic Control - 3  
Flooding - 4  
Wildland Fire - 1



OVFD purchased a new utility truck and sold Engine 3. We also hosted a 2-day electric vehicle training with live fire.

### **2024 Officers and Firefighters**

Chief Paul Metcalf    1st Assistant Chief Alex Kansky    2nd Assistant Chief Seth Gero  
Captain Ben Alger    Senior Officers Allen M. Alger, Jr., Jim Booska, Peter Ochs  
Chairman/ Firefighter Dave Carpenter    Secretary/ Firefighter Jess Krol  
Trustees Allen R. Alger, Sr., Louis Hall, Bob Arnebold  
Training Officers/ Firefighters Susan Hauck (Treasurer), Scott Messer  
Firefighters Jesse Booska, Sandy Korda, TJ Banard, Samuel St. Peter, Jeremiah Nolan  
Probationary Firefighters Max Carpenter, Mercedes Oxford Kemp

*We would like to thank the community for their continued support  
and we hope everyone has a safe year.*

Thank you, Orwell Volunteer Fire Department

# Orwell Fire Department 2023 Annual Report

## Balances, Dec. 31, 2022

Checking	\$10,044.27	
Savings	\$25,052.60	
CD	\$5,599.22	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$40,696.09</b>

## Income

### To Checking

Fund Drive	\$6,980.00
Orwell First Response Reimbursement (P.O. Box)	\$54.00
Orwell First Response Reimbursement (Equipment)	\$413.10
Mother's Day Breakfast	\$879.00
Truck Accidents	\$2,500.00
September Training	\$3,789.51
Transfer from Savings for New Utility Truck	\$20,000

### To Savings

Private Donations	\$1,690.00
Roger Young's Training Fund	\$50.00
In Memory of (Brisson, E.)	\$25.00
In Memory of (Martel, W.)	\$100.00
In Memory of (Ryan, J.)	\$100.00
Carris Corp. Foundation Donation	\$4,000.00
Interest	\$21.38

CD Interest	\$23.59
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<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$40,625.58</b>
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<b>Beginning Balance + Income</b>		<b>\$81,321.67</b>
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## Expenses

### From Checking

ACFA Meetings	\$152.00
Background Checks	\$30.00
Funeral Flowers	\$350.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$118.00
Supplies	\$467.12
Supplies-Vehicle Repair	\$144.65
Supplies- Annual Dinner	\$155.00
Mother's Day Breakfast Supplies	\$893.50
New Equipment	\$1,633.38

Printer for Office	\$403.07	
Funeral Bunting	\$322.68	
Badges	\$55.00	
Fire Service Awards	\$337.00	
Training (1- Night Hotel Room)	\$393.00	
New Extrication Equip. (Split w/ 1 <sup>st</sup> Response)	\$826.20	
Fundraising	\$786.10	
Roger Young Mem. Training Fund (Sept. Training)	\$6,659.38	
Used Utility Truck	\$20,000	
<b>From Savings</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$53,726.08</b>
<b>Balances, Dec. 31, 2023</b>		
Checking	\$10,933.80	
Savings	\$11,038.98	
CD	\$5,622.81	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$27,595.59</b>
<b>Ending Balances + Expenses</b>		<b>\$81,321.67</b>

**Champlain Large Animal Technical Rescue**  
**c/o Orwell Volunteer Fire Department**

<b>January 1, 2023 Opening Balance</b>	<b>344.66</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>.35</b>
<b>December 31, 2023 Closing Balance</b>	<b>345.01</b>

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**Susan M. Hauck**

## Orwell Fortnightly Club 2023

The Orwell Fortnightly Club had a busy and productive year and we are excited about the growth of the club and the interest by all our members, new and old, to continue our work and dedication to our community at large.

After our withdrawal from the General Federation Of Women's Clubs our first order of business was to amend our Constitution and By-laws and that was approved November 8, 2023.

The three fundraisers we held this year were the Spring and Fall bake sales and the Pet Christmas Stockings at the St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar. All were hugely successful thanks to the hard work of our members and the generosity of the Orwell community. We appreciate your support.

A very important feature of our club meetings are the programs presented, both by members and by invited guests. This year we had some outstanding presenters such as "Glassware" by Bob Preseau and "Mud Puppy Pottery" by Andy Snyder, both Orwell community members and then a trip to Judy Blake's Shoreham Bell Museum.

We continued with our community projects that have been so important to us; the two gardens in the village, the Mable Young Music Scholarship, Project Graduation, The Whiting Food Shelf, Green Up Day and this year we voted to start providing the Orwell Elementary School with a subscription to "Kind News". Finally, we continue our work with the assistance of local businesses of placing Christmas Wreaths on telephone poles throughout the village.

The club turned 125 years old this year and it is our hope to host a community wide celebration of that milestone later in 2024.

We wish to increase our membership and invite anyone interested in learning more about the Fortnightly Club to reach out to any of the following:

Linda Oaks, President

Amy Torrey, Vice-President

Linda Martin, Treasurer

Rita Baccei, Secretary

Missy Saltis, Corresponding Secretary, Assistant Secretary

We are fortunate for the friendship we share and the joy of contributing to this very special community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Oaks

## The 60 Plus Club of Orwell

The 60 Plus Club had a fantastic year as new members joined the club. Once again, our outing in August took us on a luncheon cruise on the Lac du Saint Sacrement steamship out of Lake George. We had a beautiful day to enjoy the cruise.

Each month two members co-host the meeting. They set up the room, make the coffee, decorate as they choose and offer a door prize. They may plan a program or activity after the lunch. The First National Bank of Orwell continues to furnish the meat dish for the meal. Thank you for your continuous contribution.

Anyone 55 or older may join the club. Once a month, on the third Wednesday, you can catch up with old friends or make new ones. Come join us.

*Loretta Lee*

Loretta Lee, Treasurer



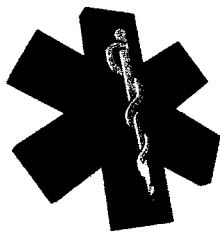
*photo courtesy 60+ Club*

# Financial Report for 60 Plus Club for Calendar Year 2023

Checkbook balance 1/1/23		deposits	debit	\$	487.52
	23-Jan	\$ 48.00		\$	535.52
	16-Feb	\$ 52.00		\$	587.52
#435 Cong Church			\$ 125.00	\$	462.52
#436 donation for W. James			\$ 25.00	\$	437.52
#437			\$ 15.00	\$	422.52
	19-Apr	\$ 50.00		\$	472.52
	17-May	\$ 45.00		\$	517.52
#438	2-Jun		\$ 12.71	\$	504.81
	21-Jun	\$ 67.00		\$	571.81
#439 Cong Church	26-Jun		\$ 125.00	\$	446.81
	19-Jul	\$ 68.00		\$	514.81
from savings for boat trip	15-Aug	\$ 1,055.00		\$	1,569.81
#441 to Loretta Lee boat trip	18-Aug		\$ 1,055.00	\$	514.81
	20-Sep	\$ 68.00		\$	582.81
#442	16-Oct		\$ 25.00	\$	557.81
	18-Oct	\$ 153.00		\$	710.81
#443	23-Oct		\$ 18.00	\$	692.81
	15-Nov	\$ 64.82		\$	757.63
#444	21-Nov		\$ 33.27	\$	724.36
	20-Dec	\$ 62.00		\$	786.36

Savings Balance 1/1/2023		deposits	debit	\$	1,189.52
Interest	31-Mar	\$ 0.29		\$	1,189.81
Interest	30-Jun	\$ 0.30		\$	1,190.11
transfer to checking	25-Aug		\$ 1,055.00	\$	135.11
Interest	30-Sep	\$ 0.16		\$	135.27
Town allotment	8-Dec	\$ 750.00		\$	885.27
Interest	31-Dec	\$ 0.08		\$	885.35

*Loretta Lee* 1/15/24



**Orwell First Response  
604 Main Street/P.O. Box 124  
Orwell, Vermont 05760**

2023

Orwell First Response was dispatched to the following calls:

67 Medical  
6 Fire/Standby  
7 Other  
10 Motor Vehicle Incidents  
1 Mutual Aid

Members 2023

Peter Ochs, President/ Co-Training  
Joe Miller, Vice President  
Mary Miller, Captain/Treasurer/Co-Training/Secretary  
Devon Duquette  
Sandy Korda  
Cian Quinn  
Louis Hall

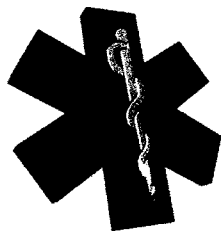
Our community needs more EMS volunteers. No experience is necessary, We will help with that. If you are interested or have questions please reach out to any member above or email [Orwellvtrescue@gmail.com](mailto:Orwellvtrescue@gmail.com) or [peterochs69@gmail.com](mailto:peterochs69@gmail.com)

We Thank You all for your continued support and generous donations.

Be Safe & Healthy

Mary Miller, Captain





Orwell First Response  
604 Main Street/P.O. Box 124  
Orwell, Vermont 05760

**Opening Balance January 1, 2023**

Checking	3166.63
Savings	36211.05
<b>Total Opening Balances</b>	<b>39377.68</b>

**Reciepts**

Donations	2080.00
Interest Income	36.99
<b>Total Reciept</b>	<b>2116.99</b>

**Total Reciepts/Opening Balance 41494.67**

Post Office Box	113.00
Flowers/ Snacks	85.00
EMS Appreciation	291.33
Community Service	79.43
Uniforms	61.14
Recruitment	183.92
Equipment	413.10

**Total Expenses 1226.92**

**Closing Balance December 31, 2020**

Checking	2339.71
Savings	37928.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>40267.75</b>

**Total Expenses and Closing Balances 41494.67**

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Miller, Treasurer

### Project Report

Another year has come and gone, and 2023 was a challenging year, to say the least. The biggest problem that we all had, was the weather. It seemed to rain just about every day.

Vermont's Finest Lawncare did all the mowing in all the cemeteries, between all the rain storms. Jeremy still was able to do an awesome job!!

Mountain View Cemetery Association takes care of our cemetery, but as directed by the selectboard, we oversee the smaller cemeteries in town, also. They include Lake View, North Orwell, Hack, and Coates. Our board attended several meetings the end of 2022, to request ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds that the town had received to do projects with. We asked for funds to be able to do some tree removal to keep from damaging gravestones when we have storms, and also enough funds to fix all the broken gravestones in all of our cemeteries. The selectboard gave us \$18,000.00. All the maintenance was completed, with the last gravestone repaired in November. This was quite a project!

Mountain View Cemetery Association hopes that everyone takes the time, and visits all of OUR town cemeteries to see what has been done, and continues to be done to improve them. We, the board, are very proud of all the projects that have been completed, and would like to THANK YOU, for all the support that we get.

Respectfully submitted,

Mountain View Cemetery Association



*photo courtesy Debbie Hall*

# Mountain View Cemetery Association

## Annual Report 2023

### Beginning Balance-December 31, 2022

Checking	\$927.07
Savings	\$25,391.65

Total Opening Balances \$26,318.72

### Receipts:

Town of Orwell	\$12,850.00
Trustee of Public Funds	\$1,520.42
Lot Sales	\$1,000.00
Perpetual Care	\$200.00
Markers	\$0.00
Misc	\$200.00
Interest Earned	\$221.79

Total Receipts \$15,992.21

Total Opening Balance & Receipts \$42,310.93

### Disbursements:

Mowing- Mountain View	\$10,500.00
Mowing- Other Cemeteries	\$3,300.00
Tree and Stump Removal - Mt. View	\$500.00
Trustee of Public Funds	\$200.00
Gravestone Repairs, Markers - Mt. View	\$2,320.00
Flags	\$774.24
Brush Removal, etc @ Small Cemeteries	\$325.00
Misc	\$169.54
Deed Recording	\$90.00

Total Disbursements \$18,178.78

### Closing Balances December 31, 2023

Savings	\$5,781.84
Checking	\$148.29
CD	\$18,202.02

Total Closing Balances \$24,132.15

Total Closing Balances & Disbursements \$42,310.93

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Jackson, Treasurer



# ORWELL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

12-31-23

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2023 Orwell Memorial Day Parade a success! Several comments were made that it was the best Orwell parade in recent memory.

The event honored the sacrifices made by Orwell Veterans, as well as Veterans everywhere. The Master of Ceremonies Joe Andriano recognized Grand Marshal Carla Ochs for her service to Orwell. The large crowd of spectators were entertained by organizations such as the Catamount Pipe Band, Fair Haven High School Band, Ghostbusters 802 and more. Vintage cars and tractors cruised the streets along the parade route, and local organizations such as the Orwell Fortnightly Club and the Orwell Little League put a nice community touch to the parade.

The committee looks forward to Memorial Day weekend 2024, and as always we will work to bring Orwell a classic parade for the entire family that will honor Veterans and highlight some of the freedoms we enjoy because of their sacrifices.

Please help us continue making the Orwell parade the best it can be by volunteering to help with mailings and/or help on the day of the parade with the lineup and safety along the parade route. If you are interested in lending a hand, contact us through our facebook page [www.facebook.com/orwellmemorialday](https://www.facebook.com/orwellmemorialday) or stop by the Orwell Town Offices.

Thank you again to everyone participated in the 2023 parade!

Orwell Parade Committee:

George Macedo  
Sue James  
Ray Leonard  
Andrea Treadway  
Gabrielle Ochs  
Lisa Lamoge  
Michelle Wiggington  
Rhylee Macedo



# ORWELL PARADE COMMITTEE

## Financial Report 2023

### Opening Balance - January 1, 2023

Checking #4906	542.63
Savings #7451	11.08
Flag Fund #9987	371.99

**Total: 925.70**

### Receipts

Interest on Flag Fund #9987	.26
Town of Orwell (funds for 2023)	2,200.00

**Total Beginning Balance & Receipts \$3,125.96**

### Expenses

Supplies pd. to George Macedo	112.54
VT Field Music & Drum Corp	400.00
Catamount Pipe Band	1,200.00
Cairo Mini Monsters (reissued lost 2022 check)	100.00
Cairo Mini Monsters	100.00
Shriners Northern Clowns	100.00
Cairo Mini Cars	100.00
Shriners Legion of Honor	100.00
Cairo Mini Choppers	100.00
Legion Post 49	100.00
Supplies paid to Sue James	142.26
8 U.S. Flags purchased from Flag Fund donations account	159.55

### Receipts

Town of Orwell (funds for 2024)	2,200.00
---------------------------------	----------

**Total: 2,611.61**

### Closing Balances - December 31, 2023

Checking #4906	2,387.83
Savings #7451	11.08
Flag Fund #9987	212.70

**Total: 2,611.61**

**Ending Balance \$2,611.61**

The Orwell Parks and Recreation Committee members are: Rex Corey, Liza Eddy, Kate Hunter, Amber Naramore, Maxine Saville, and Dan Werner. Liza, Amber, and Maxine are new members this year.



The committee was renamed this past year, formerly the Town Green Committee. The Select Board took this action so the committee would also focus on the needs of the recreation area along Route 22A.

Several needs were identified and we are proceeding with completion. This next season the ball field infield will have the gravel removed, topsoil added and graded, and then new grass planted. This will reduce the maintenance costs and provide a safer playing surface. A new sign with the E911 address for the site (Orwell Recreation Facility) has been ordered and this will be erected in the spring. We also planted six new trees this fall between the parking area and the playing field.

The bandstand replacement project is in a bit of flux. We received a project cost estimate of \$294,694 with an additional \$43,669 in contingencies. We'll be looking at reducing some costs for the handrail and ornamental ironwork.

The big initiative this year and for 2024 is a Better Places Grant - a community matching grant program empowering Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places. This program is led by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Community Foundation, and Patronicity - crowdfunding experts. Our project is to use crowdfunding to raise funds towards replacing the benches and picnic tables in the Town Green. We need to raise \$13,650 of local funds to match with \$27,300 of grant funds. If we don't raise our share, we don't get the grant funds. In other words, these benches and tables are on sale at 67% off, but we need everyone to contribute. Every residence will be receiving a postcard in the mail in February with more information about our project and how to contribute.

Please help with this important initiative.



# ORWELL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOWN REPORT 2023



*As Vermont faces an ever-evolving global landscape of natural and man-made threats - coordinating the Town of Orwell's preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts is our sole purpose.*

***The efforts of any Emergency Management agency are often conducted 'under the surface' and go unnoticed - all with the sole purpose of keeping their community informed and safe - before, during and after situations of potential danger to local residents.***

***In Orwell, 2023 kept us busy.*** As in years past, our greatest public information reach has been through our various social media venues, by printed posters distributed throughout town, and via the old-fashioned method - word-of-mouth - by way of public service announcements on local radio and TV stations.

Hitting the ground running with road closure notices - due to motor vehicle accidents and weather events - Orwell Emergency Management provided the usual alternative routes to get folks from here to there. We posted reminders to check-in on elderly and homebound neighbors, and offered suggestions to shovel their walkways, porches and driveways following winter storms. We posted about the hazards of stress-induced heart attacks (*not just to our elderly population*) while shoveling heavy, wet snow, and the need to stay hydrated during winter activities. We posted about what to do to prevent frozen pipe hazards, and warned about thin ice locations on the lake and area ponds during ice fishing season. We nagged that if it's too cold for you, it surely is for your pets. And, in conjunction with Orwell Village Elementary and Fair Haven Union High School, we shared notices of closings or delays due to severe weather events.

As Daylight Savings arrived, we reminded Orwell residents about the need to replace their smoke detectors and not just the batteries - if they were more than 10 years old. We shared notices of the annual Rabies Clinic at the Orwell Fire Station, for both dogs and cats. We created posters and fliers for the annual Green-Up/Clean-Up Day, as well as reminders of potential dangers of discarded drug paraphernalia - and who to contact, if discovered. In conjunction with the Orwell Free Library's Spring Plant and Bake Sale - and in front of Buxtons at the annual Memorial Day Parade, we continued our Gun/

Bike Lock Give-Away, distributing more than 150 that were donated by local and state law enforcement agencies, as well as provided 236 bike helmets - from toddler to adult (*that were donated by Mike Elmore, Addison County Sheriff*).

As COVID-19 continues to trespass in our lives, we shared news about the latest COVID vaccination clinics, & distributed more than 1,547 FREE TEST KITS to local residents (the same ones being sold at Walgreens for \$25). The colorful Orwell Food Pantry and Personal Hygiene boxes next to the Orwell Masonic Lodge - in the Orwell Free Library parking lot - continued to receive plenty of use by those in need ...and have been kept well-stocked throughout the year by generous anonymous donations. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to those who continue to 'help thy neighbor'!

Throughout the Summer, we continued to keep Orwell residents informed about the progress of Maple Broadband and alternative internet providers like GoNetSpeed and Starlink; what to do to avoid toxic blue-green algae blooms, seasonal tick and mosquito-borne illnesses, poison parsnip exposure, missing person announcements, updates concerning fire season burn bans, how to avoid heatstroke and dehydration, as well as warnings about the latest phone and online scams. We also provided FREE COVID test kits at Buxtons Store, weather and road hazard alerts, and helpful resources on: [vem.vermont.gov/vtalert](http://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert), [Vermont211.org](http://Vermont211.org) and [NewEngland511.org](http://NewEngland511.org). And, we opened a shelter at the Orwell Fire Station for those who were without power during the rain storm - to rest, recharge their electronic devices, and use the internet.

As Summer turned to Fall and eventually Winter, we shared Green Mountain Power's outage information, and posted about community-wide events, like - Medication Take Back Day, vaccine reminders for flu, COVID and RSV, Fire Safety Week, a First Responder CPR & Stop-the-Bleed 2-day course, as well as promoting the Orwell Fire Department and Rescue Squad recruitment campaign.

For Emergency and  
Weather Notices



Humbly Submitted,  
Sandy Korda,  
*Director*



For Non-Emergent  
Community Posting





# It Takes a Special Person to Fill These Boots!

***Are You Ready to Step into These Shoes  
and Make a Real Difference in Orwell?***

You can help make a positive contribution to your community & gain valuable skills! The **Orwell First Response Squad** and the **Orwell Volunteer Fire Department** invite you to discover a path that's not just a calling, but a way of life.

***No experience is necessary!*** Just a passion to help and a willingness to train to serve as a certified Firefighter - and/or - learn how to provide life-saving CPR, and become a Vermont Emergency First Responder (VEFR), Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) or even an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

As one of our community's public safety team members, you'll receive professional training and ongoing education to keep your hard-earned certification up-to-date, gaining priceless real-world skills, knowledge and experience.

**Help us to continue our collective decades of community service.**

***Make our mission yours - and join us today!***



To join the Orwell First Response Squad, contact:  
Peter Ochs, AEMT - at: [peterochs69@gmail.com](mailto:peterochs69@gmail.com)

To join the Orwell Fire Department, contact:  
Paul Metcalf, Chief - at: [OrwellVTfire@gmail.com](mailto:OrwellVTfire@gmail.com)

# **BIRTHS**

Child	Mother	Date of Birth	Place	Father
Wood, Adelyn Rae	Wood, Emily Rae	4/11/2023	Rutland	Harris, Jordan Lee
Alger, Tucker James	Crossman, Lauren Amber	5/4/2023	Rutland	Alger, Benjamin James
Russell, Kendall Scott	Russell, Amanda Lee	5/6/2023	Middlebury	Russell, Joseph Scott
DuQuette, Owden Jace	DuQuette, Morgan Marie	5/13/2023	Middlebury	DuQuette, Devon Adam
Reed, Owen Allen	Reed, Rachel Evelyn	8/1/2023	Middlebury	Reed, Brian Allen
Cote, Ellis Valerie Anne	Cote, Kimberly Dyan	8/2/2023	Rutland	Cote, Christopher Robert
Horton, Finn Ewing	Ewing, Heather Pratt	8/17/2023	Middlebury	Horton, James Paul
Booska, Oakley Ann	Coutermarsh, Brittany Jean	8/17/2023	Middlebury	Booska, Zachary Aaron
Kendra-Wallis, Alex Rowan	Kendra, Christine Mary	10/13/2023	Orwell	Wallis, Peter Daniel
Davis, Jacob Lawrence	Rheaume, Jennifer Marie	12/2/2023	Middlebury	Davies, Benjamin Jacob
Hanson, Madalyn Rae	Hanson, Melissa Sue	12/13/2023	Middlebury	Hanson, Raymond William
Lopez Alfaro, Jesus Junior	Cruz, Yenifer Alfaro	12/18/2023	Middlebury	Lopez, Jesus Alejandro
Gladkowski, Emerson Joseph	Gladkowski, Jessica May	12/22/2023	Middlebury	Gladkowski, David Francis

# **CIVIL MARRIAGE**

		Date	Place	Residence
Barrows, Chelsea Ann	Desjardin, Kevin Thomas	6/10/2023	Charlotte	Orwell
Schulte, Melissa C	Schofield, Scott Laurence	8/22/2023	New Haven	Orwell
Russell, Megan Meredith	Tupper, Cole Wilson	8/26/2023	Bomoseen	Orwell
Warren, Jasmine Jean	Roberts, Matthew Bruce	8/26/2023	Orwell	Troy, NH
Kayhart, Kimberly Anne	Wood, Lee Charles	9/2/2023	New Haven	Orwell
Mordasky, Lauren Elizabeth	Mordashky, Mark Joseph	9/15/2023	Orwell	Orwell
Leite, Amanda Elizabeth	Ennis, John James	10/3/2023	Calais	Orwell
Chesney, Rhonda Gail	Corey, Jr., Freeman Ralph	12/23/2023	Orwell	Orwell

# **DEATH**

	Residence	Age	Date	Place
Sirica, Patricia A	Orwell	68	1/10/2023	Orwell
Thomsen, Lillian Victoria	Orwell	93	1/17/2023	Brandon
Martel, Edward G	Orwell	95	2/16/2023	Middlebury
Weyer, Dennis Phillip	Orwell	82	2/24/2023	Burlington
Martel, Wayne Alan	Orwell	75	2/26/2023	Middlebury
Tupper, Donald P	Orwell	76	3/27/2023	Orwell
Walker, John Richard	Orwell	65	4/15/2023	Rutland
Oldenburg, James Allen Jr.	Orwell	69	4/27/2023	Orwell
Mattison, Michael Lee	Shoreham	62	7/18/2023	Orwell
Ouellette, Edmund	Orwell	88	8/28/2023	Orwell
Delano, Ellen G	Orwell	94	9/1/2023	Orwell
James, Walker Earl	Orwell	90	9/14/2023	Orwell
Callahan, Jr., Charles Edmund	Orwell	72	12/25/2023	Burlington

## MEETING SCHEDULES

### *Town Boards and Organizations*

**Select Board:** Second and Fourth Monday of each month,  
7:00p.m. at the Orwell Town Office  
802-948-2032   [selectboard@townoforwellvt.org](mailto:selectboard@townoforwellvt.org)

**Planning Commission/DRB:** Third Wednesday of each month  
7:00p.m. at the Orwell Town Office – 802-948-2032

**Slate Valley Unified Union School District/SVUUSD:** For meeting dates and times please visit  
the website at [slatevalleyunified.org](http://slatevalleyunified.org) or call 802-265-4905

**Fortnightly Club:** Every other Tuesday from October to May [except January-February]  
Meeting dates/locations to be determined  
Linda Oaks - 802-238-8074

**Independence Lodge #10:** Second Tuesday of each month [except June, July and August],  
7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall

**Orwell Free Library:** 802-948-2041 [orwellfreelibrary.org](http://orwellfreelibrary.org) [orwellfreelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:orwellfreelibrary@gmail.com)  
Hours: Tuesday-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.  
Wednesday-2:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. Thursday-2:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.  
Friday-10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Saturday 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

**Orwell Historical Society:** Third Tuesday of each month  
6 PM at the Orwell Free Library  
President Danielle Rougeau, [ohsvermont@gmail.com](mailto:ohsvermont@gmail.com)

**Sixty Plus Club:** Third Wednesday of each month 12:00 Noon  
at the First Congregational Church of Orwell

### TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00a.m. to 12:00 Noon and 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.  
Wednesday 9:00a.m. to 12:00 Noon and 1:00p.m. to 3:30p.m.  
Friday 9:00a.m. to Noon and 1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.  
802-948-2032 [townclerk@townoforwellvt.org](mailto:townclerk@townoforwellvt.org)

**TOWN GARAGE**  
802-948-2433

**FIRE HOUSE**  
802-948-2392

### CHURCHES

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ORWELL - every Sunday at 10:00a.m.  
Dr. David Anderson, Pastor 802-948-2900  
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - St. Paul's in Orwell - Sunday at 11:00a.m.  
Father Julian Asucan Father Victor Cruz 802-265-3135

**Town of Orwell**  
P.O. Box 32  
Orwell, VT 05760

