

# Town of Ryegate Vermont

## 2023 Annual Report



Summer residents under the Ryegate Town House

Please bring this report to  
Town Meeting  
On Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
1pm

# Dedication

On May 2, 2023 the Citizens of Ryegate were saddened to hear that Dale Wright, after a brief illness, had passed away. Dale was born on November 16, 1930 in Bradford, Vermont and after moving to Groton during high school he eventually moved to South Ryegate where he and his wife of 73 years, Raeleen, established a home and subsequently raised their five daughters. Dale was a stonecutter by trade and worked in the granite sheds for over 30 years.

His family remembers he never sat still and rarely came home directly from work, taking on side jobs such as mowing the cemetery, digging graves and cleaning the South Ryegate school. Most often his extra tasks were for the betterment of Ryegate neighbors and friends. He was observant, direct speaking and quick moving and if he noticed a space that needed a shelf or a screen door that needed to be changed to a storm door, he was right on the case.

In 1980 he was elected as Ryegate's Delinquent Tax Collector, an office he held for 43 years until his passing. Not the easiest office to hold in any town, he was diligent in his duties in that capacity, visiting people on a regular basis who might not be happy to see him coming, but who were treated with respect and understanding. The Select Board was always impressed with his method of carrying out his role, while maintaining an air of concern for and interest in those he visited. He was willing to work with taxpayers and his sincerity went a long way in getting his work done.

For these reasons, this 2023 Annual Town Report is dedicated to Dale Wright. We will always miss seeing him in his seat right up in front at Town Meeting.



The Report of the Officers of the

Town  
of  
**Ryegate**  
Vermont

In preparation for Town Meeting Day  
On  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

**2023 Annual Report  
Of Town Officers  
For the Year Ended  
December 31, 2023**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Accounts Administered by Selectboard and Treasurer	4	Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	30
ARPA Report	19	Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	30
Auditors' Narrative	2	Northeastern Vermont Development Association	21
American Red Cross	29	Planning Commission/ Zoning Board Report	19
Balance Sheet Comparison	6	Rural Community Transportation, Inc.	30
Baldwin Memorial Library	23	Ryegate Energy Committee	22
BMU School District #21 Warning and Notice	37	Ryegate Fire Department Report	16
Caledonia County Sheriff	29	Ryegate Fire Warden Report	24
Caledonia Home Health and Hospice	24	Ryegate Historical Society	21
Capital Needs	12	S Ryegate Library Report	24
Catamount Arts	25	Selectboard Narrative	1
Cemetery Commissioner's Narrative	20	State Representative Report	38
Cemetery Treasurer's Report	20	Synopsis of 2023 Town Meeting	39
Comparative Budgets- EXPENSES	7,8,9,10,11	The Community for Restorative Justice	28
Comparative Budgets- REVENUES	7	The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley	27
Dedication	Inside Front Cover	Ticklenaked Pond Association	25
Delinquent Taxes	18	Town Clerk's Dog License Report	17
Delinquent Taxes- S Ryegate Village Lighting District	18	Town Employee Compensation	5
Fairbanks Museum	30	Town Officers	3
Fund Balance Changes	13	Town Officers Appointed by Selectboard	2
Green Up Vermont	35	Town Property and Equipment Inventory	12
Groton Ryegate Recycling Attendants Report	33	Umbrella	26
Important Telephone Numbers and Information	Inside Back Cover	Understanding your Property Tax Bill	6
Justices of the Peace	21	Vermont Center for Independent Living	26
List of Vendors	14-15	Vermont Dept of Health	31
Listers' Report	16	Vermont State Police	21
Little Rivers Health Care	31	Vermont Rural Fire Task Force	28
NEK Community Broadband	36	Vital Records Law	40
NEK Council on Aging	24	Vital Statistics	40
NEK Waste Management Hazardous Waste	34,35	VSNIIP	17
NEK Waste Management Supervisors Report	32	Warning Annual Town Meeting	41,42
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	28	West Barnet Senior Meal Site	27
		Woodsville Area 4th of July Committee	26



# Selectboard Narrative

Well, 2023 is in the history books and while the weather was certainly frustrating for most of us we don't need to look very far from home to see others that suffered far more than we did.

As most towns in Vermont are, Ryegate continues to try and balance the desire of residents to enjoy their privacy with the public quest for open roads and trails both for recreation and access to land. From an historical viewpoint it is fascinating to learn the origin and evolution of some of our older and lesser used roads and trails but the history never satisfies both sides in a dispute over the use or even the existence of a town trail or highway. We continue to find that neighborliness and consideration count for far more than the legal status or location of a town highway or trail.

The board has been very pleased to watch the recovering membership of our Fire Dept. While spending has increased both to replace aging equipment and gear and to outfit new members properly we are sure that the town considers improved safety for our firefighters very important. Transitioning the organization structure of the dept. from volunteer to municipal has gone well and means that the Selectboard can play a role in personnel management when we are needed.

As many of you know, across the country wages are rising for many types of work. This good news becomes a chicken that comes home to roost when we try to keep our road crew wages competitive with the surrounding towns. We are fortunate that we have avoided the revolving door, rapid turnover that many towns are dealing with on their road crews. Our crew has deep roots in the town and doesn't expect to be paid more than they could make elsewhere but they do need to be paid fairly. The selectboard has to try and find the balance between the crew's expectations and the burden on the taxpayers.

We did start a sticker program for our recycling center this year. Our recycling program has become so popular that people from other towns and a neighboring state are coming to use it. While we welcome these folks it does not seem fair that Ryegate and Groton taxpayers are paying through their taxes to keep the center open and humming while our guests from away are using it for free. We started with a \$25.00 cost for a sticker that will be good for 1 year. Bulky Waste, rubbish, and tires are still taken on a fee scale for everyone. One benefit of the sticker program is that we now have a real idea of how many people are coming in from away to use our center. Before the stickers estimates ranged from 50 households to 1,000. As of this writing we have sold just under 70 stickers so the issue is on the low side of what we guessed it was.

The grant program that we have been waiting on for years finally opened this past summer. Known as MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) the grant looks to help towns reduce their energy use through a variety of approaches, from weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades to modern heating systems. At this time we are still pursuing a grant award to help us with funding for the geothermal heating project at the town garage and the Corner fire station. As part of the grant program both of these buildings underwent an assessment to determine the buildings status and needs. While we have not received the written reports on either building's assessment at this time, we did learn from one of the mechanical engineers that performed the test that our town garage is in excellent condition and really only needs an updated heating source. Good news since that is exactly what we are trying to accomplish. We are asking Town Meeting if they will reappropriate the \$30,000.00 that was appropriated for an engineering study on the Ticklenaked Pond dam and make that fund available to the selectboard if more local funding is needed for the renewable energy heating project. For better or for worse the owner of the dam is not interested in working with the town on assessing any issues that the dam may have so the money that town meeting allocated for that project has been sitting quietly in a fund balance.

With a lot of work on the part of our Planning and Zoning Board and help from NVDA we adopted solar project siting standards for the town plan. While the process of adopting the standards revealed a wide difference of opinion regarding ground mounted solar energy projects, simply having the standards in place means that the town will have a seat at the table the next time there is a commercial solar energy project proposed in our beautiful town.

It has been a delight to watch and help fund the rebirth of the South Ryegate Public Library. Dedicated volunteers have done wonders to create a terrific resource for the town and our children.

In closing your selectboard would like to encourage you to think about serving in an elected or appointed town position. We are privileged to live in a beautiful place and in a local society where we are all individuals and appreciated for the richness that we each bring to our shared lives.

# Auditors' Narrative

In accordance with Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 24, §1681, the board of Auditors have verified the existence of cash balances, and examined the accounts and records of town officers. To the best of our knowledge, the financial statements, reports of receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities contained in this annual report present an accurate record of the funds handled in the year ending December 31, 2023.

The auditors as a group verify bank accounts and paid bills on a monthly basis and fund balances on a quarterly basis.

The auditors worked with the treasurer and the select board to reduce the number of "Accounts Administered by Select Board and Treasurer". There is still work to be done to close or move some of these accounts. The recycling center continued to be a closely monitored topic with numerous issues addressed by the Select Board which hopefully will help reduce the losses that we have been experiencing.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by the Town Clerk and the Treasurer in providing work space and information to fulfil our needs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Dole, Lauren Nelson, David Punt

## Towns Officers Appointed by the Selectboard

Chair of Select Board  
Clerk for the Select Board  
Three Fence Viewers  
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber & Weigher of Cole  
Tree Warden  
Pound Keeper  
Agent to Convey Real Estate  
Town Service Agent  
Energy Officer  
Health Officer  
Green Up Chairperson  
NEKWMD Supervisor  
Vice Supervisor  
NVDA Representative  
Zoning Administrator

Connecticut River Joint Commission  
First Grand Juror  
Road Foreman  
Fire Chief  
Deputy Fire Chief  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Fire Captain  
Planning/Zoning Commission:

Term expires 2024  
Term expires 2024  
Term expires 2024  
Term expires 2024  
Term expires 2025  
Term expires 2025  
Term expires 2025  
Term expires 2026  
Term expires 2026

Andrew Smith  
Elizabeth Page  
Select Board  
Bruce Beauvais  
Darcy Nelson  
Riverside Rescue, Inc.  
Dean Rowden  
Marsha Nelson  
Select Board  
Dr. Stephen Genereaux  
Makayla Perkins  
Gene Perkins  
Andrew Smith  
Regina Hazel  
William Elder (Resigned June 2023)  
Dennis Marquise(Appointed July 2023)  
Sally Wilson  
Dean Rowden  
Nelson Elder  
Greg Murray  
Levi Welch  
Gene Perkins  
Darryl Perkins

Fremont Nelson  
John Munson  
Catherine Davies  
Mary Dole  
Walter Bragg  
Richard Colby II  
Nancy Perkins  
Alice Allen  
Stephen Genereaux

APPOINTED BY THE TOWN CLERK  
Assistant Town Clerk

Marsha Nelson

APPOINTED BY THE TREASURER  
Assistant Treasurer

Patricia Crocker

# Town Officers 2023

MODERATOR Regina Hazel-1 year term

TOWN CLERK Elizabeth Page-1 year term

TREASURER Cheryl Slayton-1 year term

## SELECT BOARD

Term expires March 2024 Andrew Smith-3-year term

Term expires March 2025 Darryl Perkins

Term expires March 2026 Regina Hazel

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR- Dale Wright-(Vacant as of May 2023)

Cheryl Slayton Appointed-May 2023

FIRST CONSTABLE Vacant

## LISTERS:

Term expires March 2024 Catherine Davie-3-year term

Term expires March 2025 Sally Wilson

Term expires March 2026 Jill Skochdopole

## AUDITOR

Term expires March 2024 David Punt -3-year term

Term expires March 2025 Lauren Nelson

Term expires March 2026 Thomas Dole

## LIBRARY TRUSTEES:

Term expires March 2024 Jennifer Nelson -5-year term

Term expires March 2025 Mary Dole

Term expires March 2026 Deana Arnosky

Term expires March 2027 Cynthia Fraser

Term expires March 2028 Marsha Nelson

## CEMETERY COMMISSIONER:

Term expires March 2024 Richard Colby II - 5-year term

Term expires March 2025 Daniel LaCoss

Term expires March 2026 Bruce Nelson

Term expires March 2027 William Nelson

Term expires March 2028 Melissa Mann

## UNION SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Term expires March 2024 Angeline Bogie- 3-year term

Term expires March 2025 Kristen Murray

Term expires March 2025 Paul Hazel

Term expires March 2026 Allana Page-Resigned

Daniel LaCoss-Appointed (9-2023)

# Accounts Administered by SelectBoard and Treasurer 2023

	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Withdrawal	Interest Credited	Ending Balance
1) So. Ryegate Sewer					
#273086	\$1,591.77			\$0.80	\$1,592.57
2) Fire Dept Building Fund					
#634466	\$526.43			\$0.24	\$526.67
3) Fire Dept Eq. Repl.					
#632300	\$65,566.19	*1) 3,556.61	*9) 40,837.55	\$23.31	\$28,308.56
4) Machine Fund-Hgwy					
#612080	\$177,460.03	*2) 75,000.00	*10) 13,000.00	\$83.89	\$239,543.92
5) Ryegate History Committee					
#524317	\$7,717.44		*11) 7,721.26	\$3.82	\$0.00
6) Nicole A. Hayne					
#528494	\$22,007.14	*3) 50.00	*4) 2,600.00	\$20.24	\$19,477.38
#905929	\$10,014.23			\$60.24	\$10,074.47
7) M. Hall Library					
#195892	\$2,124.17	*7) 89,996.76	*5) 400.00	\$9.17	\$91,730.10
#909982	\$89,502.64		*7) 89,996.76	\$494.12	\$0.00
8) W. Sutton Memorial					
#552067	\$106.46			\$0.04	\$106.50
9) Fire Dpt Truck Repl					
#673078	\$106,293.70	*6) 36,550.00	*8) 20,000.00	\$47.58	\$122,891.28
10) E. Ryegate Library					
#9358817841	\$2,009.00		*5) 2,009.12	\$0.12	\$0.00
11) John F. McColl Cemetery					
#810875	\$3,567.08			\$21.44	\$3,588.52
#905930	\$2,424.86			\$14.59	\$2,439.45
#234630	\$106.49			\$0.04	\$106.53
12) McDonald Cemetery					
#290409	\$321.46			\$0.16	\$321.62
13) Byrne-Buchanan Cemetery					
#304502	\$493.11			\$0.24	\$493.35
14) C A Park Cemetery					
#506625	\$700.27			\$0.36	\$700.63
15) E. Hall Cemetery					
#195915	\$1,427.38			\$0.72	\$1,428.10
#905932	\$7,700.67			\$46.34	\$7,747.01
16) M. Hall Cemetery					
#195928	\$1,767.26	*7) 1466.28		\$132.38	\$3,365.92
#905931	\$4,112.42			\$24.72	\$4,137.14
146 Shares Bank of America	\$4,467.76				\$4,467.76
#909983	\$1,458.24		*7) 1466.28	\$8.04	\$0.00
17) Ticklenaked Pond Checking					
#389315	\$6,842.71	\$440.31	\$794.27		\$6,488.75
18) BMU Little League					
#565393	\$665.45			\$0.32	\$665.77
19) Lind Homes Housing					
#565353	\$4,372.72		*5) 4374.89	\$2.17	\$0.00
1) Budget to Actual Fire Dept Contribution			6) 2023 Contribution, Sale Fire Trk, Return E-1 Trk		
2) 2023 Budget Contribution			7) Transfer of CD		
3) Winter Carnival Sleigh Ride Credit			8) E-1 Fire Apparatus Fire Truck		
4) Summer Fair – Winter Carnival – Children’s Library			9) Protective Fire Clothing		
5) So Ryegate Library Donation			10) Roadside Mower		
			11) Historical Society Donation		



# 2023 Town Employee Compensation

2023 Town Employee Compensation							
Employee Name	2023 Pay Rate	Gross Wages	Retirement	Bonus	Health Insurance	FICA	Total Compensation
Nelson Elder	26.65 Hourly	62,304.06	5,234.27	200.00	12,072.64	4,763.13	84,574.10
Road Foreman							
Andrew Nelson	19.50 Hourly	43,444.68	3,654.42	200.00	12,072.64	3,321.36	62,693.10
Road Crew							-
Larry Welch	22.34 Hourly	50,768.52	4,267.78	200.00	12,072.64	3,887.15	71,196.09
Road Crew							
Bruce Boyce	21.50 Hourly	38,106.31	3,203.76	200.00	12,072.64	2,844.04	56,426.75
Road Crew							
Jason Sulham, Rd Cr	17.00 Hourly	93.50				7.16	100.66
Levi Welch, Rd Crew	17.00 Hourly	1,543.04				118.05	1,661.09
Marsha Nelson	17.42 Hourly	261.30		200.00		35.29	496.59
Asst Clerk	750.00 Annual						
Cheryl Slayton,Trea	427.25 Weekly	19,381.00		200.00	9,993.24	1,925.46	31,499.70
Tax Collector	8% Collection Fee	5,586.10					5,586.10
Patricia Crocker	17.42 Hourly	2,769.78		200.00		227.18	3,196.96
Asst. Treas/ Clerk							
Elizabeth Page T/C	467.49 Weekly	27,813.29	2,346.75	200.00	12,072.64	2,142.87	44,575.55
Clerk of Selectboard	3000.00 Annual						
David Punt, Jr. Aud	17.42 Hourly	387.60				29.65	417.25
Thomas Dole, Aud.	17.42 Hourly	387.60				29.65	417.25
Lauren Nelson,Aud.	17.42 Hourly	322.28				24.65	346.93
Dale Wright	8% Collection Fee	32,054.68				2,452.18	34,506.86
Tax Collector							
Regina Hazel	17.42 Hourly	2,493.77				190.78	2,684.55
Lister/Selectboard	1000.00 Annual +						
Catherine Davie	17.42 Hourly	3,880.32				296.82	4,177.14
Lister							
Jill Skochdopole	17.42 Hourly	2,852.54				218.21	3,070.75
Lister							
Sally Wilson	17.42 Hourly	4,681.64				358.13	5,039.77
Lister							
Gene Perkins **	17.42 Hourly	8,736.13				668.30	9,404.43
Recycling/Fire Dpt							
Andrew Smith	1000.00 Annual +	1,905.84				145.79	2,051.63
Selectboard/Field Comp							
Darryl Perkins	1000.00 Annual +	1,470.34				112.48	1,582.82
Selectboard/Field Comp							
Dennis Marquise	20.00 Hourly	970.00				74.21	1,044.21
Zoning Administrator							
Dakoyta Wilson- Fire	17.42 Hourly	209.04				15.99	225.03
Greg Murray – Fire Dp	17.42 Hourly	426.79				32.65	459.44
Hunter Benoit-Fire	17.42 Hourly	69.68				5.33	75.01
Jennie Fisher-Fire Dp	17.42 Hourly	374.53				28.66	403.19
Joshua Hansen-Fire	17.42 Hourly	148.07				11.33	159.40
Jacques Trepanier-Fire	17.42 Hourly	1,001.65				76.63	1,078.28
Michael Jolley – Fire	17.42 Hourly	322.27				24.66	346.93
Morgan Morrisette-Fire	17.42 Hourly	452.92				34.64	487.56
Penny Lezer- Fire Dpt	17.42 Hourly	52.26				4.00	56.26
Tyler Pokines-Fire D	17.42 Hourly	330.98				25.32	356.30
Lucas Welch-Fire Dp	17.42 Hourly	165.49				12.66	178.15
Kristie Gilbert-Fire	17.42 Hourly	583.57				44.65	628.22
Justin Danforth-Fire	17.42 Hourly	958.10				73.29	1,031.39
		317,309.67	18,706.98	1,600.00	70,356.44	24,262.35	432,235.44
		Additional Employer Costs:		Worker's Compensation Ins.			14,938.00
				Road Crew Uniforms/Laundry Service			5,871.52
**Town of Groton Reimbursed \$3841.10 for their share.				Unemployment Ins.			404.00
				TOTAL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION			453,448.96

# Balance Sheet Comparison

Balance Sheet Comparison				
	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/22	12/31/23
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Wells River - Checking	8,936.75	65.43	20,191.92	257,971.42
Petty Cash	30.00	30.00	30.00	30
Wells River Savings - Debit Card Acct	154.55	154.55	0.00	0
Wells River Savings - Money Market	655,337.75	961,884.50	689,589.73	642,459.32
Woodsville Savings - Money Market	164,335.66	164,749.05	165,154.14	166,162.54
Passumpsic Savings - Reserve	203,469.05	203,836.83	204,205.94	204,761.14
Property Tax - Delinquent	31,290.10	18,429.45	27,389.15	23,206.32
Property Tax - Current	65,571.50	76,627.32	429,696.77	85,629.69
Due To/ From Other Funds			25.00	
South Ryegate Sewer Receivable	3,429.52	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,600.00
East Ryegate Sewer Receivable	1,281.90	0.00	0.00	0
Receivable, Town of Groton	2,746.95	3,368.10	3,420.35	3,421.94
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>1,136,583.73</b>	<b>1,431,645.23</b>	<b>1542203</b>	<b>1386242.37</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable				
Ticklenaked Pond Grant-Milfoil	5,691.00			2,003.94
FICA Withheld	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)	-0.04
State Withheld	(3.92)	(3.92)	(3.92)	-3.92
Prepaid Property Tax	2,185.18	2,449.61	(3,516.69)	-2,714.57
Zoning Admin Fees	1,241.00	1,291.00	1,266.00	1,266.00
Due to/(from) other accts	10,281.98	27,906.37	2,556.61	19,230.82
<b>Total Current Liabilities:</b>	<b>19,395.19</b>	<b>31,643.01</b>	<b>301.95</b>	<b>19,782.23</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
Fund Balance - Reappraisal	44,026.25	11,359.01	11,137.01	10,855.51
Fund Balance - Town Highway	155,493.93	169,316.38	94,247.45	32,613.22
Fund Balance - So. Ryegate Sewer	39,187.82	36,654.59	31,093.09	27,454.88
Fund Balance - Roads	31,819.77	31,819.77	31,819.77	31,819.77
Fund Balance - Creamery Road Bridge	42,633.77	42,633.77	42,579.54	42,579.54
Fund Balance - 68 Church St.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Fund Balance - External Audit	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
Fund Balance - Zoning/Planning Commission	2,109.33	2,109.33	2,109.33	2,109.33
Fund Balance - Accounting Software	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Fund Balance - Cemetery Restoration	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Fund Balance - Ticklenaked Dam	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Fund Balance - Listers	9,556.49	7,285.99	7,285.99	7,285.99
Fund Balance - Energy Eff Town Bldgs	3,759.67	7,159.67	5,718.69	7,653.84
Fund Balance - ARPA Money		157,558.67	222,007.20	59,916.96
Fund Balance - Renew. Energy System		50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Fund Balance - Climate Catalysts		3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Fund Balance - Mini MERP				3,999.00
Fund Balance - Restoration	19,303.69	22,033.82	23,953.78	26,173.77
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities:</b>	<b>423,390.72</b>	<b>616,431.00</b>	<b>600,451.85</b>	<b>380,961.81</b>
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>442,785.91</b>	<b>648,074.01</b>	<b>600,753.80</b>	<b>400,744.04</b>
<b>Capital</b>				
Retained Earnings	621,223.05	693,797.82	783,571.22	941,449.20
Net Income	72,574.77	89,773.40	157,877.98	44,049.13
<b>Total Capital:</b>	<b>693,797.82</b>	<b>783,571.22</b>	<b>941,449.20</b>	<b>985,498.33</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Capital:</b>	<b>1,136,583.73</b>	<b>1,431,645.23</b>	<b>1542203</b>	<b>1386242.37</b>

## Understanding Your Property Tax Bill

Your property tax bill is broken down to show education, highway and town taxes and their respective rates. Your total tax rate is the sum of these rates. The tax rate is per \$100 of your assessment; therefore, to figure the tax you owe, first move the decimal point in your assessment two places to the left, then multiply that number by the total tax rate.

Sample Tax Bill:

Your Assessment	Tax Rate (per \$100)	Tax Due
\$200,000.00 (Homestead)	2.1441	\$4288.20
\$200,000.00 (Non-Homestead)	2.1555	\$4311.00

## Comparative Budget REVENUES

2023	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Property Taxes (minus BMU school pymts.)	1,005,738.24	910,622.91	1,174,718.50
PILOT (Paymt. In Lieu Of Taxes)	1,500.00	2,520.30	1,500.00
Equi Ed Gr List Main	0.00	761.00	0.00
Property Tax Adj. from prior year	0.00	16,772.28	0.00
Interest, Delinquent Taxes	9,500.00	22,430.68	9,500.00
Tax Collectors 8%	0.00	37,326.15	0.00
Permits - Zoning & Planning	200.00	375.00	200.00
Marriage Licenses	200.00	300.00	200.00
State Aid for Highways	120,000.00	201,592.68	75,000.00
Current Use Transfer Tax	0.00	3,484.00	0.00
Highway Grants-In-Aid	0.00	15,447.38	0.00
Hold harmless - State of VT	0.00	62,289.00	0.00
Town Clerk Fees	9,000.00	10,714.11	9,000.00
Dog Licenses	2,000.00	2,015.00	2,000.00
Interest Income	3,000.00	7,740.34	3,500.00
Ticklenaked Pd Milfoil Grant		3,663.06	
Traffic Control	200.00	294.86	200.00
VLCT PACIF - Refund	0.00	105.00	0.00
Weinburg Property Revenue	0.00	1,920.18	0.00
Whitehill Road Grant	0.00	2,781.00	0.00
Town of Groton - Recycling Building	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Transfer From General Fund	70,000.00	-	41,000.00
Revenues Total:	1,222,838.24	1,304,654.93	1,318,318.50

## Comparative Budget EXPENSES

<b>Elected and Appointed Officials</b>			
Animal Care	500.00	-	500.00
Auditors Salary	1,800.00	1,097.48	1,800.00
Auditors Supplies	50.00	-	50.00
Ballot Clerk Salaries	1,000.00	444.21	1,500.00
Cemetery Appropriation	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Cemetery Fencing & Repair	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Dog Catcher Expense	1,500.00	811.72	1,500.00
Health Officer Expense	50.00	-	50.00
Lister's Computer Support	5,000.00	4,571.56	5,000.00
Lister's Salaries	15,000.00	12,298.57	15,000.00
Lister's Supplies & Expenses	800.00	473.63	800.00
Lister's Telephone	550.00	506.84	550.00
Selectman's Salaries	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Selectman's Field Compensation	3,500.00	1,776.84	3,500.00
Selectman's Clerk	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Selectman's Computer Support	.00	573.28	250.00
Tax Collector's 8%		37,640.78	
Tax Collector's Expense	275.00	244.00	275.00
Town Officer's - Conf/Mtgs	500.00	80.00	500.00
Town Patrol Sheriff Contract	8,000.00	3,411.00	8,000.00
Town Patrol State Police Contract	8,000.00	1,074.04	8,000.00
Zoning - Salaries	1,000.00	878.93	1,200.00
Zoning - Advertising	100.00	243.70	500.00
Zoning/Planning Comm.	1,000.00	131.98	1,000.00
Recycling Coordinator	4,000.00	3,841.12	4,000.00
Elected & Appointed Officials Total:	72,625.00	89,099.68	73,975.00

# Comparative Budget EXPENSES

<b>Town Offices</b>			
Marriage License Fees	0.00	245.00	0.00
Medical Benefits	21,898.00	22,065.88	25,500.00
Retirement Benefits	2,200.00	2,346.75	2,400.00
State Dog license Fees	1,200.00	990.00	1,100.00
Machinery & Equipment, Repair	300.00	370.00	300.00
Machinery & Equipment, Purchase	300.00	329.00	300.00
Town Officers - Dog Fees	450.00	408.00	450.00
Propane	3,050.00	2,592.11	3,000.00
Ground Work	3,200.00	2,900.00	3,200.00
Postage	1,200.00	1,124.38	1,250.00
Town Clerk Salaries	24,675.00	24,509.48	25,908.75
Assistant Town Clerk Salaries	1,500.00	809.70	1,500.00
Town Treasurer Salaries	22,575.00	19,581.00	23,703.75
Assistant Town Treasurer Salaries	1,575.00	2,621.38	1,575.00
Supplies	1,600.00	1,029.45	1,600.00
Telephone & Internet	1,300.00	1,255.38	1,300.00
Utilities	720.00	689.08	720.00
Computer Support	4,600.00	5,735.34	5,600.00
Website	242.00	359.86	300.00
Workers Compensation	548.76	548.76	569.24
		-	
<b>Town Offices Total:</b>	<b>93,133.76</b>	<b>90,510.55</b>	<b>100,276.74</b>
<b>General</b>			
Ambulance	52,425.00	52,425.00	62,200.00
Appraisal Consulting	.00	-	.00
Beach Repairs & Maint.	1,000.00	1,811.05	2,000.00
Cemetery Flags	200.00	320.20	500.00
County Tax	14,013.24	11,217.00	14,000.00
Elections Advertising	.00	-	.00
Fast Squad - Groton/Ryegate	13,000.00	8,770.89	10,000.00
FICA - Employer	24,000.00	24,262.34	25,500.00
Fire Warden Expense	400.00	-	400.00
Legal Fees	2,400.00	1,533.48	2,400.00
Meeting/Bid Advertising	200.00	-	200.00
Recycling	6,300.00	8,895.67	7,000.00
Recycling Building & Maintenance	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Ryegate Green Up	100.00	-	100.00
Ryegate Green Up - Disposal	500.00	550.00	550.00
Ryegate Historical Society	350.00	350.00	350.00
Surveying	4,900.00	3,293.00	4,000.00
Tax Abatement/Reimbursement		437.99	
Tax Maps	1,675.00	1,850.00	2,000.00
Ticklenaked Pd Milfoil		3,663.06	
Town Bldgs – Energy Efficiency	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Building Repair & Maintenance	5,500.00	477.27	5,500.00
Town Report	1,700.00	1,598.63	1,700.00
Town Report - Delivery	250.00	282.37	300.00
VLCT Dues	2,550.00	2,633.00	2,714.00
VLCT PACIF Insurance	20,728.00	21,508.00	20,875.00
<b>General Total:</b>	<b>156,191.24</b>	<b>147,878.95</b>	<b>166,289.00</b>

# Comparative Budget EXPENSES

<b>Fire Department</b>			
Fire Truck Replacement Fund	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Bldg - So. Ryegate	500.00	-	500.00
Bldg - Ryegate Corner	1,500.00	480.72	1,500.00
Diesel	3,500.00	2,845.30	3,500.00
Dispatch	3,000.00	3,240.20	3,250.00
Dry Hydrant	1,200.00	-	1,200.00
Dues	1,500.00	1,306.00	1,500.00
Dumpster	300.00	252.48	300.00
Equipment Replacement Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fuel Oil - Ryegate Corner	2,500.00	2,594.93	2,750.00
Fuel Oil - So.Ryegate	1,000.00	795.10	1,000.00
Gasoline	250.00	115.92	250.00
Insurance/Accident	2,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
Mach. & Equip.	13,000.00	11,864.97	13,000.00
Repairs	12,000.00	8,641.72	12,000.00
Fire Dept – Salaries	14,000.00	7,002.84	14,000.00
Supplies	1,500.00	714.15	1,500.00
Telephone/ Internet	1,050.00	982.33	1,050.00
Training	5,000.00	2,400.00	5,000.00
Turn Out Gear	7,500.00	7,500.00	8,000.00
Utilities - Ryegate Corner	500.00	341.53	500.00
Utilities - So. Ryegate	300.00	292.29	300.00
Admin.	6,000.00	5,998.70	6,000.00
Workmans Comp	1,219.00	1,219.00	1,219.00
Fire Department Total:	93,319.00	74,088.18	94,319.00
Transfer to Fire Dept. Equip. Replacement Fund		19,230.82	
Fire Department Grand Total:	93,319.00	93,319.00	94,319.00

<b>Highway Department</b>	-		
2011 Loader	5,000.00	8,924.85	5,000.00
2018 John Deere Grader	4,000.00	6,308.98	6,000.00
2014 Ton Truck	2,000.00	1,346.22	2,000.00
2014 Plow & Sander	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
2015 Kenworth Truck	5,000.00	4,555.66	5,000.00
2015 Kenworth Plow & Sander	2,000.00	2,765.46	2,000.00
2016 Intl. Truck	5,000.00	3,492.20	.00
2016 Intl. Plow & Sander	2,000.00	2,169.53	.00
2017 Freightliner Truck	5,000.00	2,644.05	5,000.00
2017 Freightliner Plow & Sander	2,000.00	1,856.53	2,000.00
2021 Freightliner Truck	5,000.00	160.94	5,000.00
2021 Freightliner Plow & Sander	2,000.00	3,054.67	2,000.00
2024 International Truck		-	5,000.00
2024 International Plow & Sander			2,000.00
Wood Chipper	500.00	-	500.00
Hydroseeder	700.00	150.00	700.00
Culvert Steamer	250.00	-	250.00
Class IV Roads	4,000.00	3,171.65	4,000.00
Highway Depart – Computer/Printer	500.00	392.54	500.00
Class 2 Grant Paving		123,183.46	
Cold Patch	1,000.00		1,000.00
Diesel Fuel	51,000.00	43,033.67	51,000.00



## Comparative Budget EXPENSES

Equipment Rental	6,000.00	6,940.00	6,000.00
Heating Oil	5,000.00	4,952.47	5,000.00
Gasoline	500.00	358.84	500.00
Gravel	56,000.00	57,345.75	57,000.00
Guard Rails	3,500.00	577.31	3,500.00
Machine Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	90,000.00
Highway Dept. Advertising	100.00	-	100.00
Medical Insurance - Roads	47,750.00	48,290.56	54,650.00
Motor Oil	2,000.00	1,413.25	2,000.00
Physicals - Road crew	500.00	-	500.00
Repairs - Other	1,000.00	421.76	1,000.00
Retirement - Town Highway	16,000.00	16,360.23	18,000.00
Road Repairs	15,000.00	15,519.50	15,000.00
Road Resurfacing	140,000.00	125,013.04	140,000.00
Road Signs	500.00	550.04	500.00
Roadside Mowing	9,000.00	2,875.09	10,000.00
Sand Pile		3,016.75	
Storm Water Mgmt Prog Act	1,600.00	1,765.00	1,600.00
Summer Road – Mg. Chloride	15,000.00	21,109.98	17,500.00
Summer Road - Culverts	7,000.00	7,991.20	7,000.00
Summer Road - Labor	83,000.00	77,036.99	93,000.00
Supplies	6,000.00	5,325.88	6,000.00
Telephone	950.00	944.48	950.00
Tires	7,000.00	7,486.67	7,000.00
Tools	1,500.00	1,103.42	1,500.00
Town Garage Upkeep	6,000.00	3,190.28	6,000.00
Training	250.00	60.00	250.00
Tree Removal/Brush Cutting	1,000.00	545.00	1,000.00
Uniforms	7,200.00	5,871.52	7,200.00
Utilities	1,000.00	609.00	1,000.00
VLCT Unemployment	504.00	404.00	372.00
Whitehill Culvert Project	.00	3,338.70	.00
Winter - Labor	118,000.00	119,378.58	139,000.00
Winter Road - Salt	41,000.00	41,610.91	41,000.00
Winter Road - Sand	24,000.00	13,050.00	24,000.00
Workers Comp. - Road Crew	13,170.24	13,170.24	13,661.76
Highway Grants-In-Aid		(15,447.38)	
Whitehill Road Grant		(2,781.00)	
Highway Department Total:	809,974.24	871,608.47	871,733.76
Transfer from Highway Fund Balance		(61,634.23)	
Highway Dept. Grand Total:	809,974.24	809,974.24	871,733.76

# Comparative Budget EXPENSES

Contributions			
American Red Cross	500.00	500.00	500.00
Little League	100.00	100.00	.00
Catamount Arts	400.00	400.00	400.00
4th of July Committee	260.00	260.00	300.00
Groton Food Shelf	500.00	500.00	1,000.00
Home Health Care	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Libraries	200.00	200.00	200.00
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
NEK Human Services	500.00	500.00	500.00
NEK Learning Services	200.00	200.00	250.00
NEK Youth Services	250.00	250.00	250.00
Vermont Rural Fire	100.00	100.00	100.00
No. VT Development Assoc.	990.00	990.00	990.00
Riverside Rescue, Inc.	500.00	500.00	.00
Rural Community Transport	850.00	850.00	990.00
Umbrella	800.00	800.00	800.00
VT Cent. For Indep. Living	265.00	265.00	265.00
VT Green-Up	100.00	100.00	100.00
VT Office of Aging	330.00	330.00	330.00
VT Vet. Mem.	100.00	100.00	100.00
Baldwin Library	200.00	200.00	200.00
Community Restorative Justice Center	250.00	250.00	250.00
Groton Public Library	200.00	200.00	200.00
Senior Meals	500.00	500.00	500.00
Window Dressers of Maine	500.00	500.00	.00
Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley			500.00
<b>Contributions Total:</b>	<b>11,595.00</b>	<b>11,595.00</b>	<b>11,725.00</b>
		-	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>1,236,838.24</b>	<b>1,242,377.42</b>	<b>1,318,318.50</b>
<b>Current Earnings:</b>		62,277.51	
<b>School Appropriation</b>			
BMU School		1,770,738.24	
<b>School Appropriation Total:</b>		<b>1,770,738.24</b>	



# Capital Needs: Town Highway Machinery and Equipment

Capital Item	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025
2011 Loader—Trade 2001										
2015 Truck –Trade 2006										
2016 Truck –Trade 2008	86,400									
2017 Truck --Trade 2009		110,637								
2018 Grader – Trade 2004			258,400							
2020 Truck – Trade 2011					131,647					
2014 Ton Truck					25,000					
2024 Truck - Trade 2016									115,385	
2024 Truck - Trade 2015									145,000	
Road Side Mower								13,000		
Warranty on Truck	3,146	3,590	5,848			5,877				
Hydro Seeder Contract		500								
Stone Plate Compactor				350						
Sale of Utility Trailer	200									
Balance in Savings Jan 1	282,809	268,684	229,193	40,136	114,831	33,266	102,407	177,460	239,544	69,259
Annual Deposit	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	90,000	90,000
Annual Expense	(89,346)	(114,727)	(264,248)	(350)	(156,647)	(5877.00)		(13,000)	(260,385)	
Annual Interest Earned	221	236	191	45	82	18	56	84	100	100
Balance in Savings Dec 31	268,684	229,193	40,136	114,831	33,266	102,407	177,460	239,544	69,259	159,359

## Town Property and Equipment

### Real Estate

Town House & Contents	\$388,769.00
Town Office & Contents	\$293,028.00
4.9 Acres Land at East & Bayley Hazen Rd	\$30,000.00
Storage Shed	\$20,183.00
Corner Fire Station	\$292,383.00
South Ryegate Fire Station	\$202,712.00
Town Garage & Contents	\$604,817.00
Whitelaw Hall (Historical)	\$371,723.00
Recycling Building	\$147,896.00
Ballfield (Property in the Open)	\$52,595.00
Playground Equipment	\$51,263.00

***TOTAL REAL ESTATE \$2,455,369.00***

### Highway Equipment

2011 John Deere 524 Loader	\$95,500.00
2019 John Deere 672 Grader	\$317,400.00
2024 International Truck & Plow	\$174,878.00
2021 Freightliner Truck & Plow	\$128,765.00
2015 Kenworth Truck & Plow	\$132,464.00
2017 Freightliner Truck & Plow \$	110,437.00
2014 Chevrolet 1-Ton Truck & Sander	\$25,000.00
Wood Chipper	\$3,500.00
Culvert Thawer & Trailer	\$8,000.00

***TOWN HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT \$ 995,944.00***

### Fire Equipment

2005 International Tanker	\$250,000.00
1997 Ford Pumper	\$125,000.00
1988 Ford Mini Pumper	\$30,000.00

***TOTAL FIRE EQUIPMENT \$405,000.00***

***TOTAL ALL PROPERTY and EQUIPMENT \$3,856,313.00***



Road Crew, 1954



# Fund Balance Changes

Fund	Entry	Start of Year	Increase	Decrease	End of Year
<b>Reappraisal</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 11,137.01</b>			
FY23 per parcel payment from State of VT:			\$ 6,468.50		
Sansoucy Eng & Appraisers				\$ 6,750.00	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 10,855.51</b>
<b>Town Highway</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 94,247.45</b>			
“Budget to Actual” transfer from Highway Fund				\$ 61,634.23	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 32,613.22</b>
<b>S. Ryegate Sewer</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 31,093.09</b>			
Sewer Charges:			\$ 10,500.00		
Repairs and Maintenance:				\$ 13,791.27	
Utilities:				\$ 346.94	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 27,454.88</b>
<b>Roads</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 31,819.77</b>			<b>\$ 31,819.77</b>
<b>Creamery Rd. Bridge</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 42,579.54</b>			<b>\$ 42,579.54</b>
<b>68 Church Street</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>			<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>External Audit</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 17,500.00</b>			<b>\$ 17,500.00</b>
<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 23,953.78</b>			
Percentage of Town Clerk Fees Collected:			\$ 3,129.00		
Town Land Record Books:				\$ 909.01	<b>\$ 26,173.77</b>
<b>Zoning &amp; Planning</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 2,109.33</b>			<b>\$ 2,109.33</b>
<b>Accounting Software</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>			<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
<b>Cemetery Restoration</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>			<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>
<b>Listers</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 7,285.99</b>			<b>\$ 7,285.99</b>
<b>Energy Eff- Town Bldg</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 5,718.69</b>			
2022 Budget to Actual Transfer:			\$ 1,935.15		<b>\$ 7,653.84</b>
<b>Ticklenaked Pond Dam</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>			<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>
<b>Renewable Energy System</b>		<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>			<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>
<b>American Rescue Plan Act</b>		<b>\$ 222,007.20</b>			
Expenditures				\$ 162,090.24	<b>\$ 59,916.96</b>
<b>Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund</b>		<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>			<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
<b>Mini MERP</b>			\$ 3,999.00		<b>\$ 3,999.00</b>
<b>General</b>		<b>\$783,571.22</b>			
2022 Budget to Actual Transfer:			\$157,877.98		
<b>Ending balance:</b>					<b>\$941,449.20</b>

# List of Vendors

646 Consolidated Communications	3,539.13	#	Elizabeth Page – Supplies, Retirement	2,757.69
Active 911, Inc.	300.00		Endyne, Inc	410.00
All About Computers	1,888.90		Everett J. Prescott, Inc	16,999.97
Aflac	2,588.02		Fisher Auto Parts	6,634.64
All Around Power Equip	533.47		Foggs Hardware	278.43
All Around Rental	150.00		Fred's Energy	2,592.11
Allegiance Trucks	6,479.23		Fremont Nelson Lawns	990.00
An Artistic Arborist	545.00		Gene Perkins- Fire Dept.	408.88
American Red Cross	500.00		General Mechanical Repair	671.25
Apex Software	235.00		George Sansoucy, PE	6,750.00
B – B Chain, Inc	686.76		Great Planning Tech	1,082.90
Baldwin Library	200.00		Grafton County Sheriff's Dept	1,875.00
BDS Tire Recycling, Inc	3,657.60		Green Mountain Kenworth	3,505.67
Bergeron Protective Clothing	48,337.55		Green Mountain Power	2,089.87
Blue Cross Blue Shield of VT	64,330.64		Greg Murray - Fire Dept	441.16
Blue MedicareRx-VT	2,068.20		Groton - Ryegate Fast Squad	8,770.89
Blue Mountain Little League	100.00		Groton Library	200.00
Blue Mountain Trucking & Exca	3,545.00		Groton Food Shelf	500.00
Blue Mountain Union School	1,770,738.24		Howard P. Fairfield, LLC	373.82
Boudreau Tire Service	203.67		Hunter Benoit – Fire Dept	215.20
Bridge Weekly	98.60		Hunter Fisher – Fire Dept	91.46
Business Radio Licensing	110.00		IDS	118.55
CAI Technologies	1,850.00		Innovative Municipal Prod	21,109.98
C. Ainsworth Trucking	4,390.00		IIA Fire Dept Testing	2,580.34
Caledonia County NRCD	150.00		Jarrett Olsen Roofing	35,528.99
Caledonia County Sheriff's Department	3,411.00		Jacques Trepanier - Fire Dept	974.49
Caledonia Home Health	1,000.00		Jennie Fisher – Fire Dept	414.26
Caledonian-Record	60.00		Jeffrey Labrie	1,000.00
Capital Fire Mutual Aid	400.00		John Deere Financial	150.58
Cargill, Inc.	41,610.91		Jordan Equipment Co	1,139.24
Carroll Concrete	1,400.00		Joshua Hansen – Fire Dept	188.30
Catamount Arts	400.00		Journal Opinion	85.10
Catherine Davie	183.70		Justin Danforth – Fire Dept	279.76
Vermont Center for Independent Living	265.00		K&T Environmental Equipment, Inc.	1,870.61
Chase & Chase	3,293.00		Kaztech Eng. LLC	1,971.27
Cheryl Slayton –Medicare & Supplies Reimb	3,996.70		Kristine Elder	17.42
Chief Crushing & Excavation	21,600.26		Kimball Midwest	99.00
Charles Fisher	69.94		Kofile Preservation, Inc	894.01
Charlebois, Inc.	1,670.69		Kristie Gilbert - Fire Dept	215.20
Cintas	5,871.52		Larry Dingee	20,000.00
The Collins Group	320.20		Lauren Nelson	522.60
Copies & More	2,422.63		Levi Welch – Fire Dept	543.56
Community Restorative Justice	250.00		Little River's Health Care	27,000.00
County Treasurer	11,217.00		Lucas Welch – Fire Dept	301.28
CVC Paging	3,361.67		Lyndon Truck Center	916.50
Dads 4 By Tool and Supply	401.97		Maine Oxy	305.25
Dakota Wilson - Fire Dept	328.18		Manchester Brook Materials	38,240.40
Darlings AutoRepair	1,653.81		Marsha Nelson	165.49
David Bedor	780.00		McCullough Crushing, Inc.	19,659.50
Davies Law, PLC	1,780.00		Michael Jolley - Fire Dept	177.54
Darryl Perkins	242.10		Morgan Morrisette	473.44
Dept. of Public Safety #7	1,074.04			
Danville Highway Dept	1,898.13			
Doug Murray Enterprises	2,000.00			

# List of Vendors

Vendor Expense- continued	Amount	Vendor	Amount
<b>Page 2</b>		St. J. Fire Extinguisher	1,258.75
Myers Container Corp	13,476.52	Steve Kimball Repair	1,069.00
Napa Auto Parts/FMS Auto	1,925.72	SC Lawn Care	1,070.00
NEAPWA	60.00	Swampguana	16,063.06
Needham Electric Supply	28.08	Tim White	1,255.00
NEK Community Broadband	76,000.00	Tom Powley	3,130.00
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	200.00	Town of Ryegate	91,606.61
Northeast Kingdom Waste Management	6,542.71	Town of St Johnsbury	13,000.00
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	250.00	Trucker Sulham	134.50
NEMRC	7,244.01	Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Assoc.	3,050.00
Nelson Elder – Town Hgwy Supplies	394.58	Tyler Pokines - Fire Dept	546.32
New England Truck Tire	6,774.20	U I Insurance Services Inc.	1,500.00
New England Water System	8,200.00	Umbrella	800.00
North Country Hydraulics	673.77	United Ag & Turf NE	7.49
NEK Human Services	500.00	United States Postmaster	1,561.57
NVDA	990.00	United Construction & Forestry	7,441.74
Oakes Brothers	38.28	Vt Rural Fire (VACD)	100.00
O'Reilly Automotive	1,023.24	Vermont Area Office on Aging	330.00
Overhead Door Co	225.00	Vt Department of Env	1,325.00
Perspective Graphics LLC	463.45	Vt Dept of Motor Vehicles	12.00
Patricia Crocker	185.28	Vermont Door Co	2,178.34
Perry's Oil	317.65	Vermont Fire Extinguisher	243.00
Penny Lezer - Fire Dept	225.96	Vermont Green Up	100.00
PIKCOMM	978.25	Vermont State Treasurer	1,235.00
Pete's Rubbish	1,307.50	Vermont Department of Taxes	8,273.33
Pete's Equipment & Sales	641.46	Veterans Memorial	100.00
Pike Industries, Inc	242,868.53	Viking – Cives USA	8,115.28
Power Plan	6,189.67	VLCT	2,668.00
R G P S	62.83	VLCT Prop & Casualty Interm. Fund, Inc.	36,446.00
Rachel Clough	811.72	VLCT Employment Resources	404.00
Regina Hazel- Website, Supplies, etc.	1,098.85	VMERS DB	38,094.68
Repro Digital/Champlain Valley	1,076.03	VTDEC-Watershed Mg	840.00
Riverside Rescue, Inc	500.00	Vermont State Firefighters	256.00
Reed Supply	1,092.85	Walter E. Jock Oil Co., Inc.	52,679.47
Rowden Bros. Co., Inc.	2,482.50	Wells River Chevrolet	65.00
Ruggles Engineering Service	3,138.70	William Elder	758.93
Ryegate Cemetery Commission	13,000.00	Welch & Son Transportation	500.00
Ryegate Fire Dept	923.68	West Barnet Meal Site	250.00
Ryegate Historical Society	13,305.26	Woodsville Area Fourth of July	260.00
Ryegate Summer Festival	1,000.00	Woodsville Fire District	52,425.00
Rural Community Transportation	850.00	Work Safe	1,127.35
Ryegate Winter Carnival	550.00	Woodsville Power Equipment	5,389.97
Sally Wilson – Lister Supplies	24.84	Wells River Fire Dept	242.00
South Ryegate Library	14,960.26	Westley Blake – Fire Dept	199.06
South Ryegate Senior Meals	250.00	Weston & Sampson Engine	2,422.11
		M & T Bank/Wilmington Trust	799.16
		Window Dressers	500.00
		Various- Tax and Payable Overpayments	14,634.53
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,074,087.69</b>

# Listers' Report

The Listers determine all property values within the Town of Ryegate. Additionally, we maintain an accurate Grand list by reviewing and updating all property transfers, tax maps, permit work, deeds, surveys, and the Current Use Program.

As of January 2023, Ryegate's CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) is 96.37% down from 100.75%. Our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) of 7.32% continues to reflect a high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. 2023 Tax maps are on display at the Town Office along with orthophoto aerial maps. We strongly recommend that you check your property location and acreage on the tax map; let us know if you feel there is an incorrect information. Tax maps are updated each year. IMPORTANT: Taxpayers must file a Vermont Homestead Declaration every year by April 15th . The state form is HS-122 and also contains the Property Tax Adjustment Claim. Forms can be obtained online ([www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov)), or from the Income Tax Return booklet or your tax preparer. Property owners can also file their homestead directly online.

## REMINDERS:

Property changes: Please notify the Listers of any change of address, or any changes to your property—including new construction, or major renovations to basements, attics, or unfinished areas. In addition, let us know of any removal of property including tear downs and blow downs.

Surveys: Certified surveys are important in creating accurate tax maps and are considered the strongest determinant of parcel ownership, i.e., exact location, size, acreage, etc. Please file any surveys you have for your property with the Town Clerk.

Building Permits: A building permit is required for any structure 64 square feet or larger. Permits are obtainable from the Town Clerk, or on the town website: [www.ryegatevt.org](http://www.ryegatevt.org) .

Current Use: The Current Use Program has changed their application form and process. New applications are available in the Town Office or online at [www.tax.vermont.gov/content/form-CU-301](http://www.tax.vermont.gov/content/form-CU-301). Questions about the program can be directed to Property Valuation and Review at 802 828-6637. 9-1-1 Program: Please notify the Listers' office to obtain a 9-1-1 number for new construction.

Listers Office hours are Tuesdays, 9 am – 2 pm. Stop by or make an appointment. You may also leave messages at 584-4247.

Ryegate Listers: Kate Davie, Jill Skochdopole & Sally Wilson

# Ryegate Fire Department Report

The Fire Department has gone through many changes over the last year and a half- such as becoming a Municipal Department along with several changes in personnel. We have also nearly doubled our membership since this time last year. We were able to purchase new turn out gear for the entire department to keep us as safe as possible and compliant with NFPA standards. At last year's Town Meeting, the members of our community voted to make us a paid-on call department. Words cannot express how much we appreciate the support we receive from our community.

It has been a very challenging but rewarding year for myself and the department. If I didn't have such a great group of firefighters and officers, this transition would have been a lot more difficult. I must give a special thank you to Gene Perkins, it's with his teaching and continued guidance that got myself and this department to where we are today. It would have never happened without you.

If you are above the age of 14 and would like to become a firefighter and serve our community, please reach out to myself or another member of the Ryegate Fire Department.

Sincerely,

Chief Greg Murray

# Town Clerk's Dog License Report

*Total dog licenses sold: 204 licenses Total Receipts: \$2015.00*

*Less Fees Paid Town Clerk: \$408.00*

*Less Fees Paid State of Vermont: \$990.00*

*Net Revenues: \$617.00*

All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies. The Town Clerk is required to see evidence that all dogs are currently protected against rabies. The law requires that a dog of less than 2 years of age shall have been vaccinated within the past 12 months. After its second rabies shot, an adult dog should be vaccinated every 36 months (3 years). A dog must wear its tag. Due date: License fees may be paid after January 1 and are due April 1 and subject to a 50% penalty after April 1. Fee: Due to State regulations licensing fees are \$13 for males, females and wolf hybrids. \$9 each for a neutered dog or wolf hybrids. \$5 from each license is forwarded to the State Treasurer. Ryegate enforces a Civil Dog (Leash Law). Rachel Clough has been appointed as the Animal Control Officer in Ryegate. She can be reached at 802-249-9305

## VSNIP

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

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined. For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: [VSNIP.Vermont.Gov](http://VSNIP.Vermont.Gov). VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.

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

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard "Snook" Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are!

*Together We Truly Do Make a Difference! 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)*

*Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VWSA*

# Delinquent Taxes

## DELINQUENT 2023 TAX REPORT

South Ryegate Village Lighting District

South Ryegate, VT 05069

Carolyn Adams	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 202, 2022, 2023
Gregory Brower	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Terry & Robin Christy	2022, 2023
Keith Coburn & Margaret Florentine	2021, 2022, 2023
Darling, Priscilla	2023
James & Justina Davis	2023
Robert & Brenda Gelsliechter	2023
Robert Davis & Robin Gilleland	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Tara Hunt	2022, 2023
Ryan Karpuska	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Angela Paye	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Douglas & April Paye	
Hall Road Parcel	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Creamery Road Parcel	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Christine Hannaford Poor	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
The Tullar Group	2023

# Delinquent Taxes

SOUTH RYEGATE SEWER USERS TAX DUE				PROPERTY TAXES DUE			
2022 SOUTH RYEGATE SEWER TAXES				2023 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES			
<i>Hurley, Dennis</i>				Beaulieu, Priscilla			
Total Due by Report Printing		\$	500.00	Beland, Lynn & Stanley			
Total Paid Since 12/31/23		\$	-	Blood, Brian			
Total Due 12/31/23		\$	500.00	Darling, Barak			
2023 SOUTH RYEGATE SEWER TAXES				Davis, Robert L. & Gilleland, Robin			
<i>Hurley, Dennis</i>				Dedham, Alfred			
<i>Christy, Robin</i>				Emerson, Danny			
<i>Hunt, Tara</i>				Florentine, Jerod & Welch, Dawn			
Total Due by Report Printing		\$	1,575.00	Gibson, Joanne			
Total Paid Since 12/31/23		\$	525.00	Hencler, Andrew			
Total Due 12/31/23		\$	2,100.00	Houghton, Kristi			
				Hunt, Tara			
				Hurley, Dennis			
				Jones, Heidi			
PROPERTY TAXES DUE				Karpuska, Ryan			
2021 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES				Kearny, Timothy			
<i>Davis, Robert &amp; Gilleland, Robin</i>				Kyes-Lucero, Cheyene			
Total Due by Report Printing		\$	403.49	McLure, Jared & Katherine			
Total Paid Since 12/31/23		\$	1,985.34	Minard, Susan			
Total Due 12/31/23		\$	2,388.83	Mitchell, Leslie			
2022 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES				Morse, Romona			
<i>Beaulieu, Priscilla</i>				Moulton, Katie			
<i>Blood, Brian</i>				Murphy, Judy A			
<i>Davis, Robert &amp; Gilleland, Robin</i>				Nickel, Virgil & Karen			
<i>Florentine, Jerod &amp; Welch, Dawn</i>				Northeast Wilderness			
<i>Hencler, Andrew</i>				Manning, Bert			
<i>Hurley, Dennis</i>				Paye, David & Elizabeth			
<i>Kapuska, Ryan</i>				Paye, Douglas & April			
<i>Moulton, Katie</i>				Pelletier, Carlton			
<i>Murphy, Judy</i>				Peters, Christopher			
<i>Paye, Douglas &amp; April</i>				Pigsley, John			
<i>Primmer, Daniel</i>				Primmer, Daniel			
<i>Tuttle, Aaron</i>				Robertson, Walter			
<i>White, Kimberly</i>				Sheppard, Topaz			
<i>Wright, Ulric Jr. &amp; Morse, Romona</i>				Tuttle, Aaron			
<i>Zwicker, Leon</i>				Walters, Renada			
Total Due by Report Printing		\$	20,441.95	White, Kimberly			
Total Paid Since 12/31/23		\$	375.54	White, Randy & Barbara			
Total Due 12/31/23		\$	20,817.49	Zwicker, Leon			
				Total Due by Report Printing			
				\$			
				74,565.08			
				Total Paid Since 12/31/23			
				\$			
				11,064.61			
				Total Due 12/31/23			
				\$			
				85,629.69			

# 2023 ARPA Report

<b>1/01/23</b>	<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$222,007.20</b>
2/27/23	Jarrett Olsen Roofing – Replaced Roof at Ryegate Corner Fire Station	\$35528.99
3/27/23	Regina Hazel - Town Meeting Sound System	\$525.00
3/27/23	Great Planning Tech - Selectboard Laptops	\$426.00
4/10/23	Little Rivers Health Care	\$25,000.00
5/08/23	NEK Community Broadband	\$76,000.00
6/27/23	Ryegate Historical Society - Materials to preserve & display Collections	\$5234.00
8/29/23	South Ryegate Library - Repairs to septic, water and bathroom	\$6976.25
11/13/23	Swampguana Diving - Ticklenaked Pond Milfoil Project	\$12,400.00
<b>Total Expenditures 2023</b>		<b>\$162,090.24</b>
<b>ARPA FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR 2024</b>		<b>\$59,916.96</b>

## Planning Commission/ Zoning Board Report

Much of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board's work this year was centered on the Town Plan, a document which enhances the town's access to a variety of resources, including federal and state grants. The Board successfully amended the plan with an Enhanced Energy Plan. The entire plan needs to be reviewed and revised by 2026, but the amendment gives the town more authority to regulate the siting of solar installations prior to the adoption of the revised plan. The Board will be soliciting residents input for the plan revision, and will be distributing a survey to initiate that participation.

The Board bid a grateful farewell to Zoning Administrator Bill Elder, and welcomed Dennis Marquise as the new ZA, and John Munson as a new member.

Additionally, the board reviewed a number of home improvement and outbuilding construction projects, most of which met all zoning requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Davie, Secretary, for Richard Colby II, Chairperson; Alice Allen; Walter Bragg;  
Mary Dole; Stephen Genereaux; John Munson, Fremont Nelson; and Nancy Perkins.  
Zoning Administrator—Dennis Marquise.

# Cemetery Commissioners Narrative

Our Commission met twice in 2023. At our April meeting we elected Rick Colby as Chair, Melissa Mann as Vice Chair, Bill Nelson as Treasurer, Dan LaCoss as Clerk and Bruce Nelson as Member at Large.

This year we contracted with Rouleau's Property Maintenance of Groton. They kept the cemeteries beautifully mowed and trimmed during an especially wet summer. The board would also like to thank our cemetery attendant, Tony Dennis, for his efforts in handling burials and requests in a timely manner.

The commissioners installed a flagpole with a solar light in Hillside cemetery this past summer. There were also over 200 gravestones that were cleaned and straightened in Hillside cemetery this year. Melissa Mann created a display that was on hand for viewing at town meeting which investigated the history of some of the oldest stones in our cemeteries. Melissa hopes to be able to continue to expand this project in the future.

Looking forward for 2024 the Commissioners plan to continue to have more stones cleaned and straightened. There are also plans to install another flagpole in one of our cemeteries and we are looking to repair the lower wooden fence in Blue Mountain cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryegate Cemetery Commissioners

Rick Colby, Chair 802-584-3159

Melissa Mann, Vice Chairman 802-274-1181

Bill Nelson, Treasurer 802-584-3296

Dan LaCoss, Clerk 802-584-3120

Bruce Nelson, Member at Large 802-584-3487

## Cemetery Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand 1/1/2023.....	\$8,740.21
<i>Income for 2023</i>	
Town Appropriation.....	\$13,000.00
Sale of Lots.....	
American Funds.....	\$430.09
-----	\$13,430.09
<b>Total Income for 2023.....</b>	<b>\$22,170.30</b>
<i>Expenses for 2023</i>	
Lawn Care.....	\$10,000.00
Electricity at Pinehurst.....	\$169.11
Flag with mounting.....	\$1,468.95
Cleaning/maintenance.....	\$2,000.00
Tony Dennis -installing posts.....	\$200.00
Gandin Bros.- corner posts.....	\$560.00
Cement-Fogg's Hardware.....	\$79.91
New Flag for Blue Mtn.....	\$67.00
Service charge/WSRB.....	\$18.00
<b>Total Expenses for 2023.....</b>	<b>\$14,562.97</b>
<b>Balance on Hand 12/31/2023(Checkbook Balance)</b>	<b>\$7,607.33</b>

Savings/Investments 12/31/2023	Interest Earned in 2023
CD#907623.....	\$54,064.83 \$1,394.53 12 mos. @4.57%
Ameriprise Financials.....	\$52,471.26 \$1,524.27mos. @ 4.65%
CD#811855.....	\$11,281.34 \$300.22mos. @4.5%
Savings Acc't 566388.....	\$909.87 \$.55 3 mos. @ .05%
American Funds.....	\$30,342.41 \$430.09 12 mos. Dividend
<b>Total Investment Income: \$3,649.66</b>	
Respectfully Submitted,	
<b>William H. Nelson, Treasurer</b>	
<b>Ryegate Cemetery Commission</b>	





# Northeastern Vermont Development Association

The NVDA-the State's only regional planning commission and economic development corporation-has been serving Ryegate for more than 60 years. We continue to assist local officials with land use, transportation, and emergency planning, and we serve the businesses of the Kingdom, promoting sustainable economic growth.

How have we served your community? In 2023, NVDA Staff reviewed and approved an amendment to the Town's energy plan which will give Ryegate heightened consideration in Section 248 proceedings. Our staff also created maps in support of the Town's energy plan. In addition, NVDA completed 30% of Ryegate's Road Erosion Inventory for the 2023-2027 cycle.

## Ryegate Historical Society

It's appropriate that we begin our Annual Report with a word of recognition, praise and gratitude for George Hall (1931-2023), who was a longtime, faithful member of the Ryegate Historical Society and who never missed a meeting when he summered here. He was an academic and born researcher, whom Dwight White relied heavily on when he was writing *Down of the Thistle*. George also compiled a thorough research document on "The Farms of Ryegate", as well as one on the Hall-West Cemetery and other subjects. George, who was born and died in Ryegate, loved his town and its past and was endlessly generous with his time to keep us correctly documenting Ryegate's history.

We had another busy year at the historical society, complete with lectures, exhibits and lots of work done on the collections and our building.

In the months of June - October, we held our Open House Saturdays. Every month several visitors came to enjoy our exhibit of "Ryegate in the Civil War", which consisted of multiple displays of material from our collections. Highlighting this exhibit were the fascinating letters of Robert Corruith, written between 1861-1865 to his sister in So. Ryegate. The copies of these letters are always available for interested parties to view.

Many, many hours were spent working with contractors and in committees, trying to assess the future of our building, Whitelaw Hall, and the optimal use of its space. Because of the enormous costs associated with renovations, we decided that in the future we will use the building almost exclusively for work space, exhibits and storage of collections. Any large meetings that we have will be held in other buildings, such as our local churches and schools, which already have amenities in place for access for all.

To that end, we then went forward and ordered archival storage materials, with the help of ARPA funding, and began to reorganize our space. Under the direction of Linda Libuda, Collections Chairman, we worked several days every week in the fall to sort through all of our files; this was a monumental but necessary step. Our other important task was the repair of the ceilings in the building, which we funded through our savings. This is where your donations and dues are essential!

Two programs this year were a well-attended lecture by George Morrison on Robert Rogers of the Rangers and Adair Mulligan's talk on *The Secrets of Cellar Holes*; these were co-hosted with other historical societies.

We remain grateful for all donations received throughout the year and for continued support from the town.

## Vermont State Police

The Vermont State Police continues to provide dedicated police coverage for Ryegate. Throughout the year, Troopers respond to a broad range of calls.

## Justices of the Peace

Justices of the Peace, elected to office on November 8, 2022, make up the Board of Civil Authority. The new term begins February 1, 2023 and continues to February 1, 2025.

Jamie O'Connor	Catherine Davie	Michael Murray
Darcy Nelson	Lauren Nelson	Nancy Perkins
	Robert Rowden	

# Ryegate Energy Committee

**13 December 2023 - World Meteorological Organization, Press Release** - "The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28, has concluded with a historic agreement to transition away from fossil fuels and to try to rein in accelerating climate change.

**Reorganization of the Committee** - This year the Selectboard appointed 7 members of the Ryegate Energy Committee to represent the town as the official subcommittee of the Planning/Zoning Commission. The members revised the mission statement - "The Mission of the Ryegate Energy Committee is to encourage the Town, its residents, and its property owners to take action to slow and mitigate the effects of the climate crisis by providing outreach and education on energy efficiency improvements, resiliency, and fuel switching opportunities. The Committee will: Encourage the efficient use of energy. Support the expansion of renewable sources of electricity. Work to decrease the region's reliance on fossil fuels for energy."

**Outreach** - This year the Committee and its members continued to provide information about and resources to deal with climate change at the town fairs (with the Heat Squad), Transfer Station, at the Solarbration in Peacham, on WYKR and with social media (Front Page Forum and Ryegate List Serve). We continued to meet with and share information with the Regional Energy Committees in the Northeast Kingdom and other groups interested in dealing with climate change and met with the Groton Selectboard about energy issues.

**Window Dresser Program** - The Ryegate Energy Committee partnered with the Energy Committees of Barnet, Peacham and Danville for the second year. Window inserts cut infiltration of cold and/or hot air, cost on average \$45 and on average save 8.5 gallons of fuel oil per year. The windows were assembled by volunteers and those who receive inserts are asked to participate. Twenty-five Ryegate residents volunteered for at least one four hour assembly shift at the Barnet vestry. This year 4648 inserts were assembled in Vermont, and 306 inserts were produced at the Barnet vestry, about 1/3 for the Ryegate Team. Window Dressers expects about 30% of the inserts to be subsidized by donations and grants. The goal is to minimize the financial burden for those who otherwise could not afford the inserts. In 2023, the Ryegate Town donated \$500 towards the \$1197 cost shortfall in Ryegate. Based on our continued outreach to residents, regardless of ability to pay, the Energy Committee requested and received a donation of \$1000 for next year at the Budget Committee meeting.

## **Other Projects -**

The Energy Committee has partnered with the Agency of Transportation to advocate for electric vehicle Level 3 charging stations at P/H and other stations owned by Global Partners of Waltham, Massachusetts, owner of all the Jiffy Marts in Vermont. The Committee has partnered with Wells River, Barnet, Peacham and Danville to create an official bike route and spurs from the Cross Vermont Trail to the Lamoille Valley Trail. The Committee is also involved in advocating with the Select Board and the State for funding for a geothermal heating system for the town garage and fire station and to complete weatherization of the Town Office.

The Energy Committee meets the first Monday of the month at the Town Office and on Zoom. Please join us.

*Co Chairs Kate Davies/Michael McLellan, PC/Z Rep Alice Allen, Sec'y Carl Bayer, Publicity Donna Waelter, Members at Large Gail Brown/Peter Sinclair*

# Baldwin Memorial Library

Board of Trustees: Karen Kreis, Chip Conquest, Chris Buhner, Kim Goody, Sandy Parker & Alicia King

2023 was a year of transition for Baldwin Memorial Library. It was my first year as librarian, and I used it as a year of learning, growing and making changes. I gathered information and feedback from the community to help me make informed decisions on materials, programs and resources to offer. Thanks to help from some amazing volunteers and guidance from retired librarian, Peggy Hewes, I would call this year a success.

Inside the library saw many changes. The computers were moved to offer two seated workstations and a standing station. The adult book collection was evaluated, damaged or noncirculating items were removed, and shelves were reworked for easier browsing. Space was created to feature our collection of “things” to lend including puzzles, health care devices, cake pans, garden tools and more. The children’s area was refreshed with the community’s favorite comfy couch. A display case was added for new and seasonal books, and a new shelf was added for our board books. The back room has been upgraded with kitchenette (donated by LC Design Concepts), new chairs and a workspace that has been used for everything from snacks and games to Zoom meetings and job interviews!

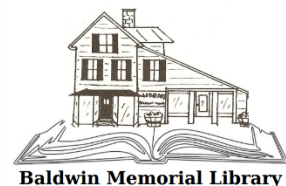
Community continues to be the focus of everything Baldwin Memorial Library does. We were able to participate in 12 different community events! One of our biggest event was the VT Reads program that former librarian, Peggy Hewes, dedicated her time to even after retirement. This event brought together over 50 people to discuss *The Most Costly Journey*. We continued to participate in well-established events including the WRAP Community Picnic and Ice Cream Social where Michael Caduto lead us in Native American Games, and the So Long Summer, Hello Fall Festival with our bi-annual book sale. We partnered with the Pulaski Lodge to reboot The Polar Express Party that hasn’t been able to happen since before Covid. Nearly 30 people, came to enjoy the story along with hot cocoa, cookies, popcorn and a visit from Santa. We also participated in some new events like the Newbury Recreation Department’s Trunk or Treat where we handed out free books and reading accessories to more than 50 kids.

This year we were able to add to the community resources that we offer. In addition to the mini food pantry that is set up inside the library, we have partnered with North East Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) to offer a monthly pop-up food shelf and resource center providing information on housing security, heating assistance, family services, and community justice. We are also working with the Vermont Department of Labor and HireAbility Vermont to offer information on local jobs and help with finding, applying for and maintaining employment. During the back-to-school season we set up a free clothing and gear exchange and we have continued with our winter gear exchange. More than 25 free jackets have already distributed in November and December.

If you don’t have a library card, contact us to sign up for one! When you do you will gain free access to all of our books and DVD’s as well as our tools, kits and museum passes AND nearly 50,000 free e-books and audio books on the LIBBY APP. Make sure that you follow our new Facebook page and updated website (information at the top of the page) for all our news and events.

I am looking forward to 2024! It is sure to be a great year for us. We are celebrating 175 years of service! I hope to continue networking with other area organizations to bring more programming and resources to the library and our community.

Library Visits: 4200  
New Members: 79  
Curbside Services: 18  
Computer Use: 886  
No stats available for materials accessed on LIBBY APP  
Book Loans: 2620  
DVD Loans: 802  
Audiobook CDs: 104  
Interlibrary Loans Sent: 56  
Interlibrary Loans Received: 323



Respectfully Submitted,  
Melissa Beaulieu, Librarian

# S Ryegate Public Library

This has been a busy year for our library. Using ARPA funds approved by the Town Select Board, we were able to install a water line and have our septic system approved. We are appreciative of Mrs. Cindy Fraser allowing us to connect to her water system. We now have running water and all new bathroom fixtures.

A book sale in the fall allowed us to make space in our "meeting room" so that the walls and ceiling could be painted. In the spring we will remove the carpet and have new flooring installed. We hope to make good use of this room in the new year.

Our shelves are loaded with books for children, youth, and adults. We have lots of fiction, some non-fiction, large print books, periodicals, and jigsaw puzzles from the Little Puzzle Library. Our Librarian, Liz Achilles, welcomes patrons from all communities. Come check it out or just stop by to chat. The library is open on Tuesdays from 12:00-2:00 and Thursdays from 3:00-5:00. Liz is also willing to come in at other times if you need something. Our Board is very grateful for the support shown by the Town and for the encouragement from the community.

## Ryegate Fire Warden Report

If you wish to burn, a permit is required for any outside burning of clean wood that is unfinished or unpainted. No manufactured wood, plywood, particle board and the like and no trash of any kind may be burned. Please contact the Fire Warden.

Gene Perkins 584-3611

Fremont Nelson 584-3667

Respectfully submitted, Gene A. Perkins, Fire Warden

## NEK Council on Aging

The NEK Council on Aging serves as a central guide for older Vermonters to gain services and assistance in their communities. In FY2023 the Council aided **over 4,796 residents of the Northeast Kingdom** and with our congregate and home-delivered meals program, **delivered 209,379 meals**.

We also offer a Helpline; Medicare counseling and Bootcamp; exercise and mobility programs; specially-trained staff who help people develop long-range planning as they age; family and caregiver support programs and grants; case management for those who need a bit more support with aging in place; as well as support to apply for fuel, food, and pharmacy programs. Our nutrition programs partially fund 14 meal sites and home delivered meals under the guidance of our registered dietitian. Working with RCT and Legal Aid, we provide for the complex challenges people face while living in a rural community. Our work is supplemented by over 400 volunteers who serve as home-delivered meals drivers, wellness program leaders, and home-based caregivers.

## Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice

Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice (CHHC) is Northern Counties Health Care's (NCHC) certified Medicare and Medicaid comprehensive Home Care and Hospice division.

Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice has proudly served the residents of Caledonia and Southern Essex counties since 1968. Our mission is to provide high quality, accessible, patient-centered health care, and our vision is to be a key partner in building healthy families and thriving communities.

In the last year, Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice was honored to provide 737 visits to 40 residents of Ryegate, VT.

2024 Town Appropriation Visit Statistics Ryegate, VT

- # of residents served: 40
- Home Care (Therapy, Nursing, MSW): 490 visits
- Maternal Child Health: 49 visits
- Hospice (Nursing, Therapy, Personal Care, Respite): 47 visits
- Long Term Care (Case Management, Personal Care, Respite): 151 visits

# Ticklenaked Pond Association Report

The beach and playground area were very busy again this year, it appears that our residents are taking advantage of this Town treasure. Thank you to all that helped keep the area clean!!

The issue with the lake's failing dam has continued to have its challenges since the Covid pandemic. We hope to address some of these issues over the upcoming summer. In the meantime we will keep our fingers crossed that the dam will continue to hold. The water levels stayed fairly consistent this past summer with all of the rain.

The Association spent 670 hours battling the invasive species Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), which chokes and clogs our waterways, crowding out native plants and entangling propellers, fishing lures and the arms and legs of swimmers. In 2023 the Town of Ryegate was awarded \$6504.00 from the State of Vermont (Department of Environmental Conservation) for an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant- in-Aide grant to manage and remove EWM, which first appeared at Ticklenaked Pond in 2010. We were able to employ a Suction Harvesting company this summer who worked primarily in the boat launch area, out to the middle of the lake. They also spent time removing EWM along the east side of the lake where it is thick and full. The Town of Ryegate supported the Association with funds to help pay for an additional two weeks of diving. This made a big impact, and we removed more EWM this year than ever before, over 2000 cubic yards.

Our nesting pair of Loons were not successful this past summer, they did build a nest at the northwest end of the lake, but no eggs were reported to be seen. Hopefully this year!

In 2023 we had only a minor outbreak of Cyanobacteria (Blue/Green Algae that effect many lakes in Vermont). By the time the State determined it was Cyanobacteria, it was already gone and the beach was not shut down to the public. It is most likely due to the efforts of the Lake Assoc. and local farms to keep the excess phosphate out of the lake. The weather patterns also affect outbreaks and the conditions were favorable this year.

The Ryegate community can help the health and enjoyment of Ticklenaked Pond in several ways;

1. Wash off your boat before putting it in the lake and after taking it out. This will ensure the invasive plants are not being transported to or from another body of water.
2. Remove any floating pieces of Eurasian Water Milfoil you see on the lake. Fragments that are not attached to the stemmed plant will reestablish themselves as a new plant. A picture and information about EWM is at the State boat launch.
3. Pick up any EWM plants on the shoreline. The plants need to be removed from the beach area, composted or bagged and thrown away.
4. Please do not take a motorboat or paddle through a dense patch of EWM. If the plants have surfaced they will fragment and drop to the bottom of the lake, root and become another plant.

## Catamount Arts

The residents and voters of Ryegate have consistently played a very important role in the success of Catamount Arts. Through your support at Town Meeting and by attending many of the 100+ events Catamount offers throughout the year, Ryegate helps keep the Arts vital and available to all Northeast Kingdom residents, boosting our creative economy for a more vibrant, sustainable community!

In June 2023, Catamount Arts was unexpectedly displaced from our beloved Eastern Avenue Arts Center due to air contaminants. We worked tirelessly with environmental consultants and the state to remediate these concerns safely and quickly. We want to thank the Catamount Arts community, including the voters in the town of Ryegate, for your steadfast and patient support.

The show must go on, and we continued programming despite the temporary displacement, including dozens of summer concerts, such as Levitt AMP and Final Fridays, throughout the Northeast Kingdom; camps and workshops ranging from EPIC Music to acting and circus arts; the return of Catamount Bluegrass Night, live music and performances at the Catamount ArtPort in the Green Mountain Mall, and the KCP Presents series (presenting another thrilling season with international performance tours from Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, and Canada, bringing orchestral music, world-class a capella, and circus art); live music at York Street Meeting House, First Night North in St. Johnsbury (bringing nearly 200 artists to a dozen venues for nine straight hours of family-friendly entertainment), and events with new partners including Umbrella, the Vermont Humanities Council, and our friends in northern New Hampshire.

In addition to integrating arts into the fabric of our community's daily life via live shows, screenings, classes, workshops, exhibitions, and more, Catamount programming generates more than \$1.5M each year to the local economy, playing a key role in the Northeast Kingdom's long-term vibrancy and sustainability. Thanks to support from our Ryegate neighbors, we look forward to seeing you—all of you!—at Catamount Arts in 2024!

# Vermont Center for Independent Living

Since 1979, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. Final numbers for our FY'23 (10/2022-9/2023) show VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. **Request Amount: \$265.00**

To learn more about VCIL, please call: **1-800-639-1522**, or, visit our web site at **[www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)**.

## Umbrella

Since 1976, Umbrella has ensured that communities in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties have access to services that cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Umbrella operates 4 multifaceted, client-centered programs and plays a crucial role in decreasing the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual violence. Services offered include:

- Social Change focuses on prevention education and initiatives in schools and in the community that aim towards preventing gender-based violence, and creating a community where abuse and oppression are acknowledged and addressed. One of our strategies is to provide pathways for girls to work within this social change and prevention field through the Youth in Power Program. In FY23, we provided 2,613 youth with educational workshops throughout our 18 school partners. We provided 387 adults with educational programs through 20 workshops.
- Advocacy Program serves survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, teen dating violence, as well as violence related to gender or sexual orientation - which in total we characterize as gender-based violence. In our work, the client leads and we support them in any way they need us to including legal advocacy, housing advocacy, support with parenting after trauma and more. In FY23, 750 individuals received direct advocacy, 81 people were housed in our emergency shelters as a result of fleeing domestic or sexual violence and 15 were housed in our Transitional Housing program.
- Family Based Services focuses on child-care and strengthening family relationships. Kingdom Child Care Connection (KCCC) assists families in the Northeast Kingdom to receive subsidized child care, appropriate child care referrals and specialized childcare placement support. The Family Room offers supervised visitation for families throughout the Northeast Kingdom. In FY23, KCCC served 801 families and the Family Room worked with 63 families.
- Economic Empowerment serves women with significant barriers to employment in Orleans and Northern Essex Counties. Our Cornucopia program, and our social enterprise, Dolcetti each wrap around women to support them in building job readiness skills while helping them to address challenges in their lives so they are able to move towards financial self-sufficiency. In FY23 as part of the skill-building program, participants packaged and prepared 39,509 meals for homebound seniors through Meals on Wheels.

Community support is critical to sustain our programming and to discover innovative approaches to the work Umbrella does. We are deeply grateful for Derby's support.

## Woodsville Area Fourth of July Committee

2024 will be the 44<sup>th</sup> year for Independence Day celebration. Each year, we have requested contributions from area towns and municipalities and have been very grateful for the overwhelming generosity that you have shown our organization. Your donation allows us to continue to offer local residents and visitors a safe, exciting place to celebrate our nation's birthday. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

The parade, day- long events on the Woodsville Community Field, and evening fireworks display create the only full day and evening celebration in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire. As you can well imagine, the event is very costly- averaging \$25,000.00 in past years.

Our fireworks cost increased in 2023 by \$4000 due to both the global economy and the retirement of our previous fireworks contractor. We appreciate those who increased their support. We are requesting an appropriation from you this year of \$300.00 to support this local event.

# West Barnet Senior Meal Site

The West Barnet Senior Meal Site, located at the Presbyterian Church of Barnet, is asking once again for financial support from the Town of Ryegate.

We have many loyal patrons who attend regularly, and have welcomed many new people over the past year. Our current Registration List, updated at the first of the year, has 177 individuals on it. Towns they reside in are Danville, Topsham, Concord, St. Johnsbury, Monroe, West Danville, Peacham, Bradford, Groton, Ryegate, Waterford, Passumpsic, McIndoe's Falls and Wells River.

Twice a week we provide three services to fit their needs: In-house dining, home deliveries, or take-out. There is no doubt that the meals and fellowship are needed and appreciated. We are proud to offer such a valuable service.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and consideration.

## The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley

The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley (TMPUV) is a community-based mentoring program that matches young people with adult volunteers in Vermont towns in our area: Bradford, Fairlee, Corinth, Topsham, Groton, Wells River, Newbury, Vershire, Ryegate & Thetford. Mentors and mentees commit to spending five hours per month together during non-school hours for at least one year, and also keep in touch through telephone and online check-ins between in-person meetings. Through spending time together doing both favorite and new activities, mentors and mentees build a trusting relationship that can change the course of each person's life for the better!

During 2023, TMPUV experienced a bittersweet change in leadership. After more than a decade of leading our organization, Nancy Jones retired and left a long legacy of successful matches in her wake. Anne Hatch began as the new Program Director in February of this year and worked closely with Nancy and the board to ensure a smooth transition. Aside from her work with TMPUV, Anne is a middle school teacher who brings a great deal of experience in collaborative education and social service programs. This is an exciting year of growth for The Mentoring Project!

Devoting time to community outreach opportunities allows us to connect with past and future mentors and mentees. Special events also allow TMPUV to serve even more youth with unique engaging activities. Here are just some of the collaborative events we had a chance to be a part of this year:

- River Bend Career & Technical Center (Photo booth & face painting at the Expo in March)
- Jazzy's Childrens' Fund (Craft station at summer concert in Groton in August)
- Bradford Public Library ("Wellness Warriors" program for youth in July-August)
- Newbury Woman's Club (Face painting at the Spring Flea Market in May)
- Blue Mountain Union School (Estimating challenge at the Family Open House in September)

While supporting life-changing one-on-one relationships is at the core of TMPUV, it also means a great deal to come together for celebrations, learning, service, and camaraderie. Here is just a sampling of events that we enjoyed as a group this year:

- Annual Sliding Party (for mentors & mentees, Feb.)
- Running Water Recreation Center "March Madness" (for mentors, mentees & families, Mar.)
- Graduation & Welcome Summer Celebration at Boulder Beach (for mentors, mentees & families, June)
- Fajita Bar & Game Night at The Hub (for mentors & mentees, July)
- Back-To-School Ice Cream at Phoenix Scoops (for mentors, mentees & families, Sept.)
- Annual TMPUV Recognition Celebration at Colatina Exit (for mentors, mentees & families, Dec.)

With the generous outpouring of support from our host communities, we know that 2024 will be another banner year of support for our youth as well as volunteer engagement. We believe in the power of human connection!

# Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

The RFP helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and Natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments

Identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations and find financial support to cover the costs of construction. During the 26+ years of the program, over 1,177 grants totaling \$2.8 million have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems as well as for replacements and repairs. We are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. Since last years appropriation request, we have received nearly \$9,375 in town appropriations from almost 90 towns. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing support.

## Northeast Kingdom Human Services

Thank you, Town of Ryegate voters, for your appropriation support at your Town Meetings. Annual appropriations are a vital funding source to provide needed services to residents who cannot otherwise afford care. The 2024 appropriation request of \$500 is the same amount voted on at the 2023 Town Meeting. This represents 0.52% of appropriation requests from 48 towns. We offer supportive, confidential program services for Emergency/Crisis Services, mental health, addiction, and developmental/intellectual disabilities. Our mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities by promoting hope, healing, and support.

Summary Activity Report July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

☑ 3800 individuals of all ages in our service area utilized support services.

☑ 33 individuals from the Town of Ryegate accessed supportive care at NKHS.

☑ Employees provided over 300 hours of community consultation, education, and outreach in community meetings, events, and trainings in NKHS offices, area schools, and businesses at no cost to participants. We offered QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) suicide awareness and prevention trainings, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and other educational opportunities to at least 700 Northeast Kingdom community members.

☑ 416 total dedicated professional employees, 1 from the Town of Ryegate, support community members in the Derby or St. Johnsbury offices, the satellite office in Hardwick, telehealth, homes, schools, and throughout Northeast Kingdom communities.

Good mental health is important for everyone. As a Designated Agency serving Vermont's system of care, NKHS is responsible for assuring that a comprehensive range of services are available regardless of an individual's ability to pay. A sliding fee scale is available for those in financial need. NKHS is asking the Town of Ryegate voters to consider helping neighbors, family members, and friends receive the supports they need to live a happy, fulfilling life and be an active and contributing member of your community. Thank you so much for your support!

## The Community for Restorative Justice

The Community Restorative Justice Center holds restorative justice panel meetings for cases referred directly from law enforcement as well as cases referred from the Department of Corrections. Cases that go through the CRJC have a 32% reduction in recidivism. In the past 12 months, the CRJC served 9 Ryegate residents. Appropriations from the Town of Ryegate would also give technical support to neighborhood associations as requested. The CRJC mission states that we are committed to providing a safe environment for neighbors and parties to resolve conflict in our communities, to restore relationships, and to take responsibility to repair harms caused.



# Caledonia County Sheriff Annual Report

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

We continue to add vehicles to our fleet, 3 new patrol cruisers were purchased, replacing an aging fleet that have served us well. We have 9 marked cars, a transport van for prisoner transports, and one unmarked car for civil process service. The radar cart was deployed throughout the county providing speed deterrence where deployed. It was my great pleasure to return to security services at this year's Caledonia County Fair. This would not have been possible without the dedication of my staff, but also much appreciated help from The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. The department was also contacted throughout the year by several towns for contracted patrols. Of the 17 towns in the county the department provides services to 13 of these towns. Due to staffing shortages it has been difficult to provide consistent services to these communities but we are working hard to improve as well as increase our presence to provide consistent, quality, and cost effective Law Enforcement Services to you all of you. As much as possible we maintain an active presence with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We have been involved with drills and evacuation plans and will continue to assist as needed. The department maintains a Take Back Drugs Location serving as a drop off for expired, unused and no longer needed Rx medications. 2023 saw the expiration of many deputies body armor. Grant money provided by the US Department of Justice sees to it that every six years body armor is replaced to provide every sworn member of Law Enforcement access to daily worn body armor. I took this opportunity to upgrade body armor providing all of us with the most protection available. The department also purchased Axon body worn cameras with funds received from a grant from the state of Vermont. I continue to apply for grants and seek funding to provide the most modern, quality, cost prohibitive equipment for the department to best serve the community. I would like to announce the retirement of Sergeant Steven Gadapee and Deputy Gilbert Roberts. Each served over 30 years as Law Enforcement Officers and will be missed.

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

Respectfully, James Hemond, Caledonia County Sheriff

## American Red Cross

Last year, our staff and volunteer workforce provided an array of services throughout the Northern New England region:

- We made 700 homes safer by installing 2,177 smoke detectors and educating 897 families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Trained 42,950 people in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills. (training data for county level)
- We collected over 133,100 units of blood. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over 3,400 service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

Your American Red Cross remains committed to providing relief and support. We do this with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors, including you, our friends in Ryegate. This year, we respectfully request a municipal appropriation of \$500.00. These funds will directly benefit individuals and families right here in our region, who benefit from our unique services at no cost.

## Northeast Kingdom Youth Services

NEKYS has been offering vital supportive services for youth and families since 1975. In 2023, NEKYS served 417 individuals throughout Caledonia and Essex Counties, including 4 people in Ryegate. NEKYS is a private, non-profit agency governed by a community based, volunteer Board of Directors. We rely on grants, contracts, and appropriations from the towns we serve to continue our mission. Please call our office at 802-748-8732 if you have any questions or concerns. Request= \$250.00

## Northeast Kingdom Learning Services

It is our mission to inspire and empower learners, birth and beyond. In FY 2023, NEKLS in collaboration with partnering high schools awarded 21 high school diplomas.. The Adult Education And Literacy Programs served 165 students for more than 8,840 hours in 2023. NEKLS served 16 English as a Second Language Students. The Tutorial Program served 31 K-12 students in the tri County region. Thank you for your continued Support.

## Rural Community Transportation, Inc.

RCT has been providing service in your community for over 25 years and must reach out again for community support in order to maintain the quality of service that is needed for the members of our community. RCT is a non profit corporation providing transportation to the elderly and disabled, Medicaid and the general public through a van/bus and volunteer service. RCT transports people to adult day services, senior meal sites, necessary medical treatments, and other appointments In 2023 RCT provided 14 Ryegate residents with 857 rides, travelling 25,433 miles at a cost of \$29,307.84. RCT also operated the Greenleaf Shuttle route serving Ryegate. RCT is requesting an appropriation of \$990 from the town of Ryegate. RCT can be reach at 802-748-8170.

## Fairbanks Museum

The Fairbanks Museum invites Ryegate residents to take full advantage of their unlimited free general admission to the Museum to explore the nature, beauty, and wonders of our world. Your municipal appropriation provides essential support for the care of the Museum's historic building and the maintenance and exhibition of the most extraordinary educational collections in northern New England. These are among our region's most prized assets. Each year the Museum offers new opportunities for exploration and discovery, so do come for a visit!

In 2023, we brought in more visitors and campers to the museum than ever before. Once again our outdoor classroom transformed into a butterfly house for the summer, and Franklin's Guides led the way to further discovery for our visitors. Campers learned about astronomy, drones, and robots. We debuted new engaging live shows and movies in our planetarium, and we welcomed Rube Goldberg expert Zach Umperovitch for a weeklong residency and Eddy Lecture. With community support, the Museum is fully engaged in community economic, educational, and cultural development initiatives and contributes significantly to the attraction of visitors to our region. Your appropriation this year will support unlimited access to our new Science Annex.

The Board of Trustees, staff, and volunteers of the Museum are tremendously grateful for the support, encouragement, and collaborative planning that keep our programs relevant and vital. We aim to ensure the Museum delivers services, programs, and a commitment to community development that benefit your town's residents and visitors, as well as contribute to a remarkable quality of life.

## Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

St. Johnsbury Local Health Office | 107 Eastern Ave, Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, VT  
802-748-5151 | [AHS.VDHStJohnsbury@Vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHStJohnsbury@Vermont.gov)

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

[HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury](https://HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury)



### Pregnant People, Infants and Children

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

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



### Collaborations and Collective Impact

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

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



### Prepared and Responsive

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

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



Scan to access  
the report online



## Little Rivers Health Care

As Little Rivers celebrates its 18th anniversary, we are focused on the sustainability of vastly expanded services over the past three years. As with so many of our community partners, ensuring that our residents receive the vital services they need has been a challenge like no other.

For the 3-year pre-pandemic period of 2017-2019, LRHC operated with average annual excess revenues of \$230,125, and in 2022, LRHC operated with a loss from operations of \$2,117,454 from impacts of the public health emergency. In the past year, LRHC significantly improved facilities, continued providing services at all six OESU schools at no cost to schools and municipalities, increased provision of behavioral health and psychiatric services, and added programming to support those adversely affected by food and nutrition insecurity.

Our patient population increased by 71% to 6,531 in 2022 and patient appointments increased by 60% to 39,309 visits, demonstrating both the need for and capacity of Little Rivers. Our strong collaborations with local food security organizations allowed us to more than double the quantity of food given to our community (now over 1,000 pounds a week).

In addition to our services, LRHC also contributes to the local economy. In 2022, Little Rivers employed over 80 people in well-paying jobs, spent over \$9 million locally, and brought in over \$3 million in federal dollars to our communities. In return for our grant funding, we need to demonstrate financial support from our towns, so we are deeply grateful to our area towns and generous donors who continue to support us in this work. Many thanks to you all.

# NEK Waste Management Supervisors Report

<div> <div>↓</div> <div><b>SORT ITEMS</b></div> <div>↓</div> </div> <div><b>RECYCLING MUST BE CLEAN AND DRY</b></div>	
<p><b><u>MIXED PAPER</u></b> Newspapers, catalogs, telephone books, glossy inserts, paperback books, colored &amp; white paper, wrapping paper and junk mail. Any color or type of paper. <b><i>NO brown Kraft bags, boxboard, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or metallic wrapping paper.</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>CORRUGATED CARDBOARD, BOXBOARD, &amp; BROWN KRAFT BAGS</u></b> FLATTEN BOXES. All Cardboard and Boxboard food packaging. Remove excess tape. Staples are OK. <b><i>NO wax-coated cardboard, cardboard soiled with food, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or Styrofoam.</i></b></p>
<p><b><u>TIN CANS</u></b> Labels are OK. Flattening not required. Separate from aluminum cans. Tin is magnetic. <b>*MUST BE RINSED*</b></p>	<p><b><u>ALUMINUM CANS, FOIL AND FOOD TRAYS</u></b> Labels OK. Flattening not required. <b><i>NO snack bags, candy wrappers, coffee bags.</i></b> <b>*MUST BE RINSED*</b></p>
<p><b><u>GLASS BOTTLES &amp; JARS</u></b> *Rinse, Remove Lids (recycle with tin) * <b><i>NO porcelain, Pyrex, windows, crystal, light bulbs, lids, metal or wood.</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>BATTERIES</u></b> All types including primary and rechargeable batteries. Please bag similar types together and bag damaged batteries separately.</p>
<p><b><u>PLASTIC CONTAINERS #1 – #4 &amp; #5 Food Containers</u></b> <b>REMOVE CAPS / MAX. SIZE- 2 Gallons / NO BLACK PLASTIC / *MUST BE RINSED*</b> Includes food containers, health/beauty product, and cleaner containers. #5 included <i>if it's a food container.</i> <b><i>NO plastic bags or films, black plastic, screw-top caps, motor oil bottles, pesticide bottles, vinyl siding, toys, CD cases, VHS tapes, Styrofoam, syringes, or medical devices.</i></b></p>	

## **ADDITIONAL ACCEPTED MATERIALS:**

**FOOD SCRAPS:** All food scraps, including meat, bones, dairy. Please remove PLU stickers. No plastics, metals, paper.

**#6 PLASTIC FOAM (STYROFOAM):** #6 Expanded Polystyrene Foam. Any color, any size. Must be rigid, dry, clean.

**SCRAP METAL:** Metal appliances (stoves, washer/dryer, dishwasher), grills, water tanks, microwaves, metal roofing, pots and pans, bicycles. Any item that is mostly metal included. No fridges, freezers, A/Cs, dehumidifiers.

**ELECTRONICS:** TVs, computers (incl. mouse/keyboard/speakers), computer printers, radio/stereos, gaming systems, telephones, fax machines.

**HOUSEHOLD TRASH:** Trash disposal is available at recycling center, \$3.00/30-gallon bag, \$4.00 for larger bags. Fees subject to change, contact town office for current pricing. Residents can also contract with private haulers for curbside collection, find our Licensed Hauler List at <http://www.nekwmd.org/pdf/haulerlist.pdf>

**SPECIAL WASTES:** Hard Cover Books, Cellular Phones, Fluorescent Bulbs.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** – May through the end of September **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** in Lyndonville, & special Saturday events throughout the District. Call for details.

In addition to services provided at this location, district residents have access to disposal services at the Lyndonville Recycling Center, 224 Church St, Lyndonville.

Recycling, Food Scraps, Scrap Metal, E-waste, Waste Oil, Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, Freon-Containing Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers, A/C units, and Dehumidifiers), Styrofoam, Stump Dump, all free of charge, and Tire Disposal, fees apply, available at the Lyndonville Recycling Center.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS – CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AT (802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org), e-mail [outreach@nekwmd.org](mailto:outreach@nekwmd.org)

Updated 1/2023



# Groton/Ryegate Recycling Attendant's Report

Please Note that Stickers are now required to use the facility. Homeowners and renters in the towns of Ryegate and Groton can get a free sticker at the Town Clerk's office or at the Recycling Center. Out of town visitors are able to purchase a sticker for \$25 at both locations.

Note- Only Plastics 1-5 are recyclable. Black plastic food containers, 1-5 can be recycled.

## BULK WASTE PRICING- Effective June 1, 2023

### Mattress:

King or Queen-\$20.00

Full or Twin-\$10.00

### Box Spring:

King or Queen-\$10.00

Full or Twin-\$5.00

Couch-(Regular)-\$20.00

(Sectional)-\$30.00

Recliner-----\$10.00

Wooden Chair or Rocking Chair-\$5.00

## CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION

Full Pick-up Truck or Equivalent

(Floor to side rails)

Full---\$40.00

Half---\$20.00

Quarter---\$10.00

**\*NOTE\***

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

## TIRES

Up to 17 inches-\$4.00

The price is more for Larger Tires



# NEK Waste Management Hazardous Waste Collection



DATE	TIME	LOCATION
SATURDAY, MAY 11	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Ryegate Transfer Station
SATURDAY, MAY 18	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Peacham Transfer Station
SATURDAY, JUNE 1	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Derby Recycling Center
SATURDAY, JUNE 8	8:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.	Brunswick Town Office
SATURDAY, JUNE 22	8:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.	Newport Center Town Garage
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10	3:00 p.m. – 7:00p.m.	Barnet Transfer Station
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3	8:00 a.m. – 11:00a.m.	Greensboro Recycling Center
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14	1:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m.	Lunenburg Transfer Station
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Lyndon Recycling Center

The NEKWMD reserves the right to terminate any collection early in the event that we are at storage capacity. Please limit HHW disposal at listed events to 25 gallons. If you have more than 25 gallons, please call our office to schedule an appointment at our Lyndonville facility, May 2 – Oct. 3, 2024.

Not going to be able to make any of these dates? NOT A PROBLEM! The NEKWMD will be accepting these materials by appointment at our Lyndonville facility from May 2, 2024 to October 3, 2024. Due to regulatory handling requirements, hazardous wastes will not be accepted without an appointment. Scheduling ahead ensures that a qualified individual will be on-site ready to accept your hazardous waste.

**\*\*HHW Collections are free and open to residents of all DISTRICT TOWNS\*\***

What are *Household Hazardous Products*? They are consumer products that contain ingredients that may be:

*Toxic*- poisonous if eaten, breathed, or absorbed through the skin

*Corrosive*- can burn or destroy living tissue if spilled on skin

*Reactive*- creates fumes, heat, or explosion hazards if mixed with certain materials such as water

*Explosive*- can explode with exposure to heat or pressure

*Flammable/Ignitable*- can easily be set on fire

To determine if a product in your home is hazardous, check the label for the following words:

Danger indicates that the substance is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic.

Poison means that the substance is highly toxic.

Caution/Warning is put on all other hazardous substances that are a somewhat lesser hazard, but are still dangerous if the directions are not followed closely.

Conditionally Exempt Generator businesses can also use the Lyndonville collections for the actual cost of the disposal of their materials. Please call ahead for pricing and an appointment.

## CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEM'S YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY

802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org)

The NEKWMD hazardous waste collection program is made possible in part by a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. This year's grant totaled \$74074.31

# NEK Waste Management Hazardous Waste

## Acceptable HHW Materials

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- AEROSOLS
- AIR FRESHENERS
- AMMONIA
- ARTS AND CRAFTS SUPPLIES
- BLEACH
- CLEANERS (INCLUDES: DRAIN, OVEN, FLOOR, WINDOW, TOILET, RUG, ETC.)
- DISINFECTANTS
- METAL & FURNITURE POLISH
- MOTHBALLS
- MERCURY THERMOMETERS
- NAIL POLISH & REMOVER
- NI-CD, LITHIUM, MI-MH, AND BUTTON CELL BATTERIES
- SPOT & STAIN REMOVERS
- ALKALINE BATTERIES \*

### GARDEN SUPPLIES

- CREOSOTE
- DIOXINS
- FERTILIZERS
- FLEA KILLERS
- FUNGICIDES
- HERBICIDES
- INSECT SPRAYS
- MURIATIC ACID
- NO-PEST STRIPS
- PESTICIDES
- RODENT KILLERS

### GARAGE

- ANTIFREEZE
- BRAKE FLUID \*
- CORROSIVES

- CAR WAXES AND CLEANERS

### GARAGE (CONTINUED)

- ENGINE DEGREASERS
- FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS \*
- GASOLINE/DRY GAS
- KEROSENE
- LEAD-ACID CAR BATTERIES \*
- LIGHTER FLUID
- OIL-BASED PAINT
- LATEX-BASED PAINT
- PAINT THINNER
- PROPANE CYLINDERS
- SEALANTS
- STAINS/STRIPPERS
- SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS
- TRANSMISSION FLUID \*
- WOOD PRESERVATIVES
- USED MOTOR OIL AND FILTERS \*

\* ALSO ACCEPTED AT OIL AND BATTERY STATIONS YEAR ROUND

### PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- ASBESTOS
- EXPLOSIVES, INCLUDING GUN POWDER, AMMUNITION
- FLARES
- INFECTIOUS WASTE
- PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION
- RADIOACTIVE WASTE, INCLUDING SMOKE DETECTORS
- UNKNOWN GAS CYLINDERS
- EMPTY CONTAINERS

**CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEM'S YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY**  
802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org)

## Vermont Green Up Inc.

Green Up Day, continued to grow with 23,500 volunteers statewide who cleaned up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future

generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as keep residents civically engaged. Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2024. Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org). Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram

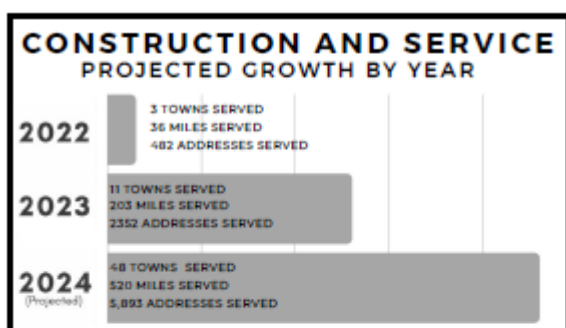
(greenupvermont). [greenup@greenupvermont.org](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org) 802-522-7245

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT




## DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

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



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

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

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

**NEK**   
**BROADBAND**

## GRANTS & FINANCING

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

## BUILDING CAPACITY

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

## BUDGET SUMMARY

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

2023 BUDGET TO ACTUAL (PROJECTED)		2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	Budget	Actual 2023 (Projected)	Projected Surplus from 2023
Administrative Grant Revenue	\$2,252,718	\$996,599	Administrative Grant Revenue
Operations Revenue	\$747,767	\$222,790	Operations Revenue
Capital Grant Revenue	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Capital Grant Revenue
Total Cash In	\$31,785,773	\$11,530,536	Total Cash In
Administrative Cost	\$1,847,194	\$852,862	Administrative Cost
Operational Cost	\$586,601	\$235,395	Operational Cost
Construction Cost	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Construction Cost
Total Cash Out	\$31,219,083	\$11,399,404	Total Cash Out
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$566,690	\$131,132	Annual Net Cash Flow
Increase in Capital Assets	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Increase in Capital Assets

## ABOUT NEK BROADBAND

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

## SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org).



# BMU School District #21 Warning and Notice

## ANNUAL MEETING AND PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

March 4 & March 5, 2024

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

### Article 1:

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

Moderator

Clerk

Treasurer

### Article 2:

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

### Article 3:

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

### Article 4:

To transact any other business thought proper under this warning.

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

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

*Ryegate: Town Hall in Ryegate Corner*

*Groton: Groton Community Building in Groton*

*Wells River: Village Garage in Wells River*

## ANNUAL MEETING AND PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

March 4 & March 5, 2024








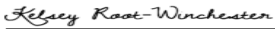

On Tuesday, March 5, 2024 between 10:00 in the morning and 7:00 in the evening there will be a vote by Australian Ballot on the following question:

### Article #1:

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

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

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

 Angeline Bogie	 E. Paul Hazel	 Sasha Emerson
 Allison Ingerson	 Daniel LaCoss	 Kendall Lambert
 Kristen Murray	 Kelsey Root-Winchester	 Alissa Smith

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

  
Lauren Nelson  
Clerk

# State Representative Report

115 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT 05633-5201

PHONE: (802) 828-2228  
FAX: (802) 828-2424



## STATE OF VERMONT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 26th, 2024

To the Esteemed Residents of the Town of Ryegate,

I have been serving as your representative in Montpelier for just a little over a year now, and every day that I am in the capital, or back home in our town, I think of ways that I can use my voice and my actions to make life better for all of us. It has been a great joy to hear the thoughts from those of you who have called or sent me messages, and I hope that you all find it easy to get in touch with me. My legislative email address is [bfarlice-rubio@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bfarlice-rubio@leg.state.vt.us), and I hope to hear from you soon.

Through my work as a member of the House Health Care Committee, I helped to stabilize funding for our state's Emergency Medical Services so that you know that someone will be there when you have a tragedy strike in the middle of the night. Although the Groton Ryegate Fast Squad does amazing work and has already saved so many lives, they do not get compensated for patients that don't get transported to the hospital. We continue work this year to help our essential first responders get funding and equipment to help keep us alive. We improved the condition of our mental health care providers, like Northeast Kingdom Human Services, and our community health centers, to make sure that they have what they need to keep you healthy. We also passed two suicide prevention bills that we know have already saved lives. Outside of my committee, I supported the historic investment in child care, Act 76, and Act 47, which seeks to lower the barriers for construction and access to new housing.

I understand that for many of you, your biggest concern is the unsustainable increase in property taxes. The causes are many, but one of the main factors causing this rise is the cost of health care. I want you to know that lowering that burden has become one of our highest priorities in the State House, and I continue to explore ways to solve this problem. One solution to improve our financial picture is to attract more young families to Ryegate to increase the tax base, and to keep the Blue Mountain Union School thriving. This is why increasing housing opportunities and access to child care are so important to me.

This year, I am an original co-sponsor of a bill, H.719, that aims to remove the regulatory red-tape, an inadvertent side-effect of Act 250, to further enable the construction of housing in village centers like Ryegate Corner and South Ryegate. This tri-partisan bill was heralded by Governor Phil Scott himself. I have also crafted my first bills, including H.807, which fights censorship in school libraries, and H.810, which gives farms a new way to attract young workers that will hopefully lead to them putting down roots in Ryegate. Please come visit me in Montpelier, if you can, while we are in session. Otherwise, I hope to see you on the weekends or at Town Meeting.

It continues to be an honor to serve you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby Farlice-Rubio".

Rep. Bobby Farlice-Rubio

Vermont House of Representatives, serving Caledonia One - Barnet, Ryegate, and Waterford

# Synopsis of March 7, 2023 Town Meeting

The following people were elected or re-elected to office:

**ARTICLE 1:** Moderator for 1 Year: Regina Hazel

**ARTICLE 2:**

Town Clerk for 1 Year: Elizabeth Page

Treasurer for 1 Year: Cheryl Slayton

Select Board for 3 Years: Regina Hazel

Auditors for 3 Years: Thomas Dole

Auditors for 2 Years: Lauren Nelson

No Constable was nominated or elected.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 Year: Dale Wright

Cemetery Commission for 5 years: Melissa Mann

Library Trustee for 5 years: Marsha Nelson

School Director for 3 years: Allana Page

**ARTICLE 3:** Passed a budget for operating expenses of \$1,222,838.24, of which \$1,005,738.24, shall be raised by taxes and \$217,100.00, by non-tax revenues.

**ARTICLE 4:** Town voted to authorize payment of real property taxes in one installment, due October 10<sup>th</sup> and to become delinquent October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**ARTICLE 5:** Town voted those overdue taxes bear interest of one percent per month for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month from the due date of such tax.

**ARTICLE 6:** Town voted to establish an eight percent penalty charged by the Collector of Delinquent Taxes for tax payments made after the due date.

**ARTICLE 7:** Town voted to appropriate \$14,000.00 for the purpose of paying the Town of Ryegate Firefighters and instructed the Select Board to establish an appropriate hourly compensation for Firefighters responding to calls during the fiscal year 2023.

**ARTICLE 8:** To transact any non-binding business that may come before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM



# Vital Statistics

	Marriages								
Date									
25-May		Jessiemay J. Dickey & Anthony R. Murphy							
12-Aug		Levi M. Welch & Rachael A. Cantin							
12-Aug		Philip M. Gibson & Annatasia L. Sturtevant							
10-Sep		Deborah H. Foster & Michael J. Cassidy							
	Births		Name				Parents		
19-Mar		Brysin	Walter	Germain		Felicia L Germain & Joseph E. Paye			
14-Apr		Xalia	Zandria	Heywood		Gabrielle S. Rowell & Alexander J. Heywood			
25-Aug		Nash	Walker	Beck		Katlyn M. Wade			
24-Sep		Paislynn	Kimberly-Mae Brown			Morgan H. Sulham & Ty E. Brown			
	Deaths		Name			Age			
20-Sep	2022	Violet		Cookman		69			
25-Jan	2023	Pauline	Margret	Murray		91			
28-Feb		Robert	A.	Gold		77			
19-Mar		Arnold		Bandy		87			
1-Apr		Randy	L.	Ames		64			
2-Apr		Gerald	M.	Libuda		74			
2-May		Dale	Kenneth	Wright		92			
11-Jun		Asley	Sue	Holbrook		36			
30-Jul		Pamela	Ann	Connors		70			
23-Aug		George	Leslie	Hall		92			
31-Oct		Keith		Teele		55			
3-Nov		Jane	Lynn	Johnson		78			

## Vital Records Law

### The New Vital Records Law (Act 46) and What It Means for You. The changes went into effect on July 1, 2019.

The most notable changes are:

Only family members (as defined in Act 46), legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or legal representatives of any of these parties can apply to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. In the case of a death certificate only, the funeral home or crematorium handling disposition may apply for a certified copy.

An individual must complete an application and show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.

An individual who refuses to complete the application or cannot provide valid identification will be ineligible and referred to the Vital Records Office.

Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town, not just where the birth or death occurred or where the person was a resident.

Certified copies will be issued on anti-fraud paper.

Access to noncertified copies (previously called “informational” copies) is not significantly changed by the new law or rules.

Marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificate copies and processes are not affected by the new law or rules.

VERMONT HEALTH DEPT, HEALTH RECORDS- Phone: 800-439-5008 [VitalRecords@Vermont.gov](mailto:VitalRecords@Vermont.gov)

### Vermont Recording Fees will increase on July 1, 2019.

Document Recording Fees \$15 per page

PTTR (property transfer tax return) \$15 per document

Survey plat recording fees \$25 per sheet

Certified copy of records (no change) \$10 per page

Examination of records (vault time) \$4 per hour

# Warning Annual Town Meeting- Tuesday, March 5, 2024

RYEGATE, VERMONT

## WARNING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

RYEGATE TOWN HOUSE

The citizens of the Town of Ryegate who are legal voters in the annual town meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town House in Ryegate on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. to transact the following business:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a town Moderator for a term of one year

ARTICLE 2: To elect all Town Officers required by law:

Town Clerk for a term of one year

Town Treasurer for a term of one year

Select Board Member for a term of three years

Lister, for a term of three years

Two Auditors, one for a term of three years and one for a term of two years

First Constable for a term of one year

Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years

Library Trustee for a term of five years

Two School Directors, each for a term of three years

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,318,318.50, of which \$1,174,718.50, shall be raised by taxes and \$143,600.00, by non-tax revenues?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the Town of Ryegate authorize its Select Board to expend the \$30,000.00 appropriated at the annual Town Meeting held on March 3, 2020, for the purpose of financing an engineering study on the Ticklenaked Pond Dam to help finance the renewable energy heating project at the town garage and fire station instead of the aforereferenced engineering study?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes in one installment, due October 10<sup>th</sup> and becoming delinquent on October 11<sup>th</sup> with interest assessed on delinquent taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.S 4873?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the town vote that overdue taxes will bear interest at a rate of one percent per month for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 5136?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the town vote to establish the amount of the penalty charged by the Collector of Delinquent Taxes for payments made after the due date for payment to eight percent of the tax collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 1674?

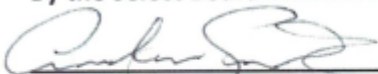
ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to exempt the property owned by the Blue Mountain Grange #263 from road and general fund property taxes for a period of five years (April 1, 2024-March 31, 2029) pursuant to Title 32 VSA 3840?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Ryegate permit the operation of cannabis retailers that are Licensed by the State of Vermont under ACT 164, such sales also being subject To any ordinances or regulations that the Town may lawfully adopt?

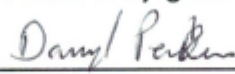
ARTICLE 10: To transact any non-binding business that may come before the meeting.

Dated this January 26, 2024

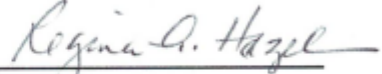
By the Select Board members of the Town of Ryegate:



Andrew Smith, Chair



Darryl Perkins



Regina Hazel

Record before Posting

Attest:  Elizabeth Page Town Clerk

# Important Telephone Numbers and Information

## ***Emergency or Fire 911***

RYEGATE TOWN WEBSITE- [WWW.RYEGATEVT.ORG](http://WWW.RYEGATEVT.ORG)

Building Permits	584-4444 Dennis Marquise
	802-584-3880 Town Office
Cottage Hospital	603-747-9000
E Ryegate Fire District #2	802-757-3983 Hoyt Darby
Fire Permits	802-584-3611 Gene Perkins
	802-584-3667 Fremont Nelson
Historian	Fremont Nelson, Ryegate Corner
	George Murphy, South Ryegate

## **Ryegate Selectboard**

Regina Hazel	802-584-4417
Darryl Perkins	802-584-4710
Andy Smith, Chair	802-633-2260
Town Clerk, Elizabeth Page	802-584-3880 Phone and Fax
Clerk to Select Board, Elizabeth Page	802-584-3064
Town Garage/Road Crew	802-584-3002
Dog Officer- Rachel Clough	802-249-9305
United Ways Agencies for VT 211	
VT Center for Independent Living	802-639-1522
NEK Waste Management	800-734-4602
NEK Youth Services	802-748-8732

## **State Legislators**

Sen. Joseph Benning- R	802-626-3600 office
Sen. Jane Kitchel- D	802-684-3482 home
Rep. Bobby Farlice-Rubio	802-745-7910 office

***Selectboard Meetings*** 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7pm Town Office Building

***Town Clerk-*** Mon 1-5, Tues 1-5, Weds 1-5, Fri 9-1

***Recycling Center*** Friday 3-6 pm Saturday 8- noon

## ***Photo Driver's License***

Every Thursday (except holidays)

8:45am- 3:30pm Green Mountain Mall, St. Johnsbury, VT

Town of

# Ryegate

18 South Bayley-Hazen Rd  
Ryegate Corner, VT 05042