

A scenic view of a lake with a forested shoreline and a blue sky with clouds. The water is dark blue with small waves. The shoreline is covered in dense green trees. A few small buildings are visible on the shore, including a white building with a blue roof. The sky is a clear blue with a few white clouds.

Town of

FAIRLEE, VERMONT

ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023

Town of Fairlee Services & Office Hours

Visit us on the Web at: www.fairleevt.gov

TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE HOURS

(Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am – 3:30 pm; Friday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm or by appointment)

TOWN OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER 802-333-4363

Town Clerk	EXT. 1
Town Administrator/Selectboard Office.....	EXT. 2
Zoning Office.....	EXT. 3
Treasurer.....	EXT. 4
Listers’ Office	EXT. 5
Delinquent Tax Collector.....	EXT. 7
Town Fax	802-333-9214
Samuel Morey Elementary School.....	802-333-9755
Rivendell Academy	603-353-4321
Rivendell District Office.....	603-353-2170
Town Beach	802-333-9416

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER..... DIAL 911

NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Upper Valley Ambulance.....	802-333-4043
Health Officer	802-333-4363 EXT. 3
Local Police and Animal Control	802-333-4363 EXT. 6
Vermont State Police	802-748-3111

FAIRLEE TRASH & RECYCLING (including Metal and Brush Dump)

For Fairlee Residents & Taxpayers only
Dump Pass required (purchase from the Town Clerk for \$10.00)
Saturdays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Transfer Station located on Dump Road off of US Route 5 South
For Transfer Station/E-Waste information: see Fairlee Town Website www.fairleevt.gov

PUBLIC LIBRARY – Telephone 802-333-4716

Closed Sunday & Monday
Tuesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Wednesday 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Thursday and Friday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

POST OFFICE – Telephone 802-333-4305

Monday – Friday: Lobby: 7:30 am to 4:45 pm; Window: 9:00 am to 4:15 pm
Closed daily 11:00 am to 12:15 pm
Saturday: Lobby: 7:30 am to 12:00 pm; Window: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

SEASONAL RESIDENTIAL WATER turned on by May 15, 2024 and turned off after October 15, 2024

SELECTBOARD MEETING – Monday evenings at 6:00 pm

See the town website: www.fairleevt.gov for Selectboard Zoom meeting information.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING – First Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING – Second and Fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm as needed

FIREMEN’S MEETING –

Regular Meeting – First Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm
Drill – Third Thursday at 6:00 pm

FAST SQUAD MEETING – as needed

*Agency and Community Organization Reports are available on the Fairlee website www.fairleevt.gov
and at the Town Clerk’s Office.*

2023

**Annual Report
of the Officers of the Town of Fairlee (Orange County)
PO Box 95 • Fairlee, Vermont 05045**



**Chartered in 1761 • Population 988 as of 2020
Area 11,490 acres • Altitude 430 Feet • 72 09' W, 43 55'**

In Dedication

*This year we remember those who
gave of their time serving on boards
or volunteering in the town:*



*Marilyn (Lynn) Chapman
Duane Cook
Mary Harris
Patricia (Pat) Henderson
Jim O'Donnell
Paul Sargent*

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**Agency and Community Organization Reports are available
on the Fairlee website
www.fairleevt.gov and at the Town Clerk's Office.**

Fairlee Town Officers – 2023/2024

		Term Expires
Moderator (elected for one year term)	Bruce Taylor	March 2024
Town Clerk (elected for three year term)	Georgette Wolf-Ludwig	March 2024
Town Treasurer (elected for three year term)	Lisa Hinsley	March 2026
Assistant Town Clerk (appointed by Town Clerk)	Barbara Lantery	March 2024
Assistant Treasurers (appointed by Town Treasurer)	Jennifer Garrow	March 2024
	Georgette Wolf-Ludwig	March 2024
Selectboard (elected for three year term)	Peter Berger	March 2024
	Lance Mills, Chair	March 2025
	Vacant	March 2026
Town Administrator	Ryan Lockwood	
Minutes Takers	Joanna Bligh	
	Patricia Tompkins	
First Constable (appointed by Selectboard for one year term)	Dan Ludwig	March 2024
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (appointed by Selectboard for one year term)	Jason Bachus	March 2024
Chief of Police (appointed by Selectboard for one year term)	Wayne Briggs	March 2024
Road Commissioners	Selectboard	
Water Commissioners	Selectboard	
Listers (elected for three year term)	Dan Ludwig	March 2024
	Noël Walker, Chair	March 2025
	Russell Collins	March 2026
Auditors (elected for three year term)	Sandra Smith-Ordway, Chair	March 2025
	Jane Chambers	March 2024
	Vacant	March 2026
Budget Committee (elected for three year term)	Dan Ludwig	March 2024
	Richard Kenney, Chair	March 2025
	Adam Stewart	March 2026
	Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Budget Committee Clerk	
Fairlee Planning Commission (elected for four year term)	Susanne Pacilio	March 2025
	E. Smith Reed	March 2025
	Miranda Clemson	March 2024
	Lynn Fitzhugh	March 2027
	Timothy Danen, Vice Chair (appointed until town meeting 2024)	March 2024
	Robert Chapin, Chair	March 2024
	Vacant	March 2026
Zoning Administrator	Chris Brimmer	
Development Review Board (appointed by Selectboard for three year term)	Vacant	March 2024
	William Dunnack, Vice Chair	March 2024
	Robert Wertheimer	March 2025
	Timothy Danen, Chair	March 2026
	Gary Gardner	March 2026
	Vacant (Alternate, one year term)	March 2023
	Vacant (Alternate, one year term)	March 2023
Cemetery Commissioners (elected for five year term)	Charles Hinsley, Chair	March 2026
	Lawrence Farnham	March 2027
	Chad Pierson	March 2028
	Eric Sleeper	March 2024
	Lance Mills	March 2025

		Term Expires
Grand Jurors (appointed for one year term)	Clyde Blake II	March 2024
	William Dunnack, Jr.	March 2024
Town Agent to Prosecute & Defend Suits (appointed position)	Vacant	March 2023
Town Agent to Transfer Real Estate	Georgette Wolf-Ludwig	
Trustees of Public Library (elected for five year term)	Charlotte Williams	March 2026
	Cyrie Lange, Chair	March 2027
	Diane Church	March 2028
	Jennifer Johnson	March 2024
	Stacey Dunham	March 2025
Recreation Council Board (elected for three year term)	Vacant	March 2025
	Vacant	March 2026
	Cameron Buster	March 2024
	Meghann Brough Bourn	March 2024
	Robyn Noble	March 2024
Animal Control Officer	Wayne Briggs	
Emergency Management Coordinator	Peter Berger	
Fence Viewers	Larry Martin, Vacant	
Inspector of Lumber, Shingles & Wood	Clyde Blake II	
Weigher of Coal	Clyde Blake II	
Pound Keeper	Bradford Veterinary Clinic	
Tree Warden	Larry Martin	
Fire Department Chief	Andrew Godfrey	
Forest Fire Warden	Eric Sleeper	July 01, 2028
Forest Fire Warden's Key Man	Robert Maddock, Jr.	
Town Service Agent	Georgette Wolf-Ludwig	April 01, 2024
Justices of the Peace	Peter Berger	
	Eric Brooks	
	Rita Temple Brooks	
	Timothy Danen	
	Calista Diane	
Health Officer	Chris Brimmer	December 31, 2024
Deputy Health Officer	Vacant	
Representative to Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning	Peter Berger, Alternate Vacant	
Representatives to Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Trans Advisory Council	Ryan Lockwood, E. Smith Reed	
Representative to Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District	Arlene Guest	
Fairlee Representatives to Tri-Town Commission (appointed by Selectboard for one year term)	Peter Berger	
	Tom Ward	
Fairlee Historical Society	Donald Weaver, President	
	Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Vice President/Curator	
	Judy Stone, Asst. Curator	
	Noël Walker, Secretary	
	Jennifer Garrow, Treasurer	

Town Officers – continued

		Term Expires
Forest Board	Dan Ludwig, Chair	
	Reginald Cramer III	
	Chaz Hinsley	
	Mitchell Phelps	
	Lauren Ludwig	
E911 Coordinator	Noël Walker	
Assistant Judges of Orange County Court	Joyce McKeeman, Laurel Mackin	
Orange District Probate Court, 5 Court Street, Chelsea, VT 05038	Kathryn Kennedy, Judge	
	Jill Boone, Registrar	
Senator from Orange-2 District	Mark MacDonald	
Representative to General Assembly	Monique Priestley	
Lake Morey Protective Association Officers	Laura Tucker, President	
	E. Smith Reed, Vice-President	
	Bill Minard, Treasurer	
	Ginny Reed, Secretary	
Lake Morey Commission Members (appointed by Selectboard for a one year term)	Donald Weaver, Co-Chair	
	Greg Allen, Co-Chair	
	Bruce Durgin	
	Byron Stone	
	Vacant	
Representative to Green Mountain Economic Development Corp.	Peter Berger	
Upper Valley Ambulance, Inc.	Representative: Richard Senn	
	Director: Alan Beede	
Connecticut Joint Rivers Commission	Peter Berger	
Green-Up Day Coordinator	Peter Berger	
Fairlee Scholarship Committee	Jane Chambers	
	Lisa Hinsley	
	Georgette Wolf-Ludwig	



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024
WARNING**

The legal voters of the Town of Fairlee, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Fairlee Town Hall in the said Town on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. to act upon the following articles:

Article 1. To elect a Moderator, for one year

Article 2. To hear and act upon the Town Officers' Reports.

Article 3. To elect all necessary officers of the Town and to fill terms of any office that may be vacant, including:

Moderator, for one year
Selectboard Member, for 3 years
Selectboard member, for 2 years
Town Clerk, for 3 years
Lister, for 3 years
Budget Committee Member, for 3 years
Auditor, for 3 years
Auditor, for 2 years
Cemetery Commissioner, for 5 years
Library Trustee, for 5 years
Planning Commission Member, for 2 years
Planning Commission Member, for 4 years
Planning Commission Member, for 4 years
Planning Commission Member, for 4 years
Recreation Council Member, for 1 year
Recreation Council Member, for 2 years
Recreation Council Member, for 3 years
Recreation Council Member, for 3 years
Recreation Council Member, for 3 years

Article 4. To see what action the Town will take with regard to the following appropriations. All sums have been included in the Town Budget. A sum not to exceed:

- a) Five Hundred dollars **(\$500)** to the **American Red Cross** for disaster support (CO)
- b) Three Hundred dollars **(\$300)** to **Capstone Community Action** for fuel, food, and housing assistance to families (CO)
- c) Four Hundred dollars **(\$400)** to **Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.** for adult education and literacy instruction for residents of Fairlee (CO)
- d) Six Hundred dollars **(\$600)** to **Central Vermont Council on Aging** for senior services including a helpline, transportation, and meal delivery (CO)
- e) One Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five dollars **(\$1,545)** to **Clara Martin Center** for counseling services (CO)
- f) Two Hundred Fifty dollars **(\$250)** to **Cohase Chamber of Commerce** for membership (CO)
- g) Fifty dollars **(\$50)** to **Green Up Vermont** (CO)
- h) Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars **(\$5,250)** to the **Lake Fairlee Association** for milfoil eradication program (CO)
- i) Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars **(\$2,500)** to **Little Rivers Health Care** for insurance and medical assistance including mobile dental van (CO)

- j) Five Hundred dollars (**\$500**) to the **Mentoring Project** for young persons (CO)
- k) Three Hundred fifty dollars (**\$350**) to the **Orange County Restorative Justice Center** a cost-effective alternative to the criminal court system for eligible offenders (CO)
- l) Three Thousand dollars (**\$3,000**) to the **Orange East Senior Center** for providing meal and social services at the center (CO)
- m) Seven Hundred Fifty dollars (**\$750**) to the **Rivendell Recreation Association** to provide elementary sports and recreational activities (CO)
- n) One Thousand dollars (**\$1,000**) to **Safeline** for a hotline for crisis support and referral services (CO)
- o) Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One dollars (**\$3,851**) to **Tri-Valley Transit** for transportation of seniors, persons with disabilities and commuters (CO)
- p) Three Hundred dollars (**\$300**) to the **Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired** for services including rehabilitation, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, social networking, and statewide transportation (CO)
- q) One Hundred Fifty-Five dollars (**\$155**) to the **Vermont Center for Independent Living** to help Vermonters with disabilities by providing the Meals on Wheels Program, Peer Advocacy Counseling Program and information and referral services (CO)
- r) One Hundred dollars (**\$100**) to **Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force** to support Rural Fire Protection Program (CO)
- s) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (**\$250**) for the **Vermont Family Network** for providing support to all Vermont families of children with special needs (CO)
- t) Five Thousand Five Hundred dollars (**\$5,500**) to the **Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT and NH/Hospice of the Upper Valley** for home health care and hospice support services to individuals and their families (CO)
- u) Four Hundred Dollars (**\$400**) to **WISE**, an organization dedicated to supporting people and communities impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking (CO)
- v) Two Hundred dollars (**\$200**) to **Orange County Parent Child Center** helps families with young children through advocacy, support, wellness opportunities (CO)

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee authorize the Selectboard to accept and administer any Federal, State, or private grant money?

Article 6. To act upon the Recommendations of the Budget Committee as they pertain to Highway Expenses and to appropriate a sum of money for Highway Expenses.

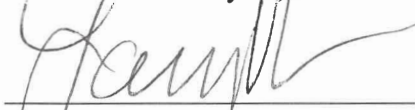
Article 7. To raise such sum of money as may appear necessary for the Maintenance and Improvements of the Town Highways for the ensuing year, and to authorize collection of same by the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA 4791. Property taxes shall be billed on or before September 1, 2024 and shall be due and payable on or before October 1, 2024. Interest shall be at a rate allowed by law and shall be payable on all past due taxes.

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee appropriate the following sums to undertake and save for capital improvements within the Town in accordance with the Capital Budget and Program adopted by the Selectboard? All sums have been included in the Town Budget. A sum not to exceed:

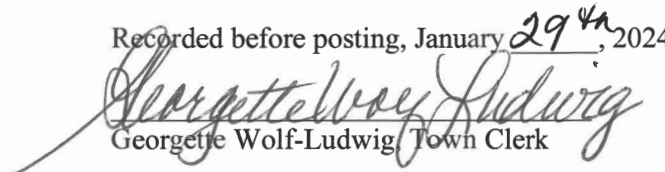
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| a) Town Buildings and Lands Reserve | \$101,573.00 |
| b) Emergency Equipment Reserves | \$20,000.00 |
| c) Town Highway Reserve | \$130,000.00 |
| d) Lake Reserve | \$35,000.00 |

- Article 9. To act upon the recommendations of the Budget Committee as they pertain to Town Expenditures and to appropriate a sum of money for Town Expenses.
- Article 10. To raise such sum of money as may appear necessary for Town Expenses and Indebtedness for the ensuing year and to authorize collection of same by the Town Treasurer per 32 VSA 4791. Property taxes shall be billed on or before September 1, 2024 and shall be due and payable on or before October 1, 2024. Interest shall be at a rate allowed by law and shall be payable on all past due taxes.
- Article 11. To transact any other proper Town business that may come before this meeting.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Fairlee duly called, noticed and held on January 29, 2024.


Lance Mills, Chair
Peter Berger

Recorded before posting, January 29th, 2024


Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Town Clerk

Town Meeting 2024 will be in-person.

Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5th
starting at 10am
in the Auditorium at the Town Hall

You must be present to vote.
Please bring this report to town meeting.

Notes

2023 Report from the Fairlee Selectboard

This Selectboard expects to continue to see significant changes for the Town of Fairlee as we head into 2024. Our report will detail what we are doing to prepare for that change.

Over the past year Fairlee has seen continued growth in the Village Downtown area. The sidewalk project is near completion and it will enable people to safely walk from the old railroad station to the area north of Bridge St. State and Federal sources will continue to provide significant opportunities for the town as we leverage grant monies to pay for the bulk of costs associated with proposed projects. Several village properties have recently changed hands and we are working with the new owners to help them secure state and federal funding to develop those properties into housing and retail spaces.

As we look forward to 2024 a few selectboard goals and objectives are:

- Develop a plan to address the need for increased volunteers on community boards
- Continue to develop a strategic Public Safety Plan
- Continue to update our town ordinances
- Collaborate with the community to develop a strategic growth plan
- Continue the work to with the State to address and protect all Fairlee's natural resources
- Continue to work with private partners to support additional housing and retail space in the village center and Rt. 5 corridor

Town Governance and Volunteers

Fairlee has seen changes in the Town Hall with the retirement of town administrator Tad Nunez last summer. We hired Ryan Lockwood to replace Tad, and Ryan has hit the ground running. Ryan has quickly brought himself up to speed on town matters and we are fortunate to have someone with his expertise and professionalism in that position. We will see changes to the treasurer's office in 2024 as

we expect to hire a finance manager to help us manage the town's finances.

We continue to try to find ways to get community members to volunteer to serve on the various boards and organizations that serve our community. The makeup of boards like the Planning Commission, Rec Council, Development Review Board, and the Fire Department need to be addressed as community members aren't stepping forward as they have in past years. There are numerous ongoing conversations across the region about what the future of volunteer fire departments looks like. The Fairlee Fire Department recently elected Andrew Godfrey to be the new fire chief and the selectboard will work with him to develop strategies to recruit new members to our volunteer fire department.

Police

Our Police Department will see a change this year as we increase the position from 30 hours per week to 40 hour per week and increase Chief Wayne Briggs' salary to more accurately reflect the salaries of other local police chiefs. Over the past year, Chief Briggs has documented an increase in activity within our town, and we are taking steps to ensure the safety of all community members. We will also add a part time administrative officer position to assist with enforcing town ordinances.

ARPA

The Town has until the end of 2024 to allocate the roughly \$292,000 we received in ARPA funds. We have already used ARPA funds for two projects from the Better Connections Grant and for the sidewalks and crosswalks along the Rt. 5 corridor from Bridge Street to the Railroad station. We have earmarked ARPA funds for a town vault project as we need to expand the capacity of the vault and install climate control to protect our valuable town records. We will meet the 2024 deadline as we continue to leverage ARPA funds to secure grants to help pay for projects.

Town Buildings

We continue to work to find ways to secure grants to enhance town properties like the Town Hall, Railroad Station, old Fire Station, Emergency Services Building, and the Fairlee Town Library. We are in the process of doing a structural analysis of the library building to determine how we might best proceed to continue to meet the ever-increasing needs of the community. It is well documented how libraries have seen an increase in use and an expanded role in communities. We are also looking at what it would take to convert the old fire station into additional space for our Chief of Police. Chief Briggs is currently using the Historical Society's space upstairs at the town hall. We are required to have a secure place to store police records, and the Historical Society needs their space back.

In Closing

We continue to see many positive changes in our community due to our dedicated Town Hall staff and volunteers who serve on our various boards and organizations. We expect to see further positive growth in 2024, especially in our downtown area. The Selectboard is very grateful to all the elected officers, committees, boards, and the many other volunteers who give a significant part of their lives to help our community grow in a positive way. We ask for your support by approving the 2024 budget so we can continue that positive growth.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Mills, Chair

Peter Berger, Vice Chair



Paul Sargent, past Fairlee selectboard member from March 1977 – March 1980 driving his 1934 Ford Woody Wagon.

2023 Report from the Fairlee Board of Auditors

The two Auditors met one time in 2023. We have examined the accounts and financial statements of the Town of Fairlee for FY2023 in compliance with Title 24 Vermont Statutes.

The yearly reviews by certified accountants and full audits every 3 years are supported by the auditors.

We continue to be a board that is not fully occupied. As the selectboard noted in their report, we ask you to consider where you may be able to serve your community.

We are thankful for the time and effort that Georgette, Ryan, and Lisa have provided us to ensure the town report is distributed on time.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Smith-Ordway

Jane Wilson Chambers

2023 Report from the Fairlee Budget Committee

The Fairlee Budget Committee held and attended the following duly warned meetings during the FY 2024 budget process:

- October 16, 2023 – Committee members attended the Selectboard meeting to begin the budget season. The Selectboard and department heads discussed proposed budget items for the coming year.
- November 13, 2023 – The committee met with the Selectboard to review FY23 YTD accruals.
- December 4, 2023 – The committee met with the Selectboard, Treasurer, and Town Administrator to discuss the draft 2024 town budget.
- January 8, 2024 – The committee held its annual public budget hearing via in-person attendance and Zoom.



Paul Sargent and his son, Scott, driving in his favorite car – 1934 Ford Cabriolet. Paul served as the Fire Chief 1967–1968 and on the Planning board.

- January 16, 2024 – The Budget Committee met to review and formulate budget recommendations. This was followed by the committee providing those recommendations to the Selectboard.

The primary objective of these meetings was to review department budgets and discuss the impacts of any changes or increases. Overall, the budget process was far less contentious this season than in the year prior, with significantly fewer public concerns voiced during the annual budget hearing. This is likely due to a lower proposed increase to the municipal tax rate, coupled with a present focus on the ongoing school budget process.

Following the public hearing on January 8 and committee discussion on January 16, the Budget Committee made the following recommendations to the Selectboard at the January 16 Selectboard meeting:

The Budget Committee believes that certain procedural changes will allow it to better fulfill its oversight role in the budget process. The first of these changes is the adoption of a Selectboard proposal for quarterly budget review meetings. The purpose of these meetings would be to review budget variance reports, providing the committee with a periodic opportunity to examine the town's budget performance.

In addition, the committee sees a need for better communication about budget relevant Selectboard agenda items and draft budget changes, especially in the intervening weeks between the early December draft budget review and the Budget Committee's annual hearing. This includes periodic notice of budget changes as well as an updated draft budget provided to the committee the week prior to the annual hearing. In turn, this also includes the expectation for greater committee member participation at Selectboard meetings during those weeks.

The committee initially questioned the addition of funds allocated to communications wages, although we agree with the Selectboard's objectives of better notification and transparency in allocating those funds. We concur that these funds are neces-

sary given modern communication methods.

The Budget Committee supports the increases to the police budget. We believe a compelling case has been made for why these increases are necessary and that they provide a net-benefit to Fairlee.

The committee is supportive of the wage funds set aside for grant writing. We are hopeful that this will allow the town to better pursue its grant funding needs while also shifting the burden off of town workers.

The committee is aware that the current draft budget remains subject to change. We are nonetheless encouraged by the significantly lower proposed tax increase vs. the prior year. We are hopeful that this may indicate a return to a more sustainable rate of spending growth in the years to come.

The Budget Committee would like to thank the Selectboard and department heads for their dedicated efforts in assembling the 2024 town budget. We would like to thank them for their continued efforts to overcome inflated costs and other economic challenges while successfully meeting the needs of the town.

Please feel free to reach out to any budget committee member with any further input on this year's budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Kenney, Chair
Dan Ludwig
Adam Stewart

2023 Report from the Fairlee Town Administrator

With Tad's retirement in August and the onboarding of the new Town Administrator, Ryan Lockwood, the transition phase in the town administrator's office was seamless.

We found it only fitting to share the writing of this report, so we are pleased to report the following completed and ongoing activities of the Town Administrator's Office during the 2023 year:

- The four new windows are installed: Zoning, TA, and Treasurer's offices.
- Met with Wayne Briggs to discuss his newly hired position.
- Participate in the Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) Rulemaking Focus group. The purpose of the group is to discuss the rationale and approaches for ANC Rulemaking, including identification of key rulemaking themes and provide a background presentation on ANC permitting process to date and discuss ANC Statute & Definitions.
- The Town may elect to sign onto another national opioid settlement to participate in one or more of the settlements with new Settling Defendants (Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart).
- Town Hall rentals included: FCA, Private Parties, Funeral, Comedy Show, School Theater Production, Scottish Dancers and 5 Music events.
- Engage in the Lake Morey Alum treatment project. The Lake Morey Foundation has funded the necessary consulting reports to move the project forward. The TA office submitted the necessary VT State documents to ensure that the town is eligible for funds to complete the project.
- TA office completed the sidewalk project, funded in part by the VT State grant.
- Lance Colby received high honors at the annual VT Rural Water Association, receiving the Tony Torchia award. He was recognized for his professional contributions to water/wastewater field in Vermont. He was nominated via the Town Administrator's office.
- The VT Downtown Development Board awarded a grant to Fairlee in the amount of \$200,000 from the Downtown Transportation Fund for the Stormwater Section 2 Project. Town match is \$67,137.
- The Fire Department is now officially part of the National Fire Incident Reporting Software (NFIRS) reporting program via the Hanover Fire Department. This is the reporting tool to keep track of the calls made by the Fire Department. The annual cost is \$1,500.
- We have received our Municipal General Roads Permit. This is one of the VTrans permits which keeps the Town in compliance to receive State funding.
- We received an award notification for the aquatic nuisance grant.
Requested: Greeter \$16,101.50 & Management \$16,502.50.
Received: Greeter \$5,178.00 and Management \$7,325
- The exterior of the town hall was painted. The project included repairs, scraping, sanding, priming, and painting of the entire exterior of the building.
- Received Community Capacity Building grant – Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) agreement signature page. The funds of \$4,000 must be obligated by 12/31/24 and must be expended by 12/31/2026.
- Installed a new mechanical gate at the Transfer Station.
- Received VTrans 2023 Grant in Aid funds (\$12,500) to restore the three deficient culverts on Lake Morey Rd. west side.

- Received a small-scale highway grant in the amount of \$27,050. The grant funds will be used to purchase new safety signs and clearing low-lying tree branches. Grant funding included labor, signs, and materials.
- The above are just the highlights of the 2023 activities. I look forward to continually working with the Selectboard, Town Staff, all Boards/Committees/Commissions, and members of the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad Nunez, Town Administrator

New Town Administrator Addendum

When I took over the TA office from Tad in September, I felt so fortunate that he agreed to help me with the transition and navigate with me through all of the exciting and detailed projects that the Town

was in the middle of. The task was more daunting than I could have anticipated, and I could not have settled in half as smoothly as I did without both his support and the support of everyone working to make Fairlee a great place to live; employees, commission members and citizens alike. Every day that I return here to the Town Hall, I still feel so incredibly fortunate to be welcomed and supported by everyone in Town and I hope I can repay all the goodwill with as many dedicated years of service as possible. I am excited to see what 2024 will bring to our little corner of Vermont and I will do my best to ensure that Fairlee keeps moving forward in a positive direction. The TA's office is always open to everyone so please stop by to discuss anything with me or just to introduce yourselves!

Thank you so much,

Ryan Lockwood, Town Administrator



Marilyn (Lynn) Chapman

Marilyn (Lynn) Chapman and her husband Clellan, (Cal) Chapman were given Mrs. Chapman's Gift Shop in 1957 by Cal's mom, Florence Titus Chapman. Lynn ran her store until she retired in 2016. Lynn welcomed many cus-



tomers and residents over the years. She was always helpful in sharing

her wealth of information and history of the Town.

2023 Report from the Fairlee Town Clerk

2023 brought with it some relief from Covid. Masking became optional in the Town Hall. We were able to have in-person meetings again. In January the Annual Budget Hearing was well attended and Town Meeting in March was true democracy in action. At Town Meeting we recognized our long time Moderator Bruce Taylor for his 25 years of service. I have truly enjoyed working with Bruce all these years. He is an excellent parliamentarian and gentleman. Thank you so much, Bruce, and as you put it, it was a good run!

This year my dear friend and colleague Mary Harris passed away. Mary served the Town of Fairlee as a Justice of the Peace from 2000–2014. Most of those years she was the Chair of the Board of Civil Authority. She took over this position when long time Justice of the Peace Hazel Flanders retired. She helped me run many elections and chaired our tax appeal hearings. As many of you know Mary was in a ter-



Mary Harris

rrible car accident in 1992. She was only 47 years old. The accident left her paralyzed from the waist down, but this never stopped her. She snowmobiled, rode an ATV, and loved working in her garden. She also loved working as a Justice of the Peace. She would come to the town office regularly. Even after she retired as a Justice of the Peace, Mary and I continued a close relationship. I looked up to her. She was truly an inspiration.

In closing, many thanks to my Assistant Barbara Lantery, all the Town Staff, Select-board, Department Heads, and our Volunteers for their hard work this year. It's been a difficult couple of years for all of us and yet we continue to support one another and work together for the common goal of serving the Town of Fairlee. "The Town under the Cliff".

Respectfully submitted,
Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, CVC/MMC
Fairlee Town Clerk

The 2024 Dump/Beach Pass

is now available for purchase at the Town Clerk's Office or by mail.

You can find the fill-in form on our website www.fairleevt.gov

Passes are \$10.00 Additional passes are \$5.00 each.

The Fairlee Rabies Clinic

will be on

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 from 5:30pm–6:30pm at the Fire Station.

Fairlee residents may also license their dogs at this time.

The deadline to license dogs is Monday, April 1, 2024.

Dog license renewals will be mailed out to dog owners who licensed their dogs in 2023.

For new dogs, licenses can also be purchased through the mail or in person with a valid rabies certificate.

Please contact the Town Clerk's Office for more information.

Dog fees are: \$9.00 for spayed or neutered, \$13.00 for unspayed or unneutered.

Town Clerk's office hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00am–3:30pm

and Friday 10:00am–12:00noon

If you are unable to come in during my regular business hours,
please feel free to contact me and set up an appointment.

I can be reached at the Town Clerk's Office 333-4363 ext. 1 or
by email at townclerk@fairleevt.gov.

Town Clerk's Report of Licenses Sold in 2023

LIQUOR LICENSES ISSUED IN 2023

First Class Licenses

Avery Inns of VT/Lake Morey Country Club	115.00
Avery Inns of VT/Lake Morey Resort	115.00
Broken Heart Burgers	115.00
Leda's Pizza Restaurant	115.00
Samurai Soul Food	115.00

Second Class Licenses

Champlain Farms	70.00
Chapman's Store	70.00
Dollar General #15272	70.00
Applegreen NE LLC	70.00
Wing's Supermarket	140.00

Total	<u>\$ 995.00</u>
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DOG LICENSES ISSUED IN 2023

166 Neutered Males/Spayed Females @ \$4.00	644.00
41 Males and Females @ \$8.00	328.00
Collected for State of VT 207 Licenses Sold @ \$5.00	1,035.00

Late Fees	68.00
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Total	<u>\$ 2,095.00</u>
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CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED IN 2023

18 Paid to Town – Licenses	420.00
Paid to Town – Fees	180.00
17 Collected for State of Vermont	1,080.00

Total	<u>\$ 1,680.00</u>
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Peter Berger, Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Larry Martin, Mary Harris, Mary Daly, and Gay-C Gahagan

Births Reported in 2023

<u>NAME OF CHILD</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>PLACE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>NAME OF PARENTS</u>
Lylah Jayne Field	Female	April 29, 2023	St. Johnsbury, VT	Katie Marie Field & Andrew Isaac Field
Emrouse Rocky Lucky Stearns	Male	June 26, 2023	St. Johnsbury, VT	Nicole Marie Balch & Sean Allen Stearns
Julia Marguerite Fentiman	Female	August 15, 2023	St. Johnsbury, VT	Anne-Marie Noel Trudeau & Travis Fentiman
Sawyer Jane Ludwig	Female	September 8, 2023	Hanover, NH	Nicholas & Lauren Ludwig

Births are not listed unless reported to the Town Clerk

Deaths Reported in 2023

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>PLACE OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
James G. O'Donnell	84	Fairlee, VT	February 22, 2023
Barbara Mae Sargent	85	Riverview, FL	March 29, 2023
Bernhard E. Poschmann	57	Fairlee, VT	April 25, 2023
Marilyn (Lynn) P. Chapman	90	Fairlee, VT	June 29, 2023
Duane Stanley Cook	70	Fairlee, VT	August 1, 2023
Mary Kendall Harris	78	Keene, NH	August 6, 2023
Ronald Merritt Reade II	53	Fairlee, VT	August 31, 2023
Elizabeth 'Betty' Barrett	96	Gales Ferry, CT	September 6, 2023
Alfred Lucious Luneau II	66	Fairlee, VT	November 21, 2023
Paul A. Sargent	86	Lebanon, NH	December 1, 2023
Patricia S. Henderson	97	Ashland, MA	December 17, 2023

Burial Permits & Cremation Certificates Reported in 2023

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>PLACE OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>PLACE OF BURIAL</u>	<u>DATE OF BURIAL</u>
Beverly Hodge	93	Fairlee, VT	January 5, 2021	Fairlee Village Cemetery	June 24, 2023
Herbert James Hodge	94	Lebanon, NH	December 20, 2022	Fairlee Village Cemetery	June 24, 2023
Steven Ward	65	Lebanon, NH	October 3, 2022	Fairlee Village Cemetery	June 24, 2023
Marilyn P. Chapman	90	Fairlee, VT	June 29, 2023	Fairlee Village Cemetery	July 3, 2023
Bernhard E. Poschmann	57	Fairlee, VT	April 26, 2023	Fairlee Village Cemetery	September 30, 2023

Civil Marriages Reported in 2023

<u>APPLICANT A</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>APPLICANT B</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE OF MARRIAGE</u>
Kye C. Ameden	Hanover, NH	Erik Atchison Skarin	Sunapee, NH	May 27, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Vittoria Jane Spada	Manchester, NH	Ruben Michal Williams-Rollins	Manchester, NH	June 3, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Emily Jean Fortier	Bradford, VT	Henry Auchincloss Pond	Bradford, VT	June 3, 2023	Newbury, VT
Jade Marie Young	Nashua, NH	Daniel Francis Kelly	Nashua, NH	June 10, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Shane Edmund Godek	Methuen, MA	Megan Leigh Bruneau	Methuen, MA	June 17, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Taylor Ann Acheson	Orford, NH	Jacob Christopher Perkins	Orford, NH	June 24, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Courtney Calise Temple	Hanover, NH	Morgan Parker Patterson	Hanover, NH	July 22, 2023	Westmore, VT
Molly Lauren Tucker	New York, NY	Abe Baxter Hannigan	New York, NY	August 5, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Richard Ralph Hodge	Thetford, VT	Laura May Fraser	Thetford, VT	August 12, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Sara Dawn Tuttle	Fairlee, VT	Corey Adam Barone	Fairlee, VT	August 5, 2023	Woodstock, VT
David Darran Murphy	Glasgow, Scotland	Aidan Alastair Maccoll	Glasgow, Scotland	August 20, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Miranda Lee Garrow	Fairlee, VT	Taylor Hudson Lamberton	Fairlee, VT	September 2, 2023	Barre, VT
Kayla Cecile Kendall	Dover, NH	Brett David Dockery	Dover, NH	September 16, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Paul Robert Smith	White River Jct, VT	Melinda Janette Lyons	White River Jct, VT	August 13, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Krista Meyerhoff	Lyme, NH	Gregory Byron Stone	Lyme, NH	September 23, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Anabel Rohrer Reggiardo	Avon, MA	Nicholas David Graham	Avon, MA	September 9, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Gregory David Conant	Littleton, CO	Katherine Eva Baker	Littleton, CO	October 7, 2023	Fairlee, VT
Chelsea Grace Perry	West Fairlee, VT	Joshua Douglas Fifield	West Fairlee, VT	October 7, 2023	Fairlee, VT

2024 FAIRLEE ELECTION INFORMATION

Elections are held at the Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd

March 5th – Town Meeting Day • Town Hall auditorium • 10am (in person only)
March 5th – Presidential Primary • Town Hall grange room • polls open 10am – 7pm
August 13th – Statewide Primary • Town Hall auditorium • polls open 10am – 7pm
November 5th – General Election • Town Hall auditorium • polls open 10am – 7pm

General Voting Information

To register to vote, update or verify your voter information or to request an absentee ballot, go to My Voter Page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

Warnings and Sample ballots will be posted at the Town Hall, Library, Post Office, and Town Website: fairleevt.gov

Absentee/Early Voting Information

Absentee Ballots can be requested at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> or by emailing townclerk@fairleevt.gov or calling the Town Clerk's Office 802-333-4363 ext. 1. You may also vote early during the Town Clerk's Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9–3:30pm & Friday 10–12pm.

Presidential Primary Ballots will be available after **January 20, 2024** and you must choose a Democratic or Republican Ballot when you make your request.

Town Meeting Day • Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Town Meeting will be held in the auditorium at Fairlee Town Hall.

The Warning for Town Meeting, which shows the items to be voted on at Town Meeting, will be mailed mid-February to registered voters in the town report. It will also be posted at the Town Hall, Library, Post Office, and Town Website. Fairlee voters elect officers, vote on town and budget articles in-person at Town Meeting.

The following positions are up for election:

- Moderator, for 1 year
- Selectboard Member, for 3 years
- Selectboard Member, for 2 years
- Town Clerk, for 3 years
- Lister, for 3 years
- Budget Committee Member, for 3 years
- Auditor, for 3 years
- Auditor, for 2 years
- Cemetery Commissioner, for 5 years
- Library Trustee, for 5 years

- Planning Commission Member, for 2 years
- Planning Commission Member, for 4 years
- Planning Commission Member, for 4 years
- Planning Commission Member, for 4 years
- Recreation Council Member, for 1 year
- Recreation Council Member, for 2 years
- Recreation Council Member, for 3 years
- Recreation Council Member, for 3 years
- Recreation Council Member, for 3 years

In-person voting will be held in the auditorium at the Fairlee Town Hall beginning at 10am.

Presidential Primary • Tuesday, March 5, 2024

To vote in the Presidential Primary, you must state your party ballot (Democratic or Republican) when checking in at the polling place. Polls will be open at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 10am to 7pm.

To vote by absentee ballot, you will need to request your party ballot (Democratic or Republican).

Statewide Primary • Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Polls will be open at the Fairlee Town Hall on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 from 10am to 7pm.

General Election • Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Ballots will be mailed directly to every active registered voter in Fairlee by the VT Secretary of State's office. Ballots can be returned with the postpaid envelope enclosed.

You can also deposit your ballot in the Town Hall drop box located in the front of the Town Hall by 7pm on election day. Polls will be open at the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 from 10am to 7pm. If you choose to vote at the polls, please bring your ballot with you.

Please contact the Town Clerk's Office if your mailing address has changed ASAP or if you do not receive your General Election ballot in the mail.

2023 Report from the Fairlee Town Treasurer

Another year closed and wrapped up. And what a year it's been. Life in the Treasurer's office continues to get busier day-by-day and just when we think we have it all figured out, the State of Vermont changes things up on us. I think we have had more "firsts" this year than ever before, which after so many years on the job keeps us on our toes.

As of the writing of this report, I am beginning my exit journey out of the Town offices. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here serving the Town of Fairlee and working with the incredible staff. I am excited to pass the reins on to new blood and energy and to see where the office goes from here. I will continue to stay on as Treasurer to help with the transition, but the day-to-day operations will be done by Jennifer Garrow and the Financial Manager position we are currently hiring for.

As a friendly reminder to homeowners, PLEASE be sure to file your HS-122 (Homestead Declaration) form on time every year to avoid being assessed a penalty on your tax bill. If you file for an extension on your income taxes there is NO extension on the HS-122 form. The form must still be filed by April 15th. This year we had multiple taxpayers end up

on the Delinquent Tax list after paying their taxes on time but neglecting to file the HS-122 form. If you don't file the Homestead Declaration form on time then you run the risk of having the State of Vermont "flip the switch" for you, and if that happens after the due date of October 1st then the difference between the Non-Homestead rate and Homestead rate (which is higher) will be billed to you and cause you to be delinquent. You then must pay a late filing fee, a delinquent penalty, and interest on top of the additional tax amount. If you have any questions about how or when to file the HS-122 form please go to <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration> or to the Fairlee website, fairleevt.gov, under the Treasurer's page for more information.

Please remember if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to call, email, or stop by the office and chat.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hinsley, Treasurer
(802) 333-4363 ext. 4
treasurer@fairleevt.gov



2023 Report from the Fairlee Board of Listers

The 2023 Town-Wide Reappraisal was completed with the Grand List increasing by 36%.

In the Spring of 2024 properties that were under construction, and those with zoning permits, will be contacted for inspection.

Fairlee's 2024 CLA is 103.34%. The CLA, or common level of appraisal, is the ratio of actual sales to their listed values. Even with the 2023 Reappraisal, properties are still selling higher than their assessed values. The CLA is used by the VT Dept. of Taxes to equalize the Homestead and Non-Homestead Education Tax Rates to account for the differences in grand lists between towns in Vermont.

**VT Homestead Declarations
must be filed annually by all
residents on or before April 15th,
even if you are filing
an extension.**

**Please remind your tax preparer
of this deadline.**

**It is the property owner's responsibility
to ensure it is filed by April 15th.**

**Filing late or non-filing will result
in a 3% to 8% penalty.**

Form HS-122 Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim and **Schedule HI-144** Household Income must be filed to receive a state property tax credit. It is imperative that the HI-144 is filed by April 15th for a state payment to be applied to an original tax bill.

You may file online at <http://myvtax.vermont.gov> You can also confirm the receipt/status of an electronically filed tax return & Homestead Declaration.

The Vermont Department of Taxes is doing a study to evaluate the Vermont reappraisal process, which includes town wide reappraisals being done every six years, as well as other details of the reappraisal process. The study is scheduled to be completed by December of 2024. We are concerned how this will impact the responsibilities of a town's listers office.

Please keep your contact information updated so town records are current. You can easily do this at the **fairleevt.gov** home page: "Update My Contact Information" on the lower right side.

For assistance or information concerning property assessments, please contact the Listers Office at 802-333-4363 ext.5 or e-mail listers@fairleevt.gov.

Respectfully submitted,
Fairlee Board of Listers
Noël Walker
Dan Ludwig
Russell Collins



*Samuel Morey 1792 Experimental Steam Boiler
donated by John Larrabee and his wife,
Deborah Chambers, on permanent display
at the Town Hall.*

2023 Report from the Fairlee Cemetery Commission

The Cemetery Commission does not typically report very much interesting or exciting news. However 2023 proved to be a little different.

As always we are grateful for the ongoing efforts from Bill and Penny Hodge keeping The Fairlee Village & Ely Cemeteries mowed, trimmed, and looking beautiful, and Steve Robinson's caretaking of the Brushwood Cemetery.

In April a gust of wind blew over a sizable tree on the south-east side of Village Cemetery, laying it down into the cemetery, narrowly missing several of the older stones. Fortunately, there was no damage to any of them!

The Cemetery Commission would also like to give Logan Harris of Fairlee, a student at Rivendell High School, an honorable mention for his volunteer work at the Ely Cemetery.

Logan spent many hours cleaning stones this summer, doing a fantastic job! Thank you Logan!

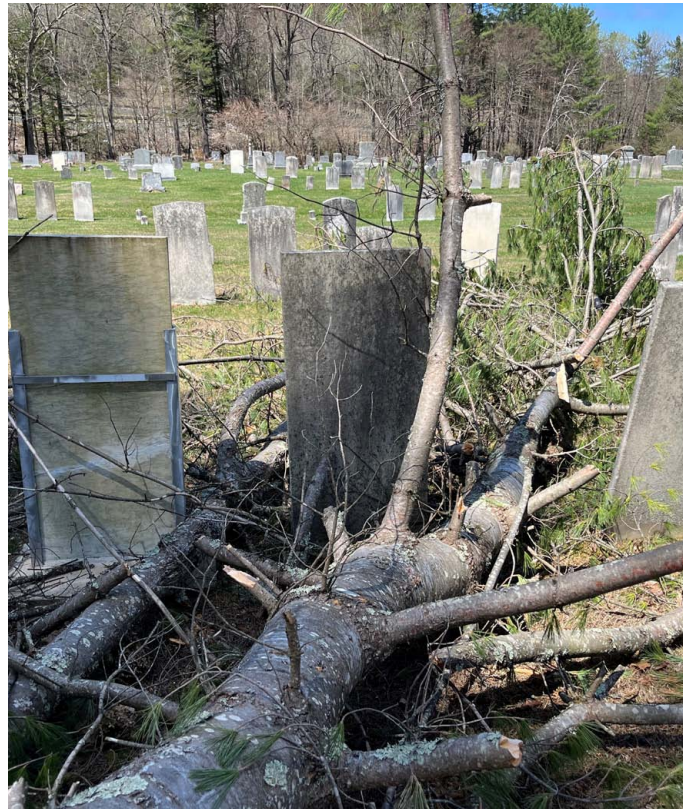
With that being said, we are trying to move forward with the restoration of older stones that are leaning/falling over, broken or illegible.

Our regular town budget barely gets us through our regular seasonal maintenance and does not provide for any major restoration projects. A Perpetual Care fund was established many years ago as a way for people to make donations to go towards the repair and restoration of our Cemeteries. Anyone wishing to make a donation may contact the town clerk's office.

In closing, the commission would like to thank Robert Edmands for his many years of time and devotion to the cemeteries. Robert stepped down this last March. Thank you Robert!

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Farnham



Fairlee Village Cemetery



Logan Harris
Summer 2023
Ely Cemetery

FAIRLEE COMMUNITY ARTS

2023 Report

Fairlee Community Arts is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization run by volunteers. We receive no monetary appropriation from the Town and are financed entirely by donations from community members and local businesses.

We are dedicated to bringing a variety of arts-related events to Fairlee. FCA has a seven member Board of Directors and we would welcome new members.

Our signature event series continues to be the Summer Music Series. Denis Lambert and Elizabeth Wilson created the series in 2017. Their vision was a family-friendly outdoor concert event to foster community feeling in Fairlee. From that vision the Summer Concert Series has grown to attract an audience from all over the Upper Valley and beyond.

In addition to the concert series, FCA has brought numerous lectures and presentations to the Town Hall auditorium. With generous donations from area donors FCA installed state-of-the-art projection equipment (as well as sound and lighting equipment) and this has allowed us to present films from director Jay Craven as well as a Silent Film Series last winter. The Silent Film Series was so enjoyed last year that a new Silent Film Series is scheduled for January 2024.

Fairlee Community Arts applied for and received a grant from the Vermont Arts Council to create public art in the I-91 underpass and despite being delayed by repair work on the I-91 bridges we expect that work to be installed at the end of the coming summer. We plan a painting event in the Town Hall in April to finish painting the mural elements: leaves and features that will be applied to the painted background of the underpass walls. We'll need volunteers so keep an eye out for announcements of painting times in April!

FCA is grateful for each and every person and organization that makes our arts organization and events successful, including the Town of Fairlee, the Vermont Arts Council, our donors, our volunteers, and the attendees at the events. We could not do it without you.

FCA Board of Directors:

Miranda Clemson

Denis Lambert

Elizabeth Wilson

Kristen Post

Smith Reed

Kathy Rorison

Cami Buster

www.fairleearts.org



2023 Report from the Fairlee Development Review Board

The Development Review Board is a five member, quasi-judicial board, appointed by the Select Board, which reviews subdivision and site-plan applications, considers applications for conditional use, waivers, and variances from the Unified Zoning Regulations, and hears appeals from decisions made by the Administrative Officer. The Board meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month as needed. Meetings are open to the public and may be attended in person at the Grange Room or by Zoom video conference.

The Development Review Board met 6 times in 2023 and conducted 8 hearings: 4 concerning commercial additions and site plan amendments, a short-term rental conditional use, and a variety conditional use applications for non-conformities. Commercial applications have recovered from the Covid slump. The DRB has been handed a revised bylaw by the voters this year and the provisions and standards are clearer and more easily applied.

It is the nature of zoning bylaws under Vermont Statute that permits run with the land and are only a bite at the apple the DRB has on applications and must be followed up with Selectboard ordinances that govern the conduct of a use after it has been approved.

The table below details the DRB hearings by type over the past 5 years.

The DRB looks forward to working cooperatively with landowners and developers to attain their goals while protecting the rights of abutters and observing the letter and spirit of State and Town regulations.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Danen, Chair
Bill Dunnack, Vice-Chair
Robert Werthheimer
Gary Gardner
Elizabeth Wilson

Hearing Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Variance, Waiver, Conditional Use	1	2	1	4	0	5
Site Plan Review	0	2	1	4	1	3
Subdivision	2	5	1	4	0	0
Appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denial	0	0	0	0	0	0



2023 Report from the Fairlee Emergency Management

The town of Fairlee continues to utilize the **Local Emergency Plan (LEMP)** re-adopted in 2023 as the core framework for our Emergency Management team made up of the Emergency Management Director (EMD), the Emergency Coordinator, the Fairlee Fire department, the Fairlee Police department, the Water department operators, and the FAST Squad to help coordinate local, natural and man-made emergency situations. The LEMP is designed as the plan that allows for Fairlee's Emergency Management team to coordinate and respond to local emergencies with both the Regional Emergency Management team (REMD) coordinated by the Two Rivers RPC and the State Emergency Management system. These emergencies might include the need for mitigation, preparedness, response or recovery events. It incorporates the federally recognized [National Incident Management System](#) (NIMS) for command and control of these events.

For elders, or for people with certain disabilities, such events, if prolonged, can become life threatening if no one is available to help. The Vermont Enhanced 911 Board created the web site CARE (Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies) to help and identify the needs of registrants in the event of a widescale emergency. To access the CARE Ver-

mont Gov site use this link <https://e911.vermont.gov/>.

As the town moves its web page to provide for more cybersecurity to the fairleevt.gov address, our hope is to provide the community with more resources that will help in emergency situations.

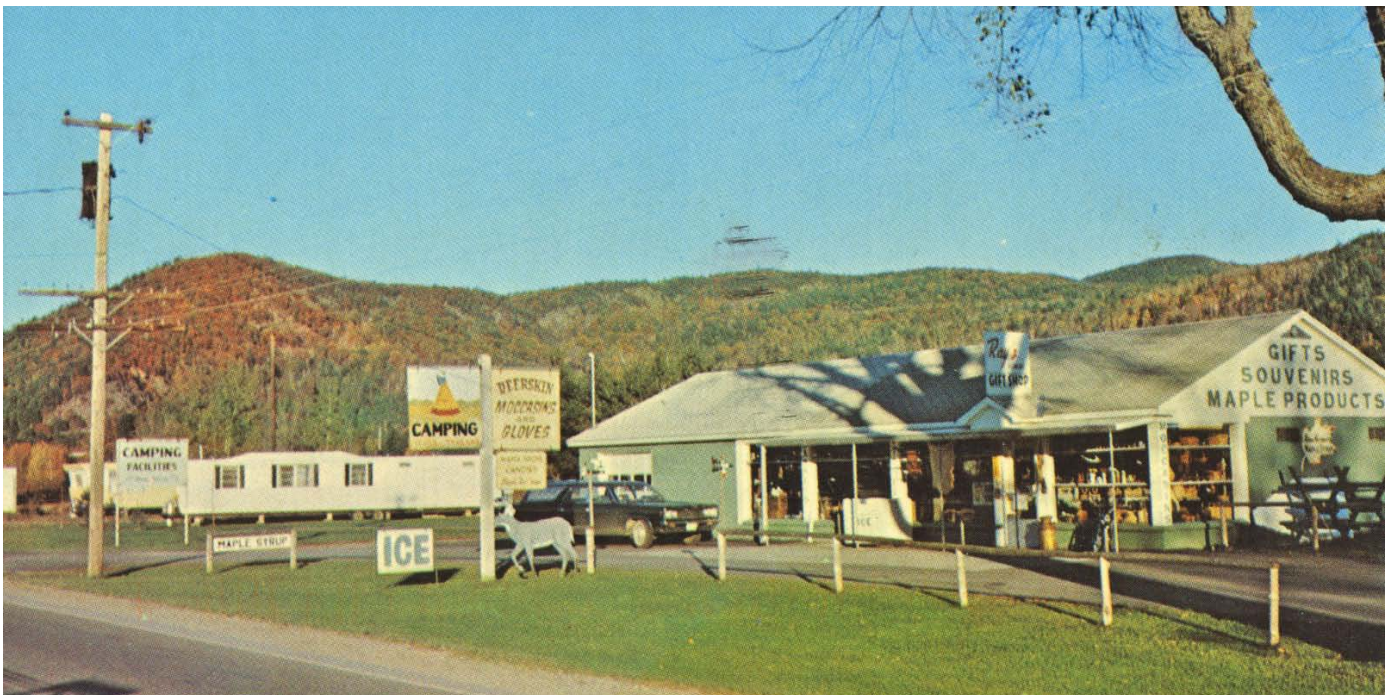
[Ready.Gov](#) is a federal website that offers information, planning guides and resources to businesses and families for emergency preparedness planning. The information on the site includes plans on how to prepare and plan for weather emergencies, including ice storms and snowstorms, floods, etc.

To access Ready.Gov visit: <https://www.ready.gov/>. Vermont Emergency Management VEM is a state website that offers extensive information on local emergencies, resources for families and businesses, as well as key information on how to prepare for emergencies. To access VT emergency Management: <https://vem.vermont.gov/>.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Berger,
Director, Fairlee EMD

Lance Colby,
Fairlee Emergency Management Coordinator



2023 Report from the Fairlee Fast Squad

In 2023 the Fairlee Fast Squad responded to 60+ calls for service in the town of Fairlee. This number reflects medical calls within the town, and an increased EMS presence on Fire calls. As of our January meetings, the President of the Fast Squad has also been appointed Deputy Chief of the Fire Department.

The squad enters the New Year with stable membership. We are in a position to welcome in new members who have previous, or no training, to be able to serve on the Fast Squad. If you have no EMS training there are options available through the squad and the state to get members the required certifications. We are also happy to enter into a partnership with the Fairlee Police Department. This has allowed us to help the police department with training and supplies for EMS service to the community.

We have continued to upgrade our equipment to meet changing EMS standards and protocols and to ensure that our squad can provide care at their

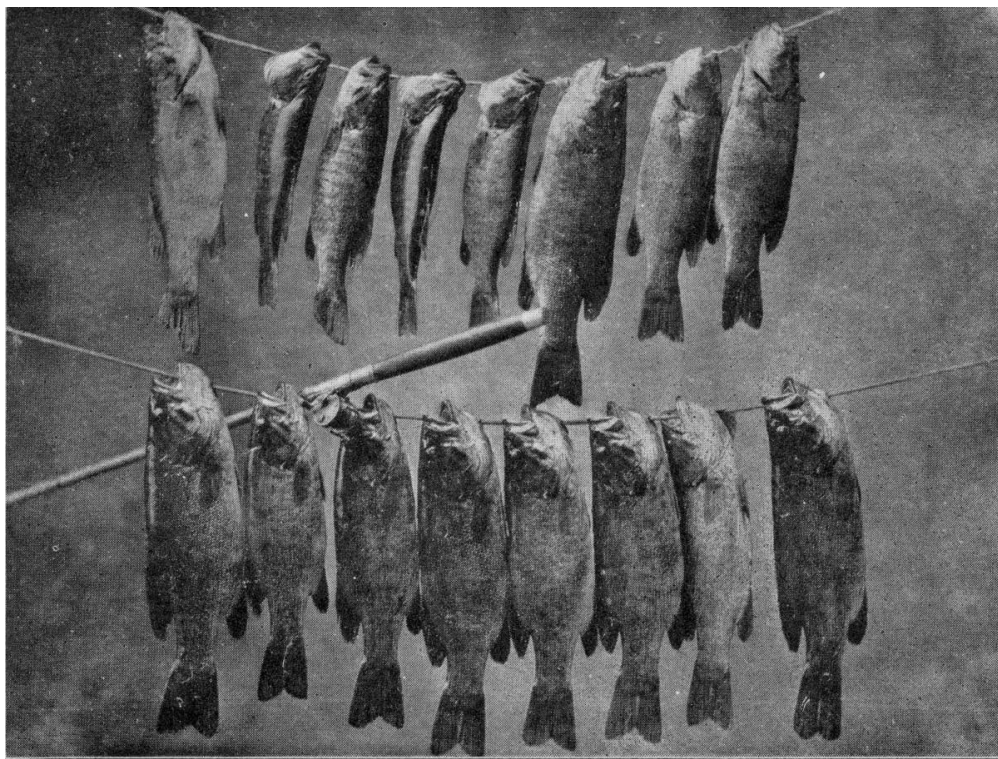
appropriate training levels. We are also moving into 2024 focused on reviewing and enhancing our preparedness and skills to be able to assist and respond in our evolving Outdoor Recreation spaces. We are also reviewing our continued partnerships with the Fire Department and the Police Department to allow for greater communication and collaboration between all of the Fairlee emergency services.

The Fast Squad is thankful for the support we receive from the town and take great pride in being able to assist in your moments of need. If you ever think you need us, call 911. If you think a friend needs us, call 911. We are here to help serve the community and if you can think of a way we can do that, please don't hesitate to reach out to us on Facebook or to reach out to us at fastsquad@fairleevt.gov

Sincerely,

Ross Cannon

President, Fairlee Fast Squad



LAKE MOREY BASS, CAUGHT BY G. H. KENDALL

2023 Report from the Fairlee Fire Department

The Fairlee Fire Department responded to 54 calls in 2023.

2023 was my fourth and final year serving the community of Fairlee as the Fire Chief. I will still be serving as the Asst. Chief in 2024. The new Chief is Andrew Godfrey.

It was by all means a difficult year coming off 3 years of Covid. When things started to seem normal, on August 1st we lost active member, Duane Cook, after 35-plus years of dedicated service. Duane was the first active firefighter the town has lost since the early 1960s.

The Fairlee Fire Department is looking for new members to join the department. Many training opportunities are available.

Please remember Smoke and CO detectors save lives – change the batteries twice a year and regularly test your devices.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Champagne

Fairlee Fire Chief



Duane Cook on July 4th, 2023, at the Annual Chicken BBQ hosted by the Fairlee Fire Department – one of his favorite events. He is standing with the fire gear of the late Jim O'Donnell. Duane served on the fire department for over 35 years.



Duane Cook, with his good friend Doctor Robert Rose, visited the Dartmouth Grant annually. While there, he enjoyed fishing. Photo by "Doc Rose".

2023 Report from the Fairlee Town Forest Board

The Forest Board wants to acknowledge the passing of its longest serving member, Jim O'Donnell. Jim cared deeply about the Forest and gave countless hours of his time in service to the Board, the Forest and the Town of Fairlee. We miss him.

The Board would like to welcome Chaz Hinsley to the Forest Board. Chaz is actively involved in the management of a large tract of forest land and his expertise is a valuable addition to the Board.

We would like to thank Roxanne and David Mathews both for all of their hard work with the Rivendell School Chestnut project and the framed photograph of the participants taken at the Chestnut Landing. It is hanging in the Grange Room. Please take a look.

We have in place a contract with Redstart Forestry to institute an invasive plant treatment on Bald Top. We had hoped to get the first step done last fall but were stymied by weather, personnel and access issues. We have been in contact with Peter Acker-



man who has graciously given us permission to use his property to transport the equipment to the summit and will be implementing the treatment this year. Thank you Peter.

The Board is planning to install a kiosk at the Bald Top parking lot. We have some nice informational signs from the American Chestnut Foundation that we would like to display there. We are also exploring

signage at the trailheads to inform the public about hunting seasons and the need for high visibility clothing for themselves (and their dogs, too).

The Board is also considering having a community day where volunteers could work on watershed issues in some of the areas that require hand work.

Respectfully submitted,

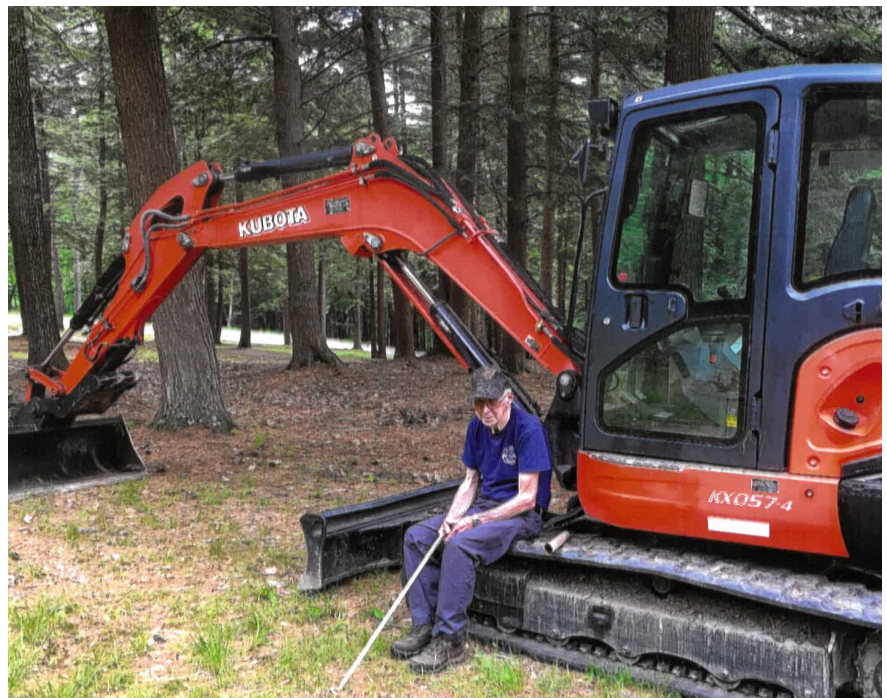
Reg Cramer

Chaz Hinsley

Dan Ludwig, Chair

Lauren Ludwig

Mitch Phelps



Jim O'Donnell, was a member of the Fairlee Fire Department for more than 50 years where he held the office of Treasurer for a period of time. Even after he retired, you would find him at the fire station cleaning up or in the forest doing improvements.

2023 Report from the Fairlee Historical Society

The Historical Society's Organizational Meeting was held on June 15th in the Town Hall Auditorium.

The first order of business was the election of officers for 2023/2024.

President – Don Weaver

Vice President – Georgette Wolf-Ludwig

Secretary – Noël Walker

Treasurer – Jennifer Garrow

Curator – Georgette Wolf-Ludwig

Asst. Curator – Vacant

Program Coordinator – Cathy McGrath

It should be noted that Judy Stone subsequently accepted the position of Asst. Curator.

Following the Organizational Meeting, President Don Weaver introduced Robert Edmands, highlighting his many contributions to the Town, and then presented him with the gold cane, recognizing him as the oldest Fairlee resident.

On July 8th, Society members, Bruce Littlefield, and Avis White, both descendants of Captain Edgar Lucas, hosted an event at the Fairlee Town Beach, honoring the captain and his wife, Amy Pierce. Captain Lucas ran a water taxi service with the Pearl, Gypsy, and aptly named, Misitwakit boats

from 1898 to 1930 on Lake Morey. Bruce and Avis donated a beautiful brass plaque in Captain Lucas' memory which was permanently installed on the Beach House.

Another activity of note on August 23rd, was the presentation and donation by John Larrabee and his wife, Deborah Chambers, of a small boiler designed and built in 1792 by Samuel Morey. It is now located on the first floor of the Town Hall in a beautiful cabinet crafted and donated by Fairlee resident Jason Thompson.

Other projects undertaken were the procurement of back-stage drapes for the Town Hall auditorium, refurbishing three of the five "Welcome to Fairlee" signs located at the entrances to the Town, and arranging for "Fairlee Town Hall" signage on the porch above the front door.

And lastly, Georgette will be working on a slide presentation using the postcards from Edie Ackerman's 4-volume postcard collection that was donated by her daughter Laurie Ackerman to the Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Fairlee Historical Society



June 21, 2023 – presentation of the "Gold Cane" to Robert Edmands, oldest resident in Fairlee.

2023 Report from the Lake Fairlee Association



2024 Funding Request

For more than 10 years, the Town of Fairlee has generously supported the Lake Fairlee Association with annual funding for critical lake health programs. The LFA expresses its deep appreciation for previous financial support and respectfully requests 2024 funding of \$5,250 (equal to the LFA's 2023 funding request).

2023 Lake Fairlee Association Annual Report to the Town of Fairlee

- A) ***Greeters***: The LFA maintains a greeter program at the Lake Fairlee boat landing to inspect boats for animal and plant invasive species. The program runs from mid-May through mid-October. Greeters inspect watercraft entering and leaving Lake Fairlee to help combat the spread of invasive species, including Eurasian Milfoil. Our greeters have a combined total of nearly 50 years of watercraft inspection expertise and are a key defense tactic against the spread of milfoil and other invasive aquatic species. Greeter wages account for ~50% of LFA's total annual budget. Greeters attend an annual training program sponsored by the ANR Lakes & Ponds Division. In 2023, a team of 6 greeters welcomed nearly 2,500 watercraft to the lake and inspected over 2,200 of them. Of this total, 16 watercraft required decontamination. Therefore, on average, potential introduction of invasive species to Lake Fairlee or other waters was averted approximately once per week this season.
- B) ***Herbicide Application***: The LFA regularly surveys Lake Fairlee for milfoil infestations, and when indicated, contracts with licensed professionals to administer EPA-approved herbicides. Typically applied annually, herbicide treatments present a significant, annually recurring expense for LFA. In May 2023, the LFA conducted an early season survey for aquatic invasive species. Results suggested herbicide treatment was unnecessary in 2023. While good news, new patches of milfoil were observed throughout the summer. Future surveys will guide the application of herbicide in coming years.
- C) ***DASH***: The LFA funds Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) activities targeting areas of highest unmet need. This technique deploys specially trained divers who use suction assistance to remove plants. Gentle removal of plant material ensures each harvested plant remains intact, avoiding broken fragments which easily regenerate into new plants. In September 2023, the LFA used approximately \$14,000 in funds to conduct 10 days of Eurasian Milfoil DASH. This team harvested and composted 5000 gallons of milfoil pulled from Lake Fairlee.
- D) ***Water Quality Action Committee (WQAC)***: The LFA WQAC supports lake health through several water quality monitoring programs, including tributary water sampling as part of the LaRosa Partnership Program through the Vermont DEC and cyanobacteria testing at three locations around the lake in partnership with the Lake Champlain Committee (which sponsors the Cyanobacteria program for the state of Vermont). The WQAC completed its fourth season of tributary water sampling in 2023. LFA volunteers collected water

samples from eight locations along Blood Brook and Middle Brook over a 16 week period to help identify sources of phosphorus entering the lake. The WQAC also conducted weekly Cyanobacteria testing at 3 locations on Lake Fairlee.

- E) ***Lakewise***: The LFA has built a supportive relationship with the White River Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD), operated by the VT Agency of Natural Resources (Lakes and Ponds Division). In recognition of the role lakeshore owners play in preservation and improvement of water quality, the NRDC promotes its "Lake-Wise" program on Lake Fairlee. Lakeshore owners submit their shoreline holdings to inspection, enact conservation suggestions, and eventually can be awarded a "Lake-Wise" certificate and a sign to place on the roadside and lakeside. The LFA invited a Lakewise representative to communicate the benefits of property owner participation at its July 2023 meeting. Five homeowners participated in the Lakewise program this year. Of note, if 2 more properties earn the LakeWise award, Lake Fairlee will join a small handful of other Vermont Lakes to earn the State's Gold Award. The Gold Award is given to lakes where more than 15% of the LakeShore properties have earned Lake Wise awards.
- F) ***Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL)***: The LFA participates in this grassroots effort to manage wake boats on Vermont's inland lakes. Wake boats create surfable waves causing shoreline, ecosystem and habitat destruction. They can increase the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as milfoil within a lake and spread new AIS between lakes. Their downward prop angle can cause lake bottom sediment and phosphorus to suspend in the water column, increasing the risk of cyanobacteria blooms. These boats can pose safety issues for water skiers, paddlers, sailors, anglers, swimmers and campers who attend the 5 camps located on Lake Fairlee. LFA worked with partners at RWVL to advocate limiting wake boat operations to bodies of water where a minimum distance to shoreline of 1,000 feet can be maintained, including Lake Fairlee.
- G) ***Loon Cam***: The LFA deployed Vermont's first "LoonCam" at the northern end of the lake in Spring 2023. It enables remote observation of a loon pair that have nested on the lake since 2016. The story of the loons and the LoonCam were the topic of a June 2023 article in the Valley News. The LoonCam was funded through a \$1,000 donation, and enables ecologists, Fairlee residents and others to watch the loons in real-time. To date, there are nearly 550 YouTube subscribers to the LoonCam channel.
- H) ***Website***: Updates on LFA activities and Lake Fairlee-related information are regularly updated on the Association's website (www.lakefairleevt.org)

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Detrick

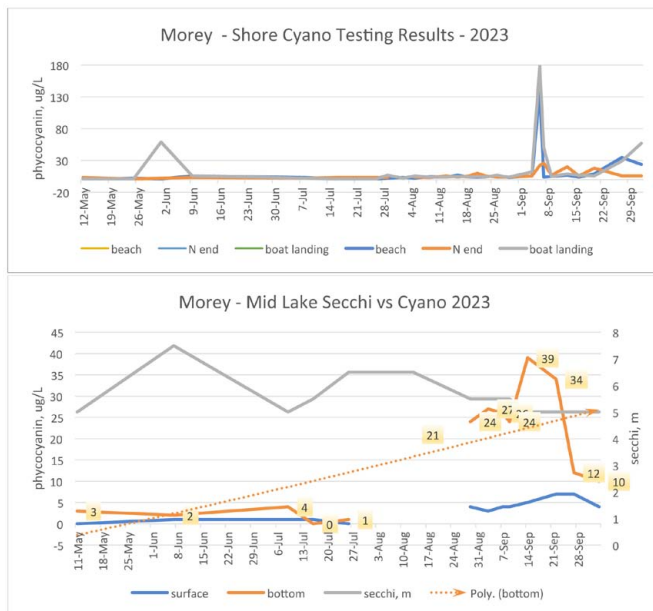
Board Member, Lake Fairlee Association

2023 Report from the Lake Morey Commission

LMC 2023 Activities – Cyanobacteria, Water Testing (LMP and Tribs) and Milfoil Control

1. The LMC and friends spent a considerable amount of time trying to manage and communicate Cyanobacteria threats in Lake Morey this summer. Our short-term solution was to purchase a Turner Designs fluorometer which detects the relationship between a chloroplast only found in Cyanobacteria, phycocyanin, and general increases in population density.

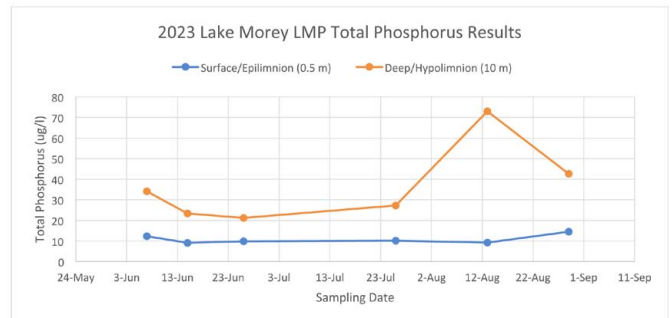
We measured lake perimeter and mid-lake almost weekly to attempt to predict Cyanobacteria activity. Certainly, it was effective in monitoring general beach health from week to week. We are indebted to Arlene Guest for her energetic sampling, and Chris Brimmer for beach postings when necessary. The mid-lake sampling only showed a 12% correlation between secchi and cyanobacteria PC (phycocyanin) readings at 10 meters – still better than no warning at all. Further, we had a reasonably quiet summer compared to 2022, we surmise due to the increased rain-fall. Following are two graphs of the above information:



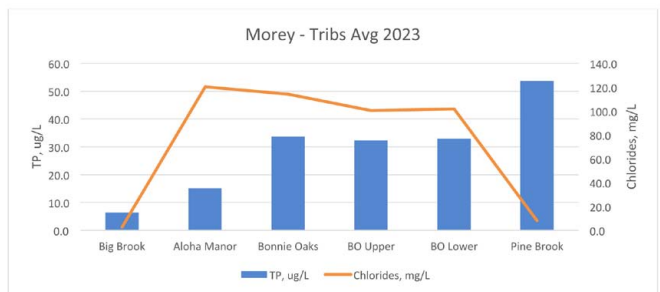
The proposed alum/aluminate treatment in 2024 will markedly change the above environment. Sampling programs will probably be redefined to fit in with pre and post alum treatment; TP numbers will assuredly be reduced.

2. The LMC conducted lake and trib sampling 2x / month during the 2023 season. Many thanks to Don Weaver, Bruce Durgin and Byron Stone for monthly boat trips and tromping through the woods to procure water samples.

LMP results data below show a demonstrable increase in TP at 10 meter depth mid-Aug, a depth we have not normally sampled regularly. This could reflect bottom sediment TP release which caused increased Cyanobacteria activity, and perhaps confirmed by our Turner Designs data in #1 paragraph.



Nothing new for our Tribs data as below, with the Bonnie Oaks wetland contributing the highest average TP. Chlorides appear highest near the I-91 drainage due to runoff presumably from road salt.



3. LMC assisted in the control of Eurasian Water Milfoil again this summer. Although it was reported that we had minimal milfoil growth in the early spring, warmer water and juvenile plants may have been responsible for large unreported milfoil populations, particularly in the North end. Our scuba dive team lead by Rob Patten pulled over 2000 individual plants from around the lake, mostly from Aloha to the high east side. There was a disproportionate amount of milfoil near the loon nest, due to shallow water and high water temperatures. Our divers will return in early spring to continue with DASH as allowed in our permit.

Many thanks to our volunteers, Donna Richardson, Sue and Bill Minard, and Wendy Ozimek for their tireless efforts in spotting and reporting milfoil locations to our dive team!



2023 Report from the Lake Morey Foundation

Forty Years Ago: The Lake Morey Foundation (LMF) was founded in 1984 as a non-profit organization “set up to provide financial and physical assistance to the Lake Morey area when needed.” Through the generosity of its donors, LMF has focused on preserving the natural beauty of Lake Morey and enhancing its surroundings. By encouraging collaborative efforts and common goals, LMF has directed its funds to help maintain water quality, fortify the area’s natural resources, spearhead solutions to the lake’s ongoing challenges and support its community.

Early Grant Funding: LMF’s first disbursement funded trail markers and maps for the budding network of hiking trails, soon followed by lakeside and town benches, Fairlee initiatives and recreational opportunities. By the year 2000, through an expanded donor base and careful investment, LMF was able to underwrite the construction of the new Beach House – a significant community asset.

Focus on Water Quality: During the past four decades, LMF has contributed to projects mitigating increased threats to water quality. Collaborating with the LMPA and the Town on the lake greeter program, with the Lake Morey Commission on water monitoring, and with the Upper Valley Land Trust on land and watershed conservation, LMF funds have had a notable impact on enhancing and preserving the lake environment.

By the Numbers: Since its founding, generous annual donations have provided LMF the means to provide over \$300,000 in local grants which have been distributed among projects in the following broad categories:

<i>Water quality/lake enhancement</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Community/cultural initiatives</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Land conservation/watershed protection</i>	<i>14%</i>
<i>Recreation/beach facilities</i>	<i>14%</i>

Additionally, LMF’s special initiative to purchase 148 acres on Morey Mountain was successful in raising another \$400,000 to conserve this important natural resource and recreational opportunity for our community.

Looking Ahead: Water quality has continued to be in the forefront of LMF’s priorities. We joined forces with the Aloha Foundation to fund the recent cyanobacteria treatment feasibility study. This study set the stage for the Town’s proposal to treat the lake, now pending final approval and funding by the State of VT. Other threats to lake health and recreational enjoyment will continue to arise and LMF will be ready to offer support to preserve Lake Morey’s overall quality and value as a key asset in our community.

How You Can Help: If Lake Morey is an important part of your family and community, we hope you will consider contributing to the Foundation with a tax-deductible gift as we celebrate 40 years of dedicated work. You may send a check or visit the Donate page on our website to make an online electronic funds transfer. Our contact information is listed below. All gifts are greatly appreciated!

Thank you to our community for 40 years of support!

Respectfully submitted by Bob Wertheimer,
President, on behalf of the LMF Board of
Directors:

Greg Allen, Patty Armstrong, Chris Baine,
Shawn Byron, Ray Clark, Bruce Durgin,
Peter Massicott, Susanne Pacilio, Vince
Pisegna, Laura Tucker (LMPA *ex officio*),
Noël Walker, Bob Wertheimer

The Lake Morey Foundation, Inc. PO Box 234,
Fairlee, VT 05045 www.lakemoreyfoundation.org
Email: lakemoreyfoundation@gmail.com



2023 Report from the Lake Morey Protective Association

THE LAKE MOREY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION (LMPA) WAS FOUNDED IN 1907, MAKING IT THE OLDEST LAKE ASSOCIATION IN THE STATE OF VERMONT. ON BEHALF OF IT'S 200+ MEMBERS, THE LMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CARRIES OUT A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF PRESERVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF LAKE MOREY AND ITS IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS WHILE SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH OF THE LAKE FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

2023 INITIATIVES: 2023 was a continuation of activities in and around the lake that we have enjoyed in the past, including the July 4th boat parade, the sailing regatta, the ice cream social at the Fairlee library, and the LMPA annual meeting hosted, once again, at the Lake Morey Resort followed by a cocktail party. The majority of work done by the LMPA, however, centers on issues threatening the health of the lake and its watershed, including the increase in milfoil and the need to address cyanobacteria. The LMPA worked closely with the Lake Morey Foundation, the Lake Morey Commission, and the Town of Fairlee to address the cyanobacteria issue. As a result, the State has confirmed that the necessary permits and funding paths have been secured in order for the Town of Fairlee to meet State and Federal EPA standards for an alum treatment of the lake in May, 2024.

With most of the membership now registered for email communications, the LMPA has been able to communicate more directly and effectively with its membership to get critical information out in a timely manner.

Looking forward, the LMPA is taking a closer look at safety issues on Lake Morey Road (specifically traffic calming measures), and will be working on issues involving the Fairlee Forest, with the intention of educating the community on climate resilience and how the watershed has a direct impact on water quality.

Watershed Action Plan: Lake Morey is the recipient of a grant from the State of Vermont to participate in Vermont's Watershed Action Plan initiative. The WAP is an investigation and data collection process that identifies the chief threats to lake health, water quality, and lake ecosystems. The studies have been completed and the results were presented at a Zoom meeting that is available on the LMPA website. One of the methods of assessments is the LakeWise Program. The LMPA has encouraged property owners to participate in this program which awards properties for instituting techniques that reduce erosion and mitigate run off reaching the lake. As a result of enthusiastic participation by lakeshore owners, Lake Morey has been designated as the recipient of the "Gold Lake Award" which is granted to lake associations when 15% of properties surrounding a lake have received a LakeWise award. Our lake is only the fourth lake in Vermont to have this designation. The LakeWise program will continue to be available this coming year. Please contact Bill Minard at bminard@gmavt.net if you are interested in participating, or if you want more information.

Safety Buoys: With funding provided by the Lake Morey Foundation, new buoys designating the 200' shoreline safety zone were purchased and placed offshore in June. They are easier to handle, more visible (bright orange) and there are plans to increase the signage for next season.

Greeter and Adopt-A-Lake Programs: The LMPA supports the VT Greeter Program to educate lakeshore owners and boat operators about controlling the spread of invasive species in the lake. In 2022, the "Greeter Program" was supervised by Jo Fratus. Six part-time greeters inspected watercraft this year. The program is administered by the Town of Fairlee. Funding for the program comes from LMPA, LMF, the Town of Fairlee and a grant from the State of Vermont. Many boats have previously been in Lake Champlain, the Connecticut River and other bodies of water affected by aquatic invasive species (AIS). With support from the Vermont DEC, Public Access Greeters educate lake visitors about invasive species, provide courtesy watercraft inspections, and STOP introductions.

The "Adopt-A-Lake" program encourages lake residents to participate in monitoring, pulling, and removing Eurasian Milfoil from the lake. Sue Minard has managed the Adopt-A-Lake Program for the past 6 years. For 2024, the Adopt-A-Lake and Greeter programs will be maintained and strengthened with the goal of preventing new invasive species from becoming established in Lake Morey.

Morey Water Quality and AIS: The Lake Morey Commission and friends spent a considerable amount of time managing and communicating information about cyanobacteria threats in Lake Morey this summer. Our short-term solution was to purchase a Turner Designs fluorometer which detects the relationship between a chloroplast only found in cyanobacteria, phycocyanin, and with general increases in population density.

The LMC used this instrument almost weekly to measure conditions on a number of spots on the lake perimeter, and mid-lake almost weekly to attempt to predict cyanobacteria activity. Certainly, it was effective in monitoring general beach health from week to week. We are indebted to Arlene Guest for her energetic sampling, and Chris Brimmer for beach postings when necessary. The mid-lake sampling only showed a 12% correlation between secchi and cyanobacteria PC (phycocyanin) readings at 10 meters – still, better than no

warning at all. Further, we had a reasonably quiet summer regarding cyanobacteria compared to 2022, we surmise due to the increased rainfall.

The LMC also conducted lake and tributary sampling 2x/month during the 2023 season. Many thanks to Don Weaver, Bruce Durgin and Byron Stone for monthly boat trips and tromping through the woods to procure water samples. LMP results data show a demonstrable increase in TP at 10 meters depth in mid-August, a depth we have not normally sampled regularly. This could reflect bottom sediment TP release which caused increased cyanobacteria activity.

LMC assisted in the control of Eurasian Water Milfoil again this summer. Although it was reported that we had minimal milfoil growth in the early spring, warmer water and juvenile plants may have been responsible for large unreported milfoil populations, particularly in the north end. Our scuba dive team, led by Rob Patten, pulled over 2000 individual plants from around the lake, mostly in the area from Camp Aloha to the high east side. There was a disproportionate amount of milfoil near the loon nest, due to shallow water and the high water temperatures. Our divers will return in early spring to continue with diver-assisted suction harvesting, as allowed in our permit. Many thanks to our volunteers, Donna Richardson, Sue and Bill Minard, and Wendy Ozimek for their tireless efforts in spotting and reporting milfoil locations to our dive team!

LOONS: For the first time since recording loon activity on Lake Morey, a pair of loons nested at the north end of the lake and successfully hatched a young loon on July 13th. This chick had many fans and followers who observed it riding on the parents' back the first couple of weeks and avoiding the many predators (eagles, snapping turtles, pike and bass). Over the next 12 weeks it developed juvenile plumage, learned to feed itself and took some flight lessons. The loon was sighted feeding by itself on October 18th, the parents having departed for winter habitat on the ocean, with the chick soon to follow. Volunteers and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) placed warning signs requesting that boaters maintain a safe distance from the nest platform and will do so again next year.

Directory and Annual Dues Statements: The LMPA published its biennial directory in 2023. To be more environmentally conscious, we are encouraging our membership to register on our online directory platform, which is available on the LMPA website. We hope to gradually reduce the number of printed directories as more people take advantage of digital copies.

We are also utilizing an electronic communications platform to send out notifications and updates. Along with association business and events, these emails can include notices from the Town of Fairlee and local news and events. Most of our members have provided their email addresses in order to receive LMPA notices. We also send dues statements out via email, with hard copies mailed, if requested or if an email address is missing.

We introduced an updated online payment system this year. Coupled with a change in our fees policy in which the LMPA now absorbs any credit card fees for members who pay using this method, we are pleased to report that 75% of dues payments were made online. This is a significant increase from 38% in 2022. We are still looking to streamline the system, as we also utilize it to collect updated member contact information.

Community Service Activities: This past year the LMPA reached out to the community to financially support Fairlee Community Arts, Upper Valley Rescue, and the Fairlee Library. We hosted an ice cream social with the library and collaborated with the library to once again sponsor the reading incentive program. Our librarian, Beth Reynolds promoted this program that includes readers of all ages, and she was pleased to report that we had many enthusiastic participants. Competition and prizes made this event fun, and readers are eagerly awaiting next year's event.

As we begin our 118th year, our Lake Association will continue to keep a vigilant eye on both the needs of the lake and the surrounding land to ensure that we are a responsible and responsive local organization. We appreciate the support of our Town Administrator and the Fairlee Selectboard as we work together to see that Lake Morey continues to provide healthy recreation opportunities for all residents.

The LMPA's activities can be followed at: www.lakemorey.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Tucker, President

Lake Morey Protective Association, P.O. Box 241 Fairlee, VT 05045

2023 Report from the Fairlee Librarian

When you drive past the Library what do you see? Sure there are walls, windows, doors and a roof, but once you step inside you can immediately recognize how it's so much more.

Did you know that we are able to borrow items from other libraries in state (and sometimes from other states) if you need something not on our shelves? Did you know that we belong to an organization that supplies us with a rotation of new dvds and audios for those of us who don't stream or might want more options? Did you know that we work with an organization that supplies bookbags for our monthly book discussions, or that we get a rotation of Large Print books from the state's ABLE library? They also offer other devices like weights for those suffering from Parkinson's and other materials for those suffering from diminishing eyesight. All of these things are available to you with your little green library card.

That same card can get you access to streaming ebooks and audiobooks through our Libby app. Or it can get you access to libraries throughout the Upper Valley who participate in OneCard, if you are a Fairlee resident. We also have passes for you to borrow for admission to The Fairbanks Museum, VINS and (coming soon) Billings Farm. Don't forget that we also have other items you can borrow, like magazines, games, and puzzles. And if you have young kids in your life, you'll want to be sure to check out our themed bags. Ten books in one bag makes it easy to borrow enough for a bedtime story session or two.

Those bags were funded through the generosity of a \$500 Winnie Belle Grant, offered through the Vermont Public Library Foundation. This past year we also received a Children's Literacy Foundation (CliF) rural library grant that gave us an additional \$2000.00 worth of books for our Children's section and is helping to fund the revitalization of our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. The Library is also collaborating with the Vermont Early Literacy Initiative (VELI), because working to make books accessible and appealing to children and families is an important part of what we do here at the Library.

Summer is the perfect time to read and we had several families and many adults sign up for our Summer Reading Program in 2023. Thank you to the Lake Morey Protective Association (LMPA) for generously providing funds for our programming and prizes. And a special shout out to those who helped pull off the ice cream social this year. We weren't exactly sure it was going to happen due to flooding and other weather-related incidents. That was probably our unofficial theme: coming up with Plan B or C or possibly Plan X, Y or Z when our original plan was derailed. The official theme for summer was "All Together Now" and we certainly embodied that as many of our patrons were off assisting others with damage from flooding and the disastrous effects of too much rain on crops. And yet, despite it all, we came together and read over 100,000 minutes. Thank you to everyone who participated.

I want to extend a huge thanks to our volunteers: Charlotte Williams, Peggie Bissell, Richard Noble, Kathy Rorison and Josie Dennis. They help process and shelve the books, cut out

materials for our craft activities, and countless other projects. They contributed 370 volunteer hours and the library couldn't run without them. I am so appreciative of the Board of Trustees and all of the efforts they put towards keeping this building running and the commitment they've made to our community. I am so grateful to The Friends for sponsoring our Booksale in July and also the funds for events such as poetry with Alan Haehnel, and Spencer Hardy's presentation on wild bees. They also supported our two authors visits from Sue Halpern and Amy Belding Brown. The Library was able to purchase a Cricut machine with the \$300 given to us from The VT Dept of Libraries. Pam Benware has been incredibly helpful in offering instruction on how to use it. Thank you to Vital Communities for lending us the farmer portraits to display in July. Thank you to Ben Dana and Danielle Allen from Root 5 Farm for coming and giving us an inside view of how things run there. Thank you to growingkindnessproject, Slow Food USA, and Natural Forest for sending us dahlia bulbs, vegetable seeds and the birch trees we were able to offer to members of our community. Thank you to Elizabeth Wilson for help in our garden and for organizing our Friday Garden Swap. For all of you who came to our programs, who dropped in to pick up a Take & Make or visited us on Halloween at our Trunk or Treat: thank you for your participation! If you've given to the Library of your time, energy, or monetary donation I want to extend my gratitude to you. Most especially to those who generously gave in honor of the memory of Lynn Chapman. We are looking for the best ways to make use of those funds.

Next year's theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." This seems particularly fitting because you never know what you'll discover here. We're more than just windows, walls, roof and door – our books, movies, audios can take you anywhere you want to go. Hope you'll stop by and see us soon.

Statistics	2021	2022	2023
Total Circulation	7277	9745	9911
Total Programs	47	63	72
Total Attendance	652	854	971
Total Visits	4702	5591	5316
Checkouts from Libby	—	—	1618

Most Circulated Books of 2023

Adult: *Storm Watch* by C.J. Box with 12 circs. And a three-way tie between *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano, *World of Curiosities* by Louise Penney and *I Will Find You* by Harlan Coben each with 10 circs.

Children's: *Fancy Nancy and the Mermaid Ballet* by Jane O'Connor with 9 circs and *Books Aren't for Eating* by Carlie Sorosiak with 8 circs.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reynolds, Director

2023 Report from the Fairlee Public Library Trustees

When I was asked to join the Fairlee Library Board of Trustees, I hadn't any idea about what that entailed. "Just one meeting a month," I was assured... Seven years later, I have learned a lot. I get grumpy about what this volunteer position involves but I love our small town library and I know it's integral to making Fairlee the kind of town people want to live in. I also enjoy working with a fine board of trustees and an excellent librarian and we do manage to meet only once a month. It's during those meetings that the majority of our volunteer contributions get done. We all pitch in whenever we are able.

Did you know our current library building was once a popular Fairlee restaurant? A small group of dedicated volunteers saw the current building as being a potential place to move our library from the town hall. The location is wonderful, the parking is ample and renovations to the old restaurant allowed us to feel proud as a town about our "new" library. The structure has served us well for more than 20 years. (Oh no, you're thinking. Please continue to read...).

Soooo much has changed over those years. In an effort to improve our services to our community the trustees had a structural assessment/feasibility study of our library completed. We also hoped that the assessment would prepare us for grant money we kept hearing (and are still hearing) would become available for library building improvements. The structural assessment showed some serious building needs: health and safety concerns, conditions in immediate need of repair, systems nearing the end of their expected life spans and general maintenance recommendations. Please inquire at the library if you'd like to read the report. The Trustees have worked with the Select board to develop next steps and the Select board is proceeding by hiring an architect to help us determine whether to invest in our current structure or if a new building makes better sense economically for our town needs, now and as we look ahead. When we have more information from the architect, it will be available to the community.

Libraries, including our Fairlee Library, are needed now more than ever. We have townspeople who use our library regularly to work, meet with a client, Zoom with a doctor, be tutored, access a computer or printer to do banking, apply for jobs or housing... the list is endless. Along with considering the condition of our older building, the trustees are considering how different needs, useful spaces and community services will impact changes.

One significant change we made in November of 2023, with little budget impact, was hiring a part time library assistant 10 hours a week. The trustees are planning to continue this position with the passing of the town budget. Since Covid, we have not seen a willingness of people to volunteer time at the library and the demands on our librarian have significantly increased. An assistant's help has made a difference and is allowing Ms. Reynolds a few more hours to directly assist patrons, complete applications for grants, complete required state reports, write a monthly library newsletter, organize events and purchase books, media and supplies. These are just some of the librarian's responsibilities. We were pleased to have the understanding and support of the Select board regarding an assistant and we are relieved to have the extra help.

We also appreciate Frank Godfrey's work to do repairs and maintenance. The Friends of Fairlee Library have continued to raise money and support requests not in our library budget. They purchased a rug pad for the children's room and they bought the greens that brightened the library entrance this winter. Peter Lange climbed into our attic spaces to photograph our rafters and roof lines for the structural assessment. Tim Danen and crew repaired interior wall holes necessary for the assessment work. Right at the end of our warm fall, Eric Tyler, of Shack to Castle, stepped up with an affordable quote to scrape and paint the exterior library trim and his crew was able to complete that work in the few last days we had of warm fall weather. That was a task the trustees were relieved to have completed!

Thank you to Joy Weale who completed 5 years of volunteering as a library trustee. We would like to warmly welcome Diane Church who has agreed to join us.

"It takes a village", as the saying goes. I am grateful for the members of the library board who step up to help us be one of the many wonderful libraries in this state. If you would like to stay up to date about library information, be sure Ms. Reynolds has your email so you can enjoy her monthly library newsletter.

Sincerely,

Cyrie Fagan Lange – for the Fairlee Library Trustees

Charlotte Williams

Stacey Dunham

Diane Church

Jen Johnson

2023 Report from the Fairlee Planning Commission

The year saw the passage of the revised Fairlee Unified Development Bylaw in July. The amendments tackled forest block conservation, water quality in our lakes, short term rental permitting, and housing and business friendly reforms to district regulations. We thank the voters for their affirmation of a two year effort to improve the bylaw. Our public outreach generated a series of presentations on what has changed and how it would affect residents and property owners and they are available for viewing on the town's website.

The Village Center designation for the Downtown was renewed for eight years. The designation qualifies commercial and multi-family dwellings for façade improvement tax credits, please call the Zoning Office for details. The designation also qualifies Downtown for grant funding and in the coming years we will be seeking monies for improvements to the streetscape.

An important project for the coming year is seeking Neighborhood Development Area designation for the northern third of the Downtown. This is considered to be a higher level designation and will open funding for the rehabilitation of existing housing units and construction of new ones in the village core. The designation is closely tied to economic development and housing initiatives by the State of Vermont and qualifying this area is a major prior-

ity. The grounds and buildings of Samuel Morey Elementary School are included in the proposed area designation so that we are prepared to deal with whatever outcome may develop.

A major focus of 2024, which ties much of this together, is village master planning. A primary goal of planning is to ensure work is only done once and the sequencing of infrastructure projects is vital to getting the most bang out of the funding. Stormwater, community septic, sidewalks and streetscape upgrades must be done in the correct order and sequencing will be a major component of a master plan as will contingency planning for the ultimate fate of the elementary school.

We are currently looking to fill some board slots on both the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board, your participation is both wanted and needed, please contact either the Zoning or Town Administrators for more information.

Respectfully submitted.

The Fairlee Planning Commission

Robert Chapin, Chair

Tim Danen, Vice-Chair

Lynn Fitzhugh

Miranda Clemson

Susanne Pacilio

E. Smith Reed



2023 Report from the Fairlee Police Department

First I would like to say thank you to the residents of the Town of Fairlee for giving me the opportunity to serve your community this past year.

The Fairlee Police Department's mission remains to provide professional and compassionate police service through partnerships that:

- build trust
- reduce crime
- create a safe environment and
- enhance the quality of life in the Fairlee community to fulfill that mission.

As I write this report at the end of November, we are on track to be in the area of 580 calls for service for the year between Fairlee PD & VSP, versus 550 calls for service in 2022 and 466 in 2021. Since I took over as Chief on March 1st the Department will have responded to 330 plus calls for service by the end of the year.

As you notice there has been a request for an increase in the Police budget for fiscal year 2024. Some of this increase is due to the 2023 budget being based on operating cost of a 10 hours per week department along with the increase in dispatching fees. The rest of the increase is to increase the position to a 40 plus hour a week salaried position. I have found that since taking over as Chief with the increased calls for service and administrative duties it has been challenging to keep the hours at 30 per week. This challenge has resulted in me having to take time off for hours worked the previous week, the following week or weeks, which severely impacts the quality of service I can provide the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Briggs, Chief

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

MENTAL HEALTH: 988

FAIRLEE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

802-333-4363, option 6

VERMONT STATE POLICE

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER:

802-748-3111

Type of Incident	# Incidents
Abandoned Vehicle	10
Accident with Injury	8
Agency Assist	32
Alcohol Offense	1
Alarms	34
Animal Complaint	10
Arrest	2
Assault	2
Background Investigation	1
Burglary	1
Custodial Dispute	5
Citizen Dispute	10
Citizen Assist	9
Crash on 91	7
Crash	24
Cond. of Release Violation	1
Death Investigation	8
Directed Patrol	44
Disabled Vehicle	2
Disorderly Conduct	2
DLS	1
Embezzlement	3
Family Fight	6
Fire Investigation	1
Fraud	4
Incident on I-91	17
Information	9
Juvenile Problem	1
Littering	4
Mental Health	7
Missing Person	1
Motor Vehicle Complaint	12
Noise Complaint	1
Paperwork Service	5
Parking	3
Property Damage	1
Property – Found	2
Property – Lost	1
Property Watch	61
Search Warrant	1
Sex Offender Registry Check	5
Sex Offense	5
Social Media	1
Stabbing	1
Suspicious	41
Theft	4
Threatening	3
Traffic Hazard	9
Traffic Stop	148
Trespassing	13
Unlawful Mischief	3
Vandalism	1
VIN check	5
Weapons Offense	1
Welfare Check	9

2023 Report from the Fairlee Recreation Council

Greetings from the Fairlee Recreation Council

This summer we had a difficult time finding lifeguards for the beach but we had a beach manager who helped to keep the beach looking its best. We are in hopes to find lifeguards and hold swim lessons this coming year. If you know of anyone looking to be a lifeguard in Fairlee let us know. We will even pay for the certification!

This Easter we ordered an Easter Bunny costume and had an egg-decorating event and a bake sale on the common. This was a well-attended event and fun for EVERY-BUNNY!

The Annual Pumpkin Glow event was held in October. People of all ages picked up pumpkins to carve. The pumpkins lit up the town on Halloween night. A huge thank you to Gladstone's for the donation of pumpkins for the event.

The Fairlee Calendar is still up and running and we love all the photo submissions we receive each year. Huge thank you to Gene Ordway and Sandra Smith-Ordway for their countless hours helping us to continue this lovely Fairlee tradition.

Last but not least, we ended the year with a Holiday event and Tree Lighting. Santa and Mrs. Claus were brought to the common by Fairlee Fire truck and 2 reindeer from Vermont Reindeer farm joined us. Cookies and activities on the common and hot cocoa at Chapman's was enjoyed by all. We love this event that brings us all together every December.

We are in need of volunteers for the Recreation Council so if you would like to join us this coming year please stop by the Town Hall and let us know. Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Rec Council members:

Meghann Brough Bourn

Robyn Noble

Cami Buster

2023 Report from the Fairlee Scholarship Committee

The Fairlee Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that we have awarded 4 new scholarships in 2023 in the amount of \$1,000.00 each to Fairlee students seeking higher education. Including new and continuing recipients, we awarded a total of 10 scholarships in 2023. These scholarships were disbursed in two payments of \$500.00, one for the fall semester and one for the spring semester.

This year we received donations of \$1,425.00, in memory of James (Jim) O'Donnell. Thank you to the O'Donnell Family for listing the Fairlee Scholarship Fund as a suggested donation in Jim's obituary. He will be missed.

Scholarship awards would not be possible without donations. Please consider supporting the Fairlee Scholarship Fund with a donation of any size so we may continue to award these scholarships to help support our Fairlee students.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 802-333-4363 ext.1 or email: townclerk@fairleevt.gov.

Thank you,

The Fairlee Scholarship Committee

Jane Chambers

Lisa Hinsley

Georgette Wolf-Ludwig

2023 Report from the Tri-Town Commission

The Lake Fairlee Dam continues to be stable and we had another quiet year. This year, with Bryan Gazda's help, we purchased and installed the warning buoys with the help of High Country. There was also warning signage added to ensure we were in compliance with the State regulations.

The Tri-Town Commission was reduced by a vote of the Towns from nine members to six. This enabled it to shedule meetings more easily, and to attain a quorum. I would like to thank Lisa Hinsley, who as the Tri-Town Treasurer, has been invaluable in keeping the finances and communications with the State in order.

Included in this year's budget is an expense to paint the safety railing on the Dam. One topic for discussion is to work with Dubois and King in a long-term agreement to provide advice and information while the Towns maintain the Dam. We are all aware of the importance of Lake Fairlee as a valuable asset to the Three Towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Berger

Chair, Tri-Town Commission



Patricia (Pat) Henderson

Pat served the town of Fairlee as a Library volunteer for many years working closely with Debra Edmands, past librarian. Alongside Dr. Jim Hughes and others, she was a founding member of the Kimball House School-based Health Center Corp. in West Fairlee soon after Rivendell was formed.

In 1959 Lewellan Blake showed Pat and her husband, Don, the house on Bragg Hill Road that they would later purchase.



2023 Report from the Upper Valley Ambulance

2023 has been a busy year for Upper Valley Ambulance. We are on track to respond to more calls than ever before. Ambulance services across the country are seeing this same trend. Some folks have asked for my opinion on this. Honestly, some of it has to do with our healthcare system and most of it has to do with our growing population that is aging.

The mission statement of Upper Valley Ambulance continues to be:

Upper Valley Ambulance is a pre-hospital service whose primary focus is to provide high quality emergency care to our nine member towns. Our organization is committed to providing efficient, prompt and creative transportation systems both on a local and regional basis. We will meet the ongoing healthcare needs of the communities that we serve, and strive to provide total customer satisfaction. We will be proactive in seeking new opportunities to fulfill this mission.

To fulfill this, we have built a plan to replace equipment on a regular basis while keeping cost as low as possible. We have had to increase our staffing to accommodate the increase in calls over the past several years. We have seen a 49% increase in 911 calls since 2015. This increase affects equipment and personnel.

Our overall insurance budget for 2024 will be 21% higher than 2023. Our well-trained personnel need to be able to pay for their rent, food, groceries and fuel to have fulfilled lives. We believe that happy employees make better employees and thus better providers for all that call us in a time of need.

The per capita rate that we receive from the nine Towns that we serve covers 40% of our total operating budget. We cover the remainder of our budget by billing for services provided. On average, it costs \$822.00 to provide one ambulance transport. Insurance carriers reimburse us a fraction of this cost. We take on extra work such as doing interfacility transfers, cover races and other events to help offset these deficits.

We currently have eleven full-time providers (including two administrative staff) and about 24 part-time providers. We have six providers certified at the Paramedic level, twelve at the Advanced EMT level, and seventeen at the EMT level. We have three ambulances, two of which are 4-wheel drive to accommodate the winter road conditions. We are slated to replace our oldest ambulance (2017) in early 2024 with another 4-wheel drive ambulance. We continually keep our providers well-trained and up-to-date on new equipment, procedures and protocols.

Our providers are extremely proud of the work that they do, and they should be. Upper Valley Ambulance has become highly respected in the EMS community for their professionalism, skill and compassion. I am proud to be the Director of this fine organization.

If you ever have questions, please feel free to contact me. I love to brag about who we are and what we do!

Very sincerely,

Alan Beebe, Executive Director

2023 Report from the Fairlee Water Department

It is a little over a year that the water metering system has been in use. Many customers were surprised to find out how much water they used during the year. Many homes now have less leaks and lower water usage.

If you have concerns or problems with your water, please contact the town office so we can address the problem directly. We had two customers bring problems to the town office but when we tried to get back to them, there was no response. Most problems are related to a home's internal systems, such as filters, backflow, expansion tanks or water heaters. We do not normally charge for these services.

No attempted break-ins this year but we did have an attempted cyber-attack, which only caused some minor problems, and those problems were handled by our electronic telecommunications contractor.

The water system does not contain any PFAS in its well water. We do testing as required by the State Water Supply Division for Vermont.

We are putting in more chlorine to meet the new filtering requirements and you may smell it in the water. A carbon filter installed at your house will take care of the smell if needed.

Barry Larson and I are the operators for the water system. We appreciate all the help we receive from the Selectboard, town officers and our fellow citizens. Working together we can maintain the quality system we enjoy in Fairlee.

The only real shortfall we still have is the lack of a backup well that can be used in emergency situations, such as the failure of the existing well.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance E. Colby, Chief Water Operator



Jim O'Donnell discussing the trail system in the Fairlee Town Forest to a group from Baltimore, Maryland.

2023 Report from the Fairlee Zoning, Planning, and Economic Development Office

We had five housing starts in 2023, three single-family dwellings, one conversion from a one- to a two-family dwelling, and one accessory dwelling unit. As is typical, most of the new construction involved residential additions and accessory buildings. Commercial permits were steady this year and there is the expectation that next year will have as many, if not more, commercial applications. There are still tax credit opportunities for façade rehab and restoration projects on historic buildings in the Designated Village Center. Please contact me for more information.

The Voters passed the amendments that updated the Fairlee Unified Development Bylaw. These amendments include a conditional use requirement for usage of a home as a short-term rental, if you are considering using your home for this use, please contact me about the documentation and permit requirements. There are also new requirements to obtain permitting for some projects that would require soil disturbance in the two lake zones. Again, please contact me if you are planning to open the soil on your lake property.

The major project for 2024 is obtaining a Neighborhood Development Area designation for a portion of the Village. This designation will make the town eligible for infrastructure monies, and property owners eligible for development funding and tax credits.

Please send me an email at zoning@fairleevt.gov if you have any questions about this or any other zoning topic.

Zoning Permits	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
One- and Two-family Dwelling	2	3	6	3	4
Accessory Dwelling Unit				2	1
Residential Addition	5	4	6	3	6
Residential Accessory Structure	8	5	10	8	10
Home Occupation	1	1	0	0	0
Pool	0	0	1	0	0
Commercial Construction	2	1	1	2	2
Commercial Accessory Structure	3	0	3	0	2
Commercial Use/sign	1	2	4	0	0
Demolition	0	1	4	0	0
Certificates of Compliance	0	1	6	5	7
Administrative Subdivision				1	0
Short Term Rental					1
Soil Disturbance					3
Total Issued	22	18	41	24	32
Denials	0	0	0	0	0

Respectfully submitted,
 Chris Brimmer
 Zoning Administrator

CONTRACTUAL PAYMENTS IN 2023

The Town of Fairlee and the Fairlee Water Department paid amounts in excess of \$1,000.00 under various employment and contractual arrangements during 2023 to the individuals and firms listed below:

(Due to possible income sensitivity, taxpayer refunds over \$1,000.00 are not listed.)

TOWN/WATER CONTRACTUAL:

All-Access Infotech, LLC	IT/Equipment	\$ 46,620.13
Allen Engineering, Inc.	Water Department - Pump House	1,411.00
Alpha Elevator Company	Elevator Contract	1,218.75
Alliance Consulting & Excavation, LLC	Sidewalk Project	62,793.00
Austin Mohawk and Company, LLC	Bus Shelter	6,552.00
Bemis Electric LLC	Transfer Station Gate	1,612.00
Bethel Mills	Materials / Hardware	4,119.34
Bergeron Protective Clothing	Fire Department - Fire Clothing	5,951.33
Bill Hodge's Property Service	Mowing - Town & Cemetery	29,234.88
Blaktop	Road Resurfacing	249,638.92
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of VT	Health Insurance	61,989.91
Cargill, Inc.	Winter Roads – Salt	14,773.26
Cartographic Technologies, Inc.	Map Maintenance	1,027.67
Carus, LLC	Water Department/Pumphouse	3,103.17
Cincinnati Cos., The	Insurance (FD/Fast Squad)	1,220.00
Clara Martin Center	Appropriation	1,545.00
Community Bank	Lake Fairlee Dam Bond	19,611.52
Consolidated Communications	Telephone	6,565.60
Cott Systems, Inc.	Land Records Management	6,125.00
Delta Dental	Dental Insurance	3,058.40
Dubois & King	Better Connections Grant	34,439.32
Dufresne Group	Asset Management Consultant	12,085.96
E.J. Prescott, Inc.	Water Line Supplies	4,174.39
Electrical Installations, Inc.	Water Department	1,401.06
Engineering Ventures PC	Old Fire Station Audit	4,500.00
Eric A Tyler	Library Trim Painting	3,036.47
Fairlee Fast Squad Inc.	Water Rescue Rope	1,391.25
Fairlee Marine & Recreation, Inc.	Pontoon Repair/Storage	2,053.17
Ferguson Waterworks	Water Department/Pumphouse	2,588.12
First Bankcard	Town Credit Card Purchases	12,098.20
Govoffice, LLC	IT/Equipment	2,750.00
Gray Electric	Electrical Work	12,364.62
Green Mountain Library Consortium	Integrated Library System Fee	1,187.80
Green Mountain Power	Electricity	23,928.51
Hammond Grinding & Recycling, Inc.	Removal of Brush	8,500.00
Hampshire Fire Protection Co., LLC	Annual Inspection	3,637.00
Hanover, Town of	Dispatch	19,320.94

HCT Sun Enterprises	Electricity/Solar	16,609.54
Help on the Way LLC	Gazebo Repair	2,940.00
Ingram Library Services	Library Books	7,514.45
IRS - EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	121,727.52
James W Barlow PLC	Tax Sale Attorney	4,381.24
Journal Opinion, Inc.	Advertising	1,759.70
JS Stone	Town Hall Painting	23,194.00
K & R Portable Restroom Services, LLC	Port-a-lets	3,245.00
Keith B Trischman Truck & Trailer Repair	Fire Truck Repair	1,042.04
Konica Minolta Premier Finance	Copier Lease	1,726.50
Lackie, David	Trucking	1,885.00
Lake Fairlee Association, Inc.	Appropriation	5,250.00
Leaf	Maintenance Contract	2,090.20
Little Rivers Health Care	Appropriation	2,000.00
Longto Tree Service	Tree Removal	19,350.00
Loschiavo, Mike	Roadside Mowing	4,875.00
M. Wright Excavation	Roads	190,537.50
Magee Office Plus	Office Supplies	1,179.87
Martin's Quarry	Highway Department	16,137.33
Miranda Clemson, LLC	Website	1,361.55
Mudett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, PC	2022 Year end Audit	16,540.00
NE Municipal Resource (NEMRC)	Software/Support/Contract	7,446.67
Northstar Fireworks	Fireworks	14,250.00
Orange County Court	Orange County Tax	58,499.93
Orange County Sheriff's Dept.	Law Enforcement Patrol	5,941.00
Orange East Senior Center	Appropriation	3,000.00
Orford Service Center, Inc.	Police Vehicle Maintenance	1,330.45
Ossipee Mountain Electronics, Inc.	Police Vehicle Maintenance	1,598.45
Overhead Door Co. of Rutland, Inc.	EMS Door Repair	3,385.00
P&P Marketplace Inc	Police Vehicle Fuel	4,855.91
Perley Colby, Inc. Plumbing	Plumbing/Water System	24,669.06
Perry's/Patten's Oil Service, Inc.	Fuel Oil & Propane	10,297.90
Priority Express	Library Book Courier	1,133.74
Prudential Retirement Services	Retirement	15,116.90
Quinttown Container Services	Recycling/EMS Bldg Trash	17,538.00
R.C. Brayshaw & Company, Inc.	Printing	1,423.00
Repro	Town Report Printing	2,564.31
Round Hill Fence & Security Inc	Transfer Station Gate	7,859.71
Rich Clifford Concrete	Park-N-Ride Shelter Slab	4,800.00
Rivendell ISD	School Taxes	3,624,718.00
Rowell's Grading	Road Grading	13,975.00
Sandberg Farm	Composting	2,073.00
Solitude Lake Management	Milfoil	8,335.00
Staples	Office Supplies – Town/Library	2,630.12
Stearns Septic Services	EMS Building & Town Hall	3,907.00

Swampguana	Milfoil	8,050.00
Symquest Group, Inc.	Copier Service/Repair	1,454.52
T & M Construction, LLC	Library Building Repairs	1,771.62
Tarrant, Gillies, & Shems	Professional Fees	1,170.00
Thetford Community Solar, LLC	Electricity/Solar	3,560.41
Ti-Sales Inc.	Water Department	5,848.66
Topsham Communications LLC	Internet (TH, Library, & FD)	5,034.44
Treasurer, State of Vermont	Water System	1,284.50
Tri Town Commission	Appropriation	1,267.86
Tri-Valley Transit	Appropriation	2,500.00
Two Rivers Ottauquechee	Dues/Consultants	2,256.68
U.S. Postage Service	Postage	6,630.00
UI Insurance Services, Inc.	Fire Department Insurance	11,896.00
Unifirst Corp.	Town Hall Rug Service	1,637.55
Union Bank	Town Hall Loan Payments	56,573.40
Upper Valley Ambulance, Inc.	Ambulance Service	50,388.00
USDA Rural Development	Loan Repayment	67,714.00
Valley Floors, Inc.	Floor Maintenance	2,882.80
Valley News	Advertising	4,471.50
Vermont Appraisal Co.	Reappraisal	4,035.00
Vermont Reindeer Farm	Rec Council	1,200.00
Vermont State Dept. of Taxes	Payroll Taxes	14,498.42
Vermont State Treasurer	Animal Licenses	1,035.00
Vermont, State of - Envir & Conservation	ANR	1,056.67
Vermont, State of	Education Taxes	55,386.46
Visiting Nurse Alliance/Hospice	Appropriation	11,000.00
VLCT (VT League of Cities & Towns)	Membership/Workshops	2,863.00
VLCT Employment Resource and Benefits Trust	Unemployment Insurance	2,932.00
VLCT PACIF	Property Casualty/WC Ins.	28,681.00
VT Recreational Surfacing & Fencing	Guardrails	7,715.00
Windows & Doors By Brownell-W Leb	Town Hall Windows	2,726.50
Windsor County Sheriff's Department	4th of July Traffic Control	1,020.00
Zenner Performance	Water Department-Meters	4,928.42

EMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS IN 2023

Amounts listed are the gross amount paid to individuals making in excess of \$1,000.

EMPLOYEE	HOURS	DUTIES	AMOUNT
Jason D. Bachus	76.00	Chief of Police	\$ 1,705.36
Jason D. Bachus		Delinquent Tax Collector	18,066.49
Celia A. Barlett	175.00	Milfoil - Boat Ramp Greeter	2,893.00
Peter B. Berger		Selectboard/Election Worker	1,144.98
Joanna W. Bligh	122.75	Minute Taker (DRB, PC, SB)	2,372.77
Wayne F Briggs, Jr	1398.00	Chief of Police	49,518.00
John C. Brimmer	1,563.75	Zoning Administrator & PC Planner	43,751.96
Sylvia C. Brown	270.00	Town Hall Custodian	6,029.12
David R. Cannon		Fast Squad/Fire Department	3,820.00
Kenneth D. Champagne		Fire Department - Chief	1,750.00
Miranda A Clemson	74.50	Library Assistant	1,117.50
Russell W. Collins	609.50	Lister	12,031.59
Kara L. Darling	135.25	Library Custodian	2,937.63
Jo-Anne Fratus	75.00	Milfoil Greeter	1,350.00
Jennifer L Garrow	2,067.50	Treasurer Assistant	53,409.74
Andrew D. Godfrey		Fire Department - Deputy	1,300.00
Frank E. Godfrey	666.50	Handyman/Transfer Station/Beach Maint.	13,623.30
Keanu E Hallmartel	394.50	Lifeguard	7,141.50
Lisa F. Hinsley	1,365.25	Town Treasurer	40,306.71
Barbara J. Lantery	938.75	Assistant Town Clerk/Restoration/Elections	18,099.97
Barry G. Larson	415.00	Water & Fire Department	14,829.15
Ryan G Lockwood	592.00	Town Administrator	17,168.00
Dan Ludwig	270.00	Lister Animal Control Officer	5,329.83
Catherine McGrath		Selectboard/Election Worker	1,000.00
Lance Mills		Selectboard Chair/Election Worker	1,500.00
John T. Nunez	1,549.50	Town Administrator	48,525.41
Rachel H. O'Hearn	110.00	Beach Manager Greeter Supervisor	1,650.00
Scott O'Hearn	192.00	Milfoil Greeter	2,880.00
Horace A Palmer III	178.00	Milfoil Greeter	2,670.00
Elizabeth M. Reynolds	1,820.00	Library Director	47,356.40
Jessie M Rutz	138.00	Milfoil Greeter	2,070.00
Patricia Tompkins	458.50	Minutes Taker	8,862.82
Noël G. Walker	2,219.25	Lister - Chair/E-911 Coordinator/Tech Asst.	52,574.06
Georgette K. Wolf-Ludwig	2,075.25	Town Clerk	61,978.11

TOWN OF FAIRLEE – 2023 GRAND LIST

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

GRAND LIST:

Municipal	\$ 2,917,481.00
Non-Homestead	1,851,549.00
Homestead	1,052,111.00
State of VT Special Exemption - from Education Tax ONLY (solar fields/municipal prop.)	13,821.00

TAXES ASSESSED & BILLED:

	Grand List x	Tax Rate	
General Fund	\$ 2,917,481.00	\$ 0.4200	\$ 1,225,342.02
Highway Fund	2,917,481.00	0.0814	237,482.95
Veterans Local Agreement Rate	2,917,481.00	0.0002	583.50
Non-Homestead Education	1,851,549.00	1.2725	2,356,096.10
Homestead Education	1,052,111.00	1.7047	1,793,533.62
Total Taxes Assessed & Billed:			5,613,038.19
Late HS-131 Penalty			12,702.11
			<u>\$ 5,625,740.30</u>

Municipal Tax Rate	0.5016
Total Non-Homestead Tax Rate	1.7741
Total Homestead Tax Rate	2.2063

TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR:

Collections:	
General Fund	\$ 1,207,216.24
Highway Fund	233,970.00
Veterans Local Agreement Rate	574.86
Non-Homestead Education	2,321,243.73
Homestead Education	1,767,002.91
Total Collections	5,530,007.74
Delinquent to Collector	83,030.45
Total Taxes Accounted For 12/31/23:	<u>\$ 5,613,038.19</u>

VETERANS EXEMPTIONS:

\$ 60,000.00

DELINQUENT TAXES:

Submitted to Treasurer,	
Delinquent for 2021	\$ 1,293.06
Delinquent for 2022	3,966.84
Delinquent for 2023	83,030.45
Total Delinquent Taxes 12/31/23:	<u>\$ 88,290.35</u>

Submitted on the 19th day of January 2024 by Jason Bachus

TOWN OF FAIRLEE

2023 STATEMENT OF DEBT SERVICES

As of December 31, 2023

	PRINCIPAL BALANCE
SHORT-TERM:	
Water Dept. Asset Management Loan Forgiveness Program*	
Vermont Bond Bank Note available balance = \$50,000	
Note interest rate = 0.0%	
Maturity date = August 1, 2030	\$ 13,592.82
*Money is awarded in the form of a forgivable loan, all principal and interest will be forgiven upon successful completion of the Asset Management program.	
Stormwater Mitigation Loan Forgiveness Program*	
Vermont Bond Bank Note available balance = \$76,000	
Note interest rate = 0.0%	
Maturity date = April 14, 2027	22,800.00
*Money is awarded in the form of a forgivable loan, all principal and interest will be forgiven upon successful completion of the Asset Management program.	
LONG-TERM:	
Lake Fairlee Dam Loan - (Community Bank)	
Original loan principal balance = \$289,000	
Loan interest rate = 2.75%, 20 yr. fixed	
Annual principal payment amount = \$14,450, with interest payments made semi-annually	
Maturity date = July 15, 2035	173,400.00
Town Hall Renov. Loan - (Union Bank)	
Original Loan principal balance = \$835,055	
Loan interest rate = 3.0%	
Monthly principal and interest payments = \$4,714.45	
Maturity date = July 1, 2038	650,029.57
Water Dept. USDA Loan - (USDA)	
Original Loan principal balance = \$2,031,000	
Loan interest rate = 1.50%, 40 yr. fixed	
Semi-annual principal and interest payments = \$33,857.00	<u>1,916,957.00</u>
TOTAL OUTSTANDING DEBT AS OF 12/31/23	<u><u>\$ 2,776,779.39</u></u>

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts – 2023

Cemetery Fund - #41

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 23,109.83	\$ 23,165.12	\$ 23,826.03
RECEIPTS:			
Interest - Fund Account	55.29	60.91	75.00
Sales of Lots (40%)	-	600.00	600.00
Misc. Income	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u>23,165.12</u>	<u>23,826.03</u>	<u>24,501.03</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Cemetery Expenses - Maint.	-	-	10,000.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 23,165.12</u>	<u>\$ 23,826.03</u>	<u>\$ 14,501.03</u>

Fund established in 1980 with 60% of plot sales added annually for perpetual care.

Rosalene M. Ordway Trust Fund - #42

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 2,525.76	\$ 2,531.79	\$ 2,538.38
RECEIPTS:			
Interest	6.03	6.59	10.00
TOTAL	<u>2,531.79</u>	<u>2,538.38</u>	<u>2,548.38</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Toward Water On & Off	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 2,531.79</u>	<u>\$ 2,538.38</u>	<u>\$ 2,548.38</u>

Fund established in 1987 with a bequest from Rosalene M. Ordway. Interest only is to be used for the maintenance and improvements of water in the Fairlee Village Cemetery.

Fairlee Recreation Council Fund - #43

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 13,268.29	\$ 12,874.13	\$ 15,757.72
RECEIPTS:			
Calendar Sales	1,971.00	3,590.00	3,000.00
Donations	-	500.00	-
Interest	32.24	37.59	50.00
TOTAL	<u>15,271.53</u>	<u>17,001.72</u>	<u>18,807.72</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Calendar Expenses	1,197.40	1,244.00	1,300.00
Misc. Expenses	1,200.00	-	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 12,874.13</u>	<u>\$ 15,757.72</u>	<u>\$ 17,507.72</u>

This fund was established to allow the Fairlee Recreation Council to do fundraising for future projects/events and keep the funds separate so that they could be carried over year after year.

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts – 2023

Fairlee Historical Society Fund - #44

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 6,548.25	\$ 7,200.21	\$ 12,225.60
RECEIPTS:			
Donations	1,296.14	6,200.00	1,000.00
Dues	595.00	30.00	500.00
Interest	16.93	25.65	35.00
TOTAL	<u>8,456.32</u>	<u>13,455.86</u>	<u>13,760.60</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Misc. Expense (meetings/supplies/postage/software)	1,256.11	1,230.26	1,300.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 7,200.21</u>	<u>\$ 12,225.60</u>	<u>\$ 12,460.60</u>

Fund established in 1976 for the purpose of collecting dues and donations to be used for the preservation of the archives and facilitate historical programs.

FHS Town Hall 2nd Floor Fundraising Fund - #61

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 118.59	\$ 118.88	\$ 0.10
RECEIPTS:			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest	0.29	0.10	-
TOTAL	<u>118.88</u>	<u>118.98</u>	<u>0.10</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Misc. Expense	-	-	-
Transfer to Town towards Renovation cost	-	118.88	0.10
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 118.88</u>	<u>\$ 0.10</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

Fund established in 2016 to track fundraising efforts for the 2nd floor renovations.

Scholarship Fund - #45

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 120,120.46	\$ 112,902.05	\$ 105,115.12
RECEIPTS:			
Donations	-	1,425.00	1,000.00
Scholarship refund	-	-	-
Interest	281.59	288.07	300.00
TOTAL	<u>120,402.05</u>	<u>114,615.12</u>	<u>106,415.12</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Scholarships	7,500.00	9,500.00	10,000.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 112,902.05</u>	<u>\$ 105,115.12</u>	<u>\$ 96,415.12</u>

Fund established in 1967 as part of the Fairlee School District to give students, who are Fairlee residents, the opportunity to apply for scholarships to help fund continuing education after high school graduation.

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts – 2023

Sheldon Miller Bequest Fund - #46

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 33,870.53	\$ 33,951.55	\$ 34,040.01
RECEIPTS:			
Interest	81.02	88.46	100.00
TOTAL	<u>33,951.55</u>	<u>34,040.01</u>	<u>34,140.01</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Rivendell Interstate School District	-	-	450.00
Thetford Academy	-	-	100.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 33,951.55</u>	<u>\$ 34,040.01</u>	<u>\$ 33,590.01</u>

Fund established in 1986 with a bequest from Sheldon Miller. Interest only is to be used for educational purposes in connection with the Fairlee Elementary School (now the Samuel Morey Elementary School) and Thetford Academy.

William H. Lange Memorial Forest Fund - #47

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 20,709.08	\$ 18,685.12	\$ 18,687.05
RECEIPTS:			
Stumpage Income	-	-	-
Interest	45.05	48.60	60.00
TOTAL	<u>20,754.13</u>	<u>18,733.72</u>	<u>18,747.05</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Forest Management	2,069.01	46.67	500.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 18,685.12</u>	<u>\$ 18,687.05</u>	<u>\$ 18,247.05</u>

770 acres acquired through a federal grant and a generous donation from John and Irma Lange in 1981. Any and all funds generated through sound forestry practices are to be used for the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the 770 acres (only) at the discretion of the five member Forest Board.

Timber Trust Fund - #48

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 21,828.55	\$ 19,768.35	\$ 19,773.11
RECEIPTS:			
Logging Income	-	-	-
Interest	47.72	51.43	75.00
TOTAL	<u>21,876.27</u>	<u>19,819.78</u>	<u>19,848.11</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Forest Management	2,107.92	46.67	3,700.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 19,768.35</u>	<u>\$ 19,773.11</u>	<u>\$ 16,148.11</u>

700 acres were acquired prior to 1950 as a result of unpaid property taxes. 10% of the principal is to be set aside annually to be used by the five member Forest Board, at their discretion, for the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the 700 acres. The balance of any funds generated through forest management are available for use with the majority of voters approval. Three of the more notable activities conducted in the past five years, using these funds, was the clearing to open the view from Bald Top, treatment of the invasives on Bald Top, and the planting of 21 hybrid American Chestnut seedlings (by the Rivendell Academy science students). Each May the sophomore science students will visit the plantings to release any competition and measure the growth. That information will be sent to The American Chestnut Foundation's main office for their records.

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts – 2023

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts - 2023

Gravel Pit/Logging Fund - #49

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 23,867.36	\$ 23,365.64	\$ 23,379.78
RECEIPTS:			
Interest	56.19	60.80	75.00
	23,923.55	23,426.44	23,454.78
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Forest Management	557.91	46.66	500.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 23,365.64</u>	<u>\$ 23,379.78</u>	<u>\$ 22,954.78</u>

100 acres acquired from the State of Vermont for \$1.00 in 1982. Should the town choose to no longer use it for recreational purposes, it reverts back to the State of Vermont. 10% of the funds generated from sound forestry practices are to be set aside annually to be used for the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the forest. The balance of the funds are available, at the discretion of a majority of the voters, for "Recreation Development."

Firemen's Stock Fund - #52

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 21,451.28	\$ 16,317.32	\$ 16,814.96
RECEIPTS:			
Change in Stock Value	(5,392.92)	-	-
Dividend	258.96	497.64	500.00
TOTAL	16,317.32	16,814.96	17,314.96
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Misc. Expenses	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 16,317.32</u>	<u>\$ 16,814.96</u>	<u>\$ 17,314.96</u>

Fund established in 1995 from a donation made in stocks to the Fairlee Fire Department.

Reappraisal Reserve Fund - #53

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 29,165.97	\$ 8,985.00	\$ -
RECEIPTS:			
State of Vermont - Per Parcel	6,555.00	6,545.50	6,500.00
Interest	64.03	34.96	20.00
TOTAL	35,785.00	15,565.46	6,520.00
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Transfer to Town towards reappraisal cost	26,800.00	15,565.46	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 8,985.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 6,520.00</u>

Fund established in 1998, per Statue 32 VSA, §4041a, for the purpose of reappraisal cost related to our grand list.

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts – 2023

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts - 2023

Restoration Fees Reserve Fund - #54

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 13,607.90	\$ 15,267.19	\$ 16,990.22
RECEIPTS:			
Restoration Fees	3,931.25	3,960.00	4,000.00
TOTAL	17,539.15	19,227.19	20,990.22
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Restoration Salaries & Wages/Payroll Taxes	2,271.96	2,236.97	2,300.00
Misc. Expenses	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 15,267.19</u>	<u>\$ 16,990.22</u>	<u>\$ 18,690.22</u>

Fund established on December 8, 1998 for the sole purpose of funding the restoration, preservation and conservation of municipal records filed with the Town Clerk. A portion of the recording fees from land records funds this account.

Listers' Training Reserve Fund - #55

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 1,983.44	\$ 1,983.44	\$ 1,833.44
RECEIPTS:			
State of Vermont	-	-	-
TOTAL	1,983.44	1,983.44	1,833.44
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Training Expenses	-	150.00	150.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 1,983.44</u>	<u>\$ 1,833.44</u>	<u>\$ 1,683.44</u>

Fund established in 2005, per Statue 32 VSA, §4041a (a) and 5405(f), for the purpose of listers' education.

Railroad Station Fund - #58

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 13,961.25	\$ 15,018.85	\$ 16,472.95
RECEIPTS:			
Interest	34.17	39.14	60.00
Transfer from Railroad Station General Fund	1,023.43	1,414.96	-
TOTAL	15,018.85	16,472.95	16,532.95
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Transfer to Railroad Station General Fund	-	-	280.00
Transfer to Capital Budget	-	-	8,000.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 15,018.85</u>	<u>\$ 16,472.95</u>	<u>\$ 8,532.95</u>

Fund established in 2012 to enable any funds in excess of spending be carried over to the next year to be used to upgrade and repair the Railroad Station.

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts – 2023

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts - 2023

Library - Perkins Fund - #80

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 506.01	\$ 507.22	\$ 508.54
RECEIPTS:			
Interest	1.21	1.32	3.00
TOTAL	<u>507.22</u>	<u>508.54</u>	<u>511.54</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Misc. Expenses	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 507.22</u>	<u>\$ 508.54</u>	<u>\$ 511.54</u>

Fund established by a donation from Homer & Alice Perkins, interest only to be used to purchase nature books.

Library - Titus Fund - #81

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 4,764.25	\$ 4,775.64	\$ 4,788.09
RECEIPTS:			
Interest	11.39	12.45	15.00
TOTAL	<u>4,775.64</u>	<u>4,788.09</u>	<u>4,803.09</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Misc. Expenses	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 4,775.64</u>	<u>\$ 4,788.09</u>	<u>\$ 4,803.09</u>

Fund established by a donation from Isabel Currier Titus, interest only to be used to purchase books.

Library - Bequest Fund - #82

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 23,843.62	\$ 23,892.01	\$ 23,954.26
RECEIPTS:			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest	57.02	62.25	75.00
TOTAL	<u>23,900.64</u>	<u>23,954.26</u>	<u>24,029.26</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Misc. Expenses	8.63	-	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 23,892.01</u>	<u>\$ 23,954.26</u>	<u>\$ 24,029.26</u>

Fund established by misc. donations/bequests of \$300 or more by Library patrons, interest only transferred to the Book Donations fund annually.

Town Treasurer's Statement of Fund Accounts – 2023

Library - Misc. Expenses Fund - #83

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 1,357.51	\$ 1,074.47	\$ 3,733.65
RECEIPTS:			
Donations	-	2,699.01	500.00
Interest	2.96	5.96	8.00
TOTAL	1,360.47	3,779.44	4,241.65
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Library Improvements	286.00	45.79	250.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 1,074.47</u>	<u>\$ 3,733.65</u>	<u>\$ 3,991.65</u>

Fund established by misc. donations by Library patrons specifically for misc. library expenses, funds used to help the library cover expenses not budgeted or exceeding budget.

Library - Book Donations Fund - #84

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 2,494.79	\$ 2,299.87	\$ 2,424.11
RECEIPTS:			
Donations	221.60	1,013.00	500.00
Interest	5.89	6.26	8.00
TOTAL	2,722.28	3,319.13	2,932.11
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Book Purchase Expenses	422.41	895.02	500.00
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 2,299.87</u>	<u>\$ 2,424.11</u>	<u>\$ 2,432.11</u>

Fund established by misc. donations/bequests of less than \$300 by Library patrons, for books only. This fund is also spending \$250/year for purchasing books, to lower the book expense line item in the Library Town budget.

ARPA Fund - #90

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
FUND BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 146,473.75	\$ 293,016.57	\$ -
RECEIPTS:			
Funds Received	146,542.82	-	-
TOTAL	293,016.57	293,016.57	-
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Funds Transferred to General & Capital Fund projects	-	58,579.90	-
Funds Transferred to General Fund to offset Payroll exp.	-	234,436.67	-
FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 293,016.57</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The Town of Fairlee has been awarded, from The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), \$102,594.00 for cities, towns and villages funds as well as \$190,353.50 for county funds. Selectboards will have discretion over how to spend these allocations. ARPA funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024 and expended by Dec. 31, 2026.

NOTE: In 2023, per the recommendation of VLCT, the Town of Fairlee elected to transfer unused ARPA funds to the General Fund to offset Payroll and Non-contractual expenses. This created a surplus at year-end that can be spent with no limitations or time limits. This surplus is being shown as a Restricted Fund Balance to be used as matching grant funds on the General Fund Balance Sheet.

General Fund – Summary Budget

GENERAL FUND	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Revenues				
Administration	\$ 31,528	\$ 26,619	\$ 323,358	\$ 22,750
Cemetery	-	-	900	900
Community Organizations	-	-	-	-
Emergency Services and Buildings	26,879	20,900	34,390	30,260
Fire & Rescue	-	-	-	-
Information Technology (IT)	-	-	-	-
Library	12,472	2,492	3,736	1,400
Listers	116,618	105,471	98,378	82,545
Lakes	49,033	18,096	49,359	33,503
Other	9,656	-	-	-
Police	1,072	1,866	4,780	1,000
Railroad Station	11,450	8,591	5,373	17,125
Recreation Council	518	3,208	2,053	2,850
Town Hall & Parks	37,636	19,335	2,180	1,120
Trash & Recycling	5,012	3,156	16,079	4,300
Tri-Town Commission	-	-	-	-
Zoning	23,123	6,354	4,439	37,800
Total Revenues	<u>324,997</u>	<u>216,087</u>	<u>545,024</u>	<u>235,553</u>
Expenses				
Administration	322,116	332,950	403,641	409,134
Cemetery	8,737	10,783	13,214	17,286
Community Organizations	25,650	26,050	25,150	27,751
Emergency Services and Buildings	60,093	71,594	103,757	84,002
Fire & Rescue	51,242	37,985	56,981	80,552
Information Technology & Equipment	-	53,931	63,796	74,880
Library	104,248	96,691	104,397	113,771
Listers	81,342	73,078	80,446	61,652
Lakes	45,612	37,354	57,569	50,284
Other	57,721	68,640	76,090	76,700
Police	38,301	50,306	78,425	123,409
Railroad Station	5,214	8,591	17,018	5,480
Recreation Council	16,749	25,141	19,280	26,434
Town Hall & Parks	94,504	73,539	78,090	85,987
Trash & Recycling	29,397	24,165	49,792	33,213
Tri-Town Commission	1,441	1,425	1,268	1,821
Zoning	63,851	48,040	49,966	98,278
Total Expenses	<u>1,006,218</u>	<u>1,040,262</u>	<u>1,278,879</u>	<u>1,370,634</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (681,221)</u>	<u>(824,175)</u>	<u>\$ (733,855)</u>	<u>\$ (1,135,081)</u>

General Fund – Summary Budget

	2021 Taxes <u>As Billed</u>	2022 Taxes <u>As Billed</u>	2023 Taxes <u>As Billed</u>	2024 Taxes <u>(Estimated)</u>
ARTICLE 10:				
General Fund Revenues	\$ (301,113)	(233,809)	\$ (266,730)	\$ (235,553)
Cash Available/Carry Forward	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>(69,000)</u>	<u>(52,500)</u>	<u>(85,000)</u>
Non-Tax Revenues	<u>(326,113)</u>	<u>(302,809)</u>	<u>(319,230)</u>	<u>(320,553)</u>
General Fund Expenses	1,136,866	1,154,753	1,267,902	1,370,634
Veteran's Local Agreement Rate	<u>833</u>	<u>833</u>	<u>833</u>	<u>584</u>
General Fund Expenditures	<u>1,137,699</u>	<u>1,155,586</u>	<u>1,268,735</u>	<u>1,371,218</u>
Town to be Raised by Taxes	<u>811,586</u>	<u>852,777</u>	<u>949,505</u>	<u>1,050,665</u>

ARTICLE 7:				
Highway Revenues	(60,787)	(78,630)	(64,075)	(122,575)
Highway Expenses	<u>289,197</u>	<u>294,107</u>	<u>301,472</u>	<u>330,527</u>
Highway to be Raised by Taxes	<u>228,410</u>	<u>215,477</u>	<u>237,397</u>	<u>207,952</u>

ARTICLE 8:				
Town Buildings & Lands Reserve	35,000	32,000	40,000	45,000
Debt Service - Town Hall Loan	56,573	<u>56,573</u>	<u>56,573</u>	<u>56,573</u>
		88,573	96,573	101,573
Emergency Equipment Reserve	18,000	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Town Highway Reserve	90,000	<u>130,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>
Lake Reserve	7,000	7,500	7,500	15,000
Debt Service - Lake Fairlee Dam Loan	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
		28,500	28,500	35,000
Capital Budget to be Raised by Taxes	<u>227,573</u>	<u>267,073</u>	<u>275,073</u>	<u>286,573</u>

ARTICLES 10, 7 & 8 TOTAL

Total Municipal Taxes to be Raised	<u>\$ 1,267,569</u>	<u>\$ 1,335,327</u>	<u>\$ 1,461,975</u>	<u>\$ 1,545,190</u>
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Total Tax Rate - Actual	<u>\$ 0.5975</u>	<u>\$ 0.6244</u>	<u>\$ 0.5016</u>
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Total Tax Rate - Estimated	<u>\$ 0.5997</u>	<u>\$ 0.6289</u>	<u>\$ 0.6886</u>	<u>\$ 0.5296</u>
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Difference from last year		\$ 0.0642	\$ 0.0280
Percentage increase over last year		10.28%	5.59%

General Fund – Department Budgets

ADMINISTRATION	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Property Taxes - Delinquent	\$ 39,183.05	\$ 252,176.69	\$ -	\$ -
Property Taxes - Current	1,245,118.17	1,280,952.39	-	-
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	3,533.14	46,340.30	-	3,500.00
Delinquent Tax Fee	8,059.40	19,243.79	3,000.00	4,000.00
Town Clerks Fees	10,357.50	10,488.70	10,000.00	10,000.00
License Fees -Marriage/Dog	1,757.00	2,493.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
Vehicle Registration Fees	105.00	102.00	100.00	100.00
Copier Fees	272.50	186.75	250.00	100.00
Large Format Copies	35.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Tax Sales/Legal Fees	-	5,268.94	-	-
Misc. Income	370.60	2,613.87	-	-
Interest Income	2,128.58	2,134.45	2,000.00	3,000.00
ARPA Funds Transfer	-	234,436.67	-	-
Total Revenues	1,310,919.94	1,856,487.55	16,900.00	22,750.00
Less Property Taxes	(1,284,301.22)	(1,533,129.08)	-	-
Total Revenues Less Property Taxes	26,618.72	323,358.47	16,900.00	22,750.00
Expenses				
Selectboard's Office				
Salaries & Wages - Selectboard	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Salaries & Wages - Town Administrator	53,517.77	58,750.15	57,193.60	57,237.10
Salaries & Wages - Grant Writing	-	-	-	2,500.00
Salaries & Wages - Communications	-	-	-	2,500.00
TA/Selectboard Expense	1,042.78	1,733.91	2,550.00	2,550.00
Town Clerk's Office				
Salaries & Wages - Town Clerk	55,164.46	59,020.11	59,155.20	60,923.20
Salaries & Wages - Asst. Clerk	14,868.00	15,753.98	15,077.40	16,565.12
Town Clerk Expense	1,284.64	1,444.09	1,000.00	1,200.00
Clerk's Supplies	812.53	1,606.61	1,200.00	1,200.00
Treasurer's Office				
Salaries & Wages - Treasurer	52,506.34	35,429.38	29,931.20	11,071.62
Salaries & Wages - Finance Manager	-	-	-	53,760.00
Salaries & Wages - Finance Asst.	16,668.75	39,695.77	40,216.80	27,612.00
Treasurer Expense	802.86	203.58	800.00	500.00
Auditor's				
Salaries & Wages - Auditor	-	-	300.00	300.00
Auditors Expense	-	16,540.00	16,000.00	14,000.00
Town Report	2,284.60	3,168.70	4,000.00	4,000.00
Salaries & Wages - Minutes Clerk	10,152.00	11,235.59	10,051.60	10,353.20
Salaries & Wages - Tech Asst.	<i>moved</i>	-	-	-
Delinquent Tax Commission	8,196.97	18,066.49	3,000.00	4,000.00
Payroll Taxes Expense	19,075.37	20,863.98	16,709.57	14,654.51
Unemployment Insurance	3,556.00	2,932.00	2,932.00	2,818.00
Vt. League of Cities & Towns	2,325.00	2,399.00	2,325.00	2,474.00
Advertising	959.56	4,068.75	800.00	1,000.00
Postage	3,221.60	4,525.48	3,500.00	4,000.00
Office Supplies	4,059.31	3,347.78	3,000.00	4,000.00
Training	2,804.34	2,039.00	1,500.00	5,000.00
Computer & Internet Expense	<i>moved</i>	-	-	-

General Fund – Department Budgets

ADMINISTRATION	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Website	<i>moved</i>	-	-	-
Equipment - New	<i>moved</i>	-	-	-
Equipment - Repair	<i>moved</i>	-	-	-
Equipment Maintenance/Contracts	<i>moved</i>	-	-	-
Travel/Mileage Expense	1,032.13	680.16	1,000.00	1,000.00
General Liability/Workers' Comp Insurance	3,999.00	6,085.00	8,857.00	7,602.00
Health/Dental/Eye Insurance	47,552.20	63,206.46	66,602.06	68,971.86
Retirement Plans	10,331.00	8,593.34	9,617.00	7,949.00
Telephone	4,504.88	3,479.20	4,000.00	3,500.00
Emergency Telephone	475.00	475.00	500.00	500.00
Professional Fees - Other	1,180.00	7,121.25	5,000.00	5,000.00
Water USDA Loan - Town Portion	6,792.80	6,792.80	6,792.80	6,792.80
Misc. Expense	250.12	853.33	-	-
Bank Charges	30.00	30.00	100.00	100.00
Reimbursable Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	<u>332,950.01</u>	<u>403,640.89</u>	<u>377,211.23</u>	<u>409,134.41</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (306,331.29)</u>	<u>\$ (80,282.42)</u>	<u>\$ (360,311.23)</u>	<u>\$ (386,384.41)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

7.24%

Notes:

Salaries & Wages 2024: 3.0% cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase is included for all employees.

Treasurer's Office 2024: Due to staffing changes, the Treasurer's office is being rearranged with the addition of a Finance Manager.

Health/Dental/Eye Insurance 2024: Health insurance increased 14%.

Professional Fees - Other 2024: Includes tax sale costs and legal fees, reimbursed at time of Tax Sale (shown above as Revenue under "Tax Sales/Legal Fees").



General Fund – Department Budgets

CEMETERY	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Sale of Lots (60%)	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Interest Income - Fund	-	-	-	-
Interest Income - CD	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>900.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>900.00</u>
Expenses				
Cornerstones	-	550.00	150.00	220.00
Monument Repair/Maintenance	-	-	500.00	500.00
Insurance	28.00	30.00	30.00	36.00
Contracted Services	10,750.00	12,303.50	9,075.00	16,080.00
Flag Expense	-	307.72	300.00	350.00
Misc. Expense	4.75	22.57	100.00	100.00
Total Expenses	<u>10,782.75</u>	<u>13,213.79</u>	<u>10,155.00</u>	<u>17,286.00</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (10,782.75)</u>	<u>\$ (12,313.79)</u>	<u>\$ (10,155.00)</u>	<u>\$ (16,386.00)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

61.36%



General Fund – Department Budgets

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Misc. Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenses				
American Red Cross	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
The Mentoring Project	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Capstone Community Action	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Central Vermont Adult Basic Ed, Inc.	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Clara Martin Center	1,545.00	1,545.00	1,545.00	1,545.00
Cohase Chamber of Commerce	250.00	-	250.00	250.00
Green Up Vermont	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Orange County Parent Child Center	200.00	-	200.00	200.00
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
Lake Fairlee Assoc. Milfoil	5,250.00	5,250.00	5,250.00	5,250.00
Orange County Restorative Justice Center	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Orange East Senior Center	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Rivendell Trails Association	450.00	-	450.00	-
Rivendell Rec Association	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Safeline	700.00	700.00	700.00	1,000.00
Tri-Valley Transit (Stagecoach Transportation)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,851.00
Vermont. Assoc. for the Blind & Vis. Impaired	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living	155.00	155.00	155.00	155.00
Vermont Family Network	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
VNA/Hospice	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
WISE	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Total Expenses	<u>26,050.00</u>	<u>25,150.00</u>	<u>26,050.00</u>	<u>27,751.00</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (26,050.00)</u>	<u>\$ (25,150.00)</u>	<u>\$ (26,050.00)</u>	<u>\$ (27,751.00)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

7%

General Fund – Department Budgets

EMERGENCY SERVICES & BUILDINGS	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Emergency Building Rent	\$ 20,900.00	\$ 29,260.00	\$ 29,260.00	\$ 29,260.00
EC Fiber Rent	-	375.00	500.00	500.00
Water Usage Income	-	255.00	500.00	500.00
ARPA Funds	-	4,500.00	-	-
Misc. Income	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>20,900.00</u>	<u>34,390.00</u>	<u>30,260.00</u>	<u>30,260.00</u>
Expenses				
Special Projects - Parking Lot	-	21,603.17	-	-
Equipment - Repair	-	-	500.00	500.00
Building Repairs	2,915.01	5,748.32	10,000.00	7,500.00
Building Repairs - Old Fire Station	852.19	657.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Contracted Services	875.00	-	500.00	500.00
Upper Valley Ambulance	48,412.00	50,388.00	50,388.00	53,352.00
Insurance	3,805.76	3,484.28	3,072.04	3,500.00
Electric	4,630.34	6,500.94	4,000.00	6,500.00
Propane	6,472.46	5,049.39	6,000.00	5,000.00
Water	2,487.32	4,473.50	550.00	4,500.00
Rubbish	1,144.00	1,352.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
Septic Pumping	-	-	400.00	400.00
Professional Fees - Old Fire	-	4,500.00	-	-
Total Expenses	<u>71,594.08</u>	<u>103,756.60</u>	<u>77,660.04</u>	<u>84,002.00</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (50,694.08)</u>	<u>\$ (69,366.60)</u>	<u>\$ (47,400.04)</u>	<u>\$ (53,742.00)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

13.38%

Notes:

Special Projects - Parking Lot 2023: Leftover funds from Highway projects were used to pay for the paving of the Emergency Building parking lot. These expenses, while funded by Highway and being shown under Emergency Services and Building to more accurately show expenses for this department.

Building Repairs 2024: Normal repairs and maintenance.

Professional Fees - Old Fire 2023: Structural Assessment performed on Old Fire Station. ARPA monies were transferred in to pay for this assessment.

General Fund – Department Budgets

FIRE & RESCUE	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Misc. Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Fire	9,035.00	8,070.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Salaries & Wages - FAST	1,600.00	2,984.48	4,200.00	4,800.00
Salaries & Wages - Fire Warden	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Payroll Taxes Expense	710.30	667.48	1,105.43	1,151.33
Advertising/Recruitment	-	288.95	500.00	500.00
Supplies - Fire	83.65	180.08	1,250.00	1,250.00
Supplies - FAST	197.82	1,003.52	3,000.00	3,000.00
Office Supplies	70.00	-	100.00	100.00
Training - Fire	524.45	200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Training - FAST	273.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Computer/Internet	1,639.88	2,256.23	1,890.00	2,501.00
Equipment - New Fire/Forestry	-	7,384.13	10,000.00	10,000.00
Equipment - New FAST	-	225.97	2,500.00	2,500.00
Equipment - Repair/Maintenance	52.00	672.92	5,000.00	5,000.00
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	566.45	2,580.88	5,000.00	5,000.00
Insurance - Fire	9,008.33	8,689.51	8,972.70	10,000.00
Insurance - FAST	977.91	1,451.21	1,766.26	2,000.00
Misc. Expense	100.00	100.00	-	-
Dispatch	12,895.76	18,975.94	14,800.00	20,000.00
Total Expenses	<u>37,984.55</u>	<u>56,981.30</u>	<u>72,834.39</u>	<u>80,552.33</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (37,984.55)</u>	<u>\$ (56,981.30)</u>	<u>\$ (72,834.39)</u>	<u>\$ (80,552.33)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

10.60%

General Fund – Department Budgets

HIGHWAY	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
State Highway Funds	\$ 42,538.73	\$ 44,396.14	\$ 43,500.00	\$ 43,500.00
Access Permit Income	70.00	-	100.00	100.00
Work in ROW Permit Income	70.00	10.00	100.00	100.00
Grant Income - HSIP Grant Signs/Tree Trim	-	-	-	27,000.00
Grant - Grants In Aid	12,607.55	-	8,375.00	8,375.00
Grant Income - Better Roads	4,600.00	16,200.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Grant Income -Highway Equipment	6,430.00	-	-	-
Grant Income - Emerg. Fund (Storm Damage)	-	-	-	31,500.00
Misc. Income	351.00	345.00	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>66,667.28</u>	<u>60,951.14</u>	<u>64,075.00</u>	<u>122,575.00</u>
Expenses				
Winter Roads	122,853.82	111,622.79	125,000.00	125,000.00
Sand/Salt/Aggregate	47,319.96	20,493.64	35,000.00	35,000.00
Summer Rd - Resurfacing	19,668.10	16,288.30	20,000.00	20,000.00
Summer Rd - Maintenance	39,598.42	31,318.15	42,000.00	42,000.00
Summer Rd - Ditching	-	3,120.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Summer Rd - Mowing	5,069.50	4,875.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Summer Rd - Culvert Maintenance	5,416.05	55.32	3,600.00	3,600.00
Tree Removal/Trimming ROW	15,900.00	20,075.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Guardrail - Maintenance & Repair	5,920.00	7,715.00	3,500.00	5,000.00
Street Signs - Maintenance & Repair	2,108.99	204.38	1,000.00	1,000.00
Summer Rd - Sweeping	3,190.00	-	3,200.00	3,200.00
Street Lighting	6,939.90	7,787.45	7,000.00	7,000.00
Special Projects	121.72	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
Municipal Roads General Permit	500.00	1,056.67	640.00	1,100.00
Highway Advertising	-	-	200.00	200.00
Insurance	229.00	271.00	271.00	316.00
Electric	287.00	350.17	300.00	350.00
Grant Expense - HSIP Grant Signs/Tree Trim	-	-	-	27,000.00
Grant Expense - Grants in Aid	5,705.18	4,604.74	13,947.00	13,947.00
Grant Expense - Better Roads	8,484.42	31,973.99	20,314.38	20,314.38
Grant Expense - Highway Equipment	10,271.00	-	-	-
Misc. Expense	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	<u>299,583.06</u>	<u>261,811.60</u>	<u>301,472.38</u>	<u>330,527.38</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (232,915.78)</u>	<u>\$ (200,860.46)</u>	<u>\$ (237,397.38)</u>	<u>\$ (207,952.38)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

-12.40%

Notes:

Grant Income/Expense - Grants in Aid 2024: General ditching and culvert projects, town's portion \$5,572.00

Grant Income/Expense - Better Roads 2024: Maurice Roberts Hwy culvert project, town's portion \$8,314.38

Grant Income - Emerg. Fund 2024: Received grant for expenses due to July 4, 2023 storm damage, expenses will show in 2023 but grant income not received until Jan. 2024.

General Fund – Department Budgets

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Misc. Income	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	-	-	-	-
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Tech Asst.	1,500.00	2,153.00	2,153.00	2,153.00
IT Maintenance & Licenses	-	11,533.00	11,261.00	10,728.00
Server Back-up & Licenses	-	7,189.00	6,636.00	9,224.00
Cybersecurity	-	10,695.31	9,123.00	10,074.00
NEMRC	-	6,198.48	6,200.00	6,447.00
Phone System/Internet/Zoom	-	2,202.29	2,070.00	2,069.00
Software Licensing	-	4,179.44	4,456.00	4,936.00
Computers/Hardware	-	6,824.65	9,870.00	17,598.00
Equipment - New	5,640.18	2,559.48	4,500.00	1,000.00
Equipment - Repair & Maint.	449.99	-	500.00	1,000.00
Equipment - Contracts	5,539.92	6,189.20	5,760.00	5,501.00
Website	1,366.67	4,051.39	3,950.00	4,150.00
Misc. Expense	39,434.25	20.99	-	-
Total Expenses	53,931.01	63,796.23	66,479.00	74,880.00
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (53,931.01)</u>	<u>\$ (63,796.23)</u>	<u>\$ (66,479.00)</u>	<u>\$ (74,880.00)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

13%

Notes:

Computers/Hardware 2024: Includes WiFi replacement and software upgrades.

General Fund – Department Budgets

LIBRARY	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Book Income	\$ 113.70	\$ 184.70	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Program Income	100.00	-	50.00	50.00
Computer Income	105.45	104.45	200.00	75.00
Copier Income	106.85	86.10	100.00	100.00
Postage Income	192.40	152.80	200.00	125.00
Grant Income - Library	871.35	300.00	200.00	300.00
Grant Income - Priority Express	-	636.48	-	650.00
Library Donation - LMPA	500.00	500.00	-	-
Grant Income - ARPA	502.03	-	-	-
ARPA Fund Transfer	-	1,771.62	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>2,491.78</u>	<u>3,736.15</u>	<u>800.00</u>	<u>1,400.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Librarian	44,098.60	48,473.90	47,356.40	48,776.00
Salaries & Wages - Assistant	702.80	404.40	1,455.84	7,500.00
Salaries & Wages - Cleaning	2,487.06	2,947.26	3,388.32	3,489.72
Salaries & Wages - Seasonal Asst.	-	-	560.00	-
Salaries & Wages - Handyman	1,750.24	1,614.78	1,594.32	1,641.90
Payroll Taxes Expense	3,697.60	3,961.65	4,158.15	4,697.68
Automation System Maintenance	573.54	-	1,000.00	-
Books	3,606.88	4,119.30	4,400.00	4,700.00
Books - Juvenile	3,393.20	2,960.88	3,000.00	3,250.00
Media (DVD's, audio books etc.)	1,304.24	1,248.21	1,200.00	1,000.00
Subscriptions	484.80	556.80	500.00	500.00
Dues & Fees	-	-	-	1,500.00
Inter-Library Loan for Lost Books	-	-	50.00	50.00
Audio/Visual Co-ops	517.84	559.20	595.00	-
Prizes	97.43	188.45	175.00	175.00
Programs	1,408.16	1,365.19	1,200.00	1,000.00
Public Relations	90.00	100.00	75.00	75.00
Computer Expense	2,680.92	3,985.44	4,550.00	3,210.00
Copier Expense	120.53	-	200.00	200.00
Annual Cleaning Expense	495.00	-	600.00	-
Postage	882.56	342.15	700.00	200.00
Postage - Priority Express	-	1,133.74	-	1,300.00
Supplies	807.27	768.29	900.00	500.00
Custodial Supplies	520.22	736.26	600.00	450.00
Conf., Dues & Workshops	-	55.00	100.00	100.00
Equipment - New	589.90	14.99	600.00	500.00
Equipment - Repair/Maintenance	579.28	352.82	800.00	400.00
Building Repairs	524.34	5,350.63	2,500.00	1,100.00
Landscaping	-	55.84	500.00	100.00
Mileage	145.60	155.89	200.00	200.00
Insurance-Contents/Building	2,656.00	3,062.00	3,062.00	4,854.15
Health/Dental/Eye Insurance	10,639.92	11,989.92	11,989.92	13,646.40
Retirement	-	-	-	-
Telephone	572.57	623.97	500.00	600.00

General Fund – Department Budgets

LIBRARY	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Computer Telephone	1,679.88	1,679.88	1,680.00	1,680.00
Electric	2,922.40	1,433.98	3,000.00	1,300.00
Security	-	-	300.00	300.00
Fuel	1,978.75	2,934.19	2,500.00	3,000.00
Water	491.84	466.00	475.00	475.00
Septic	1,140.00	-	-	1,000.00
Misc. Expense	277.00	61.15	-	-
Grant Expense - Winnie Bell	-	376.99	-	-
Grant Expense - Library	300.00	317.99	-	300.00
Grant Expense - ARPA	2,474.26	-	-	-
Total Expenses	96,690.63	104,397.14	106,464.95	113,770.85
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	\$ (94,198.85)	\$ (100,660.99)	\$ (105,664.95)	\$ (112,370.85)

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

6.35%

Notes:

ARPA Fund Transfer 2023: ARPA Fund transfer was used to pay for unexpected repair and maintenance cost for the Library building.

Salaries & Wages 2024: Includes 3.0% COLA increase for all positions. Also added a new position, Library Assistant, for 10 hours per week to make up for loss of volunteers and eliminated the Seasonal Assistant position.

Health/Dental/Eye Insurance 2024: Health insurance increased 14%.



General Fund – Department Budgets

LISTERS	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
State of Vermont - Current Use	\$ 78,126.00	\$ 82,268.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 82,000.00
State of Vermont - PILOT	544.54	544.54	545.00	545.00
Transfer from Reappraisal Reserve Fund	26,800.00	15,565.46	16,015.00	-
Total Revenues	<u>105,470.54</u>	<u>98,378.00</u>	<u>93,560.00</u>	<u>82,545.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages	53,215.17	67,305.18	58,106.50	47,577.40
Payroll Taxes Expense	4,070.95	5,187.13	4,445.15	3,639.67
Map Maintenance	4,310.00	1,867.67	3,500.00	3,540.00
User Assoc. Fees	50.00	50.00	160.00	200.00
CAMA/MICROSOLVE	458.54	758.44	460.00	795.00
Reappraisal Contract	10,550.00	4,035.00	4,035.00	-
Postage	308.97	936.20	1,000.00	250.00
Supplies	-	178.35	500.00	200.00
Mileage	114.84	128.45	350.00	350.00
Professional Fees	-	-	10,000.00	5,000.00
Misc. Expense	-	-	100.00	100.00
Total Expenses	<u>73,078.47</u>	<u>80,446.42</u>	<u>82,656.65</u>	<u>61,652.07</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 32,392.07</u>	<u>\$ 17,931.58</u>	<u>\$ 10,903.35</u>	<u>\$ 20,892.93</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

-91.62%

Notes:

Salaries & Wages 2024: Includes 3.0% COLA increase.

CAMA/MICROSOLVE 2024: Software licenses increased.

Professional Fees 2023/2024: No appeals were filed for 2023 but keeping money in the budget in case there are appeals in 2024.

General Fund – Department Budgets

LAKES (includes Milfoil)	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Grant Inc - State of VT	\$ -	\$ 24,135.00	\$ 33,860.00	\$ 12,503.00
Misc. Income - In-kind	11,546.00	17,723.75	15,000.00	15,000.00
Misc. Income - Donations	6,550.00	7,500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Revenues	<u>18,096.00</u>	<u>49,358.75</u>	<u>54,860.00</u>	<u>33,503.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Boat Greeter	11,610.50	14,338.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
Payroll Taxes Expense	888.26	1,096.94	841.50	841.50
In-kind Expense	11,546.00	17,723.75	15,000.00	15,000.00
Supplies	54.52	-	100.00	100.00
Gasoline/Oil	-	470.27	60.00	60.00
Contractual	9,170.00	16,385.00	10,000.00	16,000.00
Equipment - Rental	-	485.00	-	-
Equipment - Repair/Maintenance	1,205.41	3,721.58	4,000.00	4,000.00
Equipment - Storage	-	110.00	180.00	180.00
Insurance	974.00	1,028.00	1,028.00	1,047.00
Misc. Expense	55.80	360.52	150.00	150.00
Misc. Expense - TA Salary	1,849.75	1,850.00	1,850.00	1,905.50
Total Expenses	<u>37,354.24</u>	<u>57,569.06</u>	<u>44,209.50</u>	<u>50,284.00</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (19,258.24)</u>	<u>\$ (8,210.31)</u>	<u>\$ 10,650.50</u>	<u>\$ (16,781.00)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

257.56%

Notes:

Grant Income - State of VT (Previous Yr.) 2023/2024: Amount received in 2023 was for 2022 (as budgeted) and 2023 (less than budgeted).

General Fund – Department Budgets

OTHER	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Grant Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Misc Income	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	-	-	-	-
Expenses				
Board of Civil Authority	-	288.03	3,500.00	2,000.00
Elections	5,805.37	967.41	2,000.00	4,000.00
County Tax	55,276.53	58,499.93	52,843.67	60,000.00
Memorial Day/July 4th	991.80	1,798.88	2,000.00	2,000.00
Land Records Restoration	409.95	285.40	500.00	500.00
Fireworks	6,000.00	14,250.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Emergency Management	156.25	-	200.00	200.00
Total Expenses	68,639.90	76,089.65	69,043.67	76,700.00
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	\$ (68,639.90)	\$ (76,089.65)	\$ (69,043.67)	\$ (76,700.00)

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

11.09%

Notes:

Elections 2024: Town Meeting, Presidential Primary, State Primary, General Election and possible Special Bond Vote for new fire truck.

Fireworks 2023: Overbudget due to Northstar Fireworks now requiring a 50% deposit upon signing of the contract in November, normally they would hold our spot and wait for payment until the budget was passed.



General Fund – Department Budgets

POLICE	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Fines & Fees	\$ 1,866.31	\$ 2,577.54	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Special Duty Income		\$ 2,152.08		
Misc Income	-	50.00	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>1,866.31</u>	<u>4,779.62</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Chief	12,983.94	49,777.86	54,600.00	83,200.00
Salaries & Wages - Special Duty	-	1,445.50	-	-
Payroll Taxes Expense	976.61	3,918.60	4,176.90	6,364.80
Subcontractors	29,170.00	6,291.00	300.00	300.00
Uniforms	-	1,140.84	1,500.00	500.00
Supplies/Forms	30.00	-	250.00	350.00
Training	-	132.58	1,000.00	1,000.00
Computer, Internet & Cyber Security	1,404.00	2,094.67	1,800.00	1,260.00
Equipment/Fees	746.69	1,315.63	750.00	650.00
Equipment Repair	-	1,912.02	100.00	1,000.00
Vehicle Expense	545.58	5,082.05	3,500.00	8,500.00
Insurance	3,644.00	4,364.00	4,364.00	10,734.00
Health/Dental/Eye Insurance	-	-	-	-
Dispatch PD	-	950.00	3,500.00	9,050.00
Animal Control	804.91	-	500.00	500.00
Total Expenses	<u>50,305.73</u>	<u>78,424.75</u>	<u>76,340.90</u>	<u>123,408.80</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (48,439.42)</u>	<u>\$ (73,645.13)</u>	<u>\$ (75,840.90)</u>	<u>\$ (122,408.80)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

61.40%

Notes:

Salaries & Wages 2024: Increased hours from 30 to 40 hours/week and changed to a salary wage based on an increase from \$35 to \$40/hour.

Vehicle Expense 2024: Increased to better reflect actual based on increased usage of cruiser.

Dispatch PD 2023/2024: Increased due to changes, Orange County Sheriff's Dept. is no longer our Dispatch agency. Dispatching now coming through Hanover and the Records Holder services from St. Johnsbury Police Dept.

General Fund – Department Budgets

RAILROAD STATION	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Grant Income - Park and Ride @ RR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,645.20
Railroad Station Rent	5,200.00	5,372.50	5,200.00	5,200.00
Other Income	380.88	-	-	-
Misc. Income - Donation	3,009.85	-	-	-
Transfer from RR Station Fund	-	-	-	280.00
Total Revenues	<u>8,590.73</u>	<u>5,372.50</u>	<u>17,200.00</u>	<u>17,125.20</u>
Expenses				
Insurance	1,288.00	1,484.00	1,484.00	1,780.00
Electric	643.16	693.63	600.00	700.00
Property Improvement/Maintenance	861.94	39.69	1,500.00	1,500.00
Water	458.00	466.00	475.00	500.00
Contracted Services	1,425.00	1,145.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Grant Expense - Park and Ride @ RR	2,891.20	11,774.42	12,108.80	-
Transfer to RR Station Fund	1,023.43	1,414.96	32.20	-
Total Expenses	<u>8,590.73</u>	<u>17,017.70</u>	<u>17,200.00</u>	<u>5,480.00</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (11,645.20)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,645.20</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

0.00%

Notes:

Grant Income/Expense - Park and Ride: Park and Ride project was completed in 2023 but income not received until Jan. 2024.



General Fund – Department Budgets

RECREATION COUNCIL	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Revenues				
Swim Lesson Fees	\$ 340.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Swim Lesson Fees - Non-Resident	-	-	-	-
Beach Pass - Resident	2,867.50	2,052.50	2,500.00	2,500.00
Misc. Income	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>3,207.50</u>	<u>2,052.50</u>	<u>2,850.00</u>	<u>2,850.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Beach Staff	7,000.52	-	8,000.00	8,000.00
Salaries & Wages - Beach Manager	5,040.00	7,141.50	4,000.00	4,000.00
Salaries & Wages - Beach Maintenance	1,122.80	1,757.84	2,000.00	2,000.00
Payroll Taxes Expense	1,007.04	671.53	1,071.00	1,071.00
Red Cross	677.95	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Beach - Operations/Maintenance	4,771.45	2,036.91	3,000.00	3,000.00
Beach - Buildings/Grounds	109.51	243.69	2,000.00	1,000.00
Special Activities	1,466.92	1,006.94	810.00	1,500.00
Winter Activities	-	2,507.89	1,725.00	-
Advertising	348.76	410.26	350.00	450.00
Equipment - New	-	326.25	1,000.00	500.00
Insurance	984.00	999.00	999.00	1,961.00
Telephone	558.88	623.99	500.00	600.00
Computer, Internet & Cyber Security	103.00	439.67	552.00	552.00
Electric	311.42	334.79	300.00	300.00
Water	1,361.78	608.00	100.00	500.00
Misc. Expense	277.20	171.41	-	-
Total Expenses	<u>25,141.23</u>	<u>19,279.67</u>	<u>27,407.00</u>	<u>26,434.00</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (21,933.73)</u>	<u>\$ (17,227.17)</u>	<u>\$ (24,557.00)</u>	<u>\$ (23,584.00)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

-3.96%

Notes:

Winter Activities 2024: Combined with Special Activities.

General Fund – Department Budgets

TOWN HALL & PARKS	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Town Common Rent	\$ 550.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -
Town Hall Rent	600.00	2,100.00	400.00	1,000.00
Vendor Permit Fees	200.00	80.00	200.00	120.00
Grant Income - Comm. Arts	14,545.00	-	-	-
Misc. Income - Donation	3,440.00	-	3,000.00	-
Misc. Income	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>19,335.00</u>	<u>2,180.00</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>1,120.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages	9,861.94	11,915.86	13,245.96	13,642.20
Payroll Taxes Expense	737.00	905.68	1,013.32	1,043.63
Parks	1,251.42	5,920.59	6,000.00	2,500.00
Custodial Supplies	773.42	1,027.49	750.00	1,000.00
Equipment - New	3,507.54	368.29	3,000.00	2,000.00
Equipment - Repair	1,075.85	1,528.34	250.00	500.00
Building Repairs, Maint. & Improv.	7,525.16	4,484.83	15,000.00	10,000.00
Insurance	6,015.00	6,977.00	6,977.00	8,233.00
Electric	16,426.09	15,944.36	15,000.00	15,000.00
Heating Fuel/Propane	636.10	958.56	1,000.00	1,500.00
Rubbish Removal	575.00	525.00	500.00	600.00
Water	1,418.30	1,243.00	950.00	1,300.00
Septic Pumping	-	2,392.00	450.00	-
Contracted Services	<u>23,735.96</u>	<u>23,898.68</u>	<u>17,125.00</u>	<u>28,668.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>73,538.78</u>	<u>78,089.68</u>	<u>81,261.28</u>	<u>85,986.83</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (54,203.78)</u>	<u>\$ (75,909.68)</u>	<u>\$ (77,261.28)</u>	<u>\$ (84,866.83)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

9.84%

Notes:

Salaries & Wages 2024: Includes 3.0% COLA increase.

Contracted Services 2024: Mowing/Clean-up (\$23,085), UniFirst rugs (\$2,550), Alliance contract (\$1,488), Magee - water cooler (\$360), Fire Alarm/Sprinkler annual inspection (\$1,185).

General Fund – Department Budgets

TRASH & RECYCLING	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Dump Pass	\$ 2,867.50	\$ 2,052.50	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Scrap Metal	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Aluminum	204.70	101.20	100.00	100.00
Grant Income - Green Up	84.00	116.96	200.00	200.00
ARPA Fund Transfer	-	12,308.28	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>3,156.20</u>	<u>16,078.94</u>	<u>4,300.00</u>	<u>4,300.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages	3,482.52	4,077.78	3,188.64	3,831.10
Payroll Taxes Expense	266.40	311.97	243.93	293.08
Recycling	14,663.00	15,996.00	15,996.00	15,996.00
Facility Maintenance	342.39	12,527.44	1,000.00	1,000.00
Metal Dump	100.00	125.00	-	-
Brush Dump	-	10,920.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Membership Fee - CVSWD	988.00	988.00	980.00	988.00
Composting	1,777.00	2,073.00	1,600.00	2,000.00
Green-Up Expense	104.39	134.82	200.00	200.00
Insurance	836.00	805.00	805.00	755.00
Electric	-	-	-	350.00
Contracted Services	1,605.00	1,832.73	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total Expenses	<u>24,164.70</u>	<u>49,791.74</u>	<u>31,813.57</u>	<u>33,213.18</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (21,008.50)</u>	<u>\$ (33,712.80)</u>	<u>\$ (27,513.57)</u>	<u>\$ (28,913.18)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

5.09%

Notes:

ARPA Fund Transfer 2023: ARPA Fund transfer was used to pay for new gate installed at the Transfer Station in order to stay in compliance with the State of Vermont permit.

Salaries & Wages 2024: Includes 3.0% COLA increase.

General Fund – Department Budgets

TRI-TOWN COMMISSION (Fairlee's 34%)	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Misc. Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenses				
Stipend - Maint.	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00
Stipend - Treasurer	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00
VLCT Dues	339.15	372.30	340.00	374.00
VLCT Property & Casualty Insurance	448.46	487.56	425.00	510.00
State of VT Fee	68.00	68.00	68.00	68.00
Assoc. of State Dam Safety Officers	-	-	18.70	18.70
Legal Fees	-	-	340.00	170.00
Dam Maint. (Signs & Buoys)	229.02	-	680.00	340.00
Total Expenses	<u>1,424.63</u>	<u>1,267.86</u>	<u>2,211.70</u>	<u>1,820.70</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (1,424.63)</u>	<u>\$ (1,267.86)</u>	<u>\$ (2,211.70)</u>	<u>\$ (1,820.70)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

-17.68%

Notes:

Legal Fees: To have Articles of Agreement updated.

Dam Maint. (Signs & Buoys): Buoys were purchased in 2022 to be installed in 2024.



General Fund – Department Budgets

ZONING	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
ZA Permit Fees	\$ 3,896.80	\$ 4,438.60	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,800.00
Grant Income - Planning Grant	2,457.00	-	8,000.00	-
Grant Income - Municipal Planning	-	-	30,000.00	30,000.00
Grant Income - MERP Grant	-	-	-	4,000.00
Total Revenues	<u>6,353.80</u>	<u>4,438.60</u>	<u>41,500.00</u>	<u>37,800.00</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Planner/ZA/Health	38,703.61	41,673.96	41,574.00	42,822.00
Salaries & Wages - Admin. Officer	-	-	-	5,250.00
Salaries & Wages - E911 Coordinator	250.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Payroll Taxes Expense	2,979.78	3,188.13	3,218.66	3,715.76
ESRI Software Update	300.00	630.00	800.00	330.00
Regional Planning Commission	1,561.00	1,610.00	1,610.00	1,660.00
Green Mtn Economic Development	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
VCDA Membership Dues	-	-	150.00	-
VT Council on Rural Development Fees	-	-	-	150.00
Grant Expense - Planning Grant	2,827.06	-	10,000.00	-
Grant Expense - Municipal Planning	-	-	37,500.00	40,000.00
Postage	25.44	386.40	300.00	400.00
Advertising	-	568.80	500.00	500.00
Supplies	37.25	96.99	250.00	250.00
Equipment	-	-	100.00	300.00
Training/Mileage	356.18	311.82	400.00	400.00
Professional Fees	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Expenses	<u>48,040.32</u>	<u>49,966.10</u>	<u>98,902.66</u>	<u>98,277.76</u>
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (41,686.52)</u>	<u>\$ (45,527.50)</u>	<u>\$ (57,402.66)</u>	<u>\$ (60,477.76)</u>

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

5.36%

Notes:

Salaries & Wages 2024: Includes 3.0% COLA increase. New position added, Admin Officer, to help with enforcement.

Grant Income/Expense 2024: Received a Municipal Planning Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for Structural and Energy studies on various town buildings. Total project cost is \$40,000, requires a 25% match of \$10,000 (\$4,000 coming from the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant received in 2023).

Water Fund – For information only

WATER	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenues				
Annual Water Rent	\$ 195,779.67	\$ 192,604.76	\$ 188,962.97	\$ 198,382.90
Late Fees	-	-	500.00	500.00
Water Hookup Fees	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
Misc. Income	2,034.79	-	-	-
State of VT Loan - Asset Mgmt. Program	-	-	15,307.18	15,307.18
State of VT Loan - Village Septic PER	-	22,800.00	76,000.00	53,200.00
Interest Income	1,593.03	2,668.74	1,000.00	1,000.00
Town Portion of Loan Payment	6,792.80	6,792.80	6,792.00	6,792.80
USDA Grant Proceeds	82,425.04	-	-	-
Total Revenues	288,625.33	224,866.30	291,562.15	278,182.88
Less Town Portion of Loan Payment	(6,792.80)	(6,792.80)	(6,792.80)	(6,792.80)
Less Water Users Portion of Loan Payment	(60,921.20)	(60,921.20)	(60,921.20)	(60,921.20)
Total Revenues for Operating	220,911.33	157,152.30	223,848.15	210,468.88
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages - Operations	15,485.00	14,529.15	27,307.80	28,126.80
Salaries & Wages - Accounting	2,098.54	13,405.60	13,405.60	13,811.20
Payroll Taxes Expense	1,335.86	1,795.11	3,114.58	3,208.26
Advertising	37.00	321.80	150.00	150.00
Computer, Internet & Cyber Security	2,720.54	4,567.12	1,487.00	4,666.76
Dues and Subscriptions	285.00	295.00	285.00	300.00
Insurance	2,796.00	3,034.00	3,034.00	3,846.00
Mileage/Travel Reimb	598.67	682.51	500.00	500.00
Office Supplies	124.89	-	500.00	750.00
Postage	489.85	748.21	500.00	1,000.00
Professional Fees	-	435.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Professional Fees - Asset Mgmt. Program	1,835.50	-	5,146.68	5,146.68
Professional Fees - Village Septic PER	14,854.65	12,670.96	61,145.35	48,474.39
Professional Fees - USDA	89,035.17	-	-	-
Pump House Repairs & Maintenance	21,268.04	24,055.93	19,000.00	21,000.00
Filtration System Repairs & Maintenance	14,751.54	3,866.63	3,000.00	5,000.00
Reservoir Tank Repairs & Maintenance	311.00	532.50	5,000.00	15,000.00
Water Lines Repair & Maintenance	9,334.01	18,077.23	17,000.00	17,000.00
Meters Repair & Maintenance	9,349.75	6,144.60	4,000.00	4,000.00
Services Work Exp (Rebill)	457.00	386.94	-	-
Special Projects	904.50	5,671.07	11,000.00	11,000.00
Gate Valve/Hydrants	753.65	233.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
State of Vermont	1,516.05	1,284.50	1,500.00	1,500.00
Telephone	2,026.26	1,838.44	1,700.00	1,700.00
Training	555.00	55.00	200.00	200.00
Treasurer/TA Salary	5,425.00	5,897.00	5,897.00	5,916.00
Testing Water	1,470.00	955.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Electric	6,138.43	9,485.54	8,000.00	10,000.00
Propane	1,212.82	1,355.76	2,000.00	2,000.00
Other Expenses	704.50	223.00	-	-
Other Expense - Rebill	4,600.03	4,411.50	-	-
Water Bond Payment - USDA	67,714.00	67,714.00	67,714.00	67,714.00
Total Expenses	280,188.25	204,672.10	272,587.01	282,010.09
Less Water Bond Payment	(67,714.00)	(67,714.00)	(67,714.00)	(67,714.00)
Total Operating Expenses	212,474.25	136,958.10	204,873.01	214,296.09
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 8,437.08	\$ 20,194.20	\$ 18,975.14	\$ (3,827.20)

Water Fund – For information only

WATER	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 8,437.08	\$ 20,194.20	\$ 18,975.14	\$ (3,827.20)

Percentage of increase/(decrease) over last year's budget

120.17%

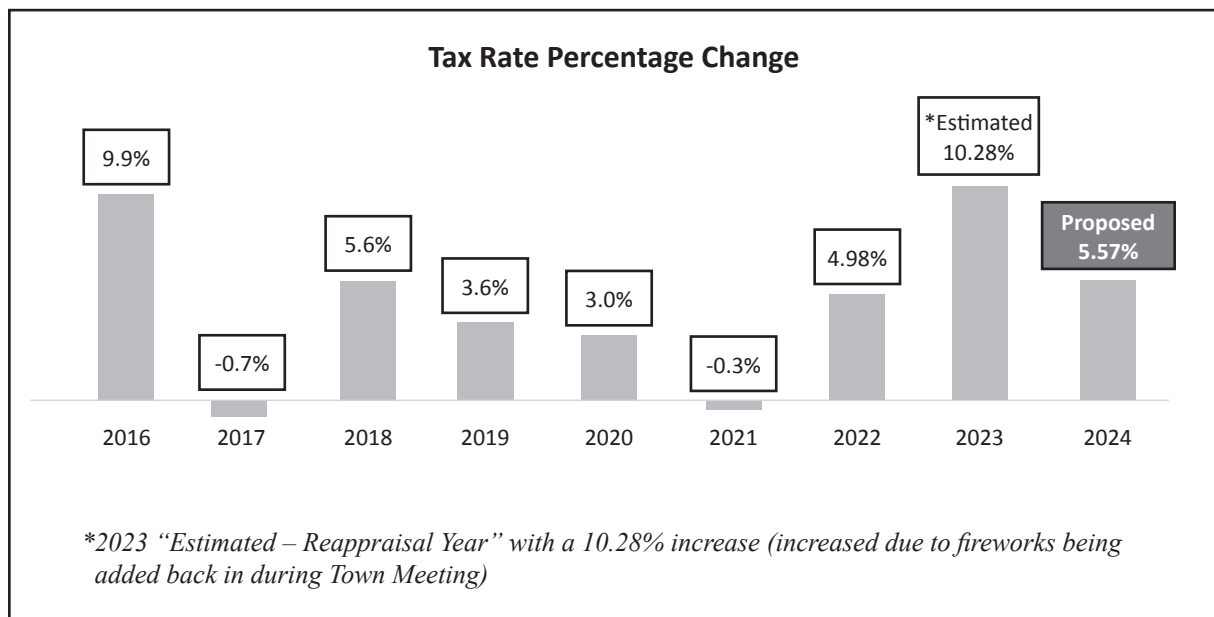
Notes:

INFORMATIONAL ONLY... NOT PART OF BUDGET NUMBERS THAT ARE VOTED ON. WATER RATES ARE SET BY THE WATER COMMISSIONERS (SELECTBOARD) AT A LATER DATE.

Water Rents 2024: Includes a 3% increase.

Salaries & Wages 2024: Includes 3.0% COLA increase.

Professional Fees - Village Septic PER 2022/2023/2024: Loan forgiveness program received from the State of Vermont to do a preliminary engineer report (PER) on a village septic system concept.



Capital Budget

Town Buildings and Lands Reserve

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
RESERVE BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 209,455	\$ 195,530	\$ 198,899
RECEIPTS:			
Annual Appropriation	32,000	40,000	45,000
Debt Service Appropriation	56,573	56,573	56,573
Grant	-	-	40,000
Grant Matching Funds - Restrict Fund Bal.	-	-	10,000
Donations	-	119	-
Interest Income	440	557	-
Additional Funding	-	-	8,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>298,468</u>	<u>292,779</u>	<u>358,472</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Town Hall windows	6,037	2,727	20,000
Town Hall - generator	32,663	11,386	-
RR Station - sills & renovations	-	-	8,000
Transfer Station improvements	3,625	-	-
Facility painting	-	23,194	-
IT Server	-	-	13,575
Library - parking lot	2,590	-	20,000
Library - siding	-	-	17,000
Library - HVAC	-	-	56,250
Vault expansion	-	-	35,000
Village enhancement	1,450	-	-
Old Fire Station Repairs	-	-	50,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>46,365</u>	<u>37,307</u>	<u>219,825</u>
Debt - Town Hall	<u>56,573</u>	<u>56,573</u>	<u>56,573</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND DEBT	<u>102,938</u>	<u>93,880</u>	<u>276,398</u>
RESERVE BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	<u>\$ 195,530</u>	<u>\$ 198,899</u>	<u>\$ 82,074</u>

Notes:

Town Hall Windows: Replace windows in Town Hall basement.

RR Station - sills & renovation: Using funds from the Railroad Station Reserve fund (#58) to correct drainage issue.

IT Server: Replacement of IT Server in Town Hall for all offices.

Library - HVAC: Update and replacement of old furnace system in Library building.

Vault expansion: Engineering design planned for 2023 in order to begin construction in 2024.

Emergency Equipment Reserve

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
RESERVE BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 168,337	\$ 188,755	\$ 209,282
RECEIPTS:			
Annual Appropriation	20,000	20,000	20,000
Grant Income	-	-	-

Capital Budget

Interest Income	418	527	-
Additional funding	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>188,755</u>	<u>209,282</u>	<u>229,282</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Engine purchase - down payment	-	-	150,000
Wilderness Response equipment	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	-	-	150,000
Debt - Emergency Equipment	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND DEBT	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,000</u>
 RESERVE BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	 <u>\$ 188,755</u>	 <u>\$ 209,282</u>	 <u>\$ 79,282</u>

Notes:

Engine purchase - down payment: Anticipated purchase of new fire truck.

Town Highway Reserve

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
RESERVE BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 13,807	\$ 164,220	\$ 13,838
RECEIPTS:			
Annual Appropriation	130,000	130,000	130,000
Grant	134,964	-	336,275
Vtrans - Supplemental	2,322	-	-
ARPA Funds	-	40,000	-
Interest Income	341	164	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>281,434</u>	<u>334,384</u>	<u>480,113</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Lake Morey Road	105,664	91,341	100,000
General Paving	-	129,097	100,000
Culverts/bridges/structures	-	-	20,000
Stormwater Mitigation	-	13,573	162,427
Sidewalk/Crosswalk	11,550	86,535	27,259
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	117,214	320,546	409,686
Debt - Highway	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND DEBT	<u>117,214</u>	<u>320,546</u>	<u>409,686</u>
 RESERVE BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	 <u>\$ 164,220</u>	 <u>\$ 13,838</u>	 <u>\$ 70,427</u>

Notes:

Grant - VTrans 2024: Includes grant for Stormwater Mitigation (\$136,000), Sidewalk/Crosswalk (\$100,275) and Lake Morey Road (\$100,000).

Lake Morey Road: Continue working on Lake Morey Road.

General paving: Based on paving schedule.

Capital Budget

Lake Reserve

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
RESERVE BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	\$ 21,837	\$ 30,396	\$ 39,379
RECEIPTS:			
Annual Appropriation	7,500	7,500	15,000
Debt Service Appropriation	21,000	21,000	20,000
Grant - VDEC	-	-	790,000
Interest Income	50	95	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>50,387</u>	<u>58,991</u>	<u>864,379</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Lake Morey Treatment	-	-	790,000
Town Forest Trails and Parking	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>790,000</u>
Debt - Lake Fairlee Dam	19,991	19,612	20,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND DEBT	<u>19,991</u>	<u>19,612</u>	<u>810,000</u>
 RESERVE BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER	 <u>\$ 30,396</u>	 <u>\$ 39,379</u>	 <u>\$ 54,379</u>

Notes:

Grant - VDEC: Anticipated grant for Alum treatment for Lake Morey.

TOTAL ALL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS,

31 DECEMBER \$ 578,901 \$ 461,398 \$ 286,162

Please Note:

* The detail above is based on the 10-year plan beginning in 2020, which can be viewed in its entirety on the website or by picking up a hardcopy at the Town offices.

* Shaded numbers are the amounts being raised by taxes.

Town of Fairlee

Combined Statement of Assets, Liability and Fund Balances

	December 31,	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
General Fund Checking - Merchants	\$ 13,901.00	\$ 656,449.57
General Fund Checking - Union Bank	2,616,797.05	2,250,511.54
USDA Water Checking - Union Bank	82,434.19	-
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Due to/From	<u>(1,716,214.74)</u>	<u>(1,322,294.45)</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>996,967.50</u>	<u>1,584,716.66</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 996,967.50</u>	<u>\$ 1,584,716.66</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current Liabilities		
Due to School	\$ 634,796.00	\$ 747,480.50
Due to State for School	51,583.62 *	(3,718.00)
Due to IRS	-	15,968.43
Tax Sale Proceeds	-	162,813.89
Prepaid Property Taxes	1,099.18	100.31
Prepaid State Highway Funds	-	21,549.50
Security Deposits	400.00	400.00
Payroll Taxes Payable	(267.75)	(134.94)
457(b) Empower	1,786.97	-
State License Fee - Marriage	50.00	700.00
Health Insurance Payable	<u>(953.44)</u>	<u>3,743.48</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>688,494.58</u>	<u>948,903.17</u>
Fund Balances		
Fund Balances - Prior Years	329,291.28	74,036.25
Fund Balances - Current Year	(20,818.36) *	323,340.57
Fund Balances - Restricted (MERP)	-	4,000.00
Fund Balances - Restricted (Grant Matches)	<u>-</u>	<u>234,436.67</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>308,472.92</u>	<u>635,813.49</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	<u>\$ 996,967.50</u>	<u>\$ 1,584,716.66</u>

*2022 numbers changed due to adjustments being made after the true-up was completed by the State of Vermont in March, 2023.

Fairlee Water Department

Combined Statement of Assets, Liability and Fund Balances

	December 31,	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Due from Town	\$ 508,682.73	\$ 527,093.06
Total Current Assets	<u>508,682.73</u>	<u>527,093.06</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 508,682.73</u>	 <u>\$ 527,093.06</u>
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current Liabilities		
Prepaid Water Rent	\$ 3,268.06	\$ 1,484.19
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,268.06</u>	<u>1,484.19</u>
 Fund Balances		
Fund Balance - Prior Years	8,437.08	505,414.67
Fund Balance - Current Year	<u>496,977.59</u>	<u>20,194.20</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>505,414.67</u>	<u>525,608.87</u>
 Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	 <u>\$ 508,682.73</u>	 <u>\$ 527,093.06</u>



Annual Fairlee Town Meeting

MARCH 7, 2023 MINUTES

Fairlee Town Meeting was held in the Town Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. 94 voters checked in at the door. Total number of voters on the checklist was 772.

Moderator Bruce Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator, for one year

Dan Ludwig nominated Bruce Taylor for Moderator one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Bruce Taylor, Moderator for one year.

The Moderator suspended the rules for some housekeeping items. He asked if a Veteran would like to lead the flag salute. No veteran came forward so Clyde Blake volunteered to lead the voters in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He then introduced our State Representative Monique Priestley. Representative Priestly addressed the voters with information on her 2023 town meeting report hand out, her work in the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Rural Caucus Committee, which she serves as Clerk. She invited the voters to visit with her at the State House and to join her the third Sunday of every month at the Colatina Exit in Bradford from 12–1pm and on ZOOM from 5–6pm. She was given a round of applause.

Article 2. To hear and act upon the Town Officers' Reports.

Thomas Hough made the motion to move Article 2. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The question was called. The motion carried. Article 2 passed in the affirmative.

Article 3. To elect all necessary officers of the Town and to fill terms of any office that may be vacant, including:

- Selectboard Member, for three years
- Town Treasurer, for three years
- Lister, for three years
- Auditor, for two years
- Auditor, for three years
- Budget Committee Member, for two years
- Budget Committee Member, for three years
- Planning Commission Member, for four years
- Cemetery Commissioner, for five years
- Library Trustee, for five years
- Recreation Council Member, for one year
- Recreation Council Member, for one year
- Recreation Council Member, for two years
- Recreation Council Member, for three years

Timothy Danen nominated Catherine McGrath for Selectboard Member for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Catherine McGrath, Selectboard Member for three years.

Dan Ludwig nominated Lisa Hinsley for Town Treasurer for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Lisa Hinsley, Town Treasurer for three years.

Noël Walker nominated Russell Collins for Lister for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Russell Collins, Lister for three years.

Gene Ordway nominated Sandra Smith-Ordway for Auditor for two years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Sandra Smith-Ordway, Auditor for two years.

As there were no nominations for Auditor for three years, and by unanimous consent, the Moderator passed over this office.

Dan Ludwig nominated Richard Kenney for Budget Committee Member for two years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Richard Kenney, Budget Committee Member for two years.

Dan Ludwig nominated Adam Stewart for Budget Committee Member for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Adam Stewart, Budget Committee Member for three years.

Smith Reed nominated Lynne Fitzhugh for Planning Commission Member for four years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Lynn Fitzhugh, Planning Commission Member for four years.

Charles (Chaz) Hinsley nominated Chad Pierson for Cemetery Commissioner for five years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Chad Pierson, Cemetery Commissioner for five years.

Cyrie Lange nominated Diane Sherman for Library Trustee for five years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Diane Sherman, Library Trustee for five years.

As there were no nominations for Recreation Council Member (2) for one year, (1) for two years, and (1) for 3 years, and by unanimous consent, the Moderator passed over these offices.

Clyde Blake explained how he had once served on the Recreation Council, but now it was getting harder to fill these positions with voters. He suggested that the Selectboard appoint these positions instead of them being elected.

Article 4. To see what action the Town will take with regard to the following appropriations. All sums have been included in the Town Budget. A sum not to exceed:

- a) Five Hundred dollars (**\$500**) to the **American Red Cross** for disaster support (CO)
- b) Three Hundred dollars (**\$300**) to **Capstone Community Action** for fuel, food, and housing assistance to families (CO)
- c) Four Hundred dollars (**\$400**) to **Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.** for adult education and literacy instruction for residents of Fairlee (CO)
- d) Six Hundred dollars (**\$600**) to **Central Vermont Council on Aging** for senior services including a helpline, transportation, and meal delivery (CO)
- e) One Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five dollars (**\$1,545**) to Clara Martin Center for counseling services (CO)
- f) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (**\$250**) to **Cohase Chamber of Commerce** for membership (CO)
- g) Fifty dollars (**\$50**) to Green Up Vermont (CO)
- h) Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars (**\$5,250**) to the **Lake Fairlee Association** for milfoil eradication program (CO)
- i) Two Thousand dollars (**\$2,000**) to **Little Rivers Health Care** for insurance and medical assistance including mobile dental van (CO)
- j) Five Hundred dollars (**\$500**) to the **Mentoring Project** for young persons (CO)
- k) Three Hundred fifty dollars (**\$350**) to the **Orange County Restorative Justice Center** a cost-effective alternative to the criminal court system for eligible offenders (CO)
- l) Three Thousand dollars (**\$3,000**) to the **Orange East Senior Center** for providing meal and social services at the center (CO)
- m) Seven Hundred Fifty dollars (**\$750**) to the **Rivendell Recreation Association** to provide elementary sports and recreational activities (CO)

- n) Four Hundred Fifty dollars (**\$450**) to the **Rivendell Trails Association** for trail maintenance, hikes, and education (CO)
- o) Seven Hundred dollars (**\$700**) to **Safeline** for a hotline for crisis support and referral services (CO)
- p) Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars (**\$2,500**) to **Tri-Valley Transit** for transportation of seniors, persons with disabilities and commuters (CO)
- q) Three Hundred dollars (**\$300**) to the **Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired** for services including rehabilitation, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, social networking, and statewide transportation (CO)
- r) One Hundred Fifty-Five dollars (**\$155**) to the **Vermont Center for Independent Living** to help Vermonters with disabilities by providing the Meals on Wheels Program, Peer Advocacy Counseling Program and information and referral services (CO)
- s) One Hundred dollars (**\$100**) to **Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force** to support Rural Fire Protection Program (CO)
- t) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (**\$250**) for the **Vermont Family Network** for providing support to all Vermont families of children with special needs (CO)
- u) Five Thousand Five Hundred dollars (**\$5,500**) to the **Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT and NH/Hospice of the Upper Valley** for home health care and hospice support services to individuals and their families (CO)
- v) Four Hundred Dollars (**\$400**) to **WISE**, an organization dedicated to supporting people and communities impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking (CO)
- w) Two Hundred dollars (**\$200**) to **Orange County Parent Child Center** helps families with young children through advocacy, support, wellness opportunities (CO)

Dan Ludwig made the motion to accept Article 4 in its entirety. The motion was seconded. Article 4 was opened for discussion. There was no discussion. The motion carried. Article 4 passed in the affirmative.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee authorize the Selectboard to accept and administer any Federal, State, or private grant money?

Clyde Blake made the motion to move Article 5. The motion was seconded. Article 5 was opened for discussion. Thomas Hough questioned the need of this article, presuming the Selectboard already had this authority. The Moderator explained that since it was an article in the warning it needed to be voted on regardless. The question was called. Article 5 passed in the affirmative.

Article 6. To act upon the Recommendations of the Budget Committee as they pertain to Highway Expenses and to appropriate a sum of money for Highway Expenses.

Elizabeth Wilson made the motion to appropriate the sum of \$301,472.00 for Highway Expenses. The motion was seconded. Article 6 was opened for discussion. Bob Maddock questioned the storm water mitigation project and the sidewalk project. He believed the State should take care of the storm water since Route 5 is a state highway and added that the sidewalk proposal was a poor design. Selectboard Chair Peter Berger explained that the \$175,000.00 for surface water mitigation on Route 5 was coming through the Better Connections Grant. He went on to add, even though the State owns Route 5, the surface water is a Town issue and that VTrans has accepted the plan. He added that the surface water is also an issue for business owners and a safety issue for pedestrians. Chris Cook questioned the upkeep on the sidewalk. Dan Ludwig added that he understood there would be no maintenance on the sidewalk in the winter. Selectboard Chair Peter Berger confirmed this. Duane Cook expressed concern asking if this would be a liability issue. Selectboard Member Catherine McGrath joined in on the discussion explaining that as part of the Better Connection Grant the public was asked what they would like to see happen and it was to slow down the traffic on Route 5. Being that most activities happen on this side of Town including the FCA summer concerts the side walks and crosswalks will add extra safety for pedestrians during these times. Discussion ensued on Route 5 safety, sidewalk upkeep, and Fairlee's old sidewalk system. Robert Metzler asked if the new crosswalks would have flashing signs. Selectboard Chair Peter Berger confirmed they would. Thomas Hough added that the Town has been transparent with this issue and now was not the time when we have to pay for it, to suddenly decide it was not a good idea. Being there was no more discussion, the question was called. The motion carried. Article 6 passed in the affirmative.

Article 7. To raise such sum of money as may appear necessary for the Maintenance and Improvements of the Town Highways for the ensuing year, and to authorize collection of same by the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA 4791. Property taxes shall be billed on or before September 1, 2023, and shall be due and payable on or before October 2, 2023. Interest shall be at a rate allowed by law and shall be payable on all past due taxes.

Elizabeth Wilson made the motion that the Town raise by taxes the amount of \$237,397.00 for the Maintenance and Improvements of the Town Highways. The motion was seconded. Article 7 was opened for discussion. Larry Martin requested a vote by paper ballot. After some clarification he withdrew his request. There was no other discussion. The question was called. The motion carried. Article 7 passed in the affirmative.

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee appropriate the following sums to undertake and save for capital improvements within the Town in accordance with the Capital Budget and Program adopted by the Selectboard? All sums have been included in the Town Budget. A sum not to exceed:

a)	Town Buildings and Lands Reserve	\$ 96,573.00
b)	Emergency Equipment Reserves	\$ 20,000.00
c)	Town Highway Reserve	\$130,000.00
d)	Lake Reserve	\$ 28,500.00

Elizabeth Wilson made the motion to move Article 8. The motion was seconded. Article 8 was opened for discussion. David Adams in looking for clarification, asked if the reserve funds accumulated year after year. Treasurer Lisa Hinsley explained they do. She directed the voters to the capital budgets in the Town Report and encouraged voters to go to the Town website to review the 10 year Capital Plan. She explained that the Capital Budget was set up in 2018-2019 with help from Two Rivers Ottauquechee and that the Town has been adding funds every year.

Dashiell Rae indicated there had been some discussion about \$15,000.00 to purchase a UTV (Utility Task Vehicle) under the Emergency Equipment Reserve fund. She asked if this was still where the money was going to be spent and if so, she would like to put forward that a battery-operated drone would be a much better allocation of our funds as opposed to a UTV. She added that a drone would find a person if they were lost in the forest. Selectboard Member Catherine McGrath confirmed that the UTV is still in the Capital Budget. Discussion ensued on this budget allocation and drone capability versus a UTV. Selectboard Member Catherine McGrath explained that our definition of a capital expense is \$10,000.00 or more. If the drone is less than \$10,000.00 it can't come out of the Capital Budget. She went on to explain that there were many conversations about the UTV with a lot of people attending Selectboard meeting and with the Budget Committee which is why it is still in the Capital Budget. She continued to explain that the \$15,000.00 is not the full expense for the kind of UTV we need to rescue people. She added that this was an estimate for half the price and the other half would be paid with a grant. Treasurer Lisa Hinsley asked that Ross Cannon be heard since the request came through him. Fast Squad Member Ross Cannon explained that the request came from the Fast Squad and Fire Department to increase their rescue capability in our outdoor recreational space. He added, hearing information about a drone was good and they could take it into account, but it would come out of their operational budget if they choose to go down that road. He went on to add that having a drone find someone is great, but it would not equip us to retrieve someone and do any medical procedures. The UTV will also extend our ability to fight wildfires in our forest or rural areas. He ended by explaining that this is an overall comprehensive act to increase the ability for the Fire Department and the Fast Squad even though there are other mutual aid resources that we can call upon, Fairlee needs to be able to respond to our own emergencies. Thomas Hough repeated that the Capital Budget is for expenses of \$10,000.00 or more and that a drone would need to come out of an operating budget. Dan Ludwig explained that the UTV is not only for lake or wilderness rescue, we have some very bad roads like Bald Top Rd and one driveway on Terry Hill Rd that are not accessible in bad weather with our fire department equipment, but a UTV with chains on it, could get someone out. He explained how we lost Aya Itagaki when she had her stroke lived on a very bad driveway, adding, it would have been accessible with a UTV with chains on. There was no more discussion. The question was called. The motion carried. Article 8 passed in the affirmative.

Article 9. To act upon the recommendations of the Budget Committee as they pertain to Town Expenditures and to appropriate a sum of money for Town Expenses.

Elizabeth Wilson made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,259,902.00. Clyde Blake made the motion to add \$8,000.00 for fireworks. Jeff Soyer asked to comment and impressed his support for the fireworks stating just as our parade is part of our 4th of July celebration so are the fireworks. He added that it did not matter if you were 70 years old or 7 years old everyone loves the fireworks. He explained that it was the second largest show in Vermont behind Burlington and that the Lake Morey Resort has for years been generously funding a large part of the fireworks. He added that the resort brings a lot of business to town and the fire-

works bring in over 1000 people from the region. He ended by explaining the cost of fireworks in the budget was about a dollar a month in taxes for something that is live, exciting, and you can spread a blanket out on the grass and encouraged the voters to put this back in the budget. He was given a round of applause. Budget Committee Member Dan Ludwig explained when the Budget Committee held their hearing, there was a lot of concern about the budget increase, the Budget Committee did not take a position on this, but reported back to the Selectboard Board that there were several people at the hearing that requested the fireworks be removed from the budget. He continued to explain that the Budget Committee is supposed to report back to the Selectboard, and his impression was they decided to leave it up to the voters. He added that he did not think anyone wanted to cut this, it was just a practical way to respond, and he invited the voters to come to the Budget Hearing next year.

Elizabeth Wilson agreed with what Dan Ludwig said and added that the Budget Committee Members did not personally want to remove the fireworks, but their job is to relay what they hear. She continued explaining that the beach funding was discussed at the Budget Hearing. She added that her thought was that the beach would have been recommended to cut over the fireworks, but a lot of people wanted the beach to be funded. Treasurer Lisa Hinsley explained if we add back in the \$8,000.00 specifically for fireworks, we are looking at a .0038 cent increase, if you own a \$250,000.00 home in Fairlee, it will be an increase of \$9.50 on your tax bill. Selectboard Chair Peter Berger clarified that the \$8,000.00 is only the Town's portion of what the fireworks cost, the full amount is \$12,000.00. He explained during the budget process there was no guarantee that the Selectboard would know if that figure was there. When the original budget was presented from the departments, it was in the range of a 13-14% increase, currently we are down to 9%. He added that it was a realization of the Selectboard that we needed to look for places to take money off of the budget. He explained there was no intent specifically against the 4th of July or the fireworks, it was only an overall budgetary move by the Selectboard to be fiscally responsible. He also explained that adding in the \$8,000.00 would not necessarily guarantee that we are going to have fireworks, but we are certainly going to work on this. Lynn Fitzhugh made the motion to amend Article 9 and add in \$8,000.00 for fireworks. The motion was seconded. There was no more discussion. The motion carried. The amendment to Article 9 passed in the affirmative. Elizabeth Wilson made the motion that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,267,902.00. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. Article 9 passed in the affirmative as amended.

Article 10. To raise such sum of money as may appear necessary for Town Expenses and Indebtedness for the ensuing year and to authorize collection of same by the Town Treasurer per 32 VSA 4791. Property taxes shall be billed on or before September 1, 2023, and shall be due and payable on or before October 2, 2023. Interest shall be at a rate allowed by law and shall be payable on all past due taxes.

Elizabeth Wilson made the motion for the Town to raise by taxes the amount of \$949,505.00. The motion

was seconded. Article 10 was opened for discussion. There was no discussion. The question was called. The motion carried. Article 10 passed in the affirmative.

Article 11. To transact any other proper Town business that may come before this meeting.

Clyde Blake asked voters to turn to page 44 of the Town Report pointing out the delinquent tax column. He asked that the Town support those with delinquent taxes so they can stay in Town. Treasurer Lisa Hinsley explained that while it looks like a large number in this delinquent tax column, our delinquent taxes this last year, were the lowest they have been in many years, when you look at the percentage of the overall taxes collected. She added it looks like a large number, but if you think about the fact that we collected over 5 million dollars, \$75,000.00 is low. She explained that there are programs available that did help taxpayers pay their taxes and Jason Bachus our Delinquent Tax Collector is very effective and helpful.

Selectboard Chair Peter Berger first updated the voters on the interim bylaws process. In the last year the Selectboard, Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator have been working to update the bylaws to be representative of the need to ensure water quality on Lake Morey. The Planning Commission has had their hearing and the Selectboard will have their hearing soon. He went on to explain that there are important changes in the bylaw that will affect a lot of people and the Selectboard hopes the voters will support these changes when it comes to a vote. He continued to update the voters regarding the work the Town had accomplished on the significant cyanobacteria bloom on Lake Morey that happened last year. Within a few weeks of the bloom, they negotiated with the contractor Solitude to do a feasibility study that was accepted by the State. They then met on February 14th with DEC and Clean Water, the objective being to work with the State to have an \$800,000.00 Alum Treatment at no cost to the Town. He added that the relationship with the State has been successful, and things are moving ahead thanks to the work Tad Nunez, our Town Administrator, has done in writing the requests for the revolving loan funds and grants. We are now on the State's list as a priority project. He added that it is important for everyone to be aware that the Town is moving as quickly as possible to resolve this. He also explained how the timeline in the 1980's for the Alum Treatment took 5 years and this time we hope to have treatment this summer. Horace Palmer III asked if Lake Fairlee had this same problem. Selectboard Chair Peter Berger responded at this point it does not and that DEC Lake and Ponds are doing watershed studies on Lake Fairlee and Lake Morey to collect more data.

Selectboard Member Catherine McGrath recognized and thanked former Police Chief Jason Bachus for his service. A round of applause was given to him. Jason Bachus addressed the voters thanking all and stating it's been a good 10 years. He explained how former Police Chief Leon Marsh, Jr. recommended him for Town Constable and Chief of Police which he was more than happy to accept since he was a resident at the time. He explained that he took a full time job over in Orford NH and that it took a lot more effort than he was expecting. He added that working 48-55+ hours over there wasn't allowing him to adequately perform the duties that Fairlee deserves. He explained they tried supplemental contracts with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Vermont State Police, but due to the problems in the Sheriff's Department he felt it was an opportune time to bring law enforcement home to Fairlee where it belongs. He introduced Wayne Briggs as the new Chief of Police, who came from the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He stated he is very confident in Chief Briggs abilities and the hours he will be able to provide the taxpayers in Fairlee, is just where the Town needs to be at this point.

Selectboard Chair Peter Berger recognized Moderator Bruce Taylor for his 25 years of service as our Town Moderator and presented him with a plaque. A standing ovation was given to him in heartfelt appreciation. Moderator Bruce Taylor began by saying 25 years goes by in a hurry when you're having fun. He added that it's been his privilege and an honor to serve the Town of Fairlee for that long and his not sure how much longer he will do it, adding, time marches on for all of us, but this year we did it. He gave a big thank you to all.

Moderator Bruce Taylor gave a last tribute to the people who have lived with us in service and worked within the Town. He asked that we remember them as he read the list of those deceased in the Town Report adding James O'Donnell who just recently passed away. There was a moment of silence in remembrance.

Being that there was no other business to come before the meeting, Moderator Bruce Taylor declared the 2023 Town Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Attest:

Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, CVC/MMC
Fairlee Town Clerk

Approved by:

Bruce Taylor, Moderator

Peter Berger,
Selectboard Member/Justice of the Peace



Town Meeting – 1940s

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Old brick store and garage, site of Wells River Savings Bank

Town of Fairlee
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TOWN MEETING 2024

will be on

Tuesday, March 5th

starting at 10:00 am

in the Auditorium at the Town Hall

You must be present to vote at Town Meeting.

Please bring this report to town meeting.

Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, March 5th

in the Grange Room at the Town Hall

Polls open 10:00 am to 7:00 pm