

**TOWN OF
ATHENS, VERMONT**

2022

TOWN AND SCHOOL

REPORTS

TOWN OF ATHENS

POPULATION 2020 CENSUS

380

REGISTERED VOTERS

294

Town Garage	802 869-3312
Constable	802 869-3207
Fire and Rescue	911
Ambulance	911
State Police	1-802-875-2112
Windham County Sheriff's Department	1-802-365-4942
Town Clerk Office	802 869-3370
Athens Elementary School	802 869-2633
Grafton School	802 843-2495
Emergency Management Director	802 869-3268
Weather Emergency Committee	
Donald Capponcelli	802 869-2590
Tim Stevenson & Sherry Maher	802 869-2141
Lynn Morgan	802 869-2227
Tina White	802 869-3478
Wichie Artu	802 869-3669
Cheree Alsvig	(802) 428-3016
Bonnie Hitchcock	
Justin Sterns	

Town Clerk Hours: Monday 9-1 or by appointment

Select Board Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm

Town office mailing address

25 Brookline Rd., Athens, VT 05143

Email

townofathens@hotmail.com

School Board Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in Grafton /

Westminster alternating between the two. Contact Lynn Morgan or school to find out where for the meeting you may want to attend

Notice

The Brattleboro Reformer is the paper used for official town publishing

Residents in need of emergency shelter or other basic necessities, such as heat, food, or

water due to a weather related emergency can contact a member of the

Athens Volunteer

Emergency Committee

Property Taxes are due on the 10th of September

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**REPORT
OF
THE TOWN AND SCHOOL
FINANCIAL RECORDS
TOWN OF ATHENS
VERMONT**

We the auditors, have examined and verified the financial records of the

Town and School for year ending

Town – December 31, 2022

School – June 30, 2022

Michael Bates James Trimble

WARNING
2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ATHENS, VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town of Athens are hereby notified and warned to act on the following articles on the 6th of March 2023 at 6:00pm at the Athens Community Center (Former Elementary School).

All voting for Town Officers will be by Australian ballot on the 7th of March 2023. Polls will be open between 10:00am and 7:00pm at the Athens Town Office.

- Article 1: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes
- Article 2: To see if the Town shall vote to collect taxes on the 10th of September 2023
- Article 3: To see if the Town shall vote to publish a list of delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report
- Article 4: To see if the Town shall vote to approve \$632,621.95, with \$513,214.95 to be raised by Taxes, to defray Town expenditures
- Article 5: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,140.00 for the support of **Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS)** to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region
- Article 6: To see if the Town shall vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$500.00 (\$1.31 per Athens resident) for the support of **Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital**
- Article 7: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support the **Womens' Freedom Center** to provide quality advocacy and support to the women of Athens
- Article 8: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support **Youth Services** to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County
- Article 9: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to **Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)** to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services
- Article 10: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the **Bellows Falls Senior Center**
- Article 11: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patient's homes and in community settings by the **Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire**
- Article 12: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to assist **Grafton Cares** in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens

Article 13: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$356.00 to help support outpatient, mental health, and substance abuse service by the staff of **Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)** in accordance with 24 V. S. A. § 2691

Article 14: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist **Senior Solutions**

Article 15: To set the time of future town meetings

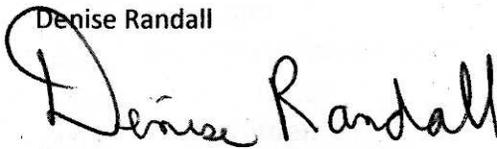
Article 16: To transact any further business proper to come before said meeting

Dated this 23 Day of January 2023 at Athens, Vermont

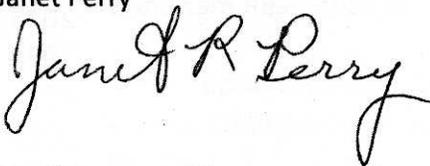
David Bemis



Denise Randall



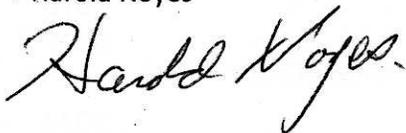
Janet Perry



Sandi Capponcelli



Harold Noyes



ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

		Term Expires
Moderator	David Bemis	2023
Town Clerk	Hannah Regier	2023
Town Treasurer	Hannah Regier	2023
Selectboard	Denise Randall	2023
	Sandi Capponcelli	2023
	Harold Noyes	2023
	Janet Perry	2024
	David Bemis	2025
Listers	<i>Empty seat</i>	2023
	Carol Bingham	2024
	Amber Stevens	2025
Auditors	<i>Empty seat</i>	2023
	James Trimble	2024
	Michael Bates	2025
Campbell Fund Trustees	Carol Bingham	2023
	Katherine Woodbury	2024
	Tina White	2025
Meetinghouse Committee	Janet Perry	2023
	Sherry Maher	2024
	Ginger Maciejowski	2025
	Pamela Russo	2026
	Candace Damon	2027
Cemetery Commission	David Bemis	2023
	James Neathawk	2024
	Harold Noyes	2025
	Stephen W. Oakes	2026
	Donald Capponcelli	2027
Constable	Stephen W. Oakes	2024
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Darlene Wyman	2023
Town Grand Juror	Krista Gay	2023
Town Agent	Krista Gay	2023
U.H.S.D #27 Representative	Tanya Noyes [appointed]	[2023] 2025
WNUESD Board	Krista Gay	2023
WNUESD Board	Harold Noyes [appointed]	2023
WNUESD Board	Lynn Morgan	2024

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

		Term expires
Fence Viewers	Donald Capponcelli	2023
	Robert Anderson	2023
	Adrian Tenney	2023
Housing Rehabilitation Committee	Hannah Regier	2023
	David Bemis	2023
	Denise Randall	2023
	Janet Perry	2023
Planning Commission	Ivor Stevens	2023
	Janet Perry	2024
	Tim Stevenson	2025
	Selectboard	Ex officio
Sexton, Athens Valley and West Cemetery	Cemetery Commission	
Surveyor of Wood and Coal	Donald Capponcelli	2023
Health Officer	Stephen W. Oakes	2023
Tree Warden	Robert Anderson	2023
Town Service Officer	Lynn Morgan	2023
Windham Regional Commission	Andrew Toepfer	2023
	Robert Anderson	2023
State Appointed Forest Fire Warden	David Bemis	
Athens Emergency Management Director	David Bemis	2023
Budget Committee	Michael Bates	2023
	Carol Bingham	2023
	Janet Perry	2024
	Amber Stevens	2024
	Hannah Regier	2025
SWWSWMD Representative	David Bemis	2023
Elected Justices of the Peace	David Bemis	2024
	Kate Bova	2024
	Sandra Capponcelli	2024
	Stephen W. Oakes	2024
	Janet Perry	2024

Town Real Estate (VLCT Insurance Replacement Values) 2021 (do not confuse with market values)

Athens Town Office	\$240,805.00
Athens Town Office Contents	\$10,500.00
Athens Town Garage	\$450,708.00
Athens Brick Meetinghouse	\$618,584.00
Town Acquired School Building	\$442,730.00
Town Acquired School Building Contents	\$10,000.00
Silk Picture	\$3,000.00
Athens Valley Cemetery	\$0.00
Athens West Cemetery	\$0.00
Total	\$1,776,327.00

Town Garage-Vehicles, Equipment and Tools

2012 Freightliner Dump Truck	\$40,048.00
2019 Ford F 550	\$72,725.00
Sander	\$2,000.00
2004 Caterpillar Grader	\$108,000.00
Emergency Trailer & Equipment	\$3,570.00
Plow-Henke 11'	\$7,921.00
Plow-Housatonic 10'	\$4,200.00
Plow-Everest 12'	\$1,300.00
Plow-Vortex 10'	\$7,600.00
Bush Bandit 150XP Chipper	\$7,000.00
York Rake	\$6,000.00
Blower	\$8,200.00
Welder	\$3,500.00
Total	\$272,064.00

Equipment

1K Gallon Fuel Tank	\$1,000.00
Chloride Tank	\$600.00
1 Safety Fuel Cans	\$50.00
2 Service Jacks	\$300.00
1 Grease Guns	\$200.00
Battery Charger	\$125.00
Water Pump	\$400.00
Fill Rite Pump	\$300.00
Steam Cleaner	\$2,500.00
Generac	\$951.00
Air Compressor	\$600.00
Chain Saw	\$450.00
2 Weed Trimmers	\$300.00
Sweeper	\$275.00

Pole Saw	\$300.00
Lawn Mower	\$240.00
Snatch Block	\$63.00
Skill Saw	\$115.00
DEF Pump	\$90.00
2 Oil Containment Units	\$900.00
Grizzly	\$3,800.00
Total	\$13,559.00

Tools

Grinder-4"	\$50.00
Grinder-3"	\$50.00
Power Drill	\$60.00
Wrenches-Gear 1/4" to 1"	\$75.00
Wrenches-Neiko 1 3/8" to 2"	\$150.00
Wrenches-Chine 1 1/4" to 2"	\$175.00
2 air ratchets 1/2" and 3/4"	\$300.00
Impact-Chrome Vanadium 3/4"	\$49.00
Impact-Wisdom 1/2"	\$60.00
Impact-Job Smart 1/2"	\$50.00
Impact-Crowfoot 1/2" to 3/8"	\$99.00
Impact-Crowfoot 3/8" to 3/4"	\$99.00
Pipe (2)	\$100.00
Metric 7 to 20mm	\$150.00
Adjustable 8" to 15"	\$100.00
Screwdriver Set	\$21.99
Tool Chest	\$1,200.00
Tools	\$3,000.00
Hand Truck	\$59.99
Chains 1-20' and 3-8'	\$300.00
Chain Binders 4	\$400.00
Traffic Cones 30	\$1,200.00
Road Signs	\$2,400.00
Drop Lights 2	\$80.00
Radio System-2 Mobile	\$1,750.00
Radio System-4 Handheld	\$1,300.00
Torch Set & Cart	\$600.00
Ratchet Extensions 1/2"	\$40.00
Air Chisel	\$60.00
Air Ratchet	\$60.00
Air Disc Grinder	\$40.00
Air Lift Bottle Jack 20 Ton	\$220.00
Leaf Blower	\$599.00
Computer	\$630.00
Printer	\$89.00
Total	\$15,616.98

Town Office

Listers Laptop	\$1,800.00
Clerk Laptop	\$971.00
Network Hardware	\$2,526.00
Furniture	\$5,500.00
Generator	\$7,500.00
Total	\$18,297.00

2022 Statement of Taxes Raised

RATE NAME	RATE	X GRAND LIST	BILLED AMOUNT
Nonhomestead ed.	1.5880	156,799.80	248,998.09
Homestead ed.	1.6279	214,574.96	349,306.62
Municipal	1.0400	366,436.96	381,094.44
Late homestead penalties			1,294.42
TOTAL TAX BILLED			\$980,693.57

COLLECTED

By Treasurer	Taxes Collected by 9/12/2022	756,291.72
	State Payments	132,449.81
	Credits Applied	2,171.53
	Abatement	20.76
	State Payment Adjustments	-1,580.83
By Delinquent Tax Collector	Principal Collected after 9/12/2022	58,755.84

UNCOLLECTED 32,584.74

TOTAL TAX ACCOUNTED \$980,693.57

TAXES PAID OUT TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bellows Falls UHS	\$185,464.09
WNUESD	\$314,035.20
Total	\$499,499.29

Comparative Budget Report and 2023 Proposed Town Budget

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TOWN TAXES IN 2022:	\$513,214.95
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	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
REVENUES					
Tax Related					
Current Taxes	\$393,183.05	\$404,142.75	\$374,232.31	\$359,637.14	\$513,214.95
Delinquent Taxes	\$0.00	\$339.59	\$0.00	-\$3,007.68	\$0.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$3,000.00	\$4,232.23	\$3,000.00	\$5,589.46	\$4,000.00
Tax Collector Fee	\$0.00	\$3,923.28	\$0.00	\$7,304.46	\$0.00
Tax Sale Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property redemptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Municipal Tax Adjustment	\$0.00	\$40,883.93	\$0.00	\$31,885.00	\$0.00
PILOT State Payment	\$4,000.00	\$4,020.60	\$4,000.00	\$4,072.47	\$4,075.00
Current Use State Payment	\$30,000.00	\$29,757.00	\$30,000.00	\$27,332.00	\$27,332.00
School Tax Refund	\$0.00	\$6,316.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Budget adjustment for Previous Year Surplus/Deficit	\$77,000.00	\$0.00	\$56,206.89	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Tax Related Revenue	\$507,183.05	\$493,615.44	\$467,439.20	\$432,812.85	\$548,621.95
Grants/Other Governments					
State Aid to Highways	\$45,000.00	\$49,106.77	\$45,000.00	\$49,457.53	\$45,000.00
Vt State Civil Fines	\$2,000.00	\$3,143.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,552.00	\$1,500.00
State Grants	\$0.00	\$2,502.99	\$5,000.00	\$12,847.40	\$26,700.00
Federal Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$58,907.39	\$0.00
Misc. State Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Grant/Governmental Revenue	\$47,000.00	\$54,752.76	\$97,500.00	\$122,764.32	\$73,200.00
Clerks Office					
Clerk Fees	\$0.00	\$4,699.00	\$0.00	\$4,754.00	\$0.00
Animal License	\$0.00	\$130.28	\$0.00	\$255.97	\$200.00
Copies	\$300.00	\$683.00	\$400.00	\$750.25	\$400.00
Clerk Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Clerks Office Revenue	\$300.00	\$5,512.28	\$400.00	\$5,760.22	\$600.00
Service Fee	\$400.00	\$1,520.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,271.00	\$0.00
Service Fee (Trash Bags)	\$12,500.00	\$12,037.00	\$12,000.00	\$10,903.50	\$10,000.00
Public Works/Highway	\$50.00	\$80.00	\$50.00	\$115.00	\$100.00
Interest on Investments	\$150.00	\$94.04	\$100.00	\$533.68	\$100.00
Elementary School Building		\$522.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Micellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174.79	\$0.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$567,583.05	\$568,133.52	\$578,489.20	\$574,355.36	\$632,621.95

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
EXPENDITURES					
Salaries & Benefits					
Selectboard	\$1,750.00	\$1,890.00	\$1,750.00	\$2,258.65	\$2,850.00
Clerk	\$3,000.00	\$3,426.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,400.00	\$3,000.00
Assistant Clerk	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,066.11	\$1,000.00
Treasurer	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Assistant Treasurer	\$1,200.00	\$1,310.13	\$400.00	\$445.53	\$1,500.00
Constable	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$1,367.00	\$500.00
Health Officer	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$1,592.90	\$500.00
Moderator	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Elections	\$225.00	\$587.53	\$950.00	\$960.11	\$275.00
BCA/BOA	\$100.00	\$36.00	\$100.00	\$60.00	\$100.00
Listers	\$2,500.00	\$2,136.52	\$3,000.00	\$3,263.01	\$4,000.00
Auditors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Del Tax Collector	\$0.00	\$3,792.96	\$0.00	\$7,447.60	\$0.00
Clerk Fees	\$0.00	\$4,671.00	\$0.00	\$4,682.00	\$0.00
Clerk / Treasurer Hourly			\$5,275.00	\$5,164.33	\$5,500.00
Cleaning Staff				\$130.00	\$360.00
Social Security	\$1,400.00	\$1,645.30	\$1,875.00	\$2,606.27	\$2,140.00
Workers Comp Ins	\$100.00	\$24.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$12,610.00	\$20,549.44	\$19,950.00	\$37,443.51	\$23,205.00
Town Office Expenditures					
Office Supplies	\$1,325.00	\$1,222.12	\$1,485.00	\$1,755.67	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$510.00	\$1,000.00	\$658.73	\$750.00
Training	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$148.00	\$250.00
Office Equipment Purchase	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$1,193.42	\$1,300.00
Office Equipment Service	\$325.00	\$650.00	\$325.00	\$325.00	\$325.00
Printing /Advertizing	\$500.00	\$336.60	\$500.00	\$208.20	\$500.00
Town Report	\$325.00	\$280.50	\$325.00	\$337.50	\$350.00
Computer Related	\$3,710.00	\$6,310.95	\$16,977.20	\$12,772.54	\$11,769.00
Electricity	\$550.00	\$517.48	\$550.00	\$625.27	\$650.00
Telephone	\$910.00	\$914.97	\$950.00	\$571.43	\$600.00
Heating Oil	\$1,050.00	\$388.14	\$1,800.00	\$302.60	\$3,000.00
Propane	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Building Maintenance	\$250.00	\$232.70	\$250.00	\$433.94	\$250.00
Generator Maintenance	\$350.00	\$339.00	\$350.00	\$369.00	\$375.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Total Town Office Expenses	\$11,745.00	\$11,702.46	\$26,062.20	\$19,706.30	\$22,119.00
General Expenses					
Trash/Recycling Removal	\$44,000.00	\$40,146.43	\$36,500.00	\$37,231.00	\$38,000.00
Supplies (Trash Bags)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,912.50	\$0.00
VLCT Dues	\$1,700.00	\$1,613.00	\$1,625.00	\$1,553.00	\$1,600.00
Windham Regional Dues	\$1,050.00	\$1,061.54	\$1,070.00	\$1,077.46	\$1,100.00
Northeast Resource Recove	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
County Tax	\$3,000.00	\$2,879.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,115.00	\$3,200.00
Legal Services	\$5,000.00	\$4,335.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,785.82	\$5,000.00
Tax Sale Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property redemptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Professional Svcs	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
VLCT Insurance	\$3,407.00	\$644.50	\$3,500.00	\$2,829.50	\$2,000.00
Tax Abatements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Micellaneous	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Total General Expenses	\$59,257.00	\$50,729.47	\$54,295.00	\$55,554.28	\$54,900.00

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Public Safety					
Fire Protection	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$9,400.00
SWNH Fire Mutual Aid	\$7,500.00	\$8,013.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,213.00	\$8,500.00
Rescue Contract				\$0.00	\$9,305.80
Windham County Sheriff	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.04	\$5,500.00	\$5,291.66	\$5,750.00
Golden Cross Ambulance	\$4,600.00	\$4,644.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,644.00	\$4,600.00
Animal Quarantine	\$500.00	\$350.00	\$500.00	\$385.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous Public Safety				\$0.00	\$2,900.00
Total Public Safety Expenses	\$22,600.00	\$18,007.04	\$24,100.00	\$23,533.66	\$40,955.80
Athens Elementary Sch. Building					
School Bldg. Electricity	\$1,000.00	\$891.24	\$1,200.00	\$825.67	\$1,200.00
School Bldg. Telephone	\$1,700.00	\$1,752.09	\$1,700.00	\$1,730.70	\$1,700.00
School Bldg. Heating Oil	\$1,390.00	\$1,671.46	\$2,470.00	\$2,367.67	\$4,000.00
School Bldg. Insurance	\$1,478.00	\$450.50	\$1,800.00	\$1,804.00	\$1,800.00
School Building Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$901.50	\$8,000.00	\$3,343.13	\$3,500.00
School Grounds Maintenance	\$800.00	\$1,000.00	\$800.00	\$1,125.00	\$800.00
Total Elementary Sch. Building	\$8,368.00	\$6,666.79	\$15,970.00	\$11,196.17	\$13,000.00
Highway Payroll					
Highway Foremen	\$50,176.80	\$49,137.32	\$51,840.00	\$49,858.40	\$55,987.20
Highway Labor	\$41,385.60	\$40,427.60	\$44,280.00	\$42,532.80	\$47,930.40
Highway Flagger	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Social Security	\$7,004.53	\$5,809.52	\$7,350.00	\$6,855.32	\$7,950.00
Retirement	\$5,493.74	\$5,528.34	\$6,000.00	\$5,890.15	\$6,884.55
Health Insurance	\$34,380.38	\$34,203.92	\$32,262.00	\$32,433.22	\$36,380.00
Unemployment	\$266.00	\$232.00	\$180.00	\$253.00	\$280.00
Workers Comp Insurance	\$6,307.00	\$2,996.00	\$5,600.00	\$5,820.25	\$6,490.00
Total Highway Payroll Expenses	\$146,514.05	\$138,334.70	\$150,012.00	\$143,643.14	\$163,402.15
Highway Garage					
General Supplies	\$4,400.00	\$2,198.62	\$4,000.00	\$6,058.90	\$4,000.00
Electricity	\$825.00	\$698.58	\$875.00	\$717.32	\$900.00
Telephone	\$1,200.00	\$1,501.53	\$1,235.00	\$1,691.53	\$1,700.00
Heating Oil	\$3,130.00	\$3,302.28	\$5,590.00	\$4,319.85	\$9,000.00
Trash Removal	\$1,400.00	\$2,534.80	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00
Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,033.57	\$1,000.00	\$1,362.75	\$9,000.00
New Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highway Dept. Training	\$1,000.00	\$150.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Highway Garage Expenses	\$11,955.00	\$11,419.38	\$14,600.00	\$14,150.35	\$26,500.00
Highway Equipment					
VLCT Insurance	\$3,895.00	\$1,043.25	\$4,200.00	\$4,165.00	\$4,000.00
Special Tools/Equip	\$3,500.00	\$1,509.58	\$1,500.00	\$2,636.33	\$5,000.00
Radio Maintenance	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
General Repair Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$1,177.10	\$3,000.00	\$1,037.86	\$1,500.00
R&M 2012 Freightliner	\$12,500.00	\$11,073.08	\$8,500.00	\$6,470.33	\$10,000.00
R&M Ford 550	\$1,500.00	\$2,049.40	\$1,750.00	\$4,845.43	\$2,000.00
R&M Grader	\$9,300.00	\$8,852.50	\$2,000.00	\$2,373.88	\$2,000.00
R&M Backhoe	\$1,500.00	\$1,488.78	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Gasoline	\$50.00	\$105.56	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Diesel Fuel	\$7,618.00	\$8,903.47	\$13,500.00	\$14,884.28	\$16,000.00
Total Highway Equipment Expenses	\$44,363.00	\$36,202.72	\$36,450.00	\$36,413.11	\$42,750.00

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Road Maintenance					
Highway Equip Rental	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gravel	\$25,000.00	\$28,774.50	\$16,450.00	\$7,168.70	\$18,000.00
Salt	\$32,000.00	\$11,912.06	\$35,000.00	\$24,529.72	\$35,000.00
Stone		\$0.00	\$11,050.00	\$35,757.53	\$15,000.00
Sand	\$15,000.00	\$15,546.50	\$16,000.00	\$13,706.50	\$23,000.00
Chloride	\$3,200.00	\$1,900.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,507.00	\$3,500.00
Cold Patch	\$500.00	\$118.28	\$500.00	\$224.62	\$350.00
Contracted Services	\$9,200.00	\$9,300.00	\$9,000.00	\$6,737.50	\$8,200.00
Road Resealing	\$8,800.00	\$0.00	\$8,800.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,800.00
Bridge Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Small culverts	\$2,860.00	\$5,594.90	\$4,000.00	\$1,840.40	\$3,000.00
Stormwater permit / program	\$500.00	\$6,051.75	\$500.00	\$1,380.00	\$740.00
Underdrains	\$1,500.00	\$920.31	\$2,000.00	\$1,984.00	\$2,000.00
Emergency Road Work		\$51,043.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grant Reimbursable Expenses				\$28,306.90	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Highway	\$1,000.00	\$41.53	\$500.00	\$794.12	\$1,000.00
Total Highway Maintenance	\$100,060.00	\$131,203.63	\$107,300.00	\$130,936.99	\$118,590.00
Voted Appropriations					
SeVEDS					
Grace Cottage					
SEVCA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Bellows Falls Senior Ctr	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Visiting Nurses	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	
Women's Freedom Ctr	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Senior Solutions	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Youth Services	\$330.00	\$330.00	\$330.00	\$330.00	
Grafton Cares	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
HCRS	\$356.00	\$356.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Voted Appropriations	\$4,836.00	\$4,836.00	\$4,480.00	\$4,480.00	
Transfers to Other Funds					
Town Office Renovation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Athens Brick Mtg House	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Athens Cemetery Comm.	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Long Term Highway Projects	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00
Paving Fund	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Equipment Fund	\$37,900.00	\$37,900.00	\$49,250.00	\$49,250.00	\$31,700.00
Emergency Preparedness	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Planning Commission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equip Fund (Cat 420F2ST)	\$25,875.00	\$25,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Reserve Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Grant Matching Fund			\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00
Record Preservation Fund				\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Total Transfers to Other Funds	\$144,275.00	\$144,275.00	\$144,750.00	\$144,750.00	\$127,200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$566,583.05	\$573,926.63	\$597,969.20	\$617,327.51	\$632,621.95

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

Charged to Collector 2022	Total Tax Collected 2022	Collected Interest	Tax Balance Due as of 12/31/2022
2015			
\$643.41	\$643.41	\$482.08	\$0.00
2016			
1,925.64	1,925.64	1,098.96	0.00
2017			
2,027.76	982.87	587.95	1,044.89
2018			
2,085.36	0.00	0.00	2,085.36
2019			
5,420.02	1,293.32	403.22	4,126.70
2020			
5,708.18	366.86	65.59	5,341.32
2021			
29,950.68	21,096.30	1,227.85	8,854.38
2022			
91,340.58	58,755.84	751.68	32,584.74
Totals			
139,101.63	85,064.24	\$4,617.33	\$54,037.39

DELINQUENT TAX PAYERS

2017	2021	Diane Shepard et. al
Paul & Judy Bemis	Louis Santini Jr.	Jason & Diane Taylor
2018	Paul & Judy Bemis	Amy Jo Aldrich
Paul & Judy Bemis	Don & Jayne Elliott	Edward & Joyce Todd
2019	Diane Shepard et. al	Matthew Tenney
Louis Santini Jr.	Emily Garrow	Bruce Tenney Jr.
Paul & Judy Bemis	2022	David Laposta
Diane Shepard et. al	Louis Santini Jr.	Richard Leary
Emily Garrow	Katherine Gehring	Emily Garrow
2020	Stephen McCallister	Elaine & Carrie Kies
Louis Santini Jr.	Paul & Judy Bemis	
Paul & Judy Bemis	Derek Norris	
Diane Shepard et. al	Travis Allen	
Emily Garrow	Don & Jayne Elliott	

Dog License Report

Receipts

#	Dogs	Cost	Total
42	Spayed and neutered dogs	\$9.00	\$378.00
3	Spayed and neutered	\$7.00	\$21.00
6	Unspayed and unneutered	\$13.00	\$78.00
32	Spayed and neutered	\$11.00	\$352.00
7	Unspayed and unneutered	\$17.00	\$119.00
90	Dogs total		\$948.00
3	Working dog surcharges	\$5.00	\$15.00
			\$963.00

Expenditures

Recipient	Total
State of Vermont	\$450.00
Clerk	\$180.00
Town of Athens	\$333.00
	\$963.00

Rabies Clinic

Saturday March 11, 2023

1:30 – 3:30 PM

At the Athens Town Office

\$15 / per animal

2022 Fund Balances

General / Highway Fund

Jan 1, 2022 Starting Balances	
Checking Account	\$3,064.53
Savings Account	\$625,098.26
Due to Other Funds	-\$427,045.99
Del Tax Receivable	\$47,519.46
Current Tax Receivable	\$534.53
Tax Interest & Penalty	\$10,400.04
Total Assets	\$259,570.83

Jan 1, 2022 Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	\$53,231.89

Jan 1, 2022 Assets minus Liabilities	\$206,338.94
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2022 Annual Revenues	(See budget page for breakdowns)
Total Revenues	\$574,355.36

2022 Annual Expenses	(See budget page for breakdowns)
Total Expenses	\$621,807.51

Dec 31, 2022 Ending Balances	
Checking Account	\$12,993.78
Savings Account	\$723,434.74
Due to Other Funds	-\$608,527.49
Del Tax Receivable	\$54,037.39
Current Tax Receivable	\$534.53
Tax Interest & Penalty	\$11,618.51
Total Assets	\$194,091.46

Dec 31, 2022 Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	\$35,204.67

Dec 31, 2022 Assets minus Liabilities	\$158,886.79
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Town Office Renovation Fund

2022 Starting Balances	
Town Office Renovation Fund	\$29,286.21
Total Assets	\$29,286.21

2022 Revenues	
Total Revenues	\$0.00

2022 Expenses	
Building Maintenance	\$2,416.00
Total Expenses	\$2,416.00

2022 Ending Balances	
Town Office Renovation Fund	\$26,870.21
Total Assets	\$26,870.21

Athens Brick Meetinghouse Fund

2022 Starting Balance	
Meetinghouse Fund	\$13,559.28
Total Assets	\$13,559.28

2022 Revenues	
Grants	\$49,207.00
Transfer from GF	\$2,500.00
Donations	\$25.00
From Athens Historic Society	\$38,000.00
Total Revenues	\$89,732.00

2022 Expenses	
Contracted Svcs	\$93,710.00
Loan payment to Housing Rehab	\$2,500.00
Total Expenses	\$96,210.00

2022 Ending Balance	
Meetinghouse Fund	\$7,081.28
Total Assets	\$7,081.28

Due to Housing Rehab Fund	\$12,500.00
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Campbell Fund

2022 Starting Balances	
Cert of Deposit	\$35,986.77
Savings	\$2,671.50
Total Assets	\$38,658.27

2022 Revenues	
Donations	\$200.00
Interest	\$371.07
Total Revenues	\$571.07

2022 Expenses	
Campbell distribution	\$120.00
Miscellaneous	\$10.00
Total Expenses	\$130.00

2022 Ending Balances	
12 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$10,005.04
36 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$21,351.61
Checking account	\$2,742.03
Savings	\$5,000.66
Total Assets	\$39,099.34

Restricted Balance	\$4,000.00
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Cemetery Commission Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Cemetery Fund	\$23,340.47
Total Assets	\$23,340.47

2022 Revenues

Service fee	\$100.00
Plot sales	\$200.00
Grant revenue	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$0.00
Transfer In from GF	\$3,000.00
Total Revenues	\$3,300.00

2022 Expenses

Materials	\$7.56
Contracted Services	\$3,750.00
Total Expenses	\$3,757.56

2022 Ending Balances

Cemetery Fund	\$22,882.91
Total Assets	\$22,882.91

Equipment Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Unreserved	-\$8,149.99
Reserved for Small Truck Replacement	\$1,290.00
Reserved for Large Truck Replacement	\$41,304.75
Reserved for Backhoe Replacement	\$40,000.00
Reserved for Grader Replacement	\$25,000.00
Reserved for Small Equipment Purchase	\$828.67
Reserved for Cat 420F25ST Payment	-\$244.97
Total Assets	\$100,028.46

2022 Revenues

Transfer In From GF	\$49,250.00
Total Revenues	\$49,250.00

2022 Expenses

Capital Equipment	\$7,613.45
Payments for Cat 420-07	\$10,662.00
Total Expenses	\$18,275.45

2022 Ending Balances

Unreserved	-\$8,149.99
Reserved for Small Truck Replacement	\$13,690.00
Reserved for Large Truck Replacement	\$49,804.75
Reserved for Backhoe Replacement	\$39,338.00
Reserved for Grader Replacement	\$30,000.00
Reserved for Small Equipment Purchase	\$5,378.67
Reserved for Plow for Small Truck	\$1,186.55
Reserved for Cat 420F25ST Payment	-\$244.97
Total Assets	\$131,003.01

Cemetery Trust Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Stella Holden CD	\$502.50
Charles Colton CD	\$502.50
Total Assets	\$1,005.00

2022 Revenues

Interest Income	\$3.74
Total Revenues	\$3.74

2022 Expenses

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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2022 Ending Balances

Stella Holden CD	\$504.37
Charles Colton CD	\$504.37
Total Assets	\$1,008.74

Paving Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Paving Fund	\$92,230.60
Total Assets	\$92,230.60

2022 Revenues

Transfer In From GF	\$60,000.00
Grants	\$0.00
Total Revenues	\$60,000.00

2022 Expenses

Contracted Services	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00

2022 Ending Balances

Paving Fund	\$152,230.60
Total Assets	\$152,230.60

Housing Rehabilitation Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Housing Rehabilitation Fund	\$11,839.61
Total Assets	\$11,839.61

2022 Revenues

Loan payment from Meetinghouse	\$2,500.00
Total Revenues	\$0.00

2022 Expenses

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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2022 Ending Balances

Housing Rehabilitation Fund	\$14,339.61
Total Assets	\$14,339.61

Due from Meetinghouse Fund \$12,500.00

Reappraisal Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Reappraisal Fund	\$26,161.30
Total Assets	\$26,161.30

2022 Revenues

Grant Revenue Per Parcel	\$2,193.00
Grant Listers Education	\$258.00
Total Revenues	\$2,451.00

2022 Expenses

Office Supplies	\$58.00
Training	\$100.00
Contracted Services	\$305.61
Memberships	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$513.61

2022 Ending Balances

Reappraisal Fund	\$28,098.69
Total Assets	\$28,098.69

Weather Emergency Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Checking Account	\$2,496.51
Total Assets	\$2,496.51

2022 Revenues

Transfer in from GF	\$500.00
Total Revenues	\$500.00

2022 Expenses

Miscellaneous	\$876.38
Total Expenses	\$876.38

2022 Ending Balances

Emergency Preparedness Fund	\$2,120.13
Total Assets	\$2,120.13

Emergency Reserve Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Emergency Reserve Fund	\$20,000.00
Total Assets	\$20,000.00

2022 Revenues

Transfer in from GF	\$5,000.00
Total Revenues	\$5,000.00

2022 Expenses

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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2022 Ending Balances

Emergency Reserve Fund	\$25,000.00
Total Assets	\$25,000.00

Long Term Highway Projects Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Reserved for Guardrails	\$13,449.00
Reserved for Culverts	\$28,736.20
Total Assets	\$42,185.20

2022 Revenues

Transfer In From GF	\$9,500.00
Total Revenues	\$9,500.00

2022 Expenses

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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2022 Ending Balances

Reserved for Guardrails	\$18,449.00
Reserved for Culverts	\$33,236.20
Total Assets	\$51,685.20

Planning Commission Fund**2022 Starting Balances**

Planning Commission Fund	\$1,227.59
Total Assets	\$1,227.59

2022 Revenues

Total Revenues	\$0.00
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2022 Expenses

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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2022 Ending Balances

Planning Commission Fund	\$1,227.59
Total Assets	\$1,227.59

Grant Matching Fund

Created March 2022

2022 Starting Balances

Total Assets	\$0.00
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2022 Revenues

Transfer in from GF	\$15,000.00
Total Revenues	\$15,000.00

2022 Expenses

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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2022 Ending Balances

Grant Matching Fund	\$15,000.00
Total Assets	\$15,000.00

ARPA Grant Fund	Created August 2021	
2022 Starting Balances		
Total Assets		\$65,318.35
2022 Revenues		
Grant Revenue	\$65,893.50	
Total Revenues	\$65,893.50	
2022 Expenses		
Total Expenses	\$0.00	
2022 Ending Balances		
ARPA Grant Fund		\$131,211.85
Total Assets		\$131,211.85
Balance All Funds		

Record Preservation Fund	Created December 2022	
2022 Starting Balances		
Total Assets		\$0.00
2022 Revenues		
Recording surcharges	\$404.00	
Transfer in from GF	\$0.00	
Total Revenues	\$404.00	
2022 Expenses		
Total Expenses	\$0.00	
2022 Ending Balances		
Record Preservation Fund		\$404.00
Total Assets		\$404.00
Balance All Funds		

\$806,149.95

Town of Athens, Vermont Selectboard

Selectboard Report 2022

During the Town Meeting in March of 2022 the voters of the Town voted to increase the size of the Selectboard from 3 to 5 members. A second vote of reconsideration was held, and the original vote was sustained. Harold Noyes and Sandi Capponcelli were elected to the 2 new positions.

The Selectboard during the fall of 2022 discussed the fire and rescue service for the Town. The Town has contracted with the Village of Saxtons River, and Saxtons River Fire and Rescue has served the Town for many years. The service Saxtons River Fire and Rescue provided the town has been exemplary. At no time during the deliberations was the service that the Fire department provided a cause of concern.

The Selectboard decided to contract with Grafton Fire and Rescue to provide their services to the Town of Athens. The cost of this was considerably more than what has been paid in the past. The price is in line with the other options available to the Town. As of January 1, 2023, Grafton Fire and Rescue are providing fire and rescue services to the Town.

The budget committee and the Selectboard have been working on establishing a budget that the Town can afford and is reasonable. Because of the current nation inflation spike, many of the commodities and services the town needs have gone up in price substantially. The Selectboard will continue to try and save wherever we can, but the Town is subject to the marketplace as is everyone.

SWWCSWMD district which the Town is a part of has established a hazardous waste collection system that is open weekdays during the spring summer and fall. The collection site is in Springfield, VT and a nominal fee is charged for disposing of household hazardous waste. To participate you can call the SWWCSWMD for times and information. Trash pickup will remain every other week and recycling will be the alternate week. Checking the Towns website Athensvt.com you can check as to which week is trash and which recycling. Bags for trash can be purchased at the Town Office when the Office is open Monday, When disposing of recyclables make sure there is no trash or compostable materials in the recycling. The contractor has requested we use clear plastic bags when recycling.

Town of Athens, Vermont Selectboard

The Town took delivery of a new backhoe in 2022. The large truck is getting older and will need to be replaced in future.

The Selectboard is also planning on replacing a culvert near the intersection of Valley Cemetery Road and Brookline Road. A large portion of the cost of this will be from a grant the Town received from the State of VT.

The Town Garage needs repairs and plumbing for a bathroom. The Selectboard is looking at all the options to serve the town best at the least expense to taxpayers.

The public can attend Selectboard meetings. They are currently held on the Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee Town Report 2022

The start of 2022 found us preparing to proceed with the Façade Project funded in part by the Paul Bruhn Grant, a Historic Preservation Fund grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior awarded in 2021 by the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV). We anticipated the need to have the windows reproduced given how deteriorated the exterior wood was, but to our amazement, an extremely qualified team of skilled craftsmen working with Stebbins Spectacular Painting were excited about the prospect of restoring our historic windows. Everything was in place and the work began just after the plant sale on Memorial Day weekend.

We are pleased to report that the window crew, Pinnacle Window and Door from Keene did a fantastic job, and we now have fully functioning restored windows with an added small new window on the back of the tower, previously partially boarded up giving the bats full access. The newly painted exterior looks fabulous, and even the back wall is beautiful again, though rarely seen. We can't thank Don Capponcelli enough for bringing his vast knowledge to help us steward this project to completion! And having now completed that project, a repayment of \$7,500 will be made in January to the Housing Rehabilitation Fund.

The building was rented out to a resident for a birthday gathering just before the work began, the first of what we hope will be many future rentals of the building as we slowly bring it back to its historic glory. However, for the summer of 2022, the Memorial Weekend Plant Sale was the only event held due to the project work that continued through the summer and fall. Once the work was done in early November, we were thrilled to welcome over 35 people to an Open House with cider and donuts to show off the work, and especially the newly restored windows.

Aside from the Façade Project, members of the Meetinghouse Committee repainted the Town Bulletin Board on the Meetinghouse lawn, and planted more perennials around the Historic Marker sign. In August members of the committee along with Don Capponcelli, our super volunteer, joined forces with the Brookline Meetinghouse folks for a joint fundraiser at the Guilford Welcome Center. A huge thanks to all who contributed goodies for that effort, and to Laurie Indenbaum for gathering up some musical friends to help draw visitors in, and keep us all smiling through much of the day. This event was a lot of work, but in the end we all enjoyed it.

We expected that our 3rd Annual Tree Lighting, thanks once again to a beautiful tree donated by the Maciejowskis, would close out the year for us. But come mid December, we were notified that our application for the 2023 Vermont Division of Historic Preservation Grant was awarded the maximum allowed of \$20,000. This grant along with generous gifts to the historic society, will fund this next project hopefully to start in Spring 2023. Stay tuned.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the support from residents and taxpayers in Athens. We are also grateful for the support of the Athens Historic Preservation Society which enables us to receive charitable donations on behalf of the Meetinghouse. If you are interested in getting involved with our efforts, please reach out to one of the committee members.

Cemetery Commission Report

It was another quiet year for repairs in the cemeteries, with no volunteer work having been scheduled in 2022. There remains a need for tablet repairs and monument levelling in both cemeteries, as well as the need for row marker installation in the new section of the West Cemetery. Those wishing to help, including teens in need of community service hours, should contact commission chairman Don Capponcelli at 869-2590.

The Commission wishes to thank the Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance crew for their work in the cemeteries in 2022, which was their 13'th season. The Commission also wishes to thank Matt Perry for his continued work in maintaining the area around Memorial Rock. There was also a mysterious group that anonymously placed flags on the veteran gravesites at the West Cemetery prior to Memorial Day. Our thanks goes out to them as well!

The year 2022 ended with a town ledger fund balance for cemeteries in the amount of \$23,632.91. The Commission allots this fund balance into the following categories:

Operating budget balance	\$ 2,430.81	
Valley Cemetery major repairs	\$ 16,532.08	
Valley Cemetery ground levelling	\$ 216.76	
West Cemetery major repairs	\$ 1,750.00	
West Cemetery construction	<u>\$ 2,703.26</u>	
TOTAL fund balance	\$ 23,632.91	town ledger fund balance
-plus-		
Loan to the Colton Trust Fund	\$ 31.53	
Loan to the Holden Trust Fund	<u>\$ 162.58</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 23,827.02	

. The \$16,532.08 dedicated to the Valley Cemetery major repairs is currently what remains of the liquid assets (checking account balance, stocks & CDs) transferred from the Athens Valley Cemetery Association to the Town of Athens in 2006, plus plot sales and interment fees since that time.

. The \$1,750.00 dedicated to West Cemetery major repairs is the total of cash sales for plots plus interment fees in the new section of the cemetery since its opening.

. The loans to the Colton and Holden Trust Funds were needed in 2020 in order to bring those funds to a balance of \$500.00 each, thereby avoiding monthly bank fees applied to smaller account balances.

Regular meeting times for the Athens Cemetery Commission are on the first Wednesdays of the months of April, June, September and December at the Athens Town Office (or other locations as warned). Meetings are posted at bulletin boards located at the Town Garage, the Athens Town Office and the Athens Brick Meeting House, and are posted on the Town of Athens website. The Commission continues to face a backlog of work at the two cemetery sites as well as with map & records updating. Volunteer help is always needed and deeply appreciated, as well as private donations in any amount. For more information please contact Don Capponcelli.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Capponcelli

Campbell Fund Trustee Report

The Trustees of the Campbell Fund are excited to report that we received 2 applications for assistance in 2022. Both applications were approved by the Campbell Fund Trustees. As of the time of writing this update, the funds for one application have been dispersed and already fully repaid. The funds for the second application are currently pending disbursement.

As we look ahead to 2023, the Trustees recognize that many of our neighbors face significant hardships due to the lingering health and economic effects from the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the rising costs of inflation. We are also cognizant that the strict eligibility requirements for other welfare and social service programs make it difficult for many individuals to qualify for assistance, despite these individuals having real and sincere needs. These organizations also tend to be extremely limited in the kinds of assistance that they can provide. Accordingly, we see the Campbell Fund as meeting a unique need in our community to sustainably help our neighbors when they are most in need.

With this in mind, a primary goal of the Trustees this year is to review and revise the guidelines for the kinds of needs that funds from the Campbell Fund can help cover. It is our goal to ensure that, although the fund was created over a century ago, it meets the needs of our neighbors in the 21st Century, while also remaining well-funded in order to continue to be a resource for the next generation.

Grafton Cares 2023

Grafton Cares was established in 1993 by a group of townspeople concerned with providing help and support to their neighbors.

Meals Program

The Wednesday Lunch Program is twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 12 noon at the Grafton Chapel. There are two Community Suppers, the first Friday of each month in Athens and the third Friday in Grafton.

Financial Assistance Committee

This committee, often working in collaboration with other organizations, offers a helping hand to those with a variety of temporary or long-term needs, ranging from transportation to medical appointments, to financial assistance for families or individuals with urgent needs. Grafton Cares also offers, for temporary or long-term use, a variety of medical equipment for special health needs. A Fuel Assistance Program. This program has filled an important niche by providing emergency fuel aid for those with a temporary need or who are awaiting more long-term support from other agencies.

Gas Card Program

The gas card program began many years ago with the generous contribution of gas cards from Old Tavern guests, via the Windham Foundation. Grafton Cares now funds this program. We distribute these cards to community members to meet emergency needs involving medical transportation issues or financial hardship.

Meals On Wheels

Meals On Wheels are available from the Dam Diner. Delivered by Grafton Cares' volunteer drivers. Meals On Wheels, is available through Senior Solutions (formerly the Council On Aging). Call Bill Toomey at 802-843-2397 for more information

Sunshine Baskets

Sunshine Baskets, filled with fresh fruit, are given to our older neighbors and to those who have had surgery just to give a boost to all. Board members enjoy visiting with these people as much as delivering the baskets.

Strong Living

Strong Living is a popular program where participants ages 40 and up attend two, one hour sessions per week. Led by trained folks through a series of stretching and weightlifting exercises, this program has become a fixed date on many participants' calendars and a great way to catch up on the local news. A donation is suggested to cover the cost of equipment and facilities.

Welcome Bags

The Welcome Bag Program has been greatly appreciated by recipients who are new to Grafton and Athens. It contains a variety of "goodies" and all kinds of information to welcome new folks to town.

Grafton Cares Knitters

A group of local knitters keeps busy with various projects such as beautiful shawls for those in need of comfort and baby blankets, which are combined with board books and a book bag from the Grafton Library, to welcome little ones born to area families.

Rides Coordinator

To facilitate the coordination of transportation needs, a rides coordinator can help with rides for medical appointments. If you or a family member requires transportation to medical appointments, you can give this program a try.

Additional Events

80+ Luncheon. Each Fall, we invite all 80+ year olds and guests from Grafton and Athens to our annual luncheon at the Chapel. Our goal is to celebrate their contributions to the quality of life in our two towns. The Sixth Grade joins us to help serve the meal and visit with guests. This year, because of the virus, we cancelled the luncheon and delivered over 40 "goodie bags" to the 80+ folks.

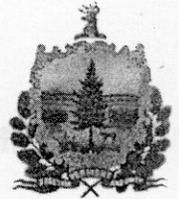
Christmas Day Dinner. For the last few years we have sponsored a Christmas Day Dinner at 12:00 in the Chapel building. A good number of residents have attended this special meal. This dinner is also cancelled due to the virus.

For more information about Grafton Cares or any of its programs, contact, Kate Bova, President of Grafton Cares at 869-1527.



WINDHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Mark R. Anderson
PO Box 8126, Brattleboro VT 05301
Tel: (802) 365-4942
Fax: (802) 365-4945



Athens Report

This year, the Windham County Sheriff's Office will be partnering with towns and stakeholders to consider how we deliver policing service. I believe Windham County can harness a system that provides better service that makes more efficient choices of how our taxes are used. Taking a step back to look at how Vermont intends to provide law enforcement (and other public safety systems), we often find members of the public confused by what agencies do, how various systems of government work, and ultimately leads to frustration when a person needs help. I'll be inviting towns into a discussion about how we could collectively build a better service replacing and improving the current construct. Together, we can endeavor to provide access to full-service law enforcement, while being mindful of the burden on taxpayers' shoulder. It will take work, and this is work worth doing.

Call Type	Count
Animal Problem	1
Motor Vehicle Complaint	1
Traffic Stop	23
VIN verification	1
Grand Total	26

The most harrowing discussion members of the public have sought me out for in the last year is personal safety and crime. A casual reader might think this to be a standard topic for a person like me (and it is); the volume at which I'm having this discussion is unlike anything I've experienced. As of this writing, WCSO has been asked to provide roughly 26,480 deputy hours with requests targeting issues surrounding

violence, aggression, and an increase in aggressive driving in communities. For reference, our three-year average of annual patrol hours deputies worked throughout the county is approximately 14,000. While we work to support the increased demand, we must call out the nearly twelve months of time to adequately recruit, hire, train, and assign deputies to these assignments.

I'm pleased to share that we have moved our office to 185 Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro. Our departure from our location in Newfane was bittersweet, as the former county jail offered a geographically central, historically exhilarating location on one of the most photographed commons in Vermont. It also came with the burden of a two-hundred-year-old structure that didn't meet modern day standards and required significant investment to cure. Our new facility offers us space to grow our Regional Communications facility, provides improved air management, fire suppression, ADA access, a modern electrical system, and more. I must emphasize that the location of our office doesn't impact our ability to deliver services to communities through Windham County as our cruisers serve as "rolling" offices with in-car computers, access to our electronic records, and integrated communications equipment. As we've strived toward modernizing our systems, we've been intentional on keeping deputies present in your community.

Last year, I shared about our Regional Animal Control Officer (ACO) program, which started with four member towns in need of animal control service. It has grown to seven member towns, with two more towns indicating interest in joining. This is a service that we've built separate from our law enforcement capacity, with the hope that one day all towns in Windham County join as members. If your town would like to learn more about becoming a member, your town's leadership can contact my office.

The Windham County Sheriff's Office is pleased to serve the people of Athens and look forward to the upcoming year. If you have a need for our services, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 802-365-4942 for non-emergencies or 911 for emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheriff Mark R. Anderson

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Athens Weather Emergency Committee 2023 Town Report

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Cheree Alsvig
- Wichie Artu
- Don Capponcelli
- Bonnie Hitchcock
- Sherry Maher
- Lynn Morgan
- Justin Sterns
- Tim Stevenson
- Tina White

The Athens Weather Emergency Committee is a volunteer (not an official town) committee whose purpose is to render assistance to our neighbors in the time of a weather emergency only.

The good news for the Emergency Committee is always when we can report that we didn't have any weather emergencies to deal with in 2022. Given the growing climate crisis, however, we know that we're living on borrowed time.

We didn't allow the absence of such events, however, to prevent us from being active. The following is an outline of the highlights in 2022:

- 18 February, Semi-Annual Review of Emergency Protocols and Zones of Responsibility
- 6 April, several of us attended the Red Cross Emergency Shelter Training workshop at the Brattleboro Fire Department
- 30 April, table top practice drill

Spring, 2022, mailed an updated version of our voluntary, confidential survey to all registered citizens of Athens. Neighbors can pick up Copies of **Survey**, plus **Pet Shelter Policies** and names of Emergency volunteers that cover your part of town (**Zones of Responsibility**) in time of an Emergency, are on the back table.

- 25-26 May, cots and trailer washing & mold removal
- 25 October, Semi-Annual Review of Emergency Protocols and Zones of Responsibility; beginning optional 1st Tues of month meetings; new member, Justin Stearns; present member, Wichie Artue, is taking an extended leave
- Our 2022 purchases included (1) 4 walkie-talkies;(2) cleaning and mold removal supplies for our washing of the cots and trailer; and (3) protective containers to house equipment kept in the trailer.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Stevenson

Athens Grafton Elementary School Report

It has been an eventful year at the Grafton Elementary School this year. We are still recovering from the impacts of the Covid pandemic, but we have made great impressive changes to our teaching staff and much of the building has been given a fresh coat of paint. Frustratingly, we have encountered numerous delays upgrading the playground area, but it is my hope that we will begin to see improvements before Summer vacation.

In addition to this brief note, you should look at a much more detailed financial report in our Supervisory Union's report to the community. There you will see the final Athens/Grafton Budget, scheduled to be approved a few days from now, a report on the SU Budget (which constitutes roughly a third of our overall costs) and a discussion of the impacts on taxes that various state decisions, most still pending, will have on local taxes. My Board colleague Hardy Merrill has made a serious effort to investigate the impacts of these decisions on our final bottom line costs to taxpayers, and I anticipate we will discuss them in detail at the community pretown meeting in February.

Our biggest challenge going forward will be to stabilize the student count in the coming years. Small schools can experience wide swings in student populations and in schools as small as ours, even a few additional students can make a major difference to school finances. Over the long term we will need to see a growth in student populations if we are going to sustain a program that can compete with any elementary school in New England. I encourage those considering a move to Grafton to pay a visit to the school. I think they will be impressed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bryar
Chair
Athens Grafton School District
(WNUESD)

WNESU Chair Report to the Community

The Windham Northeast Supervisory Union, or WNESU, remains a vibrant association of member school districts serving the communities of Athens, Grafton, Rockingham and Westminster Vermont.

Operationally, this SU acts as a service organization supporting four closely affiliated school districts. These are the Westminster School District, and the Athens/Grafton or WNUESD, who operate elementary schools and provide tuition and various support services to middle school students; the Rockingham School District which operates two elementary schools and a middle school; and the Bellows Falls Union High School which operates the high school for area students and who coordinates trade school services with schools in Springfield and Brattleboro.

The WNESU is a growing and vital interconnect between districts. SU administrators provide transportation, food services, and planning and financial support. The SU, with district support, develops our common curriculum. It helps districts provide supervisory and support services for our teachers and principals, and it operates our various special education and student support services. Increasingly, it is supporting a variety of facilities management functions, and coordinates early education programming. The Board of the SU, comprised of board members of the various districts, provides oversight and community input on SU operations and develop and approves its budget. Over the last year we have developed SU or inter-district committees to coordinate functions such as the development of model policies; the improvement of our planning, finance, and budget development processes; and making similar improvements to our labor and personnel relations function. Although our communities successfully rejected forced consolidation into a single district, our districts continue to search for additional ways to work together and to better coordinate our efforts to benefit our communities.

This year the WNESU has continued its efforts to offset the educational damage caused by the recent Covid pandemic and to address the deficiencies in programming and facilities that were exposed by that episode. We have made use of federal funds to provide additional educational support and are planning to make use of funds earmarked for facilities renovation. These grants are extensive, amounting to what we forecast to be over 10 million dollars next year. But these funds must be dedicated to facility improvement to improve health and safety and to provide additional, and presumably temporary educational support to bring student performance to pre-pandemic levels. They cannot be used to lower tax rates or to pay for programs we had in place before the pandemic.

We have also begun a project to figure out how to better provide better early education and preschool services to our youngest residents and their parents. These students have been affected by the pandemic too, and every working parent of young children can tell you how difficult it is to access preschool services. There are a variety of competing visions as to how we should approach the issue. Please consider participating in the planning process this coming year, especially if you are the parents of preschoolers.

This year we have also gone a long way to address the fiscal problems exposed by the dysfunctional e-finance system that have put us in the headlines on multiple occasions. We have made a number of improvements in staffing and oversight. This year you will see that we have replaced our nearly impenetrable financial reports with a more businesslike "functions based" budget that can help an average citizen figure out such basic questions such as "How much do we spend on teachers?" We have taken steps to replace the e-finance software with a system that generates better reports and catches errors before they become big problems. Replacing this system will not be cheap but we could not tolerate another year of payroll errors, audits that went on forever, and the chaos being generated by the old system.

We also dealt with a lingering personnel problem, particularly with our support staff. The Labor and Personnel Relations Committee negotiated a settlement with our paraprofessional and support team that will provide workers with a living wage. It better reflects their contributions to our children's education and it should make it easier to compete in what has been an extremely tight labor market. We also kept our teaching costs in line with regional averages and negotiated an agreement that will make it easier for our finance team to forecast our costs over the next several years.

Despite the fiscal challenges generated by that settlement, other costs, and the recent bout of inflation that has affected everyone, the SU Budget has been kept largely under control. Overall SU costs together with state and grant monies we distribute on behalf of state and federal agencies will amount to what we estimate to be \$20,290,557. However, programs like our food services generate enough money to largely pay for themselves and the amount the SU expects to charge member districts will be \$5,510,478 which compares to the \$5,348,180 we charged last year.

Credit is due to the efforts of Superintendent Andrew Haas, our outstanding Finance Director, Jim Vezina, and the work of our Board Finance Committee. They have done tremendous work, as have all Board members this year.

Submitted respectfully,

Jack Bryar
Chair, WNESU

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District

Andover • Athens • Baltimore • Cavendish • Chester • Grafton • Ludlow • Plymouth • Reading
Rockingham • Springfield • Weathersfield • West Windsor • Windsor

www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org



The District was chartered in 1981 and currently serves fourteen Vermont towns. Each member municipality appoints a representative and an alternate to serve on the Board of Supervisors. Athens' representative is David Bemis; Denise Randall is the alternate.



All food scraps were banned from the landfill as of July 1, 2020. The Rockingham Transfer Station accepts food scraps (including meat and bones) from people with an access permit. To facilitate backyard composting, the District sold composters and food scrap pails throughout the year. Many educational resources are available on the District's website.



The District constructed a permanent, seasonal household hazardous waste (HHW) depot in Springfield which opened on June 2, 2022. It was open, by appointment, for up to six hours a week for four months. The Depot will re-open in May 2023. We accept a long list of products, which can be read on our website, www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org.



Two retailers in Springfield accept unwanted paint year-round. Bring paint to Bibens Ace Hardware or Sherwin-Williams during regular business hours and dispose of it for free (cans must be labeled, not leaky, not rusty – bring others to the HHW Depot).



AA, AAA, C, D, 9v, hearing aid, coin cell, tool, and rechargeable batteries are accepted at the Rockingham Transfer Station. Batteries are “special recycling” and do NOT go in with other recycling (fire hazard). There is also a convenient battery bucket outside of the Town Office for 24/7 recycling.



This is the “reuse” symbol - that is what we do with glass bottles and jars that are brought to the Springfield, Weathersfield, and Ludlow transfer stations. After collecting at least 500 tons, the glass is ground up and made available to contractors and residents as a substitute for gravel in construction and drainage projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Kennedy Mary T. O'Brien Ham Gillett
District Manager Recycling Coordinator Outreach Coordinator

Grafton Fire Department

Athens Town Report

Effective January 1, 2023, the Grafton Fire Department signed an agreement with the Athens Selectboard to provide fire protection and other related emergency services to the Town of Athens.

As you all know, the Grafton Fire Department is a volunteer organization with three of our members being residents of Athens. So when asked if we would be willing to provide services for the Town of Athens, it was an unanimous decision by the Executive Board of the Grafton Firefighters Association and the volunteers of the Fire Department to accept.

With the Department relying heavily on donations, we also receive money from the taxpayers of Grafton towards our operating budget and truck fund. That is how the price for covering Athens came to be. Athens averages about one fifth of calls that Grafton does so the tax money provided to the Fire Department was divided by one fifth for Athens taxpayers. We felt that this would be fair to all involved and will be reevaluated after the first year.

Stay safe,

Robbie Sprague, Fire Chief
Grafton Fire Department



Grafton Rescue Squad

Athens Town Report

As you likely have heard, the Grafton Rescue Squad, Inc. took over primary responsibility for Emergency Medical Services in Athens effective January 1, 2023. Golden Cross Ambulance continues to be the service that will transport you to the hospital, if required. The decision to extend ourselves to your town was left to a vote of our membership. Although we face the same challenges that all volunteer, emergency services organizations face across the country, the consensus of the squad members was that the people of Athens are our friends and neighbors, and we were morally obligated to be of service. We now consider you to be part of the community that we serve.

Mission statement:

The Grafton Rescue Squad is committed to the health and well-being of our community. We strive to provide high-quality emergency medical care through the timely response of our trained volunteers and the education of the public in appropriate interventions.

We worked diligently with your Selectboard to arrive at a first-year allocation of costs. We were mindful of several things. We wanted the allocated costs to be seen as fair by both Grafton and Athens residents. We wanted the costs to be balanced across the respective populations of our towns. *Per capita* cost is a commonly used and reliable way to think about emergency medical services expenses. We recognized that while some costs are directly proportional to an increase in call volume, some, such as the expiration of infrequently used medications and equipment, are not.

For the first-year combined expenses, we assumed that direct costs for supplies and fuel would increase proportional to the added population of Athens. We have budgeted for four new responders that we would ideally recruit from Athens, and have accounted for the additional expense related to their training and onboarding. Finally, we allocated the existing expenses across both towns on a *per capita* basis.

The Grafton Rescue Squad has long benefited from the donations of Grafton community members. These donations have been used, in part, to offset the Town of Grafton's expense allocation. In the short term, we are ethically compelled to use such donations for the purpose they were implicitly given. Fundraising for the benefit of Athens is something that can be explored in the coming months.

We will use our best efforts to respond to all emergency calls within Athens. One way to make our mutual relationship even more successful is to have a few Athens residents, especially those who may be in town during weekdays, join the Grafton Rescue Squad. Vermont Emergency Medical Service license levels span a broad range of training and responsibility. The entry level requirements for initial and ongoing training are minimal, while higher levels of licensing require more training but enable you to perform more complete patient care. We would be happy to discuss the available options considering your level of interest and availability.

Respectfully,
Keith Hermiz, AEMT
President



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



Green Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding again for Green Up Day 2023.

Green Up Vermont initiatives are year-round for further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs.

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

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-522-7245

Please contact Lynn Morgan at (802) 869-2227
to volunteer for Green Up Day in Athens

Athens Community Center Advisory Committee

What has come to be known as the Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) was originally appointed by the Athens Selectboard on August 19, 2021, and was described as *"a committee to study and to advise the Athens Selectboard regarding the future of the Athens Elementary School building."* The current active members are Sandi Capponcelli (chair), Tina White, Krista Gay, Matt Shea and Dennis Mirante. Don Capponcelli is advising and assisting the committee.

Initially the Committee decided that it should work to take full stock of existing conditions and remedies for the building in its current state before any deep consideration of possibilities for the building's future. It had been anticipated that there may be many grant opportunities soon, and grants would be essential for any major changes or improvements to the building.

- Early in 2022 Matt Perry led a group of community service teens in emptying the attic contents into a dumpster.
- In late July 2022 Tina White led another group of community service teens in painting the main assembly room interior walls, following drywall repairs by Matt Shea and Don Capponcelli. April Lyman and other Athens residents joined the teens in the painting project. Paint and supplies were donated by Krista Gay.
- A voluntary inspection with Vermont Fire Safety inspector Steve Dumont left the Committee with a work list including providing a protected fire corridor at the top of the basement stairs, upgrading emergency exit lighting, replacing the basement exterior door and bringing the existing entrance ramp up to current standards. Progress on the list included new lit exit signs and emergency lighting to 7 exit doors, installed in late spring thanks in part to a \$1200.00 PACIF grant.
- A partial list of estimates and quotes to-date include attic insulation upgrade, heat pumps, re-lamping with LED retrofits and a backup generator. There may be quotes sought on other features as well. The overall needs of all Athens' municipal buildings will need to be considered and prioritized for grant applications in 2023.
- The Committee is currently considering volunteer work in 2023 to repair drywall and re-paint the walls in the "coat room" at the building's main entrance. It is also considering an upgrade of the current rest room area and looking at options for new flooring in the Assembly Room.

In addition to focusing on the physical needs of the building, the Committee has sought to draw the attention of the community back to the building as a social center. Proceeds from tag sales in November 2021 and August, 2022 allowed the Committee to purchase 4 folding tables for the building and to supply a Halloween party in October. The Halloween party was put together with a huge effort from Tina White and Krista Gay, with thanks also going out to Donna Currier, Linda Taylor and others who generously prepared food for the occasion. There was also a private donation of \$230.00 for gift cards as prizes. The party was a huge success with over 45 people in attendance. A Winter Party is under consideration for February 2023, and there is expected to be planning for a Chili Cook-off in summer, 2023.

Our thanks goes out to Matt Perry for organizing the attic project, to the teens and other residents who have volunteered for the attic cleaning and Assembly Room painting, and to those who have volunteered and contributed to the 2 tag sales and Halloween Party event. Our Champion pre-teen volunteer is Lily Justice, who has assisted in the run-ups and aftermaths of the tag sales, interior painting project and Halloween Party combined.

The CCAC meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at the former school building. We would welcome additional members and input from others as to the future possibilities for the building. New ideas for community functions are always sought after.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Capponcelli

VITAL RECORDS

FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

2022

DEATHS

November 4, 2021 Kevin Joseph Mack
January 1, 2022 Jeffrey Edward Palecki
February 7, 2022 Keith Harold Lockerby
February 27, 2022 Harry Lloyd Streeter
June 9, 2022 Cora A. Fletcher
June 15, 2022 Kim Healey
June 21, 2022 Deane C. Silver
September 26, 2022 Robert Wordell
October 2022 Gordon M. Pugh
December 22, 2022 Russell D. Brown

BIRTHS

June 17, 2022 Noah Robert LeVangie
Sarah Brianna Rattet and Joseph Andrew LeVangie III
July 21, 2022 Mikaiah Rose'Marie Derby
Jennifer Karen Smith and Leonard Howard Derby III

MARRIAGES

February 9, 2022 Erin Marie Mulligan and Christopher Charles Johnston
June 6, 2022 Abigail Newman Minor and Caleb Owen Lemieux
September 10, 2022 Alyssa May Noyes and Tanner Hayden Winot
September 10, 2022 Samuel P. Lockerby and Zandrea M. Boudrieau

BURIAL PERMITS

September 24, 2022 Kevin Mack Valley Cemetery
October 3, 2022 Jon Bemis West Cemetery New Section

CERTIFICATE OF CREMATION

November 12, 2021 Kevin Mack

MINUTES

ANNUAL TOWN OF ATHENS TOWN MEETING

MARCH 1, 2022

The Town Meeting was held at the former Athens Elementary School in Athens, Vermont. Moderator David Bemis called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. The moderator read the warning and asked that all issues be directed to the moderator. He stated the meeting would follow Robert's Rule of Order where they're not in conflict with Vermont law. He also asked that everyone wear a mask and if not, to practice social distancing. The clerk took a roll call of the checklist. A total of 53 registered voters answered the roll call of 293 on the checklist.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town shall eliminate the position of elected Road Commissioner and that the Select Board perform all the duties now conferred by law upon the Road Commissioner of the town as of the first Tuesday in March of 2023.

Harold Noyes made the motion the Road Commissioner not be eliminated. Denise Randall seconded. Discussion followed as to whether a road commissioner was necessary. The motion was put to a voice vote. The townspeople voted to eliminate the road commissioner position.

David stated if there was no objection the meeting could suspend the regular order the town report could be acted upon. It was noted that Article 13 was not included due to a clerical error in numbering. There was discussion about the loan of \$15,000.00 the Meetinghouse owes the town. It was discussed whether anyone with delinquent taxes should be allowed to hold an office. Tom Taylor inquired about why the road commissioner report and the select board report were not included. Sherry asked about the status of the equipment fund.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town of Athens expand the Select Board from 3 to 5 members. Sherry Maher made the motion to expand the Select Board from 3 to 5 members. Discussion followed. Put to a paper ballot. The results of the voting were 26 yes, 23 no. The motion carried. The Select Board will expand to 5 members.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Select Board to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes.

Denise Randall made the motion to authorize the Select Board to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes. Harold Noyes seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town shall vote to collect taxes on the 10th of September, 2022. Denise Randall made the motion the Town shall vote to collect taxes on the 10th of September, 2022. Harold Noyes seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Taxes will be collected on September 10, 2022.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town shall vote to publish a list of Delinquent tax payers in the Town Report.

Denise Randall made the motion to publish a list of Delinquent tax payers in the Town Report. V Steve Oakes seconded. Discussion followed. Don Capponcelli moved for a paper ballot. The results of the paper ballot were 26 yes, 23 no. The list of Delinquent taxpayers will be published in the Town Report.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will approve \$578,489.20 with \$374,232.31 to be raised by taxes to defray Town expenditures.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town approve \$578,489.20 with \$374,232.31 to be raised by taxes to defray Town expenditures. Janet Perry seconded. There was discussion on the budget. Put to a vote. The motion carried. The article was approved.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Athens vote to start a matching grant fund using \$15,000.00 of surplus from the 2021 budget year to be used for highway and Town of Athens projects approved by the Select Board.

Denise made the motion the Town of Athens vote to start a matching grant fund using \$15,000.00 of surplus from the 2021 budget year to be used for highway and Town of Athens projects approved by the Select Board. Discussion followed. Put to a vote. The motion carried. The article was approved.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town of Athens will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support Women's Freedom Center to provide quality advocacy and support to the women and children of Athens.

Harold Noyes made the motion to see if the Town of Athens will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support Women's Freedom Center to provide quality advocacy and support to the women and children of Athens. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town of Athens will vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support Youth Services to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County.

Denise Randall made the motion to see if the Town of Athens will vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support Youth Services to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County. Sherry Maher seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town of Athens will raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services.

Denise Randall made the motion to see if the Town of Athens will raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services. Sherry Maher seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the Bellows Falls Senior Center.

Denise Randall made the motion to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the Bellows Falls Senior Center. Seconded by Sherry Maher. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patient's homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patient's homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH. Seconded by Sherry Maher. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town of Athens will raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to assist Grafton Cares in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens.

Denise Randall made the motion to see if the Town of Athens will raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to assist Grafton Cares in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens. Harold Noyes seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town shall raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist Senior Solutions.

Denise Randall made the motion to see if the Town shall raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist Senior Solutions. Harold Noyes seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 16: To set the time of future Town meetings.

Stephen Oakes made the motion to set the future Town Meetings for the 1st Tuesday in March at 10:00 am. Denise seconded. Discussion followed. Krista Gay made the motion to amend the motion to the 1st Monday night prior to the 1st Tuesday of March at 6:00 pm for an in person Town Meeting. Zach Wicker seconded. A standing vote was called. The results of the vote was 29 yes, 7 no. The amendment passed. The Town Meeting will be held on the 1st Monday night prior the 1st Tuesday in March at 6:00 pm.

ARTICLE 17: To transact any further business proper to come before said meeting.

Dennis Hunt asked for a round of applause for Darlene who is retiring. Sandi Capponcelli pointed out that on page 28 of the Town Report is a report to better define what the Campbell Fund is used for. Dennis Mirante asked for a follow up on the \$15,000.00 loaned to the Meetinghouse Committee. This will be taken up at the Select Board meeting. Hannah Regier presented Darlene a card and a gift certificate from the Select Board and town officials on her retirement. Darlene was pleasantly surprised and wished to thank everyone. Phil Morgan commented that Darlene had done a magnificent job. Wichie Artu asked about the new positions for the Select Board. This will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting. There

being no further business, Harold Noyes made the motion to adjourn. Steve Oakes seconded. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

Approved this day of March, 2022 at Athens, Vermont.

Athens Board of Selectmen

David Bemis

Denise Randall

Janet Perry

Town of Athens
Special Town Meeting
April 26, 2022 6:00pm

Called to order at 6:00pm

The clerk read the roll call of voters: 90 voters present.

The moderator informs the meeting that after consulting with the secretary of state, he understands that this is not a reconsideration of the original article from town meeting, but a new and separate article. Regardless of how the article vote goes, the two newly elected selectboard members from the Australian ballot vote will serve for at least 31 days.

Article 1. Shall the town vote to decrease the select board from five to three select board members.

Carol Bingham makes the motion. Don Capponcelli seconds.

Discussion

Tim Stevenson states he would like the will of voters at town meeting should be honored for a while before trying to change it. He would like to see new energy on the board. He wants to hear from people who put together the petition about why anyone should vote for the article.

Don Capponcelli states that he was one of the people who signed the petition because he thinks the issue is worthy of reconsideration. He agrees that it would be great to have new faces in town government, but he sees that the same people are shuffling around between positions and there aren't really new people wanting to serve.

Kate Bova says that there were enough people to run and that it should be given at least a year to see how it works. The article was in the town report. If people didn't think it was a good idea, why didn't they talk about it before town meeting.

Bruce Tenney Jr. says a five-member panel will bring 30-40 years of the past back into the future and everything gained will be lost.

Wichie Artu says is in favor of a five member board because as a volunteer on the weather emergency committee, he has seen work that hasn't been done because there hasn't been a selectboard member to do it. Also points out one of the selectboard members has a conflict of interest and must recuse from town employee issues.

John Oberling asks what the approximate increase in cost to the town would be. David says about \$1.02/day. People laugh.

Sandi Capponcelli says she helped pass the petition around. She thinks with some things going on in town it isn't the best time to switch to a larger selectboard. She has decided to run for one of the new seats. Also asks that if she wins a seat on the selectboard, who will step up to be the new lister. Asks who else will step up to fill other volunteer positions in the town. She says people complain, but very few support the town workload.

Sherry Maher supported the 5 person board at town meeting. Is pleased to see so many people at this meeting. Would like to see it tried for a year. She is encouraged by the change of

date and time of the next town meeting, and thinks with the turnout at 6:00pm in this meeting, there is likely to be better turnout at the next town meeting. Hopes the the two people who win the vote for the seats will have the opportunity to serve out their one year term. Urges people to vote no.

With no other residents wishing to speak, the moderator calls the question.

7 people request a paper ballot.

Votes: 45 yes, 45 no

The article was not approved. There will be a five-member selectboard.

Further Business

Don Capponcelli says there will be a vote in Grafton next month to decide various aspects of the elementary school district and urges people to attend.

Harold Noyes makes a motion to adjourn. Denise seconded. Adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk