

**TOWN REPORT OF WALDEN, VERMONT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 2024**



Photo courtesy of Dia Michaud

MARCH 4, 2025
Walden School Multipurpose Room
Town Meeting will begin at 10:00am
The polls will be open from 10:00am – 7:00pm
Please bring this report to Town Meeting

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2-3	Town Officers
4	Warning for the Walden Annual Town Meeting
5	Auditor's Report
6	Summary of Accounts
7	Town Inventory Report
8	Town Salaries and Stipends
9	Property Tax Information
10	Grand List and Tax Rate Comparison
11	Collector of Delinquent Taxes Report
12	ARPA Report
13-17	General Budget
18-20	Highway Budget
21	Highway Equipment Replacement Schedule
22	Capital Improvement Schedules
23	Selectboard Report
24	Board of Civil Authority Report
25	Town Clerk/ Treasurer's Report
26	Town Clerk's Notices
27	Cemetery Commission Report
28	Fire Department Report
29-30	Community Library Report
31	Lister's Report
32	Planning Commission Report
33-34	Appropriation Requests
35	CALEX Report
36	Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad Report
37	Green Up Day Report
38	NEK Broadband Report
39	Local Health Office Annual Report
40	Central Vermont Solid Waste Report
41	Neighbors In Action Report
42	Caledonia County Sheriff's Department
43	Vermont Spay Neuter Program Report
44	Highway Winter Operations Policy
45-46	Condensed Minutes of the March 5, 2024, Town Meeting
47	Alphabetical Index
48	Telephone Directory

Lunch will be available at Town Meeting.

Town Report Cover:

Walden Community Library Mural

Painted by Tara Goreau and Friends during the summer of 2024

TOWN OFFICERS

ELECTED

Office		Term Expires
Moderator	Roger Fox	2025
Clerk/Treasurer	Deborah Messier	2025
Clerk/Treasurer Assistant	Diane Banister (appointed)	2025
Clerk Assistant	Dia Michaud (appointed)	2025
Selectboard	Brenda Huntoon	2025
	Robert Hatch	2026
	Randolph Wilson	2027
Listers	Michelle Foster (appointed)	2025
	Dia Michaud	2026
	Victoria Atwood	2027
Auditors	Willhelm Woelfle	2025
	Judith Clifford	2026
	Marie Blodgett	2027
First Constable	Eugene McAllister	2025
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Dia Michaud	2025
Library Trustees	Tammy Hall (appointed)	2025
	Sarah Augeri	2026
	Martha Bissell	2027
	Allison Gulka	2028
	Marie Blodgett	2029
Cemetery Commissioners	Vacant	2025
	James Dailey	2025
	Daniel Menucci	2026
	Judith Clifford	2027
	Lynette Farnham	2028
Justices of the Peace	Diane Cochran	January 31, 2027
	Jeremiah Cook	January 31, 2027
	Roger Fox	January 31, 2027
	Annie Gaillard	January 31, 2027
	Elizabeth Wilkel	January 31, 2027

TOWN OFFICERS

APPOINTED BY THE STATE OF VERMONT

Office	Contact	
Forest Fire Warden	Rodney Hooker	802-563-9926
Health Officer	Selectboard Chair	

APPOINTED BY THE SELECTBOARD

Office	Contact	
Pound Keeper	Cheryl McQueeney	802-563-2912
E911 Coordinator	Butch Greaves	802-424-7024
Emergency Management Coordinator	Lynette Farnham	802-338-5894
Inspector of Lumber	Ralph Bissell	
Weigher of Coal	James Teuscher	
Representative to CVSWD	Vacant	
Tree Warden	David McMath	
Green Up Coordinator	Vacant	
LVRT Regional Trail Council	Lori Augustyniak	
NEK Broadband Rep.	Seth O'Brien	
NVDA Representative	Vacant	
Planning Commission	Martha Bissell	2025
	Suzanna Jones	2026
	Zarina Castro (Chair)	2027

You can view and print the proposed Walden Town Plan online at waldenvt.gov under the heading “News”.

Digital copies of the proposed Town Plan are available via email upon request at tc@waldenvt.gov.

Hardcopies of the proposed Town Plan can be picked up at the
Walden Town Clerk’s Office
12 VT Route 215
West Danville, VT 05873.

WARNING FOR THE WALDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Walden, Vermont in the county of Caledonia are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Walden School in said Walden, Vermont on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10:00 am to act upon the following business for the Town. Voting for Town Officers will be by Australian Ballot. The polls will be open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of election. You can register prior to the meeting by visiting the Town Clerk's Office or going online to olvr.vermont.gov.

Absentee Ballots for voting for the Town Officers may be requested by the voter or an authorized person until 4:00 pm on Monday March 3, 2025.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town to govern said meeting and for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot: Town Clerk - 3 year term; Treasurer - 3 year term; Selectboard - 3 year term; Lister - 3 year term; Auditor - 3 year term; Constable - 1 year term; Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term; Library Trustee - 5 year term; Cemetery Commissioner - 4 year term; Cemetery Commissioner - 5 year term

ARTICLE 3: To hear any revisions to the printed reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to have property taxes paid to the Town Treasurer at the Walden Town Clerk's office, 12 VT Route 215, Walden, VT on or before 5:00 PM EST on Thursday November 6, 2025. This applies to all payment methods, in person, online, by telephone, and through the mail. ****Postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely payment. ****

ARTICLE 5: To see if the voters will approve total highway fund expenditures of \$582,830.00 of which \$439,835.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$142,995.00 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the voters will approve total general fund expenditures of \$358,981.99, of which \$281,789.11 shall be raised by taxes and \$77,192.88 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Walden Town Plan as approved by the Selectboard on January 13, 2025.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any other non-binding business.

Dated at Walden, Vermont this 27th day of January 2025.

Selectboard: Brenda Huntoon, Board Chair
Robert Hatch
Randolph Wilson

Town Clerk: Debbie Messier

AUDITORS' REPORT

In accordance with Title 24, Section 1681 of the Vermont Statutes, we have examined the records as presented to us by the town officers for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

To the best of our knowledge the financial statements represent the financial position of the Town of Walden as of June 30, 2024.

Marie Blodgett, Judith Clifford, Wilhelm Woelfle

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

ASSETS

ARPA Funds	\$111,870.27
Capital Improvement Fund	\$134,754.96
Cash on Hand	\$50.00
Cemetery Commission CD's	\$26,613.19
Cemetery Checking	\$3,653.38
Cemetery Inventory	\$4,500.00
Delinquent Tax Due	\$34,627.86
Fire Dept. Checking	\$5,647.37
Fire Dept. Truck Fund	\$26,836.83
Fire Department Inventory	\$778,800.00
General Fund Balance	(\$12,757.12)
Highway Fund Balance	(\$5.00)
Highway Equipment Fund	\$116,297.59
Library Equipment	\$150,246.00
Library Savings	\$3,576.92
Library Family History	\$1,147.78
Library Family History CD	\$1,801.78
Neighborhood Watch Fund	\$602.07
Preservation Funds	\$16,381.43
Reappraisal Funds	\$14,298.54
Town Clerk's Account	\$40.69
TC Renovation/Construction Fund	\$32,656.47
Town Real Estate	\$806,400.00
Town Equipment	\$666,620.00
Town Office Equipment	\$32,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,956,661.01

LIABILITIES

Mack Truck Loan	\$0.00	Retired
John Deere Loader Loan	\$37,952.89	Will retire in FY 2025
12 Month FEMA Loan	\$192,000.00	Will retire in FY 2025
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$229,952.89	

NET WORTH OF TOWN **\$2,726,708.12**

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

General Accounts Checking/Savings	FY 2023 Town Report Balance	FY 2024 Revenue	FY 2024 Expenses	Additions to Principal/ Transfers	Transfers Out	06/30/2024 Ending Balance
ARPA Funds	11,706.41		21,577.32	121,741.18		111,870.27
Capital Improvement Fund	251,250.03	325.24	49,079.13	54,000.00	121,741.18	134,754.96
General Fund Balance						(12,757.12)
Highway Fund Balance						(5.00)
Highway Equipment Fund	72,186.25	111.34		44,000.00		116,297.59
Neighborhood Watch Fund	566.96	35.11				602.07
Preservation Funds	13,093.43	3,288.00				16,381.43
Reappraisal Funds	14,295.70	2.84				14,298.54
Town Clerk's Account	2,676.47	3,919.69	1,826.00		4,729.47	40.69
TC Renovation/Construction Fund	32,509.17	147.30				32,656.47
Totals	398,284.42	7,829.52	72,482.45	219,741.18	126,470.65	414,139.90

Cemetery Commission Accounts

Cemetery Commission CD	14,064.30	467.86			70.18	14,461.98
Cemetery Commission CD	12,012.75	138.46				12,151.21
Cemetery Checking	2,678.35	975.03				3,653.38
Totals	28,755.40	1,581.35	0.00	0.00	70.18	30,266.57

Community Library Accounts

Savings	3,897.54	255.07			575.69	3,576.92
Family History Savings	1,146.83	0.95				1,147.78
Family History CD	1,790.08	11.70				1,801.78
Totals	6,834.45	267.72	0.00	0.00	575.69	6,526.48

Fire Department Accounts

Checking	\$14,959.97	\$3,016.00	\$12,328.60			\$5,647.37
Truck Fund	\$40,330.68	\$6.15	\$19,500.00	\$6,000.00		\$26,836.83
Totals	\$55,290.65	\$3,022.15	\$31,828.60	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,484.20

Total Bank Accounts 06/30/2024

\$483,417.15

Cash on Hand

\$50.00

Total Assets

\$483,467.15

TOWN INVENTORY REPORT

Roads Department

Office Equipment - Garage	\$500.00
2016 John Deere Grader	\$235,000.00
2013 International Truck & Wing	\$2,000.00
2016 International Truck, Wing & Sander	\$75,000.00
2020 Mack Truck, Wing & Sander	\$150,000.00
1978 GMC	\$2,000.00
Rock Rake	\$1,200.00
Small Tools	\$15,000.00
Two-Way Radios	\$7,000.00
Pressure Washer	\$200.00
Culvert Thawer	\$6,500.00
20 Ton Trailer	\$4,000.00
2021 John Deere 544 Loader	\$160,000.00
2022 Hay Mulcher	\$7,120.00
2022 Blade Lifter	\$1,100.00
	\$666,620.00

Fire Department

1997 Ford Rescue Pumper	\$60,000.00
2000 International V-Tec Tanker	\$70,000.00
2015 International Pierce Responder	\$230,000.00
Turnout Gear	\$120,000.00
Communication Equipment	\$35,000.00
Breathing Apparatus & Accessories	\$90,000.00
Generators & Portable Pump	\$9,500.00
Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$15,000.00
Jaws & Airbags	\$33,500.00
Nozzles & Hose	\$18,000.00
Small Tools	\$16,800.00
Gear Racks, Fixtures, Furniture & Misc.	\$22,300.00
2021 Polaris Ranger/Attachments	\$31,000.00
Emergency Medical Service Inventory	\$27,700.00
	\$778,800.00

Town Office

Fixtures	\$20,000.00
Computer Equipment	\$12,000.00
	\$32,000.00

Cemetery Commission

Shed	\$2,850.00
Push Mowers	\$500.00
Echo Weed Trimmer	\$250.00
Craftsman Rider Mower	\$600.00
Small Tools	\$150.00
Fence Building Materials	\$150.00
	\$4,500.00

Community Library

Fixtures	\$39,712.00
Computer Equipment	\$2,277.00
Library Catalogue	\$108,257.00
	\$150,246.00

Town Real Estate

Coles Pond Picnic Ground	\$126,600.00
Town Forest	\$19,900.00
Emergency Services/Town Office	\$247,900.00
Emergency Services/Town Office Lot	\$43,200.00
Recreation Field	\$25,700.00
Town Garage	\$283,400.00
Town Garage Lot	\$59,700.00
	\$806,400.00

TOTAL TOWN INVENTORY: \$2,438,566.00

TOWN SALARIES AND STIPENDS

SALARIES

Auditor	Marie Blodgett	\$826.00
	Judy Clifford	\$714.00
	Wilhelm Woelfle	\$826.00
Clerk/Treasurer	Deborah Messier	\$44,191.28
Clerk/Treasurer Assistant	Diane Banister	\$18,907.64
Clerk Assistant	Dia Michaud	\$1,945.38
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Dia Michaud	\$7,004.27
Lister	Diane Banister	\$989.00
	Dia Michaud	\$2,656.53
	Victoria Atwood	\$45.50
Library	Martha Bissell	\$600.00
Road Foreman	Robert Bell	\$65,826.11
Road Crew	Stanley Linkovich	\$39,749.01
	Lonnie Waterman	\$4,750.00
Board of Civil Authority & Election Workers	Brenda Huntoon	\$28.24
	Randolph Wilson	\$37.65
	Judith Clifford	\$12.55
	Robert Hatch	\$37.65
	Elizabeth Wilkel	\$31.38
	Diane Cochran	\$138.05
	Michael Coffey	\$62.75
	Roger Fox	\$43.93
	Kellan Mencucci	\$12.55
	Carolyn Greaves	\$12.55
	Linda Fox	\$12.55
	Annie Gaillard	\$18.82
	Dan Mencucci	\$12.55
	Robyn Cook-Hubner	\$12.55

\$189,504.49

STIPENDS

Constable	Eugene McAllister	\$500.00
E911 Mgmt.	Marvin Greaves Jr.	\$721.03
Emergency Coord	Lynette Farnham	\$278.97
Fire Chief	Jason Larrabee	\$1,000.00
Fire Warden	Rodney Hooker	\$500.00
Firefighters	Tyler Mayo	\$400.00
	Chad Mayo	\$400.00
	Ashley Leonard	\$300.00
	David Covell	\$400.00
	Daniel Greaves	\$500.00
	Kurtis Greaves	\$100.00
	Owen Kittredge	\$300.00
	Marvin Greaves Jr.	\$600.00
	Paul Greaves	\$400.00
	Heather Winner	\$200.00
	Geoff Hauver	\$200.00
	Rodney Hooker	\$600.00
	Brenda Huntoon	\$600.00
	Elizabeth Wilkel	\$400.00
	Jason Larrabee	\$600.00
	Alec Larrabee	\$600.00
Planning Commission	Zarina Castro	\$500.00
	Suzanna Jones	\$500.00
	Martha Bissell	\$500.00
Selectboard	Brenda Huntoon	\$960.00
	Robert Hatch	\$920.00
	Randolph Wilson	\$1,000.00

\$13,980.00

Total: \$203,484.49

*Collector of Delinquent Taxes' salary differs from Page 1 of the General Budget, Delinquent Tax Penalty line, due to Collector not receiving penalty payment of \$171.20 for October 2023.

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

2023/2024 TAX RATE

<u>Residential Tax Rate</u>		<u>Non-Residential</u>	
Municipal	0.5705	Municipal	0.5705
Local Veteran Exemption	0.0045	Local Veteran Exemption	0.0045
Homestead Education	<u>1.4704</u>	Non-Residential Education	<u>1.3828</u>
Total	2.0454	Total	1.9578

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Real Estate		\$128,873,500.00		
Veteran Exemption		-\$480,000.00		
Land Use		-\$9,300,500.00		
Total		<u>\$119,093,000.00</u>		
Net Grand List		\$1,190,930.00	(1% of Net Real Estate)	
	<u>Grand List</u>	<u>Residential Rate</u>	<u>Non-Residential Rate</u>	<u>Taxes Raised</u>
Town				
Municipal	\$1,190,930.00	0.5705	0.5705	\$679,427.15
School				
Non-Residential	\$551,450.13		1.3828	\$762,545.23
Homestead Education	\$639,479.87	1.4704		\$940,291.25
Local Veteran Exemption	\$1,190,930.00	0.0045		\$5,359.42
Total School				\$2,387,623.05
Penalties Billed				\$2,210.77
Grand Total				\$2,389,833.82
Abatement Granted				\$1,255.87
Taxes transferred to CCSD			\$1,442,149.18	

STATE OF VERMONT PAYMENTS

Steam Mill Brook (Pilot)	\$39,909.03
Hold Harmless (Current Use)	<u>\$47,318.00</u>
Total in Lieu of Taxes	\$87,227.03

ACREAGES

Fish and Wildlife	5901.87	acres
732 Taxable Parcels	17,844.31	acres
9 Non-Taxable Parcels	<u>64.50</u>	acres
Total Acres	23,810.68	acres

GRAND LIST AND TAX RATE COMPARISON

Year	Grand List	Municipal	Veterans	Education Homestead Rate	Education Non-Homestead Rate	Total Homestead Rate	Total Non-Homestead Rate
2010	\$857,386.00	0.5648	0.0029	1.1891	1.4957	1.7568	2.0634
2011	\$864,215.00	0.5030	0.0029	1.2013	1.6158	1.7072	2.1217
2012	\$858,729.00	0.5830	0.0025	1.4296	1.6699	2.0151	2.2554
2013	\$864,914.00	0.5584	0.0034	1.5503	1.7049	2.1121	2.2667
2014	\$908,684.00	0.6275	0.0040	1.5029	1.6727	2.1344	2.3042
2015	\$914,395.00	0.6577	0.0033	1.2584	1.5668	1.9194	2.2278
2016	\$920,365.00	0.6293	0.0023	1.3397	1.5854	1.9713	2.2170
2017	6 Months Transition						
FY 2018	\$925,745.00	0.6527	0.0052	1.3441	1.5593	2.0020	2.2172
FY 2019	\$924,064.00	0.6317	0.0044	1.3658	1.5533	2.0019	2.1894
FY 2020	\$935,120.00	0.6184	0.0047	1.4141	1.5452	2.0372	2.1683
FY 2021	\$948,019.00	0.5761	0.0046	1.4600	1.5518	2.0407	2.1325
FY 2022	\$954,168.00	0.6154	0.0063	1.6628	1.6667	2.2845	2.2884
FY 2023	\$1,176,377.00	0.4881	0.0041	1.3507	1.3124	1.8429	1.8046
FY 2024	\$1,188,337.00	0.5705	0.0045	1.4704	1.3828	2.0454	1.9578
FY 2025	\$1,208,373.00	0.5620	0.0053	1.6369	1.5584	2.2042	2.1257

CALEDONIA COUNTY PROPERTY TAX RATES

Town	Homestead	Taxes on \$200K	Non-Homestead	Taxes on \$200K
Barnet	\$2.39	\$4,780	\$2.29	\$4,580
Burke	\$1.85	\$3,700	\$1.94	\$3,880
Cabot	\$1.86	\$3,720	\$1.74	\$3,480
Danville	\$2.28	\$4,560	\$2.21	\$4,420
Groton	\$2.38	\$4,760	\$2.53	\$5,060
Hardwick	\$3.52	\$7,040	\$3.62	\$7,240
Kirby	\$1.48	\$2,960	\$1.60	\$3,200
Lyndon	\$2.65	\$5,300	\$2.76	\$5,520
Newark	\$2.23	\$4,460	\$2.34	\$4,680
Peacham	\$2.84	\$5,680	\$2.54	\$5,080
Ryegate	\$2.28	\$4,560	\$2.41	\$4,820
Sheffield	\$2.21	\$4,420	\$2.32	\$4,640
St. Johnsbury	\$2.85	\$5,700	\$2.98	\$5,960
Stannard	\$2.42	\$4,840	\$2.40	\$4,800
Sutton	\$2.14	\$4,280	\$2.23	\$4,460
Walden	\$2.20	\$4,400	\$2.13	\$4,260
Waterford	\$1.73	\$3,460	\$1.65	\$3,300
Wheelock	\$2.60	\$5,200	\$2.72	\$5,440

As published in the Kingdom Guide Fall/Winter 2024

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES REPORT

Tax Year	Beginning Balances	Collections	Abatements	Ending Balances
2020/2021	309.64	309.64		0.00
2021/2022	3,986.15	2,187.64		1,798.51
2022/2023	11,383.97	10,492.49		891.48
2023/2024	105,050.39	72,630.30	482.22	31,937.87
	120,730.15	85,620.07	482.22	34,627.86

Property Taxes Collected: 85,620.07
1% Interest Collected: 6,255.69
Remitted to Treasurer: 91,875.76

Respectfully Submitted,

Dia Michaud
Collector of Delinquent Taxes



Research space in the Town Clerk's Office

ARPA REPORT
American Rescue Plan Act

	Allocated	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total
Digital Records/Cybersecurity	8,000.00	6,052.86	1,703.50	0.00	0.00	7,756.36
Walden School (Substitute Teachers)	8,030.00	0.00	1,862.14	0.00	0.00	1,862.14
EMS N95 Masks	790.00	642.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	642.00
Cabot and Hardwick Food Services	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Survey Mailing	313.00	402.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	402.73
Highway Fund (Gravel)	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Highway Fund and Budget Deficit	40,000.00					0.00
Broadband	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
Fast Squad (High Visibility Jackets)	3,500.00	0.00	2,792.92	0.00	0.00	2,792.92
911 Signs for Community	1,500.00	0.00	639.34	244.12	697.34	1,580.30
VFD PPE/Equipment	84,123.00	0.00	79,458.41	10,024.34		89,482.75
CALEX	11,041.30			6,041.30	5,000.00	11,041.30
Town Clerk Office Renovations	10,000.00			9,000.00	1,000.00	10,000.00
Walden Cemeteries	10,000.00			0.00	10,010.35	10,010.35
Walden Community Library	10,000.00			0.00	10,021.87	10,021.87
Walden Community Playground	10,000.00			0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Suncommon Solar	38,298.76			2,500.00	38,298.76	40,798.76
Office Computers	7,700.00			0.00	6,566.16	6,566.66
Sullivan & Powers (Outside Audit)	15,000.00			0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Cartographic Tech (Parcel Viewer Update)	9,000.00			0.00	8,910.00	8,910.00
Total Allocated Amounts	324,296.06	24,097.59	126,456.31	27,809.76	105,504.48	283,868.14
Meeting Owl	0.00	1,008.38	0.00			1,008.38
Transferred to Capital Improvements		0.00	121,741.18			121,741.18
Transferred from Capital Improvements				(121,741.18)		(121,741.18)
Totals	324,296.06	25,105.97	248,197.49	(93,931.42)	105,504.48	284,876.52
Total Funds Received for ARPA	284,876.52					
Total Allocated Funds Used	(283,868.14)					
Meeting Owl	(1,008.38)					
Moved to Capital Improvements	(121,741.18)					
Moved from Capital Improvements	121,741.18					
Balance	0.00					

Some ARPA Funds were reallocated; Substitute Teachers credit of \$6,167.86 became part of \$10,000.00 for playground.
\$40,000.00 Highway Budget went to TC Renovations, Library, Cemetery, remaining playground, and CALEX

GENERAL BUDGET

	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
FY 2022 Surplus	6,840.13	6,840.13			
FY 2023 Surplus			15,055.20	15,055.20	
FY 2024 Deficit	0.00	0.00	0.00		(12,757.12)
Property Tax Revenue					
Municipal Property Taxes	234,685.55	104,323.46	246,013.17	*304,439.90	281,789.11
Prepaid Taxes	0.00	11,115.44	0.00	381.83	
Delinquent Taxes	0.00	90,238.59	0.00	57,714.03	
Delinquent Tax Interest	8,000.00	4,567.74	8,000.00	2,043.40	5,000.00
Delinquent Tax Penalty	8,000.00	7,175.47	8,000.00	4,611.45	5,000.00
Reconciliation from State	0.00	17,012.50	0.00	28,645.49	0.00
Total Property Tax Revenue	250,685.55	234,433.20	262,013.17	397,836.10	291,789.11
Other Income					
Transfer from ARPA for CALEX rate increase		6,041.30		5,000.00	0.00
Elections Grant				1,000.00	0.00
State of Vermont Library Grant	0.00	300.00	0.00	348.66	
↳ Vermont Humanities Grant				3,771.24	
Library Winnie Belle Grant	0.00	2,515.00	0.00	1,498.66	
Fines	200.00	171.50	200.00		200.00
Green Up Income	750.00	640.00	750.00		750.00
Hold Harmless	20,000.00	19,318.00	20,000.00	24,641.00	20,000.00
Interest	300.00	432.66	300.00	381.68	300.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	70.99	100.00		100.00
School Elections Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Online Records Income	200.00	221.00	250.00	120.00	200.00
Parcel Payment	7,000.00	6,341.00	7,000.00		6,500.00
Tax Penalties	150.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Town Clerk Fees	12,000.00	15,846.39	10,000.00	6,951.11	12,000.00
Steam Mill Brook (PILOT)	39,900.00	39,909.03	39,909.00	39,909.03	39,900.00
Transfer from Library	0.00	575.69	0.00		0.00
Transfer from Reappraisal Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Transfer from Cemetery Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Transfer from TC Renovation Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,312.33	0.00
Total Other Income	80,600.00	92,382.56	78,509.00	100,933.71	79,950.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	338,125.68	333,655.89	355,577.37	513,825.01	358,981.99

*Municipal Property Taxes Line of \$304,439.90 still needs to pay out a remaining balance of \$233,509.54 to CCSU.

GENERAL BUDGET (Continued)

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Salaries & Benefits					
Clerk/Treasurer	46,800.00	44,191.28	46,800.00	22,800.00	48,000.00
Clerk/Treasurer Assistant	20,000.00	18,907.64	20,000.00	10,685.56	22,000.00
Clerk Assistant	600.00	1,945.38	1,000.00	470.26	1,000.00
Auditor	1,500.00	2,366.00	1,500.00	1,134.00	1,500.00
Board of Civil Authority	1,000.00	473.77	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Constable	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	8,000.00	7,004.27	8,000.00	4,611.46	6,000.00
E911 Coordinator	500.00	721.03	500.00	0.00	500.00
Emergency Management	500.00	278.97	500.00	0.00	500.00
Fire Chief Stipend	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Forest Fire Warden	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Health Officer	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Planning Commission Stipend		1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Selectboard Stipend	3,000.00	2,880.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
➤ HRA Employer Contribution	1,250.00	1,549.64	1,500.00	555.24	1,500.00
Dental Insurance	400.00	745.03	400.00	499.03	700.00
Health Insurance	23,300.00	22,876.42	26,400.00	13,153.32	29,000.00
Mileage	300.00	334.15	300.00	35.09	300.00
Life Insurance	350.00	209.92	350.00	188.13	250.00
Pension	3,100.00	2,982.92	3,100.00	1,596.00	3,000.00
Training	150.00	185.00	200.00	125.00	200.00
Social Security / Medicare	5,683.00	6,970.30	5,700.00	3,533.02	7,000.00
Vermont Unemployment Insurance	300.00	180.77	300.00	97.32	300.00
Workman's Compensation	370.00	587.45	725.00	706.53	725.00
Vermont Child Care Tax	0.00	7.67	0.00	176.74	350.00
Total Salaries & Benefits	119,153.00	118,897.61	124,825.00	60,366.70	130,375.00
Town Clerk Office Operations					
Advertisements and Notices	350.00	639.48	400.00	517.15	500.00
Electricity	1,900.00	1,979.26	2,000.00	824.85	1,500.00
Heating Fuel	4,000.00	2,214.00	4,000.00	1,412.70	4,000.00
Office Equipment - New and Repair	500.00	487.50	3,000.00	1,431.10	3,000.00

GENERAL BUDGET (Continued)

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Town Clerk Office Operations (Continued)					
Office Supplies	4,000.00	6,922.93	4,000.00	4,513.11	4,000.00
Town Clerk Office / Firehouse Repairs / Other	2,500.00	3,690.87	2,500.00	525.80	2,000.00
Telephone	2,742.00	1,594.90	2,750.00	989.20	1,700.00
Cyber Protection & Emails	3,840.00	8,085.14	4,400.00	2,955.66	4,400.00
Town Report Printing	800.00	475.00	800.00	0.00	800.00
Mowing	780.00	780.00	800.00	640.00	800.00
Land Record Digitization	2,000.00	1,920.00	2,000.00	800.00	2,000.00
Town Clerk Office Updates				17,312.33	
Outside Audit				0.00	7,000.00
Total Town Clerk Office Operations	23,412.00	28,789.08	26,650.00	31,921.90	31,700.00
General Expenses					
Election Grant Expenses				1,000.00	0.00
Winnie Belle Grant Expenses		500.00	0.00	1,546.17	
State of Vermont Library Grant Expenses		127.91	0.00	348.66	
15 Vermont Humanities Grant Expenses				3,771.24	
Pacific Equipment Grant	0.00	45.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan		948.25			
Animal Control	400.00	0.00	400.00	600.00	400.00
CALEX Ambulance Service	9,000.00	20,444.00	15,840.00	2,875.00	18,900.00
Hardwick Ambulance Service					7,500.00
County Taxes	11,500.00	9,448.00	11,000.00	13,737.00	12,000.00
Dues and Subscriptions	6,000.00	7,478.08	7,000.00	4,687.00	7,000.00
Forest Fire Warden Supplies	500.00	497.11	500.00	0.00	500.00
Generator Maintenance	1,100.00	1,820.67	1,200.00	1,146.00	1,200.00
Green Up	2,800.00	1,642.10	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Insurance	6,000.00	4,808.44	7,200.00	5,225.99	5,000.00
Law Enforcement	10,000.00	3,805.50	10,000.00	2,992.50	10,000.00
Mowing Ball Fields	1,500.00	1,260.00	1,500.00	995.00	1,500.00
Professional Fees	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Truck Payment	16,953.13	16,941.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loader Payment	21,054.69	20,682.37	20,682.37	20,682.37	0.00
2025 Freightliner Payment					10,986.99
Town Clerk Expenses (Dogs, Marriage Licenses)				407.00	0.00
Total General Expenses	87,107.82	90,449.32	77,622.37	60,013.93	77,286.99

GENERAL BUDGET (Continued)

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Cemetery Commission					
Total Cemetery Commission	7,000.00	6,953.80	10,000.00	7,130.00	10,000.00
Library					
Automation	0.00	750.00	0.00	150.00	
Operations	0.00	4,614.25	0.00	2,196.59	
Total Library	4,500.00	5,364.25	5,000.00	2,346.59	5,500.00
Listers Office					
Wages	2,500.00	3,691.03	3,000.00	1,386.99	3,500.00
Social Security / Medicare	190.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Supplies	2,500.00	2,068.00	2,500.00	172.00	2,500.00
Consultant / Contract Services	4,000.00	4,500.00	5,000.00	2,185.00	5,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parcel Viewer					1,100.00
Total Listers Office	9,240.00	10,259.03	10,750.00	3,743.99	12,350.00
Fire Department					
Fire Department Operations	58,000.00	57,907.94	60,000.00	18,240.16	58,000.00
Stipends	8,000.00	7,058.73	8,000.00	5,100.00	8,000.00
Insurance	1,000.00	801.39	1,200.00	946.70	1,200.00
Truck Fund	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00		6,000.00
Workman's Compensation	2,000.00	1,219.00	1,200.00	1,219.00	1,500.00
Total Fire Department	75,000.00	72,987.06	76,400.00	25,505.86	74,700.00
Appropriation To Reserve Accounts					
Reappraisal Fund	0.00	0.00	9,500.00		9,500.00
Total Appropriation to Reserve Accounts	0.00	0.00	9,500.00		9,500.00
Appropriations					
AWARE	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Caledonia Home Health	325.00	325.00	325.00	325.00	325.00
Fairbanks Museum	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00
Green Up Vermont	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00

GENERAL BUDGET (Continued)

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY2 026</u>
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Appropriations (Continued)					
Hardwick Emergency Rescue	5,142.86	5,142.86	7,260.00	7,260.00	0.00
Joe's Pond Association	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Neighbors In Action	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00
Northeast Kingdom Learning Service	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Northeast Kingdom Youth Service	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Rural Community Transportation	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Umbrella	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00
West Danville Community Club	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Total Appropriations	12,712.86	12,712.86	14,830.00	14,830.00	7,570.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	338,125.68	346,413.01	355,577.37	205,858.97	358,981.99
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	338,125.68	333,655.89	355,577.37	513,825.01	358,981.99
17 Surplus or (Deficit)	0.00	(12,757.12)		307,966.04	



HIGHWAY BUDGET

	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
FY 2022 Deficit	(8,658.08)	(8,658.08)	0.00	0.00	0.00
FY 2023 Surplus			3,370.93	3,370.93	
FY 2024 Deficit					-5.00
Highway Property Taxes	443,289.88	443,289.88	422,179.07	422,179.07	439,835.00
Grants in Aid	12,000.00		15,000.00	11,826.48	0.00
FY 2024 State of Vermont Budget Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
Hold Harmless (Current Use)	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00
State Highway Aid - Class 3	53,000.00	56,204.87	53,000.00	57,928.53	55,000.00
State Highway Aid - Class 2	39,000.00	41,321.71	39,000.00	42,541.59	40,000.00
Better Roads Grant	20,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Municipal Highway - Bayley Hazen				26,856.00	
Town Highway Class 2 (Noyestar)	0.00	10,400.00	0.00		0.00
Agency of Transportation / Watson Road Culvert		75,966.48		0.00	0.00
Greensboro 2023 Flood Assistance		4,052.90			0.00
12 Month Loan / FEMA Flood Recovery		192,000.00		0.00	0.00
18 FEMA Flood Recovery				206,344.37	0.00
Transfer from Capital Improvement Funds for Flood		37,813.44			0.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE	586,631.80	880,391.20	580,550.00	839,046.97	582,830.00
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES					
Salaries & Benefits					
Labor - Highway	120,000.00	109,827.75	120,000.00	67,695.53	120,000.00
Dental Insurance	1,625.00	1,490.06	1,650.00	998.06	1,650.00
Health Insurance	42,742.80	45,734.84	46,600.00	26,306.64	53,450.00
HRA Employer Contribution	3,000.00	2,778.42	3,000.00	1,001.48	3,000.00
Life Insurance	600.00	419.84	600.00	376.26	600.00
Mileage	350.00	383.94	350.00	884.40	400.00
Pension	7,800.00	7,126.43	7,800.00	3,890.26	7,800.00
Training	200.00	74.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Vermont Child Care Tax				270.99	600.00
Social Security / Medicare	9,240.00	8,439.87	9,300.00	5,178.71	9,300.00
Uniforms	4,000.00	5,071.16	5,300.00	2,647.60	5,300.00
Vermont Unemployment	524.00	294.23	550.00	402.68	550.00
Workman's Compensation	6,000.00	8,877.55	12,500.00	10,895.93	12,500.00
Total Salaries and Benefits	196,081.80	190,518.09	207,850.00	120,548.54	215,350.00

HIGHWAY BUDGET (Continued)

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Town Garage					
Electricity	2,500.00	2,144.85	2,750.00	839.58	1,000.00
Garage Maintenance	3,500.00	3,954.91	3,500.00	1,445.02	3,500.00
Heating Fuel - Propane	6,000.00	3,249.58	6,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
Insurance	4,300.00	3,294.67	5,000.00	3,610.32	4,000.00
Telephone	750.00	1,513.11	750.00	455.18	780.00
Total Town Garage	17,050.00	14,157.12	18,000.00	6,350.10	13,280.00
Highway Maintenance					
June 2024 Flood Damage				87,248.81	0.00
July 2024 Flood Damage				310,929.98	0.00
2023 Flood Damage		229,344.62		0.00	0.00
2023 Flood Loan and Stannard Mountain Road				212,841.63	
Bridge Materials	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Brushing / Chipping	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Chloride	20,000.00	5,175.00	25,000.00	21,240.00	25,000.00
Cold Patch	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Contracted Labor	10,000.00	7,200.00	5,000.00	740.00	5,000.00
Culverts	5,000.00	4,665.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Diesel	50,000.00	39,421.59	50,000.00	16,133.56	50,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	40,000.00	46,580.28	40,000.00	39,534.19	40,000.00
Equipment Rental	5,000.00	150.00	5,000.00	0.00	2,500.00
Gravel	65,000.00	68,905.65	70,000.00	38,701.85	70,000.00
Guardrails	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Ice Control	15,000.00	14,793.40	15,000.00	4,288.64	15,000.00
Mowing	7,000.00	6,400.00	7,000.00	6,400.00	6,500.00
MRGP Permit Fees	1,500.00	1,350.00	1,700.00	0.00	1,700.00
Mulching Hay & Seed	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	150.00	500.00
New Equipment / Tires	500.00	5,980.13	500.00	1,734.62	8,500.00
Sand / Screening	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Signs	2,000.00	371.62	2,000.00	2,667.33	2,000.00
Winter Sand	15,000.00	15,827.00	17,000.00	18,683.00	20,000.00
Total General Highway Maintenance	243,500.00	446,164.29	249,700.00	761,293.61	254,200.00

HIGHWAY BUDGET (Continued)

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Actuals 06-30-24</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Actuals 12-31-24</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Proposed</u>
Construction Projects					
Better Roads Project	20,000.00	975.00	20,000.00	18,601.26	20,000.00
Municipal Grants-In-Aid	12,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	13,133.95	0.00
Grants-in-Aid Bayley Hazen Road			0.00	29,840.00	
Watson Road Culvert	0.00	84,607.20	0.00	0.00	
Stannard Mountain Road	0.00	20,924.50	0.00	0.00	
Noyestar Intersection Project		25,050.00		0.00	
Total Construction Projects	32,000.00	131,556.70	35,000.00	61,575.21	20,000.00
Appropriation to Reserve Accounts					
Capital Improvement Fund	54,000.00	54,000.00	20,000.00		30,000.00
Highway Equipment Fund	44,000.00	44,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Total Appropriation to Reserve Accounts	98,000.00	98,000.00	70,000.00	50,000.00	80,000.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES	*586,631.80	*880,396.20	580,550.00	999,767.46	582,830.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE	586,631.80	880,391.20	580,550.00	839,046.97	582,830.00
Surplus or (Deficit)		(5.00)		(160,720.49)	

*FY 2024 Proposed and FY 2024 Actuals show a large difference due to the 2023 flood and Watson Road culvert Repairs. Highway property taxes remained at 443,289.88.



Two locations on Cabot Road



Orton Road

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

Income	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Fund Beginning Balance	\$13,001.94	\$53,058.74	\$30,115.14	\$72,186.25	\$116,297.59	\$1,397.59	\$51,457.59	\$101,517.59
Appropriation From Town	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Loan		\$100,000.00						
Interest / Miscellaneous	\$56.80	\$91.40	\$88.51	\$111.34	\$100.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Sale of Trailer			\$2,000.00					
Total Income	\$53,058.74	\$193,150.14	\$82,203.65	\$116,297.59	\$166,397.59	\$51,457.59	\$101,517.59	\$151,577.59
Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY2028
2013 International					\$165,000.00			
2020 Mack								
2021 Loader		\$156,900.00						
2016 Grader			\$10,017.40					
Truck Tires		\$6,135.00						
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$163,035.00	\$10,017.40	\$0.00	\$165,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance	\$53,058.74	\$30,115.14	\$72,186.25	\$116,297.59	\$1,397.59	\$51,457.59	\$101,517.59	\$151,577.59

21

The equipment fund is designed to lessen the impact of equipment purchases and repairs and will not cover the entire replacement cost.
 Plow trucks are traded every 8-10 years or as needed. The loader and grader are replaced every 20 years; fire trucks every 20 years or as needed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Income	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Fund Beginning Balance	\$1,039.19	\$51,087.39	\$69,357.36	\$251,250.03	\$134,754.96	\$154,854.96	\$184,854.96
Appropriation from Town	\$50,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$60,000.00
ARPA Funds Transfer			\$121,741.18				
Interest / Miscellaneous	\$48.20	\$69.97	\$151.49	\$325.24	\$100.00		
Total Income	\$51,087.39	\$86,157.36	\$251,250.03	\$305,575.27	\$154,854.96	\$184,854.96	\$244,854.96
Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Route 215 Paving							
TC / Fire Department Roof Repairs		\$16,800.00					
Culverts							
Garage Generator				\$11,265.69			
ARPA Funds Transfer				\$121,741.18			
Highway Budget / Flood				\$37,813.44			
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$16,800.00	\$0.00	\$170,820.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance	\$51,087.39	\$69,357.36	\$251,250.03	\$134,754.96	\$154,854.96	\$184,854.96	\$244,854.96

2

Paving is done every 8 years.

Sometimes capital projects may be funded through the General or Highway accounts. This account serves to supplement larger projects.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

It was an interesting year. Sloppy spring snowstorms, truck break downs, one employee out for the summer and a temporary hire, Lonnie Waterman. Then the June 2024 weather event and another flood in July, final ARPA allocations, a Town Plan and Emergency Management for the entire year.

The town received FEMA funds for the 2023 flood throughout the year. The 2024 flood has damages exceeding the previous year due largely to the loss of the Orton Road bridge. The office has maintained FEMA reporting, and the town should begin receiving 2024 reimbursements before Town Meeting.

Our FY24 budgets were doing surprisingly well until the weather event of June 2024. The repair costs were entirely our responsibility at \$87,249.00. We closed out the Highway Budget with \$37,318.00 from the Capital Fund. Our General Budget closed with a deficit of \$12,712.00 which created a tough start for FY26 General Budget development.

Our FY25 Budgets are totally reliant upon FEMA re-imbursement with a temporary loan if needed before July.

With more than usual discussion the FY26 General Budget will be presented with a 2% increase in expenses. Our Highway Budget without crisis is successful so we will present the FY26 Highway Budget with a less than 1% increase in expenses.

Our 2025 construction season capital projects focus on the replacement of the Orton Road bridge. This is entirely dependent upon FEMA funds at this point. A culvert upgrade on Cabot Road and a bridge replacement on Bayley Hazen Road are in the planning stages with funding from State Road grants. Route 215 needs paving in 2029 and Cabot Road in 2030. These projects need funding through State Road grants with matching funds from our Capital Improvement Fund.

The Selectboard made final ARPA allocations to once in a generation infrastructure upgrades. Weatherization of the office that was built in 1975, a net metered municipal solar system at the garage site, money to the Library and Cemetery Commission for upgrades and improvements at their discretion. The playground committee will provide safety upgrades and Fire and Rescue will have up to date supplies and equipment.

The Planning commission has developed a Town Plan which will be presented for approval at the 2025 Town Meeting. Although we have been fortunate with grant funding a Plan does increase possibilities.

The Selectboard would like to thank our Walden based contractors that helped with the weather event and the flood recovery; Eric and Owen Kittredge, Louie Patoine, Luke Persons, Shawn and Caleb Messier, Steve Davis, Dana Fields and Jason and Alec Larrabee. Our roads were safe and open in a matter of days with various work continuing into the fall. We would also like to thank everyone for filling our officer seats; the Constable, 911 Coordinator, Emergency Management Coordinator, Cemetery Commissioners, Green-Up Coordinator, Library Trustees, Listers, Auditors, Planning Commissioners, Forest Fire Warden, Pound Keeper, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, NVDA Representative, NEK Broadband Representative and the Justices of the Peace. We are thankful for our Fire and Rescue Volunteers every year.

The Town of Stannard is offering a fair trade with Walden to manage the Stannard Mtn. Road, Skunk Hollow Road and part of Hutchins Farm Road while the Orton Road bridge is out, thank you, and to the office for the extra crisis management while maintaining normal functions and responsibilities.

It was an interesting year.

Please register your dogs.

Thank you, Selectboard

Brenda Huntoon, Randolph Wilson and Bob Hatch

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY REPORT

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) is composed of Walden's justices of the peace, Selectboard members, and town clerk. Our responsibilities include reviewing the accuracy of the town voter checklist, overseeing and staffing elections, and hearing "tax appeals" of lister property valuations. We also serve as the Board of Abatement for property taxes, along with the town listers and treasurer.

In 2024 BCA members helped conduct the March town elections and presidential primary (with 185 ballots cast), the Caledonia Cooperative School District (CCSD) budget vote and officer election in April (67 ballots) and budget revote in May (125 ballots), the August primary election (161 ballots), and the November general election and CCSD special vote (a record 613 ballots, of which 452 were absentee.) Following the election, the BCA met to approve the removal from the checklist of 27 provisional voters who had not responded to previous challenges and had not cast ballots in the last two general elections.

The BCA heard two property valuation appeals this year, related to subdivision of undeveloped parcels. One abatement request was considered, related to a tardy tax payment.

At year-end Walden had 753 registered voters, of which 30 are provisional whose current residency remains unconfirmed (including a number of people who no longer reside in town but haven't registered to vote elsewhere and are required to be retained on our checklist through the 2026 general election.) These totals compare to 742 and 68 a year ago. Note that Vermont provides various ways to register to vote, including online or when applying for a driver's license or motor vehicle registration, and new voters may register at any time up to and including the day of an election. More information is available at the Vermont Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/>.

The BCA meets in connection with elections and abatements as necessary and convenes during the summer if tax appeals have been filed. Our meetings are open to the public, except for deliberations leading to written appeal and abatement decisions. Meeting notices are posted in advance at the town clerk's office and the Corner Stop Inn Shop in South Walden.

Please join us in thanking Mike Coffey for his years of committed participation in BCA activities. Mike is stepping down after serving as a justice of the peace since 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

The Walden Board of Civil Authority

Diane Cochran
Michael Coffey
Roger Fox
Annie Gaillard
Bob Hatch
Brenda Huntoon
Debbie Messier
Elizabeth Wilkel
Randolph Wilson

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT

The 100-year flood on July 10, 2023 started our fiscal year. Gravel roads and driveways were washed away, culverts plugged and damaged, and basements began to fill with water. We cannot say thank you enough to those people that set their own lives and businesses aside to help rebuild Walden roads. The FEMA process to recoup some of our Highway funds was long and grueling. We borrowed money to balance the budget as we waited for FEMA's assistance.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed, now good for another five years. We worked with the new Planning Commission gathering information and posting agendas, and minute meetings. The energetic Library Committee kept us busy with tracking Grant funds, posting upcoming events, agendas and meeting minutes. We met with Steven Picazio, from VT State Archives and Records. He shared his wealth of knowledge regarding record storage, creating a records management policy and a records retention plan. The office has started the process of reorganizing the vault and writing a policy. Grants were written for road work, culvert replacements, office chairs and items for the Town Garage.

I spent a few nights and weekends cleaning and repainting the office. In late winter I was fortunate to find free office furniture from Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The office now has a little over \$15,000.00 in new desks, file cabinets, and storage benches. A shout out to my family for moving it from Montpelier to the Town office.

In the spring, again with some family assistance, we extended the parking lot to accommodate Rail Trail Parking. A split rail fence was installed by Fire Dept Members to keep vehicles off septic system. We added a newly enclosed bulletin board to the front of the building, for another avenue to distribute Town Information. We currently use the Town Website, the Stop Inn Shop, the Walden School, the Library, the Town office, Caledonia Record, the Hardwick Gazette and Front Porch Forum to get information out to residents. Somehow this still doesn't seem to be enough. We are open to any suggestions residents might have to stay connected. Almost every day still brings something new to the desk and I continue to learn and make a few errors. This office would not accomplish all it does without the other two women that work so hard to keep it running smoothly. Diane Banister and Dia Michaud are true assets to this town. I am beyond grateful for the support I receive from the community, the Selectboard, other board members and my family.

Debbie Messier

WALDEN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

12 VT Route 215, West Danville VT 05873

802-563-2220 tc@waldenvt.gov

Monday-Wednesday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Have a local business that you want other residents to know about?

Bring your business cards to Town Meeting or the Town Clerk's Office.

We would love to add them to our business card rack.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

2024 VITAL STATISTICS

Births - 2
Marriages - 6
Deaths - 6

Privacy and identity theft concerns have led to the omission of names and dates from the Vital Records Report.

RECORDING DATA

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024
325 documents & 730 pages
were recorded in the Land Records.

Records starting April, 1979 are
available online at
recordhub.cottsystems.com

DOG LICENSING

209 Dogs were registered in 2024
with total fees collected of \$1,520. Of this
amount, \$923 was sent to the State of
Vermont for their fees.

The state has increased registration fees
as of January 1st.

The new fees will be as follows:

Before April 1, 2025
Neutered / Spayed \$11
Non neutered / Non spayed \$15

After April 1, 2025
Neutered / Spayed \$13.00
Non neutered / Non Spayed \$19.00

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

2024 was a busy year at the polls with 7 elections.

March 5th: Town Meeting and Presidential Primary had a
24% voter turnout.

April 2nd: School Vote had an 8% voter turnout

May 7th: (2nd) School Vote had a 16% voter turnout

August 13th: Vermont Primary had a 21% voter turnout

November 5th: General had a 77% voter turnout and
the School Vote had a 21% voter turnout

VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE

The Town of Walden Office
accepts online payments for
dog registrations,
tax payments, copies...

waldenvt.gov/payments

You can find meeting schedules,
agendas, minutes, important
notifications, phone numbers, office
hours...

waldenvt.gov

CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The Walden Cemeteries were surveyed in April to plan for commission work and projects for outside contractors. Cemetery mowing was placed for bid and awarded to JK Builder & Company. We completed removing the deteriorating fences and accented the entrance gates to be painted in 2025.

The Cemetery Commission was requested to designate its \$10,000 of ARPA funds awarded by the Walden Selectboard. Those funds were used for American Flags and flag stands for the graves of our American Veterans, the repair and straightening of stones in North Walden Cemetery, trees and shrubs planted at South Walden and North Walden Cemeteries respectively to maintain roadside borders, cedar fencing to be installed at Steven's Hill Cemetery in the spring and two sets of corner stones to be used for the next purchased cemetery lots. This all supports the cemetery work to be continued in 2025.

In July, after posting our Definitions, Rules and Regulations in the 2023 Town Report and accepting Walden voter questions and comments, the Walden Cemetery Commissioners voted to adopt those proposed definitions, rules and regulations for future use. Copies will be made available at the Town Clerk's Office.

Walden is still in search of a small parcel of land on which to carry out green burials. Please reach out to the Town Clerk or any of the Walden Cemetery Commissioners with offers or suggestions. We are aware of future need for our Walden residents.

Walden Cemetery Commissioners

Judy Clifford
James Dailey
Lynette Farnham
Daniel Mencucci



Photo courtesy of Judy Clifford

This is the Bell lot located in the North Walden Cemetery. Charles James Bell was Governor of Vermont from 1904-1906. He was from Walden, represented Walden, farmed in Walden and returned to Walden following his administration.

WALDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

In 2024, Walden Fire and EMS responded to 56 fire calls and 49 EMS calls. Our membership numbers are at 18 for the end of 2024. We have brought on some new firefighters and have others expressing interest. We really could use more hands! The EMS side of the department is in critical need of new members. The reward of helping community members in time of need is priceless. Please reach out if you or someone you know would be interested in helping out.

In the spring of 2024, we finished our UTV project. We purchased a KimTek (made in Orleans, Vermont!) skid unit for the UTV. The skid unit has a 65 gallon water tank, hose, and a small portable pump. It also has a location for a rescue basket. This addition will make the UTV dual-purpose: for off-road fire and EMS calls. We have already used the UTV for calls this year. The KimTek skid unit was paid for through funds we raised through our yearly Open House and other donations. The total cost of the skid unit was \$4,950. The Hardwick Fire Department donated a 12' utility trailer to us to carry the UTV. This will allow us to be able to respond to calls out of town when the time comes. Along with the skid unit, we also added a 2-way radio, emergency lighting, tools, and a winch.

June 2024 we sent junior firefighter Owen Kittredge to the Vermont State Fire Academy Cadet training course in Pittsford, VT. For one week, Owen lived at the academy and learned about all aspects of fire fighting. He responded to alarms at 2 a.m. that also entailed crawling through the State Police K9 obstacle course in full gear while being "motivated" by his drill instructors. The education was on fire science, tactical fire suppression, rescue, first aid and many other related topics.

This summer we purchased a washing machine/extractor for cleaning fire gear. Nationally, there has been a push for departments to clean gear regularly, as there are many toxins that remain on our gear after fires. The multitude of man-made materials in homes and vehicles when burned create a toxic smoke that imbeds into our gear. This washer will allow us to be able to wash our gear far more often, keeping our people safe.

Lastly, I want to share a story. We were called out at 2 a.m. for a Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector being acqqtivated. The people evacuated without any issues and called 911, despite not having any symptoms and hearing of many CO detector malfunctions. Upon arrival, my son and I put on SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) to enter the home and brought with us our gas detector. Prior to going in, I tested the detector, and the reading was 0 ppm (parts per million CO). We entered the home and it went to 14 ppm. The detector will alarm at 30 ppm to tell you the CO levels are unsafe. Further into the home, the detector alarmed with a reading of 50 ppm. We moved on to the basement where our detector alarmed louder. Our reading was 297 ppm! I want people to know how important having a CO and smoke detectors are in a home. If that detector was not in that home, the outcome would have been much worse. Please check your detectors and make sure they work - your life depends upon it.

Walden Fire and Rescue

Chief Jason Larrabee

Is your 911 sign visible?



**IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU,
WE CAN'T HELP YOU!**

Do you have a 911 sign? If not, order your FREE SIGN at the Town Clerk's Office.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT

The Walden Community Library had an eventful year full of programs, community engagement, and library updates. Over the course of 2024, we had over 1600 patron visits and event attendees, checked out over 2900 books and other library materials, and held over 80 programs, events, and meetings. We are thankful for the ongoing efforts of 9+ volunteers who staff the library and keep it available to the public, and for countless other community members who have lent their support and time to make the library a vibrant resource in our town.

In March, the library hosted a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party and welcomed over 100 visitors from Walden and beyond to view and learn about the solar eclipse. We provided eclipse glasses, hands-on activities, new eclipse books, and a bonfire to celebrate this momentous event. At the beginning of the summer, we hosted our annual Summer Kickoff BBQ, featuring food donated by local businesses, lawn games, and door prizes. We signed up children and families for our summer reading program, and hosted an outdoor Modern Times puppet show with the support of a VT Humanities grant. The event was also supported by a grant through the Vermont Department of Libraries. Over the summer, the library embarked on a community mural project, collecting design ideas from children and adults in town and working with muralist Tara Goreau. We hosted two community painting days to start bringing the design to life, and Tara put the final touches on the mural before mounting the 8x8 foot mural on the exterior of the library building. Also through the VT Humanities grant, we hosted a tie dye program and offered free Walden Community Library tshirts for kids to dye. We hosted our weekly story hour and play group on Tuesday mornings throughout the summer, with support and collaboration from Northeast Kingdom Community Action, which provided support staff, crafts, toys, and snacks. Children ages six and under were invited to read, sing, and explore seasonal themes through open play. Through a grant from the Winnie Belle Learned Fund, we also held a weekly STEM Adventure Club for elementary age students to explore topics related to science, nature, and engineering. New STEM books were added to the library collection and kids took part in hands on activities inside and outside the library. We hosted our annual Pie and Ice Cream Social at the end of the summer, featuring 15 kinds of pie donated and purchased for the event. We honored our summer reading program participants with prizes, including gift cards to local businesses. We also hosted a Childrens Literacy Foundation storytelling event with Duncan McDougall, complete with a book giveaway for all participating children.

This fall, students in grades 5-8 enjoyed a spooky storytelling event sponsored by the library. Science educator Bobby Farlice-Rubio told tales of vampires, zombies, and werewolves, and how these stories are rooted in science. The library opened its doors for its second annual Fall Foliage Open House, featuring cider pressing and live string music by Geordie Lynd, Colin McCaffrey, and Justin Lander. We have continued our weekly story hour on Tuesday mornings, Craft Club for adults on Wednesday evenings, after-school Lego Club on Wednesday afternoons for elementary students. This winter, we hosted our second annual Cookie Exchange Party to celebrate winter and swap cookies with our neighbors. The library welcomes PreK, elementary, and middle school classes weekly throughout the school year to check out books and conduct research.

The library offers free Wifi indoors and outdoors, public computers, and over 6500 books and other resources in our collections. We have served as a meeting space for various purposes, including Walden Planning Commission and school PTO meetings. The space is available for other public meetings and community activities as well. The library was allocated \$10,000 of town ARPA funds to make improvements. We spent these funds on new books for adults and teens, furniture to make the space more functional and welcoming, new laptops and tablets, storage for toys and craft supplies, flexible seating options for patrons, and more. If you haven't visited the library in a while, it is worth a visit.

The Walden Community Library would like to thank the community of Walden for its support and patronage this year, as well as local businesses for providing donations to various events. We are eternally grateful to our volunteers for their unwavering commitment to improving our library, running programs, and serving as librarians to the town and school populations. As a combined school and town resource, our goal is to continue working to benefit the community by providing opportunities for growth and connection.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT (Continued)

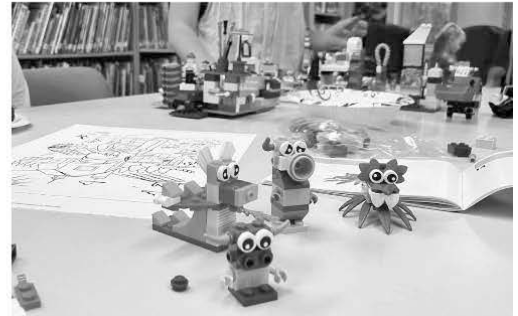


Photo Credit: Allison Gulka

The library is located behind the Walden Elementary School on Cahoon Farm Road and is FREE to all. The hours are Monday 10am - 12pm, Tuesday 9am - 3pm, Wednesday 1pm - 7pm, Saturday 11am - 1pm, or by appointment (call 802-563-2429).

Link to the Library website: <https://walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/>

Sarah Augeri
Martha Bissell
Marie Blodgett
Allison Gulka
Tammy Hall

LISTERS' REPORT

Exterior renovation and new construction inspections continued in Walden in 2024. Fifty-five Change of Appraisal notices were mailed out resulting in two grievances being heard by the Board.

Property Valuation and Review allows towns to perform a statistical, rather than physical, reappraisal under specific guidelines. The primary requirement remains a cyclical, ongoing inspection program for the purpose of keeping data current. In 2016, the Board of Listers started three-year cycles of town-wide inspections. This entailed inspections of both interior and exterior facets of the properties in Walden with the Town having been divided into thirds. Once we had that foundation in place, we maintained our statistical data in addition to regular exterior observations with interior inspections as needed.

The 2024/2025 GL Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 89.26% and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 13.77%. The state used to require a reappraisal if a town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) fell below 85% or had a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) greater than 20%.

In 2024 the Vermont Legislature passed Act 183, which updates the education funding formula starting with the 2025-2026 property tax year, beginning on July 1, 2025. By January 1, the Department of Taxes will have completed its "Equalization Study" that determines the CLAs for each Vermont town. But unlike prior years, beginning in 2025 these CLAs will not be applied to each town's education property tax rates. Instead, every town's CLA will be divided by a single "statewide adjustment" and the result will be applied to each town's education property tax rates. The statewide adjustment can be thought of as the average level of appraisal of the entire state. For example, if a town has a CLA of 60%, but the statewide adjustment is 75%, then the adjustment factor applied to education property tax rates in that town will be $0.60/0.75 = 0.80$ or 80%. All Vermont property will still be taxed at 100% of fair market value, but the factor applied to education property tax rates will be calculated differently.

For a complete explanation, visit [Statewide Adjustment | Department of Taxes \(vermont.gov\)](#).

The Board is again pleased to report that we continue to receive excellent feedback from residents regarding the inspections and the appraisers who perform them. We remain committed to continually improving our communication with property owners and offering several appointment options to better accommodate owners' schedules.

Because Walden has no permitting process, and desires to keep it that way, the Board of Listers has no firsthand knowledge of alterations made to properties. Therefore, there will always be inconsistencies in the Grand List. To minimize the impact, we make note of any changes we learn "through the grapevine" and send the independent appraisers to inspect each year.

We all understand the importance of correct, just, and unbiased assessments. To all the property owners and tenants who have assisted us in this important task, we thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Walden Board of Listers

Victoria Atwood
Michelle Foster
Dia Michaud

Walden Planning Commission Report Report for Town Report 2025

Walden established a Planning Commission in 2023 with the purpose of developing a Town Plan. Walden's Selectboard appointed members and reached out to the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) for consultation on development of the plan. An NVDA representative and the three-member Commission met once or twice each month to discuss the inner workings of the community; determine where and how to conduct research and outreach; and develop the policies, goals, and strategies to implement actions laid out within this plan. The Commission established listening sessions, conducted a survey, and routinely invited community members to meetings to discuss the contents of this plan. It is the goal and intent of the Planning Commission that this plan reflects the core values of its long-standing community members while acknowledging that changes and newcomers have arrived, particularly since 2020.

The purpose of the town plan is to provide a window into the past, an inventory of the present, and a template to promote a better future for Walden. The Town Plan gathers all resources to present to the community, while stating the directions the community would like to go and the goals they would like to achieve. Ultimately, the plan should act as a resource for the community and a guide for the municipality. As the town's first ever Town Plan, there are centuries of history that could be documented. However, the Planning Commission's main goal was to articulate how Walden would like to maintain its current rural quality and lifestyle while still presenting opportunities for growth.

The town plan defines the long-term vision for the Town of Walden; a starting point for future Town Plans to build from. The goals, strategies, and priority actions serve as a blueprint for achieving the vision set forth. This plan serves as a guiding support for municipal officials in future decision-making. The content within this plan can bolster grant opportunities, define language and outcomes for any potential Act 250 hearings and Section 248 sitings, and potentially direct efforts that serve its community members in a long-range vision. The Planning Commission decided to meet the elements required by statute through a series of values identified in the planning process. The values are Rural Tradition, Community Cohesion, Working Lands, and Ecological and Infrastructure Resilience. These four values represent the overarching principles of Walden community, both in the past and looking towards the future. The Planning Commission understood the importance of distinguishing the values that brought Walden to the present while still charting a vision for the future. The plan is in no way a regulatory document and does not advocate for any such regulatory authority for municipal officials currently.

The Planning Commission had a public forum to discuss the plan in December 2024, and voted at the end of that meeting to present the plan, as revised in accordance with comments, to the selectboard and town for adoption. The Walden Town Plan is available on the town's website for review, or a hard copy can be obtained at the town clerk's office. Questions should be addressed to the members of the Commission, Zarina Castro, Suzanna Jones, and Martha Bissell.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zarina Castro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, loopsy "Z" and "C".

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

(Full Letters are on file at The Town Clerk's Office)

A.W.A.R.E. (\$1,000): During the past year AWARE served 194 women, men, and children, who were directly affected by violence. Additionally, they helped 114 children who were exposed to violence and responded to 1,481 hotline and in-person requests for assistance. The organization educated over 2,800 individuals through community events and outreach programs focused on domestic and sexual violence. Those served by AWARE received services such as crisis intervention, legal support and advocacy, information and referrals, safety planning, emergency provisions, housing assistance, transportation, and education about domestic and sexual violence.

Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice (\$325): Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice has proudly served the residents of Caledonia and Southern Essex counties since 1968. Our mission is to provide high quality, accessible, patient-centered health care, and our vision is to be a key partner in building healthy families and thriving communities. In the last year, we were honored to provide 471 visits to 14 residents of Walden. While working with residents, we provided physical, occupational, and speech therapies. We provided physician, skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy, medical social work, home health aide and homemaker visits. We work together with primary care physicians so that care is specific and structured to treatment goals.

Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium (\$780): The Fairbanks Museum invites Walden residents to take full advantage of their unlimited free general admission to the Museum to explore the nature, beauty, and wonders of our world. Your municipal appropriation provides essential support for the care of the Museum's historic building and the maintenance and exhibition of the most extraordinary educational collections in northern New England. These are among our region's most prized assets. In 2024, we transformed our campus with the opening of our new Tang Science Annex full of hands-on exhibits. In addition, we opened a 500-acre nature preserve at Matsinger Forest in Danville and created the EarthWalk-Fairbanks village for camps, Forest School, and adult programming. Each year the Museum offers new opportunities for exploration and discovery, so do come for a visit!

Green Up Vermont (\$50.00): Green Up Day, saw a 30% growth in volunteers over 2023, picked up over four tons of litter and 15,813 tires. In flood clean-up projects we took care of an additional 10,000 tires. We also attempted a Guinness World Records title and succeeded! The record is: "The Most Pledges Received to Pick UP Trash in 24 Hours." Vermont is the only State in the nation that can boast this achievement and the only State that offers a program like Green Up Day. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, and keep residents civically engaged.

Hardwick Area Food Pantry (\$500): The food pantry serves people in need primarily for Hardwick, Greensboro, Craftsbury, Walden, Stannard, Albany and Wolcott. The Pantry purchases a portion of distributed food from local producers and vendors, supporting our local economy. We have seen a significant increase in need during 2023 and are working hard to serve all those in need.

Joe's Pond Aquatic Nuisance Control Project (\$500): Unfortunately, Eurasian water milfoil was discovered in Joe's Pond summer of 2024. The monitoring program for inspection of visiting boats now includes aggressive efforts on eradicating the invasive species. Thanks to monies received from towns plus additional funding from a state grant and the Joe's Pond Association, the Vermont State Fishing Access was staffed from late May to late August of 2024. Greeters inspected boats this season and shared information about invasive species.

Neighbors In Action (\$500.00): A non-profit, whose mission is to serve food insecure community members, offer socially enriching programs, and advance opportunities to increase self-sufficiency in the communities of the Northeast Kingdom and Washington County while deploying the neighbors-helping-neighbors volunteer model to instill hope and leave an enduring impact. Currently, 45 Walden households are accessing food through our Food Share program, feeding a total of 151 individuals. This compares to 17 households in September 2023. In addition to distributing food, Neighbors in Action holds an annual Toy and Warm Clothing Share in December where families can select free toys and clothing at our Cabot location. Twice each month we provide programming for senior citizens in the area, with stimulating activities, social interaction, and hot meal prepared on site.

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging (\$300): The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging serves as a central guide for older Vermonters to gain services and assistance in their communities. In the Fiscal Year ending 9/30/2024 we served 26 people from Walden for case management, caregiver support, home delivered and congregate meals, health insurance counseling and another 16 people used our helpline for information needed in their quest to age in place. Working with RCT and Legal Aid, we provide for the complex challenges people face while living in a rural community. Our work is supplemented by over 400 volunteers who serve as home-delivered meals drivers, wellness program leaders, and home based caregivers.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS (Continued)
(Full Letters are on file at The Town Clerk's Office)

Northeast Kingdom Human Services (\$1870): The professional employees at Northeast Kingdom Human Services follow their mission to empower individuals, families, and communities by promoting hope, healing and support. We offer supportive, confidential program services for Emergency/Crisis Services, mental health, addiction, and developmental/intellectual disabilities. As a Designated Agency serving Vermont's system of care, NKHS is responsible for assuring that a comprehensive range of services are available regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (\$250): AT NEKLS, we are dedicated to providing impactful educational opportunities through our Adult Education and Literacy program, our K-12 Tutorial program and our Ready, Set, Grow Childcare Center. Our mission is to empower communities like Walden by offering quality learning experiences that support personal and professional growth.

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (\$100): NEKYS' mission is to create opportunities for youth, adults, and families to strengthen life skills and resiliency in the face of adversity. NEKYS' Family and Youth Programs staff are available 24/7 to support youth and their families at times of crisis. Additionally, we can help mediate during family conflict as well as support youth as they transition into adulthood.

Rural Community Transportation (RCT) (\$500): is a nonprofit corporation which provides public transportation services throughout Caledonia, Orleans, Essex and Lamoille Counties. Request-based rides are available to residents of Walden year-round. In FY23, RCT continued to provide safety-focused, demand-based rides and all buses operated fare-free.

Umbrella (\$250): Since 1976, Umbrella has ensured that communities in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties have access to services that cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Umbrella operates 4 multi-faceted, client-centered programs and plays a crucial role in decreasing the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual violence. Services offered include social change, advocacy programs, family-based services, and economic empowerment.

Vermont Center for Independent Living (\$145): Annual support from over 140 cities and towns across the State helps VCIL assist Vermonters with disabilities achieve dignified and self-determined lives. VCIL works to serve individuals who can benefit from our direct services as well as to educate and inform members of the community about disability-related issues and independent living. Direct services are available to residents of Walden in a number of ways. Peer counselors work with residents in their homes or other locations, small grants for adaptive equipment, Meals on Wheels for people with disabilities under the age of 60, Home Access modifications, individual and systems advocacy and programs for youth. Information, Referral and Assistance is available to all residents by calling VCIL's I-Line at 1-800-639-1522 (Voice and TTY)

West Danville Community Club (\$500): The club operates and maintains the public free beach at Joe's Pond, one of the few free public beaches remaining. The beach had increased use since it has become a Trailhead for the LVRT from West Danville to St. Johnsbury and is open to pedestrians, bikers, and horses.



Compassionate professionals delivering the highest quality emergency medicine, specialty care, and training to our providers and communities. 2024 has been very busy, both increased 911 as well as Inter-facility transports. As we continue to monitor post pandemic trends / volumes, we experienced record breaking months with an increase in inter-facility transports in 2024. We continue to see many of our tertiary care centers such as DHMC and UVMC that we commonly transfer overwhelmed and unable to accept, requiring us to travel longer distances such as Portsmouth, Concord NH, as well as Albany NY. We completed 652 Inter-facility transports in 2024.

2024 there were 844 non-billable responses down from 2023 1,047. Responses such as lift assist, medical aid, treat/release calls we are now billing Medicaid and other insurances. We have been able to see increased revenues in 2024 as a result. Unfortunately, at this time Medicare does not allow for billing of non-transports and they are our most commonly billed provider. We are hopeful that we will see some changes in the future.

Many EMS systems are struggling around the state and nationally with funding due to rising costs to provide the service, along with reimbursements are not keeping up with those increases. In a recently published Medicare Ground Ambulance Data collection system report (Year 1 and Year 2 Analysis) mean cost per transport across all services was – \$2,673. The average reimbursement across all payers for that same transport was \$1,147. We continue to monitor and support any opportunities to ensure EMS is an essential service. We aim to provide our workforce professionals that stand ready 24/7/365 the pay and benefits they deserve for this highly demanding profession.

We are looking forward to beginning another EMT course in early January with St. Johnsbury Academy Adult Education and are hopeful for some additional staffing from this program for our region. We continue to host regular EMS training courses to keep our professionals ready to meet the jobs continuous advancing of both clinical knowledge and skill competencies. Some highlights in 2024 –

- Help provide our community partners with access to over 50 AED's in our community and surrounding communities by organizing a group purchase with Zoll Medical. Public access AED's will save lives!
- Organized and participated in the first ever large-scale hospital based active shooter exercise in the State of Vermont - several agencies participated and responded to a simulated active shooter within a hospital setting.
- Working closely with SJFD we supported our local, state and federal partners with tactical EMS – supporting high risks warrants in the surrounding area, and most recent nearly 36-hour manhunt for the officer involved shooting in STJ. With some grant funding we were able to outfit our personnel with tactical equipment – ballistic vests, helmets and other specialized equipment to operate in the warm zone and stand ready at these high threat incidents. It is paramount that with the increase in incidents of violence we are responding to, our staff is protective as much as possible.
- We continue to have conversations with our partners at SJFD and are actively exploring Fire-Based EMS, more to come in 2025. We continue to always explore ways to improve upon the services we provide and to recruit and retain high quality professionals.

CALEX continues to provide the highest quality of prehospital care to all the towns we serve providing 911 coverage at the Paramedic level 24/7/365. We continue and proudly serve 10 towns – Saint Johnsbury, Waterford, Barnet, Concord, South Kirby, Victory, Granby, Danville, Walden and Peacham. CALEX responded to 2,704 911 responses and 652 being Interfacility Transfers and Medical transports. Our average response time to the scene for our entire service area 7.71 minutes. Overall, our agency responded to 3,356 requests for service. These interfacility transports are a critical part of our service, reducing any delays of getting our patients to definitive care whether it be trauma services, cardiac care, or other specialty services at a higher-level care facility such as DHMC or UVMC and other hospitals across New England.

As we end 2024, I look forward to a safe and successful year of providing the very best pre hospital care to our communities. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced team providing care for when it is needed. We hope you will continue to support us and approve our funding requests so we can continue providing the very best Emergency Medical Care to the region. Lastly, please take some time and learn CPR /AED use, we would be glad to assist you. You could save a life!

In closing, I would like to thank all of our staff, their families, and the CALEX Board of Directors and our dedicated dispatchers for their continued support and dedication to the Agency's mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Wright, NRP
EMS Chief / Chief Executive Office



HARDWICK EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD

PO Box 837, Hardwick VT 05843

Phone/Fax # 802-472-6343

December 2024,

As HRS looks towards 2025 we have a lot of accomplishments to be proud of things to be thankful for and lots of change ahead. HRS is well past 800 calls and the year is not over yet. HRS is fortunate to be able to level fund our budget due to our increased revenue from our call volume. We know how tight all of our towns budgets are and we are thrilled to be able to not add to that burden.

Some highlights from 2024 was welcoming three new full time staff to our ranks bringing us up to four full time employees. HRS continues to welcome new members and our roster is the largest it has ever been. Our building committee has been hard at work and we are working closely with the town of Hardwick to create a new shared space for the future. We thank the Hardwick Hospital Association for assisting us in this process and ensuring HRS will continue to fulfill its mission for decades to come. We credentialed several new CPR instructors and are offering more regular classes to our communities. HRS was awarded the pediatric safe designation in September in large part due to the hard work of our Training officer and 2024 EMS educator of the year Tyler Molleur. Craftsbury First responder Colby Masse a Paramedic at Morristown EMS was also awarded ALS provider of the year. HRS is fortunate to be filled with wonderful and talented people!

HRS also saw some challenging times with more July flooding deeply impacting the communities where we live and serve. We watched and waited as the solar eclipse came and went bringing thousands of people to our communities. We grieved the loss of another long time HRS member Joan Camp. We thank her and her family for the years of dedicated service to our communities and our organization. Yet through these challenges HRS has continued to grow and be thankful for the dedication of our members.

Lastly, this is my last year at the helm of Hardwick Rescue. As the president through COVID-19, two years of flooding, a solar eclipse, and seeing our service fully join the digital age has taken more time than I ever imagined. Volunteering for this wonderful organization has been a privilege and caused me to grow in ways I never expected. I encourage each of you to consider volunteering in your own community. I look forward to transitioning into a new role at HRS and you will be left in good hands with our next president. HRS will continue to provide the caring and compassionate service you have come to expect. On behalf of all of the members of HRS thank you for your continued support. We wish you all a safe and healthy year.

Warmly,

Lindsay O'Steen, AEMT.

President of HRS.



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

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2024.

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

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

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

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

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

As of August 16, 2024 NEK Broadband and CVFiber merged under 30 V.S.A. 3052a forming one Communications Union District (CUD) dba NEKCV.

NEK Broadband and CVFiber will continue to use their brands within their respective territories.

The district now includes 71 member communities in Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Lamoille, Washington and Orange Counties.


50 of our towns currently have public fiber-optic infrastructure, and 57 towns have started pre-construction licensing work.

Broadband Nutrition Labels - In compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirement that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) display standardized broadband information labels, you will find these listed under the service offerings on NEK Broadband and CVFiber websites.

CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE PROJECTED GROWTH BY YEAR

2024	33	Towns Served
	681	Miles to Date
	8,200	Addresses Passed
2025	50	Towns Served
Projected	1,165	Miles
	15,000	Addresses Passed

8200 
SERVICE AVAILABLE
WE NOW OFFER SERVICE TO
8200 ADDRESSES IN THE
NEKCV.

681 
MILES OF NETWORK
AT THE END OF 2024, WE
NOW HAVE 681 MILES OF
FIBER NETWORK
THROUGHOUT THE NEKCV.

1199 
CUSTOMERS SERVED
NEKCV MORE THAN
DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF
CUSTOMERS SERVED in 2024



GRANTS & FINANCING

We were awarded \$2,847,276 through the Community Connect Grant program. This is in addition to the USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000, which we received in 2023.

The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$4M in construction grants and \$21M as a match for our Broadband Equity and Deployment Grant Application coming later this year. This brings our foundational support to over \$73 million for the Northeast Kingdom Region and over \$20 million in Central Vermont.

BUILDING CAPACITY

We have doubled the size of staff, with a full-time staff of 13.

We have active warehouses in Danville, Montpelier and Brighton for the storage of construction materials.

In May we completed our first workforce development program, with 7 NEK residents receiving training to become Broadband Technicians/Installers.

BUDGET SUMMARY

NEKCV dba NEK Broadband & dba CVFiber Communications Union District - 2025 Budget / 2024 Budget to Actual			
	2024 Combined NEKCV Budget	Projected 2024 Year End	2025 Proposed
	Gov Board	at 9/30/24	2025 Budget
Surpluses from Prior Fiscal Years			\$1,832,742
Income			
Operations Revenue	852,455	874,871	2,047,769
Administrative Grant Revenue	1,885,621	3,442,342	3,856,318
Capital Grant Revenue	36,200,196	16,607,798	36,529,448
Other Revenue	\$0	\$1,837,490	\$1,467,290
TOTAL CASH IN	\$38,938,272	\$22,762,502	\$43,900,825
Expenses			
Operational Cost	\$378,912	\$823,330	\$1,247,036
Administrative Costs	\$1,885,621	\$2,935,997	\$3,856,318
Construction Costs	\$36,200,196	\$17,431,128	\$36,529,448
TOTAL CASH OUT	\$38,464,729	\$21,190,454	\$41,632,802
Annual Net Cashflow	\$473,543	\$1,572,048	\$2,268,023

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at get.nekbroadband.org or cvfiber.net

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2024

**St. Johnsbury Local Health Office | 107 Eastern Ave, Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, VT
802-748-5151 | AHS.VDHStJohnsbury@Vermont.gov**

There are twelve Local Health Offices in Vermont, linking communities to the Department of Health. **The St. Johnsbury Office covers towns in Caledonia, southern Essex, and part of Orange counties.** Below are some highlights from 2024. For more details, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury



Pregnant People, Infants and Children

In 2024, our WIC Program supported over 775 pregnant people, infants, and kids under 5.

- We offer healthy food, breastfeeding help, nutrition advice, and community links.
- With Salvation Farms, we provide free seasonal produce to families.
- Our team offers services through tele-WIC and at clinics. We also collaborate with NEKCA/Lyndon Institute Early Education at their new Family Resource Center.



Collaborations and Collective Impact

Our team is actively collaborating in the community. Here are some 2024 highlights:

- We partnered with NVRH and others for a community health needs assessment.
- We reached out at the St. Johnsbury Community Hub.
- We assessed walking and biking safety in rural areas.
- We partnered with St. Johnsbury School to enhance health and mental health services.



Prepared and Responsive

Our team is ready for community needs and health threats. In 2024, we:

- Vaccinated uninsured people against COVID, flu, and Mpox, teaming up with St. Johnsbury Community Hub, Bridges to Health and others.
- Gave out free water test kits after historic flooding.
- The Northeast Kingdom Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) held preparedness events and Stop the Bleed classes. It also helped with shelter and recovery after floods.





Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District
137 Barre Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 229-9383
www.cvswmd.org

2025 Annual Report, November 2024

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member municipalities and just over 53,000 residents. CVSWMD's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and services for residents and businesses in reducing and managing their solid waste in order to protect public health and the environment. Walden currently does not have an appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors - please contact administration@cvswmd.org for more information. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.25 for fiscal year 2026.

With your support, CVSWMD offers valuable programs and services to its residents, including:

- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** Our Barre recycling facility for special items that cannot go in your regular recycling accepts TVs, computers, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs, and thermostats from Vermont residents at no cost through the State's Extended Producer Responsibility programs. We also accept other electronics and hard-to-recycle materials. Unfortunately, our facility was flooded again on July 10, 2024, a year to the day since we were forced to close due to historic flooding in July 2023. Despite both floods, 139,678 lbs. of materials were collected through the ARCC and diverted from the landfill in FY24. We also continued to sell composting and recycling equipment to District residents at discounted rates once we re-opened.
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** In FY24, we helped 639 households dispose of 53,616 lbs. of hazardous waste through seven single-day collections, including two special emergency collections in response to the July 2023 flood. We are planning to open our Eco-Depot in 2025, which will include the ARCC, our administrative offices, and our new year-round household hazardous waste facility in one convenient location in the Berlin industrial park.
- **Grants:** CVSWMD offers grants to towns, businesses, organizations, and schools for Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse, Municipal Services, Emergency Solid Waste Response, and School Zero Waste initiatives. In FY24, CVSWMD awarded \$23,669 in grant funding across the District, including \$6,830 in non-competitive Green-Up Day grants.
- **Outreach and Education:** CVSWMD maintains a website, social media accounts, and a searchable A-Z guide with information on landfill-banned items, composting, blue bin recycling, special materials recycling, and household hazardous waste. We also send out monthly email newsletters to communicate relevant information and program updates to residents. In FY24, our School Zero Waste Program provided solid waste management support for 28 public and 3 independent schools. This included 1,871 students, pre-K-12, reached through 118 on-campus programs.



December 1st, 2024



Dear Friends & Supporters,

We are writing to you today because our rural communities continue to face significant challenges with food insecurity. Rising food prices have led to an unprecedented increase in demand for our services, as outlined in our 2024 Annual Report.

2024 Broke the Record:

Since spring we've been providing **over 1,000 boxes of food a month** to families in need through our locations in Cabot and Lyndonville. *This is a 25% increase in one year.*

At every food share, we continue to grow. **Over 80 new families** signed up for our Food Share program in just the past two months. Many of them are large families who have never needed our help before now.

Rising to the Challenge

This increased demand means more volunteer resources are needed to procure and process food. Larger deliveries mean there is more to unload and re-package for distribution.

Thankfully, our teams of volunteers and small staff are more than happy to serve, **meeting the challenges together** with our funders and supporters throughout the year. Also, our food share coordinators are skilled at diversifying. They rely upon a network of partnerships with local businesses and farms to find the food we need to meet the need.

How You Can Help

1. **DONATE:** Your financial gifts multiply their effect in the community!
2. **VOLUNTEER:** Lend your time and skills. All ages and abilities are needed!
3. **SPREAD THE WORD:** Invite others to join our team!

See what your gift can do...

CABOT OFFICE
3339 Main Street
PO Box 157
Cabot, VT 05647
802.563.3322



www.neighborsinactionvt.org



LYNDONVILLE OFFICE
101 Main Street
PO Box 515
Lyndonville, VT 05851
802.626.1212

Caledonia County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff James Hemond

970 Memorial Drive St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

P: (802)748-6666 F: (802)748-1684

Email: caledoniasheriff.net

We here at the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department continued to make improvements and provide needed services to the citizens of Caledonia County. Many of you may have noticed a lot of construction being completed during the spring and summer months. Many building improvements were completed to better serve not only the staff but the community as a whole. Our goal was to improve the building and provide a much safer, more accessible and inviting place to work and operate a business.

We added much needed services this year including restoring the Child Passenger Safety Technician to the department. We now offer not only roadside car seat inspections but also onsite inspections as well. Please call or stop by for all of your car seat and passenger safety needs.

We also added a full service AFIS Fingerprint machine. Fingerprints are mandatory for all those seeking employment in the education, federal and state level employment, state and federal licensing, nurses, sports coaches, and many other employment needs. We have had great success so far this year and are looking forward to continuing this service.

We continue to seek qualified, competent applicants to add to the department's depleted roster. We seek out training opportunities for the deputies and office staff to best serve the needs of the department and communities we serve. We continue to work and train with area Law Enforcement Fire, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Human Services Agencies not only in Caledonia County but Statewide.

We completed our annual financial audit for the year and it resulted in no findings or problems of any kind.

The department was also contacted throughout the year by several towns for contracted patrols. Of the 17 towns in the county the department provides services to 10 of these towns. Due to staffing shortages it has been difficult to provide consistent services to these communities but we are working hard to improve as well as increase our presence to provide consistent, quality, and cost effective Law Enforcement Services to you all of you. As much as possible we maintain an active presence with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We provided security for numerous community events, sports events, parades, fairs, festivals and functions to ensure public safety wherever needed. We participated in drills and evacuation plans with area schools, NVRH and assisted during flooding this summer. We continue to assist area public safety, emergency service, mental health agencies, and local business whenever needed. The department maintains a Take Back Drugs Location serving as a drop off for expired, unused and no longer needed Rx medications.

Your dedicated staff here at the Caledonia County Sheriffs' Department will continue to make our best effort to serve all of you in this wonderful community whether you live, work, play or raise a family. I am always available for any questions or comments here at the office and feel free to visit our Facebook page as well.

Respectfully;

James Hemond

Caledonia County Sheriff



DOG LICENSING & THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka "VSNIPI"

Pursuant to: 20 VS.A. §3581 of the Vermont Statutes Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet or Wolf-hybrid Control. Sub-chapter 002: Licenses: **A dog must be licensed (registered) by six months of age at your town office to be legal. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year is required. Dogs not licensed can be seized and euthanized per state statute.**

Registering identifies your dog. It's proof of protection against rabies in case an animal or person is bitten. Immediate medical attention is needed. Animals not vaccinated and registered could be quarantined or possibly seized and euthanized, enabling the brain to be tested. Rabies is deadly. PLEASE LICENSE NOW!

Vermont Statutes Title 20 - Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 193 - Domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid Control §3621. Issuance of warrant to impound; complaint.

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers, constables, pound keepers, or appointed animal control officers, directing them to promptly impound all dogs or wolf-hybrids within the town or city not licensed according to the provisions of this subchapter, except as exempted by section 3587 of this title, and to enter a complaint against the owners or keepers of the impounded dogs and wolf-hybrids.

A puppy (or kitten) can have their first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. Community Animal Aid hosts a Wellness Clinic, including rabies vaccinations, for those unhoused or those receiving state benefits usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month: East Barre Fire Station. Check for updates: AnimalAidVT@gmail.com or 802-734-0259. Tractor Supply Stores host a monthly rabies clinic, and some VT Humane Societies and veterinarians offer a rabies clinic in March.

THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka "VSNIPI"

VSNIPI helps income eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them. Veterinary offices are throughout the state and we invite other veterinarians to join this altruistic effort to help continue eliminating routine euthanasia of mostly, an over population of cats and kittens. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: VSNIPI.VERMONT.GOV Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WINTER OPERATIONS POLICY

1. Plow routes are set up to open the major traffic and school bus routes first. After these are open and cleared, the remainder of the roads will be plowed at the discretion of the Highway Foreman, considering traffic volume, steepness and curves.
2. The Town of Walden has two full-time employees and one call-in contractor to do winter maintenance on approximately 49 miles of town highways. Each employee has a specific route that takes approximately 4-5 hours to complete. Generally, these routes will vary only for emergency situations such as fire and ambulance calls.
3. The Town will always enforce NO Parking on the travelled portion of all highways within the town's right-of-way, town parking lots and in school bus and plow truck turnarounds. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.
4. The Town does not plow any private roads or Class 4 Highways.
5. The town crew usually starts their day at 3:30 AM during a snowstorm to have major traffic and bus routes open and clear by 7 AM. In most cases there will be no winter maintenance between the hours of 8:00 PM and 3:30 AM for town personnel to get required rest.
6. The Town of Walden does not have a bare roads policy. Travelers who use town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during changing weather conditions. Plan for your own safe travel including maintaining your vehicle with proper snow tires.
7. Salt will be applied to paved roads as necessary.
8. Sand will be applied on all gravel roads as necessary. Sand may contain particles as large as 9/16 inches in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should maintain a safe driving distance when following other vehicles or town trucks. The town will not pay for any vehicle repairs such as replacement of windshields.
9. Objects in the town's right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk and the town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the state's statutes. Common items are trees, fences, flowers, stone walls, and mailboxes. The town is not responsible for damage to mailboxes.
10. State law (23 V.S.A. section 1126a) prohibits plowing snow or shoveling snow from a private road or drive across or onto town or state highways. Violators may be subject to a fine or penalty.

Adopted by Walden Selectboard on January 10, 2018, and is effective immediately.

Jonathon Augeri
Randolph Wilson

MINUTES OF WALDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MARCH 5, 2024
(Condensed Report: Complete minutes are on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

The 231st annual Walden town meeting was called to order at 10:13 am by moderator Roger Fox at the Walden School multipurpose room.

Announcements were made. Two first-time participants introduced themselves.

The meeting was temporarily recessed for State Rep. Chip Troiano to provide an update on current issues in the Vermont Legislature.

The moderator reviewed Robert's Rules of Order.

Article 1: Lynette Farnham nominated Roger Fox for moderator to govern the meeting and for the ensuing year. There were no other nominations. Roger Fox was elected on voice vote.

Article 2: Voting for town officers was by Australian Ballot. No action needs to be taken.

Article 3: Marie Blodgett made the motion to accept the printed report of the Town Officers and Sarah Augeri seconded. Marie Blodgett reported the following corrections to the report. Page 6 Projected 24/25 municipal rate was changed from 0.602 to .5716. Education homestead tax rate changed from 1.4704 to 1.736. Education non-residential tax rate changed from 1.32828 to 1.791. The total homestead tax rate changed from 2.0769 to 2.3121. Total non-residential tax rate changed from 1.9893 to 2.3671. Page 21 Final report of collections of delinquent tax from March 4, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Uncollected taxes 22/23 changed from \$2,058.33 to \$12,058.33. Jeff Pierpont had questions regarding the ARPA Report. He asked why Selectboard moved money to Capital Campaign Fund and why Selectboard had stopped taking recommendations from ARPA Committee for allocating funds. Randolph Wilson stated that funds were moved after speaking to VLCT Representative. The Selectboard had done several of ARPA Committees suggestions. Jeff voiced concern that the remaining funds be utilized for what they were meant for. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Article 4: The motion was made by Martha Bissell and seconded by Shawn Messier to have property taxes paid to the Town Treasurer at the Walden Town Clerk's office, 12 VT Route 215, Walden, VT on or before 5:00 PM EST on Thursday November 7, 2024. This applies to all payment methods, in-person, online, by telephone, and through the mail. Postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely payment. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Article 5: The motion was made by Diane Banister and seconded by Eric Kittredge to authorize the term of the Town Clerk to be changed from a one-year term to a three-year term. There were concerns about the length of the term. Questions were asked about how often the office is audited and by whom. It is in favor that an outside audit be completed. After discussion the motion was passed by voice vote.

Article 6: The motion was made by Dan Whipple and seconded by Bruce Cubit to authorize the term of the Town Treasurer to be changed from a one-year term to a three-year term. Jeff Pierpont said going forward he would like the Selectboard to budget money for an outside audit. Carolyn Greaves asked to budget funds annually for an audit every five years. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Article 7: The motion was made by Eric Kittredge and seconded by Dan Whipple to approve total highway fund expenditures of \$580,550.00 of which \$422,179.07 shall be raised by taxes and \$158,370.93 by non-tax revenues for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Randolph Wilson spoke about the budget. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Article 8: The motion was made by Lynette Farnham and seconded by Martha Bissell to authorize the Selectboard to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$30,000.00 to be financed over a period not to exceed 3 years, to support the purchase of a new truck. Randolph Wilson spoke about replacing the town's small truck. The truck has gone through a lot of repairs. The Selectboard wanted to keep any budget increase down, so they decided on a loan. They wanted to put it out to the town for approval to buy a truck. The motion was passed by voice vote.

MINUTES OF WALDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MARCH 5, 2024 (Continued)
(Condensed Report: Complete minutes are on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

Article 9: The motion was made by Annie Gaillard and seconded by Marie Blodgett to approve total general fund expenditures of \$355,577.37, of which \$246,013.17 shall be raised by taxes and \$109,564.20 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

The motion was passed by voice vote.

Article 10: To transact any other proper business. Raffle tickets for a quilt to raise funds for the eighth-grade class trip are for sale in the lobby. Chrystal Fox has Walden history books for sale. Victoria Atwood thanked the community for its support of the library. Zarina Castro, chair of the Planning Commission, announced an informational meeting at the library for the 28th of March and thanked people for filling out their survey. Bob Bell, road foreman, was presented with a metal wall hanging in appreciation for his 35 years of service to the Town. Judy Clifford said thank you for the support the Town residents showed to her family during the loss of their daughter-in-law. Marie Blodgett asked if remote options for attending meetings will continue. Debbie Messier replied yes. Bill Half said there was not a large attendance for the Town Meeting and asked if the town wanted to look at another time to hold the meeting. A Saturday option was discussed. Seth O'Brien, Town representative for NE Broadband, updated residents. Randolph said pre-pandemic they did have a discussion to move the meeting. By Australian ballot it was voted down. Dan Parker asked can we see today what that vote might look like. Zarina Castro asked if the town would consider putting in a charging station for electric cars. Judy Clifford gave a talk about the cemetery report, green burials, full cemeteries and private home lots. Town cemeteries are near full capacity. The Cemetery Commission would like input on enlarging cemeteries or creating a new one for green burials.

Brenda Huntoon moved to adjourn, and Zarina Castro seconded. Voted and passed.

Meeting adjourned 1:13 p.m.

Moderator: Roger Fox
Selectboard: Brenda Huntoon
Robert Hatch
Randolph Wilson
Town Clerk: Deborah Messier

ALPHABETICAL INDEX

Appropriation Requests	33-34
ARPA Report	12
Auditor's Report	5
Board of Civil Authority Report	24
Caledonia County Sheriff's Department	42
CALEX Report	35
Capital Improvement Schedules	22
Cemetery Commission Report	27
Central Vermont Solid Waste Report	40
Collector of Delinquent Taxes Report	11
Community Library Report	29-30
Condensed Minutes of the March 5, 2024, Town Meeting	45-46
Fire Department Report	28
General Budget	13-17
Grand List and Tax Rate Comparison	10
Green Up Day Report	37
Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad Report	36
Highway Budget	18-20
Highway Equipment Replacement Schedule	21
Highway Winter Operations Policy	44
Lister's Report	31
Local Health Office Annual Report	39
Neighbors In Action Report	41
NEK Broadband Report	38
Planning Commission Report	32
Property Tax Information	9
Selectboard Report	23
Summary of Accounts	6
Telephone Directory	48
Town Clerk's Notices	26
Town Clerk/ Treasurer's Report	25
Town Inventory Report	7
Town Officers	2-3
Town Salaries and Stipends	8
Vermont Spay Neuter Program Report	43
Warning for the Walden Annual Town Meeting	4

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Caledonia County Sheriff	802-748-6666	
Constable (Dog Issues)	802-424-6655	Eugene McAllister
Fish and Wildlife - St. Johnsbury	802-751-0100	
Forest Fire Warden	802-563-9926	Rodney Hooker
Health Officer		Current Chair of Selectboard
Library	802-563-2195	
School Superintendent's Office	802-684-3801	
Town Clerk's Office	802-563-2220	tc@waldenvt.gov
Town Garage	802-563-2504	
Vermont State Police	802-748-3111	St. Johnsbury
Walden School	802-563-3000	

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONTACTS

Linda Fox	802-563-2321	
Crime Stoppers	802-748-2222	
Vermont State Police	802-748-3111	

WALDEN'S REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Southworth	802-828-2228	msouthworth@leg.state.vt.us
Scott Beck	802-828-2228	sbeck@leg.state.vt.us

GENERAL INFORMATION

Town Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday 9:00am - 4:00pm, Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Selectboard Meetings

Every other Monday at 6:30pm and via Zoom
Town Clerk's Office or Firehouse

Library Trustee Meetings

Bi-monthly meetings on the first Tuesday at 4:30pm
Community Library

Fire Department

First Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
Firehouse

Green Up Day - May 3, 2025

Beginning at 9:00am
7105 VT Route 15
Town Garage