

Wardsboro, Vermont

**Annual Report
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**



**Town Meeting - March 4, 2025
9 AM at Wardsboro Town Hall**



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**Photographs from the 75th Annual Wardsboro
4th of July Street Fair & Parade**

Courtesy of the Wardsboro 4th of July Street Fair & Parade Committee

TOWN OF WARDSBORO, VERMONT
2025 TOWN MEETING WARNING

240th Annual Town Meeting - 4 March 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Wardsboro are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Wardsboro Town Hall in Wardsboro on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. to hear and act on the following Articles:

GENERAL TOWN BUSINESS

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2. To elect the following officers as required by law:

- a. Town Clerk for one year.
- b. Town Treasurer for one year.
- c. Selectboard member for three years (by ballot).
- d. Selectboard member for one year.
- e. Selectboard member for one year.
- f. Lister for three years (by ballot).
- g. Auditor for three years (by ballot).
- h. Trustee of Public Funds for three years.
- i. First Constable for one year.
- j. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for one year.
- k. Town Agent for one year.
- l. Cemetery Commissioner for five years.
- m. Library Trustee for three years.
- n. Library Trustee for three years.
- o. Library Trustee for one year of a three-year term.
- p. Library Trustee for one year of a three-year term.

ARTICLE 3. To determine if the Town will approve the Selectboard budget as published.

TOWN OF WARDSBORO, VERMONT
2025 TOWN MEETING WARNING

ARTICLE 4. To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to support the following organizations:

	2024 funded	2025 request
a. Wardsboro Vol. Fire Dept	\$79,690	\$79,690
b. Wardsboro Rescue	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
c. Grace Cottage Foundation	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
d. Health Care & Rehabilitative Services	\$ 869	\$ 869
e. Senior Solutions	\$ 750	\$ 750
f. Southeastern Vermont Economic Dev. Strategies	\$ 2,592	\$ 2,592
g. Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice	\$ 2,275	\$ 2,275
h. Windham County Historical Society	\$ 250	\$ 250
i. Women's Freedom Center	\$ 800	\$ 800
j. Neighborhood Connections	-----	\$ 1,500
	-----	-----
Total Requests	\$ 93,726	\$95,226

ARTICLE 5. To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray the expenses and liabilities of the Town in the ensuing year and to authorize all taxes be paid to the Treasurer as provided by law, with such taxes to be due on or before October 1, 2025 and February 2, 2026.

(selectboard request) \$ _____
(article 4 allocations) \$ _____
total to raise = \$ _____

ARTICLE 6. To hear the reports of the town officers.


ARTICLE 7. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting and then to adjourn.

Dated at Wardsboro, Vermont, this 28th day of January 2025.


Selectboard:


Clarence Ballantine, Jr.


Peter Sebastian


Michael Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Duane Tompkins


Diane Schips

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mike Mainiero (6/30/26 - 4 yrs)
Donna Sebastian (6/30/27 - 4 yrs)
Shane Groff (6/30/25 - 4 yrs)

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Duane Tompkins (3/2/27 - 3 yrs)

BROADBAND COMMITTEE

established by selectboard 11/26/2019
James Hamilton (3 yr - 2026)
Tom Almeida (2 yr - 2025)
Mike Jones (1 yr - 2025)
vacant (2 yrs of 3 yr - 2027)
vacant (1 yr of 3 yr - 2026)

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

vacant
planning commission members as alternates

HEALTH OFFICER

Diane Schips (3/31/2027)

ENERGY COMMITTEE

established by selectboard 10/16/2018
Jill Neitlich (2025)
Diane Schips (2025)
3 vacant 1 yr terms

The following offices are filled by annual appointment in accordance with the selectboard's written policy. Appointments are filled at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board after the annual town meeting. Anyone interested in serving in any of the following positions should contact the selectboard or come to the meeting.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(For the Housing Rehab Program)

Ralph Ayers
Jackie Bedard
Jan Hull
James Knapp
vacant

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER & DOG WARDEN

(Windham County Sheriff's Office
performs some duties of this office)

CONVEYOR OF REAL ESTATE (Selectboard chair)

EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR

Duane Tompkins

FENCE VIEWERS

Everett Bills
Lucas Bates
David Meeks

TOWN GRAND JUROR

Cherie Keeler Moran

TREE WARDEN

Mark Fernandes

WEIGHER OF COAL, INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES AND WOOD

Alan Bills

WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS

Jack Cunningham
Paul Spector

E-9-1-1 COORDINATOR

Michelle Hull

SENIOR SOLUTIONS

Terri Finigan

RESCUE INC II ADVISORY BOARD

Terri Finigan

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Elizabeth Spector

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

MODERATOR

John Moran **(2025 - 1 yr)**

AUDITORS

Patricia Hayes (2026 - 3 yrs)

Julie McNeal (2027 - 3 yrs)

Leigh Ann Varese **(2025 - 3 yrs)**

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

James Hescok (2029 - 5 yrs)

Nancy Dawson (2028 - 5 yrs)

Jane Robinson (2027 - 5 yrs)

Janice Hull (2026 - 5 yrs)

Christopher Shea **(2025 - 5yrs)**

SELECTBOARD

Clarence Ballantine, Jr. (2027 - 3 yrs)

Duane Tompkins (2026 - 3 yrs)

Michael S. Fitzpatrick, Jr. **(2025 - 3 yrs)**

Peter Sebastian **(2025 - 1 yr)**

Diane Schips **(2025 -1 yr)**

TOWN AGENT

vacant **(2025 - 1 yr)**

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

(by Statute)

Justices of the Peace

Selectboard

Town Clerk & Treasurer

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Thomas Almeida (2027 - 3 yrs)

Mike Cooney (2026 - 3 yrs)

Patricia Hayes **(2025 - 3 yrs)**

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

Michelle Hull **(2025 - 1 yr)**

LISTERS

Janice Hull (2027 - 3 yrs)

Leigh Ann Varese (2026 - 3 yrs)

Katryna Fitzpatrick **(2025 - 3 yrs)**

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT

TAXES

Michelle Hull **(2025 - 1 yr)**

1ST CONSTABLE

vacant **(2025 - 1 yr)**

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Sheri Lewis (2027 - 3 yrs)

Karina Martin (2027 - 3 yrs)

Steve Herd (2027 - 5 yrs)

Martin Loftus **(2026 - 1 yr of 3-yr term)**

Patricia Rappazzo **(2026 - 1 yr of 3-yr term)**

Carol Bishop Backus **(2025 - 3 yrs)**

Donna Fernandes **(2025 - 3 yrs)**

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

(elected in November General Election)

Marvin Bentley II (2/1/27 - 2 yrs)

Norman Bills (2/1/27 - 2 yrs)

Nancy Clark Dawson (2/1/27 - 2 yrs)

Nancy Meinhard (2/1/27 - 2 yrs)

Cherie Keeler Moran (2/1/27 - 2 yrs)

Select Board report to the community

This year the town has been fortunate in not experiencing a significant winter or rain event that resulted in significant damage to infrastructure or the power grid. There are challenges with rising fuel and oil costs and inflation that has impacted the budget. Inflation has hit the town budget at all points; the cost of culverts, repairing equipment, fuel, and insurance premiums have greatly risen this year. We have tried to cut costs where possible while not reducing the services provided and keeping our valuable employees.

Below are a few highlights of programs and projects undertaken by the town or still in the process. This is not a full list of what has been done this year by the town employees and select board, rather a snippet of various highlights.

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** – All funds have been expended for various projects and to stop gap any spending increases over the past few years.
- **July 2021 Rainstorm Event** – The culvert on East Hill Road, south of Kidder Road, has been replaced and upgraded to the current standards required by the state. FEMA provided limited funds to improve the site with a box culvert to mitigate future damages and the town was left with a sizeable portion to pay.
- **Sheldon Hill Culvert** – During the July 2021 Rainstorm Event, a sinkhole developed at the upper Sheldon Hill culvert. Emergency repairs and follow-up repairs were covered by FEMA. During an onsite inspection, it was determined the culvert is undermined from age and not attributed to the rain event. Therefore, repairs and replacement would not be covered by FEMA.

The anticipated cost to repair this structure will be significant, initial estimates are 600,000 to 700,000 dollars. A factor contributing to the high cost is that the culvert is the only means of access to homes in this area. Members of the select board are working with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Transportation to develop more cost-effective options and possible grant funding to reduce the project cost. A scoping study has been completed and we are applying for grants hoping a portion will be covered.

- **Salt Shed Project** – The town has withdrawn this project as the costs have risen drastically and it would not be sound economically to proceed.
- **Municipal Energy Resilience Program** – In 2023, with the help of former select person Karen Davis, the town applied for energy grants from the state. This year, the town was awarded a \$460,000 grant to do energy upgrades to all town buildings. Depending on the building, it will provide new energy efficient windows or doors, mini-split systems, solar power with battery back-up, and a possible vehicle charging station. There is no local match required for the grant. We may use or may have to use part of the grant to complete ADA compliance upgrades.

- **MTAP Grant** – The town received an MTAP grant this year and will be using the money to hire a consultant to evaluate flood prone areas in town and develop possible plans to help mitigate the flooding. They will also be examining bank stabilization and other flood mitigation efforts. The report they generate will be used to apply for other grants to address the issues found.
- **Green Mountain Power** – Green Mountain Power (GMP) approached the town requesting to bury electrical lines underground on Townshend Dam Road in late 2023. They are using a large trench digging device to bury the lines plus a communications line – required by the state. In previous years the line running from Townshend Dam Road to Newfane Road had 21 power outages. Once the partial line was run and made operational there were only two power outages for the fall of 2023 into the spring of 2024. This year GMP requested to finish Townshend Dam Road, along with Newfane Road, and East Dover Road. They later did Tomlinson Road, Bobcat, and into Newfane.

Since the 2024 town meeting, the members of the select board have been Peter Sebastian, Mike Fitzpatrick, Jr., Duane Tompkins, Dewey Ballantine, and Diane Schips. Michelle Hull has served as town clerk, with Katryna Fitzpatrick serving as assistant town clerk.

The select board would like to thank the town's employees for their hard work throughout the past year. We would also like to express our gratitude to everyone serving in appointed positions and those who volunteer their time and energy in service to the town—without your efforts Wardsboro would not be such a good place to call home.



SELECTBOARD BUDGET 2025-2026

	2022-23 ACTUAL SPENT	2023-24 APPROVED BUDGET	2023-24 ACTUAL SPENT	2024-25 APPROVED BUDGET	2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET
ADMINISTRATION:					
ADVERTISING	1,281	1,000	918	1,000	1,000
LEGAL	954	800	900	800	1,000
OFF EXPENSE & SUPPLIES	11,385	12,000	12,035	12,000	15,000
OFFICE HARDWARE FUND	500	500	500	500	500
OFFICIALS	73,818	84,270	80,663	91,080	93,812
SOCIAL SECURITY	5,773	6,447	6,075	6,968	7,177
RETIREMENT	3,531	4,424	4,041	5,009	5,394
UNEMPLOYMENT					85
PRINT & POSTAGE	3,925	3,000	2,758	3,500	3,500
HEALTH INSURANCE	10,874	38,100	13,068	50,400	67,955
SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION	112,041	150,541	120,958	171,257	195,423
TRANSFER STATION:					
LABOR	35,879	36,570	41,162	40,170	41,375
SOCIAL SECURITY	2,465	2,639	3,054	3,073	3,165
RETIREMENT	1,612	1,920	2,087	1,982	2,379
UNEMPLOYMENT/WORKERS COMP	3,434	3,500	3,363	3,500	3,500
ELECTRIC	682	600	423	700	700
PHONE	636	665	704	720	850
HAULING - HOUSEHOLD TRASH	26,132	25,000	25,672	26,000	26,000
HAULING - RECYCLING	24,844	22,500	25,202	26,000	28,000
HAULING - COMPOST	7,305	6,000	6,822	7,000	7,000
HAULING - CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS	21,534	24,000	18,785	25,000	25,000
TS EQUIP/COMPOST BOX/MISC	0	3,500	3,571	0	3,500
WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	5,452	5,995	5,995	6,228	6,465
MAINTENANCE FUND	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
HEALTH INSURANCE	3,406	23,000	10,923	13,300	17,929
SUBTOTAL TRANSFER STATION	135,380	157,889	149,763	155,673	167,863
TOWN HALL:					
ELECTRIC	890	650	689	800	700
HEAT	4,615	3,500	3,413	3,500	3,500
PHONE	2,003	2,000	2,121	2,100	2,600
MAINTENANCE	6,213	5,000	3,917	5,000	3,000
BUILDING REPAIRS FUND	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
SUBTOTAL TOWN HALL	16,721	14,150	13,140	14,400	12,800
TOWN OFFICE:					
ELECTRIC	2,395	2,750	2,980	2,500	2,500
PHONE	1,849	1,860	1,943	1,900	2,400
MAINTENANCE	2,217	1,200	1,091	1,500	750
BUILDING REPAIRS FUND	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
SUBTOTAL TOWN OFFICE	11,461	10,810	11,014	10,900	10,650
OTHER:					
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR SALARY	2,747	2,862	3634	3,578	3,685
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR SOCIAL SECURITY	189	219	278	274	282
ZONING LEGAL EXPENSES	4,271	1,000	1379	1,000	1,000
ZONING EXPENSES			372	0	500
STREET LIGHTS	2,537	2,400	2623	2,600	2,600
INSURANCE	9,024	13,805	11329	13,633	12,262
CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION					1,800
CEMETERY FUND	6,702	5,000	6821	7,000	9,000
CONSTABLE/ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER EXPENSE	560	3,650	2306	3,000	3,000
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	62	500	134	100	420
WINDHAM COUNTY TAX	13,699	21,486	21486	22,000	22,000
RESCUE INC AMBULANCE SERVICE	25,636	26,550	25896	26,550	26,550
HEALTH OFFICER		0	0	500	500
PLANNING COMMISSION FUND	134	500	276	3,550	6,000
VT LEAGUE OF CITIES & TOWNS	2,174	2,242	2242	2,312	2,363
WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION	2,442	2,226	2225.92	2,500	2,500
LISTERS/REAPPRAISAL	24,529	15,000	22646	15,000	20,390
SUBTOTAL OTHER	94,705	97,440	103647.92	103,596	114,852
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	370,309	430,830	398522.92	455,826	501,588

SELECTBOARD BUDGET 2025-2026

	2022-23 ACTUAL SPENT	2023-24 APPROVED BUDGET	2023-24 ACTUAL SPENT	2024-25 APPROVED BUDGET	2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET
HIGHWAY ACCOUNT:					
LABOR TOTAL	145,835	172,925	187,070	199,305	205,284
SOCIAL SECURITY	11,309	13,229	14,311	15,247	15,704
RETIREMENT	6,899	9,079	9,821	10,962	11,804
UNEMPLOYMENT	510	455	446	450	450
GARAGE	20,523	25,000	21,320	25,000	25,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND	1,677	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
BLACKTOP FUND	105,000	115,000	115,000	120,000	150,000
BRIDGE/BOX CULVERT FUND	20,000	20,000	20,000	45,000	50,000
CAPITAL EQUIP REPLACEMENT	100,000	105,000	105,000	110,000	130,000
CHLORIDE	10,364	15,000	10,874	15,000	10,000
COLDPATCH	1,220	1,000	0	2,500	2,500
CULVERTS	35,902	25,000	16,615	50,000	43,000
GRAVEL	29,959	65,000	60,174	65,000	65,000
DITCH STONE	9,568	10,000	5,796	10,000	10,000
HIGHWAYS - FUELS	49,200	45,000	44,598	45,000	45,000
HIGHWAYS - MAINTENANCE	48,088	50,000	59,969	60,000	60,000
SALT	28,234	38,000	23,629	35,000	28,000
SP HIGHWAY PROJ FUND	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
SAND	67,196	65,000	55,372	65,000	65,000
ASH TREE REMOVAL FUND				5,000	5,000
HEALTH INSURANCE		70,300	59,735	67,300	89,643
WC, PROP & CAS INSURANCE	53,352	23,900	23,663	25,690	27,450
SUBCONTRACTORS & RENTALS	11,456	15,000	21,490	15,000	15,000
SHELDON HILL CULVERT FUND	30,000	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
SUBTOTAL HIGHWAY	796,292	917,388	888,383	1,019,954	1,087,335
TOTAL GENERAL & HIGHWAY	1,166,600	1,348,217	1,286,906	1,475,780	1,588,924
LIBRARY					
WAGES		43,810	43,810	45,217	48,061
BUILDING EXPENSES		17,436	17,436	19,362	17,700
SUBTOTAL LIBRARY		61,246	61,246	64,579	65,761
TOTAL GENERAL, HIGHWAY & LIBRARY		[1,409,463]		[1,540,359]	1,654,685

[LIBRARY BUDGET WAS APPROVED SEPARATELY IN FY 23-24 & 24-25. NUMBERS ARE INCLUDED HERE FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES.]

	ACTUAL 2022-23	BUDGET 2023-24	ACTUAL 2023-24	BUDGET 2024-25	BUDGET 2025-26
CLERK'S FEES	15,575	16,000	11,437	16,000	16,000
ZONING PERMIT APPLICATION FEES	3,084	2,500	2,484	2,500	2,500
CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS CHARGES	25,084	28,000	19,683	28,000	28,000
METAL RECYCLING REVENUE	180	2,000	0	500	0
DELINQUENT TAX - 8 % PENALTY	18,618	16,000	15,179	16,000	16,000
TRANSFER STATION REVENUE	35,688	35,500	34,374	36,000	36,000
CURRENT USE TAXES	33,525	29,000	33,951	33,000	34,000
MISC REVENUE	26,027	22,000	37,272	25,000	25,000
STATE AID/LISTERS EXPENSES	9,880	9,950	9,870	9,900	9,900
STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	93,462	92,000	96,340	92,000	95,000
TOTAL REVENUE	261,123	252,950	260,590	258,900	262,400
LESS FUND BALANCE SURPLUS	(34,000)	(53,000)			
ARPA LOST REVENUE	(30,000)	(83,000)		(95,000)	
TO BE RAISED BY TAXES		959,267		1,121,880	1,392,285

WARDSBORO FIRE & RESCUE FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Expenses

Utilities		
TV, Phone, Power	\$	3,822.42
Heating Fuel	\$	5,292.00
Mortgage	\$	4,333.00
Taxes	\$	179.00
SWNH Mutual Aid		
	911 Answering and Dispatch fee	\$ 19,195.79
	Dues	\$ 125.00
Sinirji app and Eso contract	\$	400.00
Insurance		
	Workers Comp, Property, Vehicle	\$ 10,924.48
Facility		
Building maintenance and repairs	\$	553.70
Firefighter equipment	\$	16,524.82
	SCBA test	\$ 756.31
Vehicle Service	\$	772.16
	Tracks for 4-wheeler	\$ 1,500.00
	Turbo & Service for Brush-1	\$ 2,346.39
Supplies	\$	8,298.30
Total Expenses	\$	75,023.37

Income

Town of Wardsboro Appropriation	\$	79,690.00
Town of Stratton Appropriation	\$	5,000.00
Fundraising	\$	7,377.00
Total Revenue	\$	92,067.00
Surplus	\$	17,043.63

Wardsboro Fire and Rescue
PO Box 151
Wardsboro, VT 05355
(802) 896-6760 Non-Emergency

30 January 2025

Town of Wardsboro Selectboard
79 Main Street
Wardsboro, VT 05353

Dear Community Members and the Wardsboro Selectboard,

The members of the Wardsboro Fire and Rescue are grateful for the town of Wardsboro's continued support of our department over the past years. As you are most likely aware, Wardsboro Fire and Rescue members are dispatched to all fire and rescue calls in the town of Wardsboro. In the calendar year 2024, our members responded to 150 fire, medical, and rescue calls. Wardsboro Fire and Rescue operates a snowmobile and ATV rescue unit with a patient transport trailer, typically used about 10 times per year combined.

In 2024, the department continued to update our outdated personal protection equipment (PPE) worn by members at fire calls. The PPE was last updated 11 years ago using a federal grant. Each set of PPE consists of a fire jacket, pants, boots, helmet, and gloves. Each set of PPE costs approximately \$4,000 per member. Over the next 6 years, we anticipate purchasing 3 sets of gear each year, which accounts for part of our requested increase. There has been a continual increase in 911 dispatch fees which are paid by the fire department using the year allocation. Currently, fees are assessed at approximately \$17,000 per year.

As in the past, the town of Wardsboro has included a request for appropriations for town meeting day. Would you kindly include the Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Department for a request of \$79,690 and Wardsboro Rescue in the amount of \$4,000.00 in your appropriations for the coming year?

Again, the members of the Wardsboro Fire and Rescue are grateful for your generous support in the past and look forward to continuing to serve the community in the future.

Respectfully,



Ron Betit, Chief

Wardsboro Public Library
P.O. Box 157; 170 Main Street, Wardsboro VT 05355
(802) 896-6988
www.wardsboropubliclibrary.org; wardsboropubliclibrary@gmail.com



Our Town's Public Library was again a very busy place. We hosted and participated in many community events over the past year including Green Up Day, offering a lunch and prizes for volunteers; the annual Fourth of July celebration; and the Gilfeather Turnip Festival. Luckily, the weather cooperated, and with the help of other town groups, the festival was a resounding success with a 33-pound Grand Champion Gilfeather turnip grown in Vermont.

Our After School Program for Wardsboro Elementary students (held most Thursdays during the school year) continues with record-breaking registration numbers. The Library also offers summer reading programs for children (and adults!). The Book Club, Mahjongg Group, and Knitting Circle are thriving. A new puzzle contest has also been very popular.

In December, we again hosted Santa to the delight of many children and families. The Library collaborated with Wardsboro Curtain Call on a fundraising play and reception. We extend our deepest gratitude to the volunteers that made it possible.

For the year, circulation included 3,604 books and DVDs not counting the magazines, puzzles, audio and ebooks, and interlibrary loans our patrons access. The most popular book for children was Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* and for adults was *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Please stop in for a Library card if you don't have one.

We aim to be a community center for all ages and appreciate suggestions for new programs or activities. We welcome public participation at our open meetings generally held the last Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Library's main room. The Board thanks Patricia Rappazzo and Martin Loftus for stepping into open trustee positions.

This year's appropriation request for fiscal 2025-26 is \$65,761 for building and staff expenses. We fundraise for all other expenses including materials and programming. Our request represents an increase of just 1.8% over the \$64,579 that the Town appropriated to the Library in 2024-25.

We are very grateful to the taxpayers, donors, and patrons of the Town of Wardsboro for their continued support of our wonderful Library.

WARDSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION

Annual Report

Wardsboro Planning Commission (WPC) welcomed Michael Mainiero to the Commission. Commissioners continued to serve as alternates to the Wardsboro Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). The WPC conducted site plan reviews for zoning permit applications requiring site plan approval. The ZBA conducted hearings for zoning permit applications requiring conditional use approval and appeals.

Windham Regional Commission Senior Planner Matthew Bachler provides assistance to municipalities, including Wardsboro. He conducted a consultation with the WPC regarding the planning process in Wardsboro. Matthew Bachler also worked with the WPC on drafting updates to the Wardsboro Zoning Bylaw. This work will continue into 2025 and will include public hearings on the draft updates to the zoning bylaw. The Wardsboro Select Board contracted Windham Regional Commission to work with the WPC on the zoning bylaw update.

Respectfully submitted by your planning commissioners:

Shane Groff, Vice Chair

Michael Mainiero

Donna Sebastian, Chair



LISTER'S REPORT FOR 2024

The Board of Listers kept up with the annual work of valuing new construction, property visits, keeping up with all real estate sales to make sure we have the correct information on each Lister Card, taking photos of newly constructed buildings, address changes, Homestead changes, etc.

In 2023 there was one property assessment appeal to the State of Vermont that was heard in early 2024. The State hearing officer found the value to be higher than the listers assessment. This value cannot be appealed or re-valued for three years.

On the 2024 Grand List, there were 93 properties with changes in value, either up or down. We were telephoned or emailed by a few owners, but their questions were answered and they said they would not be grieving. We had two grievances on Grievance Day, June 1, 2024, and both were denied. One was Appealed to the Board of Civil Authority – this Appeal to the BCA was withdrawn after the BCA inspection and before a decision could be rendered by the BCA.

The 2024 Equalization Study Results are Common Level of Appraisal at 91.29%.
The 2024 Equalization Study Results are Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) at 17.04%.

The 2024 Grand List shows a total of 1002 parcels with total value at \$234,755,710. Contiguous parcels in the same ownership are mandated by the State to be shown as one parcel on the Grand List. Total acreage is 15,326.24. There are 48 parcels in Current Use or Land Use Value.

The Listers work year-round to keep all parcels current as to improvements or changes. We rely on all property owners to keep us informed as to changes in their property so as to keep their appraisals fair and equitable. Call the Board of Listers with your concerns at (802)896-1001, email Wardsboro.listers@gmail.com, or write PO Box 48, Wardsboro, VT 05355.

Respectfully, BOARD OF LISTERS - Leigh Ann Varese, Katryna Fitzpatrick, and Janice R. Hull, Chair

Vital Statistics 2024

BIRTHS

March 14, 2024

**Colin Henry Ford son of
Jordan Carreno &
Andrew Thomas Ford**

April 9, 2024

**Ava Mae Goyette daughter of
Ashley Bernadette Goyette &
Kevin Michael Goyette**

MARRIGES

August 3, 2024

**Anna Katherine McKittrick
to
Cody Lee Majewski**

August 10, 2024

**Michelle Joy Ellis
to
Brenton Robert Lott**

September 30, 2024

**Erin May Stewart
to
William David Finkel**

Vital Statistics 2024

DEATHS

February 10, 2024	Arthur Zavattero, Jr., 85 years
March 8, 2024	Anthony Ross DiLuglio, 65 years
June 19, 2024	Victor Allen Landeryou, 89 years
July 2024	Mischa Posl, 52 years
September 16, 2024	James David Nestor, Jr., 56 years
November 2024	Jean Levitt, 84 years
November 29, 2024	Amy Morrissey Kleppner, 93 years
December 25, 2024	Colin Jay Tobey, 70 years





AUDITORS REPORT

Per Vermont Statutes the Town Auditors are submitting the following required reports:

Title 24, Chapter 51 § 1683. Contents of report

- (1) a detailed statement of the financial condition of the Town of Wardsboro as of June 30, 2024.
- (2) a classified summary of receipts and expenditures of the Town of Wardsboro for the year ended June 30, 2024.
- (3) a list of all outstanding orders and payables more than 30 days past due as of June 30, 2024- there are none.
- (4) deficit, if any pursuant to section 1523 of this title

Title 24, Chapter 51 § 1684. Trust assets; indebtedness

- (1) the condition of all trust funds in which the town is interested and a list of the assets of such funds, including the account of receipts and disbursements for the preceding year;
- (2) what bonds of the town are outstanding and the rate of interest and the amount thereof; - there are none
- (3) what interest-bearing notes or orders of the town are outstanding and the serial number, date, amount, payee, and rate of interest of each and the total amount thereof - there are none

To the best of our knowledge, the submitted statements and reports as of and for the period ending June 30, 2024 are complete and accurate.

Patricia S. Hayes

Julie E. McNeal

Leigh Ann Varese

**TOWN OF WARDSBORO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
GENERAL FUND
JUNE 30, 2024**

	General Fund
Assets:	
Cash - Checking	19,183
Total Assets	<u>19,183</u>
Liabilities:	
Due to the American Rescue Plan Fund	100,449
General Fund Balance	<u>(81,266)</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>19,183</u>



TOWN OF WARDSBORO - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY of REVENUE and EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024
GENERAL FUND

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue			
Tax Revenue	4,143,127	3,864,225	278,902
General Town Revenue	20,038	19,500	538
Transfer Station	54,057	65,500	(11,443)
Highway Funds	96,340	92,000	4,340
Interest and Penalty Income	34,892	29,000	5,892
Grant Income Received	13,311	1,050	12,261
Interfund Transfers/loans	283,000	83,000	200,000
Other Government Payments	55,357	16,900	38,457
Total General Fund Receipts	4,700,122	4,171,175	528,947
Expenditures			
Town Offices	129,821	155,851	26,030
Listers	22,646	15,000	(7,646)
Zoning	5,797	4,581	(1,216)
Town Hall	10,139	11,150	1,011
Library	83,595	64,094	(19,501)
Transfer Station	151,982	155,889	3,907
Other Expenses	77,358	77,859	501
Highway Department	631,748	643,888	12,140
Expenses Reimbursable by Grant	629,623	0	(629,623)
Voted Appropriations	92,926	92,926	0
Education	3,023,947	3,041,364	17,417
Fire Dept Insurance - Reimbursed	10,924	0	(10,924)
Interfund Transfers/Loans	0	284,000	284,000
Total General Fund Expenditures	4,870,506	4,546,602	(323,904)
General Fund Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	(170,384)	(375,427)	205,043

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

Basis of Accounting

The modified cash basis of accounting records tax revenue for the year ending June 30, 2024 as the amount received in the year, plus current year taxes received between July 1 and August 29, 2024, minus tax prepayments received through June 30, 2024.

The modified cash basis of accounting records town expenditures as the amount spent between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Results of the General Fund

For the year ended June 30, 2023, utilizing the modified cash basis of account, the Town of Wardsboro's expenses exceeded revenues by \$170,384.

While the Town budgeted for \$284,000 to be transferred from the general account checking to the savings for repairs and replacements account, no transfers were made during the year ended June 30, 2024.

During the year ended June 30, 2024, \$200,000 was transferred from the savings for repairs and replacements account to the general fund to cover expenses.

The main cause of the general fund shortfall was the expenses from the 2023 storm. During the year ended June 30, 2024, the Town paid \$534,552 for repairs associated with storm damage.

The Town applied to FEMA for storm damage reimbursement, as of June 30, 2024, the Town had not yet received any reimbursements.

Format

The Summary of Revenue and Expenditures to Budget lists the summary of expenses by department or cost center. The details to these amounts can be found in the five Detailed Revenue to Budget and Detailed Expenditures to Budget pages.

TOWN OF WARDSBORO - GENERAL FUND
DETAILED REVENUE to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024

	ACTUAL 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	Revenue Over (Under) Budget
TAXES			
Current Year Property Tax	3,894,250	3,835,225	59,025
Prior Years' Property Tax	214,926	0	214,926
VT State - Land Use Reimbursement	33,951	29,000	4,951
Total Taxes	4,143,127	3,864,225	278,902
GENERAL TOWN REVENUE			
Clerk's Fees	11,437	16,000	(4,563)
Zoning Permit Application Fees	2,484	2,500	(16)
Miscellaneous	6,117	1,000	5,117
Total General Town Revenue	20,038	19,500	538
TRANSFER STATION			
Construction Debris Charges	19,683	28,000	(8,317)
Metal Recycling	0	2,000	(2,000)
Dump Stickers	34,374	35,500	(1,126)
Total Transfer Station	54,057	65,500	(11,443)
HIGHWAY FUNDS			
State Aid to Highways	96,340	92,000	4,340
Total Highway Funds	96,340	92,000	4,340
INTEREST/DELINQUENT TAX PENALTIES			
Checking interest	9,962	0	9,962
Interest - Late & Delinquent Taxes	9,751	13,000	(3,249)
Penalties - Late & Delinquent Taxes	15,179	16,000	(821)
Total Interest/Delinquent Tax Penalties	34,892	29,000	5,892
GRANT INCOME RECEIVED			
Federal - Salt Shed Grant	147	0	147
VT - MERP Grant	4,000	0	4,000
VT - Culvert Grant	8,125	0	8,125
VT - Misc Grant	1,039	1,050	(11)
Total Reimbursable Grants/Income	13,311	1,050	12,261
INTERFUND TRANSFERS/LOANS			
Transfers from The Repairs & Replacements Trust Fund	200,000	0	200,000
Transfer from AARPA Fund	83,000	83,000	0
Total Interfund Transfers/Loans	283,000	83,000	200,000
OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REVENUE			
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) US Forestry	10,455	8,000	2,455
VT Reappraisal Payments	8,832	8,900	(68)
Local Option Room Tax	4,565	0	4,565
Grants for Library Use	18,300	0	18,300
Reimbursement from Library for Insurance	2,281	0	2,281
Reimbursement from Fire Department for Insurance	10,924	0	10,924
Total Other Governmental Payments	55,357	16,900	38,457
TOTAL REVENUE	4,700,122	4,171,175	528,947

TOWN OF WARDSBORO - GENERAL FUND
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024

	ACTUAL 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
TOWN OFFICES			
Clerk & Treasurer's Salary	51,278		
Assistant Clerk's Salary	25,685		
Selectboard Stipends	2,500		
Auditors Stipend	1,200		
Total Town Office Salary	80,663	84,270	3,607
Social Security	6,075	6,447	372
Retirement	4,041	4,424	383
Health Insurance	13,067	38,100	25,033
Advertising	918	1,000	82
Legal	900	800	(100)
Office Expense and Supplies	12,035	12,000	(35)
Capital Purchase	3,350	0	(3,350)
Printing and Postage	2,758	3,000	242
Electric/Heat	2,980	2,750	(230)
Phone	1,943	1,860	(83)
Maintenance	1,091	1,200	109
Total Town Offices	129,821	155,851	26,030
LISTERS			
Listers - Wages	13,142	10,218	(2,924)
Social Security	1,005	719	(286)
Reappraisal Expenses	8,499	4,063	(4,436)
Total Listers	22,646	15,000	(7,646)
ZONING			
Zoning - Wages	3,634	2,862	(772)
Social Security	278	219	(59)
Other Zoning Expenses	1,885	1,500	(385)
Total Zoning	5,797	4,581	(1,216)
TOWN HALL			
Electric/Heat	4,101	4,150	49
Phone & Internet	2,121	2,000	(121)
Maintenance	3,917	5,000	1,083
Total Town Hall	10,139	11,150	1,011
LIBRARY			
Librarian - Salary	37,615	38,805	1,190
Social Security	2,878	2,968	90
Retirement	1,975	2,037	62
Insurance	4,278	2,828	(1,450)
Phone	51	0	(51)
Town Appropriation	18,798	17,456	(1,342)
Grants Received for Library	18,000	0	(18,000)
Total Library	83,595	64,094	(19,501)

TOWN OF WARDSBORO - GENERAL FUND
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024

	ACTUAL 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
TRANSFER STATION			
Transfer Station - Wages	41,162	36,570	(4,592)
Social Security	3,054	2,639	(415)
Retirement	2,087	1,920	(167)
Health Insurance	10,923	23,000	12,077
Unemployment and Workers Compensation	3,363	3,500	137
Electric	423	600	177
Phone	704	665	(39)
Hauling - Compactor	25,672	25,000	(672)
Hauling - Recycling	25,202	22,500	(2,702)
Hauling - Compost	6,822	6,000	(822)
Hauling - Construction Debris	18,785	24,000	5,215
Dues	5,995	5,995	0
Maintenance	4,219	0	(4,219)
Office Expense and Supplies	3,571	3,500	(71)
Total Transfer Station	151,982	155,889	3,907
OTHER TOWN EXPENSES			
Ambulance Service	25,896	26,550	654
Cemetery Fund	6,821	5,000	(1,821)
Constable/Animal Control	1,921	3,265	1,344
Town-wide Insurance	11,329	13,805	2,476
Humane Society	385	385	0
MacMichael Park maintenance	2,153	0	(2,153)
Planning Commission	276	500	224
Street Lights	2,623	2,400	(223)
VT League of Cities & Towns	2,242	2,242	0
Windham County Tax	21,486	21,486	0
Windham Regional Commission	2,226	2,226	0
Total Other	77,358	77,859	501
TOTAL GENERAL TOWN EXPENSES	481,338	484,424	3,086

TOWN OF WARDSBORO - GENERAL FUND
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024

	ACTUAL 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT			
Road Foreman - Wages	81,243		
Road Crew - Wages	105,827		
Total Highway Department Wages	187,070	172,925	(14,145)
Social Security	14,311	13,229	(1,082)
Retirement	9,821	9,079	(742)
Unemployment	446	455	9
Insurance - Health	59,735	71,800	12,065
Insurance - Workers Compensation	10,958	11,000	42
Insurance - Vehicles	5,503	5,000	(503)
Insurance - Property & Casualty	7,202	6,400	(802)
Garage - Utilities and supplies	21,320	25,000	3,680
Chloride	10,874	15,000	4,126
Cold patch	0	1,000	1,000
Culverts	16,615	25,000	8,385
Gravel	60,174	65,000	4,826
Ditch Stone	5,796	10,000	4,204
Salt	23,629	38,000	14,371
Sand	55,372	65,000	9,628
Fuels	44,598	45,000	402
Truck & Equipment Maintenance	57,009	47,000	(10,009)
Subcontractors and Equipment Rental	21,490	15,000	(6,490)
Equipment Purchase	16,865	0	(16,865)
Miscellaneous	2,960	3,000	40
Total Highway Department	631,748	643,888	12,140
TOTAL GENERAL TOWN and HIGHWAY EXPENSES	1,113,086	1,128,312	15,226
EXPENSES REIMBURSEABLE BY GRANTS			
FEMA - 2021 Storm Expense	9,557	0	(9,557)
FEMA - 2023 Storm Expense	534,552	0	(534,552)
Federal - Salt Shed Grant	51,371	0	(51,371)
VT - Culverts	28,640	0	(28,640)
VT - Stone Lined Ditches	4,697	0	(4,697)
Miscellaneous Grant Expenses	806	0	(806)
Total Grant Expenses	629,623	0	(629,623)
APPROPRIATIONS			
Voted Allocations	92,926	92,926	0
Total Appropriations	92,926	92,926	0

TOWN OF WARDSBORO - GENERAL FUND
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024

	ACTUAL 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.23 - 6.30.24	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
EDUCATION			
School - River Valley's Unified School District	2,714,870	2,732,287	17,417
School - State of VT Payment, paid directly to Education	309,077	309,077	0
Total Education	3,023,947	3,041,364	17,417
PAID FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS			
Fire Department Insurance - reimbursed	10,924	0	(10,924)
Total Reimbursements	10,924	0	(10,924)
INTERFUND TRANSFERS			
Transferred to Repairs & Replacements			
Highway Department			
- Bridge Repairs	0	20,000	20,000
- Capital Equipment	0	105,000	105,000
- Paving	0	115,000	115,000
- Building Maintenance	0	10,000	10,000
- Highway Special Projects	0	23,500	23,500
Town Office			
- Record Restoration	0	0	0
- Office Hardware	0	500	500
- Building Fund - Town Office	0	5,000	5,000
Other Funds			
- Building Fund - Town Hall	0	3,000	3,000
- Transfer Station Fund	0	2,000	2,000
Total Interfund Transfers	0	284,000	284,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,870,506	4,546,602	(323,904)

**TOWN OF WARDSBORO - TRUST FUNDS
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
JUNE 30, 2024**

Money Market Account for Repairs and Replacements and Other Trust Funds	July 1, 2023 Balance	Interest Income	Transfers from the General	Transfers to General Fund	June 30, 2024	
					General Fund Repaid Loan	Balance
<u>Highway Department</u>						
Bridge Repairs	133,815.52	123.33				133,938.85
Capital Equipment	178,917.84	179.56		100,000.00		79,097.40
Paving Fund	208,680.40	150.00		100,000.00		108,830.40
Building Fund - Garage	1,677.00	1.68				1,678.68
Highway Special Projects	105,382.64	105.76				105,488.40
<u>Town Office</u>						
Record Restoration	42,096.91	42.26				42,139.17
Office Hardware	4,734.89	4.74				4,739.63
Building Fund - Town Office	26,214.06	26.33				26,240.39
<u>Other Funds Subject to Town Spending Authority</u>						
Building Fund - Town Hall	51,615.53	51.80				51,667.33
Transfer Station Fund	29,182.68	29.29				29,211.97
Cemetery Fund	24,513.80	24.59				24,538.39
Trustees of Public Funds	19,124.44	19.18				19,143.62
<u>Other Funds Not Subject to Town Spending Authority</u>						
Curtain Call Fund	1,692.36	1.65				1,694.01
Totals	825,955.71	758.52	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	626,714.23

Community Development Program	July 1, 2023 Balance	Bank Interest	Loan Repayments	June 30, 2024	
				Balance	Balance
	29,262.92	29.35	0.00		29,292.27

In 1986, the Town received a \$24,000 grant, to provide a loan to a business in town.
As of June 30, 2024 there were no loans due to the Town.

TOWN OF WARDBORO - TRUST FUNDS
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
JUNE 30, 2024

	July 1, 2023	Bank	Loan	Loan	Bank	June 30, 2024
	Balance	Interest	Repayments	Disbursements	Svc Charges	Balance
Housing Improvement Program	110,651.59	120.38	13,033.21	0.00	12.60	123,792.58

In 1990, the Town received a grant to provide financial assistance to town residents who meet eligibility criteria for the purpose of improving and maintaining the physical environment in order to enhance the quality of life for all residents and provide decent, safe and sanitary housing, particularly for those of low and moderate incomes. As of June 30, 2024 the Town held 4 loans totaling \$39,056.70

	July 1, 2023	Bank	Lawn and Lighting Exp	June 30, 2024
	Balance	Interest	Current Year	Prior Years
MacMichael Park Fund	9,499.18	0.00		9,499.18

In 1998, the Town received a bequest of land and building to be used for the development of a recreational area for the benefit of the Town. During the year ended June 30, 2024 the town paid expenses totaling \$2,152.85 for the MacMichael Park. At year-end these amounts had not been repaid to the town. At June 30, 2024 the fund owed \$2,152.85 to the Town. The remaining balance in the fund is to be used for park maintenance, mowing and lights.

	July 1, 2023	Unrealized	June 30, 2024
	Balance	Gain/(Loss)	Fees
Trustees of Public Accounts	9,876.45	457.15	13.08
			75.00
			10,271.68

**TOWN OF WARDSBORO - TRUST FUNDS
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
JUNE 30, 2024**

	June 30, 2023		June 30, 2023		Grant		June 30, 2024	
	Balance	Adjustment	Adj. Balance	Expenses	Balance			
American Rescue Plan Act Grant (ARPA)	187,761.15	191.25	187,952.40	87,503.42	100,448.98			
The prior period adjustment is for employment tax expense associated with the essential worker's bonus that was allocated to the grant reported to the grantor.								
During the current year the town appropriated \$87,503.42 of ARPA funds for Town expenses.								
Interfund transfer for Highway Department payroll				83,000.00				
Fire Department/Emergency Management expenses				1,535.60				
Town Offices expenses				583.88				
Highway Department equipment				658.06				
MacMichael Park rendering				140.00				
Town Website Development				1,585.88				
Total appropriations by Town				87,503.42				

The prior period adjustment is for employment tax expense associated with the essential worker's bonus that was allocated to the grant on the general ledger but not reported to the grantor.

During the current year the town appropriated \$87,503.42 of ARPA funds for Town expenses.

Interfund transfer for Highway Department payroll	83,000.00
Fire Department/Emergency Management expenses	1,535.60
Town Offices expenses	583.88
Highway Department equipment	658.06
MacMichael Park rendering	140.00
Town Website Development	1,585.88
Total appropriations by Town	<u>87,503.42</u>

The cash from the grants received in prior years were deposited to the general fund checking account. Therefore, at June 30, 2024 the Town owed \$100,448.98 to the ARPA Fund.

TOWN OF WARDBORO - ALL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
Page 1 of 2
JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Repairs and Replacements	American Rescue Plan Act	Library	MacMichael Park
Assets:					
Cash	19,183	626,714	0	114,796	9,499
Investment Account				115,437	
Due from Other Funds			100,449		
Loans Receivable					
Total Assets	19,183	626,714	100,449	230,233	9,499
Liabilities:					
Due to Other Funds	100,449				
Fund Balance	(81,266)	626,714	100,449	230,233	9,499
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	19,183	626,714	100,449	230,233	9,499

**TOWN OF WARDSBORO - ALL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

Page 2 of 2
JUNE 30, 2024

	Community Development	Housing Improvement	Trustees of Public Funds - Prudential	Eliminating Entries	Total
Assets:					
Cash	29,292	123,793			923,277
Investment Account			10,272		125,709
Due from Other Funds				(100,449)	0
Loans Receivable					0
Total Assets	29,292	123,793	10,272	(100,449)	1,048,986
Liabilities:					
Due to Other Funds				(100,449)	0
Fund Balance	29,292	123,793	10,272		1,048,986
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	29,292	123,793	10,272	(100,449)	1,048,986

TOWN OF WARDBORO - ALL FUNDS
SUMMARY of INCOME and EXPENDITURES
Page 1 of 2
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Repairs and Replacements	American Rescue Plan Act	Library	MacMichael Park
Income					
Tax Revenue	4,143,127				
General Town Revenue	20,038				
Transfer Station	54,057				
Highway Funds	96,340				
Interest, Dividends, and Tax Penalties	34,892	759		5,757	
Grant Dollars Received	13,311			16,664	
Interfund Transfers and Loans	283,000			18,798	
Other Government Payments	55,357			6,600	
Loan Repayments					
Donations				14,780	
Program/Event Income				15,236	
Miscellaneous Income				253	
Unrealized Gain (Loss)				3,529	
Total Income	4,700,122	759	0	81,617	0
Expenditures					
Town Offices	129,821		2,170		
Listers	22,646				
Zoning	5,797				
Town Hall	10,139				
Library	83,595				
Transfer Station	151,982		(191)		
Other Expenses	77,358		1,675		
Highway Department	631,748		658		
Expenses Reimbursable by Grants	629,623				
Voted Appropriations	92,926				
Education	3,023,947				
Reimbursements	10,924				
Interfund Transfers and Loans		200,000	83,000		
Bank Service Charges					
Communications/Information Technology					2,528
Program/Event Expenses					31,252
Occupancy/Utilities					11,210
Office/Supplies					6,027
Grounds					1,730
Total Expenditures	4,870,506	200,000	87,312	52,747	0
Income Over (Under) Expenditures	(170,384)	(199,241)	(87,312)	28,870	0

TOWN OF WARDBORO - ALL FUNDS
SUMMARY of INCOME and EXPENDITURES
Page 2 of 2
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024

	Community Development	Housing Improvement	Trustees of Public Funds - Prudential	Eliminating Entries	Total
Income					
Tax Revenue					4,143,127
General Town Revenue					20,038
Transfer Station					54,057
Highway Funds					96,340
Interest, Dividends, and Tax Penalties	29	120	457		41,557
Grants					29,975
Interfund Transfers and Loans				(301,798)	0
Other Government Payments					61,957
Loan Repayments					13,033
Donations		13,033			14,780
Program/Event/Merchandise Income					15,236
Miscellaneous Income					253
Unrealized Gain (Loss)			13		3,529
Total Income	29	13,153	470	(301,798)	4,493,882
Expenditures					
Town Offices					131,991
Listers					22,646
Zoning					5,797
Town Hall					10,139
Library				(18,798)	64,797
Transfer Station					151,791
Other Expenses					79,033
Highway Department					632,406
Grant Expenses					629,623
Voted Appropriations					92,926
Education					3,023,947
Reimbursements					10,924
Interfund Transfers and Loans				(283,000)	0
Bank Service Charges		12	75		12
Communications/Information Technology					2,528
Program/Event Expenses					31,252
Occupancy/Utilities					11,210
Office/Supplies					6,027
Grounds					1,730
Total Expenditures	0	12	75	(301,798)	4,908,779
Income Over (Under) Expenditures	29	13,141	395	0	(414,897)

TOWN of WARDSBORO - TAXES RECEIVED RECONCILIATION

Grand List Net of Exemptions	2023	2022		
	2,225,083	1,576,818		
Education Homestead Grand list	635,762	449,793		
Education Non-Homestead Grand list	1,589,321	1,127,025		
Total Education Grand list	2,225,083	1,576,818		
Voted Funds - Municipal	f/y/e 6.30.24	f/y/e 6.30.23	Municipal Tax Rates	
Town	2023	2022	2023	2022
Highway	243,646	158,465	0.1005	0.1005
Appropriations	716,700	677,717	0.4298	0.4298
	152,196	125,830	0.0798	0.0798
Total Taxation Approved by Voters	1,112,542	962,012	0.6101	0.6101
Educational Taxation				
Education Tax - Homestead	898,776	816,914	1.8162	1.8162
Education Tax - Non-Homestead	2,133,029	1,883,484	1.6712	1.6712
Total Education Taxtion	3,031,805	2,700,398		
Total to be Raised by Taxation	4,144,347	3,662,410		
Taxes Billed	4,144,346.59	3,662,410.05		
Posting adjustments	0.00	4,911.48		
Current year property taxes unpaid at 6.30	(81,835.60)	(39,738.33)		
Prior year delinquent taxes paid in current year	36,849.99	77,441.06		
Prior year delinquent taxes paid 7.1 to 8.29	(8,312.63)	(31,604.28)		
Current year delinquent taxes paid 7.1 to 8.29	18,129.23	8,312.63		
Current year tax abatements	(1.42)	(448.37)		
Billed Taxes Received	4,109,176.16	3,681,284.24		
VT State - Land Use Reimbursement	33,951.00	33,525.00		
Reported Tax Revenue	4,143,127.16	3,714,809.24		

Under the modified cash basis of accounting, during the year end June 30, 2024, the Town billed \$4,144,346.59 and collected \$4,143,127.16.

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
DELINQUENT TAX SUMMARY

Delinquent Taxes at the Beginning of the Year	52,958.85	2021	2,299.82
Current year taxes deemed delinquent - 2/12/24	250,092.57	2022	13,809.04
Delinquent taxes collected	(205,106.96)	2023	81,835.60
Delinquent Taxes at the End of the Year	97,944.46	June 30, 2024	97,944.46
Allen, Joanne	369.99	Knapp, Ira John, Jr & Michelle	133.56
Andrews, John & Deirdre	325.27	Kolenda, Kale & Voydatch, Victoria	789.64
Antonik, Paul Estate	126.74	Lamarche, Jared	3,520.57
Beaton, James	744.81	Lariviere, Michelle	477.53
Bechtold, Robert & Kristen	5,910.72	Marcus, David	2,837.03
Bills, Eugene II Estate & Dennis	3,640.86	Maturo, Melissa A.	2,845.72
Bowser, Susan	534.12	Miller, Matthew & London, Daphne	459.20
Carrafiello, Gregory	691.93	Miller, Matthew and London, Daphne	791.37
Dlubac, Paul Estate	91.80	Naz Homes, LLC	22.11
DMG VT Properties	5,259.20	Olbrych, Aaron	1,603.18
Dootsi, Arash	29.29	Pitts-Schleifer, Nancy Estate	546.70
Doyle, Douglas	405.26	Recca, Michael and Hudson, Christine	4,140.77
Duquette, Richard	530.16	Reid, Kenneth J & Lefkothea	3,752.91
Eickwort, Patricia & John Kennedy	1,861.50	Reid, Kenneth J II	147.37
Fedus, Gregg & Consentino, Robert Jr.	3,350.25	Russo, Aaron G & Cattherine	1,661.44
Fitzpatrick, Jeffery and Michael Jr.	2,574.34	Sidrane, Edna	2,115.95
Glenney, Nicholas	929.89	Snell, Forrest J.	165.79
Guerin, Gary	2,145.89	Summa, Heather Catherine and Bechtold, Adam	647.65
Hoyt, Jeffrey	3,803.92	Terra, Colin	126.74
Irvine, James	2,877.91	Tomkins, Georgia & Duane	7,206.97
Jalet, Benjamin	410.42	Valard, Leo A.	589.17
Janifer, Meg	6,869.81	Vallancourt, Edward	1,819.04
Jenne, Sherm	935.79	Vanleeuwen, John	1,744.37
Joslin, Yvonne & Amsden, Marcia	3,804.75	Vermont Project LLC	982.39
Kaiser, KJ & TA	4,211.90	W.B.P.S. Realty Co	1,760.31
Kleppner, Amy Revocable Trust	208.42	Zargo, Jaime J	4,412.04
		Total	97,944.46



DVFiber

empowering our connection to the future

DVFiber Annual Report of Activities Through September 30, 2024

BY THE NUMBERS



2,427

locations available
for service

600+

current customers
including voice



240

miles built

ten



crews working

Now servicing:

Readsboro, Stamford,
Whitingham & Halifax

Future planned service:

Brattleboro, Brookline, Dover,
Dummerston, Guilford, Jamaica,
Londonderry, Marlboro, Newfane,
Putney, Searsburg, Stratton,
Townshend, Vernon, Wardsboro,
Westminster, Weston, Wilmingtong,
Windham, Winhall

IN THEIR WORDS

"The competitors are never going to go up the dirt roads. But DVFiber is going everywhere... The alternatives have been so bad — and expensive — having DVFiber is like night and day."

- Jon H., Readsboro

"It's really fast and works really well."

- Stewart J., Stamford

"DVFiber has made my life so much easier. It's absolutely so fast! Before when pages would load I would sit and wait and wait and play Solitaire. Now the pages come up so quickly... no Solitaire!"

- Marylou P., Halifax

Year Five Budget

	FY 2024		FY 2025
	Budget	Actual (Projected)	Budget
Operating Revenue	\$503,697	\$465,442	\$857,678
Grant Revenue - Construction	\$9,158,716	\$10,182,741	\$5,249,114
Grant Revenue - Ops	\$794,608	\$1,133,121	\$989,566
Other Revenue	\$50,000	\$200,382	\$45,262
Net Revenue	\$10,507,021	\$11,981,686	\$7,141,620
Expenditures			
Admin Costs	\$534,670	\$600,977	\$704,878
Operating Costs	\$813,635	\$430,362	\$946,901
Construction Costs	\$9,158,716	\$10,182,741	\$5,249,113
Total Expenditures	\$10,507,021	\$11,214,079	\$6,900,892
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$0	\$767,607	\$240,728

*FY 2023 Financial Statements can be found in our FY 2023 Audit



Stay Connected

Scan the QR code or visit DVFiber.net to order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter.

Contact Us

844.383.6246

info@mydvfiber.net

WARDSBORO HISTORY GROUP, LTD – 2024 doings :

Our current officers are: Board of Directors – Bob LeBlond and Paul Rush, and the following officers: Jan Hull, Secretary; Jane Robinson, Treasurer; Dan Hescok, Vice-President, and Michelle Hull, President.

Our 4th of July exhibit was a display of various older homes and businesses in Wardsboro City. A special feature of this exhibit was the handmade quilt that the students of Wardsboro Elementary School designed and put together for the State of Vermont Bicentennial. Their teacher and the school secretary put the quilt together as a long-lasting tribute to this time period. The former students who came to our exhibit and viewed the quilt were delighted to see it preserved and displayed. It sparked a lot of fun, good laughs, and memories.

Items donated to the Wardsboro History Group this year include the glass plates depicting scenes in Stratton, VT, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Steiner of Stratton which our photo group developed earlier. We also received an assortment of crochet and lace-making needles. And a one dozen size egg box from Meadowbrook Farm in Wardsboro when the proprietors were John and Phyllis Cuspilich.

Lead by Dan Hescok and Bob LeBlond, we had our first archaeological dig in our own backyard. It was an interesting day of many finds – not sure yet if any of the items found are of historical value – but studies will be conducted.

As soon as we are able and feel it is safe to do so, our building committee will get going again on restoration of our old store building. We have contacted a local craftsman who is interested in working with us on the project. Info will be forthcoming.

There are a number of folks who want us to succeed in keeping the old store building on its feet for another couple of hundred years or more, and we have received many dollars from these kind friends and neighbors and we thank them for their donations to us.

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HISTORY, WARDSBORO, RESEARCH, OR WHO JUST WANT TO SUPPORT OUR ENDEAVORS.

Sincerely, Jan Hull, Secretary







SeVEDS Impact Statement for Wardsboro Town Report March 2025

Improving wages, creating jobs, & attracting and keeping people in the region is critical economic development work that is beyond the capacity of any single community to do on its own. **Southeastern VT Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) was founded as an affiliate of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) in 2007 to create regional strategies and attract resources that help us act together to build a thriving economy.** BDCC, Southeastern Vermont's Regional Development Corporation, contracts with SeVEDS to develop and implement these strategies in the Windham Region.

Our work is guided by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a 5 year regional plan that is developed with extensive regional input. The CEDS was updated in 2024 to inform the region's economic direction through 2029. The plan's central tenet is: **'Southern Vermont must adapt to the rapid pace of innovation, continuing climate change impacts, and trending demographic shifts.'** The full document is available at www.southernvermontzone.com/ceds.

Background & Request

To support this work, SeVEDS requests funding at \$3.00 per person from all 27 towns we serve. **Therefore, we are asking the Town of Wardsboro to appropriate \$2,562 (based on a population of 864) to support SeVEDS.**

In 2024, 22 communities, representing 86% of Windham region residents, voted to invest in SeVEDS. We use this municipal funding in three key ways:

1. To directly **fund implementation** of programs & projects serving local communities, businesses and people.
2. To build **regional economic development capacity**. SeVEDS uses municipal funding to create programs, conduct research and planning, secure and administer grants, and to help regional partners.
3. As **seed funding**. We leverage your dollars to bring additional money to the region to provide technical assistance and programs: **every dollar contributed by towns is matched to bring in outside funding**. In FY24 we helped bring over **\$7.5 Million** to our region – funding that supports the work of our region's towns, businesses and nonprofits.

Program Impacts

- BDCC's newly expanded **Business Services** provides technical assistance and lending. We work with businesses of any size, from startup to retirement. We encourage every local business to reach out – if we can't help, we'll connect you with someone who can. We'll also connect local business owners with new **"BizConnect" events now happening every month around the region**.
- Regionally, we **support jobs** for the many Wardsboro folks who commute out of town to work, by working with hundreds of businesses, including many of the area's largest employers.
- Our **Workforce Team** creates programs like **Pipelines and Pathways**: a program that provides training and support to students in area High Schools, including Leland and Gray and the Windham Regional Career Center. The **Southern Vermont Young Professionals** group helps young adults in their 20's-40's advance their careers and deepen their connections in the region.
- The **Welcoming Communities** program has supported **207** New Americans who have filled positions in **51** local companies, keeping our regional economy thriving.
- The **Southern Vermont Economy Project (SVEP)** helps towns and non-profits improve community vibrancy through local projects. Since 2017 SVEP has provided 100+ trainings with over 2,000 participants to help community projects solve problems and find resources.
- SVEP came to Wardsboro for a **Community Stakeholder Meeting** in January 2023 to help the Select Board and residents establish shared goals and a list of local projects. The resulting report has helped Wardsboro take better advantage of state programs like the Municipal Technical Assistance Program and the Municipal Energy Resilience Program in 2024.

More SeVEDS-Led Programming

For a deeper overview of our programs, visit our website at www.brattleborodevelopment.com. There you can sign up for our e-newsletter to get updates including state and federal economic and community development resources, or download our annual report (you can also call the office to receive your own copy: 802-257-7731).

Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies & Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
76 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 www.brattleborodevelopment.com 802-257-7731



Caring For Our Communities in Sickness and in Health

"I'm 'medical phobic' and avoided health care for years, until I no longer could. Grace Cottage is so homey, with kind and very competent staff. I've been telling everyone I know that Grace Cottage is the best!" ~ *Lisa Place, Wilmington, VT*

"I am a true fan of Grace Cottage. I went from doctors and hospitals in Boston to Grace Cottage, and I am finding the care far superior." ~ *Susan Holsapple, Londonderry, VT*

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has served the healthcare needs of our rural community with competence and compassion for more than 75 years. In 2024, Grace Cottage was again named "Best Hospital," "Best Emergency Care," "Best Physical Therapy," "Best Pharmacy," "Best Doctors," "Best Pediatricians," and "Best Place to Work" in the *Brattleboro Reformer* Readers' Choice Best of Windham County Awards.

Grace Cottage Hospital is comprised of a 19-bed inpatient facility for acute and rehabilitative care, a 24-hour Emergency Department, a hospice care suite, and laboratory and diagnostic imaging departments. Grace Cottage is contracted with Dartmouth Health to offer TeleEmergency and TeleNeurology services. In 2023, Grace Cottage completed a 17' x 42' expansion of the Emergency Department in response to the substantial increase in the number of emergency visits in recent years.

Grace Cottage Family Health offers expanded hours for convenience and is accepting new patients. More than 8,000 area residents choose Grace Cottage for their **primary care**. We offer physicals and wellness visits, chronic disease management, pediatrics, geriatrics, and mental health services. Grace Cottage welcomes all members of the community and is one of three Vermont hospitals named a Top Performer in the national Human Rights Campaign Foundation's LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Index. Patient volume in the clinic has grown exponentially, and in response to this burgeoning community need, Grace Cottage has embarked on a project to construct a new clinic building with increased capacity, comfort, and convenience.

Grace Cottage's **Community Health Team** offers free services to area residents, including nutrition, lifestyle, and diabetes coaching; care coordination; and help with social services and financial assistance applications.

Grace Cottage's **Rehabilitation Department** offers exceptional care for both inpatients and outpatients. The 16 physical and occupational therapists also offer lymphedema therapy, custom orthotics, women's health, and pelvic health physical therapy. Because of the increase in demand for these services, the department has moved into the Heins Building, providing larger quarters for these important services.

Grace Cottage's Messenger Valley Pharmacy continues to provide convenient prescription fulfillment for all members of the community, along with expert advice and friendly service. We fill orders from any provider, including veterinarians. Many over-the-counter medications, personal care items, gifts, and greeting cards are also available.

Grace Cottage is an independent, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Town appropriations and other donations enable us to provide the best possible care for our region. On behalf of all of the patients that we serve, **thank you for your support.** You help to make Grace Cottage the special place that it is.

Fiscal Year 2024, by the numbers:

29,982: Patient visits to Grace Cottage Family Health

3,674: Patient days in hospital

4,195: Emergency Dept. visits

11,354: Outpatient Physical & Occupational Rehab visits

1,877: Diagnostic Imaging visits (CT Scan, X-ray, ultrasound, bone density)

1,630: Community Health Team visits

2,080: Individual donations to Grace Cottage

Grace Cottage Family Health
802-365-4331

Grace Cottage Hospital
802-365-7357

Grace Cottage Rehabilitation
802-365-3637

Messenger Valley Pharmacy
802-365-4117

P.O. Box 216, 185 Grafton Road, Townshend, Vermont 05353 www.gracecottage.org



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

**Success on
Green Up Day
May 4, 2024**



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.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives. We received a special flood recovery donation from Subaru of New England and have been able to rally volunteers and pay for many flood clean-up projects across the State.

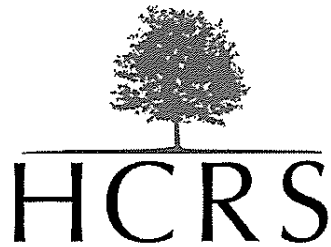
Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2025.

Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of where we all get to live, work and play.

Be an Environmental Hero – Donate on **Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form** or at www.greenupvermont.org.

2025 Green Up Day is May 3rd.

Green Up Vermont is a 501c3 nonprofit.



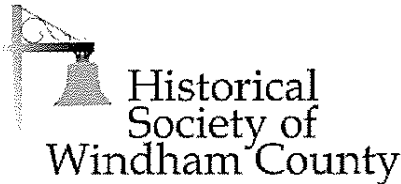
**Health Care & Rehabilitation Services
Narrative Report for FY24 for Town of Wardsboro**

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) is a comprehensive community mental health provider serving residents of Windsor and Windham counties. HCRS assists and advocates for individuals, families, and children who are living with mental health issues, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. HCRS provides these services through outpatient mental health, substance use, community rehabilitation and treatment, and developmental services programs. HCRS also offers 24/7 emergency services for anyone experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

During FY24, HCRS provided 202 hours of services to 13 residents of the Town of Wardsboro. The services provided included all of HCRS' programs resulting in a wide array of supports for the residents of Wardsboro.

Anyone with questions about HCRS services should contact George Karabakakis, Chief Executive Officer, at (802) 886-4500.





For inclusion in the Town Report:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WINDHAM COUNTY

The Historical Society of Windham County was founded in 1927, making it one of the oldest historical societies in the State. Since its founding, the Society has faithfully fulfilled its mission of protecting, preserving and presenting the historical and cultural development of the towns of Windham County for the education and enlightenment of the general public.

Just nine years after its founding, the Society's Executive Committee voted to erect a Museum in the County seat of Newfane to showcase the Society's already growing collection. Notwithstanding The Great Depression, the County Museum was constructed in 1936 and dedicated by Governor George Aiken the following year.

The Historical Society extended its scope in the Fall of 2014, when it purchased the old Newfane Railroad Station, comprising the 1880 Depot building and its associated Water Tank House. The Society saved the historic buildings from total deterioration, and at the same time acquired what may very well be the last surviving water tank house in the State of Vermont. Restoration of the Station took three years, and the Grand Opening of the West River Railroad Museum was held in 2017. The following year, the Historical Society of Windham County was the recipient of the Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation from the Vermont Historical Society.

Now, after the past year's extensive renovations of the 1825 County Jail Building, including the original jail cells, we are in reach of being able to see a new History Museum open next season in this historic landmark. We are currently creating the actual museum exhibits in what is a greatly expanded space for the Society. The three-story Jail building allows us to effectively present our collection--much of which has been in storage for decades for lack of exhibit space in the old Museum. At the same time, the Society is reorganizing its extensive archival and genealogical resources in the old Museum for greater public access in what will become the Society's new Research Center.

For almost a century, generations of Windham County residents have entrusted the Historical Society of Windham County to safeguard their heritage. As the Historical Society approaches its second century in just a few years, we hope you share our belief that all our towns would be poorer if our rich local history was ever lost. Admission to the History Museum and the West River Railroad Museum has always been free. The same is true for the special events and programs, as well as archival and genealogical research services provided by the Historical Society of Windham County. None of this comes free for us however, and clearly we couldn't do it without the support of our community. Your support will help us continue to protect and present Windham County's heritage for generations to come.

We thank you for your consideration.

Board of Directors

The County History Museum and the West River Railroad Museum are open Saturday and Sunday afternoons from Memorial Day weekend through Indigenous Peoples Day weekend, as well as by appointment. School group visits are encouraged. The West River Railroad Museum is open from Noon - 4:00. The County Museum is open from Noon - 5:00. Inquiries are fielded year-round (info@historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org).

Please visit our website for more information, and the latest news and schedule of events: www.historicalsofwindhamcounty.org.

Rescue Inc continues to serve as your regional non-profit ambulance service provider. We are honored to be serving our community and proud to have been able to answer every 911 call for service in the last eight years. In the last year our members responded to and assisted 6000 patients in need, providing lifesaving care and ambulance transport to and from our local hospitals and nursing homes. This year our team received the Mission Lifeline Gold award for cardiac and stroke care demonstrating our commitment to excellence. Our team remains committed to providing the best possible emergency and nonemergency care to our community.

Our technical rescue team assisted dozens of people lost in the wilderness of southern Vermont, providing warm clothes, medical care and direction. We aided the state with flood response, rescuing trapped flood victims and recovering the bodies of those that did not survive.

At the Vermont EMS Academy, our education team has continued to expand our class offerings at our state-of-the-art training facility located in Newfane. We have worked tirelessly to reverse the workforce challenges facing our local agencies. Partnerships with our local hospitals, first response agencies and the generous support of grants and donations have made this work possible. We now have training programs that will help support local businesses with safety compliance.

We have had an amazing start to our Mobile Integrated Health program in partnership with Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Our team has been working with the orthopedics team to provide out of hospital follow up care and education to total joint replacement patients. Expansions in this program over the next couple years will help bring chronic illness care provided by Rescue Inc EMTs and Paramedics to patients. This innovative program will reduce unnecessary hospitalization and improve the health of our community.

In the last 58 years we have shared both joy and tragedy with so many families in our region. Rescue Inc is committed to continue our history of innovation and excellence with an emphasis on compassion for many years to come. We thank you for your support and trusting all of us with such an important mission.



Drew Hazelton, Chief of Operations
Rescue Inc



SENIOR SOLUTIONS
Detailed Report to the Town of Wardsboro

Senior Solutions, Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. has served the residents of Wardsboro and Southeastern Vermont since 1973. We have offices in Springfield (main office), Windsor and Brattleboro. Our mission is to promote the well-being and dignity of older adults. Our vision is that every person will age in the place of their choice, with the support they need and the opportunity for meaningful relationships and active engagement in their community.

This is a summary of services provided to Wardsboro residents in the time period of 7/1/2023-6/30/2024.

Information & Assistance: 29 Calls or Office Visits. Our HelpLine (802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376) offers information, referrals and assistance to older Vermonters, their families, and their caregivers to problem-solve, plan, and access resources. We assist with health insurance problems, long-term care applications, fuel assistance, applying for benefits, and many other needs. Extensive resources are also on our website: www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org

Medicare Assistance: 7 Calls or Office Visits. Wardsboro residents received assistance with Medicare issues and enrollment through our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides Medicare education and counseling, classes for new Medicare enrollees, and help enrolling in Part D and choosing a drug plan.

In-Home Care Coordination Services: We provided 10 residents with in-home case management or other home-based assistance (totaling 97 hours) to enable them to remain living safely at home. A Senior Solutions case manager meets clients at home to create and monitor a person-centered plan of care. Based on this plan, case managers work to secure services that support the client in the community. We also support clients with self-neglect behaviors, and help those who experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Nutrition Services and Meal Programs: We partnered with The Dam Diner and Jamaica Community Church to provide 995 Home-Delivered Meals, plus community meal gatherings in our region.

Senior Solutions administers federal and state funds to local organizations to supplement their operating costs for these meal programs. The funds we provide do not cover the full cost, so local meal sites must seek additional funding to meet operating costs. Senior Solutions does not use town funding to support these meal programs and does not benefit from any funds that towns provide directly to local meal sites. Senior Solutions also offers the services of a registered dietitian to older adults and to local meal sites.

Volunteer Visitors: Our volunteers provided home visits, telephone reassurance, and respite for family caregivers. Our Vet-to-Vet program matches Veteran volunteers with Veteran recipients.

Other Services: Residents may also have received one or more of the following services: caregiver respite, transportation, wellness and fall prevention programs, options counseling, legal assistance (through Vermont Legal Aid), assistance for adults with disabilities, pet care support, and home-based mental health services.

Senior Solutions is enormously grateful for the support of the people from the Town of Wardsboro.

Submitted by Mark Boutwell, Executive Director



Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community-based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965. Our mission is to *empower and partner with individuals and communities to alleviate the hardships of poverty; provide opportunities to thrive; and eliminate the root causes of poverty.*

SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Home Repair, Family Services (crisis resolution, fuel, utility, housing, and food assistance), Micro-Business Development, Financial Coaching (asset building & financial literacy), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, a Community Solar program, and a Thrift Store Voucher Program.

SEVCA has served a total of 17 unduplicated households comprised of 30 people in Wardsboro between Oct 2023 and the end of September 2024. Unduplicated means that some of these households may have received services from more than one of our program areas.

In Wardsboro, SEVCA's impact in FY2024 included:

- No-cost weatherization services that reduce a household's energy costs and make homes healthier and safer valued at least \$43,728.
- Fuel & utility assistance to keep people's homes heated and their power on valued at least \$5,409.
- Community solar energy assistance valued at \$408 to reduce member household's energy costs
- 3 Households received assistance preparing their income taxes to take advantage of tax credits, refunds and rebates.
- **The combined value of services provided to residents in the Town of Wardsboro exceeded \$49,545. The figures reported here are for direct client assistance only and do not include the cost of SEVCA providing these services through staffing and operating costs.**

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but increase and improve service. We thank the residents of Wardsboro for their support.

Josh Davis, Executive Director
Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA)
91 Buck Drive
Westminster, VT 05158
(800) 464-9951 or (802) 722-4575
sevca@sevca.org
www.sevca.org

at Hapgood, projects funded by the Great American Outdoors Act are underway and include improving accessible fishing access and repairs to the bathhouse.

Winhall: In partnership with GMC and funded by the Great American Outdoors Act, a trail bridge on the Appalachian / Long Trail was replaced just north of the Lye Brook Wilderness. Within the Lye Brook Wilderness, trail crews worked several weeks at hardening the trail tread.

Stratton: In partnership with GMC, a caretaker provided onsite information and maintained back country facilities and trails at Stratton Pond. On the Appalachian / Long Trail, trail crews

worked several weeks at hardening trail tread through the Lye Brook Wilderness. The information kiosk at Stratton Pond Trailhead was updated with new trail and shelter locations and overall information since the project work at Stratton Pond is complete. This kiosk panel was funded by an Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association grant. At Grout Pond Recreation Area, a VYCC crew assisted Forest Service staff in trail maintenance projects on the Pond Loop and West Loop trails. Vault toilets in the recreation site were removed and upgraded as part of the ongoing Grout Pond Recreation Site Improvements underway.

Wardsboro: The Wardsboro Pathfinders, with permission from the town and Forest Service, worked to mitigate the effects of illegal trail work on the 710 trail on National Forest land. Efforts were also made in blocking off illegal OHV trails coming onto National Forest land in the area as well.

Woodford: In partnership with GMC and Greenagers, much needed trail work was accomplished on the Appalachian / Long Trail north of Stage Road to Vermont State Route 9.

Stamford: In partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and GMC, trail tread work on the Appalachian / Long Trail was completed south of Risky Ranch Road.



USDA Forest Service photo. 2024 SCA interns meet on the Great Cliffs of Mt Horrid in Joseph Battell Wilderness, Goshen, VT.



Construction of an aquatic organism passage culvert replacement on Forest Road 73 in Woodford, VT. USDA Forest Service photo.

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2024

Brattleboro Local Health Office | 232 Main St. Suite 3, Brattleboro, VT
802.257.2882 | AHS.VDHBattleboro@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The Brattleboro Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to people in Windham and Windsor counties. Some highlights of our work in 2024 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/Brattleboro



Improve Family and Child Health

Family and Child Health is an essential part of what we do

- We provided WIC food benefits, nutrition support, and breast/chestfeeding education to nearly 600 families in the past year
- Our team has prioritized meeting the needs of all of our clients. We are proud to offer both WIC appointments as well as nutrition education resources in multiple languages to meet the diverse needs of our community
- In partnership with several community partners, we have worked to get cribs, pack-n-plays, diapers, wipes, as well as adult hygiene products to community members with the most need



Protect Community Health

Our team has been a leader in vaccinations for our community

- The Brattleboro team has continued to prioritize vaccinations for a diversity of community members from vaccination clinics in partnership with local refugee resettlement agencies to going out to local farms to vaccinate farm workers along with on-site vaccination for community members facing barriers
- We have established strong partnerships with local long-term care facilities and hospitals in the district to assist in managing illness outbreaks and help keep residents and staff safe
- Our team continues to be a resource for preventative needs in the community. From large-scale COVID test kit distributions to getting condoms out to community partners, we prioritize prevention



Create Resilient Communities

We prioritize making community-wide impacts

- In response to major barriers to accessing dental care, in October 2024 the Brattleboro office hosted a dental clinic in partnership with Windham County Dental Center that served 50 community members. We hope to host more clinics in the next year
- We also work extensively with local partners to improve access to physical activity, sunscreen, tick prevention, and emergency preparedness resources





DOG LICENSING & THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”!

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 “VSNIP”

VSNIP 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: VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987, serving the residents of Windham and southern Windsor County. We provide housing for residents with low and moderate incomes, provide supportive services, preserve and revitalize neighborhoods, help residents acquire their own homes, and support homeowners with critical repairs to homes in Windham and southern Windsor County.

WWHT's mission is *to strengthen the communities of Southeast Vermont through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable housing and through ongoing support and advocacy for its residents.*

The organization applies mission to practice through three branches: Homeownership, Housing Development, and Property Management. The **Homeownership's** Home Repair Program assisted *17 homeowners* by providing low-cost loans to make critical repairs. *95 participants completed the Homebuyer Educational Workshop.* The one-to-one counseling assisted *19 new homeowners* in 2024 by navigating them through the purchase process to closing on their new home. The *Shared Equity program has 141 homes* currently and provides grants to income-eligible homebuyers to subsidize the purchase of single-family homes which lowers the cost to the homebuyer. The VHIP (Vermont Housing Improvement Program) works with private landowners to rehab and/or create new units. There are 91 units under construction spread across the whole of Windham and Windsor Counties this year with a healthy pipeline for 2025 with VHIP 2.0 funds.

Housing Development: WWHT develops affordable rental housing opportunities which meet the diverse housing needs within a community. This takes the form of both the rehabilitation of existing housing and the construction of new apartments. In 2022, *the Bellows Falls Garage opened creating 27 new, affordable apartments* to downtown Bellows Falls. The *Central & Main 25-apartment development in downtown Windsor* will be opening spring of 2025, leasing information will be available through Stewart Property Management. *Alice Holway Drive in Putney is slated to create 25 new homes* within the village and is planned to break ground in 2025. We are also in the funding phase for the innovative redevelopment plan of the Chalet property, a multi-phase development that will cumulate in a new neighborhood of rental townhomes, multifamily apartments for general occupancy, single family shared equity homeownership properties, and the restoration of the iconic original Chalet building. Information and updates on all these can be found under the FAQ tab on our website. www.homemattershere.org

Property Management: WWHT owns 83 residential properties housing 16 commercial spaces with 929 rental apartments and 3 mobile home parks, home to over 1,500 residents. We manage the rental properties in southern Windham County and contract with Stewart Property Management for the properties in northern Windham and Windsor Counties. WWHT takes pride in the appearance of our multi-family housing and is committed to providing the staff and financial resources necessary to ensure the long-term health and safety of our residents as well as the preservation of property values. For resident support, between Windsor's SASH program and Brattleboro-area's SASH For All, we had over *137 participants connected to health and wellness resources.*

Although WWHT is a non-profit, we pay local property taxes on our rental properties and our shared-equity homeowners pay property taxes to the Towns and Villages.



The mission of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is to assist towns in Southeastern Vermont to provide effective local governance and to work collaboratively with them to address regional issues. The region is comprised of 27-member towns: the 23 towns of Windham County; Readsboro, Searsburg and Winhall in Bennington County; and Weston in Windsor County.

The Commission, a political subdivision of the state, is composed of and governed by town-appointed Commissioners. Towns choose their own representatives to serve on the Commission. After town meeting, each Selectboard appoints up to two representatives to serve on the Commission for a one-year term. Wardsboro is currently represented by Jack Cunningham and Paul Spector. Each Commissioner represents their town's interests within a regional context before the Commission, brings information from the Commission back to their town, and serves on at least one of a number of WRC committees that address regional and municipal issues and concerns. All WRC meetings are open to the public and subject to Vermont open meeting law. Committees and meeting schedules can be found on our website www.windhamregional.org.

We assist towns with a wide variety of activities, including updating town plans and bylaws; community and economic development; local emergency and hazard mitigation planning, including flood hazard area bylaw assistance; serving as a liaison between towns and the State Emergency Operations Center to report damage caused by a disaster; natural resource planning, including assisting towns with watershed restoration and water quality projects; energy resilience and planning; addressing transportation issues, including traffic counts (automotive, bicycle, pedestrian), inventories (bridges, culverts, signs, road erosion), and road foremen training; redevelopment of Brownfields sites (sites that are or may be contaminated by hazardous substances); review of projects submitted through Act 250 (land use), Section 248 (energy generation and transmission, telecommunications), and federal permitting processes; grant applications and administration; training of municipal officials and volunteers across a range of topics; and mapping and geographic information system (GIS) analyses. The maps in your town office were likely produced by the WRC.

We help towns, both individually and collectively, make the most of the financial and human resources they have, by assisting with projects in, and among towns, building and augmenting the capacity of volunteer-based town boards and commissions, and providing professional services to towns that may want to take on a project that is beyond what they can comfortably manage with their own staff and volunteers. Our relationship with towns is inherently collaborative.

Work highlights for 2024 include assisting towns with project development and applications to the state Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilient Communities programs, piloting a multi-town housing planning charrette process, supporting several towns with their town plan and zoning updates, assisting with the management of wastewater engineering and implementation projects, continued collaboration with Green Mountain Power on engaging with towns around grid resiliency, and helping towns access the Municipal Energy Resilience Program and the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. The WRC has also worked to bring more faculty and student engagement into the region, and this year brought in the University of Vermont, UMass-Amherst, and Norwich University on wastewater system mapping, housing and community connectedness, and river flood modeling, respectively. We are also updating the regional plan.

Funding for the WRC is provided through contracts with state agencies, federal and other grants, and town assessments. Town assessments made up approximately 5 percent of our total budget. Each town's individual assessment makes it possible for us to leverage the resources to serve all towns. The town's assessment for this year is \$2,384.40. To see our detailed Work Program and Budget for FY2025 and 2024 Annual Report, visit our website, www.windhamregional.org, and click on the heading "About Us."



WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
327 OLD FERRY ROAD, BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301
(802) 257-0272 windhamsolidwaste.org

2024

ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBER TOWNS

Bob Spencer, Executive Director

History and Current Status: The Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) was formed in 1988 by eight towns who cooperatively managed a 30-acre landfill on Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro until it closed in 1995. As more towns joined the District, a regional materials recovery facility (MRF) was constructed by the District adjacent to the closed landfill and processed dual-stream recyclable materials for 20 years until it stopped operating in 2017. Currently 18 towns are members of WSWMD which employs 7 full-time and 4 part-time persons to provide educational programs and operate the transfer station and composting facility on Old Ferry Road.

Town Solid Waste Services: Seven member towns, Dover, Jamaica, Readsboro, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Wilmington operate transfer stations for trash and recyclable materials. Other materials such as tires and electronics are also collected by some transfer stations, and most of the single stream recyclables are processed at the Casella MRF in Rutland. All town transfer stations are required to provide containers for drop-off of food scraps. Three towns, Brookline, Halifax, and Marlboro provide drop-off sites for recyclables. Two towns, Brattleboro and Westminster provide residential curbside trash and recycling collection. Six towns, Dummerston, Guilford, Newfane, Putney, Somerset, and Vernon do not provide any trash or recycling services. The WSWMD website has a map showing the services provided by each town. Residents and businesses can contract with haulers for trash and recycling collection services or purchase an annual access sticker at WSWMD for \$60 (a single day pass is \$15). There are several companies providing subscription collection of food scraps.

Financial Report: WSWMD finished fiscal year 2024 with a budget surplus of \$103,530. Revenues of \$1,588,087 off-set total expenses of \$1,356,786 and \$127,771 of capital plan and facility reserves.

The annual assessment to member towns for fiscal year 2024 was kept to a 4% increase.

Transfer Station: The WSWMD transfer station is a regional drop-off center for trash, recyclables, organics/food scraps, construction & demolition debris, scrap metal, and appliances. The transfer station also handles electronics, fluorescent tubes, ballasts, lead-acid and household batteries, waste oil and oil filters, paint, sharps/syringes, textiles, books, tires, and household hazardous waste. Use of the transfer station is limited to residents and businesses from member communities and requires the purchase of an access sticker at \$60/year. Approximately 3,000 customers purchase annual access stickers. Some items such as paint and electronics here is no additional charge for recycling and composting. Fees are presented at www.windhamsolidwaste.org.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF): The District voted to close the MRF in July 2017 but continues to accept cardboard from commercial sources. Cardboard is baled and sold, generating revenue for the District. Revenue in FY24 was \$63,801.

Composting Facility: Of all recyclable materials handled by the District, the only ones that are reused locally are food scraps and yard debris. The food scrap composting facility is in its 12th year of operation and is the 2nd largest food scrap composting facility in Vermont. There are five distributors of "Brattlegrow Compost." WSWMD donates compost for school and community gardens

As the food scrap composting mandates of Act 148 have been phased in, the total quantity of food scraps processed at the site have increased. To handle the increased quantity and meet Vermont solid waste management regulations, in 2024 the District constructed a new building with aerated windrows, odor control, as well as rainwater and liquid management systems for the compost piles. The expansion will allow the District to continue to locally manage organic wastes while meeting state permitting requirements for a larger capacity

Brattleboro Brookline Dover Dummerston Guilford Halifax Jamaica Marlboro Newfane Putney
Readsboro Somerset Stratton Townshend Vernon Wardsboro Westminster Wilmington

facility. Funding for the new facility is from federal and state grants, as well as District funds. No long-term debt is anticipated.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP): All towns in Vermont are required to meet state solid waste management requirements through implementation of an authorized SWIP. The District writes and implements a SWIP on behalf of all its member towns, and so provides compliance and the accompanying services to each member town. 2024 was the fourth year of the five-year term of the current SWIP, which addresses household hazardous waste collection, education and outreach, as well as numerous other requirements.

Solar Array: WSWMD leases its capped landfill to Greenbacker Capital to operate a 5 mega-watt solar array, the largest group net-metered project in the state. Greenbacker has contracted to provide solar power for 20 years to the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Halifax, Newfane, Readsboro, Vernon, Wardsboro, and Wilmington.; schools in Brattleboro, Marlboro, Putney, and Vernon; as well as Landmark College, Marlboro College, and the Brattleboro Retreat. The project provides significant cost savings for municipal and school budgets. Greenbacker Capital has a 20-year lease and pays the District a minimum of \$120,290/year for use of the landfill, as well as 50% of renewable energy credits, for total annual revenue of \$250,000.

Household Hazardous Waste: Management of household hazardous waste is a costly and difficult service required by state regulations. Member towns benefit by having the District provide this service to residents and small businesses at the WSWMD Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot in Brattleboro. The HHW Depot is open one day each week from May through October. This year 281 households and 6 small businesses were served by the program. The average disposal cost per user is approximately \$100, for a total program cost of \$56,242. A portion of the costs are offset by a Vermont DEC grant program and a nominal user fee of \$10 per visit. The Depot provides a convenient way for residents and small businesses to dispose of their hazardous waste.

Community Outreach & Technical Assistance: The District continues to provide technical assistance for schools, businesses, and towns. In 2024, WSWMD worked on a grant from the US Department of Agriculture to assist real estate agencies in educating new homeowners, and short term rentals with providing recycling services. For the towns with transfer stations (Dover, Jamaica, Readsboro, Stratton, Townshend, and Wilmington) the District has continued to provide signage and technical assistance. In 2024, the District assisted 44 businesses with their waste management needs.

Special Event Outreach and Technical Assistance: The WSWMD special event bins were used at 20 events this year. The bins are used to separately collect recyclables, food scraps, and trash. They are available at no charge to towns, businesses, residents, and institutions for fairs, festivals, weddings, etc. In addition, WSWMD offers free technical assistance to help events reduce their waste.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
& 1st Friday of each month
8 am to Noon & 1 pm to 5 pm
Telephone 896-6055

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesday and Friday - Noon to 5 pm
Monday, Saturday, and Sunday - 9 am to 5 pm
CLOSED WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
Telephone 896-6553

SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

Every other Tuesday at 7 pm at the Town Office

WARDSBORO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday & Wednesday - 9 am to 4 pm
Thursday - 2 pm to 7 pm
Saturday - 10 am to 2 pm
CLOSED MONDAY, FRIDAY, AND SUNDAY
Telephone 896-6988

WARDSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Business Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 7 pm
Fire Training 3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm
Rescue Meeting 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm
at the fire house



Town of Wardsboro, VT
71 Main Street
Wardsboro, VT 05355