



# Town of Sharon

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FY23 Town Reports  
FY25 Proposed Budget  
Voter Information  
Town Meeting 2024

## SELECTBOARD STATEMENT

Professional Independent Auditors Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner PC, CPA have completed an audit of the Town's financial records for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Copies of the complete FY2023 Town Audit Report are available at the Town Office. The report is also available as a download from the Town's website [www.sharonvt.net](http://www.sharonvt.net).

2023 Financial reports submitted by non-profit organizations have not been audited by the Town.

Thank you to all volunteers, staff, and town officials for all the work you have done to prepare your reports to comply with the deadlines for voting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sharon Selectboard**

Kevin Gish, Chair

Scott Henkels, Vice-Chair

Sarah Pfeiffer, Clerk

*Thank you to Denlore, Inc. for providing the 2023 Annual Report cover photo.*

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# Recognition of Service



The Selectboard would like to recognize Mary Gavin's contributions for over two decades of service to the Town. Mary was first appointed to fill a vacancy as a Town Auditor in 1997 and was elected to serve a two-year term in 1998.

Mary was later appointed to serve as a member of the Planning Commission in 2004, and she remained on the Commission until 2012. In 2012, the Selectboard appointed Mary to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of John Harrington. Mary continued to serve as a Selectboard member until she resigned in October of 2023.

In addition to her role as Selectboard member, Mary also took time to represent the Town of Sharon on the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District board and she was one of the Sharon representatives serving on the South Royalton Rescue Advisory Board.

Mary was a dedicated public official who had an unwavering moral compass and a keen eye for detail. She gave her time, energy, and expertise to the Town for over twenty years.

Thank you, Mary, for your dedication and extensive service to the Town of Sharon. We wish you all the best as you settle into your new community.

## Thank You, Mary!



# Town Meeting 2024

Town Meeting 2024 will follow our traditional format with all Town business, other than the election of certain officers, to be conducted in person.

**LOCATION:** Sharon Elementary School Gymnasium

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00AM

## What business will be transacted by Australian Ballot?

The Australian Ballot includes Article 1 for the election of Town Officers. Candidates who filed nominating petitions are listed below.

## Who can answer questions about voting and voter registration?

Town Clerk Catherine Sartor is available to answer questions regarding registration and voting.

**Hours:** Monday – Thursday 8AM – 3:30PM or by appointment

**Phone:** (802) 763-8268 (press 1); Email: [clerk@sharonvt.net](mailto:clerk@sharonvt.net)

## Do I have to request an absentee ballot for early voting?

Yes. Please see “Notice to Voters”.

### 2024 CANDIDATES WHO FILED FOR ELECTION\*

<b>Town Moderator</b> for 1-year term .....	No candidate
<b>Collector of Delinquent Taxes</b> for 1-year term .....	Ken Wright
<b>Town Clerk</b> for 3-year term .....	Catherine Sartor
<b>Selectboard member</b> for 3-year term.....	Scott Henkels
<b>Lister</b> for 3-year term.....	Galen E. Mudgett, Jr.
<b>First Constable</b> for 1-year term.....	No candidate

\*These positions shall be voted on by Australian Ballot.

# NOTICE TO VOTERS

## For Local Elections

### **BEFORE ELECTION DAY:**

**CHECKLIST POSTED** at Clerks Office by **FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by **FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**.

**HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:** There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to [olvr.vermont.gov](http://olvr.vermont.gov).

**REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at [mvp.sec.state.vt.us](http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us). The latest you can request ballots for the **2024 Town of Sharon** Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on **FRIDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:30PM**. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

### **WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:**

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have the ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

### **ON ELECTION DAY:**

**If your name was dropped from the checklist in error or** has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

**If you are a first-time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document**, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

**If you have physical disabilities**, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

**If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place** let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

**If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.**

**NO PERSON SHALL:**

- ! Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- ! Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- ! Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- ! Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- ! Offer bribe, threaten, or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

**FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)**

**If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated**, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

**If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process**, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

**If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process**, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Vote Tabulator Ballots**

**CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:**

- Go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give your name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will give you a ballot.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

**MARK YOUR BALLOT:** For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- **WRITE-IN** candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

**CAST YOUR VOTE** by depositing your voted ballot into the vote tabulating machine, Wait for the green check mark.

**LEAVE** the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.



Town of Sharon  
Annual Town Meeting Warning  
MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Sharon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Sharon Elementary School, 135 School Street in said Town on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00AM to vote on the Articles herein. NOTE: THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00AM TO 7:00PM FOR VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

ARTICLE TO BE VOTED ON BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT 7AM – 7PM TUESDAY, MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Article 1. To elect the following Town Officials by Australian Ballot:  
Town Moderator for 1-year term  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1-year term  
First Constable for 1-year term  
Selectboard for 3-year term  
Town Clerk for a 3-year term  
Lister for 3-year term

ARTICLES TO BE VOTED ON FROM THE FLOOR AT THE ANNUAL MEETING 9:00AM TUESDAY, MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Article 2. To elect the following Town Officers:  
Trustee of Public Funds – 3-year term  
Trustee of Baxter Library – 3-year term  
Trustee of Downer Fund – 3-year term

Article 3. To receive the reports of Town Officers.

Article 4. Shall the Town of Sharon appropriate the amount of \$2,019,789 for necessary Town expenses, including highways and transfers, of which \$1,480,000 shall be raised by property taxes, and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Article 5. Shall the Town of Sharon authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.A § 4791?

Article 6. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, shall the Town of Sharon authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in two (2) installments, with the due dates being Wednesday, September 18, 2024 and Wednesday, February 12, 2025?

Article 7. Shall the Town of Sharon vote that overdue taxes will bear an interest rate of one percent (1%) per month or part thereof for each installment until paid in full pursuant to 32 V.S.A § 5136?

- Article 8. Shall the town set the penalty charged by the collector of delinquent taxes for payments made after the due date for payment to two (2) percent of the tax for the first seven days, and then an additional six (6) percent of the tax for the eighth (8) day and thereafter pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1674(3)(B)?
- Article 9. Shall the Town of Sharon vote to eliminate the office of constable pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651a(d)?
- Article 10. Shall the Town of Sharon vote to elect all its town officers by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(b)?
- Article 11. Shall the Town of Sharon vote to adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c)?
- Article 12. Shall the Town of Sharon vote on all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(d)?
- Article 13. Shall the Town of Sharon vote to transact any other non-binding business relevant to this meeting?

Warning dated at Sharon, Vermont this 30th day of January 2024.

By the Sharon Board of Selectmen

/s/ Kevin J. Gish  
Kevin Gish (Jan 30, 2024 10:24 EST)  
Kevin Gish

/s/ Scott Henkels  
Scott Henkels (Jan 30, 2024 12:31 EST)  
Scott Henkels

/s/ Sarah Pfeiffer  
Sarah Pfeiffer (Jan 30, 2024 10:23 EST)  
Sarah Pfeiffer

Received for record before being posted this 30 day of January 2024 at Sharon.

Attest: /s/ Catherine Sartar, Town Clerk

Received for record March 28 A.D. 2023  
 at 2:30 o'clock P M. and recorded in  
 Sharon Town Records, Vol. TR1 Page 67-76  
 Attest: Catherine L. Carter P.C.

## Town of Sharon Annual Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Moderator Galen Mudgett called the meeting to order at 9:00AM

The Moderator led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator asked the voters if there was unanimous consent to allow Representatives Jim Masland and Rebecca Holcombe to speak to the voters.

There were no objections and voters yielded the floor.

Representative Jim Masland discussed the challenges facing the State. Representative Masland spoke about an influx of federal money into the State and the changing economics of the State. Representative Masland also addressed the reality of inflationary changes.

Representative Masland noted there are 50 new members in the House in 2023, and he encouraged people to consider serving in State government.

Representative Masland serves on Ways and Means Committee, and he brought to the voter's attention three primary discussions taking place in the committee currently including 1) Universal School Meals, 2) Universal PreK and 3) Paid Family Medical Leave.

Following Representative Masland, the voters heard from Representative Rebecca Holcombe.

Representative Holcombe reported that she serves on the Appropriations Committee, and she noted that the Appropriations Committee is taking measures to create a "soft landing" in anticipation of contracting State revenues. Representative Holcombe said it is important to acknowledge that Federal funding will ultimately return to levels more in line with pre-pandemic levels.

In her update to the voters, Representative Holcombe also highlighted some of the main topics in the forefront of the State legislature in particular the housing, development, education funding, social infrastructure funding, and emergency response funding.

Representative Holcombe also referenced the US Supreme Court decision in Carson vs. Makon and how it relates to tuition assistance for Towns, such as Sharon, that do not operate local middle and high schools but instead provide tuition assistance to students. Representative Holcombe noted that the US Supreme Court decision means that the State will be required to send tuition funding to sectarian schools. She noted that this ruling is in direct conflict with the Vermont constitution, which specifically prohibits the raising of taxes to support religious institutions. Representative Holcombe said it is important for the State to find solutions to this and the many complicated questions it faces right now.

The voters were given an opportunity to ask Representatives Masland and Holcombe questions.

Susan Root asked a question about the Affordable Heat Bill which she feels is underdeveloped and had not been well explored.

Representative Masland responded that he felt the bill has one substantial flaw that needs to be addressed. The bill currently allows Vermont, through a mechanism called “renewable energy attributes”, to import fracked gas from the Midwest and still consider the gas to be renewable. Representative Masland said this needs to be addressed. Representative Masland said the bill that came out of the Senate would create a study of the cost of implementing an Affordable Heat Bill.

Representative Holcombe said the State has been somewhat protected from fluctuations in electric costs, but she said that Vermont ultimately depends on energy supplies that come from outside of the State. This creates dependence on outside fuel sources rather than supporting Vermont-based energy alternatives.

Joe Willis asked about solar farms and where energy created in the State is going as he believes the solar energy created in the State is being sent out of state.

Representative Masland said the question is really a question of where the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) go. The electric companies in Vermont benefit from RECs when they sell them to other states. Representative Masland said he is also concerned that the major utility companies are purveyors of nonrenewable energy but are in fact counting them as renewable. Representative Masland shared the questioner’s concerns and is interested in keeping renewable energy sources in the State.

After thirty minutes, the Moderator asked that the Q&A portion conclude, so that the business of the Town of Sharon Annual Meeting might proceed.

**The Moderator read Article 1.**

**To elect the following Town Officials by Australian Ballot:**

- Town Moderator for 1-year term
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1-year term
- Selectboard for 3-year term
- First Constable for 1-year term
- Lister for 3-year term

The moderator noted that these positions are on the Australian Ballot and that voters will need to vote by 7:00pm today to have their vote counted.



**The Moderator read Article 2. To elect the following Town Officers:**

**Trustee of Public Funds – 3-year term**

Doris Backus nominated Martha Fisk.

Seconded by Jim Kearns.

With no further nominations, the Moderator entertained a motion to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Martha Fisk for a 3-year term as Trustee of Public Funds.

Jason Flint made the motion. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Trustee of Baxter Memorial Library – 3-year term**

Laura DeCapua nominated Karen Rodis.

Seconded by Susanne Jones.

With no further nominations, the Moderator entertained a motion to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Karen Rodis for a 3-year term as Trustee of Baxter Memorial Library.

Mary Gavin made the motion. Dee Gish seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Trustee of Baxter Library – 3-year term**

Suzanne Jones nominated Emma Basham. Jonathan Stoeckle seconded.

With no further nominations, the Moderator entertained a motion to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Emma Basham for a 3-year term as Trustee of Baxter Memorial Library.

Mary Stoddard made the motion. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Trustee of Downer Fund – 3-year term**

Jim Kearns nominated Martha Fisk. Jason Flint seconded.

With no further nominations, the Moderator entertained a motion to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Martha Fisk for a 3-year term as Trustee of Baxter Memorial Library.

David Karon made the motion. Elaine Kearns seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 3. To receive the reports of Town Officers.**

Mary Gavin made the motion. Doris Backus seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Selectboard Chair Kevin Gish welcomed the voters and took time to introduce some of the Town employees and officers who were present for Town Meeting.

Kevin also thanked the volunteers and organizations who provide service to the Town.

Kevin acknowledged the service of Ira Clark, who has been involved with the Planning Commission for 12 years. Ira recently informed the Selectboard that he is stepping down from the position in April 2023

Kevin also took a moment to recognize the contributions of Margaret Raymond and to thank her for her over three decades of service to the Town of Sharon. In the past, Margaret has been a Town Auditor, Treasurer and Assistant Town Clerk, and served for a time on the Conservation Commission. Margaret is now serving as a Justice of the Peace.

Kevin also encouraged residents to consider how they might be of service to the Town including the open positions available currently, such as on the Planning Commission.

Kevin Gish also wanted to speak about the function of the Emergency Response team and the opening of warming shelters in the Town. Kevin noted that with the extended power outages in December, the Fire Department opened as a warming shelter under the direction of the Emergency Director, Nathan Potter. Kevin spoke that it is important to know that residents are welcome to reach out to Town officials including Nathan Potter or the Emergency Coordinators, the Selectboard Members, the Town Health Officer, or the Selectboard Assistant should they find they are in need of a helping hand during these localized emergency situations.

Kevin Gish reminded voters that Selectboard meetings are open to the public and are held on the first and third Monday of the month. Kevin also mentioned that the Selectboard meetings will offer hybrid participation of both in-person and digital options moving forward. Meeting agendas are posted on the listserv, the Town Offices Facebook page, in the Town Offices, at the Post Office and also the Library

Next, Sarah Pfeiffer spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Sarah noted that the Town received \$457,356.82 in funding, and she explained that there is specific ARPA funding information available in the Town Report and also on the website. Sarah highlighted that the Selectboard has set aside up to \$50,000 for community projects including the four topics included in a town-wide survey available at Town Meeting for voters to complete or also online on the Town's website. Sarah encouraged voters to participate and provide feedback to the Town, and she opened the floor to questions.

Steve Basham asked for clarification on the definition of "health-related" programming. Sarah agreed that the question was purposefully broad so that residents could weigh in more specifically what that might mean to them.

Kevin Gish added that the Selectboard has grappled with what should be the role of the Town as far as funding certain programs such as mental health support programs or the Arts and if this type of funding is within the purview of the Town government.

Elaine Kearns asked if this funding would be considered a one-time appropriation or ongoing funding. If it would be ongoing, then she noted that essentially it would become a budget item and not an appropriation.

Sarah Pfeiffer agreed that the funding should not be used for an ongoing programming funding as that was discussed by the Selectboard and they agreed that the Town is not looking to fund programs long-term.

Sue Sellew asked the Board if the Arts funding question on the survey would be relevant to the Historical Society's mission and building improvements to the Old Town Hall.

Deb Jones noted in the Town Report there is a list of proposed ARPA funding projects, and there is an amount included under building infrastructure that is earmarked for Old Town Hall building projects.

With no further questions, the Moderator confirmed that the Board had made their full reports to the voters and restated the motion on the floor and called the question.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon allocate \$6,195.00 for FY24 for the Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator?**

Kevin Gish made the motion. Dee Gish seconded.

Ryan Haac spoke on behalf of the Town as the Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator Steering Committee member and Chair of the Energy Committee. Ryan explained that this first came before voters three years ago at which point it was a new position in the Regional Planning Commission. Ryan explained that he feels this is the best time to bring Federal funding into the Town, and the IREC position will bring funding opportunities through grant funding. Ryan explained that it is important to be able to have access to this professional support. Ryan made himself available for questions.

David Karon requested that Ryan Haac explain the IREC position.

Ryan Haac explained that the IREC is a professional consultant on the staff of the Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission. The IREC is a shared resource paid for by several area towns. They provide guidance to the Town Offices to help find ways to reduce energy use and overall energy costs as well as seeking out grant funding to install energy efficient systems.

Debbie St Peter asked if the IREC is a resource for residents. Ryan said the best way to get support through the IREC would be to go through the Sharon IREC Steering Committee

Member, who is currently Ryan. Ryan will bring questions to the IREC on behalf of residents via the Steering Committee.

Debbie St. Peter asked how residents can access the list of funding sources for residents. Ryan Haac responded that there is a “Climate Action for You” page on the Two Rivers Ottauquechee website which is a master list of funding opportunities available to residents looking to convert to more efficient systems.

Ryan Haac reiterated that the IREC position has been a financial benefit to the Town. Ryan noted he has secured funding for an Electric Charging Station for the Town.

Dan Daneen asked for the Electric School Bus timeline.

The Moderator reminded Dan that his question is not germane as it would be more appropriately addressed by the School Board.

With no further questions, the Moderator restated the article and called the question.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon appropriate the amount of \$1,908,948 for necessary Town expenses, including highways, of which \$1,395,700 shall be raised by property taxes, and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?**

Carol Sheldon made the motion. Katherine Roe seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Kevin Gish presented some information relevant to the proposed FY24 budget. Kevin said inflation was at 7.2% in November and is at 6.3% currently. Kevin noted that the Budget includes the General Fund and the Highway Fund, and the proposed budget includes a combined increase of 5.73% with an estimated 4.5 cent increase in the Municipal Tax Rate.

Kevin also noted that the Road Crew staff are currently in very high demand, and that the Road Crew received a 7% wage increase in November 2022 and will receive a wage increase along with all employees in FY24.

Kevin also noted that inflationary pressures have impacted the budget for FY24.

Elaine Kearns asked for clarification regarding the allocation for the IREC and if it needs to be added to the budget. The Moderator confirmed that it does not.

Helen Barrett asked why the Town Report wasn't mailed in 2023 and wanted to make a motion to add mailing the Town Report back.



The Moderator said the motion to mail the town report was out of order since it wasn't warned.

With no further questions, the Moderator restated the motion on the floor and called the question.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon authorize the Town Treasurer to collect General Fund, Highway Fund, and School District current taxes on real and personal estate?**

Jim Kearns made the motion. Mary Gavin seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion.

The Moderator asked if the voters would move Article 6.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in two (2) installments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, the first being on or before Wednesday, September 13, 2023 and the second being on or before Wednesday, February 14, 2024?**

David Karon made the motion. Cat Buxton seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon vote that overdue taxes shall bear an interest rate of one percent (1%) per month or part thereof for each installment until paid in full?**

Jason Flint made the motion. Doris Backus seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Mary Stoddard asked the meaning of the interest rate mentioned in the Article.

Mary Gavin responded to the question to explain that this is an interest payment applied to late tax payments. Mary Gavin also mentioned that Articles 8, 9 and 10 are related and the 1% penalty is the same as what voters have seen in past warned articles for tax penalties, but this year the interest penalty and the late fees have been warned as separate articles following guidance from the VLCT.

Mary Gavin said the late fee question was an issue brought before the Selectboard by a taxpayer, and the Selectboard discussed how to respond to complaints that the late fee of 8% felt punitive. The solution presented in the three tax penalty articles is a compromise formulated by the Selectboard over the course of at least three open meetings to ensure taxpayers make timely payments, but that the late fee feels less punitive.

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon vote that tax payments made after the second installment due date of February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be assessed a late fee of two percent (2%) for payments made on or before Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024?**

Mary Gavin made the motion. Mike Barsanti seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Mary Gavin provided some background about the decision of the Selectboard to create a less punitive delinquent penalty for tax payers by creating a stepped penalty for those who are late paying but still pay in full within two weeks of the second installment deadline

Helen Barrett asked where the late fee dollars go.

Mary Gavin said late fees are used to pay the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Jim Kearns stated that he was unaware that the penalties were paid to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Mary Gavin said that it is required by Vermont law that interest is paid to the Town and the late fees are paid to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes. Mary also noted that the interest and late fee penalties are required to be included as warned articles each year.

Deb Jones stated that the funds do not get paid to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes so long as the taxes are delinquent. Late fees rather are the payment from the Town for the services provided by the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Margaret Raymond asked for a clarification for the combination of interest and penalty in that 10-day period suggested by the article.

Mary Gavin noted that interest does continue to accrue until taxes are paid in full, and that the period between the due date and the full penalty is 14 days, rather than 10 days.

With no further questions, the Moderator restated the article and called the question.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon vote that tax payments made after February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, be assessed an additional six percent (6%) late fee for a total of eight percent (8%) for any delinquency?**

Mary Gavin made the motion. Mary Stoddard seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion.

The Moderator called the question to see if the voters would approve Article 10

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 11. Shall voters of the Town of Sharon vote to schedule its next Town Meeting for 9AM Tuesday, March 5th, 2024?**

David Karon made the motion. Karen Rodis seconded.

The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion.

The Moderator called the question to see if the voters would approve Article 11.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**The Moderator read Article 12. To transact any other non-binding business relevant to this meeting?**

Elaine Kerns asked if it would be appropriate to recognize Margaret Raymond since she was absent during the Selectboards report and is now present. The voters recognized Margaret for her contribution to the Town.

Deb Jones thanked Nicole Antal for providing snacks and coffee for the voters.

Dee Gish shared that she serves on the Sharon Energy Committee, and they are working in collaboration with the Vermont Council on Rural Development to revive an operation to create a coordinated effort among municipal committees and local organizations and volunteers to build local emergency resilience and response.

Cat Buxton mentioned she manages the School compost program and invited residents to reach out to her to learn more about composting.

Jim Kearns announced that the Vermont Department of Taxes website has information for filing the homestead declaration and property tax rebates based on income sensitivity. He encouraged residents to apply for property tax rebates and that he would also assist people.

Deb Jones followed Jim's comment to remind residents that residential homeowners are required to annually file their Homestead Declaration using the HS-122 form and, even if they do not think they qualify for income sensitivity, that it is also worth filing form HI-144

Ira Clark invited residents to attend the Planning Commission's Town Plan Hearing on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held at the Sharon Elementary School Music Room. The Planning Commission is looking for public input/commentary on the revised Town Plan.

Catherine Sartor mentioned that there is a draft Town Plan available online on the Town's website, and there is a hard copy available to view at the Town Clerk's office. She noted that anyone wishing to purchase a copy may do so for \$10.

Ira Clark thanked Cathy for the reminder. Ira noted that the full color maps are at the end of the digital document, and that they are also in a hard copy available at the Town Offices.

**With no further business, the Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:11AM.**

Michael Barsanti made the motion. Joe Willis seconded.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by Nicola Shipman

Signed: M. Don E. Mudgett

Signed: Margaret B Rayman 3/28/23

Attest: Catherine Sartor Town Clerk 3/28/2023  
Town Clerk, Sharon VT.





## **Town of Sharon 2023 Elected Officials**

**\*Town Moderator** (1-year term ends 2024).....Galen Mudgett, Jr.  
**\*Town Clerk** (3-year term ends 2024) ..... Catherine Sartor  
**\*Delinquent Tax Collector** (1-year term) .....Ken Wright  
**\*First Constable** (1-year term) ..... *Vacant*

### **\*Selectboard**

(3-year term ends 2024; resigned October 2023) ..... Mary Gavin  
(appointed October 2023 to fill vacancy) ..... Scott Henkels  
(3-year term ends 2025) ..... Sarah Pfeiffer  
(3-year term ends 2026) ..... Kevin Gish

### **\*Listers**

(3-year term ends 2024) .....Galen Mudgett, Jr.  
(3-year term ends 2025) .....Ken Wright  
(3-year term ends 2026) .....Helen Barrett

### **Justices of the Peace** (Elected Nov 2022 general election)

(2-year term ends Jan. 31, 2025).....Victoria Fullerton  
(2-year term ends Jan. 31, 2025)..... John Lanza  
(2-year term ends Jan. 31, 2025)..... Nara Moore  
(2-year term ends Jan. 31, 2025).....Margaret B. Raymond

### **Trustee of Public Funds**

(3-year term ends 2024) .....Phyllis Potter  
(3-year term ends 2025) .....Mary Ayer  
(3-year term ends 2026) .....Martha Fisk

### **Trustees of Baxter Memorial Library**

(3-year term ends 2024) .....Kit Hood  
(3-year term ends 2025) ..... Laura Decapua  
(3-year term ends 2025) ..... Sandy Johnston  
(3-year term ends 2026) ..... Emma Basham  
(3-year term ends 2026) ..... Karen Rodis

### **Trustees of the Chester Downer Fund**

(3-year term ends 2024) ..... Jim Kearns  
(3-year term ends 2025) .....Robert Ferguson  
(3-year term ends 2026) ..... Martha Fisk

\* Elected by Australian Ballot

### **Town Officers**

Animal Control/Pound Keeper ..... Jim Armbruster  
Emergency Management Director ..... Nathan Potter, Fire Chief  
Emergency Co-coordinators ..... Becky Owens, Keith Lyman, Jr.  
E911 Coordinator.....Galen Mudgett, Jr.  
Fire Warden ..... Dustin Potter  
Deputy Fire Warden..... Andrew Brackett  
Flood Hazard Bylaw Administrator..... Tom (“Geo”) Honigford  
Town Health Officer (resigned in 2023).....Alexandre Bird  
Town Health Officer (appointed in 2023) ..... Keith Lyman, Jr.  
Planning / DRB Administrator ..... Andrea Morgan  
Treasurer .....Deborah Jones  
Tree Warden.....Vince Gross  
Vermont Green Up Day Coordinator.....Sharon Conservation Commission

### **Town Clerk’s Office**

Assistant Town Clerk..... Carol Flint  
Assistant Town Clerk.....Deborah Jones  
Assistant Town Clerk..... Judi Kehoe

### **Municipal Employees**

#### **Baxter Memorial Library**

Library Director ..... Shana Ronayne Hickman

#### **Town Offices**

Cleaning Services..... Melissa Frary  
Accounts Payable Clerk ..... Joni Latuch-Lyman  
Finance Manager.....Lucy Pierpont  
Selectboard Assistant .....Nicola Shipman



#### **Highway Department**

Road Foreman ..... Frank Rogers  
Road Crew ..... Brad Howe  
Road Crew (resigned in 2023)..... Joe Robinson  
Road Crew (resigned in 2023).....Allen Wight  
Road Crew (newly hired in 2023) ..... Scott Flesch  
Road Crew (newly hired in 2024; seasonal)... Mark Earle

## **Local Commissions & Committees**

### **Conservation Commission**

(term ends 2027) ..... Luis Bango  
(term ends 2024) ..... Sam Brakeley  
(term ends 2024) ..... Scott Chesnut  
(term ends 2024) ..... Dan Daneen  
(term ends 2024) ..... Dick Ruben  
(term ends 2024) ..... Michael Zwikelmaier

### **Planning Commission/DRB\***

(term ends 2024) ..... Dee Gish  
(term ends 2024) ..... Paul Kristensen  
(term ends 2025) ..... John Roe  
(term ends 2025) ..... Lucy Gibson  
(term ends 2026) ..... Sue Sellew  
(term ends 2026) ..... Dana Colson

*\*PC members also serve as members of the Development Review Board, which administers land use regulations including Subdivision Regulations and the Flood Hazard Area Bylaw*

### **Cemetery Committee**

(1-year term) ..... Cole Hull  
(1-year term) ..... Stacey Lober  
(1-year term) ..... Dave Phillips

### **Energy Committee**

(1-year term) ..... Dee Gish  
(1-year term) ..... Jill Wilcox  
(1-year term) ..... Ryan Haac

### **Recreation Committee**

(1-year term) ..... Tiffany Clark  
(1-year term) ..... Samantha Potter

## **Regional Boards and Commissions**

### **Ashley Community Forest Board**

(2024) ..... Erik Skarsten  
(2025) ..... Rob Stainton

### **EC Fiber Telecommunications District**

Representative ..... Davin Karon  
Alternate ..... Clare Holland

### **GUV Solid Waste Management District**

(2-year term ends 2024) ..... Mary Gavin  
(2-year term ends 2024) ..... Kevin Gish, Alt.

### **South Royalton Rescue**

Representative ..... Tom Lober  
Representative ..... Mary Gavin  
Representative ..... Dustin Potter

### **Tri-Valley Transit**

Representative ..... Vacant

### **Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission ("TRORC")**

Town Commissioner ..... Ira Clark  
Alternate ..... Sue Sellew  
TAC Committee ..... Nicola Shipman  
Liaison to IREC ..... Ryan Haac

## **Local Boards Which Convene as Needed**

Board of Abatement, Board of Civil  
Authority & Local Board of Health

## Local Organizations and Events

### Volunteer Fire Department



Chief..... Nathan Potter  
 Assist. Chief..... Dustin Potter  
 President..... Andrew Brackett  
 Vice President ..... Kenny Moore  
 Treasurer ..... Tom Lober  
 Clerk..... Keith Lyman Jr.

### Old Home Day

President..... Jennifer Donahue  
 Treasurer ..... Doris Backus  
 Secretary ..... Nicole Antal  
 Volunteer..... Tonya Lyman Armstrong  
 Volunteer..... Stacey Lober



### Pine Hill Cemetery

President..... Doris Backus  
 Vice President ..... Pam Brackett  
 Secretary ..... Doris Backus  
 Treasurer ..... Martha Fisk  
 Sexton ..... Joseph Willis



### Sharon Historical Society

President..... Mary Ayer  
 Vice President ..... Dave Phillips  
 Treasurer ..... Martha Fisk  
 Co-Curator ..... Phyllis Potter  
 Co-Curator ..... Joyce Amsden  
 Co-Curator ..... Kelly Clark  
 Secretary ..... Sue Sellew

# Selectboard Report 2023

Greetings, fellow Sharon residents! Your current Selectboard consists of Sarah Pfeiffer, Scott Henkels, and Kevin Gish. We hope you will take a few minutes to read this report with some Town highlights for the past year.



Our Town staff and elected officials do superb work and, perhaps more importantly, they work very well together. When you visit the Town Office, you will likely run into Cathy Sartor (Town Clerk), Nicola Shipman (Selectboard Assistant), Lucy Pierpont (Finance Manager), Galen Mudget (Head Lister) or Deb Jones (Treasurer). These folks are the daily face of our Town, and they do a wonderful job of assisting residents and visitors, while making you feel at home. Although he isn't often seen in the Town Office, our Road Foreman, Frank Rogers, works extremely well with all Town staff, and his team of road crew members are doing great work keeping our roads in shape despite the challenging weather.

## **Municipal Governance**

- The Selectboard saw a change in membership, as Mary Gavin moved from Sharon and exited the Board. Scott Henkels was appointed to fill the vacancy. The Town extends a huge THANK YOU to Mary for her many years of service on the Selectboard, Planning Commission and for her service in other roles.
- Dee Gish, Lucy Gibson, and Dana Colson were appointed to fill Planning Commission vacancies.
- Luis Bango was appointed to fill a Conservation Commission vacancy.
- The Town adopted its updated Town Plan on August 21, 2023. This eight-year plan involved significant work by our Sharon Planning Commission, in conjunction with Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission.

## **Town Highways**

2023 was dominated by frequent rain events, particularly the July 10<sup>th</sup> flooding. The Town was fortunate to escape more significant damage in part due to the continued, multi-year efforts of the municipality to improve the Town's stormwater management infrastructure, but also a healthy dose of luck. Even so, the rain was relentless, and several roads were significantly damaged by flooding. Thank you to the Road Crew and the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department for their response during and immediately after the event to ensure resident safety.



- Route 132, a designated Federal Highway, experienced multiple areas of damage. Repairs to the drainage ditches, two major bank slides and a section of paving were completed by late fall thanks to the efforts of the Town Road Crew in conjunction with contracted services provided by Avery Excavation, Green Mountain Paving and R L Nott Excavation. The Selectboard staff is working with VTrans Municipal Assistance Bureau to secure Emergency Relief Funding for those projects through the Federal Highway Works Administration.
- Other town highways that experienced considerable damage included Quimby Mountain Road, Broad Brook Road, Fay Brook Road, and Carpenter Road.



- The Town applied for FEMA Public Assistance grant funding to assist with the cost of repairing municipal highway damage caused during the disaster.
- The Town was awarded VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding to conduct a village scoping study. The study's purpose is to assess current conditions and develop proposals for improved bicycle and pedestrian access within the village district. The Town is receiving technical expertise and project guidance from Fuss and O'Neill, VTrans and TRORC.
- The Town used VTrans Structures Grant funding to install an appropriately sized concrete culvert on Downer Road; the work was performed by Avery Excavation.
- The Town completed FY23 Grants-in-Aid ditching and culvert work on Downer Road.
- The Town was awarded FY24 Grants-in-Aid funding for ditching and culvert work.
- Joe Robinson and Allen Wight left the Road Crew. The Town hired Scott Flesch to fill a Level 1 position and Mark Earle to fill a seasonal position.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

- Jack Jones Construction, Inc. was hired to provide carpentry services, and they made repairs to the exterior of the Old School House and the Town Offices buildings in preparation for exterior painting as well as installing a section of ADA ramp for the Old School House.
- Lacaille's Professional Painting was able to complete the exterior paint project at the Old School House though the





exterior painting for the Town Offices and the Old Town Hall (Sharon Historic Society) was moved to 2024 due to the challenging weather conditions.

- Howe Hill Cemetery received a significant amount of attention in 2023 thanks to the Town's Cemetery Committee which includes Stacey Lober, Cole Hull and Dave Phillips. Their efforts and additional volunteer support provided by the Vermont Old Cemetery Association and private donations have done wonders for the cemetery.
- AEDs were installed at the Library, Garage, Town Offices, and Maplefields.
- Preservation Trust of Vermont provided funding through the Robert Sincerbeaux Grant to support a building evaluation of the Old Town Hall conducted by Jan Lewandowski.

- Kevin Gish and the Town Road Crew installed the initial structure for a new Town Kiosk, funded in large part by AVC and private donations of materials.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)/State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)**

- Sharon has received \$457,464.65 in funding.
- Funds, totaling \$102,899.65, have been obligated for the following projects to date:
  - Digitization of land records and online accessibility.
  - Installation of a heat pump and ERV in the Baxter Memorial Library building to reduce heating costs and to ensure the library can continue to serve as an area cooling station during heat waves.
  - South Royalton Rescue Squad toward their building fund along with the Town of Tunbridge and South Royalton.
  - AEDs (see Building and Grounds, above).
  - Town portion of Pedestrian/Bike scoping study.
  - South Royalton Senior Center meal program.
- As of this writing, the Town is considering a resolution recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to move the remaining unobligated ARPA/SLFRF funds to the two operating funds, General and Highway, under an allowed revenue replacement category of workforce retention. This would ensure that all funds are obligated prior to the Dec 31, 2024 deadline for obligation, thus reducing the risk of loss of funds.

#### **Local Events**

- Sharon Connects, initiated by the Sharon Energy Committee in collaboration with the Vermont Council for Rural Development, spurred the creation of three local committees



which continue to foster a healthy and connected community. These committees have led exciting endeavors; if interested, please contact the committee leads or Ryan Haac.

- Old Home Day has been wonderfully revitalized by a core group of caring residents. This year's event featured new activities, as well as the traditional parade and chicken barbecue put on by the Sharon Firemen's Association.
- The Sprouty 5K/10K hosted its 13<sup>th</sup> annual event on Sep 9, 2023 with 211 entrants. This community event has become a favorite of both serious and casual runners as well as walkers and includes local music and awesome pre- and post-race yummys.
- Green Up Day was held in conjunction with the annual statewide event.
- The Sharon Repair Fair, coordinated by the Sharon Energy Committee and Building A Local Economy (BALE), was held on the Town Green in June 2023. This event included many practical and helpful exhibitions of fixing your stuff locally, such as tool sharpening, small electrical repair, bicycle repair and more.



We invite you to join Selectboard meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, starting at 6:30 PM. Meetings typically follow a hybrid format, allowing for in-person and virtual attendance.

Please contact the Selectboard Assistant, Nicola Shipman, at the Selectboard offices with questions or concerns.

If you have an item you would like to bring before the Selectboard, please contact Nicola at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

**Selectboard Offices:**

[selectboard@sharonvt.net](mailto:selectboard@sharonvt.net)

**802-763-8268 ext. 4.**

Kevin Gish, Chair  
[kgish@sharonvt.net](mailto:kgish@sharonvt.net)  
(802) 839-9799 (cell)

Scott Henkels, Vice Chair  
[shenkels@sharonvt.net](mailto:shenkels@sharonvt.net)  
(802) 839-0090 (cell)

Sarah Pfeiffer, Clerk  
[spfeiffer@sharonvt.net](mailto:spfeiffer@sharonvt.net)  
(718) 938-7676 (cell)

**Thank you to all appointed and elected officials,  
Town employees, and the tremendous volunteers who work  
To continually improve our community!**



## Municipal Comparative Budget Summary

Account Description	FY2023 BUDGET	FY2023 ACTUAL	FY2024 BUDGET	PROPOSED FY2025 BUDGET	% (Under) Over Prior Year	\$ (Under) Over Prior Year
<b>REVENUE</b>						
Total Revenue General Fund	703,427	739,367	733,516	<b>761,871</b>	3.9%	28,355
Total Revenue Highway Fund	1,003,000	1,048,060	1,073,310	<b>1,124,050</b>	4.7%	50,740
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,706,427</b>	<b>1,787,427</b>	<b>1,806,826</b>	<b>1,885,921</b>	4.4%	79,095
<b>EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS)</b>						
Total Expenses General Fund	790,775	743,334	792,656	<b>849,901</b>	7.2%	57,245
Total Expenses Highway Fund	1,070,900	1,039,080	1,122,488	<b>1,169,888</b>	4.2%	47,400
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,861,675</b>	<b>1,782,414</b>	<b>1,915,144</b>	<b>2,019,789</b>	5.5%	104,645
<b>NET REVENUE OR (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>(155,248)</b>	<b>5,013</b>	<b>(108,318)</b>	<b>(133,868)</b>	23.6%	(25,550)
<b>FUND BALANCE*</b>						
GEN Fund Balance at Start of Year	382,337	382,337	378,371	<b>319,231</b>	-15.6%	(59,140)
Net Change in General Fund Balance	(87,348)	(3,966)	(59,140)	<b>(88,030)</b>		(28,890)
GEN Fund Balance at End of Year	294,989	378,371	319,231	<b>231,201</b>	-27.6%	(88,030)
HWY Fund Balance at Start of Year	239,591	239,591	248,570	<b>199,393</b>	-19.8%	(49,178)
Net Change in Highway Fund Balance	(67,900)	8,979	(49,178)	<b>(45,838)</b>		3,340
HWY Fund Balance at End of Year	171,691	248,570	199,393	<b>153,555</b>	-23.0%	(45,838)
<b>COMBINED FUND BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>466,680</b>	<b>626,941</b>	<b>518,623</b>	<b>384,756</b>	-25.8%	(133,868)
<b>Total Projected General &amp; Highway Fund Balances 6/30/25</b>				<b>384,756</b>		

Projected Percent of Combined General & Highway Fund Balances Related to Combined Expenses **19%**

Per the Town's Fund Balance Policy, combined general & highway fund balances strive to be between 10-20% of their combined total annual expenses.

\*The **fund balance** is the accumulated surplus from all prior years.

## Municipal Comparative Property Tax Summary

PROPERTY TAX	BUDGET FY2023	ACTUAL FY2023	BUDGET FY2024	PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025
General Fund Property Tax Revenue	450,000	453,554	481,195	<b>510,000</b>
Highway Fund Property Tax Revenue	870,000	870,000	920,700	<b>970,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE</b>	<b>1,320,000</b>	<b>1,323,554</b>	<b>1,401,895</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>
\$ Tax Increase (Decrease) between FY24 and FY25				<b>\$78,105</b>
% Increase/(Decrease) between FY24 and FY25				<b>5.6%</b>
Estimated** Tax Rate Increase (Decrease) in cents between FY24 and FY25				<b>0.043</b>

\*\*The value of the Grand List will determine the Tax Rate relative to the amount of taxes to be raised.

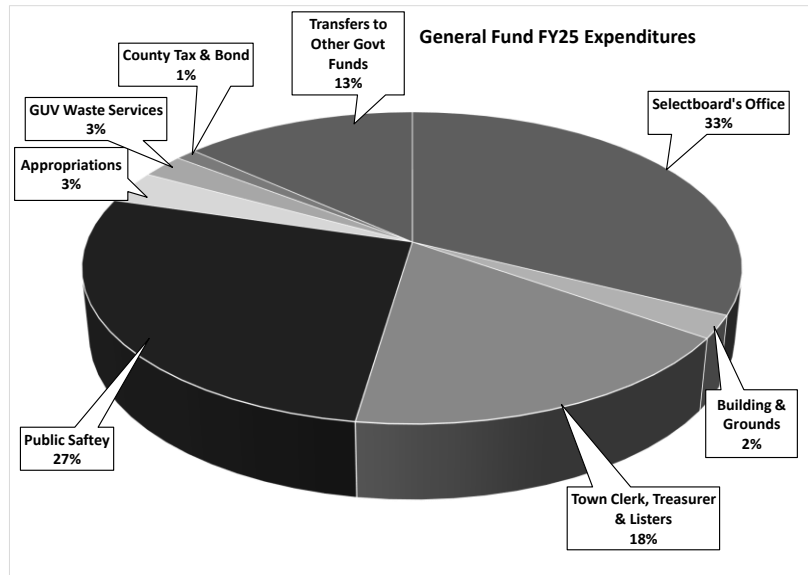
Grand List FY2024 as of August 2023 Tax Billing	1,716,025	FY25 Taxes Proposed	1,480,000
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Estimated Tax Impact Comparison on Property Assessed at \$200,000 in Value	Tax Rate (Taxes Divided by Grand List)	\$200,000 Value Taxed at 1%	Municipal Tax (School Tax not Included)	\$ Variance from Prior Year
FY25 Municipal Tax Burden as Proposed	0.8625	2,000.00	\$ 1,724.92	\$ 86.12
FY24 Municipal Tax Burden	0.8194	2,000.00	\$ 1,638.80	\$ 68.82
FY23 Municipal Tax Burden	0.7850	2,000.00	\$ 1,569.98	\$ 42.37
FY22 Municipal Tax Burden	0.7638	2,000.00	\$ 1,527.60	\$ 6.74
FY21 Municipal Tax Burden	0.7672	2,000.00	\$ 1,534.34	\$ 17.14
FY20 Municipal Tax Burden	0.7586	2,000.00	\$ 1,517.20	\$ 142.20

**FY2025 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR  
GENERAL AND HIGHWAY OPERATING FUNDS**

**General Fund FY25 Expenditures**

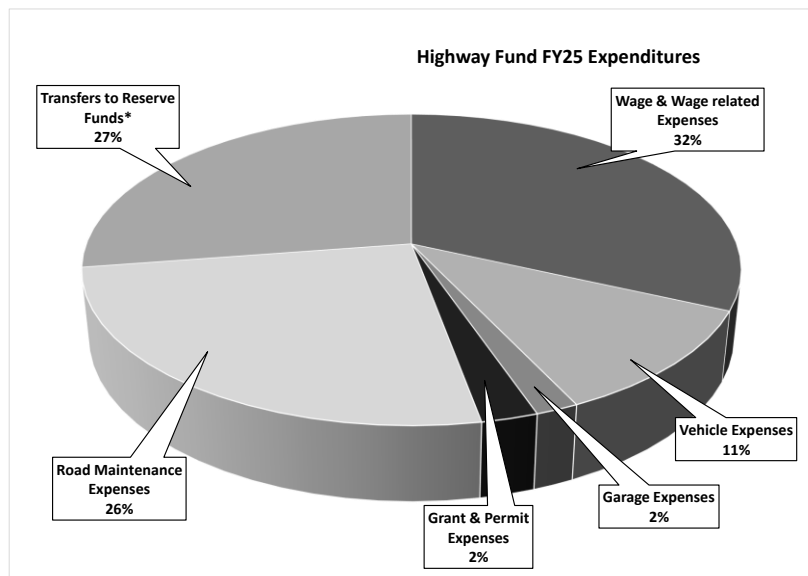
	\$	%
Selectboard's Office	275,196	32%
Building & Grounds	20,035	2%
Town Clerk, Treasurer & Listers	149,597	17%
Public Safety	232,046	28%
Appropriations	28,404	4%
GUV Waste Services	20,840	3%
County Tax & Bond	10,127	1%
Transfers to Other Govt Funds	113,656	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>849,901</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Highway Fund FY25 Expenditures**

	\$	%
Wage & Wage related Expenses	371,838	32%
Vehicle Expenses	130,000	11%
Garage Expenses	21,250	2%
Grant & Permit Expenses	28,000	2%
Road Maintenance Expenses	298,200	26%
Transfers to Reserve Funds*	320,600	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,169,888</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Includes \$120,317 Bond Principal & Interest Payments for Howe Hill, Fay Brook, Quimby & Broad Brook Paving Projects done in FY2020-2021



## **Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Notes for the General and Highway Funds**

Although the rate of inflation has eased somewhat in FY2024, it still made the FY2025 budget process a difficult one. The Selectboard, elected officials, volunteer board members, and staff worked diligently to examine how to minimize budget increases. These budget notes are intended to answer some of your questions about the budget. Below are some of the highlights of the decisions that were made.

The amount to be raised by **General Fund Property Tax Revenue** is budgeted to increase by 6% or \$28,805 for the Fiscal Year 2025. **Highway Fund Property Tax Revenue** is budgeted to increase by 5% or \$49,300. The combined increase is \$78,105, a 5.6% increase over FY24's amount raised by taxes, and an estimated 4.3 cent increase in the municipal tax rate.

**Employee wages** have a planned increase of 6% for most employees in FY2025. It has been a difficult year maintaining a 4-person road crew. By providing a competitive wage we hope to retain the crew we have.

**Health Insurance** rates for the 2024 calendar year increased by 13% on average. The Selectboard decided to cover more of the premium expenses to reduce the burden on employees.

**Police** services are budgeted to increase by \$5,520 to \$70,000, a 9% increase. The Town is currently in contract with the Windsor County Sheriff's Department.

**The Highway Infrastructure Reserve** is budgeted to increase to \$29,683 in the Highway fund for future paving projects.

**Diesel Fuel** budget figures were decreased by \$7,900 to \$74,000 as prices have started going down from where they were last year.

**Chloride** used on the dirt roads in the summer has gone up in price this year. We have budgeted an increase amount of \$4,000.

**The General Fund balance** (accumulated surplus) was \$378,371 at the end of FY2023, is projected to be \$319,231 by the end of FY2024, and \$231,201 by the end of FY2025. FY2023 closed with a loss of \$3,966 of which \$83,382 was under the amount of loss budgeted to the fund balance. **The FY2025 budget proposal uses \$88,030 of the General Fund Balance** to avoid an even higher tax rate increase to balance the budget shortfall. **The Highway Fund Balance** was \$248,570 at the end of FY2023, is projected to be \$199,393 by the end of FY2024, and \$153,555 by the end of FY2025. FY2023 closed with a gain of \$8,979 to the highway fund balance. **The FY2025 budget proposal uses \$45,838 of the Highway Fund Balance** to minimize the tax rate increase and to balance the budget shortfall.

Respectfully submitted by Lucy Pierpont, Finance Manager

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025, BUDGET FY2024, & BUDGET- TO - ACTUAL FY2023**

	Account Description	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 ACTUAL	\$ Over (Under) Budget	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	% Over (Under) Prior Year	\$ Over (Under) Prior Year
	<b>General Fund Revenue</b>							
	<b>TAXES &amp; TAX INTEREST</b>							
1	GENERAL FUND PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	450,000	453,554	3,554	481,195	510,000	6%	28,805
2	STATE PAYMENT FOR TAX COLLECTION	5,400	4,977	(423)	5,400	5,400	0%	-
3	TAX & INTEREST ABATEMENT	-	(4,883)	(4,883)	-	-	-	-
4	ADJUSTMENT FOR DELINQUENT TAXES	-	56,844	56,844	-	-	-	-
5	CURRENT LAND USE PAYMENTS	105,000	110,360	5,360	105,000	110,000	5%	5,000
6	STATE PILOT / LAND TAXES	34,000	34,210	210	34,000	34,000	0%	-
7	INTEREST DELINQUENT TAXES	18,000	21,703	3,703	18,000	18,000	0%	-
8	INTEREST LATE TAXES	4,500	2,646	(1,854)	2,500	2,800	12%	300
9	PENALTY ON DELINQUENT TAX	12,000	8,013	(3,987)	12,000	12,000	0%	-
10	<b>Total Taxes &amp; Tax Interest</b>	<b>628,900</b>	<b>687,424</b>	<b>58,524</b>	<b>658,095</b>	<b>692,200</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>34,105</b>
	<b>FEES</b>							
11	ALCOHOL & TOBACCO LICENSES	325	70	(255)	185	185	0%	-
12	RECORDING & LAND RECORDS FEES	18,700	11,233	(7,467)	18,000	14,000	-22%	(4,000)
13	VAULT FEES	500	254	(246)	500	350	-30%	(150)
14	CERTIFIED COPIES	500	430	(70)	500	500	0%	-
15	DOG LICENSE FEES	1,000	1,726	726	2,400	1,700	-29%	(700)
16	DMV REGISTRATION FEES	120	60	(60)	150	150	0%	-
17	MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES	320	600	280	900	900	0%	-
18	LAND RECORDS PRESERVATION FEE	6,800	4,096	(2,704)	6,544	4,500	-31%	(2,044)
19	GREEN MOUNTAIN PASS	50	10	(40)	20	24	20%	4
20	ORDINANCE FEES	100	454	354	50	500	900%	450
21	GUWSW COUPON SALES	5,500	2,844	(2,657)	5,500	3,800	-31%	(1,700)
22	GUWSW STICKER SALES	2,500	2,214	(286)	2,500	3,000	20%	500
23	ONLINE RECORDS ACCESS REVENUE	-	272	272	710	750	6%	40
24	COPY MACHINE & MISC FEES	600	219	(381)	100	200	100%	100
25	COPIES OF LAND RECORDS	1,200	505	(695)	1,200	500	-58%	(700)
26	SUBDIVISION FEES	2,000	2,219	219	1,600	2,000	25%	400
27	FISH & GAME FEES	-	20	20	100	100	0%	-
28	LAND USE CHANGE ASSESSMENT FEE	1,000	6,145	5,145	4,650	6000	29%	1,350
29	<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>41,215</b>	<b>33,370</b>	<b>(7,845)</b>	<b>45,609</b>	<b>39,159</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>(6,450)</b>
	<b>OTHER INCOME</b>							
30	FINES, LAW ENFORCEMENT	20,000	9,522	(10,478)	16,500	10,000	-39%	(6,500)
31	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	800	1,562	762	800	8,000	900%	7,200
32	CV RAILROAD	4,012	4,012	(0)	4,012	4,012	0%	-
33	MISC INCOME/INSURANCE REFUND	-	0	0	-	0	-	-
34	NET METERING CREDIT	1,000	1,021	21	1,000	1,000	0%	-
35	INCOME GRANT FUNDS	7,500	2,117	(5,383)	7,500	7,500	0%	-
36	GREEN UP DAY REVENUE	-	340	340	-	0	-	-
37	<b>Other Income</b>	<b>33,312</b>	<b>18,574</b>	<b>(14,738)</b>	<b>29,812</b>	<b>30,512</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>700</b>
38	<b>TOTAL REVENUE GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>703,427</b>	<b>739,367</b>	<b>35,940</b>	<b>733,516</b>	<b>761,871</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>28,355</b>
	<b>General Fund Expense</b>							
	<b>SELECTBOARD EXPENSE</b>							
39	SELECTBOARD STIPEND	4,500	4,500	-	4,500	4500	0%	-
40	ADMINISTRATION DEPT WAGES	50,000	46,800	(3,200)	48,672	51,012	5%	2,340
41	FINANCE DEPT WAGES	50,000	57,877	7,877	47,645	50,298	6%	2,653
42	FICA	8,132	8,056	(76)	7,820	8,560	9%	740
43	HEALTH INSURANCE	24,762	1,418	(23,344)	25,000	32,741	31%	7,741
44	RETIREMENT	6,619	6,615	(4)	6,750	7,092	5%	342
45	DENTAL INSURANCE	1,680	807	(873)	1,680	2,000	19%	320
46	LIFE/AD&D, SHORT & LONG TERM DISAB INS	720	848	128	780	900	15%	120
47	POSTAGE, SUPPLIES, ADS	3,300	3,076	(224)	3,500	3,200	-9%	(300)
48	LEGAL NOTICES & JOB POSTINGS	300	558	258	300	400	33%	100
49	MEETINGS, SEMINARS	600	509	(91)	600	500	-17%	(100)
50	PAYROLL SERVICE	2,800	2,775	(25)	2,800	2,800	0%	-
51	IT, WEB & MISC CONSULTANT SERVICES	10,000	8,767	(1,233)	10,000	13,000	30%	3,000
52	GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES	7,000	2,738	(4,262)	5,000	5,000	0%	-
53	HEALTH OFFICER EXPENSE	1,000	605	(395)	1,000	1,000	0%	-
54	TRAVEL EXPENSE & MILEAGE	500	71	(429)	250	300	20%	50
55	GRANT EXPENSE	10,000	2,367	(7,633)	9,400	7,500	-20%	(1,900)
56	<b>Total Selectboard Expense</b>	<b>181,913</b>	<b>148,386</b>	<b>(33,527)</b>	<b>175,697</b>	<b>190,802</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>15,105</b>

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025, BUDGET FY2024, & BUDGET- TO - ACTUAL FY2023**

	Account Description	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 ACTUAL	\$ Over (Under) Budget	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	% Over (Under) Prior Year	\$ Over (Under) Prior Year
	<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>							
57	TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE RPC DUES	2,465	2,465	-	2,543	2,621	3%	78
58	GREEN MTN ECONOMIC DEV CORP DUES	765	765	-	787	787	0%	1
59	VT COUNCIL ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT	-	-	-	-	0		-
60	VT LEAGUE OF CITIES & TOWNS DUES	3,051	3,051	-	3,154	3,252	3%	98
61	<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	<b>6,281</b>	<b>6,281</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>6,660</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>177</b>
	<b>INSURANCE EXPENSE</b>							
62	INSURANCE - LIABILITY	10,000	6,635	(3,365)	8,000	7,000	-13%	(1,000)
63	INSURANCE - BUILDINGS	10,000	6,582	(3,419)	7,500	7,300	-3%	(200)
64	INSURANCE - WORKERS COMP & UNEMP	1,600	1,476	(124)	1,500	2,100	40%	600
65	<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>14,693</b>	<b>(6,907)</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>(600)</b>
	<b>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS</b>							
66	CLEANING OFFICE BUILDING	1,800	355	(1,445)	1,400	1,482	6%	82
67	OFFICE REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	4,000	3,618	(382)	4,000	6,500	63%	2,500
68	HISTORIC TOWN HALL BLDG REPAIRS	1,000	602	(398)	1,000	500	-50%	(500)
69	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	2,800	3,020	220	2,800	3,500	25%	700
70	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	250	635	385	250	300	20%	50
71	<b>Total Bldgs, Grounds &amp; Capital Expense</b>	<b>9,850</b>	<b>8,230</b>	<b>(1,620)</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>12,282</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2,832</b>
	<b>GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSE</b>							
72	OFFICE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	550	499	(51)	650	500	-23%	(150)
73	TELEPHONE	3,550	3,814	264	3,550	3,900	10%	350
74	ELECTRICITY	6,500	7,272	772	7,500	7,400	-1%	(100)
75	HEATING FUEL	2,600	3,740	1,140	3,825	4,000	5%	175
76	TRASH	450	-	(450)	300	150	-50%	(150)
77	FURNITURE, FIXTURES, & COMPUTERS	5,000	3,857	(1,143)	3,500	3,500	0%	-
78	<b>Total General Office Expense</b>	<b>18,650</b>	<b>19,182</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>19,325</b>	<b>19,450</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>125</b>
	<b>ELECTION EXPENSE</b>							
79	BALLOT CLERK WAGE	600	50	(550)	300	2,500	733%	2,200
80	FICA	46	4	(42)	23	202	777%	179
81	POSTAGE	800	286	(514)	800	400	-50%	(400)
82	SUPPLIES & ADVERTISING	2,200	1,007	(1,193)	1,100	750	-32%	(350)
83	<b>Total Election Expense</b>	<b>3,646</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>(2,299)</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>3,852</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>1,629</b>
	<b>TOWN CLERK EXPENSE</b>							
84	TOWN CLERK SALARY	45,388	45,265	(123)	48,565	51,479	6%	2,914
85	ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK	4,012	4,004	(9)	4,000	3,000	-25%	(1,000)
86	RECORD PRESERVATION PAYROLL	-	-	-	-	3,500		3,500
87	FICA	3,779	3,769	(10)	4,021	4,691	17%	670
88	HEALTH INSURANCE	16,555	19,312	2,757	14,470	19,910	38%	5,440
89	RETIREMENT	3,064	3,001	(63)	3,278	3,604	10%	325
90	DENTAL INSURANCE	840	1,393	553	840	1,500	79%	660
91	LIFE/AD&D, SHORT & LONG TERM DISAB INS	384	413	29	410	500	22%	90
92	POSTAGE, SUPPLIES	400	593	193	600	300	-50%	(300)
93	MEETINGS, MILEAGE, MEMBERSHIPS	400	243	(158)	400	250	-38%	(150)
94	MARRIAGE LICENSE STATE FEE	200	350	150	750	500	-33%	(250)
95	DOG LICENSE SUPPLIES & POSTAGE	500	118	(382)	250	250	0%	-
96	State Dog License surcharge	-	850	850	960	960	0%	-
97	RECORDS PRESERVATION	4,000	-	(4,000)	2,600	5,000	92%	2,400
98	LAND RECORD BOOKS	600	1,103	503	600	200	-67%	(400)
99	ONLINE ACCESS TO LAND RECORDS	3,000	1,870	(1,130)	2,100	2,000	-5%	(100)
100	<b>Total Town Clerk Expense</b>	<b>83,122</b>	<b>82,283</b>	<b>(839)</b>	<b>83,844</b>	<b>97,644</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13,799</b>
	<b>TREASURER EXPENSE</b>							
101	TREASURER	3,500	3,656	156	4,640	4,952	7%	312
102	ASSISTANT TREASURER	788	788	0	825	865	5%	40
103	FICA	328	340	12	418	471	13%	53
104	ADVERTISING, POSTAGE & SUPPLIES	1,600	1,121	(479)	1,700	1,500	-12%	(200)
105	BANK SERVICE FEES & CHECK SUPPLIES	300	65	(235)	300	150	-50%	(150)
106	MEETINGS, MILEAGE & MEMBERSHIPS	300	40	(260)	300	40	-87%	(260)
107	<b>Total Treasurer Expense</b>	<b>6,816</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>(805)</b>	<b>8,183</b>	<b>7,978</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>(205)</b>
	<b>TOWN REPORT &amp; AUDITING EXPENSE</b>							
108	TOWN REPORT PREPARATION WAGE	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-		-
109	FICA	77	191	114	-	-		-
110	POSTAGE, SUPPLIES & MILEAGE	500	-	(500)	250	100	-60%	(150)
111	PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES	13,000	18,700	5,700	13,500	15,000	11%	1,500

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025, BUDGET FY2024, & BUDGET- TO - ACTUAL FY2023**

	Account Description	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 ACTUAL	\$ Over (Under) Budget	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	% Over (Under) Prior Year	\$ Over (Under) Prior Year
112	AUDIT PREPARATION	2,500	2,500	-	-	-		-
113	TOWN REPORT PRINTING & PRODUCTION	1,800	1,689	(111)	1,800	1,800	0%	-
114	<b>Total Report &amp; Auditor Expense</b>	<b>18,877</b>	<b>23,080</b>	4,203	<b>15,550</b>	<b>16,900</b>	9%	1,350
<b>LISTERS EXPENSE</b>								
115	LISTERS	15,000	9,010	(5,990)	15,000	20,300	35%	5,300
116	FICA	1,148	689	(459)	1,148	1,642	43%	494
117	POSTAGE, SUPPLIES & MILEAGE	350	400	50	350	400	14%	50
118	ADVERTISING	250		(250)	250	100	-60%	(150)
119	MEETINGS, SEMINARS & DUES	400	360	(40)	400	400	0%	-
120	CAMA LICENSES	3,800	2,300	(1,500)	3,800	4,200	11%	400
121	<b>Total Lister Expense</b>	<b>20,948</b>	<b>12,759</b>	(8,189)	<b>20,948</b>	<b>27,042</b>	29%	6,094
<b>COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES EXPENSE</b>								
122	DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION	12,000	11,728	(272)	12,000	12,000	0%	-
123	FICA	918	897	(21)	918	971	6%	53
124	SUPPLIES	50	7	(43)	50	50	0%	-
125	MEETINGS & SEMINARS	60	28	(32)	60	60	0%	-
126	<b>Total Collector of Delinquent Tax Expense</b>	<b>13,028</b>	<b>12,661</b>	(367)	<b>13,028</b>	<b>13,081</b>	0%	53
<b>ENERGY &amp; CONSERVATION EXPENSE</b>								
127	GREENUP DAY EXPENSES	300	238	(62)	300	250	-17%	(50)
128	CONSERVATION EXPENSES	750	479	(271)	750	750	0%	-
129	ENERGY COMMITTEE	250	250	-	250	250	0%	-
130	REGIONAL ENERGY COORDINATOR	6,195	6,195	-	6,195	6,195		-
131	VITAL COMMUNITIES - ENERGY PROGRAM	100	100	-	100	100	0%	-
132	<b>Total Energy Committee Expense</b>	<b>7,595</b>	<b>7,262</b>	(333)	<b>7,595</b>	<b>7,545</b>	-1%	(50)
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION &amp; DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD</b>								
133	CLERK WAGE	2,750	6,960	4,210	4,800	5,590	16%	790
134	FLOOD HAZARD BYLAW ADMIN	800	435	(365)	800	1,200	50%	400
135	FICA	272	566	294	428	549	28%	121
136	POSTAGE	450	917	467	450	600	33%	150
137	SUPPLIES, ADVERTISING & NOTICES	500	1,530	1,030	500	4,500	800%	4,000
138	PLANNING COMMISSION SEMINARS	-	136	136	-			-
139	LEGAL EXPENSE	2,200	6,219	4,019	5,000	5000	0%	-
140	<b>Total Planning Commission Expense</b>	<b>6,972</b>	<b>16,763</b>	9,791	<b>11,978</b>	<b>17,439</b>	46%	5,461
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>								
141	CONSTABLE	150	-	(150)	150	150	0%	-
142	POLICE	62,400	62,210	(190)	64,480	70,000	9%	5,520
143	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	1,500	210	(1,290)	1,500	1,500	0%	-
144	ANIMAL CONTROL FICA		16	16	115	121	6%	6
145	POUND OPERATION EXPENSE	750	-	(750)	750		-100%	(750)
147	<b>Total Law Enforcement Expense</b>	<b>64,800</b>	<b>62,436</b>	(2,364)	<b>66,995</b>	<b>71,771</b>	7%	4,776
<b>FIRE &amp; RESCUE</b>								
148	E-911 EXPENSES	250	-	(250)	250	250	0%	-
149	FIRE DEPARTMENT	53,150	53,150	-	56,950	55,550	-2%	(1,400)
150	SOUTH ROYALTON RESCUE	89,686	89,686	-	92,979	104,050	12%	11,071
151	SOUTH ROYALTON RESCUE - AMBULANCE	-	-	-	250	250	0%	-
152	HARTFORD EMERGENCY SERVICES	1,000	-	(1,000)		175		175
153	<b>Total Fire &amp; Rescue Expense</b>	<b>144,086</b>	<b>142,836</b>	(1,250)	<b>150,429</b>	<b>160,275</b>	7%	9,846
<b>CEMETERIES</b>								
154	CEMETERIES-OTHER REPAIRS & MAINT	2,750	770	(1,980)	2,750	2,750	0%	-
155	PINE HILL CEMETERY APPROPRIATION	5,750	5,750	-	5,750	5,750	0%	-
156	PINE HILL CEMETERY FUEL COST	250	-	(250)	250	0	-100%	(250)
157	<b>Total Cemetery Expense</b>	<b>8,750</b>	<b>6,520</b>	(2,230)	<b>8,750</b>	<b>8,500</b>	-3%	(250)
<b>COMMUNITY APPROPRIATIONS</b>								
158	STAGECOACH	4,054	4,054	-	4,054	4,054	0%	-
159	WINDSOR COUNTY MENTORS	375	375	-	500	500	0%	-
160	HEALTH CARE & REHAB SERVICES	100	100	-	100	100	0%	-
161	VNA VNH	3,500	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	0%	-
162	CLARA MARTIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	750	750	-	750	750	0%	-
163	SAFELINE	700	700	-	700	700	0%	-
164	WHITE RIVER PARTNERSHIP	500	500	-	500	500	0%	-
165	VT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND	150	150	-	150	150	0%	-
166	HIV/HCV RESOURCE CTR (formerly ACORN)	300	300	-	300	300	0%	-

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025, BUDGET FY2024, & BUDGET- TO - ACTUAL FY2023**

	Account Description	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 ACTUAL	\$ Over (Under) Budget	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	% Over (Under) Prior Year	\$ Over (Under) Prior Year
167	VT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION TASK FORCE	100	100	-	100	100	0%	-
168	SHARON HISTORICAL SOCIETY					500		
169	<b>Total Community Appropriations</b>	<b>10,529</b>	<b>10,529</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,654</b>	<b>11,154</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>GUVSW &amp; RELATED</b>								
170	GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE DIST	15,600	15,600	-	14,040	14,040	0%	-
171	GUVSW COUPONS	5,500	3,763	(1,738)	5,500	3,800	-31%	(1,700)
172	GUVSW STICKERS	2,500	2,349	(151)	2,500	3,000	20%	500
173	<b>Total GUVSW &amp; Related Expense</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>21,712</b>	<b>(1,889)</b>	<b>22,040</b>	<b>20,840</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>
<b>SENIOR CITIZEN SUPPORT</b>								
174	CENTRAL VT COUNCIL ON AGING	750	750	-	750	750	0%	-
175	SO ROYALTON SENIOR CENTER	2,500	2,500	-	3,500	5,000	43%	1,500
176	SHARON HEALTH INITIATIVE	3,000	4,686	1,686	4,000	5,000	25%	1,000
	<b>Total Senior Citizen Support Services</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>7,936</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>10,750</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>OLD HOME DAY</b>								
177	OLD HOME DAY	750	750	-	750	750	0%	-
178	<b>Total Old Home Day Expense</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>LIBRARY BUILDING</b>								
179	CLEANING WAGE	1,000	941	(59)	1,000	650	-35%	(350)
180	FICA	77	72	(5)	77	53	-32%	(24)
181	ELECTRICITY	750	2,115	1,365	2,600	2,300	-40%	(300)
182	BUILDING REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	2,500	243	(2,257)	2,500	2,000	-20%	(500)
183	HEATING FUEL	1,400	-	(1,400)	-	-	0%	-
184	<b>Total Library Building Expense</b>	<b>5,727</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>(2,357)</b>	<b>6,177</b>	<b>5,003</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>(1,174)</b>
<b>COUNTY TAX, INTEREST &amp; MISC.</b>								
185	MISC EXPENSE	-	-	-	-	-		-
186	COUNTY TAX & BOND PAYMENTS	11,700	11,728	28	11,700	10,127	-13%	(1,573)
187	<b>Total County Tax, Interest &amp; Misc Exp</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,728</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>10,127</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>(1,573)</b>
188	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING EXP</b>	<b>675,490</b>	<b>626,753</b>	<b>(48,737)</b>	<b>677,050</b>	<b>736,245</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>59,195</b>
189	<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>27,937</b>	<b>112,615</b>	<b>84,678</b>	<b>56,466</b>	<b>25,626</b>		<b>(30,840)</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO (FROM) OTHER FUNDS</b>								
190	CAPITAL BLDG IMPROV RESERVE TRANS OUT	45,000	45,000	-	40,000	40,000	0%	-
191	LIBRARY OPERATING FUND TRANSFER OUT	28,485	28,485	-	30,562	36,976	21%	6,414
192	RECORD PRESERVATION TRANSFER OUT(IN)	2,800	4,096	1,296	3,944	(4,000)	-201%	(7,944)
193	CONSERVATION FUND TRANSFER OUT	-	-	-	-			-
194	RECREATION TRANSFER OUT	4,000	4,000	-	6,100	5,680	-7%	(420)
195	EMERGENCY CTR RESERVE TRANSFER OUT	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	0%	-
196	LEGAL FEE TRANSFER OUT	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	0%	-
197	FIRE EQUIP RESERVE TRANSFER OUT	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	0%	-
198	<b>Total Transfers to Other Funds</b>	<b>115,285</b>	<b>116,581</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>115,606</b>	<b>113,656</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>(1,950)</b>
199	<b>Total Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>790,775</b>	<b>743,334</b>	<b>(47,441)</b>	<b>792,656</b>	<b>849,901</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>57,245</b>
200	<b>NET REVENUE (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>(87,348)</b>	<b>(3,966)</b>	<b>83,382</b>	<b>(59,140)</b>	<b>(88,030)</b>		<b>(28,890)</b>
	Prior Year End Fund Balance	382,337			378,371	319,231		
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE ALLOCATED TO</b>								
201	<b>BALANCE BUDGET IF NEEDED</b>	<b>87,348</b>	<b>3,966</b>		<b>59,140</b>	<b>88,030</b>		
					<i>ACTUAL</i>	<i>PROJECTED</i>		
202	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>294,989</b>	<b>378,371</b>		<b>319,231</b>	<b>231,201</b>		

**HIGHWAY OPERATING FUND PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025, BUDGET FY2024, & BUDGET- TO - ACTUAL FY2023**

Account Description	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 ACTUAL	\$ Over (Under) Budget	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	% Over (Under) Prior Year	\$ Over (Under) Prior Year
<b>Highway Revenue</b>							
1 HIGHWAY FUND TAX REVENUE	870,000	870,000	-	920,700	970,000	5%	49,300
2 STATE AID FOR HIGHWAYS	115,000	117,689	2,689	115,000	125,000	9%	10,000
3 GRANT REVENUE	17,000	42,629	25,629	31,000	21,000	-32%	(10,000)
4 OVERWEIGHT VEHICLE PERMITS	400	405	5	400	450	13%	50
5 NET METERING CREDIT - HWY	600	622	22	600	600	0%	-
6 SALE OF AN ASSET	-	300	300	-	-		-
7 WINTER MAINTENANCE REIMBURSEMENT					6,000		6,000
8 MISC HWY REVENUE/INSURANCE REFUND/Int.	-	16,415	16,415	5,610	1,000		(4,610)
9 <b>Total Highway Revenue</b>	<b>1,003,000</b>	<b>1,048,060</b>	<b>45,060</b>	<b>1,073,310</b>	<b>1,124,050</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>50,740</b>
<b>Highway Expense</b>							
<b>WAGE &amp; WAGE RELATED EXPENSES</b>							
10 ROAD CREW REGULAR WAGES	192,954	185,150	(7,804)	206,313	228,093	11%	21,780
11 ROAD CREW OVERTIME WAGES	25,639	18,739	(6,900)	25,384	25,281	0%	(103)
12 FICA	16,722	15,597	(1,125)	17,725	20,498	16%	2,773
13 HEALTH INSURANCE	59,154	43,163	(15,991)	54,900	56,000	2%	1,100
14 DENTAL INSURANCE	3,180	3,054	(126)	3,300	3,300	0%	-
15 RETIREMENT FUND-EMPLOYER PORTION	14,755	13,316	(1,439)	15,640	15,966	2%	327
16 LIFE/AD&D, SHORT & LONG TERM DISAB INS	1,500	1,543	43	1,600	1,700	6%	100
17 UNIFORMS	3,200	3,128	(72)	3,200	3,300	3%	100
18 MEDICAL CARDS	800	250	(550)	400	250	-38%	(150)
19 WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	18,870	17,131	(1,739)	18,000	17,000	-6%	(1,000)
20 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	450	366	(84)	400	450	13%	50
21 <b>Total Wage &amp; Wage Related Expense</b>	<b>337,224</b>	<b>301,439</b>	<b>(35,785)</b>	<b>346,862</b>	<b>371,838</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>24,976</b>
<b>VEHICLE EXPENSE</b>							
22 TRUCKS & LIABILITY INSURANCE	12,000	9,301	(2,699)	10,500	13,000	24%	2,500
23 TIRES, CHAINS, & PLOW EDGES	17,500	13,332	(4,168)	12,000	17,500	46%	5,500
24 2022 Western Star Tandem Dump TRUCK #1	2,500.00	3,067	567	2,500	3,000	20%	500
25 FY2023 Western Star Single Axle Dump Truck #3		2,509	2,509	2,500	3,000		500
26 2020 FORD F550 One-ton Dump TRUCK #4	3,500.00	3,671	171	2,500	3,000	20%	500
27 2017 Freightliner Single Axle AWD Dump TRUCK #10	6,500.00		(6,500)	-			-
28 2018 Freightliner Tandem Dump TRUCK #11	6,500.00	3,907	(2,593)	5,500	3,000	-45%	(2,500)
29 Cat LOADER #5	4,500.00	4,132	(368)	4,500	3,000	-33%	(1,500)
30 Cat GRADER #6	6,000.00	6,748	748	6,000	6,000	0%	-
31 JCB BACKHOE #7	2,600	1,731	(869)	1,500	1,500	0%	-
32 John Deere TRACTOR/MOWER #8	2,500	893	(1,607)	2,000	3,000	50%	1,000
33 FUEL	54,000	71,675	17,675	81,900	74,000	-10%	(7,900)
34 <b>Total Vehicle Expense</b>	<b>118,100</b>	<b>120,965</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>131,400</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>(1,400)</b>
<b>GARAGE EXPENSES</b>							
35 PROPERTY INSURANCE	3,500	2,269	(1,231)	3,000	2,300	-23%	(700)
36 TELEPHONE	1,776	1,434	(342)	1,776	1,500	-16%	(276)
37 ELECTRICITY	1,800	1,662	(138)	2,000	1,700	-15%	(300)
38 TRAININGS, SEMINARS AND MILEAGE	800	131	(670)	800	500	-38%	(300)
39 SHOP EXPENSES	6,750	6,941	191	6,750	6,750	0%	-
40 ADVERTISING RFP's, JOB & ROAD POSTINGS	1,000	528	(472)	750	750	0%	-
41 BUILDING & GROUNDS	9,200	7,705	(1,495)	5,000	5,000	0%	-
42 SAFETY EQUIPMENT	2,000	201	(1,799)	1,500	750	-50%	(750)
43 TOOLS SMALL EQUIPMENT	2,500	2,274	(226)	2,000	2,000	0%	-
44 <b>Total Garage Expenses</b>	<b>29,326</b>	<b>23,144</b>	<b>(6,182)</b>	<b>23,576</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>(2,326)</b>
<b>GRANT &amp; PERMIT EXPENSES</b>							
45 PERMITS, LICENSING & FEES	2,000	1,827	(173)	2,000	2,000	0%	-
46 GRANT EXPENSE	17,000	23,591	6,591	31,000	26,000	-16%	(5,000)



**HIGHWAY OPERATING FUND PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025, BUDGET FY2024, & BUDGET- TO - ACTUAL FY2023**

Account Description	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 ACTUAL	\$ Over (Under) Budget	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	% Over (Under) Prior Year	\$ Over (Under) Prior Year
47 Total Grant & Permit Expenses	19,000	25,419	6,419	33,000	28,000	-15%	(5,000)
<b>ROAD MAINTENANCE EXPENSE</b>							
48 CULVERTS & BRIDGES	10,000	33,246	23,246	12,000	18,000	50%	6,000
49 SAND	70,000	66,586	(3,414)	70,000	70,000	0%	-
50 GRAVEL & STONE	55,000	51,236	(3,764)	65,000	65,000	0%	-
51 GRASS SEED	1,000	440	(560)	1,000	750	-25%	(250)
52 SIGNS	4,000	2,642	(1,358)	4,000	2,500	-38%	(1,500)
53 GUARDRAILS	7,500		(7,500)	5,000	5,000	0%	-
54 CHLORIDE (SUMMER)	17,750	19,455	1,705	18,000	22,000	22%	4,000
55 SALT (WINTER)	54,000	51,908	(2,092)	49,450	49,450	0%	-
56 BLACKTOP	3,000	333	(2,667)	3,000	3,000	0%	-
57 PAVEMENT CRACK SEALING	12,000	11,999	(1)	12,000	12,000	0%	-
58 HIGHWAY 1 MILE ANNUAL TOP-DRESSING	18,000	9,186	(8,814)	18,000	18,000	0%	-
59 CONTRACTED SERVICES	20,000	26,082	6,082	25,000	32,500	30%	7,500
60 Total Road Maintenance Expenses	272,250	273,114	864	282,450	298,200	6%	15,750
62 NET HWY OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSE)	227,100	303,979	76,879	256,022	274,762		18,740
<b>HIGHWAY TRANSFERS TO (FROM) OTHER FUNDS</b>							
63 HWY INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFER OUT TO RESERVE	12,390	12,390	-	18,534	29,683	60%	11,149
64 HWY INFRASTRUCTURE BOND DEBT SERVICE TRANSFER	122,610	122,610	-	121,466	120,317	-1%	(1,149)
65 HWY BUILDING IMPROVEMENT - TRANSFER OUT	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	0%	-
66 EQUIPMENT TRANSFER OUT TO RESERVE	130,000	130,000	-	135,200	140,600	4%	5,400
67 Total HWY Transfers	295,000	295,000	-	305,200	320,600	5%	15,400
68 TOTAL EXPENSES & TRANSFERS	1,070,900	1,039,080	(31,820)	1,122,488	1,169,888	4%	47,400
69 NET REVENUE (EXPENSES)	(67,900)	8,979	76,879	(49,178)	(45,838)		3,340
Prior Year End Fund Balance	239,591	-		248,570	199,393		
HIGHWAY FUND BALANCE ALLOCATED TO BALANCE BUDGET							
70 IF NEEDED	67,900	(8,979.30)		49,178	45,838		
	ACTUAL			PROJECTED			
71 Ending Fund Balance	171,691	248,570		199,393	153,555		

DESCRIPTION	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
CAPITAL PLAN CASH FLOW SCHEDULE											
Ending Fund Balance from Prior Fiscal Year	290,793.31	659,276	206,223	157,450	169,139	173,366	33,049	18,909	50,990	67,131	
Inflows											
Bond Debt Service Transfer in from Hwy Fund	-	21,662	119,803	122,610	121,466	120,317	119,140	117,919	116,637	115,134	-
Non-bond Related Transfer in from Hwy Fund	115,000	98,338	7,197	12,390	18,534	29,683	30,860	32,081	38,363	44,866	160,000
Transfer in from Highway Fund Subtotal	115,000	120,000	127,000	135,000	140,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	155,000	160,000	160,000
Grant Revenue for Paving - AOT (80/20)						200,000			200,000		
Grant Revenue for Structures - AOT (90/10)	-		61,466	9,225	132,455	135,000			200,000		-
Grant Revenue: Better Roads Cand/or D						20,000					
Interest				325	300						
Loan Proceeds from Bond Issuance for Paving	1,100,000										
Total Actual or Projected Inflows	1,215,000	120,000	188,466	144,550	272,755	505,000	150,000	150,000	355,000	360,000	160,000
Outflows											
Engineering/Planning Expense/Pre-Constructn	(16,916)		(1,937)								
Site Engineer Expense	(11,700)	(6,413)									
Legal Fees & Legal Notices	(2,951)										
Paving Project Expense Rte 132											
Repaving Projects (Rte 132, Beaver Mdw, River Rd)						(250,000)			(250,000)		
Reclaim & Repave Howe Hill Rd	(746,941.36)	(277,610)									
Repave Portion of River Rd (Bridge to Howe Hill)	-	(83,505)									
Reclaim & repave Portion of Fay Brook Rd	(50,857.00)	(94,175)									
Repave Portion of Broad Brook Rd	-	(52,861)									
Crackseal & Patch per 1c Schedule		(2,246)									
1" Overlay Detail (Road to Elem Sch & TSA)	-	-	(43,580)			(100,000)					
1 1/4" Overlay - Quimby Mtn paved area	-										
Green Bridge 15	(12,021)	(41,321)					(45,000)				
AOT Structures Project Expense	-		(68,161)	(10,250)	(147,062)	(150,000)			(222,222)		-
Better Roads Project Expense C and/or D					-	(25,000)					
FWHA Box Culvert Work on Rte 132											
Debt Service 10yr Principal Transfer In from Hwy Op Fund			(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)	-
Debt Service Interest Transfer In from Hwy Fund	(5,131)	(14,923)	(13,560)	(12,610)	(11,466)	(10,317)	(9,140)	(7,919)	(6,637)	(5,134)	-
Total Actual or Projected Outflows	(846,517)	(573,054)	(237,239)	(132,860)	(268,528)	(645,317)	(164,140)	(117,919)	(338,859)	(365,134)	-
Projected Ending Fund Balance for Fiscal Year	659,276.27	206,223	157,450	169,139	173,366	33,049	18,909	50,990	67,131	61,997	221,997
Fiscal Year End June 30	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Projected	FY2025 Projected	FY2026 Projected	FY2027 Projected	FY2028 Projected	FY2029 Projected	FY2030 Projected

TOWN OF SHARON					HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND					REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE				
VEHICLES & LARGE EQUIPMENT as of 6/30/2023	age in yrs 6/30/23	Date Acquired	useful life in years	Purchase Price with Warranty	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
2023 Western Star 4700SF 6 Wheel D&P Truck	1	6/15/2022	7	198,412.00			Purchase	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000		
2022 Western Star 4700SF Tandem D&P Truck	1.8	9/1/2021	7	209,428.00			Purchase	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		Purchase
2020 Ford550 1Ton w/ dump body & plow	3	6/3/2020	5	114,708.00	Purchase	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	Purchase	30,000	30,000	30,000
2018 Backhoe JCB 3CX15 Super	4.5	12/17/2018	10	116,996.00	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000					
2018 Freightliner 114SD Tandem Dump/Plow Truck	5.4	2/9/2018	7	185,496.00	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000		Purchase	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
2017 Freightliner 108SD AWD Truck&body&scraper traded		2/6/2017	7	190,500.00	*paid in fy19	24,000	24,000							
2016 Caterpillar 12M 3 Grader	7	6/24/2016	10	358,900.00	46,400	46,400								Purchase
2015 Western Star 4700SF dump/plow truck	traded	10/28/2015	7	191,681.00	19,000	19,000								
2015 Ford550 1Ton w/ dump body & plow	traded	5/28/2015	5	94,318.30	Trade Jun20									
2012 Caterpillar Loader Model 930K	10.9	8/30/2012	10	158,948.00				Purchase 50k	Trade 3/24					
2022 or 2023 John Deere Mower Unit	0.2	5/15/2023	10											
2010 John Deere 6330 Tractor	12.8	10/11/2010	10	95,040.00									Purchase	16,000
2024 John Deere 524P Loader (pending)		3/1/2024	10	199,300.00				Purchase	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
				Fund Balance Start	72,649	78,562	45,048	88,978	59,513	89,433	81,603	144,443	145,603	189,993
	+			HWY Transfer In	115,000	120,000	125,000	130,000	135,200	140,600	150,000	160,000	170,000	180,000
	+			Loan Proceeds	80,000		270,000	-	120,000	150,000	150,000		80,000	440,000
	+			Trade-In	43,500		155,000	-	75,000	85,000	30,000		15,000	100,000
	+			Interest allocation				262						
	-			Large Eq Purchase	(114,138)		(407,835)	(39,942)	(199,300)	(274,000)	(140,000)		(120,000)	(720,000)
	-			Small Eq Purchase	(4,500)	-	-	-	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
	-			Principal Pmt	(107,400)	(147,400)	(92,887)	(112,000)	(88,000)	(94,000)	(108,000)	(138,000)	(84,000)	(100,000)
	-			Interest Pmt	(6,549)	(6,114)	(5,348)	(7,785)	(7,980)	(10,430)	(14,160)	(15,840)	(11,610)	(11,430)
				Fund Balance End	78,562	45,048	88,978	59,513	89,433	81,603	144,443	145,603	189,993	73,563
				Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
				Total Principal	346400	346400	214000	358,113	266,000	298,000	354,000	396,000	258,000	254,000
				Interest	8660	8660	5885	10743.39	7980	10,430.00	14,160.00	15,840.00	11,610.00	11,430.00
					2.50%	2.75%	2.75%	3.00%	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	4.50%	4.50%

BALANCE SHEET - GENERAL OPERATING FUND		
Account	AS OF JUNE 30, 2022	AS OF JUNE 30, 2023
CASH TOWN CLERK	150.00	150.00
CASH SELECTBOARD'S OFFICE	350.00	350.00
GENERAL FUND CHECKING MB	297,656.05	218,116.03
PAYROLL CHECKING	32,578.32	32,831.25
GENERAL FUND MMKT MB	908,186.88	1,335,526.96
US BANK BOND PROCEED ACCT	-	-
ONLINE PAYMENT ACCOUNT	27,272.62	29,426.19
PREPAID EXPENSES	21,438.98	22,248.69
CURRENT TAXES RECEIVABLE	-	-
CURRENT TAX INTEREST RECEIVABLE	-	-
DELINQUENT TAXES RECEIVABLE	176,417.50	126,556.70
DELINQUENT INT/OTH RECEIVABLE	76,375.20	49,473.44
ACCTS RECEIVABLE OTHER	13,679.84	1,866.55
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,554,105.39</b>	<b>1,816,545.81</b>
DEFERRED REVENUE OTHER	6,456.81	6,820.19
DEFERRED REVENUE DELINQUENT TAXES	171,758.55	114,914.61
SCHOOL TAXES PAYABLE	-	-
ACCRUED WAGE	8,176.09	6,953.55
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	2,044.19	26,240.88
HEALTH INSURANCE PAYABLE	683.26	5,649.60
DENTAL INSURANCE PAYABLE	128.33	862.22
EYEMED PAYABLE	4.86	(2.07)
RETIREMENT PAYABLE	0.41	-
INTERFUND - CASH HELD FOR OTHER FUNDS	982,515.84	1,276,735.97
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,171,768.34</b>	<b>1,438,174.95</b>
GENERAL FUND BAL TOTAL PRIOR YEARS	411,555.01	382,337.05
FUND BALANCE CURRENT YEAR	(29,217.96)	(3,966.19)
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>382,337.05</b>	<b>378,370.86</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>1,554,105.39</b>	<b>1,816,545.81</b>

BALANCE SHEET - HIGHWAY OPERATING FUND		
Account	AS OF JUNE 30, 2022	AS OF JUNE 30, 2023
PREPAID EXPENSES HWY	7,993.89	6,917.14
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	674.50	27,752.64
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>8,668.39</b>	<b>34,669.78</b>
ACCRUED WAGE	7,839.98	6,676.95
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	7,099.65	47,785.61
INTERFUND	(245,862.12)	(268,362.96)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>(230,922.49)</b>	<b>(213,900.40)</b>
HIGHWAY FUND BAL TOTAL PRIOR YEARS	234,881.80	239,590.88
FUND BALANCE CURRENT YEAR	4,709.08	8,979.30
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>239,590.88</b>	<b>248,570.18</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>8,668.39</b>	<b>34,669.78</b>

GOVERNMENT INTERFUND BALANCES AS OF June 30, 2023		
INTERFUND	CASH HELD FOR & DUE TO	CASH DUE FROM
<i>Interfund is also known as "Due To/Due From"</i>	<b>DEBIT</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>
100-1899-00.00 GENERAL OPERATING FUND INTERFUND	-	1,276,735.97
200-1899-00.00 HWY EQUIP INTERFUND	60,249.35	-
222-1899-00.00 HWY OPERATING INTERFUND	268,362.96	-
325-1899-00.00 ARPA FUNDS	379,415.65	-
333-1899-00.00 FEMA/FHWA	-	3,000.00
400-1899-00.00 RECREATION	-	-
500-1899-00.00 OSH	58.15	-
600-1899-00.00 DOWNER FUND	-	-
650-1899-00.00 BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY	-	-
720-1899-00.00 JAMES JUDSON MEM INTERFUND	-	0.09
740-1899-00.00 STEENKEN LEASE LAND INTERFUND	0.10	-
800-1899-00.00 LEGAL RESERVE	6,011.46	-
900-1899-00.00 GRANTS - OTHER INTERFUND	12,147.28	-
925-1899-00.00 RECORD PRESERVATION INTERFUND	32,678.93	-
926-1899-00.00 SOLAR DECOMMISSIONING FUND	-	-
995-1899-00.00 APPRAISAL RESERVE INTERFUND	96,367.54	-
999-1899-00.00 CAPITAL ASSET RESERVE INTERFUND	424,444.64	-
<b>TOTAL (Debit and Credit should always be equal)</b>	<b>1,279,736.06</b>	<b>1,279,736.06</b>

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITY - FIXED ASSETS BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2023	
CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS	10,250
LAND	442,810
ART	3,700
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	172,875
BUILDINGS	391,251
EQUIPMENT	215,638
VEHICLES	1,487,924
INFRASTRUCTURE	6,070,170
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>8,794,619</b>
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	2,752,497
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,752,497</b>
FUND BALANCE FROM PRIOR YEARS	6,345,508
CHANGE TO FUND BALANCE CURRENT YEAR (Depreciation Expense)	(303,386)
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>6,042,122</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FIXED ASSET FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>8,794,619</b>

LONG-TERM DEBT BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2023	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	-
MASCOMA BANK - 5YR \$90K OCT 2018- 2018 JCB BACKHOE	9,000
COMMUNITY BANK NA \$80k 5YR JUN 2020- 2020 F550	32,000
COMMUNITY BANK NA \$120k 5YR JUN 2021- 2022 WS	85,113
COMMUNITY BANK NA \$150k 5YR JUN 2022- 2023 WS	120,000
MUNICIPAL BOND LOAN 10YR \$1.1M MAR 2020 - PAVING	880,000
ACCRUED COMPENSATION	26,878
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,152,991</b>
LONG-TERM DEBT FUND BALANCE	(1,126,113)
ACCRUED COMPENSATION BALANCE	(26,878)
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(1,152,991)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; LONG-TERM DEBT FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>-</b>

VMERS PENSION LIABILITY BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2023	
PENSION DEFERRED OUTFLOW	(119,938.00)
NET PENSION LIABILITY	288,597.00
PENSION DEFERRED INFLOW	4,644.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>173,303.00</b>
PENSION BEGINNING EQUITY	(142,780.00)
NET CHANGE IN CURRENT YEAR'S FUND BALANCE	(30,523.00)
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(173,303.00)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>-</b>

## TOWN OF SHARON

## RESERVE &amp; SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ACTIVITY AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

	TOWN OF SHARON RESERVE FUNDS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023	Town Building Improvement Reserve Fund	Highway Building Improvement Reserve Fund	Old Town Hall Building Improvement Reserve Fund	Highway Infrastructure Reserve Fund	Fire Equipment Reserve Fund	Emergency Operations Center Reserve Fund	Reappraisal Fund	Record Preservation Fund	Highway Equipment Reserve Fund	Conservation Fund
FY2021 Ending Balance	20,562.63	-	-	206,222.74	92,223.96	9,290.00	80,950.54	28,881.36	45,048.16	1,360.60	
FY2022 Gen Fund Transfer In *	6,000.00			-	30,000.00	4,000.00	-	(355.15)			
Hwy Transfers In		10,000.00		127,000.00						125,000.00	
Alliance 50% funding for Ashley Comm Forest											
Loan Proceeds										270,000.00	
Equip Trade Ins \$80k '15WS + \$75k '17WS										155,000.00	
Grant Revenue				61,465.77			7,609.50				
Interest Earned											0.17
Fire Equipment Expense					(19,973.53)						
TRORC Consulting re Rte 132				(1,937.24)		-					-
Paving Project Expense - Contractor				(43,580.00)							-
Structures Grant Contractor - Qmby Mtn				(68,161.00)							-
Bond Loan Principal				(110,000.00)							-
Bond Loan Interest (includes accrued)				(13,560.46)							-
Purchase 2022 & 2023 West Star dump trucks										(407,835.00)	-
Truck & Equipment Loan Principal										(92,886.98)	-
Loan Interest										(5,347.75)	-
FY2022 Ending Balance	26,562.63	10,000.00	-	157,449.81	102,250.43	13,290.00	88,560.04	28,526.21	88,978.43	1,360.77	
FY2023 Gen Fund Transfer In *	45,000.00			-	30,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,096.00			
Hwy Transfers In		30,000.00		135,000.00						130,000.00	
Donation to Fund			50.00								2,000.00
Loan Proceeds											
Equip Trade Ins \$80k '15WS + \$75k '17WS											
Grant Revenue	720.00			9,225.00			7,628.50				
Interest Earned	141.59	74.96	-	324.82	258.19	33.31	179.00	56.72	262.04	0.66	
Deferred Revenue											
Escrowed											
Fire Equipment Expense											
TRORC Consulting re Rte 132						-					-
Paving Project Expense - Contractor											-
Structures Grant Contractor				(10,250.00)							-
Bond Loan Principal				(110,000.00)							-
Bond Loan Interest (includes accrued)				(12,610.40)							-
Purchase Equipment										(39,942.00)	-
Truck & Equipment Loan Principal										(112,000.00)	-
Loan Interest										(7,785.23)	-
FY2023 Ending Balance	72,424.22	40,074.96	50.00	169,139.23	132,508.62	17,323.31	96,367.54	32,678.93	59,513.24	3,361.43	
Combined Total for Capital Reserve Fund 999							431,520.34	FUND 995	FUND 925	FUND 200	FUND 300

	ADDITIONAL TOWN OF SHARON RESERVE & SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023	ARPA Fund (SLFRF)	Honor Roll	James Judson Mem Fund	Steenken Lease Land	James Judson Parker Fund (ToPF)	Ashley Community Forest Fund	Legal Reserve Fund	Grants - Other	Rte 132 Solar Decommission Fund Norwich Tech
FY2021 Ending Fund Balance	-	78.66	255.93	1,000.26	42,321.25	-	4,000.00	5,075.82	-	
FY2022 Gen Fund Transfer In			-				1,000.00			
Alliance 50% funding for Ashley Comm Forest						10,000.00				
Norwich Technologies 132 Decom Pmt per Sched										5,000.00
Grant Revenue - Town Portion	80,086.13									
Grant Revenue - County Portion	148,592.28									
Interest Earned	-	-	0.24	0.83	103.25					33.72
Deferred Revenue	(206,773.41)					(10,000.00)				
Escrow										(5,033.72)
SLFRF RR Digitize Records	(18,445.00)									
SLFRF RR Heat Pump & ERV	(3,460.00)									
Resident Utility Assistance					(200.00)					
FY2022 Ending Fund Balance	-	78.66	256.17	1,001.09	42,224.50	-	5,000.00	5,075.82	-	
FY2023 Gen Fund Transfer In			-				1,000.00			
Hwy Transfers In										
Alliance 50% funding for Ashley Comm Forest						8,584.50				
Norwich Technologies 132 Decom Pmt per Sched										20,000.00
Opioid Settlement Funds								3,017.22		
Historic Society Donation for Renovations										
AVC Grant for Conservation Education								2,000.00		
AVC Kiosk Grant								2,000.00		
ARPA SLFRF Grant Revenue - Town Portion	80,086.13									
ARPA SLFRF Grant Revenue - County Portion	148,700.11									
Interest Earned	-	-	0.24	0.83	84.46	-	11.46	17.37	60.90	
Deferred Revenue	(164,905.12)					(8,264.38)		(7,027.81)		
Escrow										(20,060.90)
SLFRF RR So Royaltion Rescue Bldg Design	(25,000.00)									
SLFRF RR Heat Pump & ERV	(31,144.00)									
SLFRF RR AED Units- 3 Town Buildings & TradPost	(7,737.12)									
Ashley Forest Maint Expenses						(320.12)				
FY2023 Ending Fund Balance	-	78.66	256.41	1,001.92	42,308.96	0.00	6,011.46	5,082.60	-	
	FUND 325	FUND 700	FUND 720	FUND 740	FUND 760	FUND 780	FUND 800	FUND 900	FUND 926	

As of FY22 \$206,773.41 of revenue was deferred, in FY23 a total of \$371,678.53 was deferred

As of FY22 \$10,000 was Deferred Rev. Total Deferred as of FY23 \$18,264.38 (Sharon's 50% of Total).

As of FY22 \$20,052.27 was Escrowed. Total as of FY23 \$40,113.17 Escrowed. As of FY22 \$36.87 of FY23 Total Deferred as of FY23 \$7064.18

ARPA SLFRF FUNDS		
<p>Intended to support local governments in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) via its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program provides substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs. In FY2022 the Town of Sharon received \$228,678.41; in FY2023 the Town received \$228,786.24 for a total grant of \$457,464.65. Below lists the current status of the Town of Sharon's obligation of funds. The Selectboard is considering a resolution recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to move unobligated funds from the ARPA/SLFRF funds to the two operating funds, General and Highway, under an allowed revenue replacement category of workforce retention. This resolution will allow the Town to recover revenue lost for workforce retention and, having recovered those funds, to free up fund balance in the General and Highway Funds to be allocated. It also allows the Selectboard to obligate all monies in the ARPA Fund before the December 31, 2024 deadline for obligation, thus reducing the risk of loss of funds due to noncompliance. Public input is welcome and can be given during public comment at the beginning of Selectboard meetings. Meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the Town's website <a href="http://sharonvt.net">sharonvt.net</a> or by contacting the Selectboard Assistant, Nicola Shipman, at 802-763-8268 x4 or <a href="mailto:selectboard@sharonvt.net">selectboard@sharonvt.net</a>.</p>		
<b>ARPA SLFRF Funds Received</b>	<b>\$ 457,464.65</b>	
<b>PROJECTS</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>SELECTBOARD OBLIGATED FUNDS</b>	<b>Obligated</b>	
Digitizing Land Records and Online Accessibility	18,445.00	Approved FY22
Heat Pump and ERV for the Baxter Library	34,604.00	Approved FY22
So Royaltown Rescue Building Study/Design	25,000.00	Approved 10/28/22
Town Safety Equipment - AED with training	5,585.70	Approved 10/28/22
Remainder of AED allowance	113.53	Approved 10/28/22
Pedestrian/Bike Study (Town Portion)	12,000.00	Grant approved 8/24
Community Health - Safety Equipment AED	2,151.42	Approved by SB
Community Health - Support for So Roy Senior Ctrn Ctr Meals	5,000.00	Approved 1/2/24
<b>Total Obligated Funds as of 1/29/24</b>	<b>102,899.65</b>	<b>22%</b>
	<b>Pending Obligation</b>	
Workforce Retention Resolution Pending: General Fund (Fund 100)	212,739.00	Considered 1/29/24
Workforce Retention Resolution Pending: Highway Fund (Fund 222)	141,826.00	Considered 1/29/24
<b>Total Pending Action</b>	<b>354,565.00</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Total Funds Obligated &amp; Pending Obligation as of 1/29/24</b>	<b>457,464.65</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Ashley Community Forest**  
Fiduciary Fund: Statement of Net Change  
FY2023 July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

		Town of Sharon's Share 50%	Town of Strafford's Share 50%
Balance on hand as of July 1, 2022			
Mascoma Checking	20,000.00		
Total Balance on Hand	20,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Inflows			
Donation from AVC	17,169.00		
Outflows			
Forest Maintenance Exp	(640.24)		
Net Change	16,528.76	8,264.38	8,264.38
Balance on hand as of June 30, 2023			
Mascoma Checking	36,528.76		
Total Balance on Hand	36,528.76	18,264.38	18,264.38

## Ashley Community Forest - 2023 Report

In January 2022, the towns of Strafford and Sharon were given the 256.4-acre Ashley Community Forest by the local non-profit Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC). In addition, AVC provided \$37,169 to seed a long-term management fund for the forest. The ACF Board consists of two residents from each town who were appointed by each town Selectboard: Rob Stainton and Erik Skarsten from Sharon and Annie Penfield and David Paganelli from Strafford. The fifth member of the Board, Michael Sacca of Tunbridge, was chosen by the appointed members. At inception, the Board focused on development of a comprehensive, 10-year Stewardship Plan for the forest. Once drafted, public input was sought and incorporated. The plan is now under review by the Vermont Land Trust and Vermont Housing Conservation Board. Once approved, we will provide copies to both towns and post it on both town websites.

In 2023, we sponsored several events at the Forest. The weather didn't always cooperate, but the walks were well-attended and uniformly well-received. Events included: five monthly walks with Dee Gish and Micki Colbeck, two full moon walks guided by Michael Sacca, a Solstice Sing hosted by Becky Bailey, Fern and Plant ID with Tii McLane, a fascinating tour through the forest with Emily Boles and Rudi Ruddell who shared thoughts of the forest from an Abenaki perspective, and the ever-popular Paul Kristensen's walk "Stone Walls and the Built Landscape".

We held five invasive plant work days. Each consisting of a five-hour Saturday session to pull or dig invasive plants. Most of this work was in the Sharon portion of the forest and attendance varied from 8-15 hearty souls. These work days were strenuous and muddy, but fun and very productive. Strafford and Sharon are wonderful communities, and it was a great social experience to be together working for the good of our forest. As a result, we were able to treat about half of the invasive plants in the forest. Lots of muscle and determination and not a drop of herbicide. Thank you: Chris Behr, Hannah Weisgerber, Donna Isaacs, Michael Sacca, Anne Fayen, Nancy Grant, Dorian Yates, Emma Marks, Jim Schley, Gayle Giovanna, Jill Wilcox, Micki Colbeck, Suzanna Liepmann, Kitty Mackey, JT Horn, Kent Penfield, Annie Penfield, Erik Skarsten, Rob Stainton, David Paganelli, Dick Ruben, Dan Deneen, Kevin Gish, and the remarkable Susan Hodges. (We are so sorry if we missed your name.)

During August, we mowed the entire Sharon meadow and a trail through the Strafford meadow. All else was left unmowed to benefit pollinators. In 2024, we will reverse the pattern.

Michael Sacca arranged for a grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation to construct a kiosk. The kiosk posts are 10x10 black locust posts cut from the forest by volunteers. The kiosk will be installed in Spring 2024 near the parking area at the end of Nutting Road. This will provide a space for maps, photos, event schedules and other information. Thank you, Michael.

Thank you to the Friends of the Ashley Community Forest, and all the citizens of Strafford and Sharon, for your ongoing support of this wonderful community resource. We can be contacted at [ashleycommunityforest@gmail.com](mailto:ashleycommunityforest@gmail.com).



## **Baxter Memorial Library**

P.O. Box 87 / 5114 Rte. 14, Sharon VT 05065

802-763-2875 / [www.sharonvtlibrary.com](http://www.sharonvtlibrary.com)

M-W 2-6pm, Th 11am-7pm, Sat 10am-12pm



Each year, Baxter Memorial Library provides the Sharon community with hundreds of new books, movies, and audiobooks; enriching community programs; resources for exploring nearly any interest; access to digital resources including ebooks, audiobooks, online classes, databases, and periodicals; and 24/7 high speed wireless internet access from our parking lot – all for free.

Our library is a warm and welcoming space, and even in this largely virtual world, it's a place where kids are excited to go. Not only are there wonderful books, but there are stickers to paw through, Legos and blocks to build with, learning kits to check out, pictures to color, games to play, and puzzles to put together. There's a librarian who's always happy to see them and ready to help them find the stories that will lift them up.

Of course, Baxter Memorial Library isn't just for kids! Adults come to Baxter for so many different reasons: to relax with a good book, to attend programs such as our writing workshops, cookbook club, author talks, presentations, and crafting get-togethers; to submit job applications online, to get technical assistance for an unruly device, to chat with friends and acquaintances, to borrow tools, to print documents, to conduct telehealth conferences using the library's internet, to create, to learn, to grow....

This past year, we added a lendable telescope and hosted a star party, held bi-monthly writing workshops, offered museum and park passes, hosted author/poet talks, began lending tools to help get rid of invasive plants (thanks to the Sharon Conservation Commission), held workshops on hospice and end of life care, added a cookbook club and a monthly crafting meetup, held weekly story times, put on an incredible (and incredibly fun) summer reading program, and **so** much more – all offered for free to everyone in the community.

We are inspired by our community's generosity and are so grateful for the support we receive from our annual town appropriation. And, of course, we couldn't do everything we do without our generous volunteers! A big thank you to everyone who donates a few hours of their time on Saturdays to staff the library, as well as to everyone who volunteers to bake for our Cookie Walk, Everything Apple, and Plant, Book & Bake Sale fundraisers. Your cookies and pies truly make Sharon a sweeter place! Thank you to those who supported us at our fundraisers throughout the year, and to everyone who donated to our end-of-year giving campaign. Thanks, also, to Paula Duprat for maintaining our beautiful gardens each year, and a special thanks goes out again to Eileen Lanza for continuing to donate her stunning quilts to benefit the library. And finally, a heartfelt thank you to Sandy Johnston and Kit Hood for their hard work and dedication as Library Trustees.

Our goal is to continue to be the heart of Sharon, Vermont, but we can't do it without you. Please contact Shana at the library or see the library's web page for volunteer opportunities.

The BML Trustees: Emma Basham, Kit Hood, Laura DeCapua, and Karen Rodis; Library Director, Shana Ronayne Hickman

**BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY**
**BUDGET TO ACTUAL FOR FY2023; FY2024 BUDGET; PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025**

	Account Description	BUDGET FY2023	ACTUAL FY2023	BUDGET FY2024	PROPOSED BUDGET FY2025	% of FY24 Budget	\$ Over (Under) FY24 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>							
1	Transfer from General Fund	28,485	28,485	30,562	36,976	121%	6,414
2	Transfer from Permanent Fund: Dividends	5,500	4,019	5,500	3,600	65%	(1,900)
3	Donations & Fundraisers	7,000	8,697	7,000	-	0%	(7,000)
4	Donations				8,000		8,000
5	Fundraisers				4,000		4,000
6	Grant Revenue	5,000	5,345	5,000	2,000	40%	(3,000)
7	Gifts In Kind Revenue	-	50				-
8	Bank Interest	50	94	50	100	200%	50
9	Misc Revenue		205				-
10	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>46,035</b>	<b>46,895</b>	<b>48,112</b>	<b>54,676</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>6,564</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
<b>PROGRAM &amp; OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
11	Library Director Wage	32,032	32,032	33,314	36,645	110%	3,331
11	Substitute librarian, 1 week				360		360
12	FICA	2,450	2,450	2,549	2,831	111%	282
13	Library Director Retirement	2,163	2,109	2,249	2,492	111%	243
14	Library Supplies	400	448	400	440	110%	40
15	Adult Books, DVD, Audio	2,000	2,128	2,000	2,000	100%	-
16	Downloadable Audio Books	470	522	530	600	113%	70
17	Program Services	800	1,107	1,000	1,300	130%	300
18	Children Books, DVD, Audio	1,350	1,468	1,500	1,500	100%	-
19	Circulation Software (Verso)	735	754	780	800	103%	20
20	Interlibrary Lending Delivery Fees	1,200	1,168	1,200	1,500	125%	300
21	PO Box Rental	105	108	120	128	107%	8
22	Telephone & Internet	1,250	937	1,250	1,260	101%	10
23	Fund Raising Expenses	300	279	300	300	100%	-
24	Mileage	-	-		50		50
25	Education	-	-		100		100
26	Dues, Fees, Subscriptions, & Misc Exp	350	514	350	670	191%	320
27	Furniture/Equipment Expense	-	189	120	300	250%	180
28	Website Fee	60	66	50	50	100%	-
29	In-Kind Donation Expense	-	50				-
30	Grant Expense	370	2,170	400	1,350	338%	950
31	<b>Total Program &amp; Operating Expenses</b>	<b>46,035</b>	<b>48,499</b>	<b>48,112</b>	<b>54,676</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>6,564</b>
32	<b>NET REVENUE (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,603)</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>

**CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS:**
**As of June 30, 2023**

		Stock / # of Shares	Total \$ Value
PETTY CASH	157		
COMMUNITY BANK	22,147	AT&T/ 1808	28,331
MASCOMA BANK CDs (2)	12,652	Comcast/ 542	22,363
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	-	Verizon 492	17,978
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	<b>34,956</b>	Lumen/ 35	79
Net Change in Cash on Hand	4,088	Vodafone/ 142	1,342
LIABILITIES		Teradata 37.5	2,003
WAGE ACCRUED TO PRIOR YEAR	(1,326)	Warner BD WBD	5,455
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE and DUE TO/DUE FROM	(395)	TOTAL VALUE	<b>77,551</b>
DEFERRED REVENUE - GRANT	(3,970)		
NET REVENUE (EXPENSES)	<b>(1,603)</b>		

**As of June 30, 2023**

Balance Sheet	Operating Fund	Stock Fund	Total Combined
<b>Total Assests</b>	34,956	77,551	112,507
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	5,691	-	5,691
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	29,265	77,551	106,816
<b>Fund Balance + Liabilities</b>	34,956	77,551	112,507

Chester Downer Endowment Fund  
Trustees Report for the year 2023

During the fiscal year 2023, your Trustees, with the assistance of the Town Treasurer, continued the management of the Endowment fund. These investments, in accordance with the Downer Will, can only be in US government securities and are only authorized for expenses as specified in the will and limited to 75% of the current year income earned by those investments. A copy of the will is available at the Town Offices.

During the last fiscal year, there were no formal applications made to the Downer Fund for grants. At the Fund's annual meeting, on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Trustees approved the ongoing annual expenses of the Fund, including the Probate court fee of \$85.00 and the interest reimbursement to the Pine Hill Cemetery for \$180.00. Please note that the Fund also pays for the maintenance of the town grounds.

The Trustees also authorized the Town Treasurer to purchase a new 5-year note in the amount of \$45,000. This is in keeping with your Trustees maintaining a ladder of 5-year maturity notes, one of which will mature each year. The current note for \$45,000 will mature on January 31, 2024. The Town Treasurer, Deborah Jones, will reinvest those funds at the then current rate. Ms. Jones also reported that at the end of FY 2023, the fund had \$17,973 in restricted spending and a total of \$18,232 in the two Downer checking accounts. The Trustees also voted to replace Margaret Raymond, former Town Treasurer, with Deborah Jones as the new Equity Account Manager/Town Treasurer for the Treasury Direct account, in accordance with Treasury Direct rules. The annual Chester Downer Endowment Fund report was also reviewed and accepted by all Trustees present.

We remind all residents that all applications for grants from the Fund are first reviewed by your Trustees. Then, if approved, they must be forwarded to the Probate Court for final confirmation. This is to ensure that all grants are in strict accordance with the requirements of the Downer will.

At this time, I would also like to thank all the current Trustees for their many years of service. Anyone interested in becoming a Trustee in the future, please contact Jim Kearns at (802) 299-8700. Thank you.

The Trustees  
Jim Kearns  
Martha Fisk  
Bob Ferguson

**TRUST OF CHARLES DOWNER administered through the CHESTER DOWNER ENDOWMENT FUND**  
**FY23 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND BALANCE SHEET AS OF 6/30/23**

<b>Chester Downer Fund</b>	<b>Ending Balance 6/30/22</b>	<b>Revenue 7/1/22-6/30/23</b>	<b>Less Expenses 7/1/22-6/30/23</b>	<b>Ending Fund Balance 6/30/23</b>
Nonspendable Fund Balance*	236,593.92	1,056.66	-	<b>237,650.58</b>
Restricted Fund Balance**	16,035.59	3,169.99	(1,232.37)	<b>17,973.21</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252,629.51</b>	<b>4,226.65</b>	<b>(1,232.37)</b>	<b>255,623.79</b>

**REVENUE & EXPENSE REPORT**

**FY2023**

**Revenue**

Interest - Checking	2.11
Realized Gain - Treas Note	88.27
Interest - Treasury Notes	4,136.27
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,226.65</b>

**Expenses**

Probate Fee	85.00
Maintenance - Grounds	967.37
Pine Hill Cemetery	180.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,232.37</b>

**Net Fund Balance Change** **2,994.28**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**6/30/2023**

**Assets**

Checking	18,232.39
Treasury Bonds	237,391.40
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>255,623.79</b>

**Liabilities**

Total Liabilities	-
-------------------	---

Prior Year Nonspendable Fund Bal	236,593.92
Prior Year Restricted Fund Bal	16,035.59

Fund Bal Current Yr Nonspendable	1,056.66
----------------------------------	----------

Fund Bal Current Yr Restricted	1,937.62
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**TOTAL Fund Balance** **255,623.79**

**Liabilities and Fund Balance** **255,623.79**

**Investments: US Treasury Notes as of 6/30/23**

<b>Date of Purchase</b>	<b>Purchase Amount</b>	<b>Rate of Return</b>	<b>Date of Maturity</b>	<b># of Yrs</b>	<b>Value at Maturity</b>
10/2/2017	54,911.73	1.875%	10/2/2022	5 years	55,000.00
10/2/2022	(54,911.73)		Matured	Realized Gain \$88.27	(55,000.00)
1/31/2019	44,840.51	2.576%	1/31/2024	5 years	45,000.00
10/31/2019	52,822.26	1.500%	10/31/2024	5 years	53,000.00
11/30/2020	51,943.42	0.375%	11/30/2025	5 years	52,000.00
11/1/2021	32,949.89	1.125%	10/30/2026	5 years	33,000.00
10/31/2022	54,835.32	4.125%	10/31/2027	5 years	55,000.00
<b>TOTAL AS OF 6/30/2023</b>	<b>237,391.40</b>				<b>238,000.00</b>

Definition of Terms: Nonspendable fund balance\* includes amounts associated with inventory, prepaid expenditures, longterm loans or notes receivable, and trust fund principal to be held in perpetuity. Restricted fund balance\*\* includes amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation. Fund Balance descriptions are from Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54

## TOWN OF SHARON

## BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Highway Fund	ARPA Grant Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Chester Downer Fund	Town Equipment Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>								
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,616,400	-	-	-	18,232	-	32,590	1,667,222
Investments	-	-	-	-	237,392	-	130,316	367,708
Property Taxes Receivable	176,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	176,030
Accounts Receivable	1,867	27,753	-	9,225	-	-	-	38,845
Prepaid Expenses	22,249	6,917	-	-	-	-	-	29,166
Due From Other Funds	-	268,363	379,416	424,445	-	60,249	147,205	1,279,678
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,816,546</b>	<b>303,033</b>	<b>379,416</b>	<b>433,670</b>	<b>255,624</b>	<b>60,249</b>	<b>310,111</b>	<b>3,558,649</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES &amp; FUND EQUITY</b>								
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>								
Accounts Payable	26,241	47,786	7,737	-	-	-	645	82,409
Accrued Expenses	13,463	6,677	-	2,149	-	736	1,327	24,352
Decommissioning Escrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,113	40,113
Due To Other Funds	1,276,736	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	1,279,736
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,316,440</b>	<b>54,463</b>	<b>7,737</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>45,085</b>	<b>1,426,610</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>								
Deferred Property Taxes	114,915	-	-	-	-	-	-	114,915
Deferred Grant Revenue	-	-	371,679	-	-	-	11,034	382,713
Taxes Collected in Advance	6,820	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,820
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>121,735</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>371,679</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,034</b>	<b>504,448</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>								
Nonspendable	22,249	6,917	-	-	237,651	-	3,250	270,067
Restricted	-	-	-	-	17,973	-	250,742	268,715
Committed	-	192,475	-	431,521	-	59,513	-	683,509
Assigned	59,140	49,178	-	-	-	-	-	108,318
Unassigned	296,982	-	-	-	-	-	-	296,982
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>378,371</b>	<b>248,570</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>431,521</b>	<b>255,624</b>	<b>59,513</b>	<b>253,992</b>	<b>1,627,591</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES &amp; FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>1,816,546</b>	<b>303,033</b>	<b>379,416</b>	<b>433,670</b>	<b>255,624</b>	<b>60,249</b>	<b>310,111</b>	<b>3,558,649</b>

"Governmental funds may report five categories of fund balances... *Nonspendable* fund balance includes amounts associated with inventory, prepaid expenditures, longterm loans or notes receivable, and trust fund principal to be held in perpetuity. *Restricted* fund balance includes amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation. *Committed* fund balance includes amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by the Town's highest level of decision making authority, the voters, as a result of articles passed at Annual or Special Meetings. *Assigned* fund balance includes amounts that are intended to be used by the Town for specific purposes as authorized by the Selectboard. *Unassigned* fund balance is the residual classification for the government's General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in another classification. Deficits are also considered to be unassigned. The Town's policy is to apply expenditures to fund balance in the order of restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned unless the Selectboard specifies otherwise." *Fund Balance descriptions are from Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No.54*

**TOWN OF SHARON      STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR FY2023 - OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

	Conservation Fund	Recreation Fund	Record Preservation Fund	Reappraisal Fund	Honor Roll	James Judson Memorial Fund	Steenken Lease Land Fund	Baxter Memorial Library Fund	Legal Reserve Fund	Grant Other Fund	Solar Decom-missioning Fund	Totals
<b>INFLOWS</b>												
Intergovernmental - State	-	-	-	7,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,629
Contributions	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,093	-	-	-	16,093
Investment Income	0	1	57	179	-	0	1	(11,332)	11	7	-	(11,076)
Charge for Services	-	5,436	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,436
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205	-	-	-	205
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>5,437</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>7,808</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,287</b>
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>												
General Government	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture & Recreation	-	9,863	-	-	-	-	-	48,499	-	-	-	58,362
Due To Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,499</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,362</b>
<b>EXCESS OF INFLOWS OR (OUTFLOWS)</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>(4,426)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>7,808</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(45,533)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(40,075)</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfers in (out)	-	4,000	4,096	-	-	-	-	28,485	1,000	-	-	37,581
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>(426)</b>	<b>4,153</b>	<b>7,808</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(17,048)</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,494)</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2022</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>28,526</b>	<b>88,560</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>123,863</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>256,486</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2023</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>32,679</b>	<b>96,368</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>106,815</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>5,083</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>253,992</b>

**OLD SCHOOL HOUSE (OSH) RENTAL PROPERTY - BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2023**

CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	67,967
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	291,891
BUILDING	250,000
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	(395,219)
PREPAID EXPENSE	1,248
LEASE RECEIVABLE	111,209
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>327,097</b>
SECURITY DEPOSIT	2,511
DEFERRED REVENUE	2,511
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	50
DEFERRED INFLOW- LEASE RECEIVABLE	109,440
DUE TO GENERAL FUND	(58)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>114,453</b>
NET POSITION BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR	205,837
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	6,806
<b>NET POSITION END OF FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>212,644</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET POSITION</b>	<b>327,097</b>

**OSH REVENUE & EXPENSE FOR FY23 JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

RENTAL REVENUE	27,360
INTEREST INCOME	4,692
MISC REVENUE	-
CAPITAL ASSET CONTRIBUTION	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>32,051</b>
INSURANCE	5,254
REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS	7,626
MANAGEMENT EXPENSE	
DEBT SERVICE - CAPITAL WATER PROJECT	2,377
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	9,987
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>25,245</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUE OR (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>6,806</b>

Proprietary funds are used to account for a municipality's business-type activities.

# SHARON RECREATION FUND FY2023 Budget to Actual, Budget FY24, and FY2025 Proposed Budget

	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Proposed Budget FY2025	\$ Change
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Revenue From Soccer	400	1,160	1,000.00	1,100	100
Revenue From Basketball	800	1,475	800.00	2,000	1,200
Revenue From Baseball	1,600	1,260	1,600.00	1,600	-
Revenue From Softball		1,541		500	
Bank Interest	3	1		20	20
Transfer In from General Fund	4,000	4,000.00	6,100.00	5,680	(420)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>6,803</b>	<b>9,437</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Recreation Committee Programs</b>					
Soccer Related Expenses	200		300.00	300	-
Basketball Related Expenses	400	753	500.00	400	(100)
Baseball Related Expenses	1,900	1,282	2,300.00	2,300	-
Softball Related Expenses		2,493		500	
Other Recreational Expenses	200	436	200.00	500	300
Portapotty Rental	500	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	-
Advertising & Subscriptions	130	-		-	-
Subtotal Recreation Comm Expenses	3,330	6,163	4,500.00	5,200	200
<b>Selectboard Appropriations</b>					
Sprouty Related Expenses	700	700	700.00	700	-
Ice Skating Shed					-
Summer Camp - One Planet	3,000	3,000	3,000.00	3,000	-
CCC Pond Weed Harvesting	-	-	2,000.00	2,000	-
Subtotal Selectboard Expenses	3,700	3,700	5,700.00	5,700	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,030</b>	<b>9,863</b>	<b>10,200.00</b>	<b>10,900.00</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>NET REVENUE / (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>(227)</b>	<b>(426)</b>	<b>(700.00)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>700</b>

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>AS OF JUNE 30, 2023</b>
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5,587.50
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>5,587.50</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/INTERFUND BALANCE	3,250.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,250.00</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	
PRIOR YEAR END FUND BALANCE	2,763.74
CHANGE IN CURRENT YEAR FUND BALANCE	(426.24)
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE AT END OF FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>2,337.50</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>5,587.50</b>



## **James Judson Parker Memorial Fund**

Report of Trustees of Public Funds  
FY2023 July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Balance on hand as of July 1, 2022

Certificate of Deposit	41,298.42	
Check Book	<u>926.08</u>	
Total Balance on Hand		42,224.50

Inflows

CD Interest to Checking	84.46	
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Outflows

Expenditure	<u>-</u>	
-------------	----------	--

Net Change 84.46

Balance on hand as of June 30, 2023

Certificate of Deposit	41,298.42	
Check Book	<u>1,010.54</u>	
Total Balance on Hand		42,308.96

## **Ross Grindle Fund**

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

This fund is a bequest left for use by Sharon residents needing assistance with payment of Gifford Hospital medical bills. The funds are accounted for and managed by the Hospital.

Please find January 2023 - December 2023 information below.

Ross Grindle Principal	26,735.00
Unealized Gain/Loss	3,589.17
Realized Gain/Loss	1,988.81

Stephen G. Conti  
Controller  
Gifford Hospital  
802-728-7755  
[SConti@GiffordHealthCare.org](mailto:SConti@GiffordHealthCare.org)

## Sharon Town Clerk Report

The Town Clerks office remains diligent with election management of 1195 voters, vital records upkeep and certifications, motor vehicle registration renewals, licensing of 186 dogs, landfill customer support, notary services and over 1025 pages recorded. The Assistant Town Clerks are extremely helpful in all aspects of the office. Many thanks to Judi Kehoe, who remains steadfast in helping to get our land records digitized!

**Feel free to visit any time and research your property or family history records!**



**There will be a rabies vaccination clinic held for dogs and cats on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 4PM-6PM at the Royalton Academy building, 4182 VT Route 14 in South Royalton. Area Town Clerks will be there to register your dog(s).**

\*\*\*

***Dog owners can register dogs anytime between January 1st, and April 1st, 2024.***

**Dog and Wolf Hybrids:** Vermont State Statute 20 VSA § 3581 requires that all dogs in town be registered, numbered, described, and licensed every year. It is the job of the Clerk's Office to comply with this statute. Licensing your dog provides the town with information to ensure that lost dogs may be reunited with their owner. A portion of the fee contributes to state-wide rabies clinics and low-cost spay & neuter programs. License fees are \$13.00 for intact dogs and \$9.00 for spayed or neutered dogs. *If you do not license your dog by April 1st, 2024, a statutory late fee will be applied.*

The Town of Sharon has an Animal Control Ordinance, copies of which can be found in the Town Clerks Office, or on the town website.

**Vermont Rabies Hotline: 1-800-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)**

## **Report of the Collector of Delinquent Taxes December 2023**

In February 2023, as Collector of Delinquent Taxes, I received the warrant to collect taxes on 54 parcels delinquent for FY2023 and/or years prior. The total amount of taxes owed on these properties was \$193,005.43.

The number of parcels delinquent as of 12/31/2023 has been reduced to ten. Of these, five have a history of multiple years of delinquency.

The total amount of delinquent property tax owed as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 is \$106,509.03.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023:

Property tax for multiple years remains unpaid on the following parcels:

S14129-L	Honkala, Jon B.	2021-2023
R01071-L	MacDonald, Scott	2021-2023
R23090-LR	Owen, Arthur	2021-2023
S14480-L	Pillsbury, Rhoena	2022-2023
R02360-R	Rodewald, Steven V.	2018-2023

Property tax owed for some or all of FY2023 only:

R16020-L1	Cummings, Douglas
R17517-L	Franklin, Mark J
S14360-L1	Rhodes, Richard G
S14295-L	Soares, Richard A
R11060-R	Zapletal, Bennett

Respectfully submitted:

Ken Wright

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Sharon, Vermont

## Listers' Report For 2023

2023 continued to be a challenging year for the Listers. Due to the real estate sales, the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for the 2024 Education Grand List will be 73.67% down from 78.07% for FY2023. The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) of 19.45% is down from 15.54%. The COD is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within the town. Since the 2023 Legislature changed the criteria for conducting reappraisals, Sharon hasn't received a mandatory reappraisal order. Sharon is only one of five towns in Windsor County that is not under a reappraisal order for 2024. There are only two towns in Orange County that do not have to do a reappraisal. The low CLA and low equitability will require your listers to do a reappraisal beginning this spring. It is important that we validate all the information and make any changes and update depreciation. It should be noted that the Property Record Cards are not only used to determine a property's tax liability but are used by appraisers for mortgages, and insurance agents to determine insurance values.

How is a property's value determined? The basic formula is Replacement Cost New, less Depreciation, plus Land Value. The building's value is based on the quality and type of construction, the square feet of floor space, the number of plumbing fixtures, type of roofing, floor coverings, and type of heating. Then, how does the value compare with comparable sales? Is it too high, too low, and what adjustments need to be made?

How will the reappraisal affect the amount of taxes on an individual parcel? If every parcel increases in value 27 per cent, the tax liability will stay the same as the tax rate will decrease 27%. **Remember, the tax rate is based on the budget that is passed at Town Meeting. The budgets for Town and School rise every year so the tax liability changes accordingly.** Remember, 27% is an average. Some properties will increase more than that and some will increase less.

As one can see from the attached sales report, the Sharon Real Estate Market was still active with 24 sales. As of this writing, the inventory of properties for sale includes only three residential parcels, one land parcel, and one commercial property. This may change as the market opens back up in the spring. The demand for housing far exceeds the available supply. This will probably keep the values from returning to previous levels.

Repeating from last year, **after this reappraisal is completed, there will likely be some retirements of the present listers. This would be an excellent time for anyone interested in becoming a lister to get involved.** One could learn from the three seasoned listers that now comprise the Board. This part-time job gets you to know the members of the community. If you love working with numbers, have an analytical mind, can work with computer programs, and need something to do in retirement, this is the perfect job for you. All assessed values are derived from the real estate market and the sales data is derived from the Property Transfer and Tax Reports filed with the State. There are many lister training courses every year sponsored by the Department of Taxes that lead to certifications. If no one is willing to become a lister, the town may be forced to hire a part-time assessor that will definitely impact the

budget. Except for the Town Clerk, the listers are the only elected officials that the individual taxpayer may meet. If you might be interested, contact one of the listers and work alongside them in the reappraisal.

The listers will abide by all Covid protocols. All property owners will be notified when the listers will be working in a neighborhood. Interior visits are essential to determining depreciation, however, other arrangements may be made.

**The income tax and Homestead Declaration filing deadline this year is 15 April.** Please file by this date to avoid penalties and the confusion of corrected tax bills. Just a reminder, **every Vermont resident homeowner must file a Homestead Declaration on their primary residence.**

In 2023, there were 132 parcels consisting of 15,024.63 acres (or 65.97% of the total acreage of Sharon) enrolled in the Use Value Appraisal Program. Homestead property owners had their taxes reduced by \$106,359.63. Non-homestead property owners saw a reduction of \$271,999.63. Many of the Non-homestead parcels are owned by town or state residents but do not qualify for Homestead designation.

Veterans with at least a 50% VA disability designation are allowed a \$40,000 reduction in property value. One must file with the Office of Veteran Affairs in Montpelier. Applications must be postmarked no later than 1 May.

If you have any questions about your property assessment, please feel free to contact the Listers' Office at (802) 763-8268 ext 2 or email at [listers@sharonvt.net](mailto:listers@sharonvt.net).

Listers for the Town of Sharon: Helen Barrett, Galen E Mudgett Jr, and Ken Wright



## TOWN OF SHARON GRAND LIST AS OF 12/31/2023

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	CODE	PARCEL COUNT	MUNICIPAL LISTED VALUE	HOMESTEAD ED LISTED VALUE	NON-RES ED LISTED VALUE	EDUCATION LISTED VALUE
Residential I	R1	264	51,059,400	39,854,800	11,204,600	51,059,400
Residential II	R2	275	87,985,100	57,675,150	30,309,950	87,985,100
Mobile Homes-U	MHU	15	381,600	211,300	170,300	381,600
Mobile Homes-L	MHL	30	2,690,300	1,382,600	1,307,700	2,690,300
Seasonal I	S1	5	254,700	0	254,700	254,700
Seasonal II	S2	23	4,551,000	122,100	4,428,900	4,551,000
Commercial	C	27	7,071,400	42,300	7,029,100	7,071,400
Commercial Apts	CA	2	1,085,000	0	1,085,000	1,085,000
Industrial	I	2	88,300	0	88,300	88,300
Utilities-E	UE	6	12,850,900	0	12,850,900	12,850,900
Farm	F	1	337,5000	323,900	13,600	337,500
Other	O	21	7,240,500	1,105,200	6,135,300	7,240,500
Woodland	W	44	7,399,400	118,200	7,281,200	7,399,400
Miscellaneous	M	61	3,719,200	0	3,719,200	3,719,200
<b>TOTAL LISTED REAL</b>		<b>776</b>	<b>186,714,300</b>	<b>100,835,550</b>	<b>85,878,750</b>	<b>186,714,300</b>
<b>EXEMPTIONS</b>						
Veterans 10K		8	80,000	80,000	0	80,000
Veterans >10K			240,000		0	0
<b>TOTAL VETERANS</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,000</b>
<b>CURRENT USE</b>		<b>132</b>	<b>14,765,600</b>	<b>4,308,500</b>	<b>10,457,100</b>	<b>14,765,600</b>
<b>SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,983,200</b>	<b>6,983,200</b>
<b>TOTAL EXEMPTIONS</b>			<b>15,085,600</b>	<b>4,388,500</b>	<b>17,440,300</b>	<b>21,828,800</b>
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST</b>			<b>1,716,287.00</b>			
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST</b>				<b>964,470.50</b>	<b>684,384.50</b>	<b>1,648,855.00</b>
# OF HOMESTEADS DECLARED		432				
TOTAL # OF TAXABLE PARCELS		776		TOTAL # OF ACRES	22,773.33	
TOTAL LAND VALUE		82,072,000				
TOTAL BUILDING VALUE		104,642,300				
<b>TOTAL REAL VALUE</b>		<b>186,714,300</b>				

## 2023 Real Estate Sales in Sharon

DATE	BUYER	SELLER	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACRES	SALE PRICE
1/17/2023	MILLER, CALON S & ANNETTE A	KOLOSKI, RANDY J ESTATE	40 FARM FIELD LN	DOUBLE-WIDE	0.83	174,000
2/28/2023	LAPP, PHILIP A & HERSHEY, DENISE L	CAMP CURTIS LLC	POWELL FARM RD	LAND	6.5	37,500
2/28/2023	BLACKBURN, HEATH P & MARY FERN	RICHARDSON, SCOTT	1632 VT RT 14	RANCH, D.GARAGES, D.SHED	3.556	325,000
4/21/2023	DUCHARME, MICHAEL & EMILY	LOTTMAN, JAKOB	12 MOUNTAIN AVE	DOUBLE-WIDE	12	140,000
5/11/2023	QUARRY ROAD LLC	MILLER, REGINA	20 K&L COURT	SINGLE-WIDE		82,500
5/15/2023	COUNTS, SHANE & RIDDLE, MALINI G	STANTON, ROBERT & JENNIFER	687 FAY BROOK RD	CONTEMPORARY 2S & BARN	16.4	525,000
5/19/2023	CANTLIN, MARC ALAN & CANTLIN, M	GELINAS, JAMES M	272 VT RT 14	SINGLE-WIDE & D.GARAGE	0.26	20,350
6/8/2023	BEAVERS, SCOTT ALLEN & PATRICIA MARY	MCGREEVY, ANNIE JAMES REVOCABLE	619 CLIFFORD FARM RD	CAMP	92.2	310,000
6/9/2023	BENSON, JOSHUA T & TERA M	AINSWORTH, DAVID M & PEGGY L	6968 VT RT 14	GRAVEL PIT	11	21,500
6/15/2023	YETZ, NARISSA & DOMONIC	VAN GULDEN, CARLEEN	LUKE'S LANE	LAND	3	38,000
6/30/2023	BROSE, AUSTIN & KATELYN	DARROW, RACHEL	1848 MOORE RD	RANCH	10.2	375,000
7/19/2023	VAN GULDEN, CARLEEN	CALABRESE, ANDREW	15 LUKE'S LANE	LAND	3	55,500
7/26/2023	GARRAND, MARK & WATSON, TRISHA	WALKER, JENNIFER L	1313 VT RT 132	RAISED RANCH	2.22	445,000
8/18/2023	EVANS, ROSS MALONEY & MISTY M	CARPENTER, DENIS	1328 CARPENTER RD	CONTEMPORARY 1 3/4S	14.21	425,000
9/8/2023	ADAMS, JAMES HAYWARD	ADAMS, GEACE RYAN	2551 CHAPEL HILL RD	CAMP	32.8	246,000
9/13/2023	MOORE, NARA E	MOORE, DOUGLAS & JUDITH S	548 BROAD BROOK RD	LAND	3	20,000
9/9/2023	SUNNY ACRES LLC	NT LAND LLC	97 RAYMOND RD	LAND	7	51,785
9/17/2023	COUGHLIN, PETER	JONES, DOUGLAS R	3755 FAY BROOK RD	LAND	0.33	15,000
9/29/2023	JONES, DEBORAH L & JACK A	STACHOWIAK, LAWRENCE & E JANE	1245 FAY BROOK RD	LAND	10.1	80,100
9/25/2023	POTTER, CHRISTIAN L & BAKER, KIMBERLY ANN	KENEFFICK, KENNETH T & GAVIN, MARY C	423 FAY BROOK RD	CAPE, D.GARAGE & D.SHED	6.4	500,000
10/18/2023	MIDWAY LLC	EMSR LLC	5326 VT RT 14	CONVENIENCE STORE	0.33	160,000
10/19/2023	WALTON-STRONG, SAMANTHA & KOLBI	SCOTT, GAYNELL	VT RT 132	LAND	5.78	35,000
11/3/2023	DONOVAN, JACOB	RUSSO-DEMARA, ELLAMARIE	5037 VT RT 14	GREEK REVIVAL, A.GAR & D.GAR	1	618,500
12/20/2023	CARRIER, ROBERTA A	WILLIAMS, KATHLEEN L REVOC TRUST	374 COMMERCE PARK	COLONIAL, APT BLDG, D.SHED	3.25	254,000

## **Sharon Conservation Commission (SCC)**

for the Town Report 2023

Mike Zwikelmaier led us through another productive year. We welcomed new commissioner Luis Bango and look forward to the appointment of Erik Skarsten.

Thanks to the White River Partnership (WRP) and Hermit Woods for the beautiful new stone steps leading to the river at the access across from TSA. They also built and installed a nice little kiosk, which will get a sign on it with the site name, *The Ledges*. Let's hope for some better swimming weather this summer. There are plans for applying to more grants in hopes of funding improvements at the Sharon River Access just up the road. Thank you, Christian Pelletier and Sam Brakeley.

Dick Ruben celebrated his 80th birthday and another successful Green Up Day in Sharon. Plans are to work with Evergreen Recycling again. We would love to see more volunteers out on the roads this spring, as there is no shortage of trash. The favored beverage of littering flatlanders in 2023 was Twisted Tea.

A new cross-country ski trail was cleared in the annex section (the Beaver Meadow side) of Downer Forest. Thanks to all who volunteered, to Sam Brakeley for leading, and to Brian Refro from the State for his guidance and for working with Sam to clear all the remaining blowdowns with his chainsaw. The final step is to finish putting up blazes. Brian and Sam are working on getting a new trail map onto the kiosk and exploring parking options on the South side of Downer at Beaver Meadow.

The SCC now has some invasive weed and tree removal tools, and you can borrow them from the Baxter Library. There are two Pullerbears and a Parsnip Predator. The names alone are worth checking them out. Thanks to Dan Deneen and Mike Z. Speaking of invasives, it sounds like there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities in Ashley Forest for invasives removal this year.

As a reminder, our meetings happen on the 2nd Monday of the month at the town offices at 6:30 pm unless otherwise specified.

### **2023 Sharon Conservation Commission**

Luis Bango, Sam Brakeley, Scott Chesnut, Dan Deneen, Dick Ruben, Mike Zwikelmaier



## Sharon Energy Committee Report – 2023

The Sharon Energy Committee, made official by the Selectboard in January of 2006, is compelled to provide resources, guidance, and support to the Town and its inhabitants with respect to energy consumption and related expenditures. We continue to implement the Climate Solutions Resolution, which was approved at Town Meeting 2020.

*We are humbled by the breadth and scale of the human predicament: society has overshoot growth limits and a destabilization of the Earth system is in progress. Indeed, various disruptive climate-influenced events lie in the years and decades ahead. We are obliged to prepare for the ensuing reality both individually and as a community.*

### Sharon Energy Committee Highlights for 2023:

- Hosted the Upper Valley e-bike Lending Library (UVELL) at the Sharon Elementary School in April, which provided Sharon residents opportunities to borrow and ride a variety of e-bikes. Targeted demo-days were held for Sharon residents, Town staff, staff at SES, and students/staff at TSA.
- Worked with the Selectboard and Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) to pursue the Municipal Energy Resilience Program that includes a small grant, professional building assessments for the Town Office and Town Garage, and access to significant grant funding to realize the potential improvements.
- Spearheaded a set of community-wide events in Summer 2023 (“Sharon Connects”) that were facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Task forces of Sharon residents continue to work on community connections, developing outdoor recreation and trails, and caring for our neighbors in need.
  - Report at the Town Office and online at <https://tinyurl.com/yr8y55f2>
- Worked to ensure proper operation of the new ducted heat pump at the Library.
- Organized and participated in Repair Fair events from Randolph to Sharon that provided bicycle repair, knife sharpening, darning and mending services and more to help fix still useful items in need of repair and keep them out of landfills.

### In 2024 the Sharon Energy Committee plans to:

- Continue to work with the IREC to bring grant money, professional expertise, and novel programs to Sharon.
- Continue participation in the evolving Upper Valley E-bike Lending Library
- Pursue community solar and EV charging station opportunities
- Act on your ideas! Please consider attending an Energy Committee meeting.

**Meetings** are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 PM (18:00). We utilize a hybrid format: physical meeting space is provided at the Town Office and remote access is available via telephone at (978) 990-5179, Access Code 7753983.

**Current Energy Committee Members** are Dee Gish, Ryan Haac (Chair), and Jill Wilcox.

Please contact us at [sharonenergycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:sharonenergycommittee@gmail.com) or simply show up at a meeting.

## **Sharon Planning Commission & Development Review Board 2023 Annual Report**

The Planning Commission would like to thank former members for their service to the Town. Ira Clark stepped down after 12 years on the board. We are grateful for his leadership and for his attention to detail which was instrumental in completing the 2023 Sharon Town Plan. We also thank Lee Simek for her time on the board.

**Sharon Town Plan** is the place where the Sharon community's vision of the town's future is documented. The Plan includes recommendations for both voluntary and regulatory actions to implement this vision, and it is used as a benchmark in certain Act 250 proceedings. Because the 2015 Sharon Town Plan was expiring (see 24 V.S.A. § 4387), in 2019 the Planning Commission began the process of reviewing, editing, and revising the document with new data and to meet new state requirements. Below is the chronology of the approval process which follow the requirements of Vermont statute 24 V.S.A. § 4385(c):

- March 28, 2023 – The Planning Commission (PC) presented, and took public comment, on the draft Town Plan at a fully-warned public hearing held at the elementary school. The PC responded to public comments by considering the comments and making some revisions to the document;
- May 9, 2023 – PC submitted the draft Town Plan to both the Selectboard for their review and revision, and to Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) for their review;
- June 26, 2023 The Selectboard presented, and took public comment, on their draft of the Town Plan at a fully-warned public hearing held at the elementary school. After the meeting the Selectboard made minor revisions to the document to improve clarity and accuracy;
- August 21, 2023 – The Selectboard adopted the 2023 Sharon Town Plan by a majority vote;
- September 27, 2023 – TRORC unanimously approved the 2023 Sharon Town Plan.

The 2023 Sharon Town Plan can be found on the town's website: <https://sharonvt.net/>

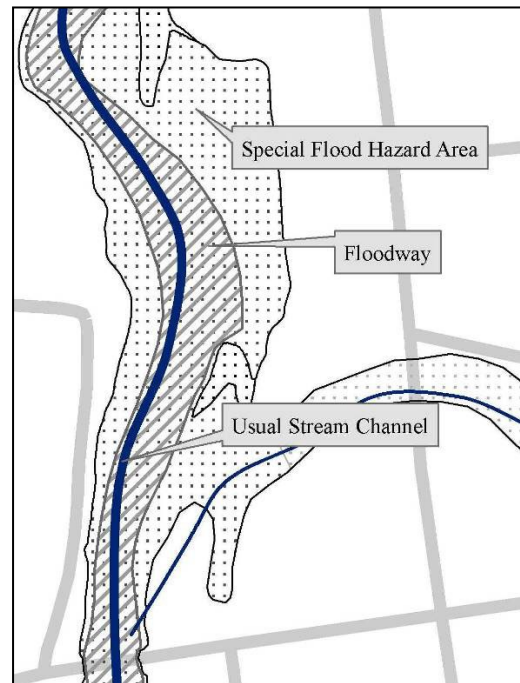
The DRB reviews applications and site plans for subdivision of land based on the *Sharon Subdivision Regulations*. The DRB approved five subdivision applications creating a total of five new lots: (Rodewald, Ainsworth, Johnson, Moore and Thomas). Each application typically requires three review meetings (initial, preliminary and final) plus a site visit prior to final approval. Additionally, the DRB held hearings to review two proposed projects in the flood hazard area. Accomplishing these tasks required a huge time commitment by the members of our all-volunteer board!

The Planning Commission (PC) and Development Review Board (DRB), (made up of the same members), is supported by Andrea Morgan. Anyone who plans to subdivide their property in Sharon needs to contact Andrea to obtain a Subdivision Application and schedule a meeting with the Development Review Board to discuss their project. Andrea's contact information is 802-

763-8268 ext. 10 or email [planning@sharonvt.net](mailto:planning@sharonvt.net).  
Subdivision Applications forms can be found at  
<https://sharonvt.net/organization/planning-commission/>

**2010 Flood Hazard Area Bylaw** – A Flood Hazard Area bylaw is required by FEMA to ensure that the Town of Sharon, its citizens and businesses will be eligible for federal flood insurance, federal disaster recovery funds, and hazard mitigation funds as a result of flood damage. Its main purpose is to help avoid and minimize the loss of life, property, disruption of commerce, impairment of the tax base, and the extraordinary public expenditures and demands on public services that result from flooding.

The Bylaw regulates development in two flood hazard areas: 1) The **Floodway** (aka Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area or River Corridor) is the channel of a river or brook and the adjacent land that is needed to accommodate the flood waters so that they don't increase in elevation by more than one foot above bank height during a so called 100-year flood. 2) The **Special Flood Hazard Area** has special flood, mudflow, or flood-related erosion hazards and is defined by FEMA maps. The two hazard areas can overlap. Sharon flood maps are currently being updated by FEMA to reflect the most recent data and flood modeling.



The Bylaw applies to the mapped areas along the main stem of the White River and its major tributaries: Broad Brook, Elmers Brook, Fay Brook, and Quation Brook. The bylaw also applies to lands within 50 feet of Broad Brook, Mitchell Brook, High Pole Branch (upstream to Carpenter Road), and Honey Brook (upstream to Howe Hill Road) whether or not they are mapped; and within 25 feet of all other perennial streams as measured perpendicular to the top of the stream bank even though they are not mapped by FEMA.

Prior to beginning any new construction, landowners along the White River or any perennial brooks and streams, no matter what their size, are advised to read the *Flood Hazard Bylaw* and view the maps available online and at the Town Offices. Geo Honigford, Flood Hazard Administrator, is available to provide guidance: [ninefingergeo@gmail.com](mailto:ninefingergeo@gmail.com) or 802-359-3027. The Bylaw is available for download from <https://sharonvt.net>.

The PC/DRB welcomes all members of the community to our meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM, currently held via Zoom and in person at the Town Office.

Submitted by: John Roe (Chair), Lucy Gibson, Dee Gish, Paul Kristensen, and Sue Sellew





*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*- Margaret Mead*





**Supporting Central Vermonters to Age with Dignity and Choice**  
**CVCOA Helpline: 1-802-477-1364**

**Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) Report for Town of Sharon:**

**The Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA services are available to those age 60 and up, or to adults with disabilities. For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters to remain independent for as long as possible. CVCOA serves 54 towns throughout the Central Vermont region.**

CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, free of charge. CVCOA utilizes town funding to provide individualized support to Sharon residents through our care coordination team, which includes case management, information and assistance, options counseling, resource and benefit enrollment (nutrition, transportation, mental health counseling, legal services, health insurance counseling, etc), care coordination planning, family caregiver support, and more.

**CVCOA provided individualized support to 30 residents of Sharon. CVCOA Case Manager Karen Eddy was designated to serve older adults in Sharon.**

CVCOA served 2,974 unduplicated clients in FY21, plus 2,597 additional interactions with community members for outreach and support. CVCOA mobilized 238 volunteers to provide direct service, deliver meals on wheels, support nutrition sites, provide wellness classes, provide companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

**All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Sharon for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Sharon community.**

Child and Family Services  
Ayers Brook, Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-4466

Community Support Services  
24 South Main St., Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-6000

Adult and Children Outpatient Services  
1483 Lower Plain Rd., Bradford, VT 05033  
(802) 222-4477

Farmhouse  
P O Box 278, Bradford, VT 05033  
(802) 222-4477

East Valley Academy  
579 VT Rte. 14 So., East Randolph, VT 05041  
(802) 728-3896

Safe Haven  
4 Highland Ave., Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-5233

Regional Alternative Program  
Norwich Avenue, Wilder, VT 05088  
(802) 295-8628

Wilder  
PO Box 816, Wilder VT 05088  
(802) 295-1311

Clara Martin Center provides a multitude of services throughout greater Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance use. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School and Home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital Diversion
- Walk-in Clinic
- Vocational Services
- Alcohol and other drug treatment
- Respite Care
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance use services to the greater Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area for the last 57 years.

Clara Martin Center's broad range of programs serve children, families, couples, and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, substance use treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services. We strive to meet the care needs of the communities we serve, and provide services that meet the needs of the individuals that have entrusted their care to us.

<b>FY23 TOTAL SERVED AT CMC</b>		<b>TOTAL SERVED Sharon</b>	
<b>Children &amp; Family Services</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>Children &amp; Family Services</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>School Services</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>School Services</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>JOBS</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>JOBS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Adult Services</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>Adult Services</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>CSP Services</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>CSP Services</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Supportive &amp; Transitional Housing</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Supportive &amp; Transitional Housing</b>	
<b>Substance Use Services</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>Substance Use Services</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Corrections Services</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>Corrections Services</b>	
<b>Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Access</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>CCBHC Services</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>CCBHC Services</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Served - unduplicated</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>Total seen:</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>CVSAS</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>CVSAS</b>	

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Clara Martin Center  
Statement of Activities (Unaudited)  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>INCOME</b>
Federal	\$1,480,884
State	\$6,898,498
Local Towns	\$55,877
Fundraising	\$101,253
Other: Self pay	\$143,611
Other: Contracts	\$709,792
Other: Grants	\$2,870,795
Other: Private Insurance	\$344,549
Other: Rents & Miscellaneous	\$1,141,860
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,747,119</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>
Personnel	\$10,817,340
Insurance/Rent/Utilities	\$335,945
Other: Contracted Services	\$113,826
Other: Operating Costs	\$950,042
Other: Program Expense	\$226,663
Other: Transportation	\$88,538
Other: Facility	\$566,927
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,099,281</b>



## East Central Vermont Telecommunications District

[www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net)

### **ECFiber and the Town of Sharon**

Sharon is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District now consists of 31 member towns, and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. In 2023, the business added over 800 new customers despite critical labor shortages, and now serves over 8,500 customer locations via 1,700 miles of network, which, when fully built out, will bring fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) to about 32,000 premises over a more than 2,000 mile network.

In June, ECFiber celebrated the completion of its original 23 town network when it activated its operation center in White River Junction. In August, the District was awarded a \$13 million construction grant that will support the first three or four stages of its \$30 million, nine stage, network completion plan. In November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & Poor's Global Credit arm, a historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This was extended to the six earlier bonds as well.

The ECFiber network is complete in Sharon. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service. Phone service is an available option, with the expected bells and whistles, at a very reasonable charge and includes long distance calling throughout the US and Canada.

The District contracts with Great Works Internet (GWI) of Vermont to operate the business. The biggest challenges we face now are not funding, but rather finding enough folks to construct the networks – people who know how to operate bucket trucks, splice fiber while 40 feet above the ground, and be willing to work outside in difficult weather. ECFiber is actively participating in state and regional workforce development efforts. If you are or know of someone who may be interested in these well-paid jobs, please let us know!

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe.

Assistance is available for those needing help to afford service. Call or email the office at [support@ecfiber.net](mailto:support@ecfiber.net) for more information

David Karon and Clare Holland  
[sharon@ecfiber.net](mailto:sharon@ecfiber.net) | [www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net) | 833-ECFiber (833-323-4237)

415 Waterman Rd Unit 2, South Royalton, Vermont 05068-5418 (802)-ECFIBER (802-323-3427)

***YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED CONNECTION TO THE WORLD***



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs as well as offering technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV held three special collections in 2023 in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford. We collected 7.25 tons of tires, 7 tons of electronics, and approximately 10 tons of “big” trash. Collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- As of November 1, members of the district recycled 1.7 tons of batteries. Thank you for using the container outside of the Sharon Town Offices. Find other drop-off locations at <https://www.call2recycle.org/>
- Vermonters saved 103,166 gallons of paint from the landfill in **2022**.
- 408 GUV residents (12 from Sharon) participated in two household hazardous waste events.
- 148 GUV residents participated in two Styrofoam collection events sponsored by Sustainable Lebanon and Lebanon Rotary.
- 2024 GUV collection event dates and recycling updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town list serves, and in local newspapers.
- In FY2023, Mary Gavin represented Sharon on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors for her last year. We thank her for her dedication and ongoing support of our work, and we wish her well in her new adventures.
- For information call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email [hgillett@marcv.org](mailto:hgillett@marcv.org), or visit [www.guvswmd.org](http://www.guvswmd.org).



## GREEN MOUNTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC) is one of twelve statewide Regional Development Corporations (RDCs), serving a 30-town region in Orange and northern Windsor counties. Our primary function is to develop economic vitality and prosperity consistent with the goals of the communities we serve.

In FY2023, dues from member towns contributed \$19,273 of our annual operating budget of \$220,183. Town dues are assessed at \$0.50/resident, as determined by population data from the VT Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau. Further operating revenue comes from business memberships and federal, state, and other funding sources. ***Your support helps provide client-specific economic development services free of charge and available to municipalities, new entrepreneurs, established and expanding businesses.*** Services include business development guidance, relocation support, and project development; for requests that are beyond our level of expertise, GMEDC has a ready referral network to meet client needs. Additionally, the RDCs work collectively throughout the legislative session to promote the needs and interests of the business community across the state. GMEDC and our local partners have assisted 100+ businesses and municipalities seeking additional information on economic development activities, local business projects, funding opportunities, legislative action and more.

FY2023 activities included:

- Supporting numerous funding applications for capital investment, brownfield assessment and redevelopment, project planning and pre-development, totaling **over \$5 million in funding to our service area.**
- Securing state funding to implement a third round of the successful small business technical assistance program, providing small grants and administrative support to match specific business needs with service providers.
- Leveraging a \$1.5 million Economic Development Administration partnership for the Randolph Innovation Hub to hire staff and rebrand as Cultivator: Where Community Collaborates, gathering community input to map the way forward.
- Continued support of the \$300,000 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Communities Challenge White River Valley Consortium project, working to improve housing opportunities in 14 towns in the White River Valley.
- Ongoing partnership with Orange County Parent and Child Center to develop a new, \$6 million childcare facility offering 88 new seats in the Randolph region.
- Closeout of \$500,000+ Environmental Protection Agency-funded brownfield clean-up of former Valley Motors site in Bethel.

On behalf of the GMEDC Board of Directors and all of our members, I would like to thank the Town of Sharon for your continued support and partnership. For further information, call us at (802) 295-3710 or visit our website at [www.gmedc.com](http://www.gmedc.com)

Erika C. Hoffman-Kiess, Executive Director



**GREEN UP VERMONT**  
[www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)

**Green Up Day**  
**May 6, 2023**



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

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

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

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

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at [\*\*www.greenupvermont.org\*\*](http://www.greenupvermont.org).

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram (greenupvermont). [\*\*greenup@greenupvermont.org\*\*](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org) 802-522-7245

## Health Care & Rehabilitation Services Narrative Report from FY23 for Town of Sharon

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont (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 illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. HCRS provides these services through outpatient mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment program, community rehabilitation and treatment program, developmental services division, and alternatives and emergency services programs.

During FY23, HCRS provided 2,372 hours of services to 17 residents of the Town of Sharon. The services provided included all of HCRS' programs resulting in a wide array of supports for the residents of Sharon.

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

<b>Health Care &amp; Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont, Inc.</b> <b>Serving Windsor and Windham Counties</b> <b>Total Agency</b>
--

REVENUES:	<u>FY 24 Budget</u>	<u>% of Total Revenues</u>	
Client Fees:			
Self Pay	205,200	0.30%	Self Pay, Other Insurance, School and Client Room & Board Revenues Represents 6% of Total Agency Revenues
Medicare	247,200	0.37%	
Private Insurance	355,200	0.52%	
School Contract and Tuition Fees	3,074,735	4.54%	
Client Room & Board	108,600	0.16%	
DMH Medicaid Fee For Service	7,181,197	10.61%	Medicaid Fee For Service Revenues Represents 15% of Total Agency Revenues
DMH Community Mobile Crisis Medicaid	2,971,186	4.39%	
ACCS Medicaid Fee For Service	95,160	0.14%	
ADAP Medicaid Fee For Service	144,000	0.21%	
Personal Care Medicaid Fee For Service	6,000	0.01%	
MH Child Payment Reform Case Rate	7,160,630	10.58%	Case Rate and Waiver Medicaid Revenues Represents 68% of Total Agency Revenues
MH Adult Payment Reform Case Rate	12,027,448	17.76%	
MH Emergency Payment Reform Case Rate	1,006,471	1.49%	
DS Medicaid Waiver	25,600,000	37.81%	
DS Medicaid TBI and Choices for Care	305,656	0.45%	
State Grants:			
State Grant-in-Aid	2,281,853	3.37%	State Grant Revenues Represents 7% of Total Agency Revenues
Other Contracts/Grants	2,434,537	3.60%	
Federal Grants	1,574,577	2.33%	Federal Grant Revenues Represents 2% of Total Agency Revenues
Local Revenues	121,400	0.18%	Local and Other Revenues Represents 2% of Total Agency Revenues
Other Revenues	802,872	1.19%	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>67,703,922</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		<u>% of Total Expenses</u>	
Salaries	31,470,612	47.19%	Salaries, Fringe and Contractors Represents 87% of Total Agency Expenses
Fringe Benefits	10,700,009	16.04%	
Other Personnel Costs	15,936,674	23.90%	
Operating Expenses	3,753,567	5.63%	Operating, Program, Travel and Building Expenses Represent 13% of Total Agency Revenues
Program Expenses	905,711	1.36%	
Client/Staff Transportation	1,140,626	1.71%	
Building Expenses	2,786,334	4.18%	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>66,693,533</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,010,389</b>		

## HIV/HCV Resource Center Report for the Town of Sharon

The HIV/HCV Resource Center was founded 34 years ago to help people living with HIV access vital resources, such as housing, health care, nutritious food, mental health and substance use treatment. Located in Lebanon, NH, we offer case management for individuals living with HIV, prevention/education programs, and syringe services for people who inject drugs. All our services are free of charge to residents of Windsor and Orange counties in Vermont and Grafton and Sullivan counties in New Hampshire.

Over the past decade, we have significantly expanded our harm reduction program in response to rising rates of opioid and other substance use. We recently formally incorporated our work in harm reduction into our mission. We strive to be a catalyst for positive change within our communities.

Between January 1, 2022 and December 1, 2023, we provided services for 87 individuals living with HIV – helping to ensure that they maintained stable housing and access to medications. Our syringe service program dispensed over 500,000 sterile syringes to 317 unique clients across 34 different towns (including the Town of Sharon) in Vermont and New Hampshire. We distributed 5,642 doses of naloxone, which resulted in reports of 331 overdose reversals.

In addition to clean injection supplies, naloxone and overdose prevention education, we offer our clients fentanyl and xylazine test strips, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, and referrals to medical and mental health care and treatment programs, wound care supplies, and food from our food pantry. Over the past year, we have distributed 25,000 lbs of food to clients.

We would be happy to distribute naloxone, the overdose reversal medication, to anyone who is using opioids – or stimulants that contain opioids – or friends and family members of people who use drugs. We offer trainings in how to recognize signs of overdose and how to administer naloxone nasal spray. Please contact us if you are interested.

We very much appreciate the continued support of the Town of Sharon and welcome questions and requests for information.

Laura Byrne, Executive Director (603-448-8887); <http://www.h2rc.org/>



## One Planet Afterschool Program

Bethel, Chelsea, Newton, Sharon, Stockbridge,  
Rochester, Royalton, Tunbridge

Dear Sharon Recreation Dept and Selectboard,

December 7, 2023

We want to thank you for your support of \$3,000 for our 2023 summer camp. Please see our report below. In addition, we would like to officially request a town appropriation of \$3,000 for fiscal year 24-25 to support our 2024 summer camp.

### **REPORT:**

*One Planet's mission is to create a dynamic learning environment after school and during the summer that inspires and supports students in becoming compassionate global citizens and lifelong learners.*

*This summer the Sharon One Planet Summer Camp engaged 73 children in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> with exciting theme-based projects for 5 weeks. Activities ranged widely this summer depending on the week's theme. The 5 themes this year included Under the Sea, The Night Sky, Circus, Top Chef, and Let's Create. This summer campers also took multiple trips to Lake Pinneo and Storrs Pond and traveled to Hanover to watch the exciting Circus Smirkus performance. Finally, we continued to offer our Counselors-in-Training program which gives local middle school students the opportunity to join the program giving them leadership roles and the power to make decisions and employed local high school students as high school aides. Our high school aides bridge the gap between adult staff, CITs, and campers, bring wonderful energy to our program, and are strong role models for our elementary students. This summer our high school aides also cooked the vast majority of the camp's lunches. They were a fabulous team and One Planet enjoys supporting youth of all ages in our communities.*

*Thanks to the support of the Town of Sharon, we were able to continue to offer families reduced summer pricing. We also provided a sliding scale and scholarships for those families in need. Parents were truly grateful to see their kids smiling, connecting with their peers and having a summer camp experience.*

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to continuing to serve the local community in partnership with the Town of Sharon.

Sincerely,





**Pine Hill Cemetery Association**  
**July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE June 30, 2022	\$	8,597.55
--	----	----------

INCOME:

Town of Sharon	5,750.00	
Interest earned & donations	702.57	
Burials, lots & corner stones	2,740.00	
Downer Fund	1,147.37	
Total Income	10,339.94	\$ 18,937.49

EXPENSES:

Labor; Taxes; Burials, Cornerstones	3,363.04	
Parts, Repairs, Maintenance	744.82	
Insurance	2,165.00	
Misc.; Record Deeds	552.58	
Total Expenses:	6,825.44	(6,825.44)

Balance on June 30, 2023	\$	12,112.05
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REGULAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

Balance on June 30, 2022		128.48
Deposit		-
Interest		-
Balance June 30, 2021	\$	128.48

PERPETUAL CARE ACCOUNT

Balance on June 30, 2022		102.35
Interest earned		-
Balance on June 30, 2023	\$	102.35

Respectfully submitted,

*Martha A. Fisk*

Martha A. Fisk, Treasurer

**SAFELINE, INC.**  
P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038  
safelineinfo@safelinevt.org  
(802) 685-7900 office  
(800) 639-7933 24/7 hotline

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, Safeline provided 2,325 services for 262 victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual abuse. 4 services were provided for 1 resident in Sharon. These statistics could be understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their safety. Safeline provided services for a woman who experienced intimate partner violence. We provided our 24/7 hotline, crises intervention, helped her fill out Relief from Abuse paperwork for a protection order and provided emotional support. These services are available for all residents in Sharon.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking.

We thank the voters for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Sharon.



**Sharon Fireman's Assoc. Inc.**

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Insurance	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 12,205.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 12,107.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 12,318.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00
Dispatch / Communication	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,265.90	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,973.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,675.37	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00
Electricity	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,032.71	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,804.81	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,054.78	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00
Heating	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,132.03	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,754.64	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 3,659.99	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Repairs (Equipment)	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 12,474.65	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,328.87	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,755.17	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
Truck Fuel	\$ 750.00	\$ 884.67	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 634.71	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 544.20	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Telephone / Internet	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,965.10	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,770.66	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,354.64	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
New Equipment	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,949.07	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,510.90	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,171.66	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Training	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Building, Supplies, Misc.	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 3,432.71	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,370.51	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,952.75	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Trash Removal	\$ 250.00	\$ 76.40	\$ 250.00	\$ 76.40	\$ 250.00	\$ 137.52	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Sub-Total	\$ 50,100.00	\$ 56,268.24	\$ 51,850.00	\$ 48,721.50	\$ 53,150.00	\$ 44,924.08	\$ 56,950.00	\$ 56,950.00	\$ 55,550.00	\$ 55,550.00
New Equipment Reserve Fund	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Total	\$ 80,100.00	\$ 86,268.24	\$ 81,850.00	\$ 78,721.50	\$ 83,150.00	\$ 74,924.08	\$ 86,950.00	\$ 86,950.00	\$ 85,550.00	\$ 85,550.00

**The Sharon Food Shelf** has had another productive year addressing the food insecurity of our neighbors. We are a volunteer organization and a tax exempt mission of the Sharon Congregational Church. Anyone may come to the food shelf twice per month for a week's worth of food. On alternate weeks, guests may take produce and bread. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 – 6:30 and located in the Lighthouse Building next to the Town Hall.

Through the Vermont Feeding Vermonters Grant, we received funds to buy produce and meat from local farmers. We purchased both summer and winter CSA shares from Luna Bleu Farm and beef from Lamb Farm. Through another grant from the VT Foodbank, we were able to purchase posters, signage and new baskets to aid in displaying produce.

South Royalton Market continues to put aside several boxes of produce for us each week and monthly donations of grocery items of our choice. Their support has been given with kindness and consideration. Willing Hands is another weekly donator offering produce, sometimes eggs, milk, cheese and bread. With these consistent donators and our CSA shares, we are able to provide fresh produce throughout the year.

The United Church of Strafford continues to support our holiday baskets and donates groceries. TSA Middle School, Sharon Elementary School, The Newton School and the Strafford Lyon's Club have had multiple food collections which were donated to us. We continue to receive generous financial support and grocery items from community members, businesses, and organizations. We are only able to provide for our guests in need with the help of all of those who support our efforts.

#### TOTALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 9/30/2022 - 10/1/2023

Client Visits	715
Household Members Served	1,699
Food Donations	12,341 pounds
Food and Supply Purchases	\$27,339
Total Monetary Donations	\$21,589
Total Grants Received	\$4,125

Over the last three months, October-December, we have had 237 visits to the food shelf serving 611 family members. Included in those totals are 19 Thanksgiving Baskets for 61 family members and 26 Christmas Baskets for 79 family members.

Financial and commodity donations are welcome and needed as well as volunteer help.

Sharon Food Shelf, PO Box 42, Sharon, VT 05065  
802-763-2007 to leave a message

## Sharon Health Initiative Town Report 2024

Early on in 2022, the Sharon Health Initiative (SHI) welcomed new community health care worker (and former board member) Dena Wilkie. Dena is an Occupational Therapist by training and brought to this role a strong medical background, holistic approach to care and focus on mental health. Dena is passionate about helping people to age as safely and independently as possible and is a proponent of the fostering of intergenerational relationships to combat isolation.

Twelve seniors a week are served directly with home visits or phone calls, with many more residents reaching out for one- or two-time needs. Many of our clients are isolated, without support, and are additionally impacted by financial burdens and the difficulty of navigating an ever-changing healthcare system. While advocacy, education and referrals to resources are a mainstay of our work, we are also able to meet the client's specific needs. Examples of necessary assistance the SHI has provided include helping to find emergency housing for unhoused residents, assistance in advanced directives, obtaining of durable medical equipment, and facilitation of critical cancer care and diagnostic appointments. Community education in the form of list-serve and social media posts, as well as several in house lecture series on fall risk reduction and home modifications have helped to spread health awareness throughout the community.

A focus this year has been facilitating the use of technology to help our clients to stay engaged in their health care through our iPad and expanding access to our services through office meetups and twice monthly drop-in hours at the Baxter Memorial Library. We have also been working to expand our volunteer program by offering more training and support. Our goal of combating isolation continues with help from activities we bring in, such as the music program, adult coloring books and pedal bikes, as well as increased companionship visits from our volunteers.

Our efforts to create lasting community partnerships to benefit Sharon residents, include ongoing collaboration with Gifford and their Community Health Teams, as well as with the South Royalton Rescue, Patient Volunteer Corp out of DHMC and with the National and Vermont Associations of Community Health Care Workers. We've also expanded our work in the community through engagement with Sharon Cares, Emergence Youth Organization, the Sharon Congregational Church and through emergency preparedness planning with the Incident Command group.

The SHI would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the people of Sharon for their support, funding, and volunteerism; we couldn't provide this amazing complimentary resource to your neighbors without you. We've become a source of inspiration and resource for other towns looking to implement a community care model! SHI remains open to feedback and ideas for how to best serve the residents of Sharon. Referrals are most welcome. We may be reached via email at [sharonhealthinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:sharonhealthinitiative@gmail.com), or by cell at 802-230-8458.

BUDGET	2023-24
INCOME	
Town appropriation	\$5,000.00
Grants/Foundations	\$12,000.00
Individual Donations	\$4,000.00
TOTAL	\$21,000.00
EXPENSES	
Contingency	\$700.00
Fund Raising	\$400.00
Insurance	\$710.00
License	\$0.00
Professional Development	\$450.00
Rent	\$1,200.00
Salary	\$16,840.00
Supplies	\$500.00
Travel	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$21,000.00

## Sharon Historical Society

**Thank You!** The Sharon Historical Society had a very successful 2023 season thanks to the support of our members, volunteers, and the Sharon community! We were open each Sunday afternoon from June through September, as well as on Old Home Day, and had lots of visitors.

### Special Programs

July 26, 2023 author and historian Marty Podskoch gave an interesting presentation on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The program started with a tour of Camp Downer, originally built as Sharon's CCC Camp. Many people with memories of the camp attended the tour and were able to answer questions about the camp. Between the tour and the presentation, we had a wonderful potluck meal on the Green that was also well attended.

August 23, 2023 Sharon resident Dave Celone gave a fascinating talk on the disastrous train wreck that occurred on the West Hartford bridge on February 5, 1887. Three cars derailed crashing onto the frozen White River 43 feet below. Twenty-five passengers and five crew perished in fires caused by coal stoves and oil lamps in those cars. As a result of this accident, electric lights and steam heat were adopted as standard equipment for all passenger trains.

September 27, 2023 Sharon resident Dennis Tatro discussed his book "Justin Morgan and the Morgan Horse, Living on the Town Line" and the 14 years he spent searching for the exact location of Justin Morgan's home when he first settled in Vermont. Dennis had historians, archaeologists, metal detecting professionals and even paranormal investigators involved in this search which was finally successful. We had a potluck gathering prior to the presentation.

**Old Town Hall Technical Inspection** As you may have heard, Sharon's Old Town Hall which houses the Historical Society's Museum, is starting to show its 200 years. The Preservation Trust of Vermont provided a matching grant to the Town of Sharon to hire Jan Lewandoski, a historic timber frame restoration expert, to do a Technical Inspection of the building and make recommendations. The bad news is that underfloor dampness is destroying the flooring system at both gable ends. Jan recommends the following repairs to the building, and gave these estimates:

1. Improve drainage: Grade and install drainage along the west and north side. \$14-16,000.  
(This work, planned for 2024, will drain water away from the building.)
2. Crawlspace humidity reduction: Improve ventilation, if needed add vapor barrier \$4-5,000
3. Floor system repairs: Replace 6 to 8 ft of floor and framing at both gable ends \$35-45,000

Although the Town of Sharon owns the building and the Selectboard is supportive of repairing it, \$53,000 to \$66,000 is not in the budget to perform the necessary work. To help defray the cost to the Town, The Sharon Historical Society began a Capital Campaign. Funds raised to repair the building will go into a special account managed by the Town Treasurer. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send a check to:

**"Old Town Hall Capital Campaign" c/o Treasurer,  
Town of Sharon, P.O. Box 250, Sharon, VT 05065**

Thank you very much for your support!

**Sharon Historical Society**  
**July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Balance July 1, 2022		\$ 3,592.35
Income:		
Dues + Interest	\$ 1,642.41	
Total Income:	\$ 1,642.41	\$ 1,642.41
Expenses:		
VT Historical Society	\$ 50.00	
Speakers	\$ 100.00	
Collection Maintenance	\$ 2,387.59	
Total Expenses:	\$ 2,537.59	\$ (2,537.59)
Balance June 30, 2023		<u>\$ 2,697.17</u>

**REGULAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Balance July 1, 2022	\$ 3,595.05
Deposit from Landmark Savings Account	\$ 1,529.20
Deposit from Checking	\$ 1,000.00
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 6,124.25</u>

**LANDMARK SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Balance July 1, 2022	\$ 1,529.20
Withdrawn and deposited to Savings (to close account)	\$ (1,529.20)
Interest earned	\$ -
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$ -</u>

Respectfully submitted,



Martha A. Fisk, Treasurer

## **Sharon PTO**

The Sharon PTO is a group of parents, staff, and teachers meeting monthly to bring parents, teachers, staff, and caregivers together to enhance the educational experience of Sharon children. We welcome all parents, caregivers, teachers, and staff to be part of the Sharon PTO and we encourage you to come to our monthly meeting held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 6:30 pm. The meetings are posted on the school website and on our Facebook page.

### **Highlights of 2023**

Over the years, the PTO has raised funds to buy new winter clothes for children in need in our own community, to offer scholarships for One Planet summer camp and Sharon Recreation programs, to offer funds for the annual school Book Fair so all kids can participate, to provide monthly supplemental snacks for classrooms and many events throughout the school year to recognize the hard work of the teachers, staff, students, and parents in the school community and to host a range of events that have become traditions in our town.

The Sharon Elementary PTO has aimed to support our school and community with a special interest in fundraising, community involvement, welcoming new families, and supporting those in need. We hosted a very well-attended Yard Sale and Maker's Market in June. We offered a Spooky Night again this year which was another huge success. We held an in-person Winter Clothes Sale. The PTO helped to provide the school with extra classroom supplies and water bottles for students. We also received a grant that helped pay for winter clothes for students in need. We also had two successful apparel sales, which not only brought in much-needed funds but also provided a sense of community.

Additionally, we aim to continually provide recognition and appreciation of the essential, compassionate, and truly exceptional work of the teachers and staff at Sharon Elementary School. Throughout the year, we have provided a Supper-to-Go for staff, Hot Cocoa bar, chalk messages of thanks in the parking lot as well as Teacher Appreciation week activities and prizes.

Thank you all for your support. If you are interested in participating in any efforts to enhance the children, teachers, staff, parents/caregivers' experience at the school, please be in touch with any of us if you would like to help. We look forward to hearing from you! Email us at [ptosharonvt@gmail.com](mailto:ptosharonvt@gmail.com) to be added to our mailing list and never miss an event!

### **PTO Officers for 2023-2024**

Chair, Briana Paronto

Co-Chairs, Angie Carpenter-Henderson & Candace Matheson

Treasurer, Nicole Antal

Secretary, Stephanie Davis

## **SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER**

The South Royalton Area Senior Citizen Center (SRASCC) serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Many times, seniors from other towns will come to the center for meals and other activities, all are always welcome. To qualify as a senior, you must be 60 years old or older. Suggested donation \$5.00 for seniors and \$7.00 for all others.

The Board of Directors is composed of three representatives from each of the four towns. Sue Pirie is the director for both meal sites, one being in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday and the other in Royalton, at the Royalton Academy building, serving meals on Tuesday only for now and on Thursday to prepare curbside and home delivered meals. We are fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford and Brandon Hamilton the cook for Royalton. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional required. We served a total of 14,805 meals for the year 2022-2023. The food cost per meal was \$2.78 and total cost per meal \$9.04

Since closing for Covid attendance at the center has remained very low, however the curb side and home deliveries have remained high.

There is an established fund that offers aid to any senior who may have a need. Any senior needing assistance may contact Sue Pirie, the Senior Director, Karen Eddy, the Senior Advisor, or one of your Senior Board Representatives with their request. Requests are reviewed in a confidential manner.

Fundraising events continue so as to assist in the cost of running the center.

Willing Hands donated approximately 4,300 pounds of fresh produce and eggs to the senior meal sites this year. Panera Bakery donated 100 large boxes of bread, sweets and bagels. Several local farms also donate lots of fresh produce and fruits. We thank them all.

Sharon's Senior Representatives are:

Martha Fisk  
Mary Ayers  
Norma Vincent

Submitted by,  
SRASCC Board of Directors  
Martha Fisk, President  
Kay Ingraham, Vice President  
Corinne Ingraham, Secretary  
Susan Coburn, Treasurer

South Royalton Rescue Squad		BUDGET	Audited	Variance	BUDGET	Unaudited	Variance	BUDGET	BUDGET
	Budget FY 2023	JUL '21	JUL '21	JUL '21	JUL '22	JUL '22	JUL '22	JUL '23	JUL '24
	Final Budget	JUN '22	JUN '22	JUN '22	JUN '23	JUN '23	JUN '23	JUN '24	JUN '25
Income									
Total 303 - Emergency Services		215,350	215,203	(3,069)	227,216	209,188	(17,554)	229,600	232,138
Total Other Income		29,550	115,866	(1,486)	30,250	137,836	4,539	27,650	27,100
	Total Income	244,900	331,069	(4,556)	257,466	347,024	(13,015)	257,250	259,238
Expense									
Total Contract Services		45,365	47,061	722	49,975	47,260	(2,715)	50,800	33,928
Duck Race Total		4,800	19	(4,781)	3,500	579	(2,921)	-	-
Coin Drop Total		2,500	-	(2,500)	2,500	-	(2,500)	1,600	-
Total Insurance		28,700	24,374	(4,326)	31,375	24,441	(6,934)	30,652	31,711
Total Maintenance & Repairs		2,137	1,137	(1,000)	2,137	1,137	(1,000)	2,137	1,737
Total Prof. Membership & Train.		6,725	4,258	(2,467)	6,805	4,394	(2,411)	6,125	4,750
Total Office		3,620	1,164	(2,456)	3,620	4,389	769	3,370	4,550
Total Payroll		338,575	385,017	46,442	362,292	376,005	13,713	376,193	431,923
Total Supplies & Equipment		23,900	13,153	(6,099)	20,854	10,601	(4,147)	18,950	16,200
Total Utilities		5,576	7,899	2,323	6,190	7,880	1,690	7,260	8,000
Total Rent		11,760	11,760	-	11,760	12,160	400	12,240	13,000
Total Vehicle		36,600	39,381	2,781	36,727	38,614	1,887	39,096	39,284
Total Expense		510,258	535,222	28,638	537,735	534,443	(4,169)	548,423	585,082
Net Income		(265,358)	(204,153)	(33,193)	(280,269)	(187,419)	(8,846)	(291,173)	(325,845)
Total Appropriation Needed		265,358			280,269			291,173	325,845
Total Capita All 3 towns (4,828)		4,828			4,875			4,854	4,854
Charge Per Capita		54.96			57.49			59.99	67.13
Covered Town Population									
	Royalton	2,773			2,750			2750.00	2750.00
	Sharon	1,490			1,560			1550.00	1550.00
	Tunbridge	565			565			554	554
Total Covered Population									
308 - Town Appropriations									
	308a-Royalton	152,410	155,210		158,100	155,210		164,962	184,605
	308b-Sharon	81,894	83,389		89,686	83,389		92,979	104,050
	308c - Tunbridge	31,054	31,624		32,482	31,624		33,232	37,190
Total		265,358	270,223		280,269	270,223		291,173	325,845
Appropriations YOY					5.62%			3.89%	11.91%



## The Sharon Academy 2023

*The mission of The Sharon Academy is to nurture intelligent, independent and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and the difference they can make in the world*

A few highlights of the 2023-2024 school year at The Sharon Academy are:

-**"Freaky Friday"** - this year's High School Musical Interim production, performed in November at Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, VT was marked by exceptional student leadership and was thoroughly successful as the community-building adventure it was designed to be.

-The creation of a **Director of Teaching and Learning** position, designed to support teaching staff through collaborative professional development, classroom observations and a comprehensive evaluation and reflection process. We are thrilled to have Jarod "W" Wunneburger in the position this year and are already experiencing the benefits of his expertise.

-TSA's very own **Finland Exchange Program**, created and led by TSA Faculty member and Fulbright Scholar Fallon Abel. A group of TSA students are teaming up with a partner class in Helsinki, Finland to address one of the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) within our school and/or local community. Examples of chosen topic areas include: Climate Action, poverty, hunger, education, health & wellbeing, peace & justice, responsible production & consumption and reducing inequalities. Students will travel to Finland for two weeks in late February / early March to visit our partner school, participate in homestays with Finnish teammates, and present their project at a youth-led symposium. TSA students will also be hosting Finnish students in May.

-A new, school-wide, multi-year commitment to **professional learning in the area of trauma-transformation** with Dave Melnick, LICSW at NFI Vermont. All staff members have attended three intensive workshops so far, learning the neuroscience of trauma and how to respond to our most vulnerable students using informed, compassionate and restorative practices.

-We look forward to our annual Spring events: the Middle School **Circus Interim**—on Friday, March 22 (6pm Carnival, 7pm show) and 23 (3pm Carnival, 4pm show), on the High School campus, our free family **Arts Day** (date TBD - stay tuned for a Sunday in late March!), our third annual **Phoenix Phest** (Saturday, June 1) and our graduation ceremonies (Middle School on 6/14, High School on 6/15).

-We welcome you to join us at the groundbreaking for our new STEAM wing addition in early April. Details will be in local listservs, social media, and newspapers when we have a specific date.

Thank you to all of you who have donated time, expertise, and financial support to TSA and our students. Your support helps us to fulfill our mission of knowing, valuing, and challenging each student so that they may become the thinkers, creators, problem-solvers, and leaders our world needs.

Please consider coming by for a visit or attending one of the events mentioned above. TSA considers itself to be a part of the local community - you are always welcome.

Mary Newman

Head of School  
The Sharon Academy



## The Sprouty 2023

On September 9, 2023 the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Sprouty 5K/10K run & walk event was held, starting and finishing at the Sharon Elementary School. The race is committed to bringing out community members and serious runners alike as we celebrate good health, local agriculture and the beauty of September in Vermont.



Through the many kind and generous donations of local businesses, individuals and the Town of Sharon, our 2023 event was highly successful. Donors included the Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Horizons Engineering, R.L. Vallee, Vermont Law & Graduate School, Winterset, Green Mountain Electric, White River Toyota, Gifford Medical and Mascoma Bank. Additionally, several in-kind donations contributed greatly to the success of the event; lettuce plants from Dandelion Acres, graphic design from Scott Fisk, event tent from Upper Valley Tent and live music performed by the Seven Stars Community Fiddle Band. As a result of these donations combined with entry fees, The Sprouty was able to make a significant donation to the Sharon Elementary School to support the outdoor education and farm-to-school programs.

The Sprouty is a wonderful community event that gathers competitive runners, walkers and others who simply come for a fun filled atmosphere. The day includes a Kids Fun Run around the ball field and a raffle with a lot of great prizes that is open to participants as well as spectators.

Specific 2023 income and expenses:

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Carryover balance from 2022:	\$3536.73	2023 Expenses:	\$3560.41
2023 Income:	\$9637.25	Donations to SES and BALE:	\$6100.00
<b>2023 Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$3513.57</b>		

The Sprouty Committee looks forward to hosting the event again in 2024 and appreciates the continued support from the Town of Sharon and our greater community. We are extremely grateful to all participants as well as those who supported us from afar.



## SHARON TOWN REPORT October 2023

Thank you for the Town of Sharon's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of **1,419 free Dial-A-Ride trips for Sharon residents** either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. An additional **3,646 riders boarded public buses at Sharon bus stops**. TVT's Dial-A-Ride and Public Bus Systems provided a total of 180,335 rides for the year. All of TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment, and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

**Dial-A-Ride Programs** – Focus on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. Dial-A-Ride offers direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis, substance abuse treatment, and other destinations that enhance riders' quality of life.



**Bus System** – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility, independence and quality of life. Sharon residents can access the 89'er Commuter bus routes to access the Lebanon, Hanover, White River Jct. area for employment opportunities, medical appointments, and shopping services. This route also provides access to The Sharon Academy for many students living outside of Sharon.

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the match requirement.

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## **TRORC 2023 YEAR-END REPORT**

The Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2023.

### **Technical Assistance on Planning Issues**

Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has supported eligible towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

### **Economy and Public Health**

This year, TRORC supported the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid-19, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC also helps identify and clean contaminated parcels of land for reuse.

### **Emergency Management and Preparedness**

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process and have done so most recently with the July floods.

### **Energy/Climate Change**

TRORC assisted towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support member towns through assessing town buildings for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

### **Transportation**

TRORC also worked with towns to get funding to implement road improvement projects. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Sharon this past year, TRORC assisted the town in updating its Local Emergency Management Plan, as well as in updating its Town Plan to receive Regional Approval and status as an Enhanced Energy Plan. TRORC is also the project manager for the Town's Village Bike and Pedestrian Scoping Study. Staff have been supporting the town in determining the optimum location for EV chargers in Sharon, and have assisted the town in receiving energy assessments for the town offices and town garage.

*We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director*

*William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret*



### **Report of Services for Town of Sharon**

During the 2023 Fiscal Year, The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired saw continued success in client services, innovative programs, and community outreach initiatives. Moving forward, it is exciting to imagine the strides we will make in enabling blind and visually impaired Vermonters to be more independent, develop adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

**SMART Device Training Program:** 550 Vermont residents received SMART training in FY23, the highest number in the program's five-year history. Also during FY23, VABVI secured \$100,000 of partial program funding from the State of Vermont. In order to fully fund SMART, whose budget is more than twice that amount, VABVI has recently announced our several-year Second Century Endowment Campaign.

**PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning and Support) Group:** PALS Groups, held throughout Vermont, are monthly meetings where members share coping strategies and discuss the practical, social and emotional challenges of vision loss. While many clients have been pleased with the reintroduction of in-person meetings in FY23, opportunities to join virtually remain available for maximum flexibility. 42 clients attended PALS meetings in FY23.

**HAPI (Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence):** The HAPI program enables Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists to work one-on-one with students to practice daily living skills.

**IRLE Summer Camp (Intensive Residential Life Experience):** IRLE camp helps VABVI students develop social skills, meet fellow visually impaired peers, learn independent living skills, and improve self-advocacy skills. This June, IRLE brought 13 visually impaired students to Rock Point by Lake Champlain. Activities included outdoor sports, nature walks, and living in cabins. Fun was had by all!

### **Community Outreach**

VABVI continues to innovate new projects which will connect the local community to our services and cause. After more than a year of development, an accessible tactile sign is slated to be installed in Burlington's Waterfront Park by the end of 2023. Additionally, the New Americans Project will soon offer free vision screenings for local refugee community members.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the agency provided services to a total of 1,083 Vermont residents. This total includes 1 adults and 2 students in Sharon, and 87 adults and 16 students in Windsor County.

For more information about VABVI's services or volunteer opportunities, please contact Samantha Gougher, Development Associate, at [sgougher@vabvi.org](mailto:sgougher@vabvi.org). Thank you very much for your support!

60 Kimball Avenue  
So. Burlington, VT 05403  
(802) 863-1358  
(FAX) 863-1481

13 Overlook Drive, Ste. 1  
Berlin, VT 05641  
(802) 505-4006  
(FAX) 505-4039

80 West Street, Ste. 202  
Rutland, VT 05701  
(802) 775-6452  
(FAX) 775-4669

130 Austine Drive, Ste. 280  
Brattleboro, VT 05301  
(802) 254-8761  
(FAX) 254-4802

So. Burl (800) 639-5861  
Berlin (877) 350-8838  
Rutland (877) 350-8839  
Bratt (877) 350-8840

[www.vabvi.org](http://www.vabvi.org)



# Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

White River Junction Local Health Office | 118 Prospect Street, White River Junction, VT  
802-295-8820 | [AHS.VDHWhiteRiverJct@Vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHWhiteRiverJct@Vermont.gov)

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The White River Junction Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Northern Windsor and Southern Orange counties.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit [HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction](https://HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction)



## Collaboration with Partners

The White River Junction (WRJ) staff works with over 30 diverse health care and social service organizations in the Greater Upper Valley Integrated Services Team (GUVIST). **GUVIST is making services and support for community members of all ages more efficient, effective, responsive and appropriate to the desires of those in need.** To learn more about this initiative, visit [uvpublichealth.org/guvist/](https://uvpublichealth.org/guvist/)



## Addressing Health Equity

Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program helps pregnant people and families with children under age 5. We provide healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to community resources. Our office understands that not having transportation can make it difficult to get services. **Our office has the most access points in the state with our nutritionists hosting clinics at seven satellite sites.** If you would like to learn more visit [www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction](https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction)



## Planning For and Responding to Emergencies

Our Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Immunization Nurse, Epidemiologist and other staff have worked with the Upper Valley Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to help our communities. They have spent hundreds of hours **conducting COVID testing, administering COVID and Mpox vaccinations, investigating over 210 infectious disease cases and collecting kits for water testing during flood recovery.** Learn more about the MRC at [uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/](https://uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/)



## TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: [VSNIP.Vermont.Gov](http://VSNIP.Vermont.Gov). VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

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

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard "Snook" Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! ***Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!*** 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP      Executive Director: VVSA

## White River Partnership 2023 Annual Report to Sharon

The White River Partnership (WRP) is a member-supported, nonprofit organization formed in 1996 by a group of local people who shared an interest in keeping the White River healthy. The WRP envisions a White River valley in which individuals and communities work together to make informed decisions that result in clean water, fewer flood damages, improved access to the river, and more. Here are some highlights from our work in 2023:

- WRP staff and 35 volunteers completed the 6th year of our White River Water Trail Stewardship Program, **monitoring river access sites every month during the summer** to remove trash and to report hazardous conditions. We started the season and ended the season with river cleanup events – in sum, 125 volunteers **removed 5,000 pounds of trash** from the river in Bethel, Hartford, Pomfret, Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge.
- WRP staff and 25 trained volunteers **completed the 23rd year of our water quality monitoring program**, testing bacteria, conductivity, and turbidity at 22 swimming holes in 13 towns – including The Sharon Academy pulloff on Rte 14 – every two weeks from late-May through early-September. We shared results via email, our website, and our Facebook and Instagram pages.
- The WRP worked with willing landowners, partners, and a youth work crew to **plant 4,140 native trees and shrubs along the White River and its tributaries** at 4 sites to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood resilience.
- The WRP worked with the town of Sharon to **build stone steps to the White River** at The Sharon Academy pulloff on Rte 14 to improve recreational access.
- The WRP engaged 1,400 students and teachers from 32 schools – including Sharon Elementary School and The Sharon Academy – in **hands-on education programs that raise awareness about watershed health**, including crayfish sampling & identification, Freshwater Snorkeling with the Green Mountain National Forest, Trout in the Classroom with Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited, waterbugs sampling & identification, wildlife track & sign monitoring along the river, and more!

### For more information

White River Partnership  
PO Box 705, S. Royalton, VT 05068  
(802) 763-7733, [info@whiteriverpartnership.org](mailto:info@whiteriverpartnership.org)  
[www.whiteriverpartnership.org](http://www.whiteriverpartnership.org) and [www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverPartnership)



To: Windsor County Town Clerks  
From: Assistant Judges Alison Johannensen and David Singer  
Re: County News  
Date: December 2023

The County has experienced some changes this year, the first one is the bond that the county tax payers had approved for the Court House renovation has been paid off as of November 01, 2023. Thank you to all the tax payers for supporting this renovation.

Assistant Judge Ellen Terie decided not to run for re-election last year and retired as of January 31, 2023. Assistant Judge Terie was a valued member of the county and we certainly thank her for the 8 years she served Windsor County residents.

We also thank Assistant Judge Michael Ricci, who was also a valued member of the county and served the Windsor County residents for almost 2 years after being appointed by Governor Scott.

Our Deputy Clerk, Dianne Bumps decided to retire from her county position in May of 2023. We thank Dianne for her dedication during her 5 years with Windsor County.

The County Building Superintendent, Bruce Page, who has taken care of both county building since July of 2017 decided to retire from his county position at the end of November 2023. We thank Bruce for all his dedication and hard work.

We thank Mike Chamberlain for the many years he served Windsor County as Sheriff. We wish him well and hope he is enjoying himself.

We wish them all well in their new adventures!

Windsor County residents elected Ryan Palmer as the County Sheriff. Sheriff Palmer has been approaching his new responsibility with a lot of enthusiasm.

Windsor County residents elected two (2) new Assistant Judges, Alison Johannensen and David Singer who assumed office as of February 01, 2023. We welcome both of the assistant judges.

The Assistant Judges are working hard on securing an energy efficiency grant to be used to replace the old boiler in the county building. If the county is successful in securing the grant, we hope the boiler can be replaced within the next year.

The Windsor County Final Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2024 at the County Building in Woodstock, Vermont at 5:00 P.M.



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PO Box 101 • Windsor, VT 05089 • 802-674-5101 • [info@wcmentors.org](mailto:info@wcmentors.org) • [www.wcmentors.org](http://www.wcmentors.org)

## **Town Narrative - Sharon**

### **For July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

For 50 years Windsor County Mentors has been creating and nurturing intensive community- and school-based mentoring partnerships, free of charge, to any Windsor County child between 5 and 18 who could benefit from a long-term, trusting relationship with an adult in their community.

Mentoring has been studied extensively and strong evidence shows that mentoring offers vulnerable youth opportunities to share experiences with reliable adults to widen their vision of themselves, helping them to become confident, contributing members of their community and increasing their social and mental wellbeing.

It has been shown that youth with mentors have:

- Increased high school graduation rates, including higher college enrollment rates
- Enhanced self-esteem
- Enhanced self-confidence
- Improved behavior, both at home and at school
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use

In the past year, WCM served and supported school- and community-based mentorships with children from towns throughout Windsor County including one (1) in Sharon. Collectively, our mentors volunteered thousands of hours to their communities.

Our surveys demonstrate the positive effects of mentoring on local families, with a clean sweep this year:

- 100% of Mentors would recommend mentoring to a family member, friend, or colleague.
- 100% of Mentee parents said their child is hopeful about his/her future.
- 100% of Mentees reported that having a mentor has made a difference in his/her life.

WCM employs regional outreach coordinators around Windsor County, assuring that we are able to grant each town the attention it deserves.

Financial support from Windsor County towns helps ensure the well-being of children and their families.

For more information on our mentorships, find us on Facebook, visit our website [www.wcmentors.org](http://www.wcmentors.org), or contact us at [ProgramsWC@outlook.com](mailto:ProgramsWC@outlook.com) 802-674-5101. WCM thanks the voters of Sharon for their support for the children of Windsor County.

Matthew Garcia  
Executive Director

## General Contact Phone Numbers

<b>EMERGENCY FIRE &amp; AMBULANCE .....</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Need Assistance? Vermont 2-1-1 .....</b>	<b>211</b>
Ambulance & Fire (Hartford Dispatch Non-Emergency) .....	(802) 295-9425
Vermont State Police .....	(802) 234-9933
Fish & Wildlife Warden .....	(802) 234-9933
Windsor County Sheriff's Dept. ....	(802) 457-5211
<b>Sharon Fire Station .....</b>	<b>(802) 763-7331</b>

**Sharon Town Office ..... (802) 763-8268**

**Office Hours 8 AM – 3:30 PM Mon-Thurs. or by appt.; Closed Fridays**

Town Clerk .....	Ext. 1
Listers .....	Ext. 2
Treasurer (by appt.) .....	Ext. 3
Selectboard Assistant .....	Ext. 4
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (by appt.) .....	Ext. 5
Sharon Town Garage .....	Ext. 6
Planning Commission .....	Ext. 7
Finance Manager .....	Ext. 8
Baxter Memorial Library .....	(802) 763-2875
Animal Control Officer – Jim Armbruster.....	(802) 281-9188
Health Officer – Keith Lyman, Jr. ....	(802) 296-1553
Deputy Health Officer – Scott Henkels .....	(802) 763-8268
Fire Chief – Nathan Potter .....	(802) 299-6555
Forest Fire Warden – Dustin Potter .....	(802) 299-8715
Deputy Forest Fire Warden – Andrew Brackett .....	(802) 356-4328
Sharon Academy .....	(802) 763-7500
Sharon Elementary School .....	(802) 763-7425
Sharon Post Office .....	(802) 763-7637
Superintendent of Schools – Jamie Kinnarney .....	(802) 763-3235

### **Notice of Regularly Scheduled meetings. Public attendance is encouraged!**

Ashley Community Forest Board .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
Baxter Memorial Library .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 6:00 pm
Sharon Conservation Commission .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm
Sharon Energy Committee .....	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday at 6:00 pm
Sharon Planning Commission .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Sharon Recreation Committee .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm
Sharon School Board .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:00 pm
Sharon Selectboard .....	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm
Sharon Fire Department .....	last Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Sharon PTO .....	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday at 6:30 pm

**For up-to-date information, visit [sharonvt.net](http://sharonvt.net)**