

# Town of Westfield, Vermont



Annual Town & School Report  
for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

## Town Clerk of the Year Award For 2023



Westfield Town Clerk, LaDonna Dunn, is Vermont's 2023 Clerk of the Year at the Vermont Municipal Clerk and Treasurers Association (VMCTA) awards banquet held at the group's Annual Fall Conference in Fairlee. LaDonna heard her name announced and then saw her peers rise to their feet and applaud her – with enthusiasm – as she made her way to the front of the room to accept her award. LaDonna had just been named Vermont Municipal Clerk of the Year, voted on by her peers.

LaDonna began working for the Town of Westfield in May 2011, working in the Town Clerk's Office where she assisted Connie LaPlume. In this position, she accompanied Connie to meetings and VMCTA training sessions and stepped into an opening on the VMCTA's Education and Certification Committee, which happens to be one of the organization's most active committees.

On January 1, 2014, LaDonna became Town Clerk in Westfield when Connie LaPlume retired. She already had the benefit of working in the office, getting to know many other Vermont Clerks through her participation on committees and other activities, and much training at the state level, especially for elections, through the Vermont Secretary of State's Office. She notes that she "learned early on where the resources are to know how to do my job and keep up with the changes."

Additionally, LaDonna attended NEMCI&A (New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy), a three-year program, held for an intensive week of learning a variety of skills that benefit municipal clerks. LaDonna was in the Class of 2017, as the participants are "in residence" as a group. In addition to team building and building professional relationships and support, the classes include computer skills, public speaking, social skills on the job, PowerPoint and other presentation skills, government protocols and much more. LaDonna reflects on her NEMCI experience, noting that the program "helped my confidence a lot."

According to Psychology Today, the fear of public speaking ranked number one in the top 10 list of things most Americans fear. "A whopping 74 percent of Americans said they were more afraid of speaking in public than dying, which was ranked number two on the list at 68 percent." LaDonna says she was especially enthusiastic about the course in public speaking, so the training has been a huge benefit to her and the people who count on her to act with assurance on behalf of the town.

*(continued... inside back cover)*

## Meet our Westfield Town Office Team!

Although mostly unseen to most of you, this is the team that runs the day-to-day operation of the Town Office. We are very fortunate to have the caliber of people that we have working for us! Please take the time to thank them when you have the opportunity!

This year we're especially proud that your Town Clerk, LaDonna Dunn, was awarded Vermont Town Clerk of the Year by her peers at the Vermont Municipal Clerk Treasurers Annual Conference (VMCTA). This speaks to LaDonna's dedication and professionalism!

Please take the time to read the above press release that was provided by VMCTA.

With much gratitude!  
Westfield Selectboard



Left to Right: Niki Dunn, Selectboard Clerk & Assistant Town Clerk; Karen Blais, Assistant Town Clerk & Library Trustee; LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk; Lisa Deslandes, Town Treasurer and Westfield School Treasurer

## 2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

- **February 27<sup>th</sup>: Westfield Town School Board Informational Meeting** at 6 p.m. via Google Meets.
- **March 5<sup>th</sup>: Town/School In-Person Meeting & Australian Ballot Elections for school articles & Presidential Primary** at the Westfield Community Center. Australian ballot polling hours are 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. **In-person Town/School Meeting begins at 10 a.m.** Vote early/absentee ballot (in person/by mail) by contacting the Town Clerk's office.
- **All Wednesdays in March: Curbside Rabies Clinic at the Animal Doctor 802-334-1503**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 56 Eastern Ave., Newport Ctr., Open to all communities. Dog/cat rabies, distemper, Lepto, Bordatella Vaccinations \$20/shot. Feline Leukemia, Canine Influenza \$25/shot. Lyme \$45/shot. Bring previous vaccination record.
- **Late March-Early April: Public Hearing for Zoning Bylaw Revisions.** Date to be determined/flyers at the Recycling Center.
- **Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rabies Clinic offered by Dr. Susan Nelson 802-334-3345** at the Derby Line Fire Station, 9 am – Noon, and at the Holland School from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Bring previous vaccination record.
- **April 1<sup>st</sup>: Dog Licenses** are due by 4 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, 38 School St. After April 1<sup>st</sup> fees increase by 50%.
- **May 4<sup>th</sup>: Green Up Day** bags are available at the Town Clerk's Office and at the Westfield Recycling Center.
- **June 1<sup>st</sup>: Household Hazardous Waste Day ♦ Derby Recycling Center 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** See page 34 for details.
- **June 22<sup>nd</sup>: Household Hazardous Waste Day ♦ Newport Center Town Garage 8 a.m.-12 p.m.** See page 34 for details.
- **August 13<sup>th</sup>: State Primary Election** at the Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Road. Polling hours: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Vote early/absentee ballot (in person/by mail) by contacting the Town Clerk's office.
- **October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Property Taxes** are due by 4 p.m. Property taxes must be paid in full at the Town Clerk's office by 4 p.m. to avoid an 8% delinquent penalty. Postmarks are not accepted. Please allow adequate mailing time to avoid a penalty.
- **November 5<sup>th</sup>: General Election** at the Westfield Community Ctr., 59 North Hill Road. Polling hours: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
- **Caroling on the Common early December.** Fun for all with caroling, bonfire, visit from Santa and goodies. Date TBA.

## USEFUL TOWN INFORMATION

♦ **TOWN OFFICE: Mailing Address:** 38 School St., Westfield, VT 05874 ♦ **Telephone:** 802-744-2484 ♦ **Fax:** 802-744-6224  
**Town Clerk's Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ♦ **Email Address:** [townofwestfield@comcast.net](mailto:townofwestfield@comcast.net)  
**Website:** [www.westfield.vt.gov](http://www.westfield.vt.gov) ♦ **Social Media:** Like us on Facebook at *Town of Westfield, Vermont*

**Town Clerk:** LaDonna Dunn ♦ **Assistant Town Clerk:** Karen Blais ♦ **Assistant Town Clerk:** Niki Dunn  
**Town Treasurer:** Lisa Deslandes ♦ **Hours:** Wednesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ♦ **Listers & Zoning Admin. Hours:** By appointment

♦ **HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY:** 1252 VT Route 100, Westfield, VT 05874 ♦ **Hours:** Tuesday 2:00 -7:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. & Sunday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. **Telephone:** 802-744-8258 ♦ **Email:** [hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com](mailto:hitchcockmemorial8258@gmail.com)  
**Mailing Address:** 38 School Street, Westfield, VT 05874 ♦ **Librarian:** Jennifer Johnson

♦ **SELECTBOARD MEETINGS:** The Selectboard meets at 5:00 p.m. on the third Monday each month at the Westfield Town Office. They also hold special warned meetings as needed. Agendas/Minutes are posted at the Town Clerk's office, the Westfield General Store, the Westfield Recycling Center (outdoor bulletin board) and can be viewed online at <https://westfield.vt.gov/meeting-minutesagendas/>.

♦ **PROPERTY TAXES: 2024 property taxes are due Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** by 4:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk/Treasurers Office, 38 School Street, Westfield, VT 05874. *ALL taxes received after 4 p.m. on October 3, 2024, either in person OR by mail will be considered delinquent and are subject to delinquent penalties. Postmarks are not accepted.* Tax bills are mailed in July. Please make checks payable to: Town of Westfield and include the property's parcel ID in the memo section of the check. Checks may also be placed in the secure drop box to the left of the Town Office door 24/7 or pay taxes online at <https://westfield.vt.gov/property-taxes/>.

♦ **COMMUNITY CENTER:** The Community Center, 59 North Hill Rd., is available to rent for music events, tournaments, parties, meetings, and exercise/dance groups. Fees: Residents \$75 (plus a \$100 refundable security deposit); Non-residents \$100 (plus a \$100 refundable security deposit); Kitchen usage adds \$50; Exercise groups \$30. Contact LaDonna at the Town Clerk's Office for reservations, 744-2484 or visit the Town website at <http://westfield.vt.gov> and click on the Community Center page for more information.

♦ **RECYCLING CENTER:** The Recycling Center is open every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. until Noon. All recyclables are free to dispose of. See the Westfield Recycling and Waste Disposal Guide on pages 35-36 for a complete list of recyclables as well as not accepted recyclables. See the Westfield Recycling Center Fee Chart on page 34 for trash and tire disposal fees. Fees for disposing of large trash items such as furniture, mattresses, recliners, and desks are negotiated with the Recycling Attendant on duty. The Recycling Center is located at the Westfield Town Garage, 757 VT Route 100. Steel and compost may be disposed of 24/7. Please DO NOT remove items from the steel bin. Steel is sold to help offset Recycling Center costs. **TRASH MAY ONLY BE DISPOSED OF ON SATURDAY MORNINGS.** Surveillance cameras are in use 24/7. Call the Town Office at 802-744-2484 with questions.

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The Westfield Town School Board will hold an Informational Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be a Google Meets, on-line meeting. The link for the meeting will be made available. This meeting shall constitute the Public Informational Meeting required by 17 V.S.A. §2680(G).

**WARNING**  
**ANNUAL WESTFIELD TOWN MEETING AND WESTFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING**  
**MARCH 5, 2024 - 10 a.m. (In-Person Meeting)**

The legal voters of the Town of Westfield and the legal voters of the Westfield Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet (in-person) at the Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Road, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business:

**WESTFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING:**

- Article 1.** To elect a moderator for a term of one-year.
- Article 2.** To elect one Westfield Town School District Board Member for a term of three-years.
- Article 3.** To elect a Union School Board director for a term of three-years.
- Article 4.** Shall the voters of the Westfield Town School District appropriate the sum of \$2,145,310 to defray the expenses and liabilities for the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$826,390? **(Paper ballot to be commingled with Jay)**
- Article 5.** Shall the voters of the Westfield Town School District approve the school board to expend \$843,998 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?
- Article 6.** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to revise the joint school agreement to reflect the law changes by replacing Equalized Pupils with the phrase Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTW ADM)?

- **Articles 7 through 11 voted by Australian ballot:** Australian ballot items are voted on at the Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Road, throughout the day on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The polls open at 9:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. Early or absentee ballots are available by contacting the Town Clerk at 802-744-2484.
- **Article 7.** To elect a Jay/Westfield Joint School Treasurer for the school year 2024-2025. **(Australian ballot to be commingled with Jay)**
- **Article 8.** To elect a Westfield Town School District Treasurer for the school year 2024-2025. **(Australian ballot)**
- **Article 9.** Shall the voters of the North Country Union High School District approve the school board to expend \$21,553,800, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? **(Australian ballot)**
- **Article 10.** Shall the voters of the North Country Union Junior High School District approve the school board to expend \$6,538,700, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? **(Australian ballot)**

*(Continued on next page)*

**Article 11.** Shall the voters of the North Country Union Junior High School District approve the Board of School Directors to place \$280,000 of undesignated FY2023 fund balance from the general fund operations in the Building Maintenance Reserve fund? **(Australian ballot)**

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**Article 12.** To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting.

**Article 13.** To adjourn.

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**FOLLOWING A SHORT BREAK, TOWN MEETING WILL CONVENE**

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**TOWN MEETING:**

**Article 1.** To elect a moderator for a term of one-year.

**Article 2.** To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

**Article 3.** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2651d(a)?

**Article 4.** To elect all necessary town officials required by law.

- |    |                           |  |
|----|---------------------------|--|
| a. | 1 <sup>st</sup> Constable | One-year term                          |
| b. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Constable | One-year term                          |
| c. | Delinquent Tax Collector  | One-year term                          |
| d. | Library Trustee           | Five-year term                         |
| e. | Library Trustee           | One-year of an unexpired two-year term |
| f. | Lister                    | Three-year term                        |
| g. | Selectperson              | Three-year term                        |
| h. | Town Clerk                | Three-year term                        |
| i. | Town Treasurer            | Three-year term                        |

**Article 5.** Shall the voters approve **\$28,176** for the following appropriations?

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | <b>\$500</b> to American Red Cross: <b>Pg. 42</b>   |
| b. | <b>\$500</b> to ConnectAbilities (formerly Orleans County Citizens Advocacy): <b>Pg. 43</b>       |
| c. | <b>\$100</b> to Felines & Friends Foundation: <b>Pg. 44</b>                                       |
| d. | <b>\$1,200</b> to Green Mountain Farm-to-School, Inc.: <b>Pg. 45</b>                              |
| e. | <b>\$50</b> to Green Up Vermont: <b>Pg. 46</b>  |
| f. | <b>\$250</b> to Jay Focus Group: <b>Pg. 48</b>  |
| g. | <b>\$750</b> to Jay Food Shelf: <b>Pg. 47</b>   |
| h. | <b>\$250</b> to Jay Peak Post No. 28-American Legion: <b>Pg. 49</b>                               |
| i. | <b>\$300</b> to Missisquoi River Basin Association: <b>Pg. 50</b>                                 |
| j. | <b>\$100</b> to North Country Friends of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra: <b>Pg. 61</b>            |
| k. | <b>\$300</b> to Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging: <b>Pg. 51</b>                                 |
| l. | <b>\$1,072</b> to Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS): <b>Pg. 52</b>                          |
| m. | <b>\$250</b> to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS): <b>Pg. 53</b>                        |
| n. | <b>\$700</b> to Old Stone House Museum (Orleans County Historical Society): <b>Pg. 54</b>         |
| o. | <b>\$500</b> to Orleans County Fair Association: <b>Pg. 54</b>                                    |
| p. | <b>\$16,409</b> to Orleans County Sheriff's Department: <b>Pg. 55-56</b>                          |
| q. | <b>\$2,500</b> to Orleans Essex Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice, Inc.: <b>Pg. 57</b> |

- r. **\$500** to Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc.: **Pg. 57**
- s. **\$600** to Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT): **Pg. 58**
- t. **\$500** to Troy and Area Lions Club to run the Westfield Senior Meal Site: **Pg. 49**
- u. **\$400** to Umbrella: **Pg. 58**
- v. **\$95** to Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL): **Pg. 59**
- w. **\$250** to Vermont Family Network: **Pg. 60**
- x. **\$100** to Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force-Vt. Assoc. of Conservation Dist.: **Pg. 60**

**Article 6.** Shall the voters approve general government fund expenditures of \$411,760, of which \$165,340 shall be raised by non-tax revenues and \$246,420 shall be raised by municipal taxes? *This amount does not include appropriations.*

**Article 7.** Shall the voters approve highway fund expenditures of \$503,498, of which \$108,853 shall be raised by non-tax revenues and \$394,645 shall be raised by municipal taxes?

**Article 8.** Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §4791, to collect current taxes?

**Article 9.** Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes on the first Thursday in October, by physical delivery to the tax collector before 4 p.m. on that date?

**Article 10.** To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting.

**Article 11.** To adjourn.

Dated at Westfield, Vermont this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2024.

Signed by: **Selectboard Members:** Jacques Couture, Chair; Richard Degre, Vice Chair; and Dennis Vincent  
**Westfield School Board Members:** Nicole Dunn, Chair; Andrew Emery; and Mary Gagne

Received for Recording: February 3, 2024 at 1:10 PM  
 Attest: LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

*View the signed version of the document at the Town Clerk's Office or at [www.westfield.vt.gov/town-meeting](http://www.westfield.vt.gov/town-meeting).*

### **A few words about the March 5, 2024 Town & School Australian ballot elections**

Early/absentee voting is available up until 4 p.m. on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for Town & School Australian ballots as well as Presidential Primary ballots. Call or email the Town Clerk's office (802) 744-2484 to request an absentee ballot. If you request a ballot for another person, state law requires the ballot be mailed to the voter. Please call enough in advance to allow for mailing time on both ends. Ballots must be returned by mail or in the drop box at the Town Clerk's office by 4 p.m. on March 4<sup>th</sup> or returned to the polls no later than 7 p.m. on March 5<sup>th</sup> for your vote to be counted.

**Visit [www.westfield.vt.gov](http://www.westfield.vt.gov) to view sample ballot.**



**THERE WILL BE AN IN-PERSON TOWN & SCHOOL MEETING WITH FLOOR VOTING (see Warning on pages 3-5) ON MARCH 5, 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE WESTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER, 59 North Hill Road in Westfield.**

The Westfield Town School Board will hold an Informational Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be a Google Meets, on-line meeting. The link for the meeting will be made available. This meeting shall constitute the Public Informational Meeting required by 17 V.S.A. §2680(G).

Visit the Westfield municipal website at [www.westfield.vt.gov](http://www.westfield.vt.gov) for login credentials closer to the Informational Meeting dates or call the Town Clerk's Office for assistance • 802-744-2484.

# MINUTES FROM TOWN & SCHOOL MEETINGS WITH ELECTION RESULTS

## TOWN OF WESTFIELD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING MARCH 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Westfield and the Westfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Road, on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Selectman Jacques Couture who began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### WESTFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING:

**Article 1:** To elect a moderator for a term of one year:

Selectman Couture asked if there were any objections to electing a moderator for both the School and Town Meetings. There were no objections.

**Anne Lazor nominated Pat Sagui. Hearing no other nominations, Pat was elected by voice vote as the School and Town Moderator for a term of one year (2024).**

Moderator Sagui went over the rules and regulations of the meeting including turning cell phones off and where paper ballots and financial reports were located. She also let everyone know that Australian Ballot voting would be taking place throughout the day. She asked everyone commenting or asking questions to first state their name for the record and to keep initial comments, questions to two minutes.

**Article 2:** To elect one Westfield Town School District Board Member for a term of three years. **Rollande Amyot nominated Mary Gagne. No other nominations were made. Following a motion by Mike Piper and a second by Scott Dean, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Mary Gagne for a three-year term (2026).**

Selectman Couture thanked School Board Chair Kevin Amyot for his 12 years serving on the Jay/ Westfield Joint Elementary School Board. He also thanked Selectwoman Anne Lazor for her 6 years serving on the Selectboard. Anne Lazor thanked her fellow Selectboard members for helping more during her time away from the Board over the last 6 months. Selectman Couture also thanked Rita Petzoldt for her many years serving as the Westfield Town School District Treasurer.

**Article 3:** To elect a Union School Board Director to fill the remaining one-year of a three-year unexpired term. **Andrew Emery nominated Kevin Amyot. No other nominations were made. Following a motion by Mike Piper and a second by Sue Scott, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Kevin Amyot for the remaining one year of a three-year term (2024).**

**Article 4:** Shall the voters of the Westfield Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,979,596 to defray the expenses and liabilities for the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$648,810? (Paper ballot to be co-mingled with Jay).

Motion by Mike Piper and second by Sue Scott to bring the article to the floor. Mike Piper asked for the amount to be clarified. Moderator Sagui explained that this amount is Westfields share of the total cost to run the school. Bill Salmon asked if the amount covers all costs to do with the school including bussing. School Board Chair Amyot explained that the \$1,979,596 is to run the entire school. The total increase in the school budget for the year is 6%, Westfields portion of the increase is right around \$45,000. Bill Salmon asked what the reason for the increases are. School Board Chair Amyot explained that the increases are mostly inflation type costs including health insurance, teacher salaries, support staff salaries, administration salaries and heating fuel. Theresa McAvinney questioned how the students at the elementary school were doing as far as testing scores since covid. School Board Chair Amyot let her know he could pass her question on to the principal, Hunter Couture, as he did not have a direct answer. The school board did look at testing scores at the last meeting and Kevin felt that students are doing well.



Article 4 passed in Westfield and Jay

## **WESTFIELD TOWN ANNUAL MEETING:**

Immediately following the School Meeting, the Town Meeting was called to order at 10:41 AM.

**Article 1:** To elect a moderator for a term of one-year.

**The body voted to elect Pat Sagui to the position of Town and School Moderator during the school portion of the meeting.**

**Article 2:** To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Selectman Couture thanked Town Clerk LaDonna Dunn for putting together the Town Report.

Sue Scott wanted to hear more about the church possibly being donated to the town. She wondered who currently owns it. Selectman Couture let her know that the current members of the church own it and they do not see it re-opening for church services in the future and will not have the funds to continue with upkeep. He noted that on page 25 of the Town Report there is a list of pros and cons to receiving the church as a donation. Some of the pros are that the town could hold events there, or they could sell the building and use the funds towards upkeep on other town buildings. Some cons would be that the town already owns four buildings and it would increase building upkeep costs. The building also has hardly any land with it so there is essentially no room for parking. There would also be additional costs to bring the building up to code. Selectman Couture asked Denny Lister, a member of the church, to speak regarding the church and whether the members are okay with the town selling the building if that is the route they decided to go down. Denny Lister gave a brief history of the building. He said there are currently 6 members and they have all discussed gifting the church to the town. They recently spent \$40,000 on repairs to the building. There is still a small foundation issue, although it is not going to cause the building to come down and the furnace will need to be replaced. The building also is not currently handicap accessible. He personally would hope that the town does not decide to sell the building and encourages townspeople to let the Selectboard know their thoughts regarding the use of the building. He went through a list of different events that could be held at the church. Sue Scott wondered if there were any stipulations regarding giving the church to the town. Denny Lister let her know that at this time there are no stipulations. Selectman Couture noted that when he spoke with Denny Lister regarding possibly selling the church it was noted that the money should go to upkeep/restoration of the other town buildings and not just be used to offset general expenses. Jennifer Grace wondered if there were any grants available for upkeep. Denny Lister let her know that he has not looked into it but there may be grants available. Theresa McAvinney asked what would happen to the building if the town decided not to accept the gift. Denny Lister let her know that the members would then take other actions, although he feels that since the town originally came together to fund the construction of the church that the building should go back to the townspeople. Moderator Sagui asked if there would be interest in forming a study committee to look into possible costs, uses, etc. regarding the church. A few hands went up and a sign-up sheet was sent around the room. Selectman Couture welcomed a study committee being formed. He noted that no matter the decision made, it will affect the town, and the more people involved in the decision-making process the better. Selectman Richard Degre agreed that having more people involved would be better, as this could come at a large cost to the taxpayers down the road depending on the decision made. Pauline Couture noted that all the uses Denny Lister mentioned that the church could be used for are all things the Community Center can currently be used for. She wondered if it was necessary to have both buildings. Selectman Degre also noted that Library has space for events also. Theresa McAvinney agreed that those spaces are already available for these types of events but thought it would be great to get a health clinic, eye doctor, etc. there so that people from town don't have to travel so far for those services. Jennifer Grace does a lot of Christmas festivals and noted that other towns use their church buildings for those types of events. She thought it may be a good idea to get information from those towns regarding how they use the buildings.

Moderator Sagui (Planning Commission Chair) spoke regarding the bylaw update. She noted that the Planning Commission has been working on updating the bylaws for two years and there will be notices going up soon for public hearings. They have also been looking at using ARPA funds to hook the village up to the Troy sewer system.

**Sue Scott motioned to accept the town reports, Connie LaPlume seconded.**

**Article 3:** To elect all necessary town officials required by law.

- a. **1<sup>st</sup> Constable – One-Year Term:** Mike Piper nominated Jerry Bouchard Jr. No other nominations were made. **Jerry Bouchard Jr. was elected by voice vote for a term of one-year (2024).**

- b. **2<sup>nd</sup> Constable – One-Year Term:** Bill Salmon nominated Mike Piper. No other nominations were made. *Mike Piper was elected by voice vote for a term of one-year (2024).*
- c. **Delinquent Tax Collector – One-Year Term:** LaDonna Dunn nominated Joyce Crawford. No other nominations were made. *Joyce Crawford was elected by voice vote for a term of one-year (2024).*
- d. **Lister – Three-Year Term:** Connie LaPlume nominated Danny Young. No other nominations were made. **Following a motion by Mike Piper and a second from Sue Scott the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for** *Danny Young for a three-year term (2026).*
- e. **Selectperson – Three-Year Term:** Mike Piper nominated Dennis Vincent. Anne Lazor nominated Jennifer Grace and Shelley Martin. As Shelley Martin is already a Lister she was not eligible to hold the position of Selectperson at this time. Sue Scott asked to hear from Jennifer Grace as to whether she wanted to accept the nomination. Jennifer Grace said she felt honored and accepted the nomination. Dennis Vincent remarked that he recently built a house in Westfield and has been involved in the community in other ways throughout the years.

**Voting was done by paper ballot:      Dennis Vincent – 38      Jennifer Grace – 13**

*Dennis Vincent was elected as Selectperson for a three-year term. (2026).*

While votes were being counted for the Selectperson election, Representative Mark Higley spoke regarding what is going on in the legislature. He first let everyone know that the district has now been combined with Irasburg, Coventry and Newport Town and there are two representatives for the district now. The Cannabis Control Board is just getting off the ground and they are looking at introducing some more regulations. An online sports betting bill has passed the House. The Affordable Heat Act, S5, has been brought back after the Governor initially vetoed it. They are looking at doing a two-year study to investigate costs. Different increases have been quoted ranging from \$.70 per gallon to \$.40 per gallon increase on all heating fuels, so the study is necessary to get a better idea of how this will affect costs. Paid Family Leave is now looking at increasing from the originally proposed 6 weeks and up to 60% of an employee's wages to 12 weeks and up to 100% of an employee's wages paid. There are concerns regarding the cost of this program. Putting all four-year-olds into school statewide is being looked at and would come with a very large price tag. They are also looking at increasing wages of all childcare workers and bringing them more in line with teachers' salaries. H165 is the free school lunch program. This costs around 29 million a year to fund and is no longer being funded by federal money, which was being used during covid. There is a 64 million surplus in Education Property Taxes. If this is used to draw down education taxes there will still be an overall increase of 3.7%, and if it is not used the increase will be 8.3%. Representative Higley stressed that all these programs have high price tags that will affect all taxpayers. He put in a bill to repeal the Global Warnings Solution Act. The state is looking at following California and not allowing any vehicles to be sold after 2035 that are not electric. Theresa Rudolph asked where they expected to get all the electricity to support this. Representative Higley said there are other forms of energy we could be looking into outside of electric energy.

Selectwoman Lazor took a moment to explain the Library Trustee positions before nominations were made. She felt there was concern within the community that the library was not being used to its full potential. The State of Vermont has minimum standards for libraries and Westfield has a long way to go. She noted that the Selectboard took over running the library about 15 years ago when they could no longer find enough people to be on a Library Board. She also expressed that Mary Lee Daigle has been doing a great job with the children's activities that she has been holding there. She would also love to have people volunteer to help to organize the library. A survey was sent out with property tax bills and about 15 were returned with about ten people saying they were either willing to serve on the Library Board or volunteer at the library. Selectman Degre wanted to make it clear that for now this will be more of a committee and that the Selectboard will still control the finances for the library until the Library Board of Trustees is more established. Selectman Couture said to look at this as a transition. Selectwoman Lazor noted that once the Board of Trustees is established then the Vermont State Department of Libraries will work with them on training. The first thing they should do is look into hiring a Librarian and they will need to negotiate with the Selectboard on the rate of pay for the Librarian. Selectman Degre noted that running the library full time would increase expenses to operate it.

- f. **Library Trustee – One-Year Term:** Sue Scott nominated Theresa Rudolph. No other nominations were made. *Theresa Rudolph was elected by voice vote to a term of one-year (2024).*

- g. **Library Trustee – Two-Year Term:** Laini Fondiller nominated Jennifer Grace. No other nominations were made. *Jennifer Grace was elected by voice vote to a two-Year term. (2025).*
- h. **Library Trustee – Three-Year Term:** Joseph Berchick nominated Elizabeth Berchick. No other nominations were made. *Elizabeth Berchick was elected by voice vote to a three-year term (2026).*
- i. **Library Trustee – Four-Year Term:** Pauline Couture nominated Karen Blais. No other nominations were made. *Karen Blais was elected by voice vote to a four-year term. (2027).*
- j. **Library Trustee – Five-Year Term:** Anne Lazor nominated Jenn Stelma. No other nominations were made. *Jenn Stelma was elected by voice vote to a five-year term. (2028).*

**Article 4:** Shall the voters approve **\$60,343.77** for the following appropriations?

- a. \$500 to American Red Cross. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- b. \$250 to Big Heavy World. Connie LaPlume motioned to amend this appropriation to \$0 as this is not a local program. Mike Piper seconded. **By voice vote appropriation was amended to \$0.**
- c. \$100 to Feline and Friends Foundation. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- d. \$1,200 to Green Mountain Farm To School, Inc. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- e. \$50 to Green Up Vermont. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- f. \$250 to Jay Focus Group & The Jay Focus Group Children's Halloween Party. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- g. \$500 to Jay Area Food Shelf. Laini Fondiller motioned to amend the appropriation to \$700. Kitty Edwards seconded. **By voice vote appropriation was amended to \$700.**
- h. \$250 to Jay Peak Post No. 28 American Legion. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- i. \$300 to Missisquoi River Basin Association. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- j. \$4,000 to Montgomery Fire Department. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- k. \$100 to North Country Friends of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- l. \$300 to Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- m. \$1,072 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS). **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- n. \$250 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS). **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- o. \$700 to Old Stone House Museum (Orleans County Historical Society). **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- p. \$500 to Orleans County Citizen Advocacy (OCCA). **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- q. \$500 to Orleans County Fair Association. **Discussion: None, PASSED**

- r. \$15,602 to Orleans County Sheriff's Department. Mike Piper motioned to amend the amount to \$0. Dianne Laplante questioned why Mike Piper would like to amend the amount to \$0. Mike Piper stated that they do not work nights or weekends and they call the State Police most of the time. Connie LaPlume said that she has seen them sitting across from her house at nights, sometimes until 2am, although never on weekends. Jerry Bouchard Jr. stated that it is tough to be a cop in today's world and that fifteen thousand dollars doesn't get you very much coverage. He believes we get more than our money's worth and that they would probably sit down with the Selectboard and work out a schedule that better suits the town if that was requested. Theresa Rudolph questioned if taking the appropriation down by a few thousand dollars would be a better way to get their attention. Selectman Couture let everyone know that Sheriff Jennifer Harlow is very willing to come speak to the Selectboard and if anyone had anything they would like discussed with her that they welcome those comments. He also noted that presence is a deterrent, and it is not always about the number of arrests made. Jenn Stelma asked what the process would be to communicate any issues. Selectman Couture let her know that taking issues directly to the Selectboard would be the way to go. He also informed everyone that the coverage is based on a certain number of hours, the less money you pay, the less hours of coverage you receive. There was no second and the motion failed to pass. **Appropriation stays at \$15,602.**
- s. \$2,500 to Orleans Essex Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice, Inc. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- t. \$500 to Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- u. \$600 to Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT). **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- v. \$500 to Troy and Area Lions Club to run the Westfield Senior Meal Site. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- w. \$28,974.77 to Troy Fire Department. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- x. \$400 to Umbrella. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- y. \$95 to Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL). **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- z. \$250 to Vermont Family Network. **Discussion: None, PASSED**
- aa. \$100 to Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force – Vermont Assoc. of Conservation Dist. **Discussion: None, PASSED**

***The amended total of appropriations was \$60,293.77, approved by voice vote.***

#### **Article 5:**

Shall the voters approve general government fund expenditures of \$353,628, of which \$171,594 shall be raised by non-tax revenues and \$182,034 shall be raised by municipal taxes? *This amount does not include appropriations.*

Pauline Couture motioned and Connie Laplume seconded to bring the article to the floor. Theresa Rudolph asked to have non-tax revenue clarified. Selectman Couture explained that this money comes from grants, the State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, and other things like these. Town Clerk Dunn indicated that on page 18 of the town report it lists all the non-tax revenues. Selectman Couture noted that the ambulance funds are now included in the budget and not as an appropriation and this is because the town is required to provide emergency services. He also noted that the cost is about the same as if the town had stayed with Missisquoi Ambulance. Selectman Degre gave an update regarding the switch to Newport Ambulance Service. They should have the building in Troy renovated and ready for 24 Hour service sometime around the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. Sue Scott wondered what would happen if service was needed at night before the building was ready. Selectman Degre said they would have people come in their personal vehicles and the ambulance will come shortly after. Selectman Couture noted that the funds for the building renovation are coming out of Newport Ambulance Services budget. He said it was a heart wrenching decision to stop using Missisquoi Ambulance but with all the financial hurdles it was time to do something different. He thanked Missisquoi Ambulance for their service and said they were great people to work with. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**Article 6:** Shall the voters approve highway fund expenditures of \$481,056, of which \$140,620 shall be raised by non-tax revenues and \$340,436 shall be raised by municipal taxes?

Mike Piper motioned, and Sue Scott seconded to bring the article to the floor. Selectman Degre said that the roads are excellent overall and the town appreciates the job the Kennison family has done over the years.

***Motion passed by voice vote.***

**Article 7:** Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §4791, to collect current taxes?

LaDonna Dunn motioned, and Anne Lazor seconded to bring the article to the floor. Laini Fondiller asked for clarification on what the article meant. Town Clerk Dunn explained that this article authorizes the Treasurer, Lisa Deslandes, to collect the taxes. Otherwise, it would fall to the Constable to collect them. Kitty Edwards wondered what would happen if the Treasurer were not in when you go to the Town Clerks Office to pay your taxes. Town Clerk Dunn explained that the Town Clerk would collect on behalf of the Treasurer.

***Motion passed by voice vote.***

**Article 8:** Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes on October 10, 2023, by physical delivery to the tax collector before 4 p.m. on that date?

Mike Piper motioned, and Connie Laplume seconded to bring the article to the floor. Laini Fondiller questioned what this article meant. Town Clerk Dunn explained that all tax payments need to be at the Town Clerks office by the due date/time and that payments postmarked by the due date will not be accepted. This is due to mail delays. Any taxes not received by the due date/time are subject to 8% late fees. ***Motion***

***passed by voice vote.***

**Article 9:** To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting.

Sue Scott inquired about the pond that is very close to the roadway on Buck Hill. She wondered what would happen if the pond washed the road out and emergency service vehicles were unable to get through. Selectman Couture let her know that Zoning Administrator Will Young is working with the landowners to rectify the problem.

Jennifer Grace would like the Sheriffs Department to monitor the speeds on North Hill Road more closely. She sees a lot of vehicles going quite fast by her house. Jerry Bouchard Jr. noted that he has responded to quite a few people who claim vehicles are traveling at excessive speeds on North Hill Road but it is not possible for them to tell how fast the vehicles are actually going. Scott Dean agreed that vehicles go way beyond the posted speed limit on North Hill Road. Selectman Degre said the Selectboard would let the Sheriffs Department know that they would like an increased presence on North Hill Road.

Connie LaPlume commented on how pretty of a town Westfield is and she thanked the Selectboard for all that they do. She feels we are very lucky to live in Westfield.

Selectman Degre thanked Mike Piper and Bill Salmon for their help anytime there is something that needs to be done in town. He noted that everyone donates time for various things, and it is appreciated.

Dianne Laplante inquired as to whether the Recycling Center could be opened a half day during the week for people who are unable to get there on Saturday mornings. Selectman Couture explained that Saturday mornings work well for most people and adding another day would increase costs. They try to keep the costs of running the Recycling Center even with the revenues it takes in. It would also be difficult to find people to run it during the week. Dianne Laplante wondered if there were some alternatives that could be worked out. Selectman Degre let her know that you can always call the Selectboard and work something out if you cannot make it on Saturday mornings. He also noted that there is 24 hours a day surveillance there because of the problem with people dumping trash during the week when the Recycling Center is not open. Dianne Laplante asked if the Jay Recycling Center was an option for Westfield residents. Town Clerk Dunn said that Westfield residents can go to the Jay Recycling Center although she is not sure if they accept trash.

Selectman Couture wanted to thank all the community members, and said he is thankful for the pleasure of being part of this community.

Zach Leonard inquired about adding a 'Welcome to Westfield' sign at each end of town. He wondered what the process would be for going about getting that done. Selectman Degre noted that there were signs made some years back, but they never got put up and he is not sure what happened to them. He said the Selectboard can investigate getting some more signs made. Zach Leonard agreed with Connie LaPlume's



comments about the town and thought it would be a nice way to help put Westfield on the map more. Some people don't know where Westfield is.

Moderator Sagui let everyone know that they are welcome to contact the Selectboard, either by phone or email, if anything ever comes up.

**Article 10:** To adjourn. **Mike Piper** *motioned to adjourn at 12:35 p.m.*, **Kitty Edwards** seconded.

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*I certify the above Election Results are a true and accurate reporting of the Australian ballot election and floor vote results, for the Town of Westfield Annual Meeting and the Annual Westfield School District Meeting held on March 7, 2023.*

*Attest: LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk*

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## **WESTFIELD & JAY SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATIONAL BUDGET MINUTES February 28, 2023-Remote Meeting**

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### **Attendees REMOTE:**

**Jay Board:** Janet Butler

**Westfield Board:** Kevin Amyot, Nicole Dunn, Andrew Emery

**Administration and Staff:** Hunter Couture, Principal

**Community:** Jennifer Grace

**Call the Meeting to Order:** Kevin called the informational meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### **Information:**

#### **FY24 Jay School Budget**

#### **FY24 Westfield School Budget**

#### **FY24 Jay Westfield Joint Elementary School Budget**

Kevin – the school board is here to answer any questions anyone has on the FY24 School Budgets.

Jennifer Grace asked if the Jay Westfield School Board also includes the high school.

Kevin – the board only deals with the elementary school. We meet once a month. Everyone introduced themselves.

Hunter explained in the NCSU District each town/school has their own individual school board; most other towns in the state have merged and have one board. NCSU also has one larger board that encompasses all the towns.

Jennifer mentioned bringing her therapy dog into the school a few times last year and this year. She is acquainted with the school and the staff is great. She retired and moved to Westfield from Mass and is interested in the school board. She worked as an educator for 20 years in a Boston school with 900 students. Education and being involved in the community are important to her. She is also an RN.

Jennifer asked about staffing shortages in the school.

Hunter – We have posted for a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher position. Other positions are posted internally. Our support staff is fully staffed. It is the beginning of the hiring season, and we are confident we will get quality applicants.

Kevin thanked Hunter for all the great things he has done for the school. He wished Jennifer good luck on her school board position and appreciates her involvement in the school and the community.

**Any Other Business to come before the board – None.**

**Executive Session (if needed) - None**

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Lehouillier

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD**  
**TOWN OFFICER PHONE LIST**  
**♦ Sorted Alphabetically by Office ♦**

<b>Town Officer</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b><u>Constables</u></b> ♦ elected for a term of one-year		
Vacant – 1 <sup>st</sup> Constable	2024	
Mike Piper - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Constable	2024	744-6304
<b><u>Delinquent Tax Collector</u></b> ♦ elected for a term of one-year		
Joyce Crawford	2024	744-8085
<b><u>E 9-1-1 Coordinator</u></b> ♦ appointed by Selectboard		
Scott Dunn		673-3521
<b><u>Emergency Management Coordinator</u></b> ♦ appointed by Selectboard		
Maurice Doyon		744-2437
<b><u>Fire Warden</u></b> ♦ appointed by Selectboard		
Jim Crawford		744-8085
<b><u>Health Officer</u></b> ♦ appointed by State Health Commissioner		
Shelley Martin		595-1888
<b><u>Justices of the Peace</u></b> ♦ elected for a term of two-years ♦ also Board of Civil Authority Members		
Joyce Crawford	2025	744-8085
Yvan LaPlume	2025	744-9927
Anne Lazor	2025	744-6855
Michael Piper	2025	744-6304
Pat Sagui	2025	744-2345
<b><u>Librarian</u></b> ♦ appointed by Selectboard/ Trustees		
Jennifer Johnson		744-8258
<b><u>Library Board of Trustees</u></b> ♦ elected for a term of five-years		
Carolyn Lyster	2024	744-6839
Vacant	2025	
Elizabeth Berchick	2026	673-6435
Karen Blais	2027	744-2484
Jenn Stelma	2028	673-2404
<b><u>Listers</u></b> ♦ elected for a term of three-years ♦ also Board of Abatement Members		
Scott Dunn	2024	673-3521
Shelley Martin	2025	595-1888
Danny Young	2026	744-6122
<b><u>Moderator</u></b> ♦ elected for a term of one-year		
Pat Sagui	2024	744-2345

<b>Town Officer</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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**Planning Commission** ♦ appointed by Selectboard ♦ also Board of Adjustment Members

Brian Dunn		744-2441
Kitty Edwards		323-3704
Ellen Fox		355-9853
Loren Petzoldt, Vice Chair		744-6532
Pat Sagui, Chair		744-2345

**Road Commissioner** ♦ appointed by Selectboard

Eric Kennison		744-6457 or 673-5648 ♦ cell
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**School Director - North Country Union High School** ♦ elected for a term of three-years

Kevin Amyot	2024	744-6230
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**School Directors - Westfield School Board** ♦ elected for a term of three-years

Nicole Dunn	2024	673-4861
Andrew Emery	2025	203-767-0216
Mary Gagne	2026	207-540-4072

**School Treasurers** ♦ elected for a term of one-year

Tara Morse ♦ Jay-Westfield Joint School District	2024	988-2996
Lisa Deslandes ♦ Westfield Town School District	2024	744-2484

**Selectboard** ♦ elected for a term of three-years ♦ also serve as Cemetery Commissioners, Town Service Officers, Tree Wardens & Board of Civil Authority Members

Richard Degre ♦ Vice Chair	2024	744-2427
Jacques Couture ♦ Chair	2025	744-2733
Dennis Vincent	2026	673-9357

**Town Clerk** ♦ elected for a term of three-years ♦ Clerk also serves as Board of Civil Authority Member

LaDonna Dunn ♦ Town Clerk	2024	744-2484 or 673-9001 ♦ cell
Karen Blais ♦ Assistant Town Clerk (Appointed by Clerk)		744-2484
Niki Dunn ♦ Selectboard Clerk & Assistant Town Clerk (Appointed by Clerk)		744-2484

**Town Treasurer** ♦ elected for a term of three-years ♦ also Board of Abatement Member

Lisa Deslandes	2024	744-2484
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**Zoning Administrator (ZA)** ♦ appointed by Selectboard

Will Young		715-3077
Andrew Emery (Assistant ZA)		



\* Those interested in being considered for a vacant Officer position should submit a Letter of Interest to the Town Clerk marked, Attention: Selectboard. Please submit via mail, drop box at the Town Clerk's office or email to [townofwestfield@comcast.net](mailto:townofwestfield@comcast.net).

We welcome your participation!

## STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES FOR 2023

Delinquent Taxes to Tax Collector	\$ 74,228.25
Total Adjustments (State Payments)	(\$ 1,304.95)
Grand Total to Tax Collector	\$ 72,923.30
Total Collected in 2023	(\$ 47,208.88)
Total Abated	(\$ 0.00)
<b>GRAND TOTAL OF UNCOLLECTED TAXES</b>	<b><u>\$ 25,717.42</u></b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joyce Crawford, Delinquent Tax Collector

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023

I'm happy to inform you that the governmental audit services for the Town of Westfield is completed for December 31, 2022 by Telling & Hillman, PC. We have financial statements available for public viewing at the town office or you could visit the town website at [www.westfield.vt.gov](http://www.westfield.vt.gov) for viewing. They will do the audit for the calendar year 2023 by April 2023.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Deslandes

## STATEMENT OF TOWN INVESTMENTS & SPECIAL FUNDS For Calendar Year 2023

The Town of Westfield currently has investments with Edward Jones, North Country Federal Credit Union and Community National Bank.

The North Country Federal Credit Union CD matures in April 2026. The Community National Bank CD'S will mature 1/7/26. All figures were taken from December 2023 statements.

As noted, on March 2023, \$6,540.00 from Money Market was withdrawn to be added to North Hill Cemetery CD for the amount of \$835.50, Westfield Cemetery \$2,289.00 and \$3,415.50 to the Grader Funds.

The total investment value is noted as \$296,602.58. See chart on the next page for breakdown of investments.

	<b>Balance 12/31/2021</b>	<b>Expenses 2022</b>	<b>Balance 12/31/2022</b>	<b>Expenses 2023</b>	<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>
<b>*ARPA Funds</b>	\$148,601.26	(\$2,444.01)	\$146,157.20	(-\$33,349.10)	\$112,808.10
<b>Fema Event 7/2023</b>				\$28,314.42	\$28,314.42

\*Recap of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenses for 2023

- Troy Volunteer Fire Department \$6,500.00 (Allocate Money for New Thermal Imager)
- Bathalon Custom Home LLC \$19,945.00 (Repair Library Roof)
- Kennison & Son \$1,497.97 (Sidewalk Repair at Community Center)
- Richard McAllister \$3,500.00 (Repair Entrance Slab at Community Center)

Investment Name	Balance 2021	Balance 2022	Change 2023	Balance 2023
<b>EDWARD JONES 12/31/2023</b>				
North Hill Cemetery CD	\$12,084.59	\$12,013.63	\$938.38	\$12,952.01
Westfield Cemetery CD	\$31,213.24	\$31,029.95	\$3,840.84	\$34,870.79
Grader Fund	\$47,359.26	\$47,081.16	\$4,726.87	\$51,808.03
Grader Fund CD	\$5,263.90	\$4,916.55	\$64.80	\$4,981.35
Library Fund	\$67,632.58	\$60,553.55	\$6,179.03	\$66,732.58
Money Market	\$6,823.65	\$6,783.58	(-5,448.06)	\$1,335.52
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$170,377.22</b>	<b>\$162,378.42</b>	<b>\$10,301.86</b>	<b>\$172,680.28</b>
<b>NORTH COUNTRY CREDIT UNION 12/31/2023</b>				
Reappraisal CD #2187 Matures 4/15/2026	\$4,483.37	\$ 4,516.97	\$33.87	\$4,550.84
Regular Share	\$102.40	\$102.55	(-\$97.49)	\$5.06
Checking debit card #70	\$500.00	\$246.62	(-\$246.62)	Close account \$0.00
Savings #25	\$64.41	\$60.49	(- \$60.49)	Close account 0.00
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,146.18</b>	<b>\$4,926.63</b>	<b>(-\$370.73)</b>	<b>\$4,555.90</b>
<b>COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK 12/31/2023</b>				
Unexpected Expense Matures 1/7/26 #731578370	\$12,962.42	\$ 23,050.04	\$156.57	\$23,206.61
Grader Fund 1 Matures 1/7/26 #731579170	\$15,046.81	\$23,147.37	\$8,163.00	\$31,310.37
Reappraisal Fund Matures 1/7/26 #731580570	\$5,031.21	\$9,043.53	\$4,061.78	\$13,105.31
Good Neighbor Fund Matures 1/7/26 #731581370	\$41,926.16	\$42,209.41	\$8,534.70	\$50,744.11
Debit Card Checking Account			Open New account \$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$74,966.60</b>	<b>\$ 97,450 .35</b>	<b>\$21,916.05</b>	<b>\$119,366.40</b>
<b>TOTAL TOWN INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$250,490.00</b>	<b>\$264,755.40</b>	<b>\$31,847.18</b>	<b>\$296,602.58</b>

# TOWN OF WESTFIELD

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT-GENERAL GOVERNMENT (pgs. 18-21)

Account		Budget FY23	Actual FY23	Budget FY24
<b>1-6 GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>				
<b>1-6-01 TAX RELATED - GEN. GOVT.</b>				
1-6-01-01.01	Property Taxes -Current	\$242,378.19	\$220,693.38	\$0.00
1-6-01-02.00	Delinquent Taxes Collected	\$13,488.58	\$13,488.58	\$25,717.42
1-6-01-03.00	Delinquent Tax Interest	\$1,000.00	\$2,043.94	\$1,200.00
1-6-01-04.00	Delinquent Penalties	\$6,000.00	\$5,359.56	\$5,000.00
<b>Total TAX RELATED - GEN. GOVT.</b>		<b>\$262,866.77</b>	<b>\$241,585.46</b>	<b>\$31,917.42</b>
<b>1-6-02 STATE OF VERMONT</b>				
1-6-02-01.00	Land Use / Hold Harmless	\$40,000.00	\$50,811.00	\$40,000.00
1-6-02-02.00	Pilot - ANR & State Garage	\$28,000.00	\$29,818.87	\$29,000.00
1-6-02-04.00	Reappraisal - State \$	\$4,000.00	\$3,995.00	\$4,000.00
1-6-02-05.00	Equalization Study \$	\$475.00	\$470.00	\$470.00
<b>Total STATE OF VERMONT</b>		<b>\$72,475.00</b>	<b>\$85,094.87</b>	<b>\$73,470.00</b>
<b>1-6-03 CLERKS OFFICE</b>				
1-6-03-01.00	Recording Fees	\$7,000.00	\$5,999.00	\$5,500.00
1-6-03-02.00	Copies	\$1,000.00	\$1,001.80	\$1,000.00
1-6-03-03.00	Animal License	\$1,500.00	\$1,878.00	\$1,500.00
1-6-03-04.00	Liquor License	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
1-6-03-06.00	DMV Fees	\$60.00	\$54.00	\$25.00
1-6-03-07.00	Zoning Permits	\$1,000.00	\$855.00	\$1,000.00
1-6-03-08.00	Cemetery Lot Sales	\$1,000.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,000.00
1-6-03-09.00	Marriage License	\$150.00	\$140.00	\$150.00
1-6-03-10.00	Vault Fees	\$250.00	\$157.00	\$150.00
1-6-03-11.00	Restore. Fund Collected	\$2,500.00	\$2,096.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Total CLERKS OFFICE</b>		<b>\$14,530.00</b>	<b>\$14,200.80</b>	<b>\$12,395.00</b>
<b>1-6-09 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>				
1-6-09-01.00	Interest on Bank Accounts	\$16,000.00	\$12,161.99	\$2,000.00
1-6-09-02.00	Good Neighbor Fund - Wind	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00	\$0.00
1-6-09-05.00	Misc. Revenue	\$0.00	-\$2,379.85	\$0.00
1-6-09-05.01	Carryover from Previous Year	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,408.06
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>		<b>\$24,250.00</b>	<b>\$18,032.14</b>	<b>\$5,408.06</b>
<b>1-6-40 COMMUNITY CENTER</b>				
1-6-40-01.01	Community Center Rent	\$750.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00
1-6-40-01.02	Community Center Donation	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
<b>Total COMMUNITY CENTER</b>		<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>1-6-45 LIBRARY</b>				
1-6-45-01.02	Library - Donations	\$100.00	\$644.00	\$500.00
<b>Total LIBRARY</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$644.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>1-6-50 RECYCLING</b>				
1-6-50-01.00	Recycling Revenue	\$35,000.00	\$37,706.03	\$37,500.00
1-6-50-01.01	Tire Revenue	\$2,000.00	\$1,596.70	\$1,400.00
1-6-50-01.03	Steel	\$1,000.00	\$824.50	\$750.00



Account		Budget FY23	Actual FY23	Budget FY24
1-6-50-01.04	Cans income	\$1,000.00	\$1,047.35	\$1,000.00
<b>Total RECYCLING</b>		<b>\$39,000.00</b>	<b>\$41,174.58</b>	<b>\$40,650.00</b>
<b>Total GENERAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES</b>		<b>\$413,971.77</b>	<b>\$402,431.85</b>	<b>\$165,340.48</b>
<b>1-7 GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES</b>				
<b>1-7-10 PAYROLL</b>				
1-7-10-10.02	Selectboard	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,300.00
1-7-10-10.03	Town Clerk	\$45,000.00	\$47,154.44	\$49,000.00
1-7-10-10.04	Treasurer	\$20,558.00	\$13,439.31	\$20,000.00
1-7-10-10.05	Office Assistant	\$18,750.00	\$20,443.73	\$26,000.00
1-7-10-10.06	Listers	\$12,000.00	\$9,288.52	\$9,000.00
1-7-10-10.08	Election Officials	\$1,500.00	\$805.74	\$2,700.00
1-7-10-10.09	Delinquent Tax Collector	\$6,000.00	\$4,050.58	\$5,000.00
1-7-10-10.10	Constables	\$750.00	\$737.50	\$925.00
1-7-10-10.20	Zoning Administrator	\$1,100.00	\$815.43	\$1,000.00
1-7-10-11.00	FICA/Medicare Expense	\$10,000.00	\$10,250.79	\$10,000.00
1-7-10-12.00	VMERS Expense	\$2,925.00	\$3,094.14	\$3,500.00
1-7-10-12.01	U. I. Tax Expense	\$700.00	\$1,435.83	\$2,300.00
1-7-10-13.00	911 Coordinator Payroll	\$300.00	\$414.48	\$300.00
1-7-10-14.00	Planning Commission	\$1,000.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,000.00
1-7-10-15.00	Health Officer	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
1-7-10-16.00	Assistant Treasurer	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
1-7-10-17.00	Zoning By-Law Consultant	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total PAYROLL</b>		<b>\$128,783.00</b>	<b>\$120,805.49</b>	<b>\$141,225.00</b>
<b>1-7-15 TOWN OFFICE</b>				
1-7-15-20.00	Town Office - Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,186.22	\$2,000.00
1-7-15-20.01	Town Office - Postage	\$1,000.00	\$1,130.54	\$1,200.00
1-7-15-21.00	Town Office - Equip Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,345.04	\$1,500.00
1-7-15-23.00	Zoom Expenses	\$200.00	\$149.90	\$200.00
1-7-15-23.01	Website Expenses	\$0.00	\$395.74	\$500.00
1-7-15-30.00	Town Office - Electricity	\$1,500.00	\$1,030.28	\$1,200.00
1-7-15-31.00	Town Office - Heat	\$2,000.00	\$2,758.45	\$3,000.00
1-7-15-32.00	Town Office - Telephone	\$3,500.00	\$3,405.46	\$3,500.00
1-7-15-33.00	Town Office - Water	\$480.00	\$480.00	\$480.00
1-7-15-34.00	Preserve Town Records	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
1-7-15-35.02	NEMRC - Cloud Expenses	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$240.00
1-7-15-35.03	NEMRC - Disaster Recovery Exp.	\$1,000.00	\$1,420.74	\$1,400.00
1-7-15-35.04	NEMRC - Annual Support	\$6,000.00	\$5,562.50	\$6,000.00
1-7-15-36.00	Town Office - Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$3,566.65	\$4,000.00
1-7-15-37.00	Town Office - Marriage License	\$240.00	\$315.00	\$315.00
1-7-15-39.00	Town Office - Animal License	\$850.00	\$822.53	\$800.00
<b>Total TOWN OFFICE</b>		<b>\$27,510.00</b>	<b>\$24,569.05</b>	<b>\$29,335.00</b>
<b>1-7-20 GENERAL EXPENSES</b>				
1-7-20-28.00	Misc. Expenses	\$0.00	\$4,855.30	\$0.00
1-7-20-29.00	Accountants Auditors	\$7,900.00	\$7,900.00	\$12,000.00
1-7-20-30.00	Electric Street/Common	\$4,500.00	\$4,506.15	\$4,900.00
1-7-20-42.00	Member. Dues & Subscription	\$3,600.00	\$3,132.99	\$3,000.00
1-7-20-42.01	Ambulance Services/Newport	\$40,000.00	\$38,421.99	\$38,000.00
1-7-20-42.02	Troy Fire Department	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,974.77
1-7-20-42.03	Montgomery Fire Department	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00

Account		Budget FY23	Actual FY23	Budget FY24
1-7-20-43.00	Employee Training	\$1,300.00	\$1,038.00	\$1,300.00
1-7-20-46.01	Legal Fees	\$1,000.00	\$940.00	\$1,000.00
1-7-20-47.01	Mileage Reimbursement	\$200.00	\$611.48	\$600.00
1-7-20-48.01	Property & Casualty Insurance	\$11,000.00	\$11,133.00	\$13,000.00
1-7-20-48.02	Workman's Comp Insurance	\$2,500.00	\$4,850.00	\$6,500.00
1-7-20-50.00	Supplies for Town	\$200.00	\$152.53	\$200.00
1-7-20-62.01	North Hill Cemetery	\$1,200.00	\$1,025.00	\$1,200.00
1-7-20-62.02	Westfield Cemetery	\$4,000.00	\$3,512.03	\$4,000.00
1-7-20-71.00	County Taxes	\$11,000.00	\$11,637.34	\$12,000.00
1-7-20-72.00	Advertising	\$200.00	\$476.00	\$200.00
1-7-20-74.00	Transfer to Good Neighbor CD	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00	\$0.00
1-7-20-80.00	Medical Insurance Expense	\$9,500.00	\$8,539.63	\$13,200.00
1-7-20-80.01	Dental Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$645.00
1-7-20-81.00	Print Town Report	\$900.00	\$860.00	\$900.00
1-7-20-95.00	Lister's Expense	\$300.00	\$400.99	\$400.00
1-7-20-95.03	Transfer out-Reappraisal	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
1-7-20-98.00	Maps	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$112,550.00</b>	<b>\$117,242.43</b>	<b>\$151,019.77</b>
<b>1-7-30 PLAYGROUND</b>				
1-7-30-20.00	Playground Maintenance	\$1,300.00	\$982.53	\$2,500.00
<b>Total PLAYGROUND</b>		<b>\$1,300.00</b>	<b>\$982.53</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>1-7-40 COMMUNITY CENTER</b>				
1-7-40-30.00	C.C. - Electricity	\$1,500.00	\$1,490.03	\$1,600.00
1-7-40-31.00	C.C. - Heat	\$5,000.00	\$4,757.75	\$4,500.00
1-7-40-32.00	C.C. - Telephone	\$730.00	\$617.33	\$600.00
1-7-40-33.00	C.C. - Water	\$480.00	\$480.00	\$480.00
1-7-40-34.00	C.C. - Supplies	\$200.00	\$922.67	\$350.00
1-7-40-35.00	C.C. - Gas	\$1,000.00	\$756.76	\$1,000.00
1-7-40-62.00	C.C. - Maintenance	\$8,500.00	\$6,610.61	\$8,500.00
<b>Total COMMUNITY CENTER</b>		<b>\$17,410.00</b>	<b>\$15,635.15</b>	<b>\$17,030.00</b>
<b>1-7-45 LIBRARY</b>				
1-7-45-10.11	Librarian Payroll	\$9,000.00	\$10,645.96	\$13,500.00
1-7-45-19.00	Library - Books Purchases	\$700.00	\$678.92	\$1,000.00
1-7-45-20.00	Library - Supplies	\$425.00	\$557.84	\$500.00
1-7-45-30.00	Library - Electricity	\$800.00	\$933.41	\$1,000.00
1-7-45-31.00	Library - Heat	\$4,500.00	\$2,927.16	\$4,500.00
1-7-45-32.00	Library - Telephone	\$650.00	\$526.93	\$600.00
1-7-45-33.00	Library - Programs	\$500.00	\$555.05	\$500.00
1-7-45-62.00	Library - Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$2,250.08	\$5,200.00
1-7-45-63.00	Library - Training	\$500.00	\$51.82	\$700.00
1-7-45-99.00	Library - Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$996.34	\$0.00
<b>Total LIBRARY</b>		<b>\$19,075.00</b>	<b>\$20,123.51</b>	<b>\$27,500.00</b>
<b>1-7-50 RECYCLING</b>				
1-7-50-10.00	Recycling Expenses	\$25,000.00	\$23,379.00	\$25,000.00
1-7-50-10.14	Recycling Payroll	\$14,500.00	\$10,738.73	\$12,000.00
1-7-50-10.15	Tire Expense	\$3,500.00	\$1,600.00	\$2,000.00
1-7-50-10.17	Recycling Supplies	\$0.00	\$219.99	\$50.00
1-7-50-10.19	Recycling Pick-Up Fees	\$3,500.00	\$3,048.00	\$3,500.00
1-7-50-10.20	Recycling Member Fee	\$500.00	\$566.04	\$600.00
<b>Total RECYCLING</b>		<b>\$47,000.00</b>	<b>\$39,551.76</b>	<b>\$43,150.00</b>
<b>Total GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		<b>\$353,628.00</b>	<b>\$338,909.92</b>	<b>\$411,759.77</b>

Account		Budget FY23	Actual FY23	Budget FY24
<b>1-8-95 APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
1-8-95-95.01	Fire Protection-Troy	\$28,974.77	\$28,974.77	\$0.00
1-8-95-95.02	Fire Protection-Montgomery	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
1-8-95-95.03	Orleans County Sheriff	\$15,602.00	\$15,422.10	\$16,409.00
1-8-95-95.05	Orleans Essex VNA	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
1-8-95-95.06	Am. Leg. Jay Peak Post No. 28	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
1-8-95-95.07	American Red Cross	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
1-8-95-95.08	NEK Council on Aging	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
1-8-95-95.09	Felines & Friends Foundation	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
1-8-95-95.10	Green Mt. Farm to School	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
1-8-95-95.11	Green Up Vermont	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
1-8-95-95.13	Jay Food Shelf	\$500.00	\$700.00	\$750.00
1-8-95-95.15	Jay Focus Group	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
1-8-95-95.16	Missisquoi River Basin Association	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
1-8-95-95.17	No. Co. Friends of VT Symphony	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
1-8-95-95.19	NEK Human Services	\$1,072.00	\$1,072.00	\$1,072.00
1-8-95-95.20	NEK Learning Services	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
1-8-95-95.21	Connectabilities	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
1-8-95-95.22	Pope Mem. Front. Animal Society	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
1-8-95-95.23	Old Stone House Museum	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
1-8-95-95.24	Rural Comm. Transport. RCT	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
1-8-95-95.25	Troy & Area Lions Club	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
1-8-95-95.26	Umbrella	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
1-8-95-95.27	VT Center for Independent Living	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00
1-8-95-95.28	VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
1-8-95-95.29	Orleans Co. Fair Assoc.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
1-8-95-95.30	Big Heavy World	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-8-95-95.31	VT Family Network	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
<b>Total APPROPRIATIONS</b>		<b>\$60,343.77</b>	<b>\$60,113.87</b>	<b>\$28,176.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES – GENERAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDING APPROPRIATIONS</b>		<b>\$413,971.77</b>	<b>\$399,023.79</b>	<b>\$439,935.77</b>
<b>NET</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,408.06</b>	<b>(\$274,595.29)</b>



# TOWN OF WESTFIELD

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT-HIGHWAY FUND (pgs. 22-23)

Account	Budget FY23	Actual FY23	Budget FY24
<b>2-6 REVENUE-HIGHWAY FUND</b>			
<b>2-6-01 PROPERTY TAX REVENUE</b>			
2-6-01-01.00 Property Taxes	\$340,435.70	\$340,435.70	\$394,644.56
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE</b>	<b>\$340,435.70</b>	<b>\$340,435.70</b>	<b>\$394,644.56</b>
<b>2-6-02 HIGHWAY REVENUE</b>			
2-6-02-01.00 State Aid To Highways	\$57,000.00	\$84,425.48	\$27,588.00
2-6-02-02.00 Road Fines	\$600.00	\$62.50	\$50.00
2-6-03-01.00 Overweight Permits	\$200.00	\$220.00	\$220.00
2-6-03-12.00 Better Road Grant RTE 58	\$15,048.00	\$0.00	\$15,048.00
2-6-03-13.00 NVDA Grants-In-Aid	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00
2-6-03-14.00 Better Roads Grant Buck Hill/Route 100	\$16,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
2-6-10-16.00 Wild and Scenic Grant	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2-6-10-16.01 Miscellaneous Highway Revenues	\$1,200.00	\$4,468.29	\$1,200.00
2-6-10-18.00 Carryover from Previous Year	\$28,072.30	\$0.00	\$42,246.94
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY REVENUE</b>	<b>\$140,620.30</b>	<b>\$119,176.27</b>	<b>\$108,852.94</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES - HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>\$481,056.00</b>	<b>\$459,611.97</b>	<b>\$503,497.50</b>
<b>2-7 HIGHWAY EXPENSES</b>			
<b>2-7-10 HIGHWAY PAYROLL EXPENSES</b>			
2-7-10-10.01 Payroll	\$42,000.00	\$43,233.28	\$45,000.00
2-7-10-11.00 FICA/Medicare Exp	\$3,150.00	\$2,974.82	\$3,442.50
2-7-10-12.00 VMERS Exp	\$2,650.00	\$2,815.16	\$2,800.00
2-7-10-13.00 Hwy Medical Insurance Expense	\$9,316.00	\$8,539.63	\$22,200.00
2-7-10-13.01 Dental Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$645.00
2-7-10-14.00 Unemployment Expense	\$450.00	\$370.93	\$780.00
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY PAYROLL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$57,566.00</b>	<b>\$57,933.82</b>	<b>\$74,867.50</b>
<b>2-7-15 TOWN GARAGE EXPENSE</b>			
2-7-15-20.00 Town Garage - Supplies	\$250.00	\$169.11	\$250.00
2-7-15-30.00 Town Garage - Electricity	\$1,600.00	\$1,599.92	\$1,600.00
2-7-15-31.00 Town Garage - Heat	\$5,000.00	\$2,183.03	\$4,000.00
2-7-15-33.00 Town Garage - Water	\$480.00	\$480.00	\$480.00
2-7-15-98.00 Town Garage - Cap. Improvement	\$2,500.00	\$215.09	\$500.00
2-7-15-99.00 Town Garage - Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$876.67	\$1,500.00
<b>TOTAL TOWN GARAGE EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$11,330.00</b>	<b>\$5,523.82</b>	<b>\$8,330.00</b>
<b>2-7-20 GENERAL HIGHWAY EXPENSE</b>			
2-7-20-54.00 Grader Expenses	\$8,000.00	\$1,128.00	\$5,000.00
2-7-20-59.00 MRGP Permit	\$500.00	\$1,296.67	\$740.00
2-7-20-95.02 Transfer To Grader Reserve	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL HIGHWAY EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$16,500.00</b>	<b>\$10,424.67</b>	<b>\$13,740.00</b>

Account		Budget FY23	Actual FY23	Budget FY24
<b>2-7-25 ROAD MAINTENANCE</b>				
2-7-25-45.00	Hired Equipment	\$245,000.00	\$237,020.92	\$245,000.00
2-7-25-55.01	Gravel & Sand	\$56,100.00	\$59,084.30	\$56,000.00
2-7-25-55.03	Salt	\$8,000.00	\$3,118.08	\$8,000.00
2-7-25-55.05	Paving	\$30,000.00	\$34,032.80	\$40,000.00
2-7-25-55.06	Chloride & Calcium	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
2-7-25-56.00	Culverts	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
2-7-25-57.00	Road Signs	\$500.00	\$568.44	\$1,000.00
2-7-25-57.01	Radar Speed Sign Maintenance	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2-7-25-58.00	Guard Rails	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL ROAD MAINTENANCE</b>		<b>\$353,100.00</b>	<b>\$333,824.54</b>	<b>\$364,000.00</b>
<b>2-7-27 HIGHWAY GRANT EXPENSES</b>				
2-7-27-02.00	Better Roads Grant RTE 58	\$18,810.00	\$0.00	\$18,810.00
2-7-27-10.00	Grants-in-Aid / NVDA	\$13,750.00	\$0.00	\$13,750.00
2-7-27-26.00	Wild & Scenic Grant Exp.	\$10,000.00	\$9,658.18	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY GRANT EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$42,560.00</b>	<b>\$9,658.18</b>	<b>\$42,560.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES - HIGHWAY FUND</b>		<b>\$481,056.00</b>	<b>\$417,365.03</b>	<b>\$503,497.50</b>
NET		\$0.00	\$42,246.94	\$0.00



**Think Road Safety...**

The Road Crew does their best to avoid causing damage to personal property, but despite their best efforts, sometimes items within the town highway right-of-way get damaged, either by snow removal or other highway maintenance equipment. Please be aware, the town is not responsible for damages obtained within the 49½ foot right-of-way. Also be advised, that placing objects such as vehicles, fences, trees, signs, etc. within these boundaries can cause the objects to be removed at the owner's expense.

**SATURDAY MORNINGS AT RECYCLING—A FRIENDLY REMINDER:** For everyone's safety, please do not park in front of the garage doors at the Town Garage on Saturday mornings during recycling. The road crew is working hard to keep our roads clear. The road crew needs to be able to move their equipment in and out of the garages. It's a challenge to see those little cars when backing out of the bays and maneuvering around the sand pile and parking lot.

**THANK YOU FROM THE ROAD CREW !!**

## REPORTS FROM TOWN BOARDS & AGENCIES (Non-Appropriation)

### A JOINT REPORT FROM THE SELECTBOARD and TOWN CLERK; 2023, a look back and a look forward to 2024

Jacques Couture, Selectboard Chair; Richard Degre, Selectboard Vice Chair;  
Dennis Vincent, Selectboard; and LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

We were pleased to have Covid in the rear-view mirror and were able to hold an in-person Town and School Annual Meeting in 2023. We will again hold an in-person Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. The polls will also be open at 9 a.m. that day for the local Australian ballot election as well as the Presidential Primary. Please note, when voting for the Presidential Primary, the election worker will be asking which ballot you want, Democratic or Republican. This is a federal requirement for the Presidential Primary.



**2023 Welcomes a New Selectboard Member:** Dennis Vincent joined the Selectboard in 2023. Dennis has lived in the area all his life and recently completed construction on his new home in Westfield. Dennis enjoys fishing, hunting, gardening, metal detecting, foraging for wild edibles and cooking. Dennis commented, "Most of all, I enjoy taking care of my family, house and yard." He's jumped right in with great enthusiasm and insight, while using a fair-minded approach to interactions. If you see him working at the Recycling Center, please take a moment to welcome him. Dennis is a great addition to the Selectboard.

**Municipal Energy Resilience Program:** In 2023 the Selectboard applied for the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). This program is twofold. We applied to have an energy audit completed on each of the four Town buildings. The energy audits and recommendations were provided by a contractor hired by the state, at no cost to the Town. The next step in this process is applying for a grant to complete recommended work. There is up to \$500,000 available to Westfield to comply with the energy recommendations. The Selectboard feels it is important to pursue these funds to help bring our old buildings up to the new energy standards. Applications for funding sources will be later this year.

The second part of this program is a mini grant for \$4,000 to help educate consumers about energy efficiency. We plan to purchase a display stand for the Recycling Center and possibly the library with consumer information and programs available to help homeowners. Stay tuned for more about these programs!

**Rasputitsa Bike Race – April 20, 2024:** The Joint Selectboards of Westfield, Troy, North Troy, Newport Center, Jay and Lowell began meeting in December 2023 to discuss the Rasputitsa Bike Race being held in our towns on April 20, 2024. Cyclists from across the region and beyond will converge to participate in this challenging race, covering a course that spans approximately 53 miles through the picturesque countryside of Jay, Troy, Westfield, Lowell and Newport Center. The route includes gravel roads, challenging ascents, and sections susceptible to the unpredictable weather of early spring. Pre and post event festivities will take place at the Jay Peak Ski Resort and include two nights of live music. Signs will be placed around the region before the race so residents will be aware that up to 1,500 bikes will be on the roads the day of the race. For everyone's safety we want to make you aware of the bike route. More information can be found at: [www.rasputitsagravel.com](http://www.rasputitsagravel.com).



**July 2023 Flood:** Westfield sustained flood damage on Loop Road and Kingdom Mountain Road during the July 2023 flood event. We have applied to FEMA for reimbursement for the \$28,314.42 in damages.

**Proposed Village Wastewater Project:** One outcome from the proposed Zoning Bylaw revisions research was identifying uncertainty about septic capacity for village properties. These are properties that could benefit from incorporating housing density development now allowed under state statute. Removing uncertainty about village septic capacity also helps maintain value of existing village properties. The state realizes the importance of this work and fully funds the assessment of options for village wastewater, other than individual septic systems. This



assessment is estimated to take two to three years and includes multiple public meetings to: answer questions, and share findings and options included in the assessment.

Documentation of findings – including implementation costs of options – will be posted/linked on the Town website under Village Wastewater Project. A hard copy of project documents will be available for review at the Town Clerk's office.

**Zoning Bylaw Work:** The Planning Commission continues their work on the Zoning Bylaw changes. There is a second Public Hearing on February 20<sup>th</sup> to provide responses to public comment on the proposed revisions to the Zoning Bylaw. Several changes to the proposed revisions were recommended in response to public comment and these recommendations were also discussed. The Selectboard expresses their appreciation to the Planning Commission members, Pat Sagui (Chair), Ellen Fox, Loren Petzoldt (Vice Chair), Brian Dunn, and Kitty Edwards for their diligent efforts to keep this important project moving forward. The Planning Commission proposed revisions to the Zoning Bylaw to make the format more user-friendly for permit applicants and the Zoning Administrator. We anticipate holding a Public Hearing in the next few months at a Selectboard Meeting to adopt the new Bylaw. See the Planning Commission Annual Report on page 27 for more information.

**Hitchcock Memorial Museum and Library:** On Town Meeting Day 2023, the voters elected five Trustees for the Library. This shifted the day-to-day responsibilities of managing the Library from the Selectboard to the Trustees. The new Trustee Board has worked tirelessly to put policies in place and to begin modernizing the library. Maureen Zimmerman was hired as the new Librarian, replacing longtime Librarian Mary Lee Daigle, who stepped down. Unfortunately, Maureen was not able to continue working with us, leaving in January 2024. The Selectboard and Trustees thank Maureen and Mary Lee for the many positive changes they brought to the library. Early February, Jennifer Johnson joined us as the new Librarian. Jennifer has many years of experience working in libraries and plans to help complete the modernization process by digitizing the library inventory. Also, look for new Library cards soon. Stop in the library and welcome Jennifer!



**Newport Ambulance/Troy Rescue: and thank Missisquoi Ambulance:** The Joint Selectboards of Westfield, Jay, Troy and Lowell made the difficult decision to transition to a new ambulance service effective April 1, 2023. Newport Ambulance, known locally as Troy Rescue, is housed centrally in the village of Troy, on Route 100 and is now providing 24-hour coverage to our residents and visitors. In addition, they can resource share with neighboring divisions allowing for efficient response during local emergencies. We will forever be thankful to the dedicated members of Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service who provided service to our communities since 1977. The first year working with Newport Ambulance Service has proven to be the right choice for our town moving forward.

**Update on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds:** The recap of ARPA funds spent can be viewed on page 16. Niki Dunn was hired as Clerk of the Selectboard in 2023 and has been working on special projects for the Selectboard and Town Clerk. One such project Niki is working on is digitizing the land records in the vault using ARPA funds. ARPA money was used to replace the roof at the library, so money didn't have to be raised from taxes to complete this project.

**Update on the Westfield Congregational Church:** There was an enthusiastic discussion at the 2023 Town Meeting about the prospect of the Town taking over the Church building. As an update, we wanted to let you know there was a private offer made to purchase the Church. It is currently under contract to be sold to local individuals.

In closing, we'd like to thank all the people who help make Westfield the wonderful place we call home. We'd especially like to thank Mike Piper, Dan McAvinney, Richard Degre, Rick Danforth, Berry Creek Farm (Rosemary and Gerard Croizet), Westfield General Store (Debbie & Pat Breault & Sue Dunn), Troy Volunteer Fire Department, Dave Murphy (such a great Santa), and Mary Lee Daigle for beautifying the Common this past holiday season and helping to make the Caroling on the Common another great community event. As they say, it takes a village, and we sure have a great one!

**Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.**

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Zoning Bylaws can be found on the municipal website <http://westfield.vt.gov/ordinances-bylaws/>. Projects requiring Zoning permits include, but are not limited to:

♦ Construction ♦ New Driveways ♦ Land Subdivision ♦ Ponds

For questions, contact Will Young at (802) 715-3077;  
email: [westfieldzoning@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldzoning@gmail.com); or visit the Permits and Fees page <http://westfield.vt.gov/permits/> for more zoning information and applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Young  
Zoning Administrator

Permit #	Application Date	Applicant	Location	Permit for:	Approved or Denied
2023-01	3/20/23	Witteveen	Buck Hill Rd	Two ponds and a garage	Approved
2023-02	3/20/23	Nadeau/Kennison	Kennison Rd	Subdivision	Approved
2023-03	5/15/23	Couture	North Hill Rd	Enclose deck	Approved
2023-04	5/18/23	Emery	Kettle Farm Rd	Addition and deck	Approved
2023-05	7/10/23	Pombo	Ballground Rd	Barn	Exempt
2023-06	7/10/23	Brown	VT Route 100	Attached garage	Approved
2023-07	7/24/23	Hutson	Buck Hill Rd	Single family home	Approved
2023-08	8/8/23	Klima	Corrow Basin Rd	Storage container	Approved
2023-09	8/17/23	Backus/Velazquez	North Hill Rd	Pond	Approved
2023-10	9/1/23	Caudill	Buck Hill Rd	Single family home	Approved
2023-11	9/13/23	Wrabel	Kennison Rd	Shed	Approved
2023-12	10/10/23	Backus/Velazquez	North Hill Rd	Addition	Approved
2023-13	11/7/23	Walsh	Fisher Rd	Single family home	Approved
2023-14	12/13/23	Thoms	Waldhof Dr	Subdivision	Approved



# PLANNING COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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In 2023 the Planning Commission met 16 times (meetings and Hearings) and largely devoted its time to developing proposed Zoning Bylaw revisions begun in 2020. A technical writer familiar with Vermont Statute and rural town zoning assisted the Planning Commission to: draft proposed Zoning Bylaw revisions; provide expertise to ensure the Bylaw revisions align with state statute, federal law, regional goals, the Town Plan, and emerging land use concerns and opportunities. The Commission chair and the technical writer for the Zoning Bylaw revisions also met three (3) times with the Selectboard to review and discuss the proposed bylaw revisions.

On November 16, the Notice of Public Hearing was made for the hearing to take comments on revisions to the Zoning Bylaw. At the same time, the draft proposed Zoning Bylaw revisions and statutorily required explanatory documents were posted on the Town website; hard copies of these materials were available to review at the Town Office and the Hitchcock Library. Flyers with the Notice of Public Hearing were available at the Recycling Center, General Store, and Town Office.

## Results of DEC 5 Hearing

The public hearing to take comments on revisions to the Zoning Bylaw was held on December 5, 2023 at the Westfield Community Center. The Planning Commission presented information about the proposed revisions. Nine individuals gave comment or asked questions. The Planning Commission's responses to comments are posted on the Town website.

Completed in 2023, *Your Guide to Westfield Zoning* was developed to help landowners seeking permits understand the steps in the process, and the rights of parties (e.g. applicant, abutters).

## 2024 Work Plan

### Zoning Bylaw Revisions

Comments were taken until January 5, and responded to. Final revised draft will be submitted to the Selectboard for adoption after a warned Public Hearing. Time TBD.

Upon adoption Westfield will be up to date on its compliance with state and federal Flood Hazards and Mitigation requirements, including updated flood and river corridor maps.

### Flood Hazard and other Mitigation Updates

Bylaw revisions include new requirements and flood maps from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure Westfield's ongoing participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. An approved plan ensures Westfield landowners are eligible for funds to mitigate risks before they occur (e.g. upsized culverts). Funds are available for hazards other than flooding, such as: ice, invasive plants, drought, extreme heat/cold.

The Planning Commission will continue to meet as needed to complete the Zoning Bylaw updates, to provide support for development in town, and to monitor administration of Bylaw revisions, to ensure they meet their intended purpose.

**Town Plan Update Schedule.** The next scheduled review of the Town Plan will occur during 2026, with a timeline to ensure it can be re-adopted in January 2027. Previously, the State mandated town plans be updated and re-adopted every five years. That timeframe was recently extended to eight years.

The Planning Commission is grateful for the support and suggestions of the Selectboard, Town Clerk, LaDonna Dunn, and Zoning Administrator, Will Young, to amend the Zoning Bylaw. Special thanks to Dennis Neumann, Ned Swanberg, Chris Huck, and Alison Low, NVDA Senior Planner, for guidance and expertise.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Pat Sagui, Chair, Westfield Planning Commission,  
Loren Petzoldt, Vice Chair;  
Ellen Fox, Secretary;  
Brian Dunn;  
Kitty Edwards

## LISTERS' REPORT 2023

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Covid has had a large impact on property values in Westfield, as it has in all of Vermont. Some homes have sold at nearly double their assessed value, while some sales of bare land were as low as one half of their assessed value. The impact of these changes in Westfield is a potential mandate, per state law, to perform another reappraisal much sooner than expected.

Per [32 VSA 4041a\(b\)](#), enacted in 2023 the criterion triggering a reappraisal is a COD (Coefficient Of Dispersion) greater than 20. This change makes the more familiar CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) no longer a consideration.

Our new COD is 23.04, triggering a potential order to reappraise. The Department of Taxes would issue the order in July 2024. It is unclear what reappraisals will be ordered, because very many towns face this potential (16 of 20 towns in Orleans County, alone).

The COD is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is throughout the town. A high COD means many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share and many are paying less than their fair share. The CLA is a measure of how the average sale prices compare to Grand List assessments.

In Vermont, all property is subject to a statewide education property tax to pay for the State's schools. There are two education tax rates: homestead and nonhomestead. Bills may show one or both rates. If you filed a Homestead Declaration (HS-122) this year and have no business or rental use, your bill will show only the homestead education rate. If you filed the HS-122 and you have business and/or rental use, your bill should show both the homestead and nonhomestead rates based on the relative percentage of homestead and business or rental use. If the property is not your primary residence, you cannot declare it as your homestead. Your bill will show only the nonhomestead rate.

The Homestead Declaration form (HS-122) must be filed each year by every Vermont resident whose property meets the definition of a homestead. A Vermont homestead is the principal dwelling and up to 2 acres of land surrounding the dwelling, owned by a resident individual as of April 1<sup>st</sup> and occupied as a person's domicile. The Vermont Department of Taxes must annually receive a Homestead Declaration (Form HS-122) on or before April 15<sup>th</sup>. Homeowners need to comply with this deadline even when requesting an extension to file their Vermont State Income Tax. No extension is granted for filing a Homestead Declaration. Unfortunately, if a Homestead Declaration is filed late, there is a penalty.

The State also requires you to declare (on your Homestead Declaration) if more than 25% of your home's floor space is used for business or if any floor space is rented. If an outbuilding (sheds, garages, farm building, shops, etc.) is located on your property and is used for business or is rented, it is also necessary to declare such. If the business ceases to exist for any reason, you need not declare this in subsequent years. However, informing the Listers of such a change may assist them in keeping your current assessment accurate.

Do not forget, if you have more than one property in Westfield make sure to use the SPAN (School Parcel Account Number) that is assigned to your Homestead parcel. If your Homestead straddles two or more towns, you need to file Homestead Declarations for each town where the property is located using the correct SPAN.

For further information, refer to the Vermont Department of Taxes website: <http://tax.vermont.gov>

The Tax Maps represent and give a visual interpretation of all the deeds and surveys filed with the Town land records. The acreage on the Tax Maps should be the same as in the Grand List. During the map updating process, the Listers try to identify any parcels where the acreage on the Tax Map does not match the acreage in the Grand List. The goal is for an accurate description and assessment of all parcels.

Respectfully submitted,

Westfield Listers:  
Danny Young, Scott Dunn and Shelley Martin

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## HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY

1252 VT Route 100 ♦ Westfield, VT 05874 ♦ 802-744-8258

Hours: Tuesday 2 PM-7 PM, Thursday 10 AM-3 PM & Sunday 11 AM-3 PM

*Free Wi-Fi access both inside and outside the building ♦ No password required*

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### Mission:

To serve as a historic community resource for all to connect, inspire and learn.

### Summary of the Past Year:

The library has been through many changes this past year, including adding hours later in the day and on weekends to provide increased availability to the community. We offered Story Time on Thursday mornings, Book clubs, knitting groups, and craft days on Thursday afternoons. The pie graph below summarizes the library's activity for the past year.

### Goals for Next Year

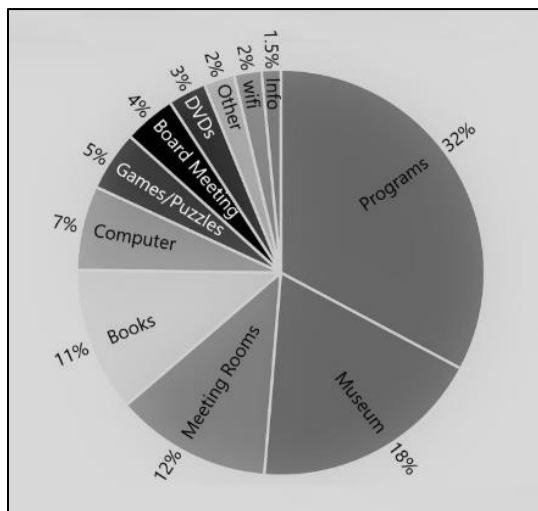
#### 1. Library System Software

We are working on implementing library system software that will enable us to digitize our inventory. This will open up the door for us to participate in the interlibrary loan system, help us organize the library to better help patrons find what they need, as well as enable us to have library cards.

#### 2. Programs and Events for the Community

We are planning to offer the community more opportunities for connection and learning. Our plans include an open house complete with a live play about the history of our town, a total solar eclipse event, as well as continuing to offer Story Time, Summer Reading, and After School Programs.

Maureen Zimmerman  
2023 Librarian





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## **TROY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

6850 VT Route 100 ♦ Troy, VT 05868 ♦ 802-744-2231

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The Troy Volunteer Fire Department works hard to provide professional fire and emergency services for the residents in the Town of Westfield and to any visitors that are passing through that may need our services. In 2023 we responded to 42 emergency incidents.

Our membership continues to be solid with 32 trained members. This past fall Troy Fire acquired, by donation, from Derby Line Volunteer Fire Department a 12' Sea Eagle Zodiac type boat. We purchased a 10 HP Mercury motor as well for this new boat. As our weather patterns change, flooding seems to be more and more common in our Towns, we felt this boat and water rescue equipment was a necessity to have. We will continue to train with our boat and equipment this spring when weather allows. This will be a great addition to our department.

In 2023 we requested and received ARPA funds from the town to upgrade our 20-year-old thermal image cameras. With this money we were able to purchase 3 new FLIR thermal image cameras. Since then, we have completed training with these new cameras and have put them in service for use. Thermal image cameras are a great tool for us as they can be used for a multitude of situations. They can be used for search and rescue, detecting if a fire has spread and to ascertain that the fire has been extinguished. We are extremely grateful to the selectboards for approving this request.

State and regional training were held again this year. Troy fire members took advantage of attending those training courses. Most recently we were involved in acquiring the state to hold a class at Jay Peak Conference Center for all the local fire departments on what to do in the event of Lithium-Ion Battery issues. As we all know, Electric vehicles are becoming more popular and the fire service must learn how to deal with these situations. The class was a huge success as members from our department and neighboring departments were in attendance with approximately 94 firefighters. We also continue to hold training and exercises "in-house". These are great opportunities for our members to stay in tune with new and changing times. It also gives us the opportunity to make sure our equipment is in excellent operating condition.

We want to again take a moment and ask all our residents to help us out with clearing branches and trees in your driveways so we can access your properties in the event of a fire or emergency situation. Our trucks are large, and extra clearance would help ensure our quick response to the scene.

For the year 2024, we are asking for the same amount of \$28,974.77 as we requested last year for funding. We have numerous yearly requirements we have to abide and pay for such as, SCBA flow testing, Jaws of Life servicing, Tower Certification, Insurances, equipment upgrades, etc. We feel that we are able to level fund this year and not ask for more from taxpayers.

As always, we would like to thank our community for the continued support and donations we receive throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated.

Bobby Jacobs, Chief Troy Volunteer Fire Department





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## MONTGOMERY FIRE DEPARTMENT

84 Mountain Road ♦ Montgomery, VT 05470 ♦ 802-326-4555

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### State of The Fire Department 2023

In 2023 Montgomery Fire and First Response teams responded to a total of 41 calls. For the second year in a row our call volume has decreased. This was a welcome break for our first responders and great news for our community. This year the department purchased ten new Scott SCBA airpicks, twenty carbon fiber cylinders, and seventeen face masks. 95% of the items purchased were paid for via the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

We also used a portion of our reserve funds to purchase a 2023 Polaris Ranger 1000 Utility Vehicle (UTV) with Camso Tracks and a Kimtek skid insert. The skid will have a 55 Gallon tank with a pump, suction hose, and discharge hose/nozzle for wildland firefighting and water supply. The skid also has a litter/rescue area for mounting patients in backcountry rescue situations. This equipment will enhance our capabilities for year-round search and rescue as well as seasonal wildland firefighting.

In October we did our annual National Fire Prevention Week presentation to the Elementary school kids and taught them about fire safety and prevention measures. As many parents in our community already know, the kids love bringing our homework assignments home for the parents to complete (yes, we tell them to hound you until they are done!).

Montgomery Fire and First Response has a roster of sixteen members ready to respond and serve our community. Any community members interested in joining the department should please contact Chief Kopacz. Once again please keep your chimneys clean and never burn trash, paper, cardboard, or wet wood. Have your heating appliances serviced and inspected, vents clear, and keep your CO/Smoke Alarms in good working order!

Thank you,  
Doug Kopacz, Chief Montgomery Fire Department  
[mfdvermont@gmail.com](mailto:mfdvermont@gmail.com)

#### Total Call Responses: 41

Fire - 7	Flooding - 2
Motor Vehicle Collision - 10	Wildland Fire - 0
Alarms - 5	Gas Leaks - 2
Search & Rescue - 1	Medical/Agency Assist - 14



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## **NEWPORT AMBULANCE SERVICE, INC.**

### **TROY RESCUE**

PO Box 911 ♦ Newport, VT 05855

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With the Completion of our new Troy Station Newport Ambulance has become one of the largest regional ambulance services in the State of Vermont. Newport Ambulance employs over 60 employees and has 4 stations covering 16 towns, 5 Gores and Grants and 786sq miles. Our call volume increased from 4500 calls in 2022 to 5300 calls in 2023.

Newport Ambulance's facilities are located at 830 Union St in Newport, 8437 RTE 111 in Morgan, 6719 RTE 100 in Troy and 62 Wilson Rd in Johnson.

Currently Newport Ambulance has 6 crews providing 24/7 service. Newport Ambulance has 10 ambulances and a Paramedic first response car that are stocked and available to respond at the Advanced Life Support level at any time.

Newport Ambulance's Troy station houses a crew that is available to respond 24/7, serving Lowell, Westfield, Jay, Troy, and North Troy.

In 2023 Newport Ambulance responded to 26 emergency calls in the Town of Westfield and transported 13 Town residents from North Country Hospital to receive care in other facilities. We have also responded to a total of 51 calls for mutual aid.

In 2023 Newport Ambulance secured a Vermont state education grant that will help cover the cost of 6 current members to advance their education and acquire their Paramedic certification. This certification has an estimated cost of over \$20,000 per student. Newport Ambulance will also use these funds to help with continuing education of our other EMS providers.



Newport Ambulance Service thanks you for your support and looks forward to serving you and your community.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey J. Johansen,  
Executive Director  
Newport Ambulance Service, Inc.



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**WESTFIELD FIRE DISTRICT #1**  
1365 VT Route 100 ♦ Westfield, VT 05874

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TO: Westfield Fire District #1- Members

DATE: January 27, 2024

The following is provided as a breakdown of all items contained on the Westfield Fire District #1 financial reports for the period of 1 December 2022 through 30 November 2023.

**Assets:**

Parcel ID 06-001-21 Property on North Hill – as listed on the Town of Westfield Grand List Tax Year 2020. The town changed the appraisal to \$133,100.00.

Balance Savings and Checking – \$61,955.10.

**Balance Sheet:**

**Total Liabilities and Equity:**

\$68,533.07 a increase of \$3,113.42 from last years \$65,419.65.

**Profit & Loss:**

Significant items.

Income from fees at \$26,410.00 water bills paid by users.

The Professional Fees Accounting of \$50.00 was paid to a representative of the Community National Bank for auditing the books in January 2023. The reports are on file, there were no errors found or corrective actions to be taken.

Total expenses from Profit and Loss statement are \$22,145.54.

This amount makes up the real operating cost of the system as detailed on the statement. Equipment, materials, insurance, office supplies, postage, water testing, repairs, snow plowing, lawn mowing, electric, gas, phone, permit to operate.

**Income by Customer Summary**

The report shows all customers and amounts paid for the year of the report totaling \$26,410.00.

**Expense by Vendor Summary**

Most vendors listed are normal expenses for the system.

Daniel McAvinney \$751.04, Rick Danforth \$950.00, Kelly Bouchard \$600.00, these payments are for reimbursements or additional time; Upgrade Project supervision, mowing, or reimbursed purchases etc., beyond normal duties which are compensated at \$12.50 per hour.

**A/R Aging Summary**

There are four accounts on the A/R Aging Summary (Overdue Accounts). The total amount of \$4,836.31 compares to \$5,664.31 at the end of 2022.

Overdue notices are sent out monthly, late fees of 10% are now added soon after the bill is 30 days old.

**Proposed Budget**

The 2024 Proposed budget is \$24,309.00; adjusted for current costs of the line items.

As noted at the bottom of the proposed budget the Income projection is \$25,920.00 based on all accounts paying and paying on time.

This report is respectfully submitted as a full accounting of the current financial standing of the Westfield Fire District #1 for the period of 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. If at any time, any member of the Fire District desires to see records of the system they will be made available for review. If you have comments or questions, please call me at 744-4039.

Kelly Bouchard

Treasurer  
Prudential Committee

## NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (NEKWMD)

224 Church St. ♦ P.O. Box 1075 ♦ Lyndonville, VT 05851 ♦ 802-626-3532 or 1-800-734-4602

### 2024 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 11 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Ryegate Transfer Station  
SATURDAY, MAY 18 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Peacham Transfer Station  
SATURDAY, JUNE 1 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Derby Recycling Center  
SATURDAY, JUNE 8 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Brunswick Town Office  
SATURDAY, JUNE 22 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Newport Center Town Garage  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Barnet Transfer Station  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Greensboro Recycling Center  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Lunenburg Transfer Station  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lyndon Recycling Center



Visit the Westfield Municipal Website Recycling page at <https://westfield.vt.gov/recycling-center/> or the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management website at <https://www.nekwmd.org/> to view acceptable items. For information on these events and others, contact the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District at (802) 626-3532, 800-734-4602, by e-mail at [progmgr@nekwmd.org](mailto:progmgr@nekwmd.org).

### WESTFIELD RECYCLING CENTER TRASH AND TIRE DISPOSAL FEE SCHEDULE

*Located at the Westfield Town Garage: 757 VT Route 100*

*Hours: Saturday 8 a.m. until Noon*



Trash & tires may **ONLY** be disposed of during Recycling Center regular business hours.

#### **TRASH DISPOSAL PRICING**

**(effective March 1, 2020)**

13 Gallon White Trash Bag.... \$2.50/bag  
30 Gallon Trash Bag..... \$4.00/bag  
50 Gallon Trash Bag..... \$5.00/bag

Large trash items such as couches, chairs, mattresses, box springs and furniture are accepted with price negotiated by Recycling Attendant. Check before dumping. Reminder: 24/7 Surveillance



#### **TIRE DISPOSAL PRICING**

- 14" – 15" tires without rims... \$5/ea.    ▪ 16" – 18" tires without rims... \$7.50/ea.
- 19" – 20" tires without rims... \$8/ea.    ▪ 14" – 20" with rims... \$10/ea.

*Sorry, no longer accepting tires from commercial accounts.*

**SEE PAGE 35-36 FOR A LISTING OF ACCEPTED/NOT ACCEPTED RECYCLABLES**





# 2024 Westfield Recycling and Waste Disposal Guide

757 VT Rt 100. Saturday, 8:00am – 12:00pm

<div> <div>↓</div> <div><b>SORT ITEMS</b></div> <div>↓</div> </div> <div>RECYCLING MUST BE CLEAN AND DRY</div>	
<p><b><u>MIXED PAPER</u></b> Newspapers, catalogs, telephone books, glossy inserts, paperback books, colored &amp; white paper, wrapping paper and junk mail. Any color or type of paper. <b><i>NO brown Kraft bags, boxboard, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or metallic wrapping paper.</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>CORRUGATED CARDBOARD, BOXBOARD, &amp; BROWN KRAFT BAGS</u></b> FLATTEN BOXES. All Cardboard and Boxboard food packaging. Remove excess tape. Staples are OK. <b><i>NO wax-coated cardboard, cardboard soiled with food, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or Styrofoam.</i></b></p>
<p><b><u>TIN CANS</u></b> Labels are OK. Flattening not required. Separate from aluminum cans. Tin is magnetic. <b>*MUST BE RINSED*</b></p>	<p><b><u>ALUMINUM CANS, FOIL AND FOOD TRAYS</u></b> Labels OK. Flattening not required. <b><i>NO snack bags, candy wrappers, coffee bags.</i></b> <b>*MUST BE RINSED*</b></p>
<p><b><u>GLASS BOTTLES &amp; JARS</u></b> *Rinse, Remove Lids (recycle with tin) * <b><i>NO porcelain, Pyrex, windows, crystal, light bulbs, lids, metal or wood.</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>BATTERIES</u></b> All types including primary and rechargeable batteries. Please bag similar types together and bag damaged batteries separately.</p>
<p><b><u>PLASTIC CONTAINERS #1 – #4 &amp; #5 Food Containers</u></b> <b><u>REMOVE CAPS / MAX. SIZE- 2 Gallons / NO BLACK PLASTIC / *MUST BE RINSED*</u></b> Includes food containers, health/beauty product, and cleaner containers. #5 included <i>if it's a food container.</i> <b><i>NO plastic bags or films, black plastic, screw-top caps, motor oil bottles, pesticide bottles, vinyl siding, toys, CD cases, VHS tapes, Styrofoam, syringes, or medical devices.</i></b></p>	

## **ADDITIONAL ACCEPTED MATERIALS:**

**FOOD SCRAPS:** All food scraps, including meat, bones, dairy. **Remove PLU stickers. No plastics, metals, paper.**

**#6 PLASTIC FOAM (STYROFOAM):** #6 Expanded Polystyrene Foam. Any color, any size. Must be rigid, dry, clean.

**SCRAP METAL:** Metal appliances (stoves, washer/dryer, dishwasher), grills, water tanks, microwaves, metal roofing, pots and pans, bicycles. Any item that is mostly metal included. No fridges, freezers, A/Cs, dehumidifiers.

**ELECTRONICS:** TVs, computers (incl. mouse/keyboard/speakers), computer printers, radio/stereos, gaming systems, telephones, fax machines.

**HOUSEHOLD TRASH:** Trash accepted at transfer station, \$2.50/13 gallon bag, \$4.00/30 gallon, \$5.00/contractor bag. Residents can also contract with private haulers for curbside collection, find our Licensed Hauler List at <http://www.nekwmd.org/pdf/haulerlist.pdf>.

**SPECIAL WASTES:** Oil, oil filters, automotive batteries, hard-cover books, fluorescent bulbs. Tires (fees apply).

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:** **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**, Monday – Friday, May to October in Lyndonville, and special events throughout the District June – September. Call for details.

**In addition to services provided at this location, district residents have access to disposal services at the Lyndonville Recycling Center, 224 Church St, Lyndonville.**

Recycling, Food Scraps, Scrap Metal, E-waste, Waste Oil, Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, Freon-Containing Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers, A/C units, and Dehumidifiers), Stump Dump, all free of charge, and Tire Disposal, fees apply, available at the Lyndonville Recycling Center.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS – CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org), e-mail [outreach@nekwmd.org](mailto:outreach@nekwmd.org)



Continued on Next Page...

## 2024 List of Common Items NOT ACCEPTED for Recycling

Please dispose of the following items in the trash unless otherwise stated.  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFELY AND PROPERLY DISPOSING OF A  
MATERIAL– CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM  
WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

(802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org), e-mail [outreach@nekwmd.org](mailto:outreach@nekwmd.org)

### Unacceptable Plastics

Any **black** plastic containers

Screw-top Caps

Motor oil, gas containers

Pesticide containers

Styrofoam of any kind

Planting pots and trays

Plastic furniture

Plastic Toys

Coffee Makers

Coat hangers

Vinyl Siding

Maple Tubing

CDs, DVDs, VHS, and cases

Water line pipes and plastic tubing of any size

**Hard, rigid plastic** (if it shatters, it's not accepted)

### Unacceptable Plastic Bags and Films

Any type

### Unacceptable Cardboard

Pringles containers

Milk and Juice Cartons of any kind

Ice cream and waxy or plastic frozen food boxes

Cardboard with metallic interior

Single-use coffee cups

Soiled Cardboard

Waxy Cardboard

### Unacceptable Paper

Kraft brown paper bags (recycle with cardboard)

White or Brown Boxboard (recycle with cardboard)

Shiny, glossy, or metallic papers

Paper plates, cups, bowls

Single-use cups

Napkins, paper towels, tissue paper

### Unacceptable Glass

Crystal

Incandescent light bulbs

Automotive lights

Pyrex

Porcelain

### Unacceptable Aluminum

Chip Bags, Snack Wrappers, Pop tart Wrappers

Aluminum Flashing (recycle with scrap metal)

Coffee Bags

### Unacceptable Tin

Recycle these with Scrap Metal

Frying Pans

Large Pieces of Metal

Nails, Screws, Fasteners

Any tin that is a non-food container

### Unacceptable Food Scraps

PLU Stickers (sticks on fruits, vegetables)

“Biodegradable” bags, cutlery, bowls, plates

Food utensils

Plates, bowls, cups

Plastic bags

Styrofoam

Keurig cups

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## **NORTHEASTERN VERMONT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NVDA)**

36 Eastern Ave., Suite 1, P.O. Box 630 ♦ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-0630

Phone: 802-748-5181 ♦ Fax: 802-748-1223

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The Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) serves Westfield as a regional advocate for stronger communities and vibrant local economies. NVDA is the regional planning commission and economic development organization for Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties, so we are uniquely suited to effectively serve municipalities and businesses.

This year, we are again requesting annual dues from our member communities. These funds are critical, as they allow us to provide direct technical assistance to the 50+ municipalities and the many businesses in our region. Municipal contributions also allow us to leverage additional state and federal funds that benefit our region.

Local governance has become increasingly complex in recent years, and our staff remains available to assist your community in multiple capacities:

- Land use planning and regulation;
- Transportation studies and project planning;
- Digital mapping and GIS services;
- Grant writing and administration;
- Direct business support, referrals, and lending to employers in our region;
- Energy planning and water quality planning to help communities meet evolving statutory requirements;
- Planning for natural hazards and local emergency response;
- Brownfield assessments and remediation assistance;
- Economic development activities to grow and strengthen businesses in our region;
- Training for local officials.

The July flood brought new challenges to local governments and businesses already navigating post-pandemic realities. In addition to our regular services, we participated directly in flood response. We also began helping our communities meet the requirements of Act 47 (the HOME Act) to alleviate the housing crisis, and we continued to aid in regional pandemic recovery through assistance with ARPA funding, as well as other state and federal recovery resources such as the Municipal Energy Resilience Program and the Municipal Technical Assistance Program.

How have we served your community?

In 2023, NVDA staff planners reviewed proposed amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw. We also met with Town officials to discuss funding opportunities through the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. Our staff completed the town's road erosion inventory for the 2023-2027 cycle and reported road damage to Vermont Emergency Management following the flooding in July. In addition, we worked to update Westfield's Local Emergency Management Plan which was adopted by the Town and accepted by Vermont Emergency Management.

NVDA dues are just \$0.85 per capita, with a maximum of \$3,965 and a minimum of \$565. We take great pride in serving the communities and businesses of the NEK. This additional contribution allows us to continue providing a high level of professional service. We take pride in keeping communities aware of new opportunities through our e-newsletter and social media. Contact us at [tgonyaw@nvda.net](mailto:tgonyaw@nvda.net) to receive our e-newsletter and like us on Facebook.

Sincerely,  
David Snedeker  
Executive Director



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## VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS (VLCT)

89 Main Street, Suite 4 ♦ Montpelier, VT 05602

Phone: 802-229-9111 ♦ Fax: 802-229-2211

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### *Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government*

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

**Member Benefits** - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also offers members group rates on important benefits for municipal employees: life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government. **To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit [vlct.org](https://vlct.org).** Recent audited financial statements are available at [vlct.org/AuditReports](https://vlct.org/AuditReports).





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## NEK COMMUNITY BROADBAND

PO Box 4012 ♦ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Phone: 877-635-3423

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Dear NEK Neighbors,

We are pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report to all 56 towns in the NEK. As you know, we are the Communications Union District (CUD) for Northeastern Vermont - the municipal, non-profit organization whose mission is to build high-speed, fiber internet infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities in the NEK. As a resident of one of NEK's 56 towns, you have a voice through your town's representative to our Governing Board. To see who that is, please visit our website, [nekbroadband.org](http://nekbroadband.org) and go to the Member Towns page.

Our 2023 Annual Report shows the significant progress we've made in working towards our ambitious goals and we hope you enjoy reading it.

**AND** we know there is more work to be done. The two questions most often asked are "When are you coming to me? And how much will it cost?" To answer the 'When' we have to take into consideration multiple factors such as technical challenges, availability of grant funding, local interest and customer base, and material costs. All of these factors help us determine the most cost effective, efficient way to build a network that will need 2700 miles of fiber optics to reach everyone in the Kingdom. The easiest way to know when service will be available to you is to pre-register at [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org) and stay up to date with messages and notifications.

We also know that affordability of high-speed internet is a critical issue to many living in our region. That's why we include a free router and free aerial installation up to 400 ft for every customer. NEK Broadband also participates in the ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program), helping to create affordable pricing for 27% of households in the district that are eligible. This federally funded program provides a discount of \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. As of today, this program will run out of funds by mid-April.

Last year we also started a program that gives NEK residents the opportunity to lend a hand to their low-income neighbors. For those customers who choose our 500/500 Mbps service, \$30 of their monthly payments will go towards giving a fellow low-income NEK resident an equivalent \$30 discount per month. For those who choose our 1 gig/1 gig service, their monthly payment will help 3 of their low-income NEK neighbors with an additional discount of \$30/month each. We have decided to use these funds to subsidize to the same level if the ACP shuts down.

At NEK Broadband, we continue to search for and create ways to make it easier for all of our neighbors to get access to high-speed internet because In today's interconnected world, access to online resources is essential for participating in various aspects of life, including education, employment, healthcare, and civic engagement. We are proud to work to bridge the gap and increase these opportunities for all of our neighbors in the NEK.

The NEK Broadband team



(Continued on Next Page)

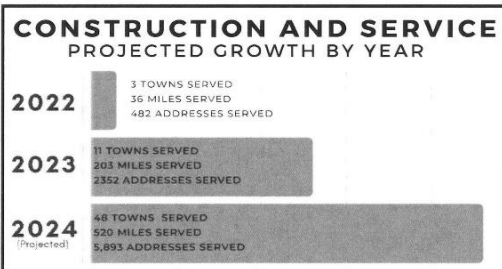
# COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT (CUD)

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**DELIVERING ON OUR  
PROMISE**




In 2023, NEK Broadband put in place the additional staff, funding and infrastructure needed to continue delivering on its promise to bring high-speed, reliable internet to unserved and underserved communities in the NEK. We've made significant progress in building the "backbone" of our network throughout the region. This "backbone" of interlocking fiber optic cable will provide extra reliability for our internet service. We received a USDA ReConnect grant of 17.5 million to cover most of Essex County, thus freeing up more funds to expand our network build in the rest of the NEK. This year, we also increased our construction capacity and our ability to purchase and store more materials so that we can increase the speed of our buildout.



**2352**   
**SERVICE AVAILABLE**  
WE NOW OFFER SERVICE TO  
2352 ADDRESSES IN THE  
NEK.

**179**   
**CUSTOMERS SERVED**  
IN 2023, WE OVER DOUBLED  
THE NUMBER OF  
CUSTOMERS SERVED.

**203**   
**MILES SERVED**  
AT THE END OF 2023, WE  
NOW HAVE 203 MILES OF  
FIBER NETWORK SERVED  
THROUGHOUT THE NEK.

**NEK**   
**BROADBAND**

## GRANTS & FINANCING

- We were awarded a USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000 that will cover most of the addresses in Essex county and Eastern Orleans and Caledonia counties.
- The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$17.94 million in construction funding, bringing the total investment in NEK Broadband to \$38.9 million to date.
- Our 2022 financials were given an unqualified "clean" opinion (evaluation) by our auditors.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

- We are up to 6 full-time staff.
- We now have active warehouses in Danville, St. Johnsbury and Brighton for the storage of construction materials.
- We are working with state and vocational partners to train and increase the workforce in the NEK to help build our network.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

OVER \$15,876,591 HAS BEEN INVESTED IN NEK COMMUNITY-OWNED BROADBAND.

2023 BUDGET TO ACTUAL (PROJECTED)			2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	Budget	Actual 2023 (Projected)	Projected Surplus from 2023	\$355,546
Administrative Grant Revenue	\$2,252,718	\$996,599	Administrative Grant Revenue	\$2,564,532
Operations Revenue	\$747,767	\$222,790	Operations Revenue	\$852,455
Capital Grant Revenue	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Capital Grant Revenue	\$36,200,196
<b>Total Cash In</b>	<b>\$31,785,773</b>	<b>\$11,530,536</b>	<b>Total Cash In</b>	<b>\$39,617,183</b>
Administrative Cost	\$1,847,194	\$852,862	Administrative Cost	\$1,885,621
Operational Cost	\$586,601	\$235,395	Operational Cost	\$678,912
Construction Cost	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Construction Cost	\$36,200,196
<b>Total Cash Out</b>	<b>\$31,219,083</b>	<b>\$11,399,404</b>	<b>Total Cash Out</b>	<b>\$38,764,729</b>
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$568,205	\$131,132	Annual Net Cash Flow	\$852,455
Increase in Capital Assets	\$28,785,288	\$10,311,147	Increase in Capital Assets	\$36,000,196

## ABOUT NEK BROADBAND

We are a Communications Union District (CUD), a municipal entity representing our 51 member communities in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties, plus Wolcott in Lamoille County. Our district is building high-speed broadband internet infrastructure for underserved communities in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

## SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org).

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## UPPER MISSISQUOI & TROUT RIVERS (UMATR)

### Wild and Scenic Committee

2839 VT Route 105 ♦ East Berkshire, VT 05447  
Phone: 802-933-3645 ♦ Email: [info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org)  
Website: [www.umatrwildandscenic.org](http://www.umatrwildandscenic.org)

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Dear Residents of Westfield,

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee strives to protect, enhance, and encourage enjoyment of our beautiful rivers. Designated as Wild and Scenic in 2014, 46.1 miles of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in Westfield, Troy, North Troy, Richford, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, and Montgomery are protected. Our Committee is made up of 2 residents from each of these 8 municipalities, as well as our great partners.

As we plan for a wonderful 2024, we also want to look back at the successes of 2023. UMATR is proud of the many and varied events we hosted this past year, from our speaker series to our Wild and Scenic Film Festival, we engaged 212 attendees for our virtual and viewing activities during 2023. We engaged another 33 people who helped us remove trash from our swimming holes and get 89 amphibians safely across the road during their migration! And we always love getting people out on the river - we had 62 paddlers and snowshoers join us during our on-water (and near-water) events in 2023.

During 2023, we also supported 13 great community-led grant projects in our region with \$82,750 in grant funds. Westfield continues to be a steadfast partner for our Town grants, and \$10,000 of those funds were granted for another culvert replacement on Loop Rd. We also hosted our first Guided Nature Paddle, which launched from the Lane Rd access point. A wonderful river tour was provided by our County Forester and enjoyed by both visitors and residents.

We are planning a busy 2024 (including another guided nature paddle!), and would love to see you at some of our events. Join us this winter for snowshoeing and our online speaker series, in the spring to help spotted salamanders or to enjoy our (still!) new office space while catching up with us during our Open House, or on the water this summer: we're bringing back our Sojourn day-paddles, where we paddle all 46 Wild and Scenic river miles, and we're going to introduce a 'Tubing on the Trout' event this summer! Don't miss your chance to join these great events: visit our website ([umatrwildandscenic.org](http://umatrwildandscenic.org)) where you can register, and join our mailing list to stay up-to-date with all our activities.

Respectfully submitted by your representatives to the W&S Committee: Jacques Couture and Jenn Grace, and UMATR's growing staff: Lindsey Wight and Sarah Lunn. Please contact us with any questions or comments ([info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org)).

Please contact us with any questions or comments ([info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org)).



*Above photo is from the 2023 Westfield River Clean Up!*

## APPROPRIATION REPORTS

### AMERICAN RED CROSS (Requesting \$500)

32 N. Prospect Street ♦ Burlington, VT 05401 ♦ 1-800-464-6692 ♦ On the web: [www.redcross.org/nhvt](http://www.redcross.org/nhvt)

As we look ahead to the new year, we take a moment to reflect on our profound gratitude to the municipal partners who help us deliver our lifesaving mission in our community. With your support, we are able to ensure the health, safety, and preparedness of our friends and neighbors throughout Northern New England.

Last year, our staff and volunteer workforce provided an array of services throughout the region:

- We made **700 homes safer** by installing **2,177** smoke detectors and educating **897** families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Trained **42,950 people** in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills. (training data for county level)
- We collected over **133,100 units of blood**. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over **3,400** service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

Your American Red Cross remains committed to providing relief and support. We do this with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors, including you, our friends in Westfield. This year, we respectfully request a municipal appropriation of \$500.00. These funds will directly benefit individuals and families right here in our region, who benefit from our unique services at no cost.

For more information about the work we've been doing in your area, please refer to the attached Service Delivery sheet for Orleans County. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800- 464-6692 or [supportnne@redcross.org](mailto:supportnne@redcross.org).

Warmly,



Lauren Jordan  
Development Coordinator

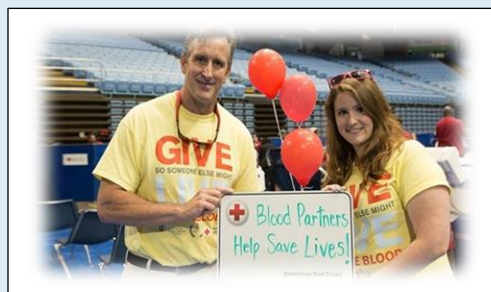
### WESTFIELD BLOOD DRIVES At the Westfield Community Center 59 North Hill Road (at School Street)

Visit <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html> to sign up for our local Blood Drives.

#### Dates scheduled for 2024:

- March 11<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

*Sponsored by Troy and Area Lions Club &  
Troy Council 7943 Knights of Columbus.*



**Call Sue Scott for more information:  
802-744-2433.**

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## **ConnectABILITIES - formerly Orleans Co. Citizens Advocacy (Requesting \$500)**

PO Box 1058 ♦ Newport, VT 05855 ♦ 1-888-635-6222 ♦ Email [occavt@gmail.com](mailto:occavt@gmail.com)

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Exciting news! OCCA has reinvented itself and is now called ConnectABILITIES while still supporting community members in Orleans County with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The years of COVID isolation and the disappearance of community volunteers over the last years has caused OCCA to rebrand itself to meet the needs of the disability community at this time.

We are proud to be celebrating our 36th anniversary and still a vibrant entity in the community. *ConnectABILITIES Mission is to create and support relationships between community volunteers and people with differing abilities so that all are heard, empowered and fully included in the community. We strive to engage all of these people in opportunities that enhance their quality of life, and we seek to provide whatever support we can feasibly provide towards helping them to achieve their life goals. In doing so we keep our hearts and minds open to all who seek our help, regardless of their particular situations.*

To this end ConnectABILITIES has accomplished in 2023:

The rebranding of OCCA to become known as ConnectABILITIES

Consultations with outside contractors to determine future direction for OCCA

Recruited and added new Board Members

Recruited and hired Consultants who demonstrate subject matter expertise.

Increased connection with community resources and worked in partnership with NKHS

Provided a 6-week summer program for exploring the arts, for socializing, and to meet community members. An Ice Cream Social was held for all members. Transportation is provided to events Ongoing outreach and support to advocates (community volunteers) and partners (community members with disabilities)

Launched our 888 # HelpLine to provide support and referrals for callers needing assistance in reference to their disability needs.

Developed resource referral database for Federal, State and local public agencies Maintaining social media sites, and a website

Intentionally ConnectABILITIES operates with a small budget. We do not receive funds from Federal or State agencies, nor United way. Our funding comes from Town Appropriations across Orleans County and local donors. Your generosity on Town Meeting Day when you vote to support ConnectABILITIES and the disability community is greatly appreciated. The pull of the future towards support and sustainability for this vulnerable community in our midst is of the utmost importance.

Please call 888-635-6222 for more information, with questions or referrals. We welcome our connection with you.

In solidarity,

Ann Stannard, Board Co-Chair

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## **Westfield Demographics Some Fun Facts from 2023**

· **First recorded land records:** 1802

· **Registered voters:** 462

· **Size of Town:** 40.1 square miles

· **Miles of roads:** 22.73

· **Homesteads:** 191

· **CLA:** 72.93



· **Population:** 534 (2020 Census)

· **Registered Dogs:** 171

· **Taxable parcels:** 447

· **Number of pages recorded  
in land records:** 570

· **COD:** 23.04%

**05874**



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**FELINES & FRIENDS FOUNDATION (Requesting \$100)**

P.O. Box 1316 ♦ Newport, VT 05855

802-323-4793

On the Web: [www.FFFVT.org](http://www.FFFVT.org)

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Felines and Friends Foundation strives to stabilize barn cat colonies and greatly reduce the number of free-roaming cats in the Northeast Kingdom (and beyond) through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), with the goals of improving the health and welfare of cats, minimizing the negative impacts on people and wildlife, reducing the number of cats/kittens entering local shelters.

We humanely trap, spay/neuter and vaccinate for rabies un-owned or loosely-owned cats in neighborhoods and on farms for FREE. When possible, we also assist low-income residents with free cat spay/neuter services and request a small donation to cover the cost of vaccines. Many of the cats we service are re-homed through regional animal shelters and local adoptions; others are returned to caretakers or owners to live a better life but with reduced nuisance behaviors.

Since Felines and Friends Foundation began on April 1, 2013, we have spayed/neutered and vaccinated over 4,000 cats mostly in Orleans County, including many from Westfield. The approximate expense per each cat is \$75 for a total value of service to date to Westfield of more than \$5,200. We've also done extensive work in the surrounding towns of Lowell, Jay, Troy, North Troy and Newport Town.

We are seeking an appropriation of \$100 to continue this work in 2024. Thank you for your consideration, and continued support.

Connie LaClair Knaggs

President, Feline & Friends Foundation Inc.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP) helps income challenged owners of cats/dogs neutered for \$27.00. The balance is funded ONLY by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs which is mailed to the state by Town Clerks. For application, send a SASE: VSNIP, P.O. Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if this is for a cat/dog or both. You can also print an application by going to [VSNIP.Vermont.Gov](http://VSNIP.Vermont.Gov)

Required by law, a rabies vaccination enables your dog to be licensed. While town offices may not be open to the public, dogs *can* be licensed. Call, provide the rabies certificate, include a check for that amount, and a SASE. **Rabies is in Vermont and is deadly.** Tractor Supply Stores are now holding monthly rabies clinics again! Call for their schedule.

**Licensing a dog:** 1) identifies your dog if lost 2) provides proof that your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal (but would still need immediate medical attention) 3) provides current proof of inoculation if your dog bites another animal/person, which could result in quarantine or possible euthanasia to test for rabies 4) helps support VSNIP to address the over-population of cats and dogs in VT.

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## **GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM-TO-SCHOOL, INC. (Requesting \$1,200)**

115 Second Street ♦ Newport, VT 05855  
802-334-2044

On the Web: [www.gmfts.org](http://www.gmfts.org)

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Dear Westfield residents,

Green Mountain Farm-to-School (GMFTS) is a non-profit organization with a mission to strengthen local food systems in Vermont by promoting positive economic relationships, education, and access between schools, farms, and communities. In fiscal year 2023, our Green Mountain Farm Direct program distributed \$677,207 worth of local food from 50 farms and producers to 130 Vermont businesses, schools, food shelves, and other institutions throughout the state; our Lunchbox program provided 3,622 free meals to NEK children in the summer months; and our Farm-to-School program served 2,400 students in 17 different NEK schools.

As part of our Farm-to-School program, GMFTS coordinates student and community involvement in the Jay Westfield School Garden. In the 2023/2023 school year, GMFTS worked with students, school partners, and community members to grow 151 lbs. of fruits and vegetables in the school garden. This produce was then served to students in the school cafeteria or provided to community members in need. Through our Farm Direct program, we delivered \$2,170.13 worth of local produce to the Jay Westfield school, benefiting both the students and our region's farmers. GMFTS also facilitated 38 nutrition and agriculture workshops for students, helped to organize 2 farm field trips, and hosted monthly taste tests where students made and sampled recipes highlighting local seasonal foods. A grant secured in 2022 allowed GMFTS to work with the school and community volunteers to construct a greenhouse for the school in the spring of 2023.

*Pictured: Jay/Westfield students learned to grow tomatoes in their new greenhouse.*



We are deeply appreciative of the support from Westfield voters in 2023. This year, we are asking for the same amount as last year - an appropriation of \$1,200 to support the Jay Westfield school garden and the associated Farm-to-School Program. With the town's help, GMFTS can continue to provide Farm-to-School programming for Westfield's students, giving them the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy food choices and support their local food system.

Thank you so much for your consideration.  
With gratitude,

Catherine Cusack  
Executive Director



**Programs to connect schools and farms  
through food and education.**

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**GREEN UP VERMONT (Requesting \$50)**

P.O. Box 1191 ♦ Montpelier, VT 05601-1191

802-522-7245 or 1-800-974-3259

Email: [greenup@greenupvermont.org](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org) ♦ On the Web: [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)

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

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



**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 us on Instagram (greenupvermont). [greenup@greenupvermont.org](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org) 802-522-7245



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## **JAY AREA FOOD SHELF (Requesting \$750)**

1036 VT Route 242 ♦ Jay, VT 05859  
802-988-2996

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A very special thanks to everyone who donated time, food, and money to the Jay Food Shelf. With the continued support & generosity from area community members, the food shelf can continue to serve many people in the area when they need a little help.

For information, whether you qualify for the food shelf program or the USDA Commodities, please visit the food shelf site in the Jay Municipal Building on Thursday during operation hours of 9 am to noon or email [kim.lucier1961@gmail.com](mailto:kim.lucier1961@gmail.com).

For those who wish to make a donation of money, you can do so by sending a check to Jay Area Food Shelf, c/o Jay Town Clerk's Office, 1036 VT RTE 242, Jay, VT 05859 or online via PayPal thru the Jay Focus Group: [www.jayfocusgp.com](http://www.jayfocusgp.com).

During Covid, the food shelf received additional funding, which it is no longer receiving. For the past 2 years, less funding has been received from Vermont Food Bank as well as individual donations. Thanks to all who helped make the program a success. A special thanks to Berry Creek Farm for the 2023 season in kind donations. Many thanks to those individuals/businesses/organizations who did food drives and/or donated food directly to the Food Shelf and to the many individuals/businesses/organizations for their generous donations, which included Intershack, Rozelle Inc, Community National Bank, Jay Focus Group, Vermont Food Bank, Jay Peak Accounting, Passumpsic Bank, Orleans & Northern Essex Teachers, Woodshed Lodge, Hannaford, Susan and Bruce Cole, Erik Kowalski, GG Zaveson and Bryan Bowers, John Scully, Roland Blais, and the towns of Jay, Lowell, Troy, and Westfield.

Thanks to your help, in 2023 The Jay Area Food Shelf served approximately 225 households in the towns of Jay, Lowell, North Troy, Troy & Westfield.

Kim Lucier, Director

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**VERMONT 2-1-1** is a valuable 3-digit phone number to remember for information about health, community, and human services in your community and throughout the state. At Vermont 2-1-1, callers will speak with specialists who problem solve and make referrals to the appropriate local and state government programs and services, or community-based organizations, support groups, and other valuable resources as needed.

### **Dialing 2-1-1:**

- is a local call from anywhere in Vermont for accurate, updated information from a database of over 850 agencies and organizations
- provides free, confidential telephone assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- enables live translation services for non-English speakers
- provides access for persons who have special needs
- provides the ability to transfer emergency calls to 9-1-1 when necessary

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## **JAY FOCUS GROUP (Requesting \$250)**

On the Web: [www.jayvt.com](http://www.jayvt.com)

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The Jay Focus Group, a 501 ©3 Non-Profit, is thankful for the continued support of the Town of Westfield. The Jay Focus Group serves the greater Jay area & Orleans County by raising funds through events, fundraisers and donations. In 2023, we were able to distribute \$15,000. to organizations and individuals with Camp & Continuing Education Scholarships, Grants (Troy School/St Paul's School/J/W School/Hitchcock Memorial Museum and Library Westfield), Annual Donations to Orleans County Organizations and Special Needs.

Organizations that we sponsored included Jay Community Recreational Centre, Jay Area Food Shelf, BBBSNEK VT, Joshua House Inc, Jay Peak Hope on the Slopes, Orleans County Snowmobile Safety Course, Green Mtn Farm to School, Newport Rotary Club, VT Orchestra Symphony, NCUHS German Exchange Club, NCCC Skills USA, the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids and more.

Our Roaring 20's Speakeasy Fundraiser at Windy River Event Barn in Westfield on July 29, 2023 was a HUGE Success and netted us \$13,000 for our 2024 Scholarships, Grants & Organizations. Our 2024 Event will be a "50's/60's Sock Hop", date TBD. Unfortunately, the 8<sup>th</sup> Jay Oktoberfest was cancelled due to rain/wind forecasts. We did, however, raise \$1800 for our Scholarship Fund with 50/50 Cow Plop tickets pulled at Jay Village Inn. Once again, we were able to continue our Annual Town of Jay Tree Lighting, Caroling & Santa & Mrs. Santa visit thanks to Kathy & Bill DiCarlo & elves, while elves Deb Talty & Denise Rossignol once again spearheaded the Jay Area Food Shelf "Gifts for Kids" program as well as Operation Backpack. A special thank you to Kim Lucier for her commitment to the Jay Area Food Shelf as well as the JFG Food Shelf Committee – Denny Lyster, Sally Rivard, Shannon Escalante, Peggy Loux and LaDonna Dunn.

Our 2023 Hometown Holiday Decorating Challenge for Jay, Lowell, Westfield, North Troy/Troy Residents was so very popular and created a lot of community spirit, as was Pat Sanders & Kellie Flanders' intention.

Please do visit [www.jayfocusgp.com](http://www.jayfocusgp.com) for updates on 2024 events:

- Leprechaun Romp on the Jay Community Recreational Centre, Date TBA
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Jay Community Recreational Centre, Date TBA
- Sock Hop FUNdraiser at Windy River Event Barn in Westfield, Date TBA
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Jay Oktoberfest benefits the Jay Community Recreational Centre & Jay Focus Group, Date TBA
- Holiday Home Decorating Contest, Dates TBA
- Annual Town of Jay Tree Lighting/Caroling/Santa Visit, Date TBA

Do you have ideas for events/ fundraising, have experience writing grants, are willing to help find sponsors and/or sponsor our events, are willing to help at an event or have an organization in need? Please do contact us for information: email [jayfocusgp@gmail.com](mailto:jayfocusgp@gmail.com), visit [www.jayfocusgp.com](http://www.jayfocusgp.com)

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. We are continually humbled by and appreciate the scope and generosity of our Sponsors: Individuals, Local Businesses, Foundations and Corporations. We all feel blessed to be part of this great organization, and the great Northeast Kingdom. Like us on Facebook.

Respectively submitted by:

Peggy Loux (Executive Director and Treasurer)

Sally Rivard (President)



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**JAY PEAK POST NO. 28, INC.**  
**AMERICAN LEGION (Requesting \$250)**  
254 Dominion Avenue ♦ North Troy, VT 05859-9701  
802-487-9116

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First on behalf of Jay Peak Post #28 members, (Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion) we wish to thank you for your support of the American Legion. We have been working hard to get the Legion back on its feet and able to support the community with a place to have functions. The appropriated funds (\$250) provide the means for the Post to purchase flags and markers for replacement near a veteran's headstone in neighboring cemeteries. We also rely on these funds to replace American service flags that fly at the Post flag park, support Memorial Day Observances, and defray operational costs. This is for year 2024.



Thank you for your past support.

Michael J. Starr. Retired (SGM, US Army)



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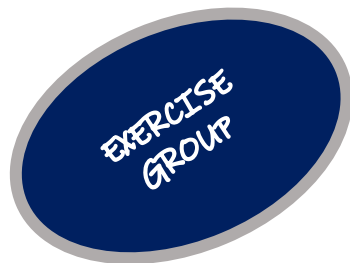
**TROY AND AREA LIONS CLUB**  
**WESTFIELD Meal Site (Requesting \$500)**  
Community Center: 59 North Hill Road ♦ Westfield, VT 05874  
802-744-6839 (Denny Lyster) ♦ 802-744-5466 Community Center Phone

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In 2023 the number of people who come to sit down for lunch has increased from 24 to 27. The takeouts remain steady at an average of 11. We have been able to maintain our donation request at \$4 by careful spending, a town appropriation (this year \$500) and by donations of food from individuals and Berry Creek Farm. Thank you all, in particular BCF, supported by its CSA members, who have provided us with fresh vegetables and fruit from May through October.

The meal site functions through the efforts of its volunteers. Our cooks create their own menus and look after their own buying which is reimbursed. Other volunteers set up the tables, look after the serving and preparation of the takeout meals and then help with the cleanup. It takes a team to make it work. A big THANK YOU to all.

Finally, an appeal to folks in our community to join us in this service. If you recently retired, this is the perfect opportunity to join us in a rewarding experience. Just ask any of our volunteers.



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**ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION EXERCISE PROGRAM**

**FREE** exercise class to help prevent or reverse osteoporosis

Community National Bank very graciously donated funds to purchase new exercise chairs. This donation was greatly appreciated!

**Offered Every Tuesday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and/or Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. at the Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Road (at School Street).**

**Thursday classes are followed by the optional Community Meal (see page 49).**

**Classes** consist of a variety of exercises to improve balance and increase strength. Participants start out using very light weights which are gradually increased as strength develops (weights provided). Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has implemented over 100 classes across the state.

**Benefits:** Increase bone density, which decreases chances of fractures; improve balance; increase strength; increase energy and feeling of well-being; and it's FUN!

**Contact: Maureen McGuire at: (802) 673-9978 or email: mamcguire77@gmail.com for more information.**

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## MISSISQUOI RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION (Requesting \$300)

2839 VT Route 105 ♦ East Berkshire, VT 05447

802-933-3645

Email: [lindsey@mrbavt.com](mailto:lindsey@mrbavt.com) ♦ Website: [www.mrbavt.com](http://www.mrbavt.com)

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The Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA) had another great year working to protect and improve water quality throughout our region. As always, our successes come directly from the dedicated volunteers, donors, landowners, and towns that support the work we do with and at our schools, public parks, roadways, farms, private homes, and anywhere water flows.

### MRBA Projects and Programs:

**Ecological restoration, invasive species, and river clean-up efforts:** During 2023, as in most years, MRBA volunteers assisted with tree plantings (an additional 950 trees were planted along streams and the river during 2023!), assisted with our continued study of non-chemical ways to combat Japanese knotweed, and helped pull trash from our riverbanks - including in Westfield, where 21 people removed 4 tires and ~150 lbs of trash from the Missisquoi!

**Water quality sampling:** MRBA staff and volunteers collected water quality samples from 12 locations within our watershed during 2023; this includes 6 sites in Westfield, assessing the health of 3 streams, and the impact of a landowner-led water quality improvement project.

**Assisting farmers and landowners:** In addition to implementing projects (tree plantings, etc.), we also conducted several site assessments this year, including one Stream Wise assessment in Westfield. These are designed to help landowners understand what water may be doing on their property, and some ways to mitigate or improve their relationship with runoff.

**Educational programs:** We are always excited to connect with our younger watershed residents, and enjoy providing hands-on educational opportunities to students through our watershed model, rainfall simulator, Bugworks program, and by hosting high school summer interns. In 2023, we also connected with students through Lake Lessons, a half-day water-focused field trip for area 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and continued to assist several watershed schools with Winds, Waves, and Variables: a year-long educational experience.

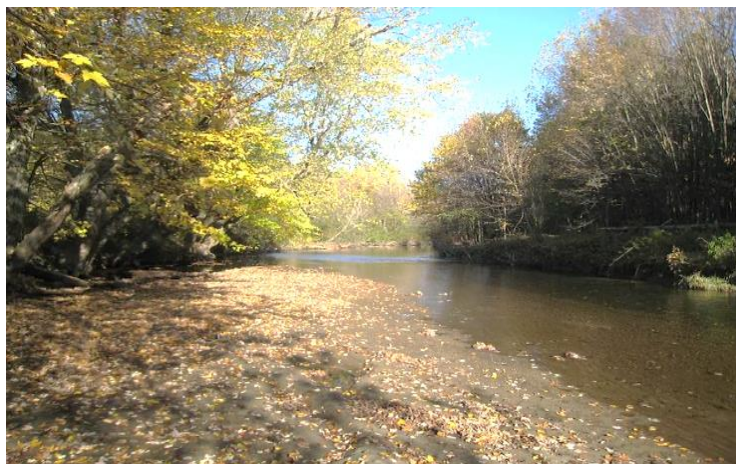
We respectfully request the Town's support of MRBA through a \$300 donation so that we may continue to serve our community with these programs. Your appropriation will help us continue to provide programs, assist landowners, and will help us continue expanding and increasing the skills of our team, so that we may better serve our watershed towns.

Your support of our organization in past years is so greatly appreciated and the funds have been put to good use. We thank you very much for your consideration of our 2024 request.

Sincerely,



John Little, MRBA President



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## NORTHEAST KINGDOM COUNCIL ON AGING (Requesting \$300)

481 Summer Street, Suite 101 ♦ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Phone: 802-748-5182; Fax: 802-748-6622 or email: [info@nekouncil.org](mailto:info@nekouncil.org)

On the Web: [www.nekcouncil.org](http://www.nekcouncil.org)

Local Office: 5452 US Route 5, Suite A ♦ Newport, VT 05855 ♦ 802-334-2190

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On behalf of the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, we are writing to ask for an appropriation from the town of Westfield to support our work with older Vermonters living in your community. Your support is vitally important as we continue to face challenges due to the increased costs for food and fuel, and the increasing need to protect and feed elder Vermonters.

The NEK Council on Aging serves as a central guide for older Vermonters to gain services and assistance in their communities. In FY2023 the Council aided **over 4,796 residents of the Northeast Kingdom** and with our congregate and home-delivered meals program, **delivered 209,379 meals**. We also offer a Helpline; Medicare counseling and Bootcamp; exercise and mobility programs; specially-trained staff who help people develop long-range planning as they age; family and caregiver support programs and grants; case management for those who need a bit more support with aging in place; as well as support to apply for fuel, food, and pharmacy programs. Our nutrition programs partially fund 14 meal sites and home delivered meals under the guidance of our registered dietitian. Working with RCT and Legal Aid, we provide for the complex challenges people face while living in a rural community. Our work is supplemented by over 400 volunteers who serve as home-delivered meals drivers, wellness program leaders, and home-based caregivers.



As a private, 501c (3) non-profit corporation, we have been serving older Vermonters for over 44 years. This year, we are requesting the amount of \$300 from the residents of the town of Westfield. We have enclosed a brief letter in support of this request for inclusion in your town report and a copy of our 2023 Annual Report.

Suggested wording for the warning article for town meeting follows: *“Shall the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$300 to assist the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging in providing services to older Vermonters in the ensuing year.”*

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions or need additional information.  
arm regards on behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of the NEK Council on Aging,

Meg Burmeister  
Executive Director

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**NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICES-NKHS (Requesting \$1,072)**

181 Crawford Road – Derby, P. O. Box 724, Newport, VT 05855 ♦ 802-334-6744 or 800-696-4979

2225 Portland Street, P. O. Box 368, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 ♦ 802-748-3181 or 800-649-0118

Emergency Crisis Line 802-334-6744 – 24 hours a day/7 days a week

On the Web: [www.nkhs.org](http://www.nkhs.org)

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Thank you, **Town of Westfield** voters, for your appropriation support at your Town Meetings. Annual appropriations are a vital funding source to provide needed services to residents who cannot otherwise afford care. The 2024 appropriation request of **\$1072** is the same amount voted on at the 2023 Town Meeting. This represents 1.11% of appropriation requests from 48 towns. We offer supportive, confidential program services for Emergency/Crisis Services, mental health, addiction, and developmental/intellectual disabilities. Our mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities by promoting hope, healing, and support.

**Summary Activity Report July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:**

- **3800** individuals of all ages in our service area utilized support services.
- **18** individuals **from the Town of Westfield** accessed supportive care at NKHS.
- Employees provided **over 300 hours** of community consultation, education, and outreach in community meetings, events, and trainings in NKHS offices, area schools, and businesses at no cost to participants. We offered QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) suicide awareness and prevention trainings, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and other educational opportunities to at least 700 Northeast Kingdom community members.
- **416** total dedicated professional employees, **2 from the Town of Westfield**, support community members in the Derby or St. Johnsbury offices, the satellite office in Hardwick, telehealth, homes, schools, and throughout Northeast Kingdom communities.

Good mental health is important for everyone. As a Designated Agency serving Vermont's system of care, NKHS is responsible for assuring that a comprehensive range of services are available regardless of an individual's ability to pay. A sliding fee scale is available for those in financial need. NKHS is asking the Town of Westfield voters to consider helping neighbors, family members, and friends receive the supports they need to live a happy, fulfilling life and be an active and contributing member of your community.

**Thank you so much for your support!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelsey Stavseth, Executive Director  
Board of Directors  
Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.



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**NORTHEAST KINGDOM LEARNING SERVICES, INC.-NEKLS (Requesting \$250)**

55 Seymour Lane, Suite 11 ♦ Newport, VT 05855

Phone: 802-334-6532 ♦ Fax: 802-334-6555

Email: [info@neklsvt.org](mailto:info@neklsvt.org) ♦ On the Web: [www.NEKLSTVT.org](http://www.NEKLSTVT.org)

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At NEKLS, our Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program, our K-12 Tutorial program and our Ready, Set, Grow Childcare Center (RSG) are on a mission to provide dynamic and impactful educational experiences for the members of communities like the Town of Westfield.

Imagine a future where our adult education initiatives flourish and every individual can access high-quality learning opportunities to improve their skills and pursue their dreams. We believe that education is the key to a brighter future for our students, and we need your support to make that happen. Your appropriation of \$250.00 will directly fuel our efforts to enhance and expand our programs.

In Newport, Vermont, our Ready, Set, Grow Childcare Center, a 5 STAR, high quality child care is licensed to serve 99 children.

Our Adult Education and Literacy programs, available at learning centers located in Canaan, Hardwick, Island Pond, Newport and St. Johnsbury, include programs for unenrolled individuals age 16 and older, who are interested in:

- earning their high school diploma or GED
- gaining skills to transition into a new career
- improving their academic skills in reading, writing and math
- becoming workforce training or college ready or
- learning or improving English language skills as a second language

Our Tutorial program partners with local schools throughout the NEK to provide tutorial services for students K-12 to help them achieve academic success.

Join us in making a difference by investing in the education of your community. Enclosed is our NEKLS appropriations information sheet to include in your town report; it is a summary of our services for taxpayers' information.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Faust  
Executive Director

<b>TOTAL (K-12) TUTORIAL CHILDREN SERVED</b> <b>31</b>	<b>TOTAL TUTORIAL HOURS</b> <b>1,700</b>	<b>TUTORIAL STUDENTS SERVED ACHIEVED MEASURABLE SKILL GAIN</b> <b>38%</b>
<b>TOTAL AEL STUDENTS</b> <b>165</b> <small>AEL (ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY)</small>	<b>TOTAL AEL INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS</b> <b>8,840</b>	<b>AVERAGE HOURS PER AEL STUDENT</b> <b>53.5</b>
<b>STUDENTS OBTAINING HIGH SCHOOL CREDENTIALS</b> <b>21</b>	<b>FUND DEVELOPMENT &amp; COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS</b> <b>48</b>	<b>AWARDED CITY &amp; TOWN APPROPRIATIONS</b> <b>25</b>
<b>ESL STUDENTS SERVED</b> <b>16</b> <small>ESL (ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)</small>	<b>TOTAL HOURS OF ESL SERVICE</b> <b>1,324</b>	<b>HOURS PER ESL STUDENT</b> <b>82.75</b>



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## **THE OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM & HISTORIC VILLAGE (Requesting \$700)**

### **Orleans County Historical Society, Inc.**

109 Old Stone House Road ♦ Orleans, VT 05860 ♦ 802-754-2022

Email: [information@oldstonehousemuseum.org](mailto:information@oldstonehousemuseum.org) ♦ On the Web: [www.oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org)

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History enriches our lives. It infuses meaning into the places we care about and helps build stronger communities. Since 1925, the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village, known also as the Orleans County Historical Society, has preserved and shared the rich history of our corner of the world. The museum has grown to include eight historic buildings and 75,000+ artifacts that illustrate our regional history.



The Old Stone House attracts nearly 5,000 visitors to Orleans County per year, bringing essential business and money directly into the region. Grant-funded projects inject money into the local economy employing contractors, tradespeople, suppliers, and professional services in the preservation of local history.

The Old Stone House provides jobs for seven permanent staff members as well as up to five seasonal employees. In the summer of 2023, three local middle schoolers worked on staff. In 2024, the middle school program will continue with added opportunities for high school students.

Daily tours, events, research, education programs and recreational opportunities make the Old Stone House a vital cornerstone to Orleans County life and culture. Hundreds of children, families and adults participate annually in the wide variety of programs offered. We are proud of our year-round, onsite educational programming, and this year, we added in-school and after-school heritage programs doubling our outreach.

We are dedicated to preserving and sharing history, enriching the culture of our community, and serving as an economic driver for our region. To do this, we rely on support from the towns we most directly serve. With this in mind, we ask that you support the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village this year. We appreciate your ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,

Molly Veysey, Executive Director, Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village

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## **ORLEANS COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION (Requesting \$500)**

278 Roaring Brook Rd. ♦ P.O. Box 580 ♦ Barton, VT 05822

Phone: 802-525-3555 (Shelia Martin, Director/Treasurer)

Email: [ocftreas@gmail.com](mailto:ocftreas@gmail.com) ♦ On the Web: [www.orleanscountyfair.net](http://www.orleanscountyfair.net)

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The Orleans County Fair Association is proud to have served this community by hosting the Orleans County Fair since 1867, 157 years this year!

We are a non-profit organization with all the typical struggles being experienced in today's society. Our long-term success has come from old fashioned Northeast Kingdom pride and determination as well as reliance on the creativity of our volunteer members.

The OCFA is recognizing the need to maintain our wonderful traditions and history as well as seek and implement new ideas with an adjusted business plan. Roaring Brook Park is an expansive venue which in recent years has been helping to celebrate Memorial Day and 4th of July festivities as well as many other local celebrations. I'm sure most of you have attended the grounds at one time or other in the past. Our continued goal is to invite your return to the park and to introduce you to our new and exciting plans!

This past year we were able to demolish two of the barns and hope to begin rebuilding the new horse barn this year. This is a big project and our local 4-H Club has done a great job assisting with fundraising. Our donations also go to maintain our grounds, upgrade lighting. We appreciate any assistance we may receive. Our on-going efforts to maintain the 150-year traditions and to include modern entertainment and experiences brings us to you for a little help.

We are seeking an appropriation in the amount of \$500 toward these efforts. Any other amount would be wonderful. It is also our pledge to you that we will apply any funds received in an important and meaningful way and that we will report back to you next March on specifically how your contribution was utilized.

Thank you for your support,  
The Orleans County Fair Association  
Shelia Martin, Director/Treasurer





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## ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (Requesting \$16,409)

P.O. Box 355 ♦ Newport, VT 05855

Phone: 802-334-3333 ♦ **Emergencies: 911**

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The Orleans County Sheriff's Department has been honored to provide patrol services to you this past year. The enclosed chart shows the total incidents, total arrests and traffic violations for your town from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

This past year has been a busy one for the Orleans County Sheriff's Department. The OCSD was able to send two (2) Deputy's to the Level III full-time Police Academy in Pittsford, VT which is an intense sixteen (16) week program. When a law enforcement officer is level III there are no restrictions on their certifications with the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. Congratulation Deputy Andrew Gonyaw and Deputy Jeremy Cotnoir we are all very excited to see where your career with OCSD will take you.

The Orleans County Sheriff's Department has collaborated and worked cases once again this past year with the United States Marshal's, ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms) DEA (Department of Drug Enforcement), United States Border Protection/Customs, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Vermont Drug Task Force in an effort to make our community a safer place to live and a pleasurable place to come and visit.

The OCSD hired a new Deputy, William Kulakowski who brings over eight (8) years of law enforcement experience with him. Deputy Kulakowski stepped up and became a valuable instructor in the area of Use of Force along with Deputy Gonyaw, which is extremely beneficial to this agency and our community.

The OCSD has hired Deputy Daniel Locke who is a trained Drug Recognition Expert who travels throughout the counties assisting local and state law enforcement with interactions involving individuals believed to be operating under the influence of drugs. This expertise has and will continue to benefit Orleans County and our surrounding counties to assist in keeping our roads a safer place for travel. Deputy Locke is also a Field Training Officer and Firearms Instructor which has already benefited the OCSD.

The OCSD continues and will continue to work with supporting our Child Advocacy Center with a Deputy investigating crimes against our children as well as working with the States Attorney's Office with a grant that we currently hold.

Deputy Doug Morrill is assigned to Lake Region Union High School as the School Resource Officer and continues to build strong positive relationships with our young people. This position has and continues to prove so valuable to our community. We are all very lucky Deputy Morrill cares so much for this population of young people and does a wonderful job of being a positive role model for them.

The OCSD actively participates in grants through Governor Highway Safety as well as Operation Stone Garden which help to supplement patrol throughout Orleans County to enhance the safety of our residents.

We continue to maintain a "Drug Take-back" box in our lobby at the Sheriff's Department. The Department has collected approximately 255.4lbs of prescriptions in 2023. We also participate with Wal-Mart and Kinney Drugs in Derby on National Drug Take Back Day. Each year this program, in cooperation with the DEA, is responsible for getting hundreds of pounds of drugs out of medicine cabinets and off the street and properly disposed of by incineration.

In December the Sheriff's department celebrated the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Operation Santa". We received generous, overwhelming support from many local area businesses and community members. **Thank you!** The program helped bring a happy holiday season to approximately **358** children in our community. Dispatcher Tammy LaCourse has always been someone who has been a big part of helping our community, whether it is supporting youth sporting events, organizing food drives and items to help our local high schools with their community closets to Operation Santa. Tammy works so hard on this, keeping track of all the donations that come in from our community members is a full-time job in itself. Tammy stays after her regular work hours, comes in on weekends to make sure that everything is where it needs to be so no child goes without, this is all done on her own time. I personally am so grateful for her dedication and hard work that she puts into all of these events yearly. Thank you Tammy!!

It is an honor to work and live in Orleans County. Working with the local selectboards to meet the needs of each town is a rewarding part of my job. Keeping the lines of communication between the select boards by both attending in person meetings, and sending monthly reporting system statistics helps keep our community's needs at the forefront of our services.

**Orleans County Sheriff's Department Administration Office Hours: 8-4 pm Monday – Friday. Patrol Hours Day/Evening Hours Seven (7) days a week call 802-334-3333 and press 1 to speak to Dispatch.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheriff Jennifer L. Harlow

(continued on next page)

### Town of Westfield - Total Incident Report

Nature of Incident	Total Incidents
Agency Assist	2
Animal Problem	1
Civil Process	6
Directed Patrol	5
Informational Only	1
Motor Vehicle Complaint	1
Records Request	1
Sex Offender Registry Check	1
Speed Cart	1
Subpoena Service	1
Threats/ Harrassment	1
Traffic Stop	20
<b>Total Incidents for Town of Westfield</b>	<b>41</b>

### Town of Westfield - Total Traffic Violation Report

Total Traffic Tickets	11
Total Warnings	15

### Town of Westfield - Total Arrest Report

Excessive Speed	1
<b>Total Arrests (by count) for Town of Westfield</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Arrests (by person) for Town of Westfield</b>	<b>1</b>



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**ORLEANS ESSEX VNA & HOSPICE INC. (Requesting \$2,500)**

46 Lakemont Road ♦ Newport, VT 05855  
Phone: 802-334-5213 ♦ Fax: 802-334-8822

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Orleans Essex Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice, Inc. provides professional quality home health services to the residents of the 24 communities in Orleans and northern Essex counties. We serve the elderly, homebound and chronically ill through the VNA and homemaker programs and the terminally ill through our Hospice program. Special programs include a variety of clinics available to the public. As the only not-for-profit agency serving the area, our services are available to anyone in need regardless of their ability to pay and all clients are charged the same fee for the same service. We are locally controlled by a volunteer Board of Directors representing the towns we serve. We adhere to strict regulations, which prohibit the practice of charging more to a client who can afford services to compensate for those who cannot. All revenue, by law, goes back into the Agency to provide, maintain, and improve services and programs.

**SUMMARY OF SERVICES:**

Total Agency Visits FY 2023..... 36,449  
Total Visits FY 2023 Town of Westfield..... 251

During Fiscal Year 2023, home based services were provided to 20 individuals in Westfield for a total of 251 multi-disciplinary visits. 10 residents received services through Agency-sponsored wellness programs.

Appropriation Request for 2024..... \$2,500.00

Members of your community are in need of services daily and they receive them from the dedicated staff of the Orleans Essex VNA and Hospice, seven days a week, 24-hours a day. The funds your community appropriates to our Agency allow us to continue providing much needed care to individuals without third party insurance and those unable to pay, and provide special programs open to all community members. The Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice is supported by donations, service fees, and the generosity of communities who realize that in order to continue providing high quality home health services to their family members, friends, and neighbors, appropriations are desperately needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyne B. Limoges, MSN, RN  
Executive Director



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**POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER, INC. (Requesting \$500)**

4473 Barton-Orleans Road ♦ Orleans, VT 05860  
802-754-2228  
On the Web: [www.frontieranimalsociety.com](http://www.frontieranimalsociety.com)

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The Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter ,Inc. has continued to rescue, provide healthcare and housing to and adopt into caring homes over 350 dogs and cats in 2023.

Town appropriations are a very necessary part of the shelter's yearly survival and the monies are used to provide food, veterinarian services, medicines, utilities and maintenance. We have an amazing staff and volunteer pool who are dedicated to the welfare of our animals. During the past 12 months, volunteers have given over 4050 hours of their time. THANK YOU to all who work with our dogs and kitties and to the area towns who support our mission through donations and town appropriations.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hampton  
President and PMFAS Board Member



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## RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION, INC.-RCT (Requesting \$600)

1677 Industrial Parkway ♦ Lyndonville, VT 05851

Phone: 802-748-8170 ♦ Fax: 802-748-5275

On the Web: <http://riderct.org>

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Thank you for your continued support for Rural Community Transportation. Your support is felt in our communities daily. Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that has provided public transportation services throughout Lamoille, Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex Counties. RCT operates fare-free shuttle and commuter bus routes, micro transit, and emergency relief transportation facilitating connections between towns in our region and the ability to travel throughout Vermont and beyond. RCT also provides demand-response transportation services under several programs, such as Medicaid, the Older People & People with Disabilities program, and Rides 2 Recovery.

RCT runs four commuter routes to enhance access to employment, connecting Morrisville to the towns of Barre and Waterbury and St. Johnsbury to Montpelier and to Littleton. We operate three shuttle routes tying Morrisville, Newport/Derby, and St. Johnsbury/Lyndonville residents and nearby Vermonters to essential locations, from grocery stores to medical centers. Shopping routes provide similar services spanning Morrisville and Stowe in the west, Newport and surrounding towns in the north, and Lyndon to New Hampshire in the east. Our neighbors, who utilized over 130,000 rides in FY2023, have expressed their gratitude and noted their dependence on our services.

RCT operates with federal and state funding; however, our funding sources typically require between 20% and 50% locally matched dollars. All town appropriations received are used to provide the required local match and are crucial to RCT's operations. Your generosity allows RCT to transform your funding into the ability to thrive, grow, and provide your community with reliable, quality transportation service.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support,



Caleb R. Grant  
Executive Director  
Rural Community Transportation



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## UMBRELLA (Requesting \$400)

1330 Main Street ♦ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 ♦ 79 Coventry Street ♦ Newport, VT 05855

Phone: 802-748-1992 or 802-334-0148 or 800-916-8645

On the Web: [www.umbrellanek.org](http://www.umbrellanek.org)

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Since 1976, Umbrella has ensured that communities in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties have access to services that cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Umbrella operates 4 multifaceted, client-centered programs and plays a crucial role in decreasing the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual violence. Services offered include:

- **Social Change** focuses on prevention education and initiatives in schools and in the community that aim towards preventing gender-based violence, and creating a community where abuse and oppression are acknowledged and addressed. One of our strategies is to provide pathways for girls to work within this social change and prevention field through the Youth in Power Program. In FY23, we provided 2,613 youth with educational workshops throughout our 18 school partners. We provided 387 adults with educational programs through 20 workshops.
- **Advocacy Program** serves survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, teen dating violence, as well as violence related to gender or sexual orientation - which in total we characterize as gender-based violence. In our work, the client leads and we support them in any way they need us to including legal advocacy, housing advocacy, support with parenting after trauma and more. In FY23, 750 individuals received direct advocacy, 81 people were housed in our emergency shelters as a result of fleeing domestic or sexual violence and 15 were housed in our Transitional Housing program.
- **Family Based Services** focuses on child-care and strengthening family relationships. *Kingdom Child Care Connection (KCCC)* assists families in the Northeast Kingdom to receive subsidized child care, appropriate child care referrals and specialized childcare placement support. *The Family Room* offers supervised visitation for families throughout the Northeast Kingdom. In FY23, KCCC served 801 families and the Family Room worked with 63 families.

- **Economic Empowerment** serves women with significant barriers to employment in Orleans and Northern Essex Counties. Our *Cornucopia* program, and our social enterprise, *Dolcetti* each wrap around women to support them in building job readiness skills while helping them to address challenges in their lives so they are able to move towards financial self-sufficiency. In FY23 as part of the skill-building program, participants packaged and prepared 39,509 meals for homebound seniors through Meals on Wheels.

Given that some services are provided anonymously, it is difficult to provide each town with a precise number of people served by Umbrella. However, at least 1 household in the Town of Westfield were served by Umbrella in Fiscal Year 2023 and the community as a whole benefited from prevention and outreach programs in schools, as well as training and consultation for human service and law enforcement professionals.

Community support is critical to sustain our programming and to discover innovative approaches to the work Umbrella does. We are deeply grateful for Westfield's support.

Respectfully,

Amanda Cochrane  
Executive Director



Umbrella Inc. was incorporated in 1981 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is: To cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression.

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## **VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING-VCIL (Requesting \$95)**

11 East State Street ♦ Montpelier, VT 05602

Phone: 802-229-0501 ♦ Voice & TTY: 800-639-1522 ♦ Fax: 802-229-0503

Email: [info@vcil.org](mailto:info@vcil.org) ♦ On the Web: [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)

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For over 44 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'23 (10/2022-9/2023) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **17** people and provided **7** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'23, **2** residents of **Westfield** received services from the following programs:

- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)



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## **VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK (Requesting \$250)**

600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240 ♦ Williston, VT 05495-7549

Phone: 800-800-4005 ♦ On the Web: [www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/](http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/)

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The mission of the Vermont Family Network (VFN) is to empower and support all Vermont children, youth, and families, especially those with disabilities or special health needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations, The Vermont Parent Information Center (VPIC) and Parent to Parent Vermont (P2P), merged, VFN has collectively served families across Vermont for more than 30 years. Vermont children, youth and families are provided with a “one-stop shop” to help them reach their full potential. VFN gives a strong start, lifts family voices, and advances inclusive communities.

We are proud to serve over 1000 families yearly with expert information, referral, and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport and Rutland, an annual conference, and more through our Family Support Program.

For more information visit our website at [www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/](http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/).

Sincerely,  
Claire Giroux-Williams  
Development Manager



## **VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION TASK FORCE-RFP (Requesting \$100)**

**c/o Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)**

170 Lower Sumner Hill Road ♦ Sumner, ME 04292

802-828-4582 ♦ On the Web: [www.vacd.org](http://www.vacd.org)

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On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, designs installations, and finds financial resources to support the costs of construction. During the **26+ years** of the program, **1,177 grants** totaling nearly **\$2.8 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for the installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have made several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program in recent years, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. We have increased the maximum grant award amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per project (\$15,000 for a couple special case projects). New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing systems, and drafting site development, are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2023 was **\$199,158** of which **\$82,374** was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of **17 rural fire protection projects** throughout Vermont. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.

Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. In FY 2023, we received over **\$9,375** in town appropriations from **90 towns**. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

**235** Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tom Maclay, Chair



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**THE NORTH COUNTRY FRIENDS  
OF THE VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (Requesting \$100)**

2 Church Street, Suite 3B ♦ Burlington, VT 05401  
Phone: 802-864-5741 ♦ On the Web: [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org)

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The North Country Friends Group of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) appreciates the Town of Westfield for supporting *SymphonyKids* programs for the children in your town. VSO's *SymphonyKids* education and community collaborations have always been an important part of their statewide mission and engages students in the Northeast Kingdom annually. The goal of the VSO's *SymphonyKids* is to explore the delights of classical music with Vermont school children, and to inspire them with a lifelong enthusiasm for music through a variety of high-quality, educational, and fun programs.

*SymphonyKids* involves several youth music education programs which benefit our youth in the Northeast Kingdom. Our most popular and furthest reaching program is our Musicians in Schools offering.

- The Vermont Symphony Orchestra collaborates with the Vermont Department of Education and theatre practitioners to deliver its signature **Musicians in Schools** programs, highlighting the connection between STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and music. These programs incorporate interactive performative pieces that demonstrate a variety of curriculum, such as having our string instrument trio explore proportions and pitch through Mozart, patterns through Bach, and arithmetic through a ragtime melody. Our brass instrument trio examines physical sciences like sound waves and vibration through the music of Star Wars, and our woodwind instrument trio joins an intergalactic space traveler to investigate pollination, weather and other natural sciences via Beethoven, Vivaldi and American folk tunes.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra visited the William H. & Lucy F. Rand Memorial Library to provide educational performances to local library patrons and youth. This event engaged community members from Westfield as well as North Troy, Troy, Jay, and Lowell. We look forward to once again providing outstanding interactive and experiential learning opportunities to the students of the Northeast Kingdom, and if we are unable to join the students in the classrooms then will work hard to offer engagement opportunities within the communities who support this mission.

The 2024 appropriation from your town will go towards new Musicians in Schools performances in our community and support other efforts of the *SymphonyKids* mission. Your support in providing access to classical music for ALL children is greatly appreciated! Should you have questions regarding the Vermont Symphony Orchestra or their programs, feel free to contact Devon Cooke, Director of Development at [devon@vso.org](mailto:devon@vso.org) or 802-864-5741, x125.

The 2024 appropriation from your town will go towards new Musicians-in-Schools performances in our community and support other efforts of the *SymphonyKids* mission. Your support in providing access to classical music for ALL children is greatly appreciated! Should you have questions regarding the Vermont Symphony Orchestra or their programs, feel free to contact Devon Cooke, Director of Development at [devon@vso.org](mailto:devon@vso.org) or 802-864-5741, x125.

Thank you!

Ruth Marquette, on behalf of the North Country Friends of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra  
15 Taylor Street, Newport, VT 05855  
[raamarq@hotmail.com](mailto:raamarq@hotmail.com)



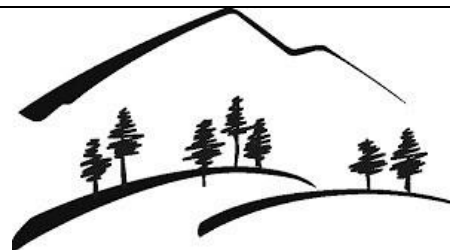


# ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

## JAY-WESTFIELD JOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORTS

### Principal's Report

Jay Westfield Elementary School  
Hunter Couture, Principal  
257 Revoir Flats Road  
Jay, Vermont 05859  
(802)-988-4042



Dear Jay and Westfield Communities:

As the principal of Jay Westfield Elementary School, I am proud to share a report and update on the happenings and achievements within our school community.

**Academic Excellence:** Our dedicated team of educators has been working to ensure academic excellence for all our students. We continue to implement a Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports to identify learning gaps and provide extra supports for students as needed. The school has been working closely with the NCSU coaching teams to increase academic engagement and bring new programs and educational activities to all students.

**Enrichment Programs:** We have successfully implemented several enrichment programs aimed at providing students with unique opportunities. The art program has increased, we have added a librarian and performance arts teacher. Our goal is to nurture not only academic skills but also creativity, leadership, and teamwork. Encore afterschool program continues with engaging opportunities including, Tae-Kwon-Do, newspaper club and modern dance.

**Community Engagement:** Jay Westfield Elementary believes in the importance of community engagement. We have had several community events, including trunk-or-treat, a school-wide circus with more events upcoming in the spring. We also want to thank the Jay Focus Group for providing a generous donation to support basketball in the school. Another thank you to the volunteers with the Jay Rec Trails; we spent one day a week during the fall exploring the trails and look forward to going back in the spring.

**Infrastructure Improvements:** To enhance the learning environment, we have invested in infrastructure improvements. This includes cosmetic updates in classrooms and hallways, technology enhancements, HVAC upgrades, and new sports equipment. With the help of donations from families and generous time donations from a dedicated group of local families, a beautiful outdoor learning shelter was constructed in the PreK outdoor space.

**Challenges and Future Plans:** While celebrating our successes, we acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. We are requesting a modest budget increase with no additions to staffing or facilities maintenance requests. We are committed to addressing any issues and continuously improving our educational programs. Our future plans include expanding educational resources, fostering a culture of inclusivity, and exploring innovative teaching methods.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the school office. Your feedback is invaluable as we work together for the betterment of our students and our beloved town.

Thank you for your continued trust in Jay Westfield Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunter Couture

# JAY/WESTFIELD JOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Phone: (802) 988-4042**

**Fax: (802) 988-9813**

## Principal

Hunter Couture

## Faculty

Pre-K	Julie Ste. Marie
Kindergarten	Lara Starr
Grades 1	Micaela Ortiz
Grades 2 & 3	Jane Halbeisen
Grades 3 & 4	Gerardo Ortiz
Grades 5 & 6	Sydney Vanier
Special Education	Abbie Axtel
Special Ed Case Manager	Joselyn Barry
Special Education (Virtual)	Michelle Greene
Performing Arts	Maura Gahan
Art	Heather Brault
Physical Education	Amy Clements
Intervention	Sue Pigeon-Vanier
School-Based Clinician	Ashley Sevigny
School Nurse	Lisa Anderson

## Staff

Administrative Assistant	Kelly Meunier
Paraeducator Pre-K	Allana Whittier
Paraeducator	Lourdes Ortiz
Paraeducator	Julia Gregory
Paraeducator	Michelle Cote
Paraeducator	Lizzy Gilcris
Paraeducator/Afterschool Coordinator	Eva Lemieux
Social Emotional/Behavior Support	Julia Smith
Food Services	Tosca Johnson
Kitchen Assistant	Beth Lemay
Custodian	Travis Judd
Nurse Assistant	Jo McKay

## School Board

Jay	Molly Dockter, Kim Arnold, Jeff Morse
Westfield	Andrew Emory (Chair), Mary Gagne, Nicole Dunn

## Student Enrollment Count:

Due to student confidentiality concerns, student's names are no longer printed in the annual School Report.

## Jay Westfield Elementary School

	<u>Jay</u>	<u>Westfield</u>
Pre-K	9	6
K-6	39	37

**Total: 91 students Pre-K Thru 6<sup>th</sup>**

## Junior High School

	<u>Jay</u>	<u>Westfield</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2	2
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade.	2	7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

## North Country Union High

	<u>Jay</u>	<u>Westfield</u>
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7	3
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7	4
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2	3
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4	3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>

**JAY/WESTFIELD JOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	FY2023 BUDGET	FY2023 ACTUAL	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>TUITION</b>				
Pre-K Tuition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL TUITION</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>INVESTMENT EARNINGS-INTEREST</b>				
Investment Earnings - Interest	(\$2,500)	(\$1,355)	(\$2,500)	(\$2,500)
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT EARNINGS-INTEREST</b>	<b>(\$2,500)</b>	<b>(\$1,355)</b>	<b>(\$2,500)</b>	<b>(\$2,500)</b>
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>				
Regular Elem Assessment	(\$1,673,405)	(\$1,673,340)	(\$1,732,324)	(\$1,971,035)
<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>(\$1,673,405)</b>	<b>(\$1,673,340)</b>	<b>(\$1,732,324)</b>	<b>(\$1,971,035)</b>
<b>OTHER LOCAL REVENUES</b>				
Misc. Other Local Revenue	\$0	(\$12,143)	\$0	\$0
Fund Balance as Revenue	(\$25,500)	\$0	(\$69,000)	(\$122,000)
<b>TOTAL OTHER LOCAL REVENUES</b>	<b>(\$25,500)</b>	<b>(\$12,143)</b>	<b>(\$69,000)</b>	<b>(\$122,000)</b>
<b>SUBGRANT REVENUES</b>				
ESSER II Subgrant	\$0	(\$88,277)	\$0	\$0
Medicaid Sub Grant	(\$7,000)	(\$4,634)	(\$7,000)	(\$7,000)
ESSER III Subgrant	(\$125,997)	(\$21,912)	(\$125,997)	\$0
Subgrants for Schoolwide Programs	(\$31,698)	\$0	(\$42,075)	(\$42,075)
Other Subgrants	(\$650)	(\$70)	(\$700)	(\$700)
<b>TOTAL SUBGRANT REVENUES</b>	<b>(\$165,345)</b>	<b>(\$114,893)</b>	<b>(\$175,772)</b>	<b>(\$49,775)</b>
<b>FEDERAL GRANT REVENUES</b>				
REAP Grant Funds	\$0	(\$30,451)	\$0	\$0
CRRSA PreK Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ARPA PreK Grant Revenues	\$0	(\$7,136)	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL GRANT REVENUES</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$37,587)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>(\$1,866,750)</b>	<b>(\$1,839,318)</b>	<b>(\$1,979,596)</b>	<b>(\$2,145,310)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>DIRECT INSTRUCTION</b>				
Salary - Elementary Teachers	\$390,817	\$289,898	\$354,593	\$405,201
Wages - Elementary Para	\$44,056	\$6,865	\$11,065	\$13,752
Substitutes Pay - Elementary	\$10,000	\$51,740	\$10,000	\$20,000
Health Ins - Elementary	\$118,271	\$78,119	\$110,127	\$110,618
HRA	\$28,665	\$19,146	\$22,900	\$22,900
FICA - Elementary	\$33,268	\$25,036	\$28,738	\$33,580
Life Insurance - Elementary	\$430	\$181	\$287	\$286
VSTRS New Hire Health Care	\$2,500	\$1,402	\$2,500	\$2,500
Municipal Retirement	\$2,384	\$413	\$747	\$962
Workers Comp	\$3,394	\$2,687	\$3,072	\$3,687
Unemployment - Elementary	\$140	\$115	\$195	\$200
Tuition - Elementary	\$7,500	\$1,800	\$10,000	\$10,000
Dental Ins - Elementary	\$4,548	\$3,128	\$4,032	\$4,500
Long Term Disability - Elementary	\$1,354	\$914	\$1,134	\$1,299
Purch Services - Elementary (GMFS)	\$10,000	\$23,264	\$10,000	\$15,000
Encore-ASP	\$15,800	\$15,800	\$15,800	\$15,800

	<b>FY2023 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2023 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2025 PROPOSED</b>
Services Purchased Thru NCSU	\$16,750	\$51,377	\$55,000	\$55,000
Purchased Property Services - Elementary	\$6,000	\$3,307	\$6,000	\$6,000
Field Trips - Elementary	\$1,250	\$2,276	\$0	\$2,500
Travel - Elementary	\$500	\$1,102	\$500	\$1,000
Supplies - Elementary	\$10,500	\$18,425	\$15,000	\$20,000
Books\Periodicals - Elementary	\$5,000	\$4,382	\$5,000	\$5,000
Computer Software - Elementary	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$4,000
Dues\Fees - Staff	\$500	\$445	\$500	\$1,000
Dues\Fees - Students	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0
<b>TOTAL DIRECT INSTRUCTION PRE-K</b>	<b>\$714,627</b>	<b>\$601,821</b>	<b>\$669,689</b>	<b>\$754,785</b>
Salary - Pre K Teacher	\$71,260	\$77,355	\$81,416	\$84,347
Wages - Pre K Para	\$19,645	\$9,844	\$24,022	\$27,866
Substitutes Pay - Pre K	\$2,000	\$501	\$2,000	\$2,000
Health Ins - Pre K	\$24,277	\$24,751	\$25,108	\$31,233
HRA	\$4,200	\$0	\$4,200	\$4,200
FICA - Pre K	\$6,954	\$6,401	\$8,219	\$8,737
Life Insurance - Pre K	\$77	\$54	\$70	\$70
Municipal Retirement	\$933	\$592	\$1,622	\$1,951
Workers Comp - Pre K	\$708	\$927	\$886	\$943
Unemployment - Pre K	\$26	\$26	\$30	\$30
Tuition - Pre K	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dental Ins - Pre K	\$1,350	\$1,008	\$1,008	\$1,008
Long Term Disability - Pre K	\$282	\$263	\$327	\$348
Field Trips - Pre K	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$250
Preschool Tuition	\$7,312	\$10,968	\$15,056	\$15,536
Supplies - Pre K	\$500	\$1,763	\$500	\$2,000
Books\Periodicals - Pre K	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$500
Computer Software - Pre K	\$0	\$222	\$500	\$500
Dues & Fees	\$0	\$280	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL PRE-K SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$140,774</b>	<b>\$134,954</b>	<b>\$166,213</b>	<b>\$181,519</b>
Salary - Schoolwide Teacher	\$27,700	\$0	\$24,738	\$30,622
Health Ins - Schoolwide	\$13,550	\$0	\$8,258	\$9,910
HRA	\$2,100	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
FICA - Schoolwide	\$2,119	\$0	\$1,892	\$2,343
Life Insurance - Schoolwide	\$24	\$0	\$22	\$22
VSTRS Pension Payment	\$5,540	\$0	\$6,184	\$7,656
VSTRS New hire Health Care	\$675	\$0	\$700	\$700
Workers Comp - Schoolwide	\$216	\$0	\$208	\$257
Unemployment - Schoolwide	\$13	\$0	\$15	\$15
Tuition - Schoolwide	\$1,366	\$0	\$1,366	\$1,356
Dental Ins - Schoolwide	\$325	\$0	\$336	\$336
Long Term Disability - Schoolwide	\$86	\$0	\$77	\$95
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$53,714</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$45,796</b>	<b>\$55,312</b>
Wages- Para's Special Education	\$56,545	\$95,105	\$124,638	\$171,242
Substitutes Pay	\$1,000	\$2,436	\$1,000	\$2,000
Health Ins	\$9,411	\$7,710	\$39,688	\$20,041
HRA	\$2,200	\$2,764	\$4,720	\$2,200
FICA	\$4,326	\$7,411	\$9,535	\$13,253
Life Insurance	\$72	\$85	\$133	\$157
Municipal Retirement	\$2,686	\$4,860	\$8,413	\$11,987

		<b>FY2023 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2023 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2025 PROPOSED</b>
	Workers Comp	\$441	\$780	\$1,047	\$1,438
	Unemployment	\$32	\$45	\$153	\$180
	Dental Ins	\$342	\$909	\$1,786	\$1,108
	Long Term Disability	\$175	\$311	\$386	\$531
	Special Services Assessment	\$123,990	\$123,990	\$132,691	\$128,243
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>		<b>\$201,220</b>	<b>\$246,405</b>	<b>\$324,191</b>	<b>\$352,380</b>
<b>GUIDANCE</b>					
	Salary- Guidance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,732
	Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,451
	Supplies	\$0	\$42	\$0	\$500
	Dues/Fees	\$0	\$340	\$0	\$500
<b>TOTAL GUIDANCE</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$382</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$35,183</b>
<b>HEALTH SERVICES</b>					
	Salary - Nurse	\$60,404	\$36,384	\$38,294	\$40,542
	Wages - Nurse Support	\$0	\$8,654	\$9,890	\$17,291
	Substitutes Pay	\$500	\$611	\$500	\$750
	Health Ins	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,200	\$0
	FICA	\$4,621	\$3,492	\$3,724	\$4,482
	Life Insurance	\$96	\$44	\$44	\$44
	Workers Comp	\$471	\$424	\$405	\$492
	Unemployment	\$26	\$26	\$30	\$30
	Tuition	\$2,732	\$0	\$2,732	\$2,713
	Dental Ins	\$403	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Long Term Disability	\$187	\$141	\$149	\$179
	Purchased Property Services	\$165	\$122	\$165	\$165
	Supplies	\$1,518	\$1,367	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Dues\Fees	\$0	\$275	\$0	\$300
<b>TOTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>		<b>\$73,123</b>	<b>\$51,539</b>	<b>\$59,133</b>	<b>\$68,988</b>
<b>PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES</b>					
	Contract Services - SBC	\$10,000	\$19,158	\$10,000	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$19,158</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>SPEECH/AUDIOLOGY SERVICES</b>					
	Wages - Speech Para	\$14,898	\$14,033	\$16,545	\$17,412
	Health Ins	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
	FICA	\$1,140	\$1,150	\$1,266	\$1,332
	Life Insurance	\$14	\$13	\$13	\$13
	Municipal Retirement	\$708	\$753	\$1,117	\$1,219
	Workers Comp	\$116	\$145	\$139	\$146
	Unemployment	\$6	\$6	\$8	\$8
	Long Term Disability	\$46	\$48	\$51	\$54
	Contracted Services - Speech	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL SPEECH/AUDIOLOGY SERVICES</b>		<b>\$17,928</b>	<b>\$17,148</b>	<b>\$20,139</b>	<b>\$21,184</b>
<b>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY</b>					
	Regular Ed Occupational Therapy Svcs	\$0	\$365	\$0	\$500
<b>TOTAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$365</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION</b>					
	Salary - Teacher	\$0	\$1,030	\$1,000	\$1,000
	FICA	\$0	\$84	\$77	\$77
	Purchased & Technical Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,114</b>	<b>\$1,077</b>	<b>\$1,077</b>

	<b>FY2023 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2023 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2025 PROPOSED</b>
<b>LIBRARY</b>				
Salary - Lib Media	\$8,727	\$0	\$10,188	\$0
Health Ins	\$1,206	\$0	\$3,303	\$0
Health Reimbursement Account	\$315	\$0	\$800	\$0
FICA	\$668	\$0	\$779	\$0
Life Insurance	\$7	\$0	\$44	\$0
Workers Comp	\$68	\$0	\$86	\$0
Unemployment	\$2	\$0	\$26	\$0
Tuition	\$410	\$0	\$542	\$0
Dental Ins	\$51	\$0	\$134	\$0
Long Term Disability	\$27	\$0	\$32	\$0
Purchased Service from the SU	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,273
<b>TOTAL LIBRARY</b>	<b>\$11,481</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,933</b>	<b>\$16,273</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>				
Supplies	\$5,000	\$1,757	\$5,000	\$5,000
Computer Software	\$0	\$6,229	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$7,986</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>				
Path Stipend	\$650	\$70	\$700	\$700
FICA	\$50	\$5	\$54	\$54
Municipal Retirement	\$31	\$0	\$47	\$47
Contracted Services - HHB	\$0	\$453	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$731</b>	<b>\$528</b>	<b>\$801</b>	<b>\$801</b>
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>				
Wages - Minute Keeper	\$1,500	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,500
FICA	\$115	\$92	\$115	\$115
Legal	\$500	\$134	\$500	\$500
Liability Insurance	\$4,052	\$5,245	\$5,775	\$6,237
Advertising	\$500	\$168	\$1,000	\$500
Supplies	\$0	\$23	\$0	\$1,000
Dues	\$1,000	\$371	\$500	\$500
Other Board Expenses/Contingency	\$42,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$49,667</b>	<b>\$7,233</b>	<b>\$9,390</b>	<b>\$10,352</b>
<b>OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT</b>				
NCSU Assessment	\$52,787	\$52,787	\$64,283	\$93,039
<b>TOTAL OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT</b>	<b>\$52,787</b>	<b>\$52,787</b>	<b>\$64,283</b>	<b>\$93,039</b>
<b>OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL</b>				
Salary - Principal	\$84,460	\$84,093	\$87,360	\$101,400
Wages- Admin Assistant	\$33,950	\$36,064	\$36,379	\$39,551
Substitute - Admin Assistant	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
Health Ins	\$23,680	\$37,855	\$42,662	\$49,383
Health Savings Account	\$4,200	\$0	\$0	\$0
HRA	\$0	\$5,166	\$6,400	\$8,400
FICA	\$9,058	\$8,485	\$9,504	\$10,821
Life Insurance	\$220	\$200	\$200	\$200
Municipal Retirement	\$1,613	\$1,784	\$2,456	\$2,769
Workers Comp	\$924	\$1,097	\$1,039	\$1,184
Unemployment	\$26	\$26	\$30	\$30
Tuition	\$2,732	\$0	\$2,732	\$2,712
Dental Ins	\$1,008	\$1,608	\$1,608	\$1,680
Long Term Disability	\$367	\$367	\$384	\$437
Student Loan Forgiveness	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Contracted Services - Principal	\$0	\$1,256	\$0	\$0
Mentoring	\$0	\$1,256	\$0	\$0
Postage	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500



	<b>FY2023 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2023 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2025 PROPOSED</b>
Travel	\$500	\$219	\$500	\$500
Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,411	\$1,500	\$1,500
Computer Software	\$0	\$830	\$0	\$0
Dues\Fees	\$1,000	\$1,032	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL FISCAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$165,738</b>	<b>\$182,489</b>	<b>\$194,755</b>	<b>\$223,567</b>
Contracted Services From NCSU	\$19,100	\$19,100	\$19,900	\$20,895
<b>TOTAL FISCAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$19,100</b>	<b>\$19,100</b>	<b>\$19,900</b>	<b>\$20,895</b>
<b>AUDIT SERVICES</b>				
Audit Services	\$4,850	\$5,125	\$5,100	\$5,400
<b>TOTAL AUDIT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$4,850</b>	<b>\$5,125</b>	<b>\$5,100</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>
<b>OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>				
Wages - Maintenance	\$39,520	\$36,706	\$42,663	\$48,506
Wages Subs/Over Time	\$0	\$1,693	\$0	\$1,000
Health Ins	\$8,411	\$3,915	\$0	\$0
HRA	\$2,200	\$135	\$2,000	\$2,000
FICA	\$3,023	\$2,974	\$3,264	\$37
Life Insurance	\$29	\$15	\$26	\$26
Municipal Retirement	\$1,877	\$1,939	\$2,880	\$3,395
Workers Comp	\$2,572	\$2,064	\$3,413	\$3,880
Unemployment	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$48
Dental Ins	\$342	\$281	\$355	\$0
Long Term Disability	\$123	\$114	\$132	\$150
Contracted Serv	\$0	\$61,716	\$1,000	\$5,000
Rentals/Leases Of Equipment	\$500	\$309	\$500	\$500
Sewer	\$5,400	\$4,273	\$5,400	\$5,400
Water Services	\$1,000	\$1,010	\$1,000	\$5,000
Water Testing	\$3,000	\$4,384	\$3,000	\$0
Rubbish Services	\$5,000	\$5,292	\$5,500	\$5,500
Purchased Services	\$10,000	\$15,844	\$12,000	\$15,000
Mowing	\$2,500	\$3,143	\$2,500	\$3,200
Property Ins.	\$4,046	\$3,629	\$4,400	\$4,400
Telephone	\$3,600	\$2,996	\$3,600	\$3,600
Travel	\$150	\$209	\$500	\$500
Supplies	\$6,200	\$14,453	\$6,200	\$12,000
Electricity	\$12,000	\$10,140	\$12,000	\$12,000
Propane	\$0	\$1,052	\$600	\$1,000
Heating Oil	\$14,000	\$17,550	\$18,000	\$19,000
Non-Instructional Equip.	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$128,006</b>	<b>\$195,849</b>	<b>\$130,946</b>	<b>\$151,142</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Contract Services-NCSU	\$81,507	\$52,124	\$95,755	\$112,413
<b>TOTAL TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$81,507</b>	<b>\$52,124</b>	<b>\$95,755</b>	<b>\$112,413</b>
<b>EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Extra Curricular Transportation	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500
Field Trips	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION - SPECIAL MCKINNEY VENTO</b>				
Transport (Homeless)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL TRANSPORTATION - SPECIAL MCKINNEY VENTO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>ESSER II/III</b>				
Para & Guidance Wages/Benefits	\$125,997	\$110,189	\$125,997	\$0

	FY2023 BUDGET	FY2023 ACTUAL	FY2024 BUDGET	FY2025 PROPOSED
<b>TOTAL ESSER III/II REAP GRANT</b>	<b>\$125,997</b>	<b>\$110,189</b>	<b>\$125,997</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Books/Periodicals-REAP Grant	\$0	\$8,124	\$0	\$0
Supplies-REAP Grant	\$0	\$22,327	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL REAP GRANT</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$30,451</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>MEDICAID FUNDS</b>				
Purchased Services-Medicaid Funded	\$0	\$626	\$0	\$0
Medicaid	\$7,000	\$5,695	\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>TOTAL MEDICAID FUNDS</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$6,321</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,866,750</b>	<b>\$1,743,069</b>	<b>\$1,979,596</b>	<b>\$2,145,310</b>

## WESTFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

		Budget FY23	Actual FY23	Budget FY24	Budget FY25
<b>Revenues:</b>					
1-6-15-00.00	Interest Income	\$150.00	\$663.25	\$100.00	\$200.00
1-6-35-31.10	Ed Fund & Education Property Tax	\$583,186.61	\$580,173.64	\$630,480.41	\$843,798.00
1-6-40-31.45	Small Schools Grant	\$31,339.00	\$30,238.00	\$30,238.00	\$0.00
1-6-40-32.02	Spec Ed Reimbursement		(\$17,827.60)		\$0.00
	Previous Year's Surplus	\$4,654.67		\$3,870.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$619,330.28</b>	<b>\$593,247.29</b>	<b>\$664,688.41</b>	<b>\$843,998.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
1-7-10-56.20	J/W Assessment	\$606,712.00	\$606,712.00	\$648,810.00	\$826,390.00
1-7-10-59.10	Ski Program	\$500.00		\$500.00	\$500.00
1-7-20-30.10	EEE Local	\$6,018.28	\$6,018.28	\$9,278.41	\$10,808.00
1-7-80-33.90	Treasurer	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
1-7-80-33.91	Audit	\$3,750.00	\$2,975.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
1-7-80-33.92	Stipend	\$1,350.00	\$1,220.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00
1-7-80-33.93	Miscellaneous	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$619,330.28</b>	<b>\$617,425.28</b>	<b>\$664,688.41</b>	<b>\$843,998.00</b>
		\$-	(\$24,177.99)	\$-	\$-

District: <b>Westfield</b> SU: <b>North Country</b>		FY25 is the first year of Act 127 Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership for pupil counts. Equalized pupils are shown for FY22 - FY24. LTWADM is required		T231 Orleans County	Property dollar equivalent yield <div>9,171</div> <div>10,227</div>	<--See bottom note	Homestead tax rate per \$9,171 of spending per LTWADM <div>1.00</div> <div>Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income</div>
<b>Expenditures</b>		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025		
1.	<b>Budget</b> (local budget, including special programs, and full technical center expenditures)	\$558,309	\$619,330	\$664,688	\$843,998	1.	
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-	2.	
3.	<b>Locally adopted or warned budget</b>	\$558,309	\$619,330	\$664,688	\$843,998	3.	
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	4.	
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	5.	
6.	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$558,309	\$619,330	\$664,688	\$843,998	6.	
7.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	7.	
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.	
<b>Revenues</b>							
9.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc.)	\$55,594	\$36,143	\$34,208	\$200	9.	
10.	<b>Offsetting revenues</b>	\$55,594	\$36,143	\$34,208	\$200	10.	
11.	<b>Education Spending</b>	\$502,715	\$583,187	\$630,480	\$843,798	11.	
12.	Pupils (equp FY22 - FY24, LTWADM FY25)	33.21	36.48	36.33	65.23	12.	
13.	<b>Education Spending per Pupil</b>	\$15,137.46	\$15,986.49	\$17,354.25	\$12,935.74	13.	
14.	minus Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per Pupil pupil	-	-	-	-	14.	
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$66,446 for an individual (per pupil)	\$4.28 based on \$60,000	\$3.65 based on \$60,000	\$12.47 based on \$66,206	- based on \$66,446	15.	
16.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per equp)	-	-	-	-	16.	
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer pupils	-	-	-	-	17.	
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	18.	
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	19.	
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	20.	
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per pupil)	\$20.69	\$31.33	\$85.11	-	21.	
22.	minus Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	\$20.69	\$31.33	\$85.11	-	22.	
23.	plus Excess spending threshold	\$18,789.00 threshold = \$18,789	\$19,987.00 threshold = \$19,987	\$22,204.00 threshold = \$22,204	\$23,193.00 threshold = \$23,193	23.	
24.	plus Excess Spending per Pupil over threshold (if any)	\$15,137 Suspended thru FY29	\$15,986 Suspended thru FY29	\$17,354 Suspended thru FY29	\$12,935.74 Suspended thru FY29	24.	
25.	plus Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$15,137	\$15,986	\$17,354	\$12,935.74	25.	
26.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	133.759% based on yield \$11,317	120.073% based on yield \$13,314	112.376% based on \$15,443	141.050% based on \$9,171	26.	
<b>Prorating the local tax rate</b>							
27.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$12,935.74 ÷ (\$9,171 / \$1.00)]	\$1.3376 based on \$1.00	\$1.2007 based on \$1.00	\$1.1238 based on \$1.00	\$1.4105 based on \$1.00	27.	
28.	Act 127 tax cap (FY25 - FY29 eligible)				\$1.1800	28.	
29.	Percent of Westfield pupils not in a union school district	53.79%	58.98%	60.86%	58.50%	29.	
30.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (58.50% x \$1.41)	\$0.7195	\$0.7082	\$0.6839	\$0.6903	30.	
31.	<b>Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)</b>	102.32%	97.01%	88.89%	72.93%	31.	
32.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$0.6903 / 72.93%)	\$0.7032 based on \$1.00	\$0.7300 based on \$1.00	\$0.7694 based on \$1.00	\$0.9465 based on \$1.00	32.	
If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a <b>PARTIAL</b> homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.							
33.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(12,935.74 ÷ \$10,227) x 2.00%]	2.20% based on 2.00%	2.00% based on 2.00%	2.00% based on 2.00%	2.63% based on 2.00%	33.	
34.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (58.50% x 2.63%)	1.18% based on 2.00%	1.18% based on 2.00%	1.22% based on 2.00%	1.48% based on 2.00%	34.	
35.	Percent of pupils at North Country Jr UHSD #22	13.91%	12.21%	12.31%	14.32%	35.	
36.	Percent of pupils at North Country Sr UHSD #22	32.30%	28.81%	26.83%	27.18%	36.	

- Using the revised January 9th, 2024 Education Fund Outlook FY25 forecast, the FY25 education fund need results in a property yield of \$9,171 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$10,227 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.452. These figures use the estimated \$13,000,000 surplus from the Education Fund. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.

- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

# NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION REPORTS

## Superintendent's Annual Report

I am writing to you in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year as NCSU's superintendent of schools and 34<sup>th</sup> year working in Northeast Kingdom schools. I am proud of being a "homegrown" NEK native and feel very fortunate to be able to work with the NCSU students, staff, parents, administrators, 63 school board members, and community members.

We continue to frame our work with students by thinking about NCSU's Design for Learning and our Work and Learning Plan. Both documents can be found on NCSU's website at <https://sites.google.com/ncsuvt.org/ncsu-learning-design/home>.

The big story of the 2023 – 2024 school year are the changes to education funding. There are three factors that work together to determine our tax rates. Those three things are:

### 1. Number of students and education spending

In the past, we have often talked about spending per equalized pupil. Due to Act 127 that went into law this year, this has changed to become a *weighted* pupil count. Students of poverty, sparsity, rurality, or students who are English Language Learners, count as more than one student. The Long-Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTW ADM) is the count of students including the weights. Our schools have many more weighted students than equalized pupils. When you divided the total amount of spending by the total of weighted students, you come up with how much the school is spending per weighted student.

Because the NEK traditionally spends much less than other districts in the state, when we divide our smaller budgets by this higher number of weighted students, we end up with an even smaller amount. Because we are spending less per student, our taxing capacity is increased, and – in most towns – the cost to the taxpayer went down significantly.

Last year, the legislature added a spending cap to help districts who would be disadvantaged by the weights. AOE took our equalized pupil count from FY24 and converted it to LTW ADM. That smaller amount of spending per weighted student is the amount that is used to determine the 10% cap. In some cases, our NCSU schools are only spending 3% more in overall spending, but are over the 10% cap.

If a school goes over the 10% cap and chooses to bring this to voters, when the budget is passed, districts will be required to bring the budget to a review panel, consisting of 3 business managers, 3 superintendents, and the Secretary of Education. If the spending is determined to be justified, the school's tax rate will be frozen at 5% before CLA is factored in. If not, the rate will be whatever the increase figures out to be. However, districts whose tax rates are going down will not be required to go in front of the panel.

When districts are capped at 5%, the rest of the school districts will have to make up the difference between the 5% cap and the increase that they will be spending. If there are a lot of districts who are above the 10%, this may negatively affect the dollar yield, but only the legislature makes the decision about where the funds come from. They may choose a different revenue source or they may choose the dollar yield.

**Educational spending is the ONLY factor that schools and school boards have any control over.**

### 2. Dollar yield

Dollar yield is the amount the AOE determines the state ed funding will contribute towards educating each student. The difference between what the school is spending vs. the dollar yield contribution is how many tax dollars need to be raised. The lower the dollar yield, the higher the tax rate.

Last year, the dollar yield was over \$15,000. This year, the dollar yield is at about \$9,100. Add in the school districts who may be frozen at the 5% tax rate and the dollar yield may continue to drop. The Tax Commissioner makes a recommendation about dollar yield on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the Legislature votes on what the dollar yield will be at the end of the legislative session. Usually, the Legislature's vote is similar to what the Tax Commissioner recommends. This year, because of more variables, we may have less of an idea about what the dollar yield will be, and our projections to taxpayers about tax rates may be more of a variable.

**Only the Legislature can set the dollar yield, so this is a factor that schools and school boards have no control over.**

*(Continued on next page)*

### 3. Common level of appraisal

Every town has a group of listers. Listers are responsible for creating and maintaining the grand list, which contains each home's appraised value for tax purposes. The state reviews the grand list on a yearly basis and determines the common level of appraisal (CLA) by looking at what homes are appraised at on the grand list and how much homes are selling for. If every home was appraised at what they sold for, the CLA would be 100%. If homes were selling for less than their appraised value, the CLA would be more than 100% and taxes would decrease. We are all aware of the recent increase in the cost of homes and that most homes are selling for a lot more than they are appraised for. This causes the CLA to drop, and results in increased tax rates, essentially a tax penalty for not raising enough taxes at the local level.

For the budgeting season for FY25, we initially saw real benefits with the new weighting law. Even with the much lower dollar yield, districts were seeing much lower projected tax rates. Then CLA came out and dropped even more than last year. This is resulting in significant increases and a very difficult budgeting season.

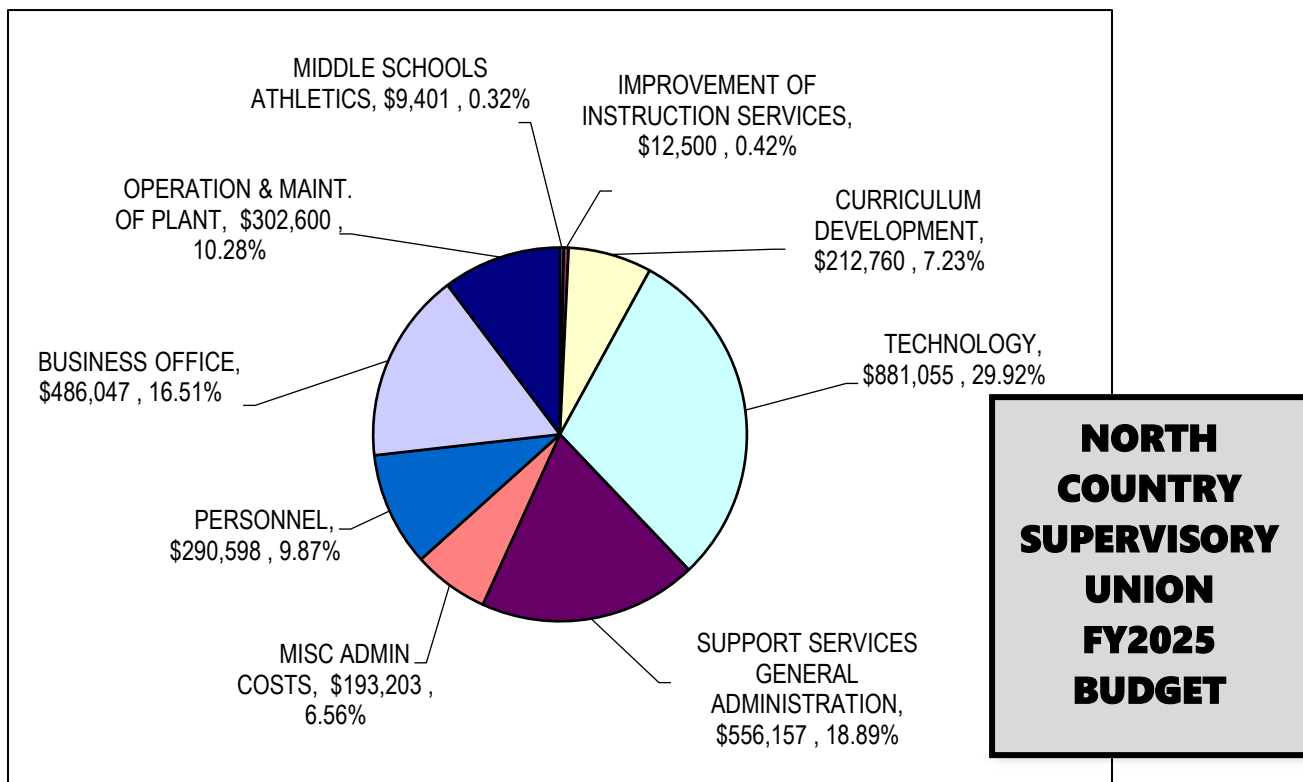
**Common level of appraisal is a function of town government, and schools and school boards have no control over CLA.**

Regardless of the financial pressures that we are all experiencing every day at the grocery store, the gas pump, and many other places, we still have a responsibility to educate NCSU's children. Our students need us now in ways that were not imagined 20 years ago: mental health supports, behavioral supports, and social supports. Although our work with students is challenging, it is our moral and legal responsibility. For many students, if we don't provide for the mental health, social emotional, and behavioral needs of our students in our community schools, there are no other agencies who will provide these services.

I want to express how proud and grateful I am of our NCSU students, families, and staff. Despite challenges, NCSU's community of students, families, and staff have rallied to keep our educational systems progressing. We consistently meet state requirements, and we are also continuing to strive for excellence and to exemplify our district's 4C's of Character, Competence, Creativity and Community. Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to lead the NCSU community.

Sincerely,

Elaine Collins  
Superintendent of Schools  
North Country Supervisory Union





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### LEARNING BELIEFS

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Learning takes place in a culture that fosters...

Growth Mindset ♦ Curiosity ♦ Perseverance ♦ Relevance  
Mutual Respect ♦ Feedback & Reflection ♦ Instructional Access  
Equity ♦ Diversity ♦ Personal Responsibility ♦ Shared Leadership  
Individual & Collective Accomplishments ♦ Community Partnerships

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### LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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Learners participate in experiences that/to...

Support Personal Pathways ♦ Include Problem-Based Projects  
Are Academically Rigorous ♦ Make Inter-Disciplinary Connections  
Contain Experiential Discovery ♦ Utilize Transferable Skills  
Encourage Student Voice ♦ Incorporate Technology  
Involve Physical Activity ♦ Create & Perform ♦ Engage the Community  
Occur In the Natural World ♦ Happen Anywhere & Any Time

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### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Learners succeed by becoming...

Caring, Kind & Grateful ♦ Confident & Self-Directed ♦ Honest & Fair  
Independent Thinkers ♦ Innovative Problem Solvers  
Academically Accomplished ♦ Effective Communicators & Collaborators  
Technologically Skilled ♦ Globally Aware ♦  
Contributing Citizens ♦ Respectful of Our Environment  
Physically, Emotionally & Socially Healthy  
Appreciative Of & Skilled In the Visual & Performing Arts





## **SUPERVISORY UNION WORK & LEARNING PLAN**

### **Equity**

- Advance equity principles and practices

### **Social & Emotional Learning**

- Deliver research-based practices with consistency that advance positive attitudes, habits, and actions

### **Content Standards and Transferable Skills**

- Implement curricula based on current content standards
- Implement curricula based on NCSU transferable skills
- Promote effective digital learning

### **Student Engagement**

- Promote inquiry-based learning
- Support interdisciplinary instruction
- Create multiple pathways
- Foster personalization

### **Student Voice & Leadership**

- Promote student contributions and leadership in their communities
- Include students in authentic decision making at all levels

### **Formative Assessment and Data**

- Provide multiple opportunities for feedback and reflection
- Use technology to support assessment, reporting and reflection
- Students engage in goal setting in age-appropriate ways
- Use qualitative and quantitative data to guide the reflection and review of programs, practices, systems and structures

*Approved by the NCSU Full Board December 2018*

# NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION

## FY2025 BOARD APPROVED ASSESSMENT BUDGET

Account Number / Description	FY2024 Board Approved Budget	FY2025 Board Approved Budget
	7/1/2023-6/30/2024	7/1/2024-6/30/2025
<b>ASSESSMENT REVENUE</b>		
INTEREST		
INTEREST INCOME-CASH ACCOUNT	(\$15,000)	(\$25,000)
INTEREST INCOME-MONEY MARKET	(\$500)	(\$1,000)
<b>INTEREST REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$15,500)</b>	<b>(\$26,000)</b>
ASSESSMENTS	(\$1,935,357)	(\$2,843,321)
<b>TOTAL 1931 TOWN ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>(\$1,935,357)</b>	<b>(\$2,843,321)</b>
<b>1990 MISC OTHER LOCAL REVENUE</b>		
INDIRECT COSTS REVENUE	(\$125,000)	(\$75,000)
<b>TOTAL 1990 MISC OTHER LOCAL REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$125,000)</b>	<b>(\$75,000)</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENT REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$2,075,857)</b>	<b>(\$2,944,321)</b>
<b>ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>1100 MIDDLE LEVEL ATHLETICS</b>		
SALARY MIDDLE LEVEL ATHLETICS	\$5,000	\$5,900
FICA	\$383	\$451
W COMP	\$42	\$50
PURCHASED SERVICE	\$1,000	\$1,000
SUPPLIES	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>TOTAL 1100 MIDDLE LEVEL ATHLETICS</b>	<b>\$8,425</b>	<b>\$9,401</b>
<b>2210 IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION</b>		
SP PROJECTS P SERV	\$6,000	\$6,000
SP PROJECTS SUPPLIES	\$1,000	\$1,500
SPEC.PROJ.-FOOD	\$3,500	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL 2210 IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$10,500</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>
<b>2212 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT</b>		
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM SALARY	\$50,602	\$116,948
WAGES CURRICULUM ADMIN ASST	\$22,324	\$25,431
BCBS	\$19,197	\$36,875
HRA	\$6,300	\$6,300
FICA	\$5,580	\$10,893
LIFE INSURANCE	\$90	\$186
MUN. RETIREMENT	\$1,395	\$1,780
WORKERS COMP	\$613	\$1,196
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$37	\$83
TUITION	\$1,229	\$2,712
DENTAL	\$724	\$1,315
LTD	\$226	\$441
TRAINING	\$750	\$4,000
TRAVEL	\$645	\$1,400
SUPPLIES	\$1,200	\$1,200
BOOKS & PERIODICALS	\$500	\$500
CONF & DUES	\$2,000	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL 2212 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>\$113,412</b>	<b>\$212,760</b>
<b>2230 TECHNOLOGY</b>		
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY	\$102,000	\$106,080
NETWORK/TECH SUPPORT WAGES	\$135,904	\$215,219

BCBS	\$68,555	\$113,754
HRA	\$8,400	\$15,400
FICA	\$18,198	\$24,579
LIFE INSURANCE	\$300	\$300
MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT	\$16,654	\$27,265
WORKERS COMP	\$1,998	\$2,699
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$208	\$208
TUITION	\$1,800	\$1,800
DENTAL	\$2,000	\$2,755
LTD	\$738	\$996
PURCHASED SERVICE	\$183,500	\$339,000
TRAVEL	\$3,500	\$5,500
ROOMS & MEALS	\$400	\$500
SUPPLIES	\$2,500	\$3,500
SOFTWARE	\$3,500	\$3,500
EQUIPMENT	\$5,500	\$10,000
DUES & FEES	\$2,000	\$8,000
<b>TOTAL 2230 TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>\$557,655</b>	<b>\$881,055</b>
<b>2300 Support Services - General Admin</b>		
SUPERINTENDENT SALARY	\$139,984	\$145,583
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SALARY	\$0	\$125,000
COMMUNICATIONS COORD/ADMIN ASSISTS WAGES	\$99,988	\$112,959
BCBS	\$52,511	\$86,536
HRA	\$10,900	\$15,000
FICA	\$18,354	\$29,340
LIFE INSURANCE	\$226	\$246
MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT	\$6,249	\$7,907
WORK COMP	\$2,016	\$3,222
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$125	\$125
DENTAL	\$1,875	\$2,050
LTD	\$744	\$1,189
AUDIT NCSU	\$10,500	\$10,500
LODGING & MEALS	\$1,500	\$2,000
TRAVEL	\$3,000	\$3,000
VSA DUES	\$5,000	\$5,000
PROF DEVELOPMENT-SECRETARY	\$200	\$500
PROF DEVELOPMENT-SUPERINTENDENT	\$5,000	\$6,000
<b>TOTAL 2300 Support Services - General Admin</b>	<b>\$358,172</b>	<b>\$556,157</b>
<b>2320 MISC ADMIN COSTS</b>		
MAINTANCE CONTRACT ADS	\$15,000	\$15,000
LEGAL SERVICES	\$5,000	\$5,000
STIPEND TREASURER'S	\$1,050	\$1,050
PURCHASE SERVICE	\$7,600	\$15,000
EQUIP MAINT	\$4,000	\$5,000
MACHINE LEASES & RENTALS	\$10,000	\$15,000
CONSOLIDATED INSURANCE	\$20,000	\$30,653
TELEPHONE	\$7,000	\$8,000
POSTAGE	\$12,000	\$12,000
INTERNET	\$45,000	\$45,000
MISC TOWNS ADVERTISING	\$750	\$0
ADVERTISING	\$5,000	\$7,500
MISC FOOD MEETINGS	\$8,000	\$8,000
MISC TOWN INVOICES	\$500	\$0
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$12,000	\$20,000
BOOKS	\$500	\$500
FURNITURE	\$2,500	\$2,500
MISCELLANEOUS DUES/FEES	\$3,000	\$3,000

<b>TOTAL 2320 MISC ADMIN COSTS</b>	\$158,900	\$193,203
<b>2323 PERSONNEL</b>		
PERSONNEL COORDINATOR SALARY	\$0	\$78,938
PERSONNEL SUPPORT WAGES	\$117,014	\$103,356
PERSONNEL BCBS	\$17,555	\$53,547
PERSONNEL HRA	\$4,400	\$6,600
PERSONNEL FICA	\$8,952	\$18,041
PERSONNEL LIFE INS	\$52	\$96
PERSONNEL RETIREMENT	\$7,313	\$16,509
PERSONNEL WORKERS COMP	\$983	\$1,531
PERSONNEL UNEMPLOYMENT	\$83	\$125
PERSONNEL TUITION	\$5,760	\$5,760
PERSONNEL DENTAL	\$600	\$1,680
PERSONNEL LTD	\$363	\$565
PURCHASED SERVICE PERSONNEL	\$600	\$2,750
PERSONNEL TRAVEL	\$100	\$100
PERSONNEL CONF/DUES	\$550	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL 2323 PERSONNEL</b>	\$164,325	\$290,598
<b>2520 BUSINESS OFFICE</b>		
SALARY DIRECTOR BUSINESS	\$72,062	\$74,944
WAGES FINANCE ASSISTANTS	\$91,733	\$100,699
WAGES BUSINESS ADM ASST	\$36,590	\$0
WAGES COURIER	\$2,200	\$2,200
SALARY STAFF ACCOUNTANTS	\$42,547	\$78,969
WAGES GRANTS ASSISTANT	\$0	\$31,599
BCBS BUSINESS OFFICE	\$96,834	\$112,715
HRA	\$18,000	\$18,000
FICA BUSINESS OFFICE	\$18,753	\$22,064
LIFE INS BUSINESS OFFICE	\$225	\$225
RETIREMENT BUSINESS OFFICE	\$16,444	\$20,035
WORKERS COMP BUSINESS OFFICE	\$2,041	\$2,423
UNEMPLOYMENT BUSINESS OFFICE	\$200	\$200
TUITION BUSINESS OFFICE	\$2,000	\$2,712
DENTAL BUSINESS OFFICE	\$2,425	\$3,375
LTD DIRECTOR BUSINESS	\$753	\$887
PROF DEV BUSINESS OFFICE	\$500	\$6,500
TRAVEL BUSINESS OFFICE	\$5,000	\$5,000
ROOMS & MEALS BUSINESS OFFICE	\$500	\$2,500
DUES & FEES BUSINESS OFFICE	\$1,500	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL 2520 BUSINESS OFFICE</b>	\$410,307	\$486,047
<b>2600 OPERATION &amp; MAINT. OF PLANT</b>		
FACILITIES COORDINATOR WAGES	\$99,500	\$65,255
CUSTODIAN WAGES	\$19,053	\$18,142
FACILITIES COORDINATOR & CUSTODIAL BENEFITS	\$0	\$17,544
OPERATION AND MAINT PURCHASE SERV	\$5,000	\$10,000
CUSTODIAN PURCHASES SERVICE	\$17,688	\$18,909
RUBBISH REMOVAL	\$2,400	\$2,750
STORAGE RENTAL SPACE	\$2,020	\$1,000
CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	\$3,500	\$4,000
<b>TOTAL 2600 OPERATION &amp; MAINT. OF PLANT</b>	\$149,161	\$137,600
<b>2640 OPERATION &amp; MAINT. OF PLANT</b>		
<b>RENT</b>	\$145,000	\$165,000
<b>TOTAL 2640 OPERATION &amp; MAINT. OF PLANT</b>	\$145,000	\$165,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$2,075,857	\$2,944,321

## TOWN MEETING PROCEDURES

### How to Participate

- The Moderator makes announcements before the first article is moved. Inform the Moderator ahead of time if you have an announcement.
- An Article is moved, seconded, and restated by the Moderator, before debate can begin.
- State law prohibits consideration of Articles that have not been warned.
- No second is needed for nominations. Election of Select Board members, Auditors and Listers are by ballot.
- Only registered voters may vote. Non-voters may speak if there is no objection, or by 2/3 vote.
- After you are recognized by the Moderator, stand up to make your remarks. Direct Motions and remarks to the Moderator. The maker of a motion is typically recognized to speak first.
- After you've spoken once about an Article, you won't be recognized for a second time until all others who wish to speak on the issue have spoken.
- Raise your hand and state "Point of Order" to ask questions: if you don't understand the motion, what is happening, or if there is a motion you want to make and aren't sure how to make it.
- Voters can challenge the Moderator's ruling. A majority vote is needed to overturn the Moderator's ruling.
- Binding action may not be taken under the Article "Other Business." It is a time to discuss issues, make recommendations, or raise concerns for possible future action.

### Voting

Three types of voting occur at Town Meeting. Voice vote and paper ballots are used for Articles voted on by the assembly (registered voters). The Polls are open 9 am to 7 pm for Articles voted by Australian Ballot.

### Roberts Rules

Town Meeting uses Robert's Rules of Order to act on warned Articles, except where Vermont Law takes precedence. The assembly can also adopt other rules of order. Frequently used motions are listed below.

- Amendments: An Article may be amended, and an amendment may be amended once. If a proposed amendment changes the intent of the Article, it would be ruled out of order or not germane.
- Division of the House: Requires voters to stand. It can be requested either before or after a voice vote.
- Paper Ballot: Seven voters may ask for a paper ballot before or after a voice vote or a division of the house.
- Cease Debate: Requires a motion to Call the Question and needs a 2/3 vote to pass.
- Reconsideration: An Article may be reconsidered *until* the assembly has moved and seconded another Article. A motion to reconsider must be made by someone who voted with the majority.
- Limit Debate: Motion can be made any time. Voters can limit the time each person can speak or limit the time allotted to discuss an Article. It can be amended, there is no discussion, and requires a 2/3 majority vote.
- Suspend Indefinitely: Is used to not vote on an Article. It can be made two ways: before the main motion as Object to Consideration and 2/3 vote; or, after the main motion as Postpone Indefinitely and a simple majority vote.

*Compiled by Pat Sagui, Moderator, Town of Westfield, Vermont, January 2020*

(continued from inside front cover)

LaDonna has been an invaluable member of the VMCTA Education Committee, which plans the spring training sessions for Clerks and Treasurers throughout the state (held in Fairlee and West Rutland for the past few years), and the speakers and training sessions for the fall conference. The committee handles many details and LaDonna has “adopted” specific tasks, including updating the group’s list of resources and contacts, working with the host towns of the spring trainings for tables and chairs, food delivery and registrations, working behind the scenes in a support role at the annual conference. She is quiet and competent. Although she has given much to the organization, LaDonna credits the VMCTA with training her “to do my jobs.” She added, “You’re never really prepared for the job.” The peer support has been invaluable – help is simply a phone call away.”

The committee also administers certification for Vermont Clerks and Treasurers. This is an elective goal that many in the profession choose to reach, a combination of community service, professional service, and education. LaDonna achieved Certified Vermont Clerk in 2017.

The position of Town Clerk is more than the keeper of records and the source of dog tags. Most Vermont Town Clerks give much service to their community outside the hours they are in the office. LaDonna currently serves on the Jay Food Shelf Board, the Jay Focus Group and The Lions Club. Given the economic times, LaDonna explains that the Food Shelf is quite active.

LaDonna is up for re-election on Town Meeting Day. She plans to run for another three years in the position, after which she plans to retire. She is determined to have a smooth transition for the Town of Westfield Town Clerk’s Office and will be training her successor.

As every Vermont Town Clerk who has contemplated retirement thinks about successorship, LaDonna wants to leave the town in good hands, without missing a beat. She would like the next Westfield Town Clerk to be fully prepared on the first day of big transition... the big hand-off.

Looking back over her decade as Town Clerk, LaDonna also reflects on the award presented to her this fall. It is an honor of which she is most pleased and visitors to the Westfield Town Office can get a glimpse of it proudly displayed hanging on the wall near her desk.

*Submitted by: Heidi Racht, Huntington Town Clerk, CVC, CMC & VMCTA Publicity Committee*

We’d like to thank some special people who served on various boards in town and have recently retired from their positions. It takes many people to keep a municipality functioning. We thank each of you for the special qualities and perspectives you brought to your positions. We also thank you and your families for the time you invested to serve our community. Your contributions are appreciated.

- Dan Backus, Emergency Management Coordinator
- Jerry Bouchard, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Constable
- Mary Lee Daigle, Librarian
- Niki Dunn, Westfield Town School District Board
- Scott Dunn, Lister
- Jennifer Grace, Library Trustee
- Theresa Rudolph, Library Trustee

*Special Thanks*

If you are interested in serving on a Town Board, please contact a Selectboard member or the Town Clerk for details. We will do our best to match you with your area of interest.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work!

### Rest in Peace Friends

We were saddened to lose these friends and neighbors during 2023:  
Phillip Sheltra, Michael Courson, Valerie Celano, and Julia Warner.\*

*\*The Town Clerk does not receive notifications of out of state deaths. Apologies for any names which may have been left out. Please notify the office if someone was missed so we can include your loved one in the following years Town Report.*



Thank you to all the Town Officers and Service Agencies who submitted reports. Your contributions are appreciated!

*2023 Town Report Editors: LaDonna Dunn, Karen Blais & Niki Dunn*





Special thanks to Westfield resident, Roger Gosselin, for the beautiful Westfield farm aerial photographs taken with his drone. **Cover:** top to bottom: Windy River Farm, Loop Road; Bathalon Farm, Route 100; O'Donnell Farm, Loop Road. **Back Cover:** Top to bottom: Spring Brook Farm, Route 100; Missisquoi Valley Farm and Couture's Maple Shop and Bed and Breakfast, Route 100; Fall overview of Cemetery Road.

*We hope to continue sharing more Westfield farms in next year's Town Report.*