

WHEELOCK VERMONT



Year Ending December 31, 2023

IMPORTANT DATES

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| March 5, 2024 | Town Meeting | Wheelock Town Hall 9:00 am |
| March 5, 2024 | Presidential Primary polls open | Wheelock Town Hall 10:00 am – 7:00 pm |
| April 1, 2024 | Dog Licenses- annually | by mail or in office |
| April 15, 2024 | Homestead Declaration | filed with state |
| June, 2024 | Grievance Period | dates to be determined |
| August 18, 2024 | State Primary Election polls open | Wheelock Town Hall 10:00 am – 7:00 pm |
| September 1, 2024 | Current Use Application Deadline | |
| November 1, 2024 | Wheelock Property Taxes Due | |
| November 5, 2024 | General Election polls open | Wheelock Town Hall 10:00am – 7:00 pm |

There will NOT be a potluck lunch on Town Meeting day.

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TOWN OF WHEELOCK WARNING
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024

Notice to Voters: There is no deadline to register to vote. You may register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by going to the Town Clerk's Office or online olvr.vermont.gov

Requests for Early or Absentee Ballots: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, by telephone, email or online at mvp.vermont.gov The latest you can request an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's Office is February 29, 2024.

Voting for the Kingdom East School District Budget will be by Australian Ballot. Polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

The legal voters of the Town of Wheelock are hereby warned and notified to meet, Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wheelock Town Hall at 1192 Route 122 to act upon the following business of the Town:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect all town officers required by law.

- Town Clerk – 2 year term
- Treasurer – 2 year term
- Selectboard – 3 year term
- Lister – 3 year term
- Lister – 2 year term
- Auditor – 3 year term
- Auditor – 1 year term
- Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year term
- First Constable – 1 year term
- Second Constable – 1 year term

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters authorize the selectboard to appoint a municipal clerk pursuant to 17 V.S.A. Sections 2651e(a)?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters authorize the selectboard to appoint a treasurer pursuant 17 V.S.A. Section 2651f(a)?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$169,674 of which \$77,260 shall be raised by taxes and \$92,414 by non-tax revenues?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$464,356 of which \$360,216 shall be raised by taxes \$104,140 by non-tax revenue?

- ARTICLE 7:** Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a new dump truck to replace the '09 International, in an amount not to exceed \$240,262.00, less the trade in of \$25,000 and subject to reduction by other sources of funding, total to be financed over a period not to exceed five years, in accordance with 24V.S.A.Sec.1786a?
- ARTICLE 8:** Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 10,000 for deposit into the Bridge and Major Road Repair Reserve Fund, in accordance with 24 V.S.A.Sec. 2804(a)?
- ARTICLE 9:** Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 30,000 for deposit into the New Road Equipment Reserve Fund, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804(a)?
- ARTICLE 10:** Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 30,000 for deposit into the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804(a)?
- ARTICLE 11:** Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 10,000 for for deposit into the Town Hall Project Reserve Fund, in accordance with 24 V.S.A.Sec. 2804(a) to be funded with \$7,238.91 remaining from the Cemetery Checking Account?
- ARTICLE 12:** Shall the town establish a reserve fund to be called the Cemetery Checking Reserve Fund to be used for repair and maintenance expenses and matching funds for grants in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804 to be funded with \$7,235.16 remaining from the Cemetery Checking Account?
- ARTICLE 13:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,284.22 for the operating expenses of Lyndon Rescue, Inc?
- ARTICLE 14:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,149.00 for the operating expenses and equipment replacement fund of the Sheffield/Wheelock Fire Department?
- ARTICLE 15:** Shall the voters raise and appropriate a total of \$40,980.00 for the Town's Share of Transfer Station expenses?
- ARTICLE 16:** Shall the voters authorize that payment of real estate taxes be to the Treasurer on or before the first Friday of November annually, with USPS postmarks accepted, and with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent (1%) per month, and with a seven percent (7%) penalty charged against them from the due date pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Sec. 5136?

ARTICLE 17: Shall the town allow a grace period from the due date for current taxes to December 31, during which the Delinquent Tax Collector shall charge 1% penalty on payments made in full pursuant to 32 V.S.A. Sec. 1674 (3)(B)?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$ 4,757 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2691?

- | | |
|--|--------|
| a. Community Restorative Justice Center | \$250 |
| b. Darling Inn Senior Meal Site | \$500 |
| c. H.O.P.E. | \$500 |
| d. Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging | \$300 |
| e. Northeast Kingdom Human Services | \$1622 |
| f. Northeast Kingdom Learning Services | \$150 |
| g. Northeast Kingdom Youth Services | \$250 |
| h. Rural Community Transportation | \$500 |
| i. Umbrella | \$600 |
| j. Vermont Center for Independent Living | \$85 |

ARTICLE 19: Shall the voters approve the appropriation request by the Cobleigh Library for \$1,000?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Wheelock vote to appropriate the sum of \$1000.00 for the Support of Powers Park to provide services to the residents of the Town in Accordance with 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2691?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the town appropriate \$1,133.00 to the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium for admission for Wheelock Residents in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2691?

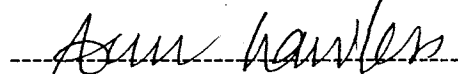
ARTICLE 22: To transact any other non-binding business that comes before this meeting.

ARTICLE 23: To adjourn.

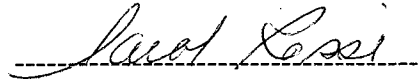
Dated at Wheelock, Vermont, this ___ day of January 2024. Recorded before posting.

Selectboard:

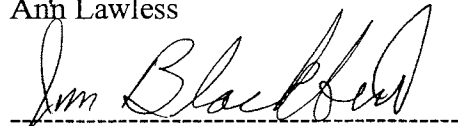
Attest:



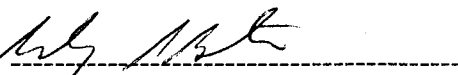
Ann Lawless



Carol Rossi



Jim Blackbird



Andy Buteau

TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED AT TOWN MEETING

| OFFICE | ELECTED OFFICIAL | TERM EXPIRES |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Moderator | Peter Miller | 2024 |
| Town Clerk | Carol Rossi (appointed) | 2026 |
| Treasurer | Carol Rossi (appointed) | 2026 |
| Selectboard | Jim Blackbird | 2024 |
| | Ann Lawless | 2025 |
| | Andy Buteau | 2026 |
| Listers | Carol Rossi | 2024 |
| | Atti Seguin | 2025 |
| | Tanya Brewer (resigned) | 2026 |
| Auditors | Kim Crady-Smith | 2024 |
| | Steve Amos (resigned) | 2025 |
| | Enid Ellis | 2026 |
| Delinquent Tax Collector ... | Emily Purdy | 2024 |
| First Constable | Charles Lacaillade | 2024 |
| Second Constable | Atti Seguin | 2024 |
| Grand Jury | Martin Holladay | 2024 |
| Town Agent to Convey | Town Clerk | 2024 |
| Real Estate | | |
| Town Agent to Prosecute | Selectboard | 2024 |
| and Defend | | |

BUDGET REPORT

| GENERAL FUND | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| REVENUES | 2023 | 2023 | 2024 |
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Tax Revenue | | | |
| Current Taxes for Budget | 139438 | 106806 | 77260 |
| PILOT | 16443 | 16444 | 16444 |
| Hold Harmless - State Current Use Payment | 57479 | 65130 | 58000 |
| Total | 213360 | 188380 | 151704 |
| Town Office Revenue | | | |
| Dog License Fees Town Fee | 450 | 414 | 450 |
| Liquor License | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Marriage License Fees Town Fee | 20 | 65 | 65 |
| Office Fees & Recording Fees | 5000 | 8325 | 5000 |
| Educ Fund Payment for Service | 1800 | 0 | 0 |
| NEMRC Land Record Fees | 100 | 101 | 100 |
| Traffic Ticket Fees Collected | 0 | 289 | 0 |
| Total | 7440 | 9264 | 5685 |
| Listers Revenue | | | |
| Reappraisal & Equalization Study State Payment | 5500 | 5605 | 5500 |
| Delinquent Tax Revenue | | | |
| Tax | 0 | 49153 | 0 |
| Interest | 2000 | 5600 | 2000 |
| Penalty | 3500 | 2976 | 3500 |
| Tax Sale Cost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 5500 | 57729 | 5500 |
| General Government Revenue | | | |
| Interest on Checking | 150 | 115 | 100 |
| Interest on Non-arbitrage | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Town Hall Rental Income | 200 | 85 | 85 |
| MERP Grant | | 4000 | |
| Other/Unbudgeted | 0 | 2350 | 0 |
| Total | 350 | 6550 | 285 |
| Cemetery | | | |
| Lot Sales | | 200 | 0 |
| Perpetual Care Fees | | 300 | 0 |
| Grant | | | 1000 |
| Total | | 500 | 1000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 232150 | 268028 | 169674 |

BUDGET REPORT

| GENERAL FUND | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Town Office Staff | | | |
| Assistant Town Clerk | 3900 | 2956 | 5460 |
| Town Clerk | 13239 | 12475 | 18252 |
| Town Treasurer | 18680 | 17602 | 22308 |
| Town Share FICA | 3800 | 4004 | 3521 |
| Town Share Retirement | 1640 | 1156 | 1640 |
| Training | 200 | 230 | 1000 |
| Total | 41459 | 38423 | 52181 |
| | | | |
| Town Office Expenses | | | |
| Supplies | 2000 | 1246 | 1500 |
| Postage | 2000 | 1412 | 2000 |
| Printing Town Report | 550 | 511 | 550 |
| Computer Equipment Expense | 100 | 75 | 3000 |
| Computer Cloud & Support | 4720 | 6630 | 6000 |
| Copier | 500 | 0 | 2500 |
| Mileage -Clerk, Treasurer | 500 | 582 | 500 |
| Record Restoration | 2000 | 2000 | 2000 |
| Dog License State Fee | 150 | 0 | 450 |
| Marriage License State Fee | 0 | 0 | 65 |
| Total | 12520 | 12456 | 18565 |
| | | | |
| Lister Expenses | | | |
| Lister Wages | 5000 | 2365 | 6000 |
| Supplies | 50 | 43 | 50 |
| Software License Fee | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Computer Equip & Maint. | 150 | 0 | 150 |
| Computer - Cloud Services | 3500 | 6938 | 2000 |
| Mileage | 150 | 159 | 200 |
| Property Map Update | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 |
| Transfer to Reappraisal | 4000 | 5605 | 5605 |
| Total | 14050 | 16310 | 15205 |
| | | | |
| Delinquent Tax Expense | | | |
| Penalty Paid to Collector | 3500 | 3213 | 3500 |
| Tax Sale Cost Paid by Town | 0 | 400 | 0 |
| Tax Sale Cost Paid by Owner | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3500 | 3613 | 3500 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

BUDGET REPORT

| GENERAL FUND | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| EXPENSES | 2320 | 2023 | 2024 |
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Gen Gov Staff | | | |
| Minutes Clerk | 1400 | 1300 | 1400 |
| Auditors | 1200 | 600 | 1000 |
| BCA & Election Officials | 1200 | 285 | 1400 |
| Emergency Management Coord | 260 | 260 | 260 |
| 911 Coordinator | 260 | 0 | 260 |
| Selectboard (3) | 3600 | 3300 | 3600 |
| Town Match FICA & MEDI | 0 | 0 | 606 |
| Workers Comp | 255 | 808 | 334 |
| Continuing Education | 150 | 30 | 100 |
| Mileage - Gen Gov | 200 | 29 | 100 |
| Total | 8525 | 6612 | 9060 |
| | | | |
| Gen Gov Other Expenses | | | |
| Gift Cards | 200 | 50 | 200 |
| Advertising | 2000 | 2045 | 2045 |
| Legal Expenses | 1000 | 520 | 520 |
| Dues, Membership | 2700 | 2742 | 2742 |
| Liability Insurance | 5064 | 5302 | 5812 |
| Non-Arbitrage Interest | 2500 | 0 | 1250 |
| County Tax | 7686 | 6153 | 7000 |
| Email & Archiving | 243 | 0 | 243 |
| Town Website | 515 | 732 | 732 |
| Zoom Subscription | 180 | 190 | 180 |
| Professional Audit | 0 | 0 | 15000 |
| Unbudgeted/ Miscellaneous | 0 | 286 | 0 |
| Total | 22088 | 18020 | 35724 |
| | | | |
| Building & Grounds Staff | | | |
| Town Hall Janitor | 1950 | 2558 | 2600 |
| Park Mowing | 500 | 600 | 0 |
| Unemployment Insurance | 24 | 26 | 18 |
| Total | 2474 | 3184 | 2618 |
| | | | |
| Building & Grounds Expenses | | | |
| Town Hall Supplies | 500 | 481 | 500 |
| Town Hall Electricity | 1200 | 1346 | 1200 |
| Street Lights | 2750 | 3699 | 2750 |
| Telephone & Internet | 2300 | 2194 | 2300 |
| Town Hall & Lot Water | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| Town Hall Heat | 3000 | 1638 | 3000 |

BUDGET REPORT

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Town Hall Generator Service | 400 | 392 | 400 |
| Town Hall Repair & Maint. | 2000 | 1511 | 2000 |
| Park Maintenance | 250 | 0 | 250 |
| Porta Potty Rental | 2700 | 2700 | 2700 |
| Miscellaneous/Unbudgeted | 0 | 1754 | 0 |
| Land Purchase Debt Payment | 5971 | 5971 | 5971 |
| Water damage expenses | 0 | 724 | 0 |
| Total | 21971 | 23310 | 21971 |
| Cemetery Expenses | | | |
| Sexton Contract | 8652 | 7210 | 8600 |
| Cemetery Mowing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WW & Drown Cemeteries | 1000 | 200 | 1500 |
| Sulphur Spring Survey | 2450 | 3320 | 0 |
| Supplies, Tools, Other Expenses | 250 | 415 | 250 |
| Grant Match | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| Total | 12852 | 11145 | 10850 |
| GENERAL FUND BUDGET EXPENSES | 139439 | 133073 | 169674 |
| SEPARATELY VOTED ARTICLE EXPENSES | | | |
| | 2023 Budget | 2023 Expenses | 2024 Budget |
| REVENUE | | | |
| Current Taxes for Separately Voted Articles | 144553 | 143794 | 157323 |
| Total | | | |
| Transfer Station Expenses | | | |
| Staff | 15000 | 15316 | 18000 |
| Town Match FICA & MEDI | 1150 | 1172 | 1377 |
| Workers Comp | 2038 | 1766 | 1385 |
| Unemployment Insurance | 152 | 282 | 200 |
| Per Capita Assessment | 640 | 805 | 900 |
| Liability Insurance | 230 | 442 | 259 |
| Transfer Station Approp | 22150 | 22150 | 18879 |
| Total | 41360 | 41933 | 41000 |
| S/W Fire Department | | | |
| Utilities | 3000 | 1841 | 3000 |
| Liability Insurance | 691 | 518 | 824 |
| S/W Fire Dept Appropriation | 27700 | 27700 | 28325 |
| Total | 31391 | 30059 | 32149 |

BUDGET REPORT

| GENERAL FUND | 2023 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Lyndon Rescue | 34895 | 34895 | 36284 |
| Articles for Appropriations | | | |
| Social Service Articles | 6907 | 6907 | 4757 |
| Other Appropriation Articles | | | 3133 |
| Total | 6907 | 6907 | 7890 |
| Reserve Fund Appropriations | | | |
| Long Term Maintenance&Repair | 30000 | 30000 | 30000 |
| Town Hall Reserve | 0 | 0 | 10000 |
| Total | 30000 | 30000 | 40000 |
| TOTAL GEN FUND SEPARATELY VOTED ARTICLES | 144553 | 143794 | 157323 |
| GEN FND BUDGET, ARTICLES, RESERVES | 283992 | 276867 | 326997 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| ARPA REVENUE TO GENERAL FUND | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| | 999 | 14769 | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| ARPA GENERAL FUND EXPENSES | | | |
| OWL | 999 | | |
| Clerk Laptop | | 649 | |
| S/W Fire Department Safety Equipment | | 6600 | |
| Property Map Reformating and Updating | | 7520 | |
| TOTAL | 999 | 14769 | |

BUDGET REPORT

| HIGHWAY FUND | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| REVENUE | 2023 | 2023 | 2024 |
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Current Taxes for Budget | 342822 | 342822 | 360216 |
| State Aid to Highways | 65500 | 96220 | 65000 |
| Grant Income Class 2 Road | 0 | 91526 | 38990 |
| Overload & Access Permits | 255 | 190 | 150 |
| Rented Equipment Fees | 200 | 70 | 0 |
| Other- ARPA payment to reduce deficit | 0 | 48071 | 0 |
| Transfer in From Bridge & Road Reserve | | 19902 | |
| TOTAL HIGHWAY REVENUE | 408777 | 598801 | 464356 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Road Staff | | | |
| Road Crew Wages | 110780 | 108745 | 140000 |
| Temp Staff Wages | 1500 | 9216 | 8000 |
| Town Match FICA & MEDI 7.65 | 8400 | 8745 | 10710 |
| Workers Comp | 10446 | 9641 | 10038 |
| Unemployment Insurance | 400 | 225 | 400 |
| Road Crew Health Insurance | 9550 | 10282 | 20000 |
| Road Crew Retirement | 6000 | 5692 | 7525 |
| Health Insurance Opt Out | 3555 | 2364 | 0 |
| Training | 200 | 30 | 200 |
| Road Crew Staff Mileage | 1500 | 2047 | 1800 |
| TOTAL | 152331 | 156987 | 198673 |
| EQUIPMENT | | | |
| Grader Maintenance | 750 | 239 | 750 |
| Loader Maintenance | 750 | 617 | 3250 |
| 09 International Repair | 7500 | 21382 | 7500 |
| 09 International Maintenance | 750 | 1752 | 750 |
| 09 Plow Sand Equip/Repair | 500 | 152 | 500 |
| 19 International Parts & Repair | 5000 | 6006 | 7500 |
| 19 International Maint. | 750 | 1194 | 1500 |
| 19 Plow Sand Equip/Repair | 500 | 510 | 500 |
| Trailer | 250 | 72 | 250 |
| Volvo Grader Repair | 9500 | 20064 | 9000 |
| 97 Galion Grader Repair/Maint. | | | 1000 |
| Loader Repair | 1000 | 317 | 1000 |
| Tires | 4000 | 6315 | 4000 |
| Tire Chains | 2000 | 1255 | 1500 |
| DEF | 700 | 420 | 600 |
| Diesel | 40000 | 39965 | 40000 |
| Gasoline | 150 | 56 | 100 |

BUDGET REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Loader Payment | 10584 | 10634 | 10634 |
| Payment on Truck | 25341 | 25354 | 40000 |
| Excavator Rental | | 5706 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 110025 | 142010 | 130334 |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | | | |
| Culverts | 1000 | 6304 | 4000 |
| Guardrails | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1000 | 6304 | 4000 |
| ROAD MAINTENANCE | | | |
| Grant Expenses Class 2 Road | | 114408 | 38990 |
| Chuck Hill - plowing | 2000 | 2000 | 2000 |
| Greensboro - plowing | 2500 | 4525 | 2250 |
| Roadside Mowing | 4000 | 5800 | 5000 |
| Other Contracted Services | 5000 | 9261 | 0 |
| Chloride | 20000 | 15449 | 16500 |
| Gravel | 7890 | 14739 | 14000 |
| Repaving Material | 100 | 234 | 0 |
| Salt | 5000 | 1395 | 3000 |
| Sand | 23850 | 23850 | 18000 |
| Staymat | 15687 | 15680 | 8000 |
| Stone | 0 | 0 | 6000 |
| TOTAL | 86027 | 207341 | 113740 |
| GARAGE | | | |
| Electricity | 1000 | 900 | 1000 |
| Telephone & Internet | 1700 | 1810 | 650 |
| Water | 450 | 450 | 450 |
| Heating Fuel | 3000 | 1921 | 3000 |
| Restroom Expense | 1320 | 670 | 670 |
| Repairs | 350 | 927 | 350 |
| TOTAL | 7820 | 6678 | 6120 |
| OTHER EXPENSES | | | |
| Advertising | 400 | 760 | 400 |
| Tire Disposal | 1000 | 913 | 500 |
| Safety Equipment | 300 | 0 | 300 |
| Watershed Management Fee | 1350 | 1765 | 1765 |
| Liability Insurance | 5524 | 5843 | 5524 |
| Shop Supplies & Tools | 3000 | 5298 | 3000 |
| Road & 911 Signs | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Disaster Expenses | 0 | 93648 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous/Unbudgeted | 0 | 947 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 11574 | 109174 | 11489 |

HIGHWAY FUND BALANCE

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Jan 1 | \$43,755 | \$57,577 | \$47,335 |
| Current Year | + \$13,419 | - \$10,242 | - \$71,538 |
| Dec 31 | \$57,174 | \$47,335 | - \$24,203 |

GENERAL FUND BALANCE

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Jan 1 | \$13,630 | \$35,434 | \$13,473 |
| Current Year | + \$21,421 | - \$21,962 | + \$3,971 |
| Dec 31 | \$43,621 | \$13,473 | \$17,444 |

ARPA FUND BALANCE

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Beginning | | \$121,458 | \$228,831 |
| Revenue | \$122,457 | \$124,485 | |
| Expenses | - \$ 999 | - \$ 17,112 | - \$ 98,766 |
| Ending Balance | \$121,458 | \$228,831 | \$130,065 |

REVENUE FUND BALANCES

| Dec. 31 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Town Hall Project | \$36,294 | \$90,339 | \$75,058 |
| Town Garage | \$86,323 | \$32,461 | \$32,476 |
| Long-Term Facilities Maintenance | | | \$30,000 |
| Reappraisal | \$56,115 | \$60,945 | \$66,578 |
| Record Restoration | \$2,636 | \$3,706 | \$5,055 |
| New Road Equipment | \$110,609 | \$135,665 | \$55,856 |
| Bridge and Major Road Repair | \$24,400 | \$33,474 | \$23,699 |
| Road Sign | \$2,599 | \$1,891 | \$982 |

2023 FUND BALANCE OTHER FUNDS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Cemetery Checking | \$7,735 |
| Cemetery Endowment | \$9,815 |
| Cemetery Survey Account | 0.00 |
| VCDP Grant Reserve Fund | \$200 |
| Wheelock Community Initiative | \$1,241 |

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT INVENTORY

| | YEAR PURCHASED | LIFESPAN (YEARS) | YEAR TO REPLACE | COST TO REPLACE | ANNUAL COST CALCU. |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| '09 International | 2009 | 10 | 2024 | 215,000 | 21,500 |
| '19 International | 2019 | 10 | 2029 | 250,000 | 25,000 |
| John Deer Loader | 2022 | 15 | 2037 | 165,000 | 11,100 |
| Volvo Grader | 2007 | 20 | 2027 | 300,000 | 15,000 |
| '97 Galion Grader | 2023 | | | | |
| Total Annual Cost | | | | | \$72,600 |

INVENTORY OF REAL ESTATE

Most values set at time of last Reappraisal

| PARCEL # | ACRES | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION | VALUE |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 001-035009 | | 32 Burroughs Rd | Sub-station | 17,400 |
| 020-059002 | 1.44 | Sulphur Spring Rd | Cemetery | 15,000 |
| 020-059004001 | 0.02 | Sulphur Spring Rd | Spring Pavilion | 3,300 |
| 046-069006 | 0.66 | Jill's Hill Rd | Cemetery | 15,000 |
| 122-026026 | 8.94 | VT Route 122 | Land & Bldgs | 202,900 |
| 122-026027 | 0.84 | VTRoute 1222 | Cemetery | 13,400 |
| 122-058019 | 1.55 | VT Route 122 | Garage | 70,800 |

OUTSTANDING LOANS

LAND (next to Town Hall)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Balance Owed | \$22,039.76 |
| Annual Payment | \$5,970.95 |
| Year of Final Payment | 6/28/2027 |
| Interest Rate | 3.25 |

JOHN DEER LOADER

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Balance Owed | \$29,995.62 |
| Annual Payment | \$10,634.35 |
| Year of Final Payment | 6/1/2026 |
| Interest Rate | 2.90 |

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

December 31, 2023

2023 GRAND LIST

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| MUNICIPAL | 657,676 |
| EDUCATION-HOMESTEAD | 399,885 |
| EDUCATION – NON-HOMESTEAD | 257,846 |

2023 TAXES TO BE RAISED*

| | Grand List | X | Rate | Taxes Raised |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|---------------|------------------|
| MUNICIPAL TAX | | | | |
| General Fund | 657,676 | X | 0.2907 | \$191,185 |
| Highway Fund | 657,676 | X | 0.5212 | \$342,781 |
| Local | 657,676 | X | <u>0.0050</u> | <u>\$ 3,290</u> |
| Total Municipal | | | 0.7515 | \$537,256* |
| STATE EDUCATION FUND TAX | | | | |
| Homestead | 399,885 | X | 1.4787 | \$591,310 |
| Non-Homestead | 257,846 | X | 1.6294 | <u>\$420,134</u> |
| Total Education Fund | | | | \$1,011,444* |

**These figures are adjusted throughout the year when the State Tax Department applies homestead changes, income sensitivity payments, Current Use adjustments and other tax department adjustments.*

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023 TAXES PAID AS CURRENT | \$1,385,427 |
| TOTAL DELINQUENT | \$83,749 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| STATE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES | \$16,444 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|

Mathewson State Forest, Steam Mill Brook Preserve, Flagg Pond Access

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| STATE PAYMENT -CURRENT USE PROGRAM HOLD HARMLESS | \$65,130 |
|---|-----------------|

State payment covers the amount reduced from property owners enrolled

TOWN OF WHEELOCK
OFFICE OF THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES
12/31/2023

| <u>TAX YEAR</u> | <u>TURNUED OVER FOR COLLECTION</u> | <u>ABATED BY BCA</u> | <u>COLLECTIONS IN 2023</u> | <u>BALANCE TO COLLECT</u> |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2016 | 207.56 | 1 | 207.56 | 0 |
| 2017 | 422.80 | 0 | 349.16 | 73.64 |
| 2018 | 1,852.96 | 0 | 1,206.58 | 646.38 |
| 2019 | 1,731.03 | 0 | 1,231.36 | 499.67 |
| 2020 | 4,991.08 | 0 | 4,544.97 | 446.11 |
| 2021 | 10,166.62 | 0 | 10,276.01 | 71.79 |
| 2022 | 42,656.23 | 2 | 25,917.69 | 16,538.54 |
| <u>2023</u> | <u>83005.04</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>13,012.89</u> | <u>69,992.15</u> |
| TOTAL | | 3 | 56,746.22 | |


| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| TOTAL TAX COLLECTED | \$56,746.22 |
| INTEREST COLLECTED | \$6,166.66 |
| TAX COLLECTOR'S FEE | \$3,180.74 |
| REMITTED TO TREASURER | \$66,188.48 |
| OVERPAYMENTS | \$94.86 applied to taxes |

Abatement refers to either tax, penalty, interest or a combination of the three.

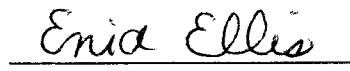
AUDITOR'S REPORT

In accordance with Section 1681 of Title 24 V.S.A., we have examined all accounts of the Town of Wheelock, and to the best of our knowledge the statements and reports, for the year ending December 31, 2002, contained herein are correct. We believe the reports represented here represent the financial position of the Town of Wheelock and give an accurate account of the Town's financial position and activities. We strongly encourage the Selectboard to have a professional audit done for the 2023 fiscal year. This is best practice especially when there has been a change in treasurer mid-year.

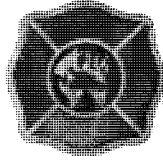
Town of Wheelock
Auditors



Kim Crady-Smith



Enid Ellis



Sheffield – Wheelock Fire Department

P.O. Box 161 -Sheffield, VT. 05866

SheffieldWheelockFire@Gmail.com

(802)626-8862

To our Supporters,

In 2023 we responded to a total of **91** calls for service. These calls consisted of 30 motor vehicle accidents, 29 medical/lifts assists, 7 Fires, 7 alarm activations/investigations, 3 hazardous materials incidents, 4 power line incidents, 3 agency assists, 2 remote rescues and 6 mutual aid fire calls. Total calls are up more than 50% over last year and looking back over the past 5 years our annual calls have close to tripled.

In 2023 we took delivery of our new to us rescue pumper to replace our old engine 24. This truck not only serves as a fully equipped first due pumper with 1000 gallons of onboard water but also holds a full complement of extrication equipment and hazardous materials response supplies. Housed in the Sheffield Station this serves as the first due Engine to all calls in Sheffield as well as being first due for all motor vehicle and Hazmat related incidents.

This year we welcomed a few new members to the department. These individuals spent much of the year getting acquainted with the fire service as well as our department procedures while completing their probationary period. I'm happy to report that these members have completed their probationary period and are proving to be valuable assets to the department. As of today we have 16 active members on our roster and hope to continue the trend of adding to this number. We continue to focus on training both in house as well as regional fire schools and hope to have at least 4 of our newest members enrolled in the next available Vermont Fire Academy's Firefighter 1 class.

This year, for the first time since 2020, we are requesting a slight increase in our appropriations. This is mainly due to an increase in dispatching fees which is directly related to the amount of calls we are dispatched to per year. That said, the additional call volume also adds additional wear and tear on equipment and increases use of supplies. We take great pride in always having our supporter's best interest in mind and we would not be asking for this increase if we did not feel it was absolutely necessary.

Finally, I would like to personally thank all of the members of this department for their hard work and dedication over the past year. As we become busier as a department we continue to ask more of our membership and I couldn't be happier to say that these men and women have proved up to the task. I am very proud of this group of individuals and cannot thank them enough for all they do.

Thank you all for your continued support of this department and as always, please consider becoming a member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane C. Lanpher'.

Shane C. Lanpher
Chief / President

SHEFFIELD-WHEELOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 BUDGET COMPARISON

(budget tools are for both towns combined)

| Description | 2023 Budget vs. Actual | 2024 Proposed |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| Workers Comp. | 1,600 1,321.00 | 1,600 |
| Dispatch | 4,250 4,368.16 | 5,500 |
| Insurance | 5,250 5,654.00 | 5,250 |
| Veh. Maint. & Repairs | 5,900 9,279.22 | 5,900 |
| Equipment Repairs | 2,250 1,012.38 | 2,250 |
| Radio / Pager | 2,250 1,304.22 | 2,250 |
| Training | 1,500 1,415.00 | 1,500 |
| Personal Equipment | 6,250 13,305.33 * | 6,250 |
| New Equipment | 2,300 2,922.76 | 2,300 |
| General | 3,250 2,594.13 | 3,250 |
| SCBA Bottle Fund (New for 2023) | 1,200 0 ** | 1,200 |
| Capital Equipment Purchases / Other | 0 11,764.80 *** | |
| Total | 54,941 | |
| Grants, Donations, Fundraising | 13,720.71 | |
| Budget | 36,000 | 37,250 |

* Includes 2 sets purchased and backordered from 2022 received in 2023

** New account being created to hold these funds, Transfer to happen in January

***Purchase of new SCBA bottles using ARPA funds

We are requesting an appropriation of **\$18,625** from each town for budgeted costs.

We are again requesting **\$9,700.00** from both towns for our truck replacement fund.

Transfer Station Budget

| | <u>Actual 2023</u> | <u>Budget 2023</u> | <u>Budget 2024</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Roof Replacement | 2,592.70 | 0.00 | |
| Bulky Item Reimbursement | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Town Appropriations-Operations | | | |
| Sheffield Appropriation | 22,150.00 | 22,150.00 | 18879.19 |
| Wheelock Appropriation | 22,150.00 | 22,150.00 | 18879.19 |
| Total Town Appropriations-Operations | <u>44,300.00</u> | <u>44,300.00</u> | <u>37758.38</u> |
| Interest Income | 6.28 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| Trash Bag Sales | 43,609.96 | 37,000.00 | 40000.00 |
| Income from Recycled Metals | 1,858.10 | 2,000.00 | 2000.00 |
| Previous Year's Surplus | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8096.62 |
| Total Income | <u>92,367.04</u> | <u>83,305.00</u> | <u>87860.00</u> |
| Expense | | | |
| Imprinted Trash Bags | 15,429.75 | 15,500.00 | 5000.00 |
| Imprinted Windshield Stickers | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Hauling Fees | | | |
| Trash (Compactor) Hauling | 10,221.31 | 7,800.00 | 12000.00 |
| Open-Top (Demolition) Hauling | 4,712.10 | 5,000.00 | 6000.00 |
| Recycling Pickup Fees | 2,548.00 | 3,500.00 | 3500.00 |
| Bulky Hauling | 1,726.75 | 3,000.00 | 3000.00 |
| Total Hauling Fees | <u>19,208.16</u> | <u>19,300.00</u> | <u>24500.00</u> |
| Disposal (Tipping) Fees | | | |
| Trash (Compactor) Disposal | 26,253.07 | 24,000.00 | 30000.00 |
| Open Top (Demolition) Disposal | 8,050.21 | 8,500.00 | 9000.00 |
| Compost Recycling Tote Fees | 1,020.00 | 1,500.00 | 1500.00 |
| Bulky Disposal | 476.43 | 1,200.00 | 1200.00 |
| Total Disposal (Tipping) Fees | <u>35,799.71</u> | <u>35,200.00</u> | <u>41700.00</u> |
| NEKWMD Surcharges | 8,740.91 | 8,500.00 | 10500.00 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Operations | | | |
| Office Supplies | 22.77 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Bank Service Charges | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Electric | 986.06 | 900.00 | 1100.00 |
| Heating Fuel | 1,854.01 | 2,850.00 | 2850.00 |
| Porta Toilet | 110.00 | 55.00 | 110.00 |
| Postage and Shipping | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 1,388.61 | 1,000.00 | 2000.00 |
| Telephone | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Operations - Other | 7.52 | | |
| Total Operations | <u>4,368.97</u> | <u>4,805.00</u> | <u>6160.00</u> |
| Total Expense | <u>83,547.50</u> | <u>83,305.00</u> | <u>87860.00</u> |
| Net Income | <u><u>8,819.54</u></u> | <u><u>0.00</u></u> | <u><u>0.00</u></u> |

Lyndon Rescue, Inc.
114 Vail Drive
P O Box 401
Lyndonville VT 05851-0401



Office: 802.626.1101
Crew: 802.626.4337
FAX: 802.626.8637
www.lyndonrescue.net
In an emergency, Dial 9-1-1

"CARING FOR THE KINGDOM"

December 29, 2023

Dear Selectboard,

In September 2023, I was hired as Director of Operations for Lyndon Rescue to replace Jillian McLaughlin, who was stepping down but remaining with our organization. I have been with Lyndon Rescue for over 15 years as an EMT. The Lyndon Rescue Board of Directors has approved the budget for 2024. A copy of the budget is included. The first page has a breakdown of what each town paid in 2023 and then the 2024 amount we have budgeted. The town appropriation amounts are up 4.1%, which is less of an increase over last year.

The largest decrease in our expenses is under our vehicle section, as we anticipate paying off our remaining ambulance loan balance early in 2024. With this remaining loan paid off, Lyndon Rescue will fully own all its vehicles, with the oldest model being a 2016 Ford F-450. We will begin the process of replacing this ambulance soon, but manufacturing is on a two year timeline.

The largest increase in our expenses is under facilities. Vermont State University has asked Lyndon Rescue if we are interested in purchasing our current facility from them. Our facility was shared with the University Health Services, who have since vacated and moved elsewhere on campus. A proposal was submitted late in 2023, and we are currently awaiting the decision of the Vermont State University Board on whether they will accept our proposal. The expense increase is based on paying for utilities, a mortgage, and initial light renovation work to make the remainder of the building usable for Lyndon Rescue.

Another increase in expense was personnel wages. Among many other industries, EMS has faced a worker shortage. In order to retain the excellent professionals we have, and to attract talent, we have increased our starting wages and revamped our pay chart to be more equitable for long-term retention of employees. The starting wage for a first year EMT is now \$16.80/hr with our revised pay scale.

Some of our expense increases will be offset by an increase in our billing rates that went into effect in 2023. Our call volume has increased, and as we close out this year, we have surpassed our 2022 call volume.

Please let me or your representative on our Board of Directors know if you have any questions. If you would like the town report letter sent by email so that you can have a color copy PDF to insert into the town report please let me know, at anthonyv@lyndonrescue.net or (802)626-1101.

Thank you for your continued support.
Sincerely,

Anthony Skelton – NREMT
Director of Operations

A Non-Profit Ambulance Company serving the communities of: Burke, East Haven, Granby, Kirby, Lyndon, Newark, Sheffield, Sutton, and Wheelock

Lyndon Rescue Inc. 2024 Budget

| CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | INCOME | TOTALS | INCOME | TOTALS |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| INCOME | Lyndonville Division | Year: 2023 | 676,350.00 | Year: 2024 | 687,500.00 |
| Revenue from Transportation Services | | | \$ 655,000.00 | | \$ 665,000.00 |
| | Patient Revenue | \$ 655,000.00 | | \$ 665,000.00 | |
| Revenue from Collections | | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Revenue from Special Events | | | \$ 3,500.00 | | \$ 3,500.00 |
| | Fair | \$ 1,000.00 | | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| | Other Events | \$ 2,500.00 | | \$ 2,500.00 | |
| Revenue from Fundraising | | | \$ 10,000.00 | | \$ 10,000.00 |
| | Donations/Pledges | \$ 5,000.00 | | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| | Fundraising events | \$ 5,000.00 | | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| Revenue from Educational Services | | | \$ 5,850.00 | | \$ 7,000.00 |
| | Community CPR Training | \$ 5,850.00 | | \$ 7,000.00 | |

Expense Summary

| | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | Percent Change | Per Capita - 2023 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Operations Expenses | \$740,555.78 | \$781,775.45 | 5.6% | \$45.93 |
| Administration Expenses | \$230,243.13 | \$249,187.98 | 8.2% | |
| Facilities Expenses | \$21,020.00 | \$36,050.00 | 71.5% | |
| Vehicle Expenses | \$135,056.68 | \$91,550.00 | -32.2% | Per Capita - 2024 |
| CPR, First Aid and Education Expenses | \$6,450.00 | \$6,450.00 | 0.0% | \$47.81 |
| Administration - Billing Expenses | \$29,355.07 | \$28,718.26 | -2.2% | |
| Administration - Billing Facility Expenses | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | 0.0% | |
| Total Expenses | \$1,163,280.66 | \$1,194,331.69 | 2.7% | |
| Income | \$676,350.00 | \$687,500.00 | 1.6% | |
| Net Revenue | -\$486,930.66 | -\$506,831.69 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Lyndon | \$252,191.68 | \$262,498.85 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Burke | \$75,827.44 | \$78,926.53 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Sheffield | \$31,323.02 | \$32,603.21 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Wheelock | \$34,859.50 | \$36,284.22 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Granby | \$321.50 | \$334.64 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Kirby | \$11,252.41 | \$11,712.30 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Sutton | \$41,932.44 | \$43,646.23 | 4.1% | |
| Town - Newark | \$26,822.06 | \$27,918.29 | 4.1% | |
| Town - East Haven | \$12,400.61 | \$12,907.43 | 4.1% | |

SW-KD EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Keniston and Dane Educational Fund was established in 1964 by Marion K. Dane and Harry A. Keniston to benefit qualified college students as well as qualified endeavors at Miller's Run School. In 2021, the Fund was transferred to the Towns of Sheffield and Wheelock and named the SW-KD Educational Trust. The Trust will maintain and continue the endeavors of the Fund.

Annual Report Year 2023

| | Basis | Market Value |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Invested assets as of December 31, 2023 | \$1,073,333.44 | \$1,262,222.33 |
| Distributions to beneficiaries in 2023 | | \$52,219.00 |

The following **college students** received distributions from the Fund during 2023.

From Sheffield: Alexis DeGreenia. **From Wheelock:** Alexis M. Duranleau, Elizabeth M. Duranleau, Madison R. Duranleau, Wisteria G. Franklin, Eli W. Hooker, Nicolas J. Lasseigne, Asa T. Rexford, Julian D. Stahler and Gavin R. Williams.

The eighth grade at **Miller's Run School** received matching funds during 2022.

Selectboard Report for 2023 Town Report

This year was a difficult one – with the July flooding and departure of our two-person road crew and town clerk/treasurer. Your selectboard continues to focus on improving our town’s capacity and maintaining high standards and transparency.

Thanks are due to the many volunteers who help make our town a great place to live. Some hold public office, attend town meeting and selectboard meetings, and offer their time and expertise on an array of projects. We are grateful.

Highway Department Highway supervisor Mark Buonanno resigned in August and highway worker Dean Davis in September. In September we appointed Glenn Cole as volunteer Road Commissioner to oversee maintenance and to receive citizen comments. In October with Glenn’s help we conducted interviews and in November announced the hiring of Luke Stevens and Sean Dernago as equal partners as our new road crew. Their strengths in equipment maintenance have already helped keep repair costs down.

In December 2022 we had ordered a new, 10-wheel Western Star, standard transmission dump body truck to replace the International for \$214,382. It later turned out that delivery could not be guaranteed until 2024. We canceled that order and have changed it to a 6 wheeler automatic, pending your support of the purchase.

In August we purchased a used grader from a dealer for \$35,000 and voted to use ARPA funds on its delivery in October. It is a 1997 Galion from Worcester VT, with a wing and plow, with 6,400 hours. It does not leak, and has so far served well.

With so much facing us from the July flood, plus a new road crew in the early months of their first year working together, we decided to not pursue new grants and get out of any grant contracts, if possible. We had been awarded \$10,000 for engineering on the Minister Hill Bridge. No work had begun so we were able to get out of that contract. We received an extension on the VTrans FY23 Class 2 Roadway grant for South Wheelock Road. The work completed, guardrails and ditching, has been reimbursed by the state. The remaining work is to finish the roadbed.

Town Clerk and Treasurer In August we accepted the resignation of Vanessa Seguin as clerk/treasurer with appreciation for her fine service to the town. We are grateful to Carol Rossi for her willingness to be appointed clerk and treasurer in the interim until Town Meeting 2024.

Town Hall Accessibility Since May 2020 the Town had been in a Settlement Agreement with The U.S. Department of Justice to bring the Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After much effort on the town’s part, in June 2022 the D.O.J. released the Town from the terms of the Settlement Agreement. **Nonetheless we are still required to make our building comply with the ADA.** We developed a plan to work within the building’s existing footprint and continued working with Silver Ridge Design to develop plans and drawings to replace non-ADA-compliant stairs between the basement and main hall and to address the building’s many other safety and ADA issues. We used funds from the Town Hall Reserve and Town Hall Construction Documents Reserve Funds. The proposal was approved by the Fire Marshall and the VT Division for Historic Preservation. We sought funding for the construction from the VT Community Development Block Grant Accessibility Modification program (up to \$100,000) and USDA Rural Development (\$35,000). Warned public hearings for both grants were held

in March. Approaching the time when all the information for grant submission was to be completed, the Selectboard voted in July to stop the project. The grant applications were withdrawn. No other plans have been formalized to date.

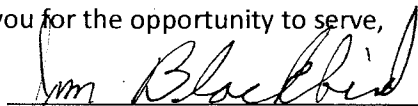
During the July 2023 flooding, the Town Hall had more flooding in the basement, on both the east and west sides. A berm created uphill from the building helped, but the basement continued to take in water during the December 2023 flooding. Fortunately, there was no serious damage from the July flooding. The town submitted an insurance claim and will result in the town receiving a settlement of \$5,784.62 that can be used for any purpose.

ARPA The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11, 2021 to provide additional financial relief in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wheelock received \$246,917.12. The Selectboard had voted in 2022 to use the majority of our ARPA funds for the Town Hall project. The ARPA Committee stopped meeting in 2022, with the intention to resume once the remaining amount of ARPA funding available was known. Since then the Selectboard has authorized a variety of expenditures listed in this report and the unspent balance is \$130,065.

FEMA We continue to work with FEMA officials to determine the cost of damages from the July flooding that are eligible for reimbursement from FEMA. This is a complicated and lengthy process. We are working with our third assigned FEMA representative. At this time we do not know how much money we will receive, or when.

Your selectboard members are grateful for the modest stipend we receive for our service to the town; we are primarily volunteers. We like to hear from constituents. Visitors are always welcome at selectboard meetings. We post meeting agendas and minutes on the boards at town hall, fire station and transfer station and the website at <https://townofwheelockvt.org/>.


Thank you for the opportunity to serve,



Jim Blackbird



Andy Buteau



Ann Lawless, chair

OFFICE OF LISTERS REPORT

2023 Municipal Grand List 657,676.00 12/31/2023

The Property Valuation and View Annual Report includes a report on equalized municipal tax rates (apples to apples comparison). This report lists Wheelock’s grand list as the 30th smallest grand list in the state. Only 29 towns have a lower equalized grand list. The grand list and expenditures are the two factors that determine the tax rate.

Reappraisal

Last Townwide Reappraisal 2008
Last Statistical Update 2013

Wheelock has been ordered to conduct a townwide reappraisal.
We are not under contract at this time.
The estimated cost of the townwide reappraisal is \$64,200.
The current balance in the Reappraisal Reserve Account is \$66,579

New Law – The Vermont Legislature passed a law last year that will require all towns to conduct a townwide reappraisal every 6 years. The state will not be providing any additional funding to towns.

2023 CLA Common Level of Appraisal 78.24%

Simple explanation – properties in Wheelock are assessed at 78.24% of fair market value

2023 COD Coefficient of Dispersion 23.24%

Some categories of properties, such as parcels over 100 acres, are further from fair market value than other categories

VTPIE New State-wide Grand List software

The process of transferring to this new software program is in its second year and there have been glitches.
Tax bills are scheduled to be generated in the new program this year. Please check your tax bills carefully and notify the treasurer if you have any concerns or Questions.

2023 Listers : Atti Seguin, Tanya Brewer, Carol Rossi

Cemetery Task Force Report, 2023

The Wheelock Cemetery Task Force was able to accomplish good work this year, despite the weather challenges. Policies were written and approved and monthly meetings and work days were held at the cemeteries.

The town's cemeteries had not been maintained adequately for the past few decades other than the efforts of a very small number of individuals working without town financial support and using only their own materials. At the start of the year, the backlog of stone and grounds work appeared to be about 12 years. The task force is very grateful to the town and people of Wheelock for supporting our efforts to return the cemeteries to well kept condition.

The cemeteries are all now being mowed by a contractor who also does the town's sexton work. Gravel purchased by the town with the money from the 2022 VOCA grant was used to reset 162 leaning and fallen stones, at a cost of materials of about \$1.15 per stone. 11 broken stones were repaired at a cost of materials of about \$8 per stone. Many stones were cleaned, however we did not count the number done. A perennial garden was planted around the Veterans' memorial stone at the South Wheelock Cemetery using donated plants and mulch, and will be maintained by the task force. Flags were set out for Memorial Day and taken down after Veterans' Day. Flower boxes were built by the Tidhars for the South Wheelock Cemetery and were filled with donated plants. Special thanks to Jason Bora for tractoring tons of gravel into the South Wheelock cemetery so our work could continue throughout the season.

The Cemetery Task Force has been awarded a \$1000 grant by VOCA to continue repairing and resetting stones, with a required town budget match of \$500. The original plan in the 2023 budget was to pay for professional repair and resetting of larger stones, for as many years as needed. However that service is very expensive and there are hundreds of stones that need work. With the grant, the Task Force will be able to get additional tools and materials to safely handle heavier stones and do much more of the work, as volunteers, that the cemeteries need. The town money is being used very carefully to provide good value while minimizing the cost to the town.

Thank you for your support of the Wheelock town cemeteries.

Wheelock Cemetery Task Force 2023

Liz Muckerman - Co-chair

Patti Baker - Co-chair

Wendy Tidhar

Hannah Tidhar

Volunteers 2023

Jason Bora

Wendy Bora

Joan Alexander

Tanya Brewer



Wheelock Community Initiative 2023

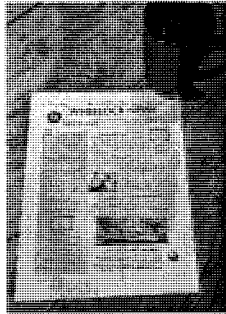
Thank you to the Town for being our partner!

Please join us!

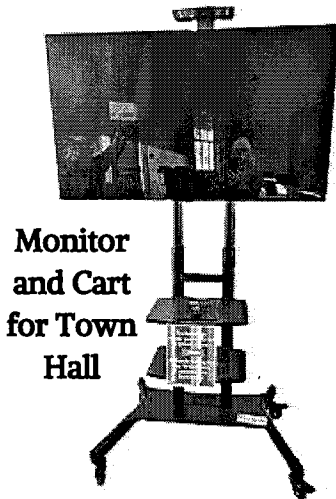
wheelockcmtty@gmail.com

<https://wheelockcmtty.org/>

12 editions
*Wheelock
News*



March: 77 Chicken Pot Pies



Monitor
and Cart
for Town
Hall



June: Yard Sale

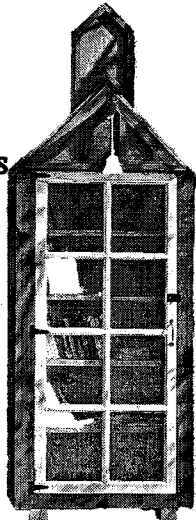
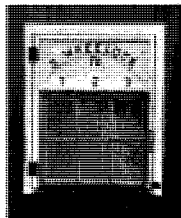
6 Welcome &
5 Sympathy
Baskets



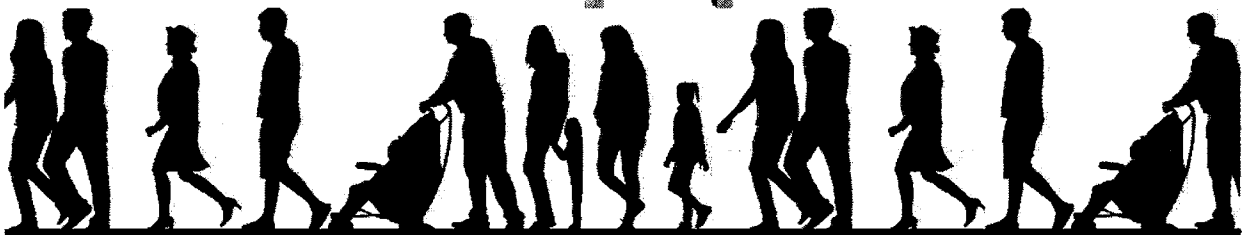
2 Little Free Libraries



Grant for Walk audit:
Step 1 completed
To improve walkability in village



Food Drives:
June, Oct, Dec



Kingdom East School Board Report

Kingdom East School District Community,

We greatly appreciate your continued support of all of our KESD schools! We exist to provide rigorous and engaging learning across a variety of environments to ensure the academic and social-emotional growth of ALL KESD students. In addition, we continue to focus on attracting and retaining high-quality staff to contribute to the growth of our students, and the vibrancy of our schools and communities. The KESD School Board is thankful for the heroic efforts of staff, parents and students to make our schools caring places that foster and support the character development and strong social and emotional health of our students.

Specifically, the KESD School Board would like to express our gratitude to Lyndon Town School Principal Amy Gale and Lunenburg School Principal Cheryl McVetty for their amazing contributions to their schools, communities and our district, as they plan for their upcoming retirements. With gratitude and appreciation, we wish Amy and Cheryl the very best in their well-deserved retirement!

Here are a few highlighted successes and continuous work with KESD's Strategic Priorities:

Quality & Robust Academics

- *Art, music, technology, and world language in all schools*
- *iReady data system to track student progress in literacy and math*

Character Development & Social-Emotional Health

- *Anti-bullying, Experiential, Athletics, Afterschool & Summer programs in all schools*

Community Connections

- *Ongoing strong partnerships with Kingdom Trails, Village Sports Shop, Burke Mountain, Lyndon Outing Club and Vermont Rural Education Collaborative (VREC) to provide healthy, engaging learning opportunities for all students*

Effective & Efficient Management of Resources

- *Ad Hoc Facilities committee working on comprehensive facilities plan across all schools*
- *Staff Recruitment and Retention Team working on attracting and retaining high-quality staff*

This report highlights our district programs, individual schools, and all of the details of the Board's proposed FY25 budget of **\$49,201,455**. Act 127, new legislation created to better support rural districts like KESD, provides an opportunity for the district to receive greater financial support from the Vermont State Education Fund. While budget development has been challenging due to a new method of counting students under Act 127, coupled with decreasing Common Level of Appraisals (CLAs), the proposed budget also offers an opportunity to continue to support students with the resources needed to meet our strategic priority of providing robust academics for ALL students.

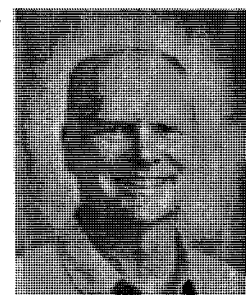
Every policy, decision, and strategy considers our students, staff, and community following the KESD mission statement that guides our efforts:

"In partnership with the community, staff, and students, the Kingdom East School District is committed to providing a collaborative and equitable environment of educational excellence through rigorous learning experiences that develop individual and diverse talents and abilities of all our students to prepare them for successful lives as contributing, responsible citizens."

On behalf of our entire team of board members, we thank you for your commitment to the Kingdom East School District and we look forward to serving the needs of our students and community now and into the future.



Cynthia Stuart
School Board Chair

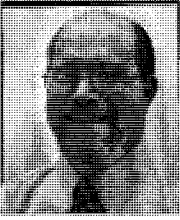


Sean McMannon
Superintendent of Schools



Miller's Run School

Patrick Ham, Principal



Inspiring Growth in Arts and Academics: Using the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) for core instruction and Literacy Footprints for intervention, we have seen great improvements in students' reading. In math, we use Bridges (K-5) and Open Up Resources (6-8). We have weekly classes in guidance, PE, art, music, technology/library skills, and grades 3-8 have Chinese language and culture. Students in grades 3-8 participate in instrumental music programs.

Growing Engaged Citizens: Our student council organizes and runs Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school-wide assemblies. These students gave speeches to demonstrate why they should be on the council, and the student body votes on whom they think should represent them. This practical expression of democracy is further developed in grades 5 and 7 who learn about Town Meeting and how to be involved in our local communities.

Cultivating a Collaborative and Cooperative Community: The Friends of Miller's Run (PTO) meets monthly to share ideas and to support the students by helping to fund special projects such as our first soccer goals, special 3rd/4th grade basketball hoops, and snacks for the winter activities program. They raise money through fall plant sales, as well as seed sales in the winter. Feel free to join them on the second Monday of each month. To support the community garden, our middle school students maintain the composting program for our food wastes. The community garden then raises vegetables that are free to senior citizens and available to others by donation.

Daring to Dream Big: 2023 brought us our first Nordic ski team! We had field trips to Tree Corners campground, the Echo Center with a history cruise on Lake Champlain, and 8th grade went to Washington, DC. Students participated in Girls on the Run, both locally and at the state level. We hosted a KESD soccer team, our students built bridges for an engineering competition, we had book fairs, enjoyed an amazing costume parade, and our fall concert was packed and enjoyed by all. Our monthly assemblies recognized every student, through the course of the year, with a focus on academic growth and character development.

In 2024, we have plans for our regular Winter Activities program. Our 6th & 8th graders are scheduled to be trained in CPR and First Aid. We look forward to the Dragon Strings Concert and our annual Author's Night.

Physical plant: Our playground was damaged in the July floods. We look forward to it being repaired so we can fully access our outdoor recess areas soon.

We continue to need sidewalks and sidewalk repairs for safety in our parking lot.

In the future, we will need to update the windows in the "original" wing of the building.

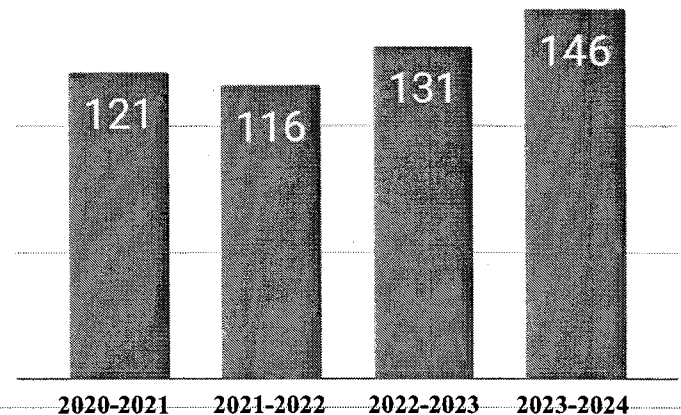


At Miller's Run School, our vision is for every student to thrive by having the opportunity daily to acquire the skills and to have the experiences they need to be successful and to pursue their dreams.

We look forward to continuing this mission in 2024 and beyond!

Grades: PreK-8
Classroom Teachers: 11
Special Educators: 2
Support Staff: 7
Students PreK-8: 146

Enrollment Trends (As of 10/1/23)



Caledonia County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff James Hemond

970 Memorial Drive St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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

Email: caledoniasheriff.net

Upon taking office of February of 2023 I was eager to make positive changes within the department. I immediately sought qualified competent applicants to add to the departments depleted roster. During the spring and summer I was able to add four new deputies to the ranks resulting in 11 deputies employed with the department. I reconnected with area Law Enforcement Fire, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Human Services Agencies not only in Caledonia County but State wide. Much of these relationships resulted in opportunities to train, assist with service to community members and law enforcement and combine resources to best serve the community. We completed our annual financial audit for the department in 2023 and it resulted in no findings or problems of any kind.

We continue to add vehicles to our fleet, 3 new patrol cruisers were purchased, replacing an aging fleet that have served us well. We have 9 marked cars, a transport van for prisoner transports, and one unmarked car for civil process service. The radar cart was deployed throughout the county providing speed deterrence where deployed.

It was my great pleasure to return to security services at this year's Caledonia County Fair. This would not have been possible without the dedication of my staff, but also much appreciated help from The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. The department was also contacted throughout the year by several towns for contracted patrols. Of the 17 towns in the county the department provides services to 13 of these towns. Due to staffing shortages it has been difficult to provide consistent services to these communities but we are working hard to improve as well as increase our presence to provide consistent, quality, and cost effective Law Enforcement Services to you all of you. As much as possible we maintain an active presence with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We have been involved with drills and evacuation plans and will continue to assist as needed. The department maintains a Take Back Drugs Location serving as a drop off for expired, unused and no longer needed Rx medications. 2023 saw the expiration of many deputies body armor. Grant money provided by the US Department of Justice sees to it that every six years body armor is replaced to provide every sworn member of Law Enforcement access to daily worn body armor. I took this opportunity to upgrade body armor providing all of us with the most protection available. The department also purchased Axon body worn cameras with funds received from a grant from the state of Vermont. I continue to apply for grants and seek funding to provide the most modern, quality, cost prohibitive equipment for the department to best serve the community.

I would like to announce the retirement of Sergeant Steven Gadapee and Deputy Gilbert Roberts. Each served over 30 years as Law Enforcement Officers and will be missed.

Having served with the department for 18 years I will continue to make my best effort to serve all of you in this wonderful community whether you live, work, play or raise a family. I am always available for any questions or comments here at the office and feel free to visit our Facebook page as well.

Respectfully;

James Hemond

Caledonia County Sheriff



2024 NEKWMD BUDGET- APPROVED

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | BUDGET ITEM | 2023 BUDGET | 2023 ACTUAL as of 12/31/2023 | 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET |
| 2 | ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES | | | |
| 3 | Advertising | \$300.00 | \$144.25 | \$300.00 |
| 4 | Audit -- Financial | \$6,845.00 | \$8,750.00 | \$9,000.00 |
| 5 | Audit -- Waste Haulers | \$2,500.00 | \$2,129.60 | \$2,500.00 |
| 6 | Bank Charges | \$0.00 | \$60.00 | \$25.00 |
| 7 | Surplus | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 8 | Cleaning | \$1,920.00 | \$1,869.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| 9 | Copier | \$1,500.00 | \$1,406.55 | \$1,500.00 |
| 10 | Dues/Permits/Fees/Penalties | \$5,500.00 | \$6,444.16 | \$6,500.00 |
| 11 | Heating Fuel | \$1,300.00 | \$988.42 | \$1,500.00 |
| 12 | Liability & Casualty Ins. | \$15,000.00 | \$12,595.77 | \$16,000.00 |
| 13 | Legal Fees | \$3,000.00 | \$702.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| 14 | Postage | \$2,000.00 | \$1,860.48 | \$2,000.00 |
| 15 | Office Supplies | \$4,000.00 | \$5,715.38 | \$3,500.00 |
| 16 | Secretary Stipend | \$0.00 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 |
| 17 | Telephone/IT - Office | \$10,000.00 | \$8,757.01 | \$7,500.00 |
| 18 | Miscellaneous | \$500.00 | \$4,511.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| 19 | Water/Sewer | \$1,200.00 | \$1,175.76 | \$1,400.00 |
| 20 | TOTAL ADMINISTRATION | \$55,565.00 | \$57,409.38 | \$57,025.00 |
| 21 | Gross Wages | \$445,164.00 | \$422,760.32 | \$457,414.00 |
| 22 | OT Wages--Warehouse | \$5,000.00 | \$10,439.76 | \$9,000.00 |
| 23 | Fica (Employer Match) | \$27,942.00 | \$27,564.01 | \$28,918.00 |
| 24 | Medi (Employer Match) | \$6,534.00 | \$6,446.43 | \$6,763.00 |
| 25 | Unemployment/HCP Insurance | \$6,000.00 | \$7,326.60 | \$7,150.00 |
| 26 | VMERS (Retirement) | \$25,725.00 | \$27,593.95 | \$30,709.00 |
| 27 | Health Insurance | \$60,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$72,000.00 |
| 28 | Workman's Comp. Insurance | \$27,500.00 | \$25,573.23 | \$34,000.00 |
| 29 | Mileage - Employee | \$4,000.00 | \$4,890.17 | \$5,000.00 |
| 30 | Life & Disability | \$5,700.00 | \$7,840.36 | \$7,750.00 |
| 31 | Personnel Equipment | \$500.00 | \$729.46 | \$750.00 |
| 32 | Training | \$500.00 | \$30.00 | \$500.00 |
| 33 | TOTAL PERSONNEL | \$614,565.00 | \$541,194.29 | \$659,954.00 |
| 34 | EQUIPMENT EXPENSES | | | |
| 35 | Baler Repairs | \$2,000.00 | \$853.13 | \$3,000.00 |
| 36 | Baler Supplies | \$6,000.00 | \$7,793.24 | \$5,000.00 |
| 37 | Forklift Fuel | \$3,000.00 | \$2,486.31 | \$3,000.00 |
| 38 | Forklift Repairs | \$4,000.00 | \$7,804.67 | \$3,500.00 |
| 39 | Misc. Equipment Repairs | \$500.00 | \$8,387.94 | \$1,000.00 |
| 40 | Skidsteer Repairs | \$3,000.00 | \$4,980.23 | \$3,000.00 |
| 41 | Warehouse Supplies | \$2,500.00 | \$3,440.29 | \$3,500.00 |
| 42 | Mack Truck Loan Payment | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 43 | Trucks--Diesel | \$27,000.00 | \$27,537.50 | \$28,000.00 |
| 44 | Trucks--Repairs | \$15,000.00 | \$33,038.85 | \$27,500.00 |
| 45 | TOTAL EQUIPMENT | \$63,000.00 | \$96,322.16 | \$77,500.00 |

2024 NEKWMD BUDGET

2024 NEKWMD BUDGET- APPROVED

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | BUDGET ITEM | 2023 BUDGET | 2023 ACTUAL as of 12/31/2023 | 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET |
| 46 | | | | |
| 47 | BUILDING EXPENSES | | | |
| 48 | Electricity | \$5,400.00 | \$5,557.34 | \$5,400.00 |
| 49 | Maintenance | \$2,000.00 | \$150.35 | \$1,500.00 |
| 50 | Trash Removal | \$3,600.00 | \$4,175.76 | \$3,800.00 |
| 51 | TOTAL BUILDING | \$11,000.00 | \$9,883.45 | \$10,700.00 |
| 52 | PROGRAMS EXPENSES | | | |
| 53 | Composting | \$26,000.00 | \$22,970.00 | \$23,000.00 |
| 54 | Composter/Bin | \$3,500.00 | \$2,785.60 | \$3,500.00 |
| 55 | Foam Cycle | \$0.00 | \$48,500.00 | \$0.00 |
| 56 | Organics VT Grant | \$0.00 | \$141,335.50 | \$0.00 |
| 57 | Education Outreach | \$7,000.00 | \$7,560.43 | \$8,000.00 |
| 58 | Hazmat Disposal | \$35,500.00 | \$56,545.30 | \$40,000.00 |
| 59 | Hazmat Supplies | \$5,500.00 | \$5,986.48 | \$5,500.00 |
| 60 | Sale of Recyclables-Processing | \$24,000.00 | \$33,718.71 | \$22,500.00 |
| 61 | Special Collections | \$250.00 | \$0.00 | \$250.00 |
| 62 | Supplies | \$400.00 | \$494.48 | \$500.00 |
| 63 | Tire Disposal | \$15,000.00 | \$17,460.80 | \$15,000.00 |
| 64 | TOTAL PROGRAMS | \$117,150.00 | \$337,357.30 | \$118,250.00 |
| 65 | SUB-TOTAL | \$861,280.00 | \$1,042,166.58 | \$923,429.00 |
| 66 | | | | |
| 67 | Capital Improvement Fund | \$24,000.00 | \$26,500.00 | \$24,000.00 |
| 68 | TOTAL CAPITAL FUND | \$24,000.00 | \$26,500.00 | \$24,000.00 |
| 69 | | | | |
| 70 | TOTAL NEK EXPENSES | \$885,280.00 | \$1,068,666.58 | \$947,429.00 |
| 71 | Grants--St of VT | \$80,000.00 | \$124,686.17 | \$111,000.00 |
| 72 | Grants--Organics | \$0.00 | \$141,335.50 | \$0.00 |
| 73 | Surplus Funds | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 74 | Hauling--Recycling Pick-ups | \$59,000.00 | \$58,465.00 | \$59,000.00 |
| 75 | Haz Mat/Paint Care | \$5,000.00 | \$5,060.34 | \$5,000.00 |
| 76 | Interest Income | \$30.00 | \$45.95 | \$30.00 |
| 77 | Miscellaneous Income | \$1,500.00 | \$2,945.62 | \$2,500.00 |
| 78 | Program Sales--Composter/Bins | \$2,000.00 | \$2,070.60 | \$1,500.00 |
| 79 | Programs- Oil Filter Program | \$150.00 | \$125.00 | \$150.00 |
| 80 | Sale of Recyclables | \$122,000.00 | \$60,151.24 | \$100,000.00 |
| 81 | Compost Income | \$26,000.00 | \$21,550.00 | \$23,000.00 |
| 82 | Electronics Income | \$14,000.00 | \$18,751.08 | \$19,000.00 |
| 83 | Scrap Metal Income | \$18,000.00 | \$16,631.04 | \$18,000.00 |
| 84 | Battery Income | \$5,000.00 | \$4,710.45 | \$5,000.00 |
| 85 | Tire Income | \$15,000.00 | \$14,732.50 | \$15,000.00 |
| 86 | Per Capita Assessment | \$50,000.00 | \$49,763.82 | \$54,506.00 |
| 87 | Surcharge--Waste Haulers | \$487,600.00 | \$544,742.64 | \$533,743.00 |
| 88 | TOTAL NEK REVENUES | \$885,280.00 | \$1,065,766.95 | \$947,429.00 |

2024 NEKWMD BUDGET

2024 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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. – 12:00p.m. | Brunswick Town Office |
| SATURDAY, JUNE 22 | 8:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m. | Newport Center Town Garage |
| WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 | 3:00 p.m. – 7:00p.m. | Barnet Transfer Station |
| SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 | 8:00 a.m. – 11:00a.m. | Greensboro Recycling Center |
| WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 | 1:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m. | Lunenburg Transfer Station |
| SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Lyndon Recycling Center |

The NEKWMD reserves the right to terminate any collection early in the event that we are at storage capacity. Please limit HHW disposal at listed events to 25 gallons. If you have more than 25 gallons, please call our office to schedule an appointment at our Lyndonville facility, May 2 – Oct. 3, 2024.

Not going to be able to make any of these dates? NOT A PROBLEM! The NEKWMD will be accepting these materials by appointment at our Lyndonville facility from May 2, 2024 to October 3, 2024. Due to regulatory handling requirements, hazardous wastes will not be accepted without an appointment. Scheduling ahead ensures that a qualified individual will be on-site ready to accept your hazardous waste.

****HHW Collections are free and open to residents of all DISTRICT TOWNS****

What are *Household Hazardous Products*? They are consumer products that contain ingredients that may be:

Toxic- poisonous if eaten, breathed, or absorbed through the skin

Corrosive- can burn or destroy living tissue if spilled on skin

Reactive- creates fumes, heat, or explosion hazards if mixed with certain materials such as water

Explosive- can explode with exposure to heat or pressure

Flammable/Ignitable- can easily be set on fire

To determine if a product in your home is hazardous, check the label for the following words:

Danger indicates that the substance is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic.

Poison means that the substance is highly toxic.

Caution/Warning is put on all other hazardous substances that are a somewhat lesser hazard, but are still dangerous if the directions are not followed closely.

Conditionally Exempt Generator businesses can also use the Lyndonville collections for the actual cost of the disposal of their materials. Please call ahead for pricing and an appointment.

**CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEM'S YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY
802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or www.nekwmd.org**

The NEKWMD hazardous waste collection program is made possible in part by a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. This year's grant totaled \$74074.31

Acceptable HHW Materials

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- AEROSOLS
- AIR FRESHENERS
- AMMONIA
- ARTS AND CRAFTS SUPPLIES
- BLEACH
- CLEANERS (INCLUDES: DRAIN, OVEN, FLOOR, WINDOW, TOILET, RUG, ETC.)
- DISINFECTANTS
- METAL & FURNITURE POLISH
- MOTHBALLS
- MERCURY THERMOMETERS
- NAIL POLISH & REMOVER
- NI-CD, LITHIUM, MI-MH, AND BUTTON CELL BATTERIES
- SPOT & STAIN REMOVERS
- ALKALINE BATTERIES *

GARDEN SUPPLIES

- CREOSOTE
- DIOXINS
- FERTILIZERS
- FLEA KILLERS
- FUNGICIDES
- HERBICIDES
- INSECT SPRAYS
- MURIATIC ACID
- NO-PEST STRIPS
- PESTICIDES
- RODENT KILLERS

GARAGE

- ANTIFREEZE
- BRAKE FLUID *
- CORROSIVES

- CAR WAXES AND CLEANERS

GARAGE (CONTINUED)

- ENGINE DEGREASERS
- FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS *
- GASOLINE/DRY GAS
- KEROSENE
- LEAD-ACID CAR BATTERIES *
- LIGHTER FLUID
- OIL-BASED PAINT
- LATEX-BASED PAINT
- PAINT THINNER
- PROPANE CYLINDERS
- SEALANTS
- STAINS/STRIPPERS
- SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS
- TRANSMISSION FLUID *
- WOOD PRESERVATIVES
- USED MOTOR OIL AND FILTERS *

* ALSO ACCEPTED AT OIL AND BATTERY STATIONS YEAR ROUND

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- ASBESTOS
- EXPLOSIVES, INCLUDING GUN POWDER, AMMUNITION
- FLARES
- INFECTIOUS WASTE
- PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION
- RADIOACTIVE WASTE, INCLUDING SMOKE DETECTORS
- UNKNOWN GAS CYLINDERS
- EMPTY CONTAINERS

**CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEM'S YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY
802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or www.nekwmd.org**

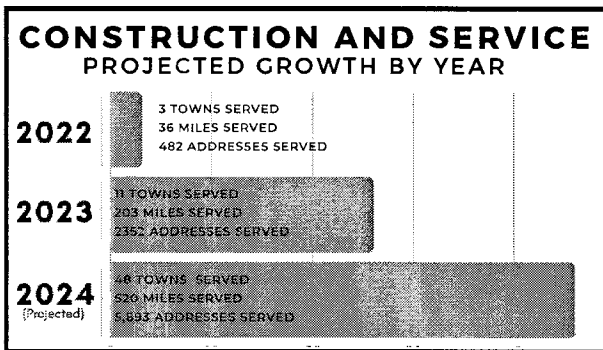
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2023 ANNUAL REPORT




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.

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

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



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 |
| Total Cash In | \$31,785,773 | \$11,530,536 | Total Cash In | \$39,617,183 |
| 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 |
| Total Cash Out | \$31,219,083 | \$11,399,404 | Total Cash Out | \$38,764,729 |
| Annual Net Cash Flow | \$682,205 | \$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.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS

Community Restorative Justice Center \$250

“The CRJC helped 5 Wheelock residents through this process over the past 12 months, which include 1 reparative panel, as well as 2 Wheelock residents serving as court diversion clients, as well as 2 Wheelock residents participating in our Free Legal Clinic.” ...

Darling Inn Senior Meal Site \$500

“Last year we served a total o 29,536 meals between the Darling Inn meal site dining room and those home-delivered by volunteer to folks throughout the area.”

H.O.P.E. \$500

“So far for 2023, H.O.P.E. has provided the following services to area community members... 1043 food pantry vouchers, 797 backpack program bags, 163 children’s clothing vouchers, 89 adult clothing vouchers, 353 homeless/domestic violence vouchers, 127 diaper bank vouchers, 13 emergency packages” ...

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging \$300

“In FY2023 the Council aided over 4,796 residents of the Northeast Kingdom... and with our congregates...delivered 209,379 meals.” ...

Northeast Kingdom Human Services \$1622

...”3800 individuals of all ages in our service area utilized support services, 24 individuals from the Town of Wheelock accessed supportive care at NKHS, Employees provided over 300 hours of community consultation, education and outreach...,

Northeast Kingdom Learning Services \$150

“...Adult Education and Literacy Program (learning center in St. Johnsbury) assists individuals interested in earning their high school diploma, gaining skills to transition into a new career, improving their academic skills in reading, math, writing, ... Our Tutorial Program partners with local schools throughout the NEK to provide tutorial services for students in K-12 to help them achieve academic success.”

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services \$250

“...supportive counseling for youth and families, case management, support for youth within their schools, family mediation, ...support for youth at risk of homelessness, youth with current or past involvement with foster care, ...access to short-term and long-term housing support... In 2023, NEKYS served 417 individuals throughout Caledonia and Essex Counties.”

Rural Community Transportation \$500

“In 2023, RCT provided 989 rides to 9 residents of Wheelock, traveling 17,783.33 miles at a total cost of \$15,930.33.”

Umbrella **\$600**

“ensures ...access to services that cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression... prevention education, initiatives in schools,... support for survivors of domestic violence, stalking, teen violence, violence related to gender or sexual orientation,... child care, strengthening family relationships,..support for women in building job readiness skills...”At least 8 households in the Town of Wheelock were served in FY2023.”

Vermont Center for Independent Living **\$85**

“This past year in Wheelock, VCIL spent over \$1,700 on meals through our Meals on Wheelock program for residents...” other services include peer counselors, grants for adaptive-equipment, home access modifications, advocacy for people with disabilities...

TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS **\$4757**

NON-SOCIAL SERVICE PETITIONS FOR APPROPRIATIONS

Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium **\$1133**

Powers Park **\$1000**

Cobleigh Public Library **\$1000**

Town of Wheelock
Town Meeting
Minutes
March 7, 2023

Moderator, Peter Miller, opened the meeting at 9am with welcome and overview of Robert's Rule of Order.

Article 1. Carol Rossi made a motion to elect Peter Miller for a 1 year term as Moderator. The motion was seconded by Steve Amos. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

The Moderator then asked permission of the assembly for Dennis Labounty, VT State Representative to speak.

Mr. Labounty introduced himself as a lifelong resident of the Northeast Kingdom. He informed the assembly of the newly formed district Caledonia – 3 which includes Lyndon, Newark, Sheffield, Sutton and Wheelock. He discussed the work and key priorities he's been working on this legislative session, which include the Housing Recovery Program and Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance. He also introduced the new 2 year study relating to the Affordable Heat Act.

Article 2. Carol Rossi made a motion to adopt Article 2 regarding the General Fund budget (\$139,438.82), as written. The motion was seconded by Kim Crady-Smith. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: Carol Rossi made a comment regarding the increase in the Sexton contract. She noted that she has had trouble reaching the Sexton for questions regarding corner markers for her plot. She hoped that the Board had better communications with the Sexton. Vanessa Seguin stated that the Cemetery Task Force, together with Jonathan Perkins, have provided a draft policy to the Selectboard for review and consideration. She stated that it includes information regarding price, requirement for corner markers, procedures for purchasing a plot, etc. She also stated that anyone requesting to purchase a plot during the winter months are asked to come back in the Spring, a time when the Sexton is able to measure the proposed lot and confirm its availability. Jack Smith informed Carol of where he purchased his corner stones.

Article 3. Kim Crady-Smith made a motion to Adopt Article 3 regarding the Highway Fund budget (\$368,777.28), as written. The motion was seconded by James Mitchell. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: David Lee asked about State Aid Resurfacing. Vanessa Seguin pointed out the supplemental income received from the state in the 2023 proposed budget. Owen Montgomery asked if the budget includes grants. Ann Lawless stated that the budget does not include grant income or expenses, because no grants are guaranteed.

Article 4 – Officers Required by Law.

Clerk – 3 Year Term: Carol Rossi nominated Vanessa Seguin for the 3-year Clerk position. Jack Smith made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Vanessa Seguin. The motion was seconded by Eileen Boland. *Motion carried.*

Treasurer -3 Year Term: Kim Crady-Smith nominated Vanessa Seguin for the 3-year Treasurer position. Jack Smith made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Vanessa Seguin. The motion was seconded by Carol Rossi. *Motion carried.*

Selectboard – 3 Year Term: Jack Smith nominated Andy Buteau for the 3-year Selectboard seat.

Ann Lawless nominated Mike Richardson for the 3-year Selectboard seat.

Jack Smith called for a paper ballot.

Discussion: Kim Crady-Smith asked for an introduction by the two nominees.

Andy Buteau introduced himself to the assembly. He stated he has over 12 years SB experience in municipal settings including the roles as road commissioner, selectboard and assessor to name a few in addition to participating in effort to obtaining \$3M worth of road grants for a pervious town. He also stated that he is a people person and looking forward to offering a level of transparency to the people of Wheelock.

Mike Richardson, incumbent, introduced himself to the assembly. He stated he both lives and runs his business in Wheelock. He stated that he feels he balances out the Board pretty well. He feels his strengths are listening to the people, even when the topics are heated and often times contested. He feels he works well with the other two board members and they are able to work together to deal with hard topics presented by the townspeople, and accomplish small but important steps in a movement forward. He stated he represents and appreciates all topics voiced by Wheelock people and appreciates listening to the words of the people, even if he doesn't necessarily agree with their take on the topic.

Carol Rossi then asked each candidate if they would be willing to sign a policy with regard to elected officials, such as the Selectboard, treating others with courtesy and respect. Both candidates agreed to such.

Tanya Brewer then described a situation wherein one selectboard member treated another with disrespect at a public meeting. Others acknowledged the meeting described and recall a different interpretation of what happened.

PAPER BALLOT VOTE RESULTS:

Mike Richardson: 23 Andy Buteau: 36

Lister – 3 Year Term: Carol Rossi nominated Tanya Brewer for the 3-year Lister position. Atti Seguin made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Tanya Brewer. The motion was seconded by Steve Amos. *Motion carried.*

Auditor – 3 Year Term: Kim Crady-Smith nominated Enid Ellis for the 3-year Auditor position. Kim Crady-Smith then made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Enid Ellis. The motion was seconded by Eileen Boland. *Motion carried.*

Auditor – 2 Year Term: Eileen Boland nominated Steve Amos for the 2-year auditor position. Barb Miller then made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Steve Amos. *Motion Carried.*

Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 Year Term: Kim Crady-Smith nominated Emily Purdy for the 1-year Delinquent Tax Collector position. Sharon Fialco made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Emily Purdy. The motion was seconded by Carol Rossi. *Motion carried.*

1st Constable – 1 Year Term: Steve Amos nominated Charlie Lacillade for the First Constable position. Kim Crady-Smith made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Charlie Lacillade. The motion was seconded by Carol Rossi. *Motion carried.*

2nd Constable – 1 Year Term: Tune Faulker nominated Atti Seguin for the Second Constable position. Marina Cole made a motion that nominations cease and one ballot be cast for Atti Seguin. The motion was seconded by Donna Camber. *Motion carried.*

Discussion: Jack Mitchell questioned why the election of grand juror, agent to convey real estate, and agent to prosecute and defend were left off the warning. Vanessa Seguin stated that they are not required by statute to be on there and may be appointed by Selectboard at their first organizational meeting.

Article 5. Steve Amos made a motion to adopt Article 5 as written. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Article 6. Jack Smith made a motion to adopt Article 6 as written. Kim Crady-Smith seconded the motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Jack Smith asked for an amendment to the Article stating that the balance in the reserve account may be misleading since the Selectboard has withdrawn \$110,000 for the loader purchase. Vanessa Seguin stated the annual report, is a report of Town financials as of December 31, 2022 and further stated that the withdrawal had not taken place before December 31, 2022.

The call for an amendment failed by the assembly.

Article 7. Steven Amos made a motion to adopt Article 7 as written. Eileen Boland seconded the motion. *Motion failed.*

Discussion: Steve Amos asked the Selectboard if this pertained to only the Town Hall, and whether this covered grounds as well as buildings. Ann Lawless stated the intent would be for it to cover all facilities, not just the Town Hall and Jim Blackbird stated that the intent is for this to pertain to buildings only.

Carol Rossi asked if this fund would be “under the control and direction of the Selectboard”. The Selectboard agreed that is the intent, similar to other reserve articles established by the people for similar purposes.

It was further discussed that the terms of Statute 24 VSA Sec 2804 imply that the Selectboard is agent of such funds.

David Lee called for an amendment to Article 7 and made a motion to add (a) after the 2804. The motion was seconded by Kim Crady-Smith. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Article 8. Steve Amos made a motion to adopt Article 8 as written. Jack Smith seconded this motion. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: Marina Cole asked if the Selectboard would consider adopting a policy that clearly spelled out the terms of such reserve fund at their next meeting; to include what the purpose is, what it covers and examples of approved expenditures from said reserve fund. The board agreed they would be in favor of doing the same.

Article 9. Marina Cole made a motion to adopt Article 9 as written. The motion was seconded by Jack Smith. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: Jack Smith and Steve Amos acknowledge the services of Lyndon Rescue to be extremely beneficial to our small community and thanked them.

Article 10. Carol Rossi made a motion to pass Article 10 as written. The motion was seconded by Kim Crady-Smith. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: Carol Rossi shared her many thanks to the volunteer fire department. Shane Lanphere, Fire Chief, spoke briefly about the services of the fire department along with the never-ending need for more volunteers.

Article 11. Steve Amos made a motion to pass Article 11 as written. The motion was seconded by Scott Lang. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: Steve Amos asked if Sheffield is appropriating the same amount toward the transfer station operations. Vanessa Seguin confirmed they were and also mentioned the increase in each town's appropriation was a result of a bulk bag purchase.

Carol Rossi asked the joint boards to consider the hours of operation of the transfer station. Her research showed our transfer station is open more than other small transfer stations in the surrounding area and as a result, it is costing both towns more.

Article 12. Tune Faulkner made a motion to pass Article 12 as written. The motion was seconded by Steve Amos. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Article 13. Carol Rossi made a motion to pass Article 13 as written. The motion was seconded by Kim Crady-Smith. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: Emily Purdy and Vanessa Seguin explained the modified language to Article 13 from years past. Previously the article stated a "30 day grace period", but they suggested to the Board modifying the language to instead read "...to December 31", because of the potential delay in the Treasurer getting everything turned over to the Delinquent Tax Collector for collections. They felt an exact date would provide more clarity for both the collector and the delinquent tax payer.

Article 14. Tune Faulkner made a motion to pass Article 14 as written. The motion was seconded by Toni Masure. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Article 15. Steve Amos made a motion to pass Article 15 as written. The motion was seconded by Wendy Bora. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Article 16. Tune Faulker made a motion to pass Article 16 as written. The motion was seconded by Toni Masure. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Discussion: Carol Rossi stated that the Cobleigh Public Library is a municipal library funded by the Town of Lyndon taxpayers and any contribution Wheelock makes would likely lessen the burden of said Lyndon taxpayers. She then proposed to amend to Article 16; wherein the motion would be modified to raise and appropriate \$250 to Cobleigh Public Library and \$500 to the Friends of Miller's Run School for books for the children attending Miller's Run School.

The proposed amendment was overruled by the Moderator; stating that the extent of the modification varied greatly from the original proposed article.

Kim Crady-Smith announces that there was private donation of books from Sheffield and Wheelock residents to students attending Miller's Run School during COVID.

Article 17. Tune Faulkner made a motion to pass Article 17 as written. The motion was seconded by Eileen Boland. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Article 18 – Discussion Only.

Peter Miller introduced Article 18 regarding the adopting of flood zone bylaws. He stated that this item is by Australian Ballot only and there will be no floor vote; however, VT law allows for the discussion of said article.

Jack Smith questioned the timing of the adoption of the bylaws; stating he believed there were new maps coming out. Ann Lawless confirmed there are expected to be drafts of new maps coming soon, but they have confirmed there are no significant anticipated changes for Wheelock.

John Pohlman and Wayne Smith both stated that they believe very few would benefit from this for of regulation and believe it will be difficult for Wheelock considering we have never had zoning. Donna Camber questioned the 100-year flood plain and how many times these properties actually flood. Paul Lincoln and Nancy Young agree that they consider this a gateway for government-controlled overreach.

Carol Rossi stated that she brought this voter backed petition to the Selectboard for inclusion on the warning for Town Meeting because, in her time as Town Clerk, she has had two families who are in the designated flood area plead with her to help bring this forth to the current selectboard because they are paying more for their monthly flood insurance than their mortgage. She also stated that two prior selectboards have voted to adopt this, but never followed through with it.

She also stated that she believes the whole town would benefit from the adoption of these bylaws. She compared the “form of regulation” to the Current Use program, wherein 96 properties in Wheelock are enrolled, voluntarily.

Ann Lawless discussed some additional benefits the town would receive should they adopt the flood zone bylaws and enroll into the National Flood Insurance Program, which (in summary) include, additional grant funding when a federally-declared natural disaster occurs, the marketability of the 14 properties affected to help the grand list, and the ability for anyone in Wheelock to purchase flood insurance

After no further discussions, Lorraine Poulin made a motion to pass over this Article. The motion was seconded by Carol Rossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

Article 19 – Discussion Only:

Peter Miller introduced Article 19 regarding a loan to purchase a new 10-wheel dump truck. He stated that this item is by Australian Ballot only and there will be no floor vote; however, VT law allows for the discussion of said article.

Jack Smith asked how much we’ve spent on the ‘09 International and what have we replaced. Jim Blackbird stated we have spent nearly \$80K in the last 4 years and further mentioned repairs/replacements include the following: dump body, rear suspension and most recently the transmission, along with many other smaller but costly repairs.

Jack Smith and Carol Rossi questioned whether we really need another 10-wheel dump truck and propose a 6-wheel dump truck; stating perhaps some of our narrower roads are better suited by a smaller truck. Steve Amos acknowledged that the Board had considered a 6-wheel dump truck some

time ago, and determined it was not economical given the number of additional trips it would need to return to the pit due to its smaller hauling capacity.

Carol Rossi stated that she does support purchasing a truck now given the timeline of equipment needing replacement, and the fact that we will need a new grader next.

Wayne Smith stated that he hopes the South Wheelock Road gets the attention it deserves. He stated the road has 10x more traffic now than it ever has. He hopes the Selectboard and Road Crew will consider the quality of the material being put on the road to improve the conditions and pot holes.

After no further discussions, Steve Amos made a motion to pass over this Article. The motion was seconded by Jack Smith. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Article 20. Lorraine Poulin asked why there were no names listed in the Vitals Statistics page in the Town Report. Carol Rossi mentioned she was advised to take it out while she was clerk 4 years ago. Vanessa Seguin stated that it is her preference and it was a matter of respectfulness. She also stated that it is a financial report, as required by law, rather than a community report. Tanya Brewer of the Wheelock Community Initiative, stated they may be interested in doing something to represent marriages, deaths and births – similar to the “Welcome Baskets” they do for new residents moving into town.

After no further discussions, Scott Lang made a motion to pass over this Article. The motion was seconded by Steve Amos. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Eileen Boland ended the meeting with a presentation on NEK Broadband.

Adjourn. Steve Amos made a motion to adjourn Town Meeting at 12:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Carol Rossi. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Seguin, Clerk

GENERAL INFORMATION

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Mailing Address: PO Box 1328 Lyndonville VT 05851
Physical Location: 1192 VT Route 122 Wheelock
Hours: Tues and Thur 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wed 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Phone: 802-626-9094
Email: wheelocktown@gmail.com

LISTER'S OFFICE

Mailing Address: PO Box 1328 Lyndonville VT 05851
Physical Location: 1192 VT Route 122 Wheelock
Hours: by appointment
Phone: 802-626-9094
Email: wheelocklisters@gmail.com

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR EMILY PURDY

Mailing Address: PO Box 391 Lyndonville VT 05851
Email Address: wheelocktax@gmail.com
Phone: 802-533-9929

SHEFFIELD/ WHEELOCK TRANSFER STATION

Hours of Operation: Wednesday & Saturday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

KENISTON DANE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Due: July 1 for fall semester, Dec 15 for spring semester

Applications Available at Town Clerk's Office

For more information:

Wheelock Town Clerk wheelocktown@gmail.com
Sally-Woods Simon swoodssimon@gmail.com

VT FISH & WILDLIFE GAME WARDEN

Cody Jackman Dispatch: 802-748-3111

MILLER'S RUN SCHOOL

Location: 3249 VT Route 122
Office: 802-626-9755