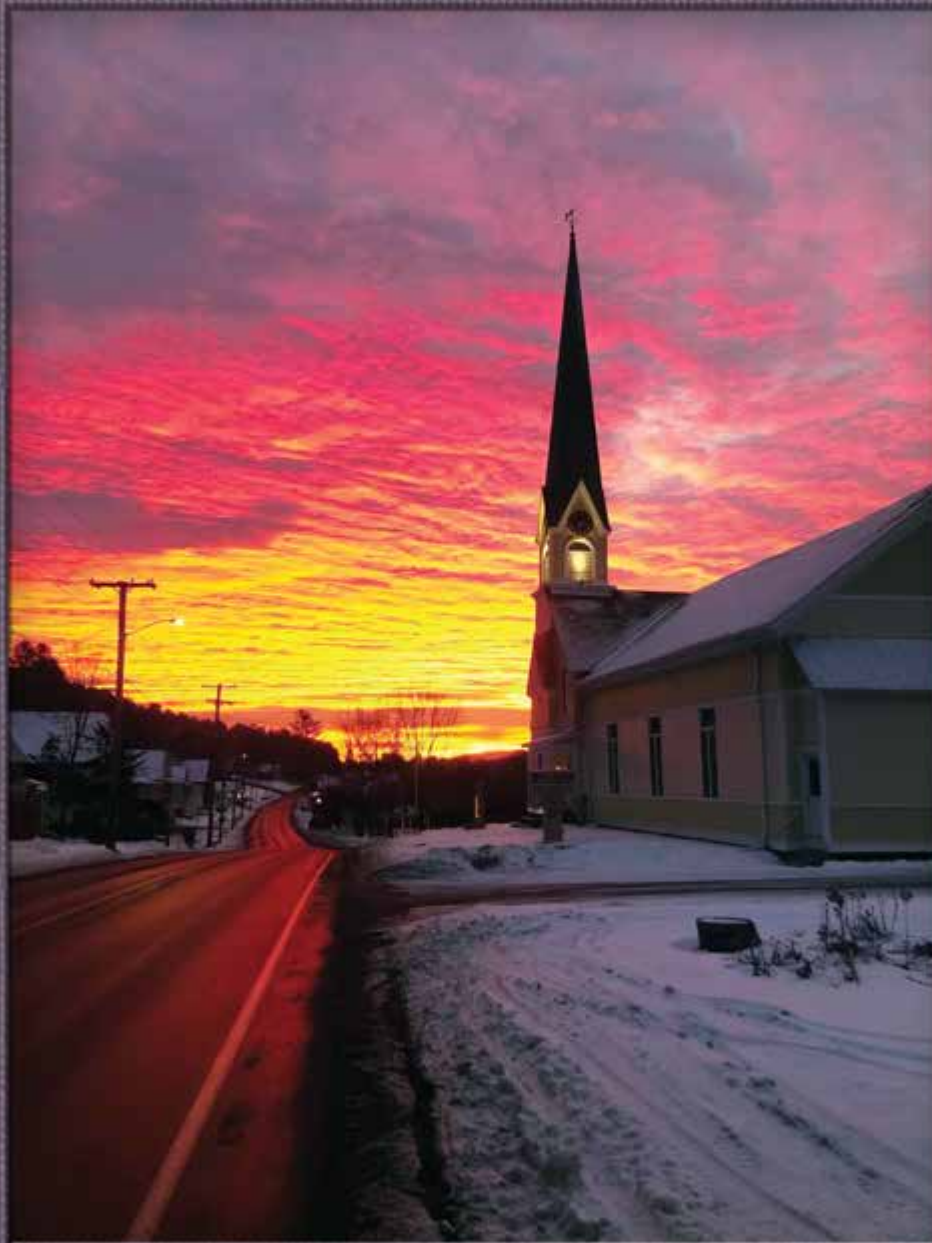


2022 ANNUAL REPORT GROTON, VERMONT



REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Phone Numbers	3
Town Officers	4
Town Warning	6
2022 Town Meeting Minutes	8
2022 Budget Revote Minutes	13
BMU Warning & Ballot	15
NEKWMD Information	18

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2022 Budget vs. Actual & Proposed 2023 Budget	23
2022 Revenues vs. Actual & Proposed 2023 Budget	28
2022 Reserve Fund Activity & Balances	29
2022 Grant Information	35
Gross Wage Report	36
2022 Balance Sheet	37
Delinquent Tax Policy	38
Delinquent Tax Report	41

PROPERTY REPORTS

Property Transfers	42
2022 PILOT for Land Owned by State of VT	43
Current Use Information	44
Properties in Current Use	46

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Select Board	48
Treasurer/ARPA	49
Town Clerk	50
Highway	51
Assessor	52
Equalization Study Results	53
Library	55
Library Financials	56
Cemetery Rules	58
Cemetery Financials	59
Forest Fire	60
Groton Volunteer Fire Department	61

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Groton/Ryegate FAST Squad	62
Planning Commission	64
Zoning	65
Food Shelf	66
Bucaroos of 302	67
Groton Lunches with Friends	67
Groton Historical Society	68
Groton Yard Sale	68
Recreation Committee	69
Groton Community Garden	70
Groton Community Club	70
VOREC Grant	71
NEK Broadband Info	72
Town Building Use Policy	73
Homestead Declaration Info	74
Veterans Exemption	75
Voter Information	75
Vitals	76
VSNIIP	77
Rabies Clinic	78

PHONE NUMBERS

Select Board	Zachary Conaway	584-3791	zconaway@grotonvt.com
Select Board	Aaron Smith	584-3308	asmith@grotonvt.com
Select Board Chair	Tristan Vaughan	584-3423	tvaughan@grotonvt.com
Select Board Secretary			secretary@grotonvt.com
 Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	584-3276	townclerk@grotonvt.com
 Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	584-3131	treasurer@grotonvt.com
 Highway Department	Harold Hatch Phillip Palmer	584-3209	grotonhwy@fairpoint.net
 Town Constable	Mark Puffer	802-535-7658	
Fire Chief	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	grotonfire@fairpoint.net
Asst. Fire Chief	Shaun Stetson	584-3204	
 Forest Fire Warden	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	
Forest Fire Warden Deputy	Justin Carle	584-4288	
 Zoning Admin.	Dan Webster	584-4108	
 Health Officer	Tristan Vaughan	584-3423	
 Animal Control Officer & Pound Keeper	Michelle Boyer	802-439-5827	
 Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	584-3189	cdt@grotonvt.com
Assessor	John Westinghouse	584-3155	assessor@grotonvt.com
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	584-3155	assistantassessor@grotonvt.com
 Librarian	Sarah Spira	584-3358	grotonlibraryvt@gmail.com
 Cemetery Commissioner	Aaron Smith	584-3308	
 Tree Warden	Steve Murray	802-535-5643	
 Emergency Mngmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	584-3765	
 Justice of the Peace	Linda Nunn	584-3881	Dorothy Knott 584-3243
	Tirone Dyer	584-3730	Deborah Jurist 584-3049
	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	584-3876	Carrie Peters 584-3341
	Brent Smith	584-3765	

Town Elected Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Moderator	Brent Abare	2023	1 Year
Road Commissioner	Harold Hatch	2024	3 Years
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	2023	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	2024	3 Years
Select Board	Tristan Vaughan	2025	3 Years
	Aaron Smith	2024	3 Years
	Zachary Conaway	2023	3 Years
BMU District #21 Director	Allison Ingerson	2025	3 Years
	Sara Dennis	2024	3 Years(resigned)
	Sandra Woodworth	2023	1 Year
Library Trustee	Dawn Evans	2025	3 Years
	Jennifer Gaiss	2024	3 Years
	Donna Russo-Savage	2023	3 Years
	Wayne Knott	2025	3 Years
	Deborah Jurist	2023	3 Years
Cemetery Commissioner	Brent Smith	2025	3 Years
	Mark Shallberg	2024	3 Years
	Aaron Smith	2023	3 Years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	2023	3 years
First Constable	Jim Downing	2024	2 Years(resigned)

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
911 Coordinator	Brent Smith	2023	1 Year
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Deborah Jurist	2023	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	Michelle Boyer	2023	3 Year
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	2023	1 Year
Church Clock Winder	Joseph Lorenzo	2023	1 Year
Deputy Health Officer	Daniel Webster	2023	1 Year
Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	2023	1 Year
FAST Head of Services	Brenda Bruleigh	2023	1 Year
Fence Viewers	Wayne Dyer	2023	1 year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2023	1 Year
	Ken Murray	2023	1 year
Fire Chief	Wade Johnson, Sr.	2023	1 Year
Forest Fire Warden	Wade Johnson, Sr.	2026	5 Year
Green Up Coordinator	Alissa Smith	2023	1 Year

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board, cont.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
Health Officer	Zachary Conaway	2023	1 Year
Inspectors of Wood, Lumber & Shingles	Kenneth Ricker	2023	1 Year
	Robert Dorr	2023	1 Year
IT	Gary Lamberton	2023	1 Year
NEK CUD Representative	Michael Gaiss	2023	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Alternative	Carolyn Diggins	2023	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Supervisor	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	2023	1 Year
NVDA Alternative	Mark Gleicher	2023	1 Year
NVDA Representative	Brent Smith	2023	1 Year
Planning Commission	Michael Nahmais	2024	3 Year
	Steve Hart	2024	3 Year
	Michael Welch	2024	3 Year
	Brent Smith	2024	3 Year
	Emily Pratt	2024	3 Year
	Dawn Evans	2024	3 Year
	Jennifer Rogers	2024	3 Year
	Lisa Hart	2023	1 Year
Select Board Assistant	Lisa Hart	2023	1 Year
Select Board Secretary	Nicole Hammel/Thayne Spencer	2023	1 Year (resigned)
Town Constable	Mark Puffer	2023	1 Year
Town Report	Lisa Hart/Carrie Peters	2023	1 Year
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	2023	1 Year
Weigher of Coal	Frank Lapham	2023	1 Year
Zoning Administrator	Daniel J. Webster	2023	1 Year
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Aaron Smith	2023	1 Year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2023	1 Year
	Mark Gleicher	2023	1 Year
Board of Civil Authority	Select Board Members	Zac Conaway, Aaron Smith, Tristan Vaughan	
is made up of:	Justices of the Peace	Linda Nunn	Brent Smith
		Tim Dailey Sr.	Tirone "Toni" Dyer
		Deborah Jurist	Carrie Peters
		Dorothy Knott	
		Carrie Peters	
Board of Abatement	Town Clerk	Lisa Hart	
is made up of:	Town Treasurer	Zac Conaway, Aaron Smith, Tristan Vaughan	
	Select Board Members	John Westinghouse, Dorothy Knott	
	Assessors	See above	
	Justices of the Peace		

WARNING

TOWN OF GROTON, ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Groton Community Building on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 10:00 am., to transact the following business from the floor:

ARTICLE 1 To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont:

Moderator	One Year Term
Select Board Member	Three Year Term
Town Clerk	Three Year Term
Cemetery Commissioner	One Year Term
Cemetery Commissioner	Three Year Term
Constable	One Year Term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	One Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
BMU School Board Director	One Year Term
BMU School Board Director	Three Year Term

ARTICLE 2 To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 3 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 3, 2023, by 5:00 PM est. as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment)

ARTICLE 4 Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the "Computer Equipment Reserve Fund", to be used for purchasing and updating the Town's computer equipment, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

ARTICLE 5 Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to fund the Computer Equipment Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 6 Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the "Highway Building Repairs Reserve Fund", to be used for the general upkeep and repairs of the town highway garage, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

ARTICLE 7 Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to fund the Highway Building Repairs Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 8 Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,202,853 of which \$889,813 shall be raised by taxes and \$313,040 by non-tax revenues?

WARNING
TOWN OF GROTON, ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023


ARTICLE 9 To discuss any other business proper to come before this meeting, this does not include the expenditure of town funds or other business acted upon in the preceding articles.



Tristan Vaughan, Select Board Chair



Zachary Conaway, Select Board



Aaron Smith, Select Board

Dated this 18 day of JANUARY, 2023

I hereby certify that the foregoing
was recorded before posting.

Attest, Camie Peters Town Clerk

Informational Zoom Meeting Minutes

Date: February 24th, 2022

Selectboard Members Present: Zac Conaway (Acting Chair) and Aaron Smith

Attendees:

Carrie Peters, Lisa Hart, Dorothy Knott, Harold Hatch, Jim Downing, Dan Webster, Phillip Palmer, Tanya Palmer, Alyssa Smith, Brent Smith, Dave Spencer, Dawn Evans, Dolly Cotnoir, Larry Cotnoir, Brent Abare, Gale Bush, Stan Pierce, Jeannie Denson, Earnest Demers, Martin Kline, Kathy Crumb, Dave Stoner, Susan Gordon, Susan P Smith, Mark Gleisher, Deborah Jurist, Zoa Downing, Bill Kane, Alan Eastman, Brenda Bruleigh, Donna Russo-Savage, Stuart Russo-Savage, Mark Shallberg, Lise Shallberg, Steven Batchelder, Dave Spencer, Terry Bessette, Sara Spira

The Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

Zac Conaway welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed of ground rules for the meeting

1. Review and discuss **Article 1**: To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont.
 - o Moderator (One Year Term): Brent Abare spoke, introducing himself.
 - o Selectboard Member (Three Year Term): Tristan Vaughan is listed on the ballot for this position but was not present.
 - o Steven Batchelder introduced himself as a write in candidate for the Selectboard Member position.
 - o 1st Constable (Two Year Term): Jim Downing spoke, he stated that he has done a good job and would like to be re-elected to another term.
 - o Cemetery Commissioner (Three Year Term): There are no candidates for this position. Zac asked if anyone wanted to volunteer for this position
 - o Library Trustee (Three Year Term): Dawn Miller Evans introduced herself for the position of Trustee.
 - o Library Trustee (Three Year Term): Wayne C. Knott is listed on the ballot. Dorothy Knott spoke on behalf of Wayne for the position of Trustee
 - o BMU School Board Director (One Year Term): Sandra Woodworth is listed on the ballot but was not present.
 - o BMU School Board Director (Three Year Term): Allison Ingerson is listed on the ballot but was not present.
 - o Public comment
2. Review and discuss **Article 2**: Shall the voters prohibit the town constable from exercising any law enforcement authority, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 1936a(a)? (Instead the Town would contract with Caledonia County Sheriffs Dept for services, using up to the same budgeted amount, \$30,543)
 - o Zac reviewed what the current duties and coverage of the constable are. He also stated that the Selectboard was informed that the constable's cruiser is currently not drivable and would need to be replaced by the town if Article 2 were to fail the vote.
 - o Public comment:
 - Jim Downing Clarified that he is budgeted for 12 hours of a week and that he is available whenever needed. He also stated that the he hasn't confirmed with the town of Saint Johnsbury, but they were replacing their vehicles for around

- \$5,000 dollars each.
- Steve Batchelder asked if the town had fund for repairs and maintenance for the cruiser. Zac stated there is a specific reserve funds and is also part of the towns operating budget for repairs and maintenance.
 - Dan Webster: Shared his concerns about the qualified immunity bill the state legislature that could impact the liability the town may face in regards to law enforcement officers.
 - Susan Gordon asked if the town were to vote yes for this article would the town no longer have a constable. Zac stated that the constable position would remain but would be paid a stipend for the other administrative tasks of the constable.
 - Deb Jurist clarified that the Constable is required by state statute but not required to have law enforcement officer. The constable is based on the need to to assist with the collecting of taxes if the town does not have a collector of taxes.
 - Martin Klein asked if the Sheriff's department worked over 12 hours a week, would there be an additional fee. Zac Stated that they would be an hourly rate for anything outside of the hours of 8AM to 4:30PM or on weekends. Martin asked if the Sherriff's department issued a ticket, where would the revenue from a traffic tickets go. Zac said he believed that all revenues would be going to the Sheriff's Department. Martin asked how much revenue does the town currently receive for traffic tickets. Zac shared some figures that averaged about \$5,000 over the last 5 years and it was \$3,775 in 2021.
 - Stanley Pierce shared his concerned with what the response time would be from the Sheriff's Department. Stanley stated that he felt Jim Downing was doing a good job and was helpful in reducing the speed of cars driving through town.
 - Aaron Smith shared that the selectboard is pleased with the performance of Jim Downing. Aaron stated that the select board was bringing this before the voters to see how the voters felt on it. He said he would rather have Jim pull him over rather than someone from the Sheriff's department, but if the town contracts with them, they pay for everything, including equipment and vehicles.
 - Zac wants to ensure that we have comparable services from the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department as we currently do with our constable. Zac agreed with Stanley that response times for crimes in Groton is a concern. He said that even though Jim is right in town, he is not able respond to major crimes in Groton and the town will still need to rely on outside law enforcement agencies like the Sheriff's Department or the State Police.
 - Harold Hatch made a statement that as the road commissioner he relies on Jim a lot when doing road work and that the blue lights help slow vehicles down around the work sites.
 - Brent Abare asked if we could contract with the Sheriff's department at any time. He also commented that he notices a difference when Jim is out patrolling. Brent Asked if the town would get the same level of Services from the Sheriff's Department. Zac said that would be the intent with the contract from the Sheriff's Department for both patrolling and speed control.
 - Gale Bush Commented that Jim is a resident of Groton and town should support him. He does a good Job
 - Phillip Palmer commented that he feels the voters should not "clip the wings"

and tell them they cannot do law enforcement.

- Danny Webster requested that voters should read and review Senate Bill 254, the qualified immunity bill, that could create potential liability for the town if we keep a constable with law enforcement responsibilities.
3. Review and discuss **Article 3**: Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday November 4, 2022 by 5:00pm est., as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not as a timely payment)
- o Public comment: No comments Made
4. Review and discuss **Article 4**: Shall the voters authorize using **up to** \$150,000 from the General Fund Surplus Reserve Fund, to be used for the Drainage project around the Community Building? (This will not raise the tax rate.)
- o Zac reviewed the Drainage Project details and the funding sources for the project including the use of ARPA funds and the Senator Patrick Leahy Infrastructure Grant. This article is the backup plan if the town is not accepted for the Leahy Grant.
 - o Public comment
 - Susan Gordon asked how much was in the General Fund Reserve. Lisa stated that the Fund Balance is approximately \$420,000.
 - Mark Gleicher asked if the Fund Balance is in the Report. Carrie said it was on Page 33. Zac clarified that the Fund Balance was exactly \$445,140.85 in the budget. Mark asked where the money was split up. Lisa clarified that \$200,000 is in a money market and \$200,000 in the Community Bank. Mark asked how much of the fund balance was from 2021. Lisa said it was approximately \$47,000 left over from the budget.
 - Dawn Evans asked if how much the ARPA funds were and when the town was getting those funds. Zac said that it was \$146,000 Last year and \$146,000 this year. Zac also clarified that the project is a multiple year project. Dawn asked if the Leahy Grant was approved, would the ARPA fund still be used for the project. Zac said that we would use the Leahy Grant first and then would use the ARPA funds for the remainder of the project. There would then be additional ARPA funds that would be available for other projects. Dawn asked if there were left over ARPA funds would there be a special town meeting to discuss how the funds would be spent. Zac stated that due to the uniqueness of the ARPA funds, the selectboard has the ability to spend the money, however, the selectboard is looking at potentially using some of these funds on other infrastructure for the town, such as improving internet. Dawn asked if the town knew when there would be an answer on the Leahy Grant. Lisa Hart shared that she had heard from the Senator Leahy's office on February 14th and they said they were hoping that they can announce the grant winners in the next month.
5. Review and discuss **Article 5**: Shall the Town move \$40,000 out of the General Fund, Fund Balance to the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund? (This will not raise the tax rate.)
- o Public comment: No Comments Made

6. Review and discuss **Article 6**: Shall the voters authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$689,877 of which \$409,207 shall be raised by taxes and \$280,670 by non-tax revenues?
 - o Public comment:
 - Susan Gordan asked what are non-tax revenues? Carrie said it was on page 24 of the town report. It consists of the current use funds, pilot money from the state and smaller fees, office revenues and other fees.
7. Review and discuss **Article 7**: Shall the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$474,400 of which \$407,400 shall be raised by taxes and \$67,000 by non-tax revenues?
 - o Public comment: No Specific Comments were made.
8. Zac Reminded everyone that the vote will be done via Australian ballot and the polls will be open from 10AM to 7PM on March 1st.
9. Closing Comments:
 - o Stanley Pierce thanked Harold Hatch and Phillip Palmer for their work plowing, specifically at the church. Stanley also commented on his displeasure on having the meeting over Zoom. He felt that this should have been in person and that the town should have had town meeting day in person. Zac commented that the decision for having the Australian ballot format primarily due to the Covid 19 Omicron variant. The decision had to be made in January and at that time Covid numbers were concerning enough for the selectboard to determine to use this meeting format. Aaron agreed with Stan that he preferred to have an in person meeting, but this was discussed, he felt that with 600 cases a day, it was not worth risking people's lives over town meeting day. Stan said he is concerned that some voters may come to the polls uninformed and that he feels there is something that the voters are not seeing in the budget. Carrie stated that the line by line budget is on the town website and that anyone can stop at the town offices to pick up a copy if they want one.
 - o Dawn Evans thanked the selectboard for making the decision to have the meeting this way based on the information they had at the time they made the decision. She felt that public health dictated the selectboard to allow people to participate in the safest way possible.
 - o Lise Shallberg commented that she has expressed her opinions on budget and wages. Lise asked if the town owns the town clock and noticed that the town was paying for painting the clock. Aaron and Stan both said that the town owns the clock and pays to maintain it.
 - o Steve Batchelder asked if the budget doesn't pass does the town revote on the budget or does it go back to a previous year's budget. Aaron stated that the budget would have to come back before the town.
 - o Susan Gordon asked what would happen if the budget didn't pass. Aaron said it would go back to the selectboard and would have to propose a new budget to the town. Susan Gordon stated that this is part of the benefits of an in person meeting. She stated that she feels like she is out of the loop with the budget.
 - o Zac stated that as Aaron indicated that if the budget does not pass, the budget will come back to the selectboard. The selectboard does not review the budget in closed sessions. It has to be done following open meeting laws and all voters are able to attend

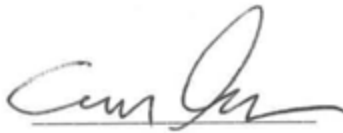
those meetings. Zac also said the that the selectboard looks at the budget a lot including the November Budget Meeting.

- Susan Smith asked what it costs the town to have a special meeting to vote on another budget.
- Lise asked if the town would be having a public meeting to discuss the budget further if it does not pass. Zac said that the budget if it did not pass would be discussed at the next selectboard meeting which would allow for public comment.
- Dan Webster encouraged everyone to attend the selectboard meeting where this is all discussed. Zac Agreed. He said it is very important for people to attend the selectboard meetings where voters can better understand what the selectboard is trying to accomplish with the budget.
- Deborah Jurist has shared that COVID has given our town the opportunity to see how Australian Ballot would work and the town much prefers an in person town meeting.
- Aaron commented that the selectboard is not doing anything (other than executive session) behind closed doors. They are open and your voice has power. The budget is 100 percent transparent. Anyone can get a copy of it at the town hall. Aaron said that he is not hiding anything.
- Aaron and Zac thanked Wade Johnson, Sr. for his service to the town of Groton and worked hard for the town. He has always been available and wears a lot of hats for the town.

10. Zac moved to Adjourn, Aaron Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.



Zac Conaway



Aaron Smith



Wade Johnson, Sr.

**Selectboard Informational Town Meeting
Re-vote on Town Budget-Approved
May 23, 2022
1476 Scott Hwy
Groton, VT 05046
Community Building Gym**

Date: May 23, 2022

Time: 6:00pm

Selectboard- Zac Conway, Aaron Smith, Tristan Vaughan

In Attendance: Nicole Hammel, Lisa Hart, Tamara Hersey, Lynne Palmer, Dorothy Knott, David Stoner, Dawn Evans, Jen Gaiss, Mike Gaiss, Lise Shallberg

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Zac:

- Read Article 1- Shall the town voter's authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$667,602 of which \$386,932 shall be raised by taxes and \$280,670 by non tax revenues
- Explained budget proposal & the breakdown of original budget increase and current proposed budget decreases.

Librarian Trustee- Jen Gaiss:

Librarian Wage Budget Line:

- Trustee's had informed the new librarian when the position was offered, that they would revisit hourly wages once she has completed her Librarian Certifications .The Trustee's wanted the community to be aware of this as the budget line may be over the set budgeted amount.
- 2023 Budget for Librarian wages may be an increased amount
- Selectboard **does not** set the wage for the librarian, wages are set by the Library Trustees

Dave Stoner- asked about the percent increase in health insurance

- Zac stated the increase in health insurance was due to adding 1 full time official to the Health Insurance.

Dawn Evans- Constable for the Town of Groton

Zac confirmed that Jim Downing Resigned as constable and the SB is in the process of reviewing next steps for the Town of Groton.

Tristian - The overall budget for 2022 will be over due to the increased costs of everything.

Mike Gaiss- Question regarding tax revenue

- Reduction of taxes is using general fund balance to offset proposed amount to be raised by taxes.

- General fund balance has increased because of unused budget funds over the years.

Lise Shallberg-Questions regarding budget specifically of Town Clerk & Town Treasurer

-Zac- explained once again, the breakdown of wages and budgets

Lise Shallberg-Questioned the hours for Town Clerk and Treasurer

Zac –explained how the hours were reduced in the original proposed budget due to hourly increase but then when hourly wage was decreased the hours were put back to their normal scheduled hours.

Lisa Hart – in 2017, 2018 & the beginning of 2019 for The Road Commissioner, Town Clerk & Treasurer wages were all set to be the same hourly rate.

When new Road Commissioner was elected he was brought in at an increase of \$5.00 more an hour and nothing changed to the other two positions until this year. This was requested to be all paid equally like in the past.

Dawn Evans-

- Thanked the Selectboard for their time and dedication to the Town of Groton.
- She voted YES for the First Proposed Budget and will again for the Amended Budget.

Zac:

Reminder to Vote on Town Budget on Wednesday May 25, 2022 10:00am to 7:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 6:29

Respectfully submitted by

Nicole Hammel

Selectboard Secretary

Approved



Zachary Conaway (Chairman)

Aaron Smith

Tristan Vaughan

WARNING
BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21
ANNUAL MEETING
AND
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

March 6 & March 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 (the “District”), comprising the legal voters, respectively, of the Towns of Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River, are hereby NOTIFIED AND WARNED to meet at the Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River, Vermont on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:00PM to transact the following business from the floor:

Article 1:

To elect the following officers as required by law and to authorize the Board of School Directors to fix their compensation:

Moderator

Clerk

Treasurer

Article 2:

To hear and act on the reports of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 officers for the past year.

Article 3:

Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year?

Article 4:

To transact any other business thought proper under this warning.

Said meeting shall be followed immediately by a public informational hearing regarding the proposed budget and other business, to be voted on by Australian Ballot, on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified and warned to meet at the following locations:

Ryegate:

Groton:

Wells River:

Town Hall in Ryegate Corner

Groton Community Building in Groton

Village Garage in Wells River

On Tuesday, March 7, 2023 between 10:00 in the morning and 7:00 in the evening there will be a vote by Australian Ballot on the following question:

Article #1:

Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$9,644,585.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Signed by the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 Board of School Directors at Wells River, in the County of Orange and State of Vermont this 20th day of January, 2023

Angeline Alley

Angeline Alley

E. Paul Hazel

E. Paul Hazel

Allison Ingerson

Allison Ingerson

Judy Murray

Judy Murray

Kristen C. MURRAY

Kristen Murray

Allana Page

Allana Page

Kelsey Root-Winchester

Kelsey Root-Winchester

Sandra Woodworth

Sandra Woodworth

Recorded on this date prior to posting, January 20, 2023.

Janet Page

Janet Page
Clerk

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21

Official Ballot

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

To vote on the article as it appears on the ballot, place an "X" in the appropriate box.

Article #1:

Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$9,644,585.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

If in favor of the Article, make an (X) in this box. YES ☐

If opposed to the Article, make an (X) in this box. NO ☐

Executive Committee Report

The NEKWMD finished 2022 by processing less recycling compared to 2021 – 2,579 tons in 2022 compared to 2,952 tons in 2021. While most commodities showed decreases of about 40 tons, compostable material lead the decline in commodities with a drop of 182 tons compared to 2021. Scrap metal and battery tonnages were nearly identical in 2021 and 2022. Recycling markets were very strong for nearly all of 2022, but took a dramatic drop in the last quarter.

The District ended 2022 with a surplus of \$5,604.53. Revenues in 2022 were 6.63% above projections, while expenses were 5.98% above projections. The District continued to benefit from the after affects of the pandemic through elevated commodity prices. Surcharge revenue was the primary driver for strong revenues in 2022. Some fees used to generate revenues will increase headed into 2023. The reintroduction of employer sponsored health insurance and an inflation rate of over 7% are the drivers of these increases in 2023. The per capita assessment will increase from \$0.84/person to \$1.06/person, and the surcharge will increase a dollar from \$24.99/ton to \$25.99/ton. Hauling fees and fees for tire management will remain unchanged in 2023.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2022. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3rd in the state behind only the Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

The NEKWMD is entering 2022 with a proposed budget of \$846,615.50 – an increase of 4.6% compared to 2021.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and two part-time employees in 2022. Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principal authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly with the District's Executive Director to set the direction of NEKWMD policy.

Since the surcharge on trash is based on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

We would like to express our appreciation to our able staff for their continuing commitment to our mission. The 47,600 residents of 49 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured that the NEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

NEKWMD Executive Committee

2023 NEKWMD PROPOSED BUDGET


BUDGET ITEM	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL as of 12/31/2022	2023 PROPOSED BUDGET
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Advertising	\$1,100.00	\$180.00	\$300.00
Audit -- Financial	\$6,845.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,845.00
Audit -- Waste Haulers	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Surplus	\$7,198.00	\$7,198.00	\$0.00
Cleaning	\$1,920.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,920.00
Copier	\$1,500.00	\$1,309.50	\$1,500.00
Dues/Permits/Fees/Penalties	\$6,500.00	\$5,541.74	\$5,500.00
Heating Fuel	\$1,000.00	\$1,175.59	\$1,300.00
Liability & Casualty Ins.	\$14,000.00	\$19,235.99	\$15,000.00
Legal Fees	\$4,000.00	\$636.00	\$3,000.00
Postage	\$2,500.00	\$2,120.67	\$2,000.00
Office Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$5,309.15	\$4,000.00
Telephone - Office	\$3,300.00	\$3,431.85	\$10,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$462.40	\$500.00
Water/Sewer	\$1,000.00	\$1,051.34	\$1,200.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$56,363.00	\$56,452.23	\$55,565.00
Gross Wages	\$417,500.00	\$394,706.39	\$445,164.00
OT Wages--Warehouse	\$3,000.00	\$9,720.45	\$5,000.00
Fica (Employer Match)	\$25,900.00	\$25,074.48	\$27,942.00
Medi (Employer Match)	\$6,100.00	\$5,864.15	\$6,534.00
Unemployment/HCP Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$5,122.64	\$6,000.00
VMERS (Retirement)	\$23,500.00	\$24,089.41	\$25,725.00
Health Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
Workman's Comp. Insurance	\$53,000.00	\$35,957.01	\$27,500.00
Mileage - Employee	\$3,000.00	\$3,882.47	\$4,000.00
Life & Disability	\$5,605.38	\$6,307.10	\$5,700.00
Personnel Equipment	\$500.00	\$180.97	\$500.00
Training	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Travel	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$543,655.38	\$510,905.07	\$614,565.00
EQUIPMENT EXPENSES			
Baler Loan Payment	\$39,056.17	\$37,306.97	\$0.00
Baler Repairs	\$2,000.00	\$145.74	\$2,000.00
Baler Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$6,538.50	\$6,000.00
Forklift Fuel	\$2,000.00	\$2,862.93	\$3,000.00
Forklift Repairs	\$4,000.00	\$9,993.77	\$4,000.00
Misc. Equipment Repairs	\$500.00	\$798.99	\$500.00
Skidsteer Repairs	\$3,000.00	\$9,062.38	\$3,000.00
Warehouse Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$2,350.61	\$2,500.00
Mack Truck Loan Payment	\$13,694.33	\$13,694.33	\$0.00
Trucks--Diesel	\$17,000.00	\$33,869.70	\$27,000.00
Trucks--Repairs	\$15,000.00	\$32,506.77	\$15,000.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$102,750.50	\$149,130.69	\$63,000.00

2023 NEKWMD PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL as of 12/31/2022	2023 PROPOSED BUDGET
BUILDING EXPENSES			
Electricity	\$5,000.00	\$5,343.58	\$5,400.00
Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$4,020.52	\$2,000.00
Trash Removal	\$3,500.00	\$4,326.89	\$3,600.00
TOTAL BUILDING	\$10,000.00	\$13,690.99	\$11,000.00
PROGRAMS EXPENSES			
Composting	\$29,000.00	\$23,501.00	\$26,000.00
Composter/Bin	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Organics VT Grant	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Education Outreach	\$7,000.00	\$7,927.04	\$7,000.00
Hazmat Disposal	\$35,000.00	\$41,046.61	\$35,500.00
Hazmat Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$8,880.92	\$5,500.00
Sale of Recyclables-Processing	\$25,000.00	\$28,562.41	\$24,000.00
Special Collections	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Supplies	\$400.00	\$1,259.09	\$400.00
Tire Disposal	\$18,000.00	\$17,660.00	\$15,000.00
TOTAL PROGRAMS	\$122,650.00	\$148,837.07	\$117,150.00
SUB-TOTAL	\$835,418.88	\$879,016.05	\$861,280.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$24,000.00	\$31,800.00	\$24,000.00
TOTAL CAPITAL FUND	\$24,000.00	\$31,800.00	\$24,000.00
TOTAL NEK EXPENSES	\$859,418.88	\$910,816.05	\$885,280.00
Grants--St of VT	\$92,000.00	\$79,385.42	\$80,000.00
Grants--Organics	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Surplus Funds	\$12,803.38	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hauling--Recycling Pick-ups	\$54,000.00	\$61,018.68	\$59,000.00
Haz Mat/Paint Care	\$5,000.00	\$7,891.88	\$5,000.00
Interest Income	\$20.00	\$41.07	\$30.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,500.00	\$2,787.00	\$1,500.00
Program Sales--Composter/Bins	\$2,000.00	\$998.00	\$2,000.00
Programs- Oil Filter Program	\$150.00	\$125.00	\$150.00
Sale of Recyclables	\$121,888.50	\$122,197.74	\$122,000.00
Compost Income	\$29,000.00	\$24,002.80	\$26,000.00
Electronics Income	\$18,000.00	\$18,408.39	\$14,000.00
Scrap Metal Income	\$17,500.00	\$20,713.61	\$18,000.00
Battery Income	\$4,000.00	\$5,672.25	\$5,000.00
Tire Income	\$18,000.00	\$14,850.20	\$15,000.00
Per Capita Assessment	\$39,057.00	\$39,435.48	\$50,000.00
Surcharge--Waste Haulers	\$444,500.00	\$498,893.06	\$487,600.00
TOTAL NEK REVENUES	\$859,418.88	\$916,420.58	\$885,280.00

Groton & Ryegate Recycling and Waste Disposal Guide

269 School St., East Ryegate. Fridays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm & Saturdays, 8:00am – 12:00pm

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

ADDITIONAL ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

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

HOUSEHOLD TRASH: Trash disposal available at transfer station, \$3.00/15 gallon bag, \$4.00/30 gallon bag, \$5.00/contractor bag. Other fees apply for Bulky Wastes. Fees subject to change, contact the Town Office for most current prices. Residents may contract with private haulers for curbside collection services, find our Licensed Hauler List at <http://www.nekwmd.org/pdf/haulerlist.pdf>

SPECIAL WASTES: Oil, oil filters, automotive batteries, metal aerosol cans, hard-cover books, agricultural bale wrap, scrap metal, fluorescent bulbs and electronics (televisions, computers, phones, radios, gaming consoles).

STUMP DUMP: Clean, unpainted, untreated wood and yard debris only.

SWAP SHOP: Pick-up or drop-off any small, clean household item in good working condition.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE – May through the end of September **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** in Lyndonville, & special Saturday events (no appt necessary) throughout the District. June – September. Call for details.

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

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



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS – CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AT (802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. www.nekwmd.org, e-mail outreach@nekwmd.org
Updated 11/2021

List of Common Items NOT ACCEPTED for Recycling
 Please dispose of the following items in the trash unless otherwise stated.
 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFELY AND PROPERLY DISPOSING OF A
 MATERIAL- CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM
 WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
 (802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. www.nekwmd.org, e-mail outreach@nekwmd.org

Unacceptable Plastics Include:

Any black plastic containers

Screw-top Caps
 Motor oil, gas containers
 Pesticide containers
 Styrofoam of any kind
 Planting pots and trays
 Plastic furniture
 Plastic Toys
 Coffee Makers
 Coat hangers
 Vinyl Siding
 Maple Tubing
 CDs, DVDs, VHS, and cases

Water line pipes and plastic tubing of any size

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

Unacceptable Plastic Bags and Films

Any type

Unacceptable Aluminum

Chip Bags, Snack Wrappers, Pop tart Wrappers
 Aluminum Flashing (recycle with scrap metal)
 Coffee Bags

Unacceptable Tin

Recycle these with Scrap Metal

Frying Pans
 Large Pieces of Metal
 Nails, Screws, Fasteners
 Any tin that is a non-food container

Unacceptable Cardboard

Pringles containers
 Milk and Juice Cartons of any kind
 Ice cream and waxy or plastic frozen food boxes
 Cardboard with metallic interior
 Single-use coffee cups
 Soiled Cardboard
 Waxy Cardboard

Unacceptable Paper

Kraft brown paper bags (recycle with cardboard)
 White or Brown Boxboard (recycle with cardboard)
 Shiny, glossy, or metallic papers
 Paper plates, cups, bowls
 Single-use cups
 Napkins, paper towels, tissue paper

Unacceptable Glass

Crystal
 Incandescent light bulbs
 Automotive lights
 Pyrex
 Porcelain

Unacceptable Food Scraps

PLU Stickers (sticks on fruits, vegetables)
 "Biodegradable" bags, cutlery, bowls, plates
 Food utensils
 Plates, bowls, cups
 Plastic bags
 Styrofoam
 Keurig cups

2023 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2022 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2022	Actual FY - 2022	Budget FY - 2023	Notes
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
SELECTBOARD				
Selectboard & Secretary Wages & Payroll Taxes	6,847	6,742.68	7,691	
Selectboard Assistant Stipend	1,000	1,000.00	1,200	
Advertising, Postage, Supplies, Training & Mileage	930	775.37	835	
1. SELECTBOARD TOTAL	8,777	8,518.05	9,726	
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER				
Clerk	39,494	39,448.83	42,930	
Treasurer	45,864	45,852.07	49,850	
Assistant Treasurer	6,370	6,350.56	6,920	
Unused Vacation	622	291.55	600	
Payroll Taxes & Retirement	11,683	11,318.88	12,811	
Health Insurance	61,288	61,287.92	56,344	
Training & Mileage	550	633.26	600	
2. CLERK & TREASURER TOTAL	165,871	165,183.07	170,055	
OFFICE EXPENSES - CLERK & TREAS				
Dues, Postage & Supplies	4,800	4,706.22	4,500	
Telephone/Internet	2,000	2,375.51	2,300	
Land Records Online	1,920	1,920.00	1,920	
NEMRC Disaster Recovery&Support, IT	4,217	4,979.61	3,417	
3. OFFICE EXPENSES	12,937	13,981.34	12,137	
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION				
Del Tax Collector Wages	10,000	9,501.75	10,000	Wages off set by Delinquent Tax Penalty
Payroll Taxes/Retirement	1,265	1,194.47	1,277	Revenue (wages paid by penalty portion
Postage,Supplies,Telephone & Advertising	950	753.55	900	of delinquent tax payments)
NEMRC Disaster Recovery	625	625.00	625	
Training & Mileage	85	0.00	30	
4. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION TOTAL	12,925	12,074.77	12,832	
TOWN REPORT				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	564	562.02	564	
Postage & Supplies	500	358.03	500	
Printing & Reproduction	1,385	1,385.00	1,385	
	0	0.00	0	
5. TOWN REPORT TOTAL	2,449	2,305.05	2,449	
ELECTIONS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	700	1,376.27	431	
Postage, Supplies & Advertising	2,275	1,284.64	1,175	
Training & Mileage	125	126.00	125	
6. ELECTIONS TOTAL	3,100	2,786.91	1,731	
ASSESSORS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	37,943	33,659.62	44,089	
Dues, Postage & Supplies	950	1,154.87	850	
Telephone/Internet	1,400	1,704.25	1,700	
Training & Mileage	800	127.02	400	
NEMRC, Cards, Disaster Recov & GIS Mapping	9,870	7,374.38	9,195	
7. ASSESSORS TOTAL	50,963	44,020.14	56,234	

2023 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2022 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2022	Actual FY - 2022	Budget FY - 2023	Notes
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES				
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp, Unemp Ins	7,783	7,635.00	9,711	
8. INSURANCE TOTAL	7,783	7,635.00	9,711	
Professional Audit/Services	1,000	510.00	800	
Attorney Fees	2,000	390.00	2,000	
IT Services & Tech Equipment	1,346	1,345.63	6,615	
9. IT, TECH, LEGAL & PROF. SERV. TOTAL	4,346	2,245.63	9,415	
NVDA Dues	767	767.00	836	
VLCT Dues	2,320	2,320.00	2,394	
10. DUES TOTAL	3,087	3,087.00	3,230	
Money Order Fee,Wire Fee & Interest Expense	100	157.46	100	
Caledonia County Tax	15,000	14,312.00	14,500	
11. COUNTY TAX & INTEREST EXP TOTAL	15,100	14,469.46	14,600	
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES TOTAL	30,316	27,437.09	36,956	
1-11 ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	287,338	276,306.42	302,120	
12. PLANNING COMMISSION				
Stipend & Payroll Taxes	323	322.95	539	
Postage, Printing & Reproduction	263	134.85	220	
Training & Mileage	85	0.00	0	
PLANNING COMMISSION TOTAL	671	457.80	759	
13. ZONING				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	1,346	1,644.95	2,584	
Postage & Supplies	105	4.56	55	
Training & Mileage	200	0.00	200	
ZONING TOTAL	1,651	1,649.51	2,839	
12. & 13 PLANNING AND ZONING TOTAL	2,322	2,107.31	3,598	
TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	0	0.00	0	
PUBLIC WORKS				
14. TOWN CLOCK TOTAL	677	676.78	677	
Ryegate/Groton Recycling	8,000	12,284.33	9,000	
NEKWMD-Assessment	827	826.56	1,044	
Green Up Day	500	230.00	300	
15. SOLID WASTE TOTAL	9,327	13,340.89	10,344	
16. STREETLIGHTS TOTAL	8,150	8,925.38	8,400	
COMMUNITY BUILDING				
Building Repairs & Maintenance	4,500	3,060.06	4,500	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	2,400	2,614.21	2,500	
Electricity & Fuel Oil	8,800	11,406.66	12,100	
17. COMMUNITY BUILDING TOTAL	15,700	17,080.93	19,100	
TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	14,536	11,007.63	6,998	
Cleaning	8,000	7,904.00	8,000	
Mowing	0	0.00	5,500	included in wages in 2022
Beautification	0	0.00	2,000	
Park Electricity	350	330.26	400	
Gasoline	0	38.00	0	
Property Upkeep	15,000	14,749.42	10,000	
Supplies & Mileage	350	275.78	325	
18. TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TOTAL	38,236	34,305.09	33,223	

2023 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2022 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2022	Actual FY - 2022	Budget FY - 2023	Notes
19. TREE WARDEN TOTAL	323	322.95	323	
Zoom Fees	160	180.78	180	
Town Website	2,394	2,394.00	915	
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	8.00	0	
20. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES TOTAL	2,554	2,582.78	1,095	
14-20 PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	74,967	77,234.80	73,162	
COMMITTEES				
Recreation Committee	1,875	1,506.37	1,875	
COMMITTEES TOTAL	1,875	1,506.37	1,875	
PUBLIC SAFETY				
21. ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL	700	706.25	739	
22. HEALTH OFFICER TOTAL	968	807.38	1,506	
23. EMER SERVS INSURANCE TOTAL	11,377	11,259.00	10,121	
EMER SERVS GENERAL EXPENSES				
Ambulance Contract	29,428	29,427.20	44,280	
Repairs-ES Building	1,250	747.44	1,250	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	1,000	620.19	1,000	
Telephone/Internet	1,700	1,816.89	1,700	
Electricity, Fuel Oil, Propane	4,200	3,829.92	5,500	
Dispatch Fees	2,650	2,140.00	3,150	
24. EMER SERVS GENERAL EXP TOTAL	40,228	38,581.64	56,880	
FAST				
Wages, Stipend & Payroll Taxes	16,148	13,951.48	17,440	
Supplies	3,000	5,101.20	3,500	
Training & Mileage	5,500	2,930.05	6,000	
25. FAST EXPENSES TOTAL	24,648	21,982.73	26,940	
FIRE DEPT				
Wages, Stipend & Taxes	10,496	6,200.68	10,765	
Dues	2,500	1,962.00	2,500	
Gasoline & Diesel	1,650	2,586.85	3,150	
Tanker Loan Payment	20,321	20,320.59	20,321	
Repairs & Maintenance	10,000	14,405.24	12,000	
Supplies	3,200	2,632.81	3,200	
Training & Mileage	6,250	4,357.87	5,750	
26. FIRE DEPT EXPENSES TOTAL	54,417	52,466.04	57,686	
27. FOREST FIRE EXPENSES TOTAL	1,108	2,019.64	1,108	
FIRST CONSTABLE				
Wages, Payroll Taxes, Dues	16,458	1,541.26	0	
Supplies & Training	675	113.81	0	
Dispatch Fees	3,000	520.00	0	
28. FIRST CONSTABLE TOTAL	20,133	2,175.07	0	
CRUISER EXPENSES				
Gasoline, Repairs, Maint. & Supplies	2,900	276.26	0	
29. CRUISER EXPENSES TOTAL	2,900	276.26	0	
0. CONSTABLE & CRUISER INSURANCE TOTAL	3,820	2,175.57	0	
New Town Constable Wages & Payroll	0	1,722.40	5,168	
Supplies	0	0.00	200	
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp	0	0.00	754	
Sheriff's Contract	0	3,290.00	13,500	
28-30 LAW ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	26,853	9,639.30	19,622	
21-30 PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	160,299	137,461.98	174,602	

2023 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2022 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2022	Actual FY - 2022	Budget FY - 2023	Notes
CEMETERY				
Contracted Work, Riverside Cemetery	900	700.00	900	
Mowing	11,460	11,460.00	11,460	
Dues & Supplies	615	25.00	700	
CEMETERY EXPENSES TOTAL	12,975	12,185.00	13,060	
LIBRARY				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	22,168	20,423.19	24,631	
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1,238	1,225.00	1,148	
Building Rent	18,000	18,000.00	18,000	
Books & Digital	5,000	5,504.37	4,500	
Supplies	2,000	2,030.48	2,000	
Telephone/Internet	1,800	1,610.30	1,800	
Software/Support, Legal Fees & Misc.	600	274.44	1,200	
LIBRARY EXPENSES TOTAL	50,806	49,067.78	53,279	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS				
Caledonia Home Health	1,350	1,350.00	1,350	
NEK Learning Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Human Services	920	920.00	920	
NEK Youth Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Council on Aging	700	700.00	700	
Rural Community Transportation	800	800.00	800	
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
Community Restorative Justice	250	250.00	250	
Groton Lunches With Friends	2,400	2,400.00	2,400	
Green Up Vermont	100	100.00	100	
Umbrella	650	650.00	650	
VT Family Network	250	250	250	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	9,820	9,820.00	9,820	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS				
Computer & Office Equip Fund	0	0.00	2,000	
Comm Bldg Improvement Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
Emer Servs Bldg Improvement Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
Emer Servs Vehicles Fund	24,000	24,000.00	24,000	
Emer Servs Durable Equip Fund	20,000	20,000.00	20,000	
Constable Durable Equip Fund	0	0.00	0	
Reappraisal & Tax Maps Fund	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	
Recreation Fund	0	0.00	0	
Professional Services Fund	10,000	10,000.00	21,000	
Town Emergency Fund	2,000	2,000.00	5,000	
CB Property Expansion	0	40,000.00	0	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	67,200	107,200.00	83,200	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 667,602	\$672,889.66	\$ 714,716	

2023 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2022 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2022	Actual FY - 2022	Budget FY - 2023	Notes
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES				
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES				
HWY LABOR				
Road Commissioner Wages	54,642	53,564.56	59,405	
Equipment Operator Wages	45,906	46,878.83	49,900	
Overtime Wages & Unused Vacation	9,618	8,754.89	9,600	
Temporary Help Wages	4,000	1,184.63	3,500	
Health Insurance	53,078	52,140.13	49,201	
Retirement & Payroll Expenses	14,241	13,770.92	15,904	
HWY LABOR TOTAL	181,485	176,293.96	187,510	
HWY PACIF, WC INSURANCE TOTAL	16,585	16,416.00	17,057	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK				
Roadside Mowing	6,500	6,000.00	6,500	
Boulder Beach Plowing	4,500	495.59	0	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK TOTAL	11,000	6,495.59	6,500	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE				
Culverts	4,500	4,203.74	4,500	
Signs	1,000	68.79	500	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL	5,500	4,272.53	5,000	
HWY MATERIALS				
Sand	15,000	14,924.00	16,000	
Salt	10,800	10,495.20	10,800	
Chloride	12,000	10,956.40	12,000	
Gravel	30,000	15,202.41	30,000	
HWY MATERIALS TOTAL	67,800	51,578.01	68,800	
HWY OPERATING EXPENSES				
Gasoline & Diesel	16,500	25,600.31	23,000	
Rental Equipment	500	133.99	200	
Seeder & Material	1,500	959.28	1,500	
Supplies	1,000	738.94	1,000	
Uniforms	3,500	3,346.92	3,500	
Training	150	131.34	150	
Radios & Pagers	500	0.00	500	
HWY OPERATING EXP TOTAL	23,650	30,910.78	29,850	
EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	25,000	23,904.14	25,000	
HWY GARAGE REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	10,750	7,011.21	8,750	
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	3,230	1,995.82	3,230	
Gasoline	0	0.00	0	
Propane	800	584.62	800	
Bldg-Tractor Garage	100	0.00	100	
Repairs-Tractor (2004 John Deere)	400	461.23	400	
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE TOTAL	4,530	3,041.67	4,530	
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES TOTAL	346,300	319,923.89	352,997	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION				
Hwy Equipment Reserve	68,100	68,100.00	70,140	
Hwy Infrastructure Reserve	10,000	10,000.00	10,000	
Hwy Paving Reserve	50,000	50,000.00	50,000	
Hwy Building Reserve	0	0	5000	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION TOTAL	128,100	128,100.00	135,140	
HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTAL	474,400	448,023.89	488,137	
GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTALS	1,142,002	1,120,913.55	\$ 1,202,853	

2022 Actual Revenues & 2023 Estimated Revenues				
	2022 Anticipated Revenues	2022 Actual Revenues	2023 Estimated Revenues	
TOWN REVENUES				
TAX REVENUES (no education taxes)				
Current Taxes	386,932.00	248,110.86	479,676.00	
DELINQUENT TAX REVENUES				
Delinquent Tax Principal	0.00	127,399.91	0.00	
Delinquent Tax Interest	9,000.00	8,612.13	9,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty Revenue	10,000.00	10,687.68	10,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN TAX REVENUES	405,932.00	394,810.58	498,676.00	
STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES				
Current Use/Hold Harmless	45,000.00	51,100.00	45,000.00	
PILOT(Payment in lieu of taxes)	90,000.00	103,138.08	95,000.00	
TOTAL STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES	135,000.00	154,238.08	140,000.00	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES				
Interest Earned	150.00	832.54	300.00	
Misc Revenue	0.00	1,951.88	0.00	
Workers Comp Insurance Refund	0.00	3,708.57	0.00	
TOTAL MISC REVENUES	150.00	6,492.99	300.00	
TOWN CLERK REVENUES				
Recordings, Vault Revenue	7,000.00	9,956.00	7,000.00	
Marriage & Dog Licenses	1,700.00	1,983.00	1,700.00	
Liquor/Tobacco Licenses	140.00	240.00	140.00	
Copies & Faxes Revenue	1,200.00	1,354.95	1,200.00	
Cott System Online Revenue	0.00	349.00	0.00	
Motor Vehicle Renewals	50.00	87.00	50.00	
TOTAL TOWN CLERK REVENUE	10,090.00	13,969.95	10,090.00	
ASSESSOR REVENUE	30.00	817.00	750.00	
ZONING REVENUE	800.00	1,060.00	800.00	
COMMUNITY BLDG REVENUE	1,600.00	3,763.50	2,100.00	
FAST REVENUE (from Town of Ryegate)	10,000.00	10,404.56	10,000.00	
EMERGENCY SERVICES INSURANCE REFUND	0.00	4,887.39	0.00	
CONSTABLE REVENUE	4,000.00	1,784.50	2,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN REVENUES (Not including tax revenue)	180,670.00	216,717.78	185,040.00	
Proposed 2023 Town Budget			714,716.00	
Use of Fund Balance			50,000.00	
2023 Anticipated Revenues			185,040.00	
Difference to be raised by 2023 TOWN Taxes			479,676.00	
HIGHWAY REVENUES				
Hwy Current Tax Revenue	407,400.00	407,400.00	410,137.00	
State Hwy Aid	64,000.00	72,311.72	64,000.00	
Seyon Road Plowing	3,000.00	2,710.49	0.00	
Hwy Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY REVENUES(Not including tax revenue)	67,000.00	75,022.21	64,000.00	
Proposed 2023 Highway Budget			488,137.00	
Use of HWY Fund Balance			14,000.00	
2023 Anticipated HWY Revenues			64,000.00	
Difference to be raised by 2023 HWY Taxes			410,137.00	
TOTAL Estimated Tax Revenue needed for 2023			889,813.00	

2022 - RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY & BALANCES			
Town Emergency Fund		Restoration Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/21	13,739.40	Bank balance on 12/31/21	35,441.64
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received on account	17.32	Interest received on account	28.50
2022 Budget appropriation	2,000.00	Funds received from Recordings	3,482.00
Disbursements:	0.00	Disbursements:	
Bank balance on 12/31/22	15,756.72	Land Record Digitizing	12,144.90
		Bank balance on 12/31/22	26,807.24
Community Building Improvement Fund			
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	79,913.39	Professional Services Fund	
Revenues:		Bank balance on 12/31/21	1,476.04
Interest received on account	97.92	Revenues:	
2022 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	Interest received on account	3.79
Sold Groton Mugs	30.00	2022 Budget appropriation	10,000.00
2018 SOV Rec Grant	3,500.00	Disbursements:	
Disbursements:	0	Town audit- Fothergill Segale & Valley	10,500.00
Bank balance on 12/31/2022	88,541.31	Bank balance on 12/31/22	979.83
Emergency Service Building Improvement Fund		Highway Equipment Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	45,345.54	Bank balance on 12/31/21	171,653.00
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received on account	54.60	Interest received on account	113.40
2022 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	2022 Budget appropriation	68,100.00
Disbursements:		Sold Metal	182.40
Needham Electric	1347.23	Disbursements:	
Bank balance on 12/31/2022	49,052.91	John Deere- Salt Spreader for Tractor	4,421.00
		2021 John Deere Loader	130,872.00
Emergency Service Vehicle Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/22	106,223.50
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	92,306.64		
Revenues:		Highway Paving Fund	
Interest received on account	125.98	Bank balance on 12/31/21	15,575.72
2022 Budget appropriation	24,000.00	Revenues:	
Disbursements:	0	Interest received on account	62.06
Bank balance on 12/31/2022	116,432.62	2022 Budget appropriation	50,000.00
		Disbursements:	
Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund		Pike Paving-Hot mix on Minard Hill	1,066.00
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	37,139.75	Bank balance on 12/31/22	64,571.78
Interest received on account	48.98		
2022 Budget appropriation	20,000.00	Highway Infrastructure Fund	
Disbursements:		Bank balance on 12/31/21	93,381.29
Equipment	11,912.33	Revenues:	
Bank Balance on 12/31/2022	45,276.40	Interest received on account	114.44
		2022 appropriation	10,000.00
Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/22	103,495.73
Bank balance on 12/31/21	55,146.91		
Revenues:		Recreation Committee Fund	
SOV 2022 \$7957.50	6,757.50	Bank balance on 12/31/21	14,192.60
Interest received on account	69.47	2022 Interest received on account	16.02
2022 Budget appropriation	1,200.00	Disbursements:	0.00
Disbursements:	0	Bank balance on 12/31/2022	14,208.62
Bank balance on 12/31/22	63,173.88		
		Community Building Property Expansion Fund	
Constable Durable Equipment Fund		Bank balance 12/31/21	16,445.25
Bank balance on 12/31/2021	6,679.35	Revenues:	
Interest received on account	7.97	2022 Budget appropriation	40,000.00
SOV Grant -2021	385.90	Interest received on account	22.95
Disbursements:	0	Disbursements:	
Bank balance on 12/31/2022	7,073.22	Septic-CB	29,000.00
		Engineering for Drainage	4105.28
Sidewalk Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/2022	23,362.92
Bank balance on 12/31/21	2,487.56		
Interest received on account	2.80		
Bank balance on 12/31/22	2,490.36	Total of all Reserve Bank balances as of 12/31/22	727,447.04

**Reserve Fund Articles as voted by year with description of purpose and
balance as of December 31, 2022**

Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund

March 4, 2003, Article 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00?

The Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund was established on March 4, 2003 in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of building up a Reserve Fund to pay for future appraisals and updates of the property values listed in the Grand list and update the tax maps on a yearly maintenance schedule of the Town of Groton. **Balance \$63,173.88**

Community Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Community Building Improvement Fund was established for the purpose of building up a reserve fund to finance future upgrades and improvements to the Community Building. The monies for this fund are to be used only for the improvement and upgrade of the Community Building. **Balance \$88,541.31**

Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund is to be used for improvements to the Groton Fire Station.

Including but not limited to: Heating plant, Electrical, insulation, Painting, Door Replacement, Generator installation, internal plumbing and other improvements as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$49,052.91

Emergency Services Vehicles Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 10: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Vehicles Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Vehicles Fund shall be used for the replacement of Vehicles to include, Rescue Vehicle/Ambulance, Engine, Forest Fire Vehicle other vehicle as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$116,432.62

Restoration and Preservation Reserve Fund

March 7, 2006 (1st Warned as ARTICLE 7): Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be funded by the \$1.00 per page recording fee? (Up graded in 2010 see below)

March 2, 2010 (2nd Article on Warning): ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature?

The voters of the Town of Groton established a Municipal Records Reserve Fund for the restoration and preservation of "town records" in accordance with VSA Title 24, Section 2804 including, but not limited to, land records, vital records and, proper vault storage of town records. This fund is not to be used for anything other than the restoration, preservation, conservation and computerization of records, to be funded by revenue of not less than \$3.00 per page.

Section 1671 (a) (1) and (6) of this section and this reserve fund shall be retroactive to July 1, 2009. The exact amount shall be determined by the local legislative body.

Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital Records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature? **Balance \$26,807.24**

Recreation Reserve Fund

March 7, 2010: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Recreational Committee and establish a reserve fund of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be used by the Recreational Committee for any projects and/or activities?

The recreation reserve fund was established and covered large, extraordinary expenses. And will cover short falls in committee events when donations for such events lag. **Balance \$14,208.62**

Town Emergency Reserve Fund

March 4, 2014: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the creation of an Emergency Reserve Fund for the purpose of unforeseen Emergencies?

Town of Groton Emergency Reserve Fund is created for the sole purpose of providing financial stability to the Town in the case of a severe emergency. Money is to be set aside to support serious issues only with a goal to maintain the fund at 10% of the total budget. When looking for examples of where the application of the money would likely be required, the instance of Tropical Storm Irene applies where the Welton Road Bridge was seriously damaged.

Balance \$15,756.72

Sidewalk Fund

March 3, 2015: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve account to be called “Sidewalk Fund” for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks in the amount of \$15,000.00?

Balance \$ 2,490.36

Professional Services Fund

March 1 2016: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of reserve account to be called “Professional Services Fund” for the purpose of audit consulting services and to fund the reserve fund with \$4,533.00.

Balance \$ 979.83

Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town establish a Reserve Fund to be called the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable Fire Department and FAST equipment in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804?

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 7: What sum of money, shall the Town approve to raise and appropriate to fund the establishment of the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Reserve Fund? “Not to exceed \$18,000.00”

Balance \$ 45,276.40

Constable Durable Equipment Fund

March 3, 2020: ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund to be called the Constable Durable Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable equipment associated with the performance of Constable Duties in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

And appropriate \$4,950.00 to fund this Reserve account?

Balance \$ 7,073.22

Highway Equipment Reserve Fund

March 7, 1999: ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Highway Equipment Fund with the funds from the highway budget, in the amount of \$15,000.00 As budgeted this year, to be used for capital expenses within that department? (24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804)

This fund is to be used for replacement of Highway Department Equipment and unforeseen major capital repairs that could arise. The Highway Department will maintain a replacement schedule and update it annually. At the present time the trucks and grader will be replaced with new, and the loader, backhoe and chipper will be replaced with used.

Funding of this fund is a line item in the highway budget that is increased three percent annually. Other funds would come from the sale of surplus equipment and settlements from insurance claims.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain reliable equipment that will allow the Highway Department to provide a reasonable level of service to the needs of the highways infrastructure while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$106,223.50**

Highway Paving Reserve Fund

March 4, 2007: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton establish a Paving Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,306.00 of unspent 2007 Highway fund?

This fund is to be used for paving Class 2 and Class 3 projects that follows the parameters of the VTRANS Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program.

Projects shall include detailed work for the preservation of any Class 2 town highway for resurfacing and reconstruction based on identified needs. Eligible activities include preliminary engineering, construction, and construction inspection/management.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Class 2 and Class 3 paved highways while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 64,571.78**

Highway Infrastructures Reserve Fund

March 6, 2012: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund for bridges, culverts and highway infrastructures to initially be funded by a \$2000.00 addition to the 2012 Highway Budget?

This fund is to be used for large highway projects that it would not be feasible to fund in a single year and projects that could take several years to plan and complete.

This fund could also be used to leverage highway grant funds that may become available for smaller projects that maybe unforeseen when setting budgets.

Funding of this fund will be for the annual line item in the highway budget. Additional funding will come from grant funds when in kind work exceeds the actual matching cost of a grant. An example would be in kind work (equipment time and labor) performed by the Highway Department that was reimbursable expenses.

The Highway Department will continue to maintain and update the bridge and culvert inventory at <http://vtculverts.org/> and use the data to aid in replacement schedule. Large structures over 20 feet span are inspected by VTRANS every two years and reported to the Select Board.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Highway Bridges, Culverts & Infrastructures while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 103,495.73**

Community Building Property Expansion Fund

March 2, 2021: Article 5: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing and implementing a new septic system, addressing the drainage issues, memory Wall etc., and to fund it by depositing \$40,000 from the general Fund Surplus? **Balance \$ 23,362.92**

2022 Grant Activity

Revenues

PACIF Equipment Grant	\$	2,500.00	
Powder Spring Rd Engineering Grant	\$	6,840.00	
Powder Spring Rd Culvert Grant		0.00	(Receiving once project is complete)
Minard Hil Grant		0.00	(Receiving in 2023)
NVDA Grant	\$	5,600.00	
Library Summer Performer	\$	300.00	
Rec Facilities Grant	\$	5,000.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	20,240.00	

Expenses

PACIF Equipment	\$	2,500.00	(Office chairs, FireDept Cabinet, Hwy plow blade lift)
Powder Spring Rd Culvert Grant	\$	1,126.25	(Ruggles Engineering)
Minard Hill Grant	\$	3,142.38	(Ferguson Waterworks-culvert)
NVDA Grant	\$	5,600.00	(Hwy leaf blower)
Library-Summer Performer	\$	278.00	(Reading Program)
Rec Facilities Grant	\$	2,640.28	(Storage shed-Puffer Field, team benches-Frost Field)
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	15,286.91	

2022 Gross Wage Summary Report

Employee	Position	Gross
BOYER MICHELE	Animal Control Officer	\$500.00
BRULEIGH BRENDA L.	EMT/Head of Service	\$4,270.00
BRULEIGH CHARLES E.	EMT/ Fire Fighter	\$1,080.00
CONAWAY ZACHARY J.	SelectBoard /Health Officer	\$2,350.00
CURTIS DEREK J.	EMT	\$2,880.00
DANFORTH MATTHEW R.	Fire Fighter	\$180.00
DOWNING JAMES A. JR	1st Constable/Temp Hwy	\$1,840.73
FISHER CHARLES M.	Fire Fighter	\$889.84
FLEURIE-WOHLLEB JODI	Librarian	\$3,313.31
GANDIN BENJAMIN A.	Snow Removal/CB Maint	\$4,686.50
GENEREAUX MAIREAD	EMT	\$180.00
GREEN MEGAN S.	FireFighter	\$192.42
HADLEY GEORGIA R.	EMT	\$450.00
HAMMEL NICOLE B.	SB Secretary	\$1,069.36
HART ELLYN J.	Ballot Clerk	\$38.79
HART LISA	Treasurer, SB Assistant, Ballot Clerk, Town Report	\$47,987.36
HATCH HAROLD J.	Road Commisioner	\$59,665.79
JOHNSON DEBRA E.	SB Secretary	\$217.34
JOHNSON WADE A. JR	Fire Fighter	\$630.35
JOHNSON WADE A. SR	Fire Chief/FireFighter	\$2,192.78
KNOTT DOROTHY L.	Ast Assessor/FireFighter	\$22,555.94
KNOTT HENRY E.	EMT	\$2,927.42
KNOTT WAYNE C.	Fire Fighter	\$750.70
LAMBERTON GARY F.	IT Person	\$1,250.00
LAPHAM FRANK	Fire Fighter/ CB Maint	\$613.54
LOURENCO JOSEPH M.	Clock Winder	\$350.00
MURRAY STEVEN A.	Tree Warden	\$300.00
NAHMIAS MICHAEL H.	Planning Committee Chair	\$300.00
ORMISTON LOUIE G.	EMT	\$1,363.28
PALMER PHILLIP E.	Hwy Equipment Operator	\$49,756.32
PETERS CARRIE A.	Town Clerk, Assist Treasurer,Town Report	\$46,168.39
	CDT-wages are not paid by town	\$9,501.75
PETERS SHELBY C.	Ballot Clerk	\$38.79
PUFFER MARK L.	Constable	\$1,600.00
SMITH AARON J.	Selectboard / EMT	\$2,610.70
SMITH BRENT D.	Temp Hwy	\$1,339.14
SPENCER THAYNE M.	SB Secretary	\$300.00
SPIRA SARAH A.	Librarian	\$15,658.56
STETSON SHAUN T.	Fire Fighter	\$434.14
VAUGHAN TRISTAN T.	SelectBoard	\$1,250.00
WEBSTER DANIEL J.	Zoning Admin/ Assist Health Officer	\$1,778.05
WEBSTER JACQUELINE S	Ballot Clerk	\$58.19
WESTINGHOUSE JOHN K.	Assessor	\$9,671.70
Totals- Employees Reported: 42		\$305,191.18

TOWN OF GROTON
BALANCE SHEET BY FUND-2022

ASSET	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	FAST Restricted	Total
CASH ACCOUNTS										
MB-General Fund	179,640.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	179,640.00
MB-ARPA Funds	-	289,618.91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	289,618.91
MB-Customer ACH Deposits	0.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.44
MB-HRA acct	23.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23.70
WRSB-Del Tax Acct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Petty Cash	56.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56.38
MB-Perpetual Care	-	-	-	91,853.86	-	-	-	-	-	91,853.86
MB-H.Hosmer Trust	-	-	-	3,298.48	-	-	-	-	-	3,298.48
WRSB-Development Funds	-	-	-	12,905.49	-	-	-	-	-	12,905.49
WRSB-Cemetery Lot Fund	-	-	-	8,804.74	-	-	-	-	-	8,804.74
WRSB MJ Ricker Hall Trust	-	-	-	1,064.88	-	-	-	-	-	1,064.88
TD Roosevelt Carter Trust	-	-	-	6,203.62	-	-	-	-	-	6,203.62
Library Funds	-	-	-	-	25,829.30	-	-	-	-	25,829.30
Library Endowment Fund	-	-	-	-	49,298.69	-	-	-	-	49,298.69
Library Capital Improvement	-	-	-	-	21,911.58	-	-	-	-	21,911.58
Library ACH Account	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	-	-	-	9.00
Library I-Bond	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	-	-	-	-	10,000.00
Library American Fund Stock	-	-	-	-	22,562.02	-	-	-	-	22,562.02
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	727,447.04	-	-	-	727,447.04
General Fund CD Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	205,646.68	-	-	-	205,646.68
Grant Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Food Shelf	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,095.98	-	10,095.98
FAST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	613.89	613.89
Total CASH ACCOUNTS	179,720.52	289,618.91	0	124,131.07	129,610.59	933,093.72	0	10,095.98	613.89	1,666,884.68
Due To/From Acct	2,900.03	0	31,775.16	(372.97)	(4,258.34)	(21,118.58)	(7,899.51)	(1,025.79)	0	(0.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	182,620.55	289,618.91	31,775.16	123,758.10	125,352.25	911,975.14	(7,899.51)	9,070.19	613.89	1,666,884.68
Liability	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	FAST Restricted	Total
Health Ins Payable	267.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	267.10
Accounts Payable	7,312.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,312.98
Prepaid Taxes	741.18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	741.18
Tax Clearing Account	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Fees Due the State of Vt	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Liability	8,321.26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,321.26
Fund Balance	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery	Library	Reserves	Grants	Food Shelf	FAST	
Fund Balance General Fund	(80,661.11)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(80,661.11)
Fund Balance ARPA	-	142,938.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142,938.71
Fund Balance Highway	-	-	34,398.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,398.32
Fund Balance Cemetery	-	-	-	2,012.26	-	-	-	-	-	2,012.26
Fund Balance Library	-	-	-	-	2,101.87	-	-	-	-	2,101.87
Fund Balance Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	(67,255.64)	-	-	-	(67,255.64)
General Fund CD Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	205,646.68	-	-	-	205,646.68
Community Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	88,541.31	-	-	-	88,541.31
Comm. Bldg. Property	-	-	-	-	-	23,362.92	-	-	-	23,362.92
Emer Servs Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	49,052.91	-	-	-	49,052.91
Emer Servs Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	116,432.62	-	-	-	116,432.62
Emer Servs Durable Equip	-	-	-	-	-	45,276.40	-	-	-	45,276.40
Reappraisal/ Tax Maps	-	-	-	-	-	63,173.88	-	-	-	63,173.88
Recreation	-	-	-	-	-	14,208.62	-	-	-	14,208.62
Restoration/Preservation	-	-	-	-	-	26,807.24	-	-	-	26,807.24
Town Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	-	15,756.72	-	-	-	15,756.72
Prof. Services Res Fund	-	-	-	-	-	979.83	-	-	-	979.83
Constable Durable Equip.	-	-	-	-	-	7,073.22	-	-	-	7,073.22
Hwy Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	106,223.50	-	-	-	106,223.50
Highway Paving	-	-	-	-	-	64,571.78	-	-	-	64,571.78
Highway Infrastructure Fu	-	-	-	-	-	103,495.73	-	-	-	103,495.73
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	2,490.36	-	-	-	2,490.36
Grants Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,953.09	-	-	4,953.09
Food Shelf Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,048.77)	-	(3,048.77)
FAST Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	254,960.40	146,680.20	(2,623.16)	121,745.84	123,250.38	865,838.08	(12,852.60)	12,118.96	613.89	1,509,731.99
Fund Balance Current Year	(80,661.11)	142,938.71	34,398.32	2,012.26	2,101.87	46,137.06	4,953.09	(3,048.77)	0	148,831.43
Total Fund Balance	174,299.29	289,618.91	31,775.16	123,758.10	125,352.25	911,975.14	(7,899.51)	9,070.19	613.89	1,658,563.42
Total Liability & Fund Balance	182,620.55	289,618.91	31,775.16	123,758.10	125,352.25	911,975.14	(7,899.51)	9,070.19	613.89	1,666,884.68

Policy for Collection of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Groton, Vermont
Adopted January 2020

Summary

To be fair to all town taxpayers, this collection policy recognizes that individuals may go through periods of financial difficulty. At the same time, the policy asserts that, in general, shifting the burden of one property owner's debt onto other property owners in the town is not appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to contact the Collector of Delinquent Taxes to set up an arrangement to make payments, if needed. A time frame for payment will depend on circumstances and may stretch at most to August 1st of the following year that taxes were due. Scheduled payments must be regularly made and the property cannot go further delinquent. Properties that have been delinquent without receipt of full payment by the Collector and a written agreement specifying regular payments sufficient to clear the back taxes by the August 1st deadline will be processed for tax sale or for other methods of collection. Properties on which a payment schedule is not faithfully fulfilled or that fall further delinquent may be processed for tax sale or other methods of collection. All costs of any method of collection will accrue against the taxpayer and may become a lien on the property.

Overview and Philosophy

It is in the best interest of the Town of Groton and of its residents that property taxes be paid when they are due. Town and school budgets are set in anticipation of the collection of taxes, and taxes not paid by some property owners shift the cost burden onto others. As Collector of Delinquent Taxes, I will work with people in a diplomatic and professional manner to help them become current in their obligation to the town. However, if a taxpayer fails to contact me, or if a taxpayer does not become current within what I as Collector believe to be a reasonable length of time, or if a taxpayer does not deal in good faith, it is my duty to proceed with any and all appropriate collection methods to recover the debt in a timely manner, and I shall do so. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines so that all delinquent taxpayers will be treated fairly and both the Town and the taxpayer know what to expect. Delinquent taxes represent a lien on the property and remain in effect until the delinquent tax, penalty, and interest have been paid in full.

Notices

Within 20 days after receiving the warrant and list of delinquent property tax owners from the Town Treasurer, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes will mail the initial notice. This initial notice will indicate the amount of delinquent tax, assessed penalty, and accrued interest. The Collector will include with the initial delinquency notice a statement explaining the possibility of tax abatement. Follow-up delinquency notices will be sent monthly until taxes, penalty, and interest have been paid in full. It is the responsibility of the property owner or taxpayer to notify the town in writing of any change of mailing address or contact information.

Penalty

A onetime penalty in an amount set by the voters, (8%), is assessed on the original amount of the tax delinquency.

Interest

On the date that the warrant is issued to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes by the Treasurer and again on the first day of each month after, interest on the delinquent tax balance is assessed at the monthly rate determined by the voters. Voters set the amount of interest at one percent (1.0%) per month or any part of a month for the first 3 months and one and one half percent (1.5%) thereafter.

Payments and Receipts

Full payment of a delinquent account in a lump sum is preferred. Payment may be mailed or hand delivered to the Town Office at 1476 Scott Highway, Groton, Vermont 05046. The Collector will retain a copy of each receipt issued. A payment will be credited as having been received per the legible date stamped or written on the envelope or check by the Town official receiving the payment. Postdated checks will not be accepted. Requests to hold checks for later deposit will not be honored. Cash payments will be accepted. You may also make payment online at www.Officialpayments.com, or by visiting our Town website at www.grotonvt.com and following the link to Official Payments on the right side of the page. Online payments will be credited by the time stamp of the transaction.

Acceptance of Partial Payments

Acceptance of partial payments in no way excuses the taxpayer from liability for the entire balance due, including all interest and penalty and any costs.

Allocation of Partial Payments

Each partial payment will be applied first to the outstanding accrued interest and penalty. Any remainder will be proportionately applied to tax.

Bad Payments

If a payment is returned or refused due to insufficient funds or for any other reason not the fault of the Town or of the Collector, the taxpayer will be charged all associated costs and will lose the privilege of submitting payment by any device except pre-paid cashier's check.

Collection after Extended Delinquency

If delinquent tax bills have not been paid in full on or before August 1st of the following year that the taxes were originally due, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes may begin the following actions to collect the taxes, penalty, interest, costs, and fees:

Tax Sale: The Collector will engage an attorney to conduct a tax sale of the property or of as much of the property as is necessary to pay the tax, interest, penalty, costs, and fees. The taxpayer and mortgage and lien holders will be notified of the tax sale decision, the deadline date by which full payment must be received to avert sale, and the costs to expect once the sale process begins. Absolutely no partial payments will be accepted after issuance of the notice of tax sale. If the deadline for full payment passes and full payment has not been received, a tax sale will be conducted according to procedures specified in 32 VSA § 5252. Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of delinquent tax, will be charged to the delinquent taxpayer. In the event that no one purchases the property at tax sale or if in the judgment of the Collector proceeding

with the tax sale is undesirable, the Collector shall collect the delinquent taxes using any and all means permitted by law, or may place the property on the following year's tax sale list.

Court Action: The Collector may file a complaint with the Caledonia County Small Claims Court or Caledonia Superior Court.

Abatement of Taxes

Each taxpayer has a right to apply for abatement of property taxes based on any of the grounds listed in 24 VSA § 1535. See the attached Notice of Abatement of Taxes. To request a meeting with the Board of Abatement, please contact the town clerk at 584-3276.

Notice of Possibility of Abatement of Taxes

The Board of Abatement of the Town of Groton is authorized under law, 24 V.S.A. sections 1533-1537, to conduct hearings on requests for abatement of real and personal property taxes. Not every taxpayer is eligible for abatement of taxes, but if you believe you meet the criteria listed below, you may want to consider requesting a hearing. The appropriate paperwork is available at the Groton Town Office.

The criteria include:

Taxes of persons who have died insolvent.

Taxes of persons who have moved from the state.

Taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees.

Taxes in which there is a manifest error or a mistake of the Listers.

Taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

If you believe you qualify for abatement, you should take immediate action to request a hearing, as filing the application does not stay the collection of your property tax. If you file the paperwork to request a hearing, the Board of Abatement will notify you of the date, time, and place of your hearing and you will be responsible for supplying evidence to support your request. The board is under no obligation to grant any abatement request and may choose to abate all, part, or none of the taxes, interest, and penalties due.

Respectfully,
Carrie Peters
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, Vermont 05046

802-584-3004
Cdt@grotonvt.com

Delinquent Tax Report as of 12/31/2022

Name	Tax Year	Total Principal Outstanding	As of 12/31/2022
BATCHELDER, BARBARA	2022		
BEAMIS, SHIRLEY	2022		
BERUBE, ROBERT	2022		
BOYCE, DOUGLAS	2021 & 2022	Tax Year 2017	\$3,216.58
CALVELLO, NICHOLAS	2021 & 2022	Tax Year 2019	\$635.69
CAMP MUFFET	2022	Tax Year 2020	\$897.22
CORBETT, MARY	2021 & 2022	Tax Year 2021	\$10,243.51
DARLING, HENRY	2022	Tax Year 2022	\$55,866.13
DARLING, SHAWN	2022	TOTAL	\$70,859.13
DICKEY, CHRISTY	2022		
EDWARDS, GALE	2022		
FARR, BRADLEY	2022		
FEESER, GRETCHEN	2022		
FIFIELD, JASON	2022		
GOODRICH, ROBERT	2017 & 2022		
GRANT, JEFFREY	2022		
HAND, SARKIS	2022		
HERBERT, LARA	2022		
BOREK, KYLE	2022		
LEE, DAVID	2022		
LEPENVEN, LARRY	2022		
LORD, JOHN	2022		
LUCAS, CONNOR	2020-2022		
MERRYFIELD, MICHELLE	2021 & 2022		
NAUGHTON, BRIAN	2022		
NURSE, STEFAN	2022		
PALMER, JAYME	2022		
PINETTE, KEVIN	2022		
PROCTOR, SHARON	2022		
QUINTAINE, MARIE	2019-2022		
SHIWLALL, MARJORIE	2021 & 2022		
WILLIAMS, THOMAS	2022		
WOOD, ROSE	2022		
WOZENSKI, FRANCES	2022		

Properties that paid in full, 01/01/2023-printing of Town Report

Batchelder, Barbara	
Berube, Robert	
Farr, Bradley	
Wozenski, Francis	
Camp Muffet	
Proctor, Sharon	
Balance as of printing	\$61,707.20

Property Transfers January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

SELLER	BUYER	ACRES	ADDRESS
Jungblut, David & Shirley	Law, Joseph & Sandra	10.8	Wilson Dr
Remaly, Jeffery & Francine	Law, Joseph & Sandra	10.4	Wilson Dr
Wagner, Robert	Law, Joseph & Sandra	23.1	Wilson Dr
Wagner, Robert	Law, Joseph & Sandra	22.7	Wilson Dr
Wicks, James & Leslie	Law, Joseph & Sandra	17.5	Wilson Dr
Larosa, John	Larosa, Reginald	1.7	522 Hoot Holler Rd
Ivery, Patrick & Claire	Taylor, Jessica	0.91	694 Powder Spring Rd
Miriam Thomas Estate	Allard Lumber Co	90	Greens Rd
Fifield, Edwin et al	Fifield, Jason	0.68	71 Westville Rd
Duprey, Stephen and Elise	Bundock, Brett & Elizabeth	81	7599 Scott Hwy
Figura, Jeremy & Robbin	Friedman, David	12.11	366 Goodfellow Rd
Lyndes, Bruce	Page, Andrew & Jocelyn	9.9	352 Branch Brook Rd
Ortiz, Melanie	Stewart, Jay & Carr, Priscilla	0.33	97 West Shore Dr
Herbert, Christopher	Herbert, Lara	0.45	109 Little Italy Rd
Matott, Brian	Edwards, Gale	1.1	25 Windsor Lane
Hart, Steve & Lisa	Baston, Daniel & Douglas	55	South Branch Rd
Puffer, Matthew & Tracy	Eldred, Robert & Ritchie, Brianna	2.9	760 Scott Hwy
Edwards Jr, Lyle et al	Sullivan, Andrew & Medina, Elizabeth	0.34	26 Minard Hill Rd
Russell, Michael & Leblanc, Raymond	Laurendeau, Scott & Carol	45	417 Hart Dr
Braman, Fred & Signa	Zornes, Jared & Michelle	11.2	250 Goodfellow Rd
Lasell, Horace	Walker Family Trust	166	Levi Pond Rd
Walbridge, Lindsay	Lyon, Peter	7	3254 State Forest Rd, Lot 2
Ehrgood, Missy	Livingston, Mitchell & Heather	0.44	50 Pond View Lane
Verrier, Richard & Sandra	Borek, Kyle & Sauber, Sophia	24	27 Westville Rd
Berry, Russell & Cecile	Clapp II, Alan	219	North County Rd
Joy, Arthur & Nancy	Stimson, Jacob & Timothy	20.5	Branch Brook Rd
Emerson, Chris & Kelly	Kelley, Peter & Lynn	5.53	953 Powder Spring Rd
Mercon, Owen	Perry, James	2	1756 Annis Rd
Dennis, Tony & Sara	Beaudoin, Rebecca	1.32	56 Park St
Cusack, Matthew & Maureen	Casserly, Cail	2.4	87 Cochran Rd
Routhier, Dustin	Morse Jr, Walter & Mahr, Joseph	14.3	3185 State Forest Rd
Dana, Jason & Michael	Walker, Timothy & Kerry	10.1	2134 Goodfellow Rd
Oliver, Troy & Julie	French, Isaac & Newland, Haley	0.84	189 Railroad St
Duckett, Jennifer	Diamond, Joseph & Linda	0.57	151 Duckett Dr
Jalbert, Albert	Neuhauser, Karl & Joanne	2.29	Minard Hill Rd

FY2022 ANR PILOT REPORT

TOWN OF	DEPARTMENT OF	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Acres	FMV Sum of FY22 PILOT	
Groton	Environmental Conservation	Groton Lake Dam Site	3	\$63,100.00	\$378.60
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	LEVI POND WMA	259.2	\$78,800.00	\$472.80
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	PINE MOUNTAIN WMA	372	\$372,800.00	\$2,236.80
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	St. Hilaire Parcel	100	\$80,100.00	\$480.60
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Big Deer Campground	25	\$28,600.00	\$171.60
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Bolder Beach	25	\$109,900.00	\$659.40
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Forest Land	11,702.03	\$13,207,200.00	\$79,243.20
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Groton State Forest - Seyon Pond	26	\$106,700.00	\$640.20
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Kettle Pond Campground	20	\$86,000.00	\$516.00
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lake Groton Cottage Lots	2.07	\$3,000.00	\$18.00
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lyon Acq. Seyon Block	42	\$29,700.00	\$178.20
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Natural Woodlands Area	149	\$105,300.00	\$631.80
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Page Acquisition	25.7	\$24,300.00	\$145.80
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Campsite & Frontag	39	\$175,100.00	\$1,050.60
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Damsite	13	\$12,500.00	\$75.00
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Stillwater Campground	42	\$136,100.00	\$816.60
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	TNC/Moffatt Acquisition	329	\$250,000.00	\$1,500.00
Groton Total			13,174.00	\$14,869,200.00	\$89,215.20

Current Use

Overview

In 1978, the Vermont legislature passed a law establishing the Use Value Appraisal of Agricultural, Forest, Conservation and Farm Buildings Property. Today, this program is known as "Current Use" and is administered by the Division of Property Valuation and Review within the Vermont Department of Taxes.

The purpose of the law was to allow the valuation and taxation of farm and forest land based on its remaining in agricultural or forest use instead of its value in the marketplace. The primary objectives of the program were to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest land in production, help slow the development of these lands, and achieve greater equity in property taxation on undeveloped land. Benefits for land enrolled in the program were first distributed in tax year 1980.

Participation in the program has grown as it has evolved. The two most significant changes have been the inclusion of conservation land owned by qualifying nonprofit organizations and the exemption from all property taxes of eligible farm buildings. When an application is approved and recorded in the municipal land records, a lien is established on the enrolled land to recover a land use change tax should all or any portion of the enrolled land become developed.

To ensure that parcels with a use value appraisal are appraised by the local assessing officials consistent with the appraisals for non-enrolled parcels an annual audit is conducted on three towns with lands enrolled program.

Benefits

Land will be taxed based on its use value which is established annually by the Current Use Advisory Board.

Requirements and Terms

Property must be managed according to the approved forest or conservation management plan and according to state standards. It will be inspected at least once every 10 years. The main objective in requiring a management plan is to assure that the land is managed carefully. It is not intended to force a landowner into a particular type of management. A private consulting forester may be asked to prepare, or help prepare, a management plan which meets the landowner's objectives as well as the state standards.

A management plan for forestland and conservation land also includes maps that meet the Current Use Program Mapping Standards. Agricultural land does not require a management plan but does require maps that meet the map standards. These maps are typically prepared by a consulting forester. The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) has a number of shapefiles that are available for creating these maps.

A Forest Management Activity Report must be filed by Feb. 1 with the Vermont Department of Taxes to report any management activity which occurred in the previous year. The Department of Taxes will send the relevant FMAR data to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. If you have any questions regarding your FMAR after it has been submitted, you should contact your county forester. Please wait 14 days after you have submitted the FMAR to contact your county forester.

For further details on Use Value Appraisal of Forestland in Vermont review the online brochure or visit the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation website.

Development and Penalties

Once land is enrolled, it is subject to a contingent lien. If this land is *ever* developed, a lien for the amount of the land use change tax is placed on the land. Once the land use change tax is paid, the lien is released. The land use change tax is calculated as 10% of the fair market value of the developed parcel or portion of a parcel. When a portion of a parcel is withdrawn or developed, the fair market value of the portion is determined by valuing the portion as a stand-alone parcel.

In this program, development includes any of the following:

- Transfer where one or more of the resulting parcels is less than 25 acres
- Construction of buildings, roads, or structures not used for forestry purposes
- Commercial mining, excavation or landfill activity, or cutting timber contrary to the management plan or contrary to state standards

The obligation to pay this tax runs with the land in perpetuity. The tax is not due unless and until the land is developed; however, it may be prepaid if the landowner wishes to clear the title.

2022 Use Values

The Current Use Advisory Board established the Use Values for the 2022 tax year on January 14, 2022.

Property Type	Amount
Agricultural Land	\$429/acre
Forest Land & Conservation Land	\$170/acre
Forest Land & Conservation Land Greater than one mile from a Class I, II, or III Road	\$128/acre

2022 Current Use Exemptions

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>LAND USE ACREAGE</u>	<u>LAND USE EXEMPT AMOUNT</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>
ALLARD LUMBER COMPANY	\$ 66,300	90.00	\$ 50,900	\$ 154
ANAGNOSTAKIS CHRISTOPHER	\$ 112,800	101.00	\$ 71,800	\$ 410
BASTON DANIEL	\$ 169,600	178.50	\$ 140,200	\$ 294
BECK DARREN D	\$ 232,400	49.00	\$ 46,300	\$ 1,861
BERLEJUNG MARY BLANDFORD	\$ 275,000	59.00	\$ 62,900	\$ 2,121
BERRY RUSSELL	\$ 287,900	219.00	\$ 253,000	\$ 349
CHANANIE JUDITH W	\$ 92,800	51.00	\$ 54,200	\$ 386
CHANDLER HARRY & JUDITH	\$ 462,100	267.08	\$ 276,000	\$ 1,861
CLOUGH RICK	\$ 217,800	45.70	\$ 37,000	\$ 1,808
CRUM NICOLE ERICH GREG	\$ 184,700	124.76	\$ 116,300	\$ 684
CUTONE RICHARD J	\$ 431,500	129.00	\$ 113,000	\$ 3,185
DANIELS LAWRENCE SR.	\$ 303,900	131.50	\$ 129,100	\$ 1,748
DEMARTINO PAUL REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 155,100	84.34	\$ 115,000	\$ 401
DOSCINSKI LEONARD & PATRICIA	\$ 457,800	102.70	\$ 126,000	\$ 2,918
DUCHARME HELEN	\$ 80,700	69.69	\$ 69,000	\$ 117
EATON HENRY W	\$ 397,700	55.50	\$ 73,200	\$ 3,245
EDWARDS LESLIE E	\$ 223,200	33.00	\$ 35,200	\$ 1,880
EMERSON CHRIS W	\$ 225,100	71.00	\$ 65,700	\$ 1,594
ENGLE STEPHEN B TRUSTEE	\$ 773,200	810.00	\$ 374,300	\$ 3,989
FLEURIE FAMILY TRUST	\$ 406,900	382.00	\$ 232,500	\$ 1,744
FOSTER-JERRY LUND MOUNTAIN TRUS	\$ 443,200	688.43	\$ 276,700	\$ 1,665
FROST BARBARA J	\$ 60,700	30.20	\$ 31,600	\$ 291
GOODINE ALLEN	\$ 160,900	87.00	\$ 91,800	\$ 691
GOSSELIN EDMUND	\$ 72,000	33.00	\$ 50,800	\$ 212
GREENOUGH BRADLEY	\$ 250,900	122.00	\$ 83,000	\$ 1,679
GRIMES & NOLAN REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 169,300	107.00	\$ 127,600	\$ 417
HAMLETT NANCY	\$ 100,100	44.00	\$ 60,000	\$ 401
HART STEVEN L	\$ 27,500	55.00	\$ 17,500	\$ 100
HERSEY MARK	\$ 100,700	123.00	\$ 69,400	\$ 313
KERSAKEN VENTURES LLC	\$ 723,900	633.85	\$ 288,500	\$ 4,354
KLEIN MARTIN P	\$ 313,100	93.40	\$ 112,800	\$ 2,003
MARTELL GROTON LLC	\$ 882,000	334.02	\$ 183,600	\$ 6,984
MEADOWSEND TIMBERLANDS LTD	\$ 135,000	128.00	\$ 113,400	\$ 216
MOORE DONALD F JR	\$ 59,100	28.40	\$ 54,300	\$ 48
NIEMASZYK WALTER	\$ 492,300	366.17	\$ 364,300	\$ 1,280
NOYES BRET D	\$ 201,700	164.00	\$ 141,600	\$ 601

2022 Current Use Exemptions continued

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>LAND USE ACREAGE</u>	<u>LAND USE EXEMPT AMOUNT</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>
OLIVER LOGAN	\$ 221,100	40.50	\$ 57,400	\$ 1,637
OLIVER TROY A	\$ 162,500	45.00	\$ 41,800	\$ 1,207
PAGE KEITH R	\$ 95,200	35.00	\$ 36,000	\$ 592
PARK FORESTRY NY LLC	\$ 658,600	995.40	\$ 489,500	\$ 1,691
PIGEON POND LLC WANDA GABLE	\$ 2,401,000	1072.00	\$ 905,400	\$ 14,956
POWERS CRAIG	\$ 316,000	32.47	\$ 45,900	\$ 2,301
PUFFER MATTHEW J	\$ 473,200	201.00	\$ 62,600	\$ 4,106
QUINTIN STEVE	\$ 146,200	73.00	\$ 64,900	\$ 813
RUGGLES PATRICIA A LIFE ESTATE	\$ 268,500	43.00	\$ 59,100	\$ 2,094
SMITH BRENT	\$ 196,800	39.00	\$ 43,600	\$ 1,532
SMITH SARA	\$ 192,400	42.70	\$ 53,900	\$ 1,385
STARR TIMOTHY	\$ 143,500	35.80	\$ 53,100	\$ 904
SWEET TREE HOLDINGS 1 LLC	\$ 770,700	760.00	\$ 673,300	\$ 974
THOMAS MARY E	\$ 269,600	160.50	\$ 180,200	\$ 894
THOMAS PAUL A	\$ 208,900	109.50	\$ 123,100	\$ 858
THOMAS PAUL A	\$ 81,000	63.10	\$ 55,400	\$ 256
TIMBERVEST PARTNERS III VERMONT	\$ 198,100	224.80	\$ 157,400	\$ 407
VIENS ROBERT G & MARIA L	\$ 351,300	231.50	\$ 165,900	\$ 1,854
WARD RYAN T	\$ 427,500	180.50	\$ 146,400	\$ 2,811
WATERHOUSE CINDY J & LEE J	\$ 350,300	111.50	\$ 135,700	\$ 2,146
WEAVER ERIN	\$ 323,800	36.00	\$ 56,000	\$ 2,678
WELCH CHRISTINE	\$ 396,800	134.50	\$ 139,100	\$ 2,577
WOSKO WALTER	\$ 267,600	32.00	\$ 36,400	\$ 2,312
Grand Totals	\$ 18,669,500	10,790.01	\$ 8,290,600	\$ 102,989
		Homestead	\$ 1,267,700	\$ 31,534
		Nonhomestead	\$ 7,022,900	\$ 71,455

Groton Selectboard

Dear Groton Family,

This past year has been an extraordinary year for the town of Groton. Our year began with the end of a once in a lifetime COVID-19 pandemic that included many challenges with remote town meetings and unusual town meeting day votes via Australian ballot. We are pleased to share that we will finally be able to have an in person town meeting this year.

The past year has been a year of many great opportunities to bring great improvements to our amazing town. We began the year with receiving Federal and State funding of nearly \$290,000 as part of the America Rescue Plan Act, known as ARPA Funds. These funds have been provided to cities and towns across America to assist improving social, health and economic effects caused by the pandemic. We have also been awarded a USDA “Leahy” Infrastructure Grant funding worth \$200,000 to assist us with repairing the drainage and improving the parking for the community building, which we are hopeful to begin construction in the spring of 2024.

In addition to the nearly \$500,000 in infrastructure funding, and through the collaborative efforts of several community groups, the town has been granted \$220,000 from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Communities (VOREC) Community Grant Project. Once finalized, this funding will assist in connecting our town’s expansive recreational resources to our village and community. There have also been many small improvements that have been made this year that will have a lasting impact on our community, including making repairs to Puffer and Frost Ball Fields, and improvements to the lighting and tree removal at Veteran’s Park, that have really helped make Groton a great place to live and play.

We are greatly appreciative of the hard work of our town officials and volunteers who have helped to make 2022 a such as successful year.

As we move forward in 2023, we face a very challenging budget year. With drastic increases, many based on inflation, our budget is very fiscally responsible and our department heads have worked very hard to ensure that we are presenting a responsible use of our taxpayer’s contributions. We have continued to include important improvements to sustain our municipality’s operation to include establishing funds for updating the town computers and a new financial auditing contract.

All in All, we are excited for what this year has in store with continuing to improve our community and keeping Groton a great place to live.

Zac Conaway

Tristan Vaughn

Aaron Smith

Treasurer Report

Fothergill Segale & Valley, the Town of Groton's independent auditors, performed the town audit and provided a report on October 5 2022 to the Select Board for year ending 2021.

The Town audit report and financial statements are available at the town office for review. Please contact the office if you're interested in a copy. The 2021 audit can also be found on Groton Town website under Town Treasurer.

Fothergill Segale & Valley has decided they will no longer be doing governmental audits due to the extensive training needed and lack of staff.

The 2022 -2024 Audit will be performed by Sullivan Powers & Company. This change in audit firms has caused the cost to double.

2022-\$21,000

2023-\$21,500

2024-\$22,000

Thank you

Lisa JL Hart
Town Treasurer

ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included \$350 billion in pandemic-related aid for state and local governments. Vermont will receive more than \$1.25 billion of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding from ARPA. While the legislature and the governor will determine how more than \$1 billion of that funding will be spent, Congress directed nearly \$200 million of that funding directly to Vermont's cities, towns, and villages. City councils and select boards will have discretion over how to spend their allocations. The State of Vermont will not be allowed to add any additional rules to the roughly \$200 million distributed directly to municipalities.

ARPA Funds Groton has received: 289,360.40

The Select Board has decided to use ARPA Funds and Leahy Grant/ USDA funds to repair the drainage around the Community Building. This will in turn upgrade the parking lot allowing for ADA compliance. Also the back area behind the building will have parking and a more aesthetic appeal.

The Selectboard has decided to use Approx. 41,000 to bring Broadband to our community.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

I have been looking back on the past 3 years. The last in person Town Meeting was in 2020 and since then the world has been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. I am happy, like the rest of you, to be back to a more normal life. The biggest change that the pandemic caused was the Election laws. The State of Vermont's decision to stay with the mailing of ballots to all active voters for General Elections, is just one of them. They also recently passed a bill to allow Towns to switch to Australian ballot voting through the 2024 Town meeting.

I am glad we are back to an in person Town Meeting!

Another decision the State made was to send new tabulators to towns with existing tabulators. This way towns have the same model tabulator. This was used at the 2022 Town Meeting Day Australian Ballot vote and at the August General Election Primary. It is definitely an upgrade from the original tabulator we had. There is an easy to read screen allowing voters to see that their ballot was cast successfully and a clear print format. 2023 should be a quiet year for elections. The next big one coming is on Town Meeting Day 2024 with the Presidential Primary.

Land Records is another area that has seen some major changes. The grant that the town received at the end of 2020 to begin the digitizing of land records has been a big improvement to the ability to search and preserve the Town's history. We now have land records digitized back to 1987 with the intent to go further. The new program is modern and user friendly. I have also been working on scanning our older survey maps into pdf form and entering them into this system. Starting in 2020, the Cott system is where all land related records have been recorded and stored. This includes surveys, property transfers, building permits, deeds, mortgages, etc. It is reassuring to have a digital copy preserving the town's land transactions.

The next change Vermont Clerks will be handling is the electronic recording of land records. This Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act uses standards issued by the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration. E-recording will involve a record being sent electronically to the town and entered into the Cott system without ever producing a piece of paper. Vermont is the last state to enact these uniform laws or similar legislation and I am glad we have the system set up and ready.

Dog licensing...seems like a simple part of a Clerk's job, yet is a Vermont State Law and is always a challenge. From Axl to Gizmo, Hershey to Pickle and Rocky to Zipper, I licensed 297 dogs. I am hoping we can get all the dogs in town licensed this year so when little Sprinkles goes missing we can get her back home. 😊

I have been working towards becoming a Certified Municipal Clerk. Completing multiple trainings including elections, tabulator trainings, recording & records management, municipal law, vital records, the new VT Property Information Exchange, and more.

In closing, I want to say I am thankful to live in such a supportive community, where people help when needed and look out for each other during difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Peters

Groton Highway Report

- 2022 was a challenging year for the budget, Phillip and I worked hard to stay within the budget but continue to maintain and improve our roads. We continued to ditch to try to stay ahead of the states mandates. We were required to update 15% of our high risk area's by the end of this year and we have done over 18%.
- The Town replaced our 2001 cat loader with a demo John Deere loader that had roughly 68 hours on it with a savings of \$20000 under a brand new one.
- The Highway Dept. did a grant project on Minard Hill road this summer. Which will help with the water run-off and water quality flowing into the Wells River.
- We worked with other departments on projects, supplying labor and equipment time, saving them money.
- The grant we received from the State of Vermont last year was put out to bid and was scheduled to be completed this fall, but had to be delayed till the spring because the company building the concrete box culvert ran behind. It also cost more than originally planned so we secured more funds from the State to make up the difference.
- Phillip and I try our best to control cost while maintaining a level of service that keeps up with the needed maintenance of the roads.
- I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Groton for all the support in helping us do the best job possible.
- Here are a couple reminders:

23 V.S.A. § 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across highways prohibited

(a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the agency of transportation (in the case of state highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a state highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.

(b) Nothing in this section should be construed to be in derogation of any municipal ordinance regulating the deposit of snow within the limits of town highways. (Added 1997, No. 150 (Adj. Sess.), § 17.)

- Article 7.1 from the Town of Groton Highway ordinance: Winter Parking- Parking within a town right of way, including turnarounds and/or Cul de sacks, shall be prohibited between November 1 and March 31 of each year except for town owned parking areas where there will be no parking between midnight and 6:00 am. Violators will be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

Town Garage Phone-584-3209

Harold's Pager 290-1355

Harold Hatch (Home)-584 3816 or stop by the Town Garage

Assessor's Office

We have included a copy of the 2022 Equalization Study Results Letter from the Vermont Department of Taxes. Our COD is 24.53 %. When the COD is above 20% a reappraisal is needed. We are currently working with the Department of Taxes to determine our next steps. More information will be shared in the coming weeks. (see letter for definition of COD)

Covid 19 still played a role in how we conducted business. John Westinghouse, our Assessor, continues to work remotely, from home. The Assistant Assessor is in the office on a regular basis. Requests for information can be provided via emails and phone calls.

Training from the State of Vermont and VLCT was completed via Zoom and webinars.

In 2022 we saw the arrival of VTPIE (Vermont Property Information Exchange). The VTPIE system is a web-based data sharing platform that is being designed to enhance and streamline the processes for State Grand List management, education tax administration, equalization and communication between the State, PVR and municipalities. Training began in January 2022 and will be ongoing as modules are added to the program.

In 2022 we used VTPIE to certify sales for the Equalization Study. In 2023 Current Use updates and changes will be accessed thru VTPIE.

Due to Covid On-site Property Inspections are still being limited following the guidance of Property Valuation and Review. Letters and forms are being sent to property owners to provide us with updated information and photos of property changes.

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION- Please remember to file a Form HS 122 when you file your Income Tax. THIS HAS TO BE DONE EVERY YEAR.

ADDRESS CHANGES- Please send address changes to the Assessor's Office. This will help us to have up to date information when it is time to mail tax bills and other information to you.

INFORMATION REQUESTS- Please fill these out in a timely manner and return to the Assessor's Office.

THANK YOU.

John Westinghouse - Assessor

Dorothy Knott - Assistant Assessor



State of Vermont
Department of Taxes
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Phone: (802) 828-5860
Fax: (802) 828-2239

Agency of Administration

December 23, 2022

Town Clerk
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

00269

AMENDED 2022 Equalization Study Results

Please use this letter to replace the Equalization Study results dated December 22, 2022 or December 23, 2022. This amendment includes Cable Personal Property in the Education Grand List (From 411). This amendment does not change your CLA, COD, or Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL). Every year we are required to certify the equalized education property value (EEPV or EEGL) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont town (32 V.S.A § 5406). This letter also communicates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for your town and explains how it will impact your homestead and nonhomestead education tax rates.

Education Grand List (from 411):	\$129,729,295
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	\$141,619,313
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	91.60% or 0.9160
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	24.53%

For a copy of your town final computation sheet and final certified sales report, please see:

tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

The **education grand list** listed here is what was reported by your town to the state on the 411 form with your town's cable (if applicable) and tax increment financing (TIF) amounts (if any) included. This number represents the town's total property value that is subject to the education property tax (from the most recent grand list available) and serves as the numerator in the computation of the CLA. Please note tax revenue from any TIF property value is subject to allocation (32 V.S.A. § 5404a).

The **equalized education grand list (EEGL)** represents PVR's statutorily-mandated estimate of total fair market value of the education grand list in your town and serves as the denominator in the computation of the CLA. To find out more about how the equalization study is conducted, how to read the certified sales report, and additional instructions on how to appeal your results, please see the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at:

tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

The **common level of appraisal (CLA)** is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your town is generally listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A § 4041a). The homestead and nonhomestead tax rates in your town will be adjusted by your town's CLA (32 V.S.A § 5402).

The nonhomestead rate in your town will be the statewide nonhomestead rate divided by your CLA. The homestead rate will be the town homestead rate (which is determined by the per-pupil spending of any school district(s) to which your town belongs) divided by the CLA. A CLA greater than 100% will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment.

To get answers to many common questions about tax rates and how they are determined and to see how the current year property tax rates for your town were calculated, please see the department's education tax resources at:

tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates

The **coefficient of dispersion (COD)** is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your town. It is calculated as the average of the (absolute) difference of each sales ratio (list price divided by sales price) in the study from the median ratio. That result is then divided by the median ratio to get the COD, which is expressed as a percent (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A high COD means that within your town many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less than their fair share. A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

Appeals: A municipality may petition the director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of its EEPV and/or COD (32 V.S.A. § 5408). All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the municipality's legislative body. Petitions should contain a plain statement of matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy being sought. **Petitions must be received by PVR by the close of business on the 35th day after mailing of this letter.**

Additional instructions on appeals can be found in the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at:

tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

We at PVR are aware that many towns are concerned about the change in the market due to the effects of Covid-19 over the past few years. Sales have increased generally in price and some towns have seen this more than others. This is a typical real estate market reaction which is seen when conditions in the world change such as economy, politics etc.

As a result, there are more towns experiencing large drops in their CLA. This is to be expected in a market shift. There will also be many more reappraisal orders going out to towns than in a typical year as a result. If you have concerns about your results you should talk with your District Advisor about what the best plan of action might be for your town.

If you have any questions, please contact your **district advisor**, or call 802-828-5860.

Sincerely,



Jill Remick, Director
Property Valuation and Review

cc: Chair, School Board
Chair, Selectboard
Superintendent of Schools



Groton Free Public Library

2022 was a year of transition and change at the Groton Free Public Library. A big THANK YOU to the team of volunteers who kept our library open and operating during our leadership transition, and who continue to support our operations by contributing their time and talents to our community library: Terri Eastman, Julie Paton, Martha Montague, Kirsten Murch, and Tara Hathaway.

Community is at the heart of our work. We welcomed patrons into the library with regular in-person programming including Storytime, Game Night, Crafts & Conversations, and movie nights. We also hosted special events like the Welcome Summer Ice Cream Social, Fall Foliage Community Art Showcase, pop-up Storytime & Crafts at Jazzy's Halloween, the Spooky Halloween Social & Movie Screening, and the Winter Lantern Walk.

We are committed to working with local businesses & organizations to develop library programs and offerings. We collaborated with the Park Interpreter for the State Parks to host a pop-up Nature Center, and partnered with the Groton Historical Society to host "Your House History: Maps, Titles, and Genealogy." The partnership with Northeast Kingdom Community Action supports stocking our Community Comfort Cabinet with diapers and personal hygiene supplies.

We made use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds distributed by the Vermont Department of Libraries to develop a space for Tweens & Teens with a computer and a range of craft & art supplies for independent and guided making. We also used the ARPA funds to add items to our collection that support STEM learning objectives.

The library continues to offer free services such as lending books, games, puzzles, interlibrary loan, downloadable e-books and audiobooks, online Universal Classes, and destination passes to locations such as ECHO Center, and seasonal passes to the State Parks and Historic sites, among others. Thanks to the support from the Friends of the Library, we are pleased to offer two NEW passes in 2023: the Fairbanks Museum and the Montshire Museum.

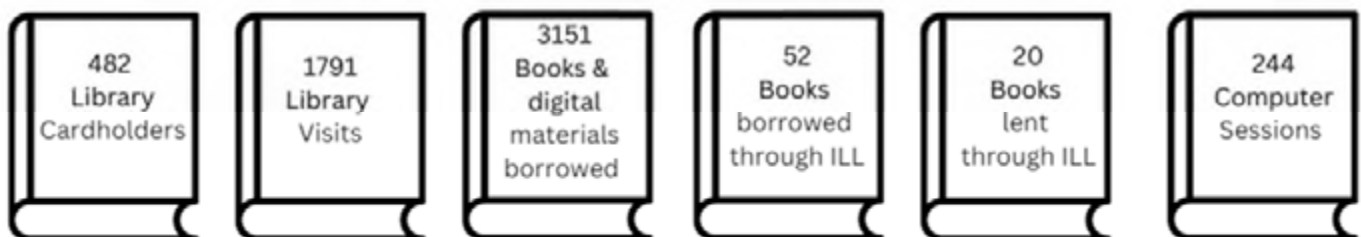
With the addition of a new tool and technology, it is easier to find a wide range of library materials available through our online public access catalog. New subscriptions this year include [Time Magazine](#), [Consumer Reports](#), and [The Journal Opinion](#).

Funding for our library comes from the Groton Taxpayers as well as our Library Endowment, annual appeal, and the Friends of the Groton Free Public Library. We are so grateful for your ongoing support, and look forward to welcoming you all to the library in 2023!

Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Spira, Librarian

Trustees: Dawn Miller Evans, Jennie Gaiss, Deb Jurist, Wayne Knott, Donna Russo- Savage

2022 By the Numbers



2023 Library Budget vs. 2022 Actual Spent				
Expenses paid from Town General Fund				
	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	
Librarian wages	20592.00	18971.87	22880.00	
Payroll taxes	1576.00	1451.32	1751.00	
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1238.00	1225.00	1148.00	
Building rent	18000.00	18000.00	18000.00	
Supplies-Library	2000.00	2030.48	2000.00	
Books & periodicals-	5000.00	5504.37	4500.00	
Telephone/internet	1800.00	1610.30	1800.00	
Software/support	500.00	274.44	1000.00	
Legal Fees	100.00	0.00	0.00	
Misc Exp.	0.00	0.00	200.00	
TOTAL	50806.00	49067.78	53279.00	
Library Budget vs. Expenses				
Expenses paid by Library Fund	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	
Transfers Out	0.00	0.00		
Programs Expense	2000.00	1469.72	2000.00	
Postage	500.00	225.26	500.00	
Building Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Elevator Expense	525.00	525.00	200.00	
Books & Digital	1000.00	833.70	1000.00	
Training & Mileage	250.00	30.00	250.00	
Technology Services/Soft	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Computer Maintenance	300.00	0.00	300.00	
Computers	0.00	0.00	2000.00	
Investment Loss	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Furnishings	500.00	152.00	200.00	
Misc - Expense	0.00	200.00	500.00	
TOTAL	5075.00	3435.68	6950.00	
Library Fund Revenue				
Funds are entered into Library Fund			Library Bank Balances as of 12/31/2022	
Books & Copy revenue		0.00	Library Operating	25,835.30
Dividends American Funds		736.67	Endowment	49,298.69
Donations/Annual Appeal		6506.38	Capital Improvement	21,911.58
Fundraising revenue		0.00	ACH /Paypal Acct	9.00
Grant revenue		0.00	American Fund Stock	22,562.02
Interest income		188.66	Series I Bond (new 2022)	10,000.00
Program revenue		0.00		
Gains - Investments		0.00	Total	129,616.59
Transfers In		471.16		
PayPal Revenue/Donations		-35.00		
TOTAL		7867.87		

Library funds are not Town funds, they are controlled by the Library Trustees.

Groton Free Public Library Operating Fund

March 7, 2006, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the existing accounts and the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Groton Free Public Library fund to be funded by grants, gifts, donations, fund raising, existing library investments and other non-taxation sources said fund to be used for library improvements, managed by the library Board of Trustees and dispensed by the Town Treasurer?

Operating expense account funded by annual appeal donations, memorial funds, interest from Endowment and dividends from American Funds.

Balance \$25,835.30

Endowment Fund

Endowment funds are composed of monies that have been gifted to the Library in the form of bequests or donations. Endowment monies are not meant to be used to fund routine operational activities or salaries. Endowment funds are to be used at the discretion of the Groton Library Board of Trustees. Any requests for release of endowment monies must be voted on and approved by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board is responsible for overseeing the use/investment of all endowment funds. The Library Board alone holds the power to direct investments and distribute money/assets for the Library.

(On 7/13/2015, the Library Trustee Board voted to remove all financial limitations on endowment requests)

Balance \$49,298.69

Capital Fund Certificate of Deposit

Anonymous gift restricted to capital improvements or non-budgeted items at the discretion of the Library Trustees.

Balance \$21,911.58

American Funds

Investment of funds realized from sale of book in 1991. Dividends are deposited in Community Bank Fund for use toward the Library portion of the monthly operating expense of the building.

Balance \$22,562.02

Library Pay Pal Fund

Fund Account was established to receive money electronically for Annual Appeal Donations.

Balance \$9.00

Series I Bond

October 5 2022 Library Trustee's decided to move 10,000.00 from the Capital Fund CD and opened a Series I bond account.

Balance \$10,000.00

GROTON CEMETERY RULES

TRAFFIC REGULATION

In order to protect the roadways and monuments, all Groton Cemeteries will be closed to vehicular traffic from Nov. 1 to May 1, unless otherwise authorized by the Cemetery Commissioners.

FLOWERS AND FLAGS

All flowers, natural and artificial, should be removed from the cemeteries by Oct. 1. The flags will remain on the graves until Veteran's Day in November. Any flowers, plants and flags left in the cemetery may be removed by the maintenance workers.

FOOTINGS

In order to facilitate mowing and for the long-term stability of the stones, all the monuments will be set on a cement foundation with footings which extend four inches outward from the monument.

SETTING OF CORNER STONES AND GRASS MARKERS

A Cemetery Official will have the final say as to the location of any upright stone or grass marker should there be a question as to whether a marker has been placed correctly on any given lot. The cemetery Commissioners are responsible for setting the cornerstones.

PLANTINGS

Planting should be of the low maintenance type that will not grow to a size which will impinge on the surrounding lots. They must be clearly marked in order to protect them. They must be planted between the monuments and not in front or behind the headstones. Please understand that it is extremely difficult to be aware of all the plantings in cemeteries as large as the ones Groton has.

The town cannot be held responsible for plantings set in front or behind monuments as these areas are maintained with a lawn mower. However, the spaces between the monuments are maintained with string trimmers. It is much easier to spot and avoid a planting in these areas than in front and behind the headstones.

BURIALS

The cemetery will be closed for burials from the first snowfall until the ground is fully thawed in the spring, unless specifically authorized by the Cemetery Commission.

Burial vaults will be of concrete.

PURCHASING LOTS IN A GROTON CEMETERY

Lots are for sale containing as few as 1 burial plot and up to 12 plots. Lots sold at resident prices will have the resident's name only listed as owner on the deed. Non-residents cannot be listed as co-owners on lots purchased at residential prices. The initial of the owner's last name will be engraved on the cornerstones. There is a price list available through the town clerk. Cremation urns can be buried in any plot.

SPECIFYING THE INDIVIDUALS TO BE BURIED IN A LOT

At the time of purchase the deed holder can fill out a form that will specify the individuals who can be buried in a specific lot. This document can be notarized and filed with the deed for the current recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to sell a lot or portion of a lot, they must first sell it back to the town at the same price that it was originally purchased for. Then the town will sell the lot to the new owner based on current pricing. Corner stone for this new lot may not be required if the Commissioners approve.

Please be aware that the only way to securely guarantee who shall be buried in any given lot is for that person to own it. In cases where there might be a family dispute, we suggest that the parties take all steps possible to make clear who shall be allowed to use a lot.

CREMATION BURIALS

The internment of cremation urns is not restricted to special cremation plots. Urns can be buried on gravesites already inhabited or on sites that have been purchased but not used. In order to do this the Sexton must be informed and arrangements made for the digging and interning the urn so that the exact location of the urn can be recorded and the plot can be officially prepared. There is an added cost for digging the internment hole.

All Groton Cemetery guidelines for placement of markers and cornerstones will apply to lots being used for cremation internments.

PERPETUAL CARE

Perpetual Care fees cover emergency repair and general upkeep of the cemetery. If you are interested in purchasing a lot in the Groton cemetery, please contact the Town Clerk.

2022 Cemetery Budget vs. 2022 Actual Spent

Expenses paid from Town General Fund

	2022 Budget	Actual	2023 Budget
Contracted Work	700.00	700.00	700.00
Riverside Cemetery	200.00	.00	200.00
Mowing	11,460.00	11,460.00	11,460.00
Dues & Meetings	00	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0
Supplies	615.00	25.00	700.00
TOTAL	12,975.00	12,185.00	13,060.00

Revenues paid To Cemetery Accounts

Cemetery Lot Sales	200.00
Corner stone revenue	215.00
Recording fee income	45.00
Corner stone setting fees income	90.00
Development Funds (non-resident lot sale)	1400.00
Perpetual Care income	500.00
Interest Revenue	63.26

Total Revenue**2513.26****Expenditures paid From Cemetery Accounts**

Deposited to Development Funds	1400.00
Recording fees (Groton Town Clerk)	45.00
Corner stone's expense	456.00
Restoration of Old Stones	700.00
Misc Exp-	0.00

2601.00**Cemetery Funds Balances 12/31/22**

	Balances
TD Bank-Roosevelt Carter Trust	6,203.62
WGSB H. Hosmer	3,298.20
WRSB Development Funds	12,905.49
WRSB Cemetery Lot Expenses	8,804.74
WRSB Mary Jane Ricker Hall Trust	1,064.88
MB Perpetual Care	91,853.86
TOTAL	124,130.79

CEMETERY PLOT PRICES for 2023								
SIZE	# of traditional burial sites	# of cremation sites	PLOT PRICE	PERPETUAL CARE	FEES	SETTING OF CORNER STONES	TOTAL FOR RESIDENTS	TOTAL FOR NON RESIDENTS
12'x4'	1	4	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$155.00	\$60.00	\$515	\$1,915
12'x8'	2	8	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$155.00	\$60.00	\$615	\$3,415
12'x12'	3	12	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$155.00	\$60.00	\$815	\$5,015
12'x16'	4	16	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$155.00	\$60.00	\$1,015	\$6,615
12'x20'	5	20	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$155.00	\$60.00	\$1,215	\$8,215

FEE EXPLANATION: RECORDING COST \$15.00 CORNER POSTS: \$140.00

Plots must be paid in full at the time of purchase

The cost for grave preparation and cremation urn preparation is set by the contractor at the time of service.

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

This year fire season there were three forest fire, all were mutual aid to other towns.

The requirements to obtain a burn permit are as follows: you need to obtain a burn permit by calling the forest fire warden within 12-24 hours of burning grass or brush. The only time that you are not required to get a burn permit is when there is significant amount of snow in the area in which you are burning. This also depends on the time of the year such as early fall and late spring when we may have early now storms. It is always best to contact me with any questions or doubts in burning. When there is a ban on burning, it will be announced on WYKR and on the Groton website.

I must also remind people that in order to burn woodpiles such as debris from buildings, other than brush, you must obtain a different permit from the Environmental Air Pollution Office. Their address and phone number are as follows: Air Pollution Control Division, Department of Environmental Conservation, Building 3 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0402, telephone #802-241-3840.

If you want a permit during the week, you need to contact me or the Deputy Forest Fire Warden, Justin Carle, the night before so you can get your permit. This has been one of the problems that I have had because I do work during the day Monday thru Friday. You can contact me during the week after 5PM at 584-3628, Justin Carle at 584-4288.

Due to the large area of Groton which is covered by forest, it is difficult to survey the area from time to time and because of that, there have been a lot of illegal burns which go unnoticed which could be a potential hazard to others and their homes if the fire warden is not aware of them. If caught without a permit, you could be issued a fine plus cost of equipment and personnel that come to the scene.

There has been a concern since the stump dump has been closed. What do we do about our leaves and brush? First of all, you can burn your own brush as long as you obtain a burn permit but as far as leaves go, the law prohibits the burning of leaves. If you have a concern about what to do with your leaves, give me a call.

There is also a growing issue on trash burning. There is a state law now which has been in effect since 2005 making it illegal in the State of Vermont to burn trash. The Town of Groton has now passed a Trash Burning Ordinance. You can obtain a copy of this at the Town Clerk's office.

Respectfully submitted,
Wade Johnson, SR, Forest Fire Warden
Justin Carle, Forest Fire Warden Deputy

GROTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – 2022

Introduction

This year has been a busier year for the Groton Volunteer Fire Department. Our success is due to a dedicated group of fire fighters and their commitment and sacrifice in training and going to fire calls in all hours of the night and day as well as in all types of weather. I want to take this time to say thanks to all our Fire Department members for the work they have done.

If you are interested to see what we do, you are invited to see your tax dollars at work. Our monthly activities are as follows:

- 1st Tuesday – Business Meeting
- 2nd Tuesday – Work Detail
- 3rd Tuesday – Drill
- 4th Tuesday – Officer Meeting
- 5th Tuesday – when months have a fifth Tuesday, we either have special speakers or extra drills.

Business Meeting

We go over a lot of business in our Fire Department. We go over the training schedule, past months fire/FAST calls, maintenance on vehicles, and concerns with fire fighters, recruitment and retention issues, and discuss finances with the Fire Dept. budget and also moneys that are used by the Corporation for some of our fire gear and donations which we would like to share what our department went over and above what is asked:

Donations/In Memory of:

Fred Whitcomb Memorial Scholarship Fund raffle tickets

Widows Sons Vet Ride 2022

Items Purchased

2 Wet Suits - \$964

Shirts/Jackets for FIRE & FAST - \$2032.30

Work Detail

On this Tuesday, we maintain and operate the equipment and keep everything up to date. This also includes inspection of vital life-saving equipment such as SCBA's.

Drills

A time to focus are drills on areas to protect our community such as:

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Chimney Fires

CO Activation/Smoke

Structure Fires

Cold Water Rescue

Snow Machine Accidents

Search and Rescue for those lost in woods

Hazmat

We also have training courses which we obtain without cost to the town from the Vermont Fire Academy:

Level 1 & 2

Hazmat

PADO (Pumper Apparatus Driver Operations)

Other Training

CPR

Flagger Training

Officer Meeting

Currently, we have a time where the chief and officers go over ideas concerns and challenges of the Department which also, we prepare for agenda items of the monthly business meeting.

Other Activities

Coin Drops

Dick Page Ride-In (Snowmobile) with chicken barbecue

Fire Calls for the Year 53

Conclusion

As you can see, putting out fires is not all we do. We are a close fire department family and we care the community we serve. If you would like to be part of the team, come in and join us. We are looking for a few good men and women.

We have 911 signs which you can purchase and if you need CO and Smoke Detectors for your home, please contact us which we install and give for free.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade A Johnson, SR

GVFD Chief

Groton Ryegate FAST Squad 2022 Town Report

2022 brought back some semblance of normalcy, whatever that means now. It also brought on or exacerbated underlying issues affecting the public health system, which includes

Emergency **M**edical **S**ervices (EMS). From staffing and funding to supply-chain issues and inflation, we are not immune from the impact. Though as a small volunteer non-transport agency we are less impacted by some of these challenges, we cannot avoid them altogether. We are still seeing shortages of medical supplies and drugs, and what we are able to reliably get is more expensive.

Even with these challenges, Groton-Ryegate FAST is up to 10 licensed providers. And, through careful budget management, noting that some line items were over, we came in under budget for 2022 by approximately \$2600 (11%). This year's proposed budget is \$26,940, representing a 9.3% increase from last year's budget. The primary drivers of the increase are added licensed personnel (fall of 2022 we welcomed a new fully licensed EMT to our department), additional training and mileage expenses with 2 individuals enrolled in EMT courses, and the increasing costs of necessary medical supplies. As always, we will strive to keep costs down wherever possible.

Over the past 5 years our call volume has continued to increase. In 2022 we ran 242 calls - that's 242 opportunities to help our community members. We expect increasing trends in call volume to continue. For each call, "help" looks different. Sometimes it's performing lifesaving interventions, others it's being a sympathetic ear to listen and provide reassurance. For us, each call is the same. We may use different skills and tools to address the situation, but in the end, we're still providing help and support to you, our community members.

Being able to provide this help and support is an honor for our members. An honor that would not be possible without the support of our community, employers that allow us to respond during "normal working hours" and most importantly, our families. It's an overused sentiment, but that doesn't make it any less true, words alone cannot capture our appreciation for your support. Thank you! In full transparency, even with 10 licensed members, there have been calls that we've had no one available to respond. Medical care is still provided by Woodsville Ambulance. Here's the shameless annual plug - if you're looking for a way to help your community consider joining your local volunteer Fire Department and/or EMS. If you have suggestions on how we can better serve you, please let us know.

Looking forward to 2023 we have some goals, which are summarized here. Please feel free to reach out to our members for more information or to answer questions.

- Regularly scheduled CPR and Stop the Bleed programs. We are taking a different approach this time around - more "pop-up" events that focus on actionable steps rather than certification. If you follow sports, you are probably well aware of recent events. These events showcased how immediate intervention (CPR and AED) can save lives.** The more people that can do it, the better the odds of saving a life. Continue to provide support at community events such as the Groton Forest Trail Run, and Ryegate Summer and Winter Carnivals. If you have an event that you would like us to be at, please reach out.
- Provide regular monthly updates via our Facebook page.

We can be reached at at our station at 802-584-3855 (unmanned - leave a message) or e-mail Groton.Ryegate.FAST@gmail.com.

Thank you –
Brenda Bruleigh
Head of Service
Groton Ryegate FAST Squad
Groton.ryegate.fast@gmail.com

Resource List

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline – 988

Substance Abuse – VT Helplink – call 802-565-LINK(5465) or visit VTHelplink.org for free and confidential alcohol and drug support and referral services if you or someone you know needs help

Vermont Suicide Prevention Hotline – 800-273-8255

The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence –
Domestic Violence Hotline – 800-228-7395

Sexual Violence Hotline – 800-489-7273

Central Vermont Council on Aging –
59 N. Main St #200, Barre VT 05641 - 800-642-5119

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging –
481 Summer St #101, St Johnsbury VT 05819 - 800-642-5119

Green Mountain Support Services –
93 James Road, Morrisville VT 05661 – 802-888-7602
1222 Main St. Suite 102, St Johnsbury VT 05819 - 802-424-1636
After Hours on call Pager: 802-741-7515 or you can e-mail info@gmssi.org

VT Office of Veteran's Affairs – 802-828-3379 or Visit the website at veterans.vermont.gov
Veterans in Crisis – 800-273-8255 – Press 1 to reach the VA Hotline – Counselors are available 24 hours.

Pathways Vermont – Supportive Services for Veterans and Families -PO Box #127 Winooski, VT 05404 -
info@pathwaysvermont.org 888-492-8218** *Final outcome of individual unknown at time of writing.*

FAST - GROTON RYEGATE FAST SQUAD ACCOUNT

2022

NOTE: This account is not funded by taxpayer dollars. These funds are from fundraising efforts and donations but the account is maintained by the Town Treasurer and listed under the Town's Federal ID number.

FAST Squad Account

Bank account balance on 12/31/21	613.89
Interest received	0.00
Donations	
service fee refunded	
Expenses	0.00
Fees	0.00
	0.00
Bank account balance on 12/31/22	613.89

Planning Committee

The Groton planning commission had another busy year. We spent a good deal of time making revisions to the Zoning Bylaws and held a public meeting to go over the changes. The Town was awarded \$225,000 in grant funding for our beloved railbed this year. Most of the work to apply for this grant was completed last year and upcoming in 2023, the team who worked on this will be bidding out projects along the railbed from a new trailhead on Little Italy Road, replacing culverts where needed, and regrading and adding material to the railbed. A concept master plan will also be developed with the goal of connecting the railbed to the village center by way of a greenway and a bridge. Norwich University students are currently designing a footbridge that would connect the Village to the old Stump Dump.

The planning commission is currently working with NVDA on our local hazard mitigation plan.

Michael Nahmias
Chairman

2022 Groton Vermont Zoning Administrator's Report

Another year has passed and with it new challenges and changes to the Groton, Vermont Zoning Rules and Regulations. Many of the changes are made to comply with new State of Vermont Laws and Building Codes. I cannot express enough how important it is to get your permit in PRIOR to building or constructing roads, ditches etc. This year we have seen several instances whereby people building have encroached on the adjoining landowner's property. Not only is this in violation of Zoning Laws for the Town but may end up in civil court on some matters as well as a two hundred dollar fine PER DAY from the Town of Groton until the situation is corrected. Just because you have a zoning permit that has been issued, it is still up to the Landowner to make sure they stay within the setbacks. Recently, I had to have a contractor move a home forty five feet from where he originally was going to build. After a Site Inspection and several site visits, the Contractor and I found the required footage from a survey plot map and was able to fix the problem before it became a Legal Issue.

Again this year we had incomplete Zoning Applications sent in and had to be returned to get the proper information on the Application. We had twenty five Zoning Applications submitted this Calendar year. Many of these were straight forward applications but too many were after the construction had begun.

Your Planning Commission has worked long and hard to update our Zoning Bylaws to keep them in accordance with new State regulations. Please take a look at these prior to submitting an Application as this will make things progress smoothly. Also be aware that after the Site visit, your completed Permit has to be posted at the Town Clerk's Office for fifteen days to give anyone the right to challenge said Permit.

If you have questions pertaining to the Permits or Zoning Bylaws, please feel free to contact me at 802-584-4108, at the Town of Groton website or at dajacs@charter.net. If I don't know the answer, I will try to get it for you within 24 hours.

I try to get to all the Zoning Permit Sites within twenty four hours of receiving said Permit. I will take pictures, measurements of setbacks and any other necessary information pertaining to the Permit.

Finally, we have had several instances this Calendar year where adjoining Landowners have decided they did not want construction to go forward. Even though there were no legal or valid reasons for their disputes, they kept pushing the envelope until in one instance, it bordered on harassment. Remember, to have good neighbors, you have to be a good neighbor!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town of Groton as its Zoning Administrator. I look forward to the New Year and to having many building permits.

Respectfully submitted
by Dan Webster

The Groton Food Shelf

The Groton Food Shelf would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous donations of food and/or money.

Skinny Pancake
Paul Clark
Kirsten Murch & Alan Massey
Town of Ryegate
Groton Baptist Church
Ryegate Presbyterian Church
Dawn & Michael Evans
Ryegate Power Station
Frederick J Olsen Revocable Trust
Laura Johnson
Upper Valley Everyone Eats
The Blue Mountain Grange
Fran & Rosemary Collins
Ken and Barb Nelson
Judy Thrasher in memory of Norman & Marion Murray

If we missed you we apologize and please know your donation was greatly appreciated.

The Food Shelf gave out 16 Thanksgiving Baskets and 18 Christmas baskets plus gift cards to Ocean State Job Lots for parents to choose gifts for their children. This year the Food Shelf also donated afterschool snacks to the Groton Library.

If you are in need please call 584-3276, Mon-Thurs. or email townclerk@grotonvt.com to set up a time to pick up food.

<u>Food Shelf 2022 Beginning Balance:</u>	\$12,118.96
Donations:	\$4,050.00
Interest Earned:	\$6.91
Expenses: (Food, gift cards, personal care items, donations)	\$7,105.68
Ending Balance:	\$9,070.19

Resources:

3SquaresVT 1-800-479-6151

Vermont Food Bank, 1-800-585-2265

Vermont 2-1-1, dial 211 or go to vermont211.org

The Buckaroo's of 302

The Buckaroos of 302 stand at 309 members as we look to improve upon last year's membership, our goal for this year is 450 members. Our volunteer crew had one major project this year, which was re-decking the bridge by Upper Valley Grill on 302. The deck was replaced with 2x6 PT on edge with a wide center spacing to allow for bikes to pass through. For trail work this year, we worked on cutting back the town portion of the Rail Road bed. This will allow for 10 wheelers to easily pass through when the town resurfaces the road with funds from the VOREC grant and reduces the amount of money needed to resurface the railroad bed. We'd like to thank our volunteers for all that they do and the hours that they put in every fall to keep our 60 miles of trails in top shape. We were able to get some grooming and riding before the holidays but with warm weather and rain, we are in a recurring pattern of waiting for colder temperatures and snow.

Current list of officers:

President - Taylor Lamberton; **Vice President** - Kevin McDonnell;

Secretary - Stuart Russo-Savage; **Trail Master** - Gary Lamberton;

Media Coordinator - Suzanne Pare;

Treasurer - Dwaine Smith

Groton Lunches w/ Friends

AKA~ Senior Meals

In December, 2022, Groton Lunches w/ Friends joyously marked four years of service to the greater Groton Community. A Vermont state approved senior meal site, we are sponsored by the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. Groton Lunches w/ Friends serves a delicious, nutritious lunch every Thursday at noon, and delivers Meals on Wheels to qualified area residents. Our menus appear each week in the Bridge Weekly.

Served in the dining hall of the Groton United Methodist Church, accessible by chair lift if needed, our meals are free to all but we do suggest a donation if a diner is so inclined. We are grateful for the continued financial support from our town and from others in the community who believe in and continue to support our endeavors.

GLWF is fortunate to have a small but very dedicated volunteer staff who clock over 300 hours of volunteer time each month, and we are always open to including new volunteers at any time. On behalf of all our wonderful meal site volunteers and our dedicated Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile program. You are always invited and welcomed to join us for lunch every Thursday.

Jean Denson Pierce

GLWF Volunteer Coordinator

PO Box 109, Groton, VT. 05046

2022 Groton Historical Society President's Report

Groton Historical Society's active members grew by leaps and bounds in 2022. We were joined at meetings by several folks who took on new roles. By Fall Foliage Day they were giving docent tours of the house and helping visitors learn about how to research the history of their Groton properties. We have a new editor for the Newsletter, Louise Reynolds, a retired journalism teacher! The website has been revamped and updated thanks to Sarah Spira and with help from Terry Miller.

Hidden treasures continue to reveal themselves at the PPH. Personal journals, and two old chattel record books, a book of town land appraisals from the mid 1800s were discovered and brought into the light so visitors could interact with primary source materials at the August and Fall Foliage Events.

Unlike many museums the PPH encourages visitors to touch, read and discover the contents of the house on their own. There are toy areas for kids to investigate, and an early 19th century kitchen in the basement. The garage houses old town reports and artifacts from local businesses, mail sorting boxes from the old post offices, agricultural tools and military gear.

The Peter Paul House belongs to the people of Groton.

This year we welcomed new property owners and longtime Groton residents who wanted to learn more about the history of their property. The website now has new pages with links, and info about how to do research on your own property as well as stories of some of Groton's special homes.

<https://02c0d8.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/house-history-research-guide.pdf>

As we navigate new projects and community outreach we are looking for ways to have more frequent meetings for community members to join in which are not focused on projects, events, and business.

Visit the GHS website www.grotonvthistory.org

Warmest Regards,
Deborah Jurist – President

Annual Town Yard Sale at Community Building Parking Lot

Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend the town held their first annual yard sale.

We would like this to be an annual event rain or shine.

Tables and chairs are available to rent for the day.

This year it will be held on May 27 2023

8:00 am – 1:00

Sign -up sheet will be available at office entranceway prior to event



Recreation Committee Report 2022

The Groton Recreation Committee was a positive influence on our community in 2022!

Do you have Recreation Committee ideas? Do you need sponsorship of a Recreational activity? Please don't hesitate to reach out to any Recreation committee member!

2022 Notable Activities and Events

Community Yoga

Four sessions of free yoga for all ages, led by Kelsey Root-Winchester from Rising Spirit Yoga, was sponsored by the Recreation Committee. Yoga was held at the Groton Community Building on Sunday mornings this fall with about 25 people from various towns participating.

Halloween Party

The Rec. Committee was a sponsor for the Jazzy's Children's Fund Annual Halloween Party and hosted the "Haunted Gingerbread Houses" activity station. This popular event is free for all families and includes crafts, games, giveaways and snacks. We welcomed about 50 children this year.

Winter Lantern Walk

Groton Recreation sponsored the SD Ireland Holiday Mixer to appear as part of the Groton Free Public Library's Winter Lantern Walk. About 40 people came through the library for hot chocolate, books and cookie decorating kits.

Town Banners

Town banners have been replaced (again!). Our supplier provided an (almost) free replacement due to the unusual wear they were showing. So far the upgrade is holding up much better.

VOREC Community Grant

Starting in the summer of 2021, the Rec Committee collaborated with the Groton Planning Commission, Buckaroos of 302, Groton Selectboard, and the Cross Vermont Trail Association to apply for a VOREC grant to improve and enhance the approximate 5-mile section of the town-owned rail bed trail. In March 2022, the State of Vermont announced a \$225,000 grant for the Town of Groton to do so. Members of the Recreation Committee continue to be part of the Groton Gateway / VOREC Grant Team that meets monthly to plan the deployment of this grant. If you'd like to join this group, please contact Mike Gaiss at mgaiss@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events to Watch for in 2023

Be on the lookout for a Barn Quilt (paint-along) announcement.

Recreation Committee Members:

Anne Hatch, Lisa Hart, Janet Page, Michael Gaiss and Jennie Gaiss.

Groton Community Garden

The Groton Community Garden volunteers wish to thank the Groton Select Board, town staff and community for their support in its second year supplying free food to those in need, while beautifying and enlivening the town center. In 2022, we distributed more than 65 pounds of tomatoes, 50 pounds of potatoes, 60 bags of lettuce, 70 summer squash, 50 cucumbers, 15 cabbages, 50 bunches of carrots, 20 bundles of herbs, and 30 bunches of kale. This fresh and healthy food was again distributed through the town library and directly to community members.

The year also brought new volunteers and our first foray into educational programming – a free tomato pruning workshop. We hope to expand our outreach with more garden programming and participation opportunities for young people. We likewise plan to expand our town center beautification efforts with more flower plantings.

Thanks to a 2021 Seed Grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, we installed a drip irrigation system in 2022. The Fund continued its generous support with a second-year Grow Grant, which will allow us to build and install an attractive “free food” produce stand as our primary community distribution point in 2023. We are grateful to The Growing Peace Project for taking us under the umbrella of its nonprofit status, and we warmly welcome volunteers and donors. Please contact us at grotoncommunitygarden@gmail.com.



Groton Community Club

The Groton Community Club had another successful year.

The Groton Community Club continues to support the community and the Groton seniors going on to further education following graduation. This year The Groton Community Club held two successful events.

In March, we had our first-ever Groton Ride In. The Upper Valley Grill hosted this event. Snowmobile riders from far and wide and locals came and enjoyed a meal and a 50/50 raffle. This event sold over 200 meals and was successful and well-received in the community.

The annual Chicken Pie Supper was held on October 1, 2022. This tradition had an outpouring of support and attendance. There were three seating's and a very successful to-go option for meals. This year we brought back our vintage sweatshirts to support the event. These were a huge hit.

With these successful events, the Groton Community Club was able to provide \$4,600 in scholarships to Groton seniors furthering their education.

We thank our community for the support and look forward to another successful year!

Tracy Emerson
G.C.C Secretary

Groton Gateway / VOREC Grant – 2022 Update

In March 2022, the State of Vermont announced a \$225,000 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Community Grant for the Town of Groton to improve and enhance the approximate 5-mile section of the town-owned railbed trail (also known as the Cross Vermont Trail).

The grant is a result of a collaborative effort starting back in the summer of 2021 between the Groton Selectboard, Groton Planning Commission, Groton Rec Committee, Buckaroos of 302, Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA), Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), along with support from a number of other organizations.

The Town's application included projects to:

- 1) bring the town-owned portion of the railbed up to the same standard as the railbed in the Groton State Forest. Two summers ago, the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation added gravel and graded the state-owned portion of the railbed that runs through town (approximately 5.5 miles). The Town will complete the same for the Town's 5 miles of railbed.
- 2) establish a trailhead and parking area near the Groton Village Center, to be located at the Town's old gravel pit on Little Italy Rd. This will allow trail users to park near the village rather than in the State Forest, where parking is limited. Having trail users park in town will hopefully drive more business to our Village Center.
- 3) improve wayfinding and connectivity and install informational signs near the state parks indicating where the village is located along the trail as well as other businesses. Develop a map of the railbed recreational trail for posting to the town website and for signage
- 4) develop a concept master plan for what we are dubbing the 'Groton Gateway Park' which there is a vision for connecting the railbed to the Village Center by way of a green space or park and bridge spanning the Wells River. This part of the project will include a committee and engagement with residents.
- 5) acquire the adjacent Former Lower Groton Hydroelectric Station property from Green Mountain Power which abuts the railbed, Wells River, and stump dump. This property would be included in the Groton Gateway Park concept master plan.

We'd like to thank all of the volunteers who worked to provide much needed love and care to the old railbed over the past year. If you would like to get involved with or help support this project, please contact any of the below Groton Gateway / VOREC Grant team members:

Michael Gaiss, Groton Recreation Committee
Gary Lamberton, VAST Trail Master, Buckaroos of 302 Snowmobile Club
Michael Nahmias, Chairperson, Groton Planning Commission

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



NEK Broadband had a successful and busy year. Construction continued throughout 2022, and customers in Concord, Waterford, and Lunenburg were connected to our fiber-optic internet network! We prepared multiple grant applications, received significant funding from a multitude of sources, and were able to procure and purchase a majority of the materials needed to continue construction throughout our district.

PREPARING FOR CONSTRUCTION

- We purchased over 700 miles of fiber optic cable.
- More than \$2 million in hardware and equipment was ordered.
- We submitted the necessary applications to eight electric and communication utility companies, giving us access to more than 12,000 utility poles spread over 500 miles of roadways in 24 towns. We are now able to prepare these poles for installation.

BUDGET SUMMARY

2022 Budget to Actual (Projected)			2023 Proposed Budget	
NEK BROADBAND	BUDGET	ACTUAL (Projected)	Projected Surplus from 2022	\$145,016
Administrative Grant Revenue	\$494,750	\$762,965	Administrative Grant Revenue	\$2,252,718
Operations Revenue	\$203,000	\$49,138	Operations Revenue	\$747,767
Capital Grant Revenue	\$26,005,250	\$5,565,444	Capital Grant Revenue	\$28,785,288
Total Cash In	\$26,703,000	\$6,377,567	Total Cash In	\$31,930,789
Administrative Cost	\$494,750	\$617,969	Administrative Cost	\$1,847,193
Operational Cost	\$215,900	\$97,353	Operational Cost	\$586,601
Construction Cost	\$25,705,000	\$5,565,444	Construction Cost	\$28,785,288
Total Cash Out	\$26,415,650	\$6,280,766	Total Cash Out	\$31,219,081
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$403,134	\$96,801	Annual Net Cash Flow	\$711,707
Increase in Capital Assets	\$25,705,000	\$5,565,444	Increase in Capital Assets	\$28,785,288



GRANTS & FINANCING

- This year, the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved \$8,023,915 in Pre-Construction Grants and \$20,865,889 in Construction Grants.
- We secured American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds from 13 towns, totaling \$941,750 plus an added \$941,750 in matching funds from the VCBB.
- We secured and completed a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to build seven miles, serving 90 premises.

BUILDING CAPACITY

- We hired three full-time employees in 2022, and are in the process of hiring additional staff.
- Contracts have been finalized with all major construction and operations companies.
- We secured warehouses in both Saint Johnsbury and Brighton.

CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE PROJECTED GROWTH BY YEAR



432 

SERVICE AVAILABILITY

OUR SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO 432 ADDRESSES IN CONCORD, WATERFORD, AND LUNENBURG.

36 

MILES BUILT

IN 2022, WE BUILT 36 MILES OF OUR NETWORK THROUGHOUT THE NEK BROADBAND DISTRICT.

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 the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

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

Town Building's Use Policy

Town Buildings play an important role in our community and we hope to promote their use while continuing to meet the growing cost of maintenance. We ask that those using the facilities contribute a portion of the money required to cover the cost of cleaning, utilities, heating and general upkeep.

Taxpayer money provides for the bulk of this financial burden but a portion of the increased maintenance cost is due to the increased use and needs.

Increased activity has also required that our scheduling policy be updated to allow for more residents and diverse activities to be accommodated.

All Town Buildings will be available for public use providing there is no conflict with Town-sponsored activities.

Town Building usage by town residents shall take precedence over non-resident, non-profit, or private use.

Space will be scheduled in hourly segments with a fee of \$10.00 per hour for residents & \$15.00 per hour for non-residents. The daily charge for renting Tables and Chairs and taking them off site:

- Wooden 8 Foot Table- \$1.00
- Metal folding chairs-\$.50

There will be a separate \$50.00 cleaning and damage deposit at the time the reservations are made and paid in advance. It will be returned after the space has been determined to be clean and damage free, within 7 days after space use.

Multiple day events will cost minimum \$100.00 plus the \$50.00 deposit fee.

A Donation for the use of Ballfields and Parks would be appreciated.

Funeral related events will be charged a flat fee of \$20.00 for non-resident and free to residents.

Town of Groton will need to be listed as Certificate Holder for General Liability Insurance. Specifics can be found at the Town Treasurer's Office.

The Town Building Sign-Up Sheet and Release of Responsibility Form will be available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.

It is the responsibility of the individuals or groups using Town Building's to clean the rented space and to remove their trash & take with you after each use.

The key must be returned promptly after the function. Keys shall not be duplicated.

Misuse of any of the Groton Town Building Facilities and/or premises and/or failure to comply with the above policy, or any of the rules will result in immediate revocation of permission to use any of the facilities in the future.

Updated September 14, 2022

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

Overview

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the *definition of a Vermont homestead must file* a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. Here is the information you as the property owner need to know about the Vermont Homestead Declaration.

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either nonhomestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's *domicile*.

All property is considered nonhomestead (formerly "nonresidential"), unless it is declared as a homestead. The education property tax rate levied on nonhomestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:

- You are a Vermont resident
- You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, **2022**

Please note: If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2022, **you** may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2022 calendar year.

Nonhomestead Property

Property is considered nonhomestead if one of the following applies:

- Your property is leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year.
- The property is used exclusively for a commercial, including rental, purpose.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

How to File

Online

Taxpayers may file returns using myVTax, a free, secure, online filing site.

Paper Returns

If you cannot file and pay through myVTax, you may still use the paper forms. The Homestead Declaration is filed using Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit.

<https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/HS-122.pdf>

Veterans Exemption

The Local Agreement/Veterans Exemption reduces a Veterans property value by \$40,000. The State of VT pays the taxes on \$10,000 and the town covers the remaining taxes on \$30,000.

This was approved by the Town in 2009.

To be eligible for exemption, Veterans must meet one of the three criteria listed below

- Receive Disability compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive Improved Pension (also called Non –Service Connected Disability Pension) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military.

To be eligible for the exemption, Survivors must be the un –remarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death.

Form can be found at the Town Clerks office or go to www.veterans.vt.gov for more information.

VOTERS ONLINE REGISTRATION

Beginning January 1, 2017, eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of the election.

Registration is available during all normal business hours of your town or city clerk's office on day's preceding the election and during polling hours on Election Day. [17 V.S.A. § 2144](#)

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page:
<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- Check registration status
- View information on upcoming elections
- Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours
- View a sample ballot
- Request and track an absentee ballot

Online registration can be found at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

More information can be found at
<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

MARRIAGES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>
January 1, 2022	SARAH ALYNN ROONEY	DANIEL A WEBSTER
February 22, 2022	GABRIELLE LEE JOLLEY	NOAH OSCAR STRICKLAND
May 29, 2022	HARLEY MARIE DAVIS	LOGAN ALLEN OLIVER
July 2, 2022	MEAGHEAN ANNE EMERSON	JOSHUA TODD ROLLINS
July 16, 2022	YENNY RAMIREZ GRANADOS	RANDALL JAMES SCHUMACHER
August 6, 2022	MADISON PAIGE SANDERS	CHARLES ANDREW WOOD-SHELHAMER
August 20, 2022	NORA CATHERINE MCCLEARY	KEELIN BOZOGAN BANKS
October 16, 2022	JAZMIN HARRIETT SHAW	JAMIE FRANKLIN DARLING

BIRTHS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MOTHER</u>	<u>FATHER</u>
BEVERLY JEANNE PAGE	SAMANTHA PAGE	WILLIS PAGE

DEATHS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>
ROBERTA DANA (2021)	70
ROGER HATCH	73
GENE WELCH SR	79
AMY SARGENT	70
LINDA FARQUHARSON	72
NORMAN LAMARRE	77
BRENDA NURSE	58
PETER CARBEE	64
TONYA KIDDER	50
ERICA CONAWAY	39
RUBY TINKHAM	92
DAVID DONATH	71
DONALD MORRIS	72
TERRY DANA	69
BERNADETTE SMITH	60
ALAN "JOE" DENNIS	74
FRED BRAMAN	88
FRANCIS KILLAY	80
DIANA AUBREY	

TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (**VSNI**P), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law by six months of age.** Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics as well as humane societies during the month of March. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

Licensing a dog:

- 1) Helps identify your dog if lost.
- 2) Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but still needs immediate medical attention}.
- 3) Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}.
- 4) Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT.

For an Application for VSNI

P and a List of Participating Offices, send a S.A.S.E. (a 9" Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope) to: VSNI

P, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Or, to download and print, go to: VSNI.VERMONT.GOV Indicate if it's for a cat, dog or both. Once *fully* completed, you will mail it back. If approved, you will receive your Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pay the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog registration. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit. Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNI

P offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they've made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let's keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator 1-800-HI VSNI

P (1-844-448-7647)

RABIES CLINIC

Date: March 8, 2023

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Place: Groton Town Highway Garage

Please pre-register with owner and dog information at
www.oxbowvetclinic.com
This will speed up the process.

The Town Clerk will be in her office at the Groton Community Building for licensing of your animals.

April 1, 2023 all dogs must be licensed!

Rabies Clinic being done by
Oxbow Veterinary Hospital

Dog License Fees

Intact Male or Female Dogs - \$14.00 by April 1st

Altered Male or Female Dogs - \$10.00 by April 1st

After April 1st additional fees will be added

VERMONT STATE LAW

In accordance with VSA 20 (3581) all Dogs shall be licensed by April 1st of each year.
Or

You will be in violation of this Vermont Statute and of The Town Ordinance.

Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3621, the Groton Selectboard will issue a warrant to impound or find homes or destroy all unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids in the town. Pursuant to the warrant and 20 V.S.A. § 3624, the Constable and Animal Control Officer are required by law within 90 days to destroy all such unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids within the town.

WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE YOUR ANIMALS, BUT STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO IMPOUND UNLICENSED DOGS!

A person who fails to license a dog or wolf-hybrid in the required manner shall be fined up to \$500.00.

You will need to show a recent rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate if your dog(s) has been altered.

If you no longer have this animal please contact the Groton Town Clerk to let her know.

*Groton Town Clerk's hours - Monday through Thursday 8:00 am –4:00 pm
Available other times by appointment
Contact the Town Clerk (584-3276) to register your Dog(s).*