

# Town of Middlesex, Vermont

## Annual Report For The Year Ending June 30, 2023



**Town Meeting – Tuesday, March 5, 2024**  
**Rumney Memorial School**  
**433 Shady Rill Road**  
**Polls Open 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**  
**In-Person Meeting starts at 4:30 PM**

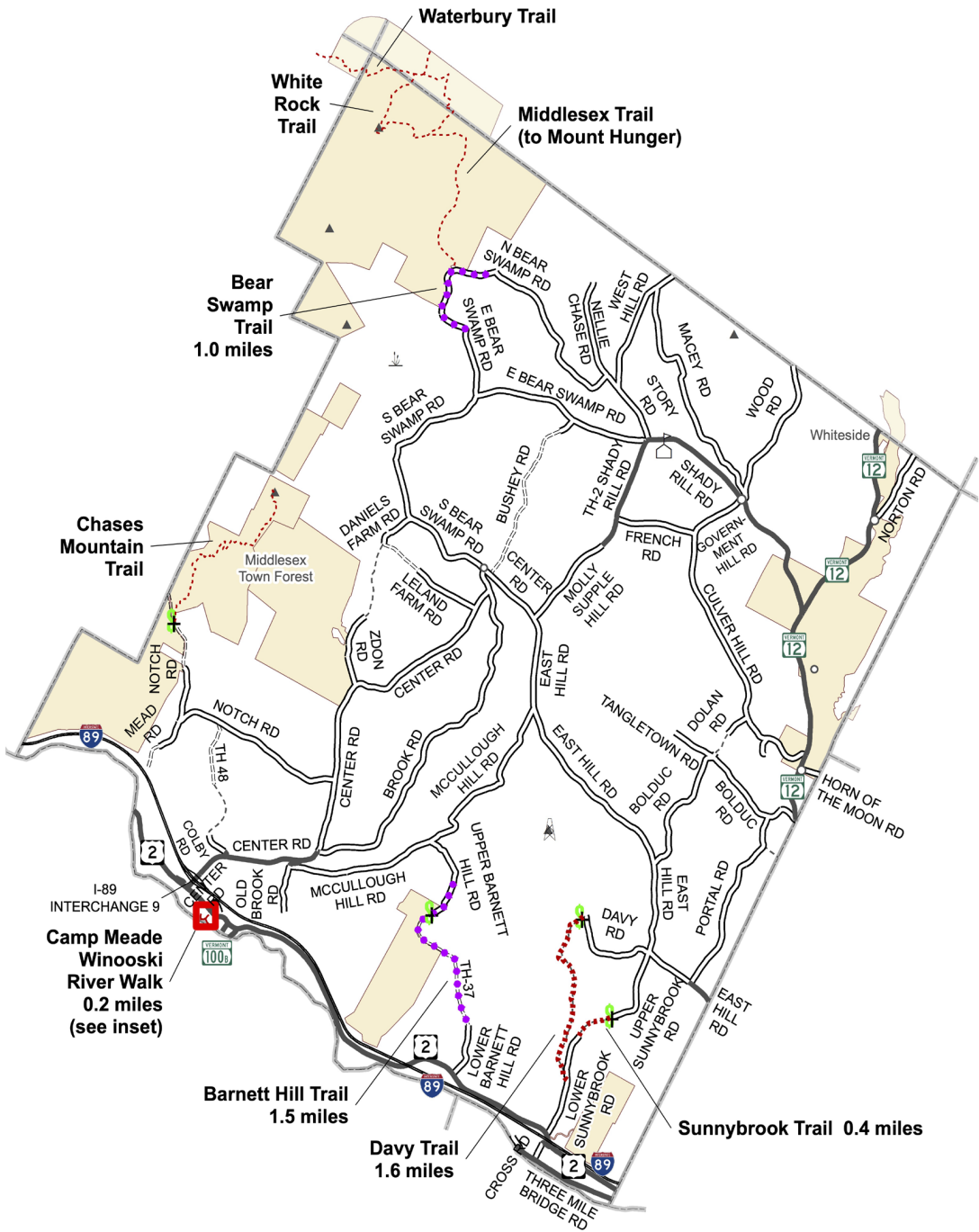


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## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO VOTERS

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### INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON ARTICLE 7

The Middlesex Select Board will hold an informational meeting in Middlesex Town Hall, 5 Church St., and via Zoom at 5 PM, Thursday, February 29, 2024, regarding ARTICLE 7 on the March 5, 2024, Town Ballot, per 17 V.S.A. §2680 (h).

### ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

**To attend this meeting via Zoom, go to:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7393380675>**

**Meeting ID: 739 338 0675**

**One tap mobile OR 1-301-715-8592**

### TOWN MEETING DINNER

Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner with your neighbors after Town Meeting and help support a good cause at the same time!

**When:** Tuesday, March 5th (meal begins right after Town Meeting)

**Where:** Rumney School

**Suggested donation:** \$10 for adults, \$4 for kids under age 12

*Proceeds will benefit Middlesex Community Fund and Rumney PTNO.*

**Potluck Desserts Wanted!** Do you have a fabulous cake or cookie recipe? A fruit salad that can't be beat? Please bring your favorite after-dinner treat to share. (Due to allergies, please, no nuts.) If you'd like to help with meal prep, serving or clean-up, please contact Amy Rose at [amy.rose.vt@gmail.com](mailto:amy.rose.vt@gmail.com)

### FREE TOWN MEETING CHILDCARE

Childcare for Kindergarten through 6th grade children will be available free of charge at the Rumney School on Tuesday, March 5 from 4:00-7:00 pm so that parents can attend Town Meeting. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited so be sure to reserve a spot before school break (deadline: Friday 2/23, 4:00 pm).

Thanks to the Middlesex Community Fund for their support! This offering is dependent on the number of families that express a need and the availability of staff. Families will receive confirmation by Tuesday, 2/27. For more information, please contact Kimberly Bolduc, Community Connections, 802-223-5429 x1108 or email [kbolduc@u32.org](mailto:kbolduc@u32.org).

### IF YOU NEED A RIDE...

The Middlesex Solutions Committee will be glad to coordinate transportation to and from Town Meeting for any Middlesex voters needing a ride. Please contact Dave Shepard, 802-229-1744.

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TOWN OF MIDDLESEX FEES

ZONING AND ACCESS PERMIT FEES:

Zoning permits are required for erecting, constructing, enlarging, or moving any buildings or structures, excavation or landfill, any change in the use of any building or other structure, or land or extension of use of land.

Applications for Zoning Permits and Access Permits are at the Town Clerk's Office or online at: [www.middlesexvermont.org](http://www.middlesexvermont.org).

ZONING FEES:

Residential or alteration/addition/accessory structure under \$25,000 ...	\$ 80.00
Single-family dwelling, garage or other construction over \$25,000.....	\$205.00
Commercial Project (new construction or alteration/addition.....	\$330.00
Change of Use .....	\$ 80.00
Home Industry .....	\$130.00
Sub-Division Fees (per lot*) .....	\$150.00/lot
Boundary Line Adjustment (separate application required) .....	\$ 80.00
*“Per lot” means the altered original lot plus each newly created lot	
(Above fees include a \$15.00 recording fee.)	

FEES DOUBLE FOR PROJECTS WHICH HAVE INITIATED CONSTRUCTION PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT.

Hearings:

Development Review Board.....	\$150.00 + \$10/per abutting owner notification
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Access Permits:

Access permits are required for the installation of driveways.	
Access Permit Fees .....	\$ 35.00

Dog Licenses:

All dogs 6 months of age or older must be licensed on or before April 1, 2024

Dog Fees for 2024

Neutered/Spayed .....	\$ 9.00
Natural .....	\$13.00

*If Registered After April 1, 2024*

Neutered/Spayed .....	\$ 11.00
Natural .....	\$ 17.00

Marriage Licenses .....\$ 80.00

Certified Birth/Death/Marriage Certificates (may be produced only after completion of application) .....\$ 10.00

Recording Fees:

Land Records (per page) .....	\$ 15.00
VT Property Transfer Tax Return .....	\$15.00
Survey Maps (Mylar) .....	\$ 25.00

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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS – KEEP THEM HANDY!**

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Middlesex Fire Department .... Emergency ..... 911  
Middlesex Fire Department .... Station ..... (802) 223-5525  
Middlesex Fast Squad ..... 911  
Montpelier Ambulance..... Emergency ..... 911  
Vt. State Police..... Emergency ..... 911  
Vt. State Police..... K Troop (Non-Emergency) ... (802) 229-9191  
Zoning Administrator Kevin Thompson ..... (802) 595-3464  
Fire Warden (Burn Permits) Jason Merrill ..... (802) 793-6069

**TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE:**

**Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Closed Fridays**

Office ..... (802) 223-5915  
Fax ..... (802).223-1298  
Clerk Email: [clerk@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:clerk@middlesexvermont.org)  
Asst. Clerk Email: [assistant.clerk@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:assistant.clerk@middlesexvermont.org)  
Treasurer/Tax Collector Email: [treasurer@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:treasurer@middlesexvermont.org)  
Website: [www.middlesexvermont.org](http://www.middlesexvermont.org)

**LISTERS:**

Office Hours: Varies  
Telephone: (802) 223-5915 E-mail: [listers@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:listers@middlesexvermont.org)

**TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

Town Shed, 481 Shady Rill Road..... (802) 229-0838  
Road Foreman Eric Metivier .....(802) 752-5092  
Email: ..... [eric.metivier@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:eric.metivier@middlesexvermont.org)  
Road Commissioner Vic Dwire .....(802) 522-8271  
Email: ..... [vic.dwire@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:vic.dwire@middlesexvermont.org)

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE            Ela Chapin**

Phone ..... (802) 821-1004  
Email ..... [ela@elachapinv.t.com](mailto:ela@elachapinv.t.com)

**MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES**

Middlesex Select Board ..... 1st & 3rd Tuesday  
Fire Department..... 1st & 3rd Tuesday  
Conservation Commission..... 4th Thursday  
Planning Commission ..... 3rd Wednesday

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**TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS**

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**Phone**

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Erika Holm	802-249-2127
Elizabeth Fortman, alternate	802-249-1058

**ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK**

Cheryl Grandfield	802-223-5915
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**BANDSTAND:** Martha Pellerin & Andy Shapiro Memorial Bandstand

<a href="http://middlesexbandstand.com">middlesexbandstand.com</a>	802-272-4920
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**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mark Harris, Chair	802-522-7362
Randy Drury	802-793-7635
Elias Gardner	802-778-0899
George Longenecker	802-229-9787
Zara Vincent	802-355-1400

**CEMETERY CONTACTS**

Middlesex Cemetery Commission (Carr, North Branch & Village cemeteries)

Janet McKinstry, Chair	802-223-5997
Gary Lamell	802-223-2710
Evelyn Gant	802-223-6488

Middlesex Center Cemetery - Private

(Lot Sales) Steve Martin	802-371-8697
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**CV FIBER DELEGATE**

David Lawrence	802-249-0235
Bruce Stevenson	614-290-5845

**CV REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

Ronald Krauth	802-229-5496
Mitch Osiecki	802-760-9674

**CV SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**

Adele McDonough	802 -229-9874
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## TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS

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### COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES

Vacant

### E-911 COORIDINATOR

Mitch Osiecki

802-760-9674

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Stephen Dennis

802-318-3297

### FIRE WARDEN

Jason Merrill

802-229-4797

### HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. Robert Penney

802-734-6075

Elizabeth Fortman (Dpty)

802-249-1058

### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Dorinda Crowell

802-223-7781

John Demeter

802-272-3548

Theo Kennedy

802-223-4748

Chris McVeigh

802-272-7871

Mary Just Skinner

802-223-7123

Jan Thouron

802-793-1177

### LISTERS

Shelly Desjardin

802-223-5915

Annette Halasz

802-223-5915

Vacant

### MODERATOR

Susan Clark

802-223-5824

### RECREATION DIRECTOR

Mitch Osiecki

802-760-9674

### ROAD COMMISSIONER

Vic Dwire

802 522-8271

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**TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS**

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**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Sandy Levine, Chair	802-223-1192
Jon Leibowitz, Vice Chair	802-778-0899
Nicole D’Agostino	802-461-5143
Elizabeth (Elle) O’Casey	802-760-9967
Mitch Osiecki	802-760-9674

**RECREATION DIRECTOR**

Mitch Osiecki	802-760-9674
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**ROAD COMMISSIONER**

Vic Dwire	802-522-8271
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**SELECT BOARD**

Hood, Peter, Chair	802-371-8042
Liz Scharf, Vice Chair	802-223-9189
Randy Drury	802-793-7635
Vic Dwire	802-522-8271
Jeff Pryce	802-793-9530

**TOWN CLERK**

Sarah Merriman	802-223-5915
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**TREASURER**

Dorinda Crowell	802-223-5915
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**WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**

George Longenecker	802-229-9787
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**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Kevin Thompson	802-595-3464
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ELECTED OFFICIALS

OFFICE	NAME	EXPIRES	TERM
Moderator	Susan Clark	2024	1 yr
Selectboard	Peter O. Hood, Chair	2024	3 yr
	Elizabeth Scharf, Vice Chair	2024	2 yr
	Randy Drury	2025	3 yr
	Vic Dwire	2025	2 yr
	Jeffrey Pryce*	2026	3 yr
Budget Committee	Mark Harris, Chair	2024	3 yr
	Randy Drury*	2026	3 yr
	Elias Gardner	2024	3 yr
	Zara Vincent*	2026	3 yr
	George Longenecker*	2025	3 yr
Listers	Shelly Desjardin	2025	3 yr
	Annette Halasz	2026	3 yr
	Vacant	2024	3 yr
Town Clerk	Sarah Merriman	2026	3 yr
Treasurer	Dorinda Crowell	2024	1 yr
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Vacant	2024	1 yr
Cemetery Commission	Janet McKinstry, Chair	2024	3 yr
	Evelyn Gant	2025	3 yr
	Gary Lamell	2026	3 yr
Planning Commission	Sandy Levine, Chair	2024	3 yr
	Jonathan Leibowitz, Vice Chair	2025	3 yr
	Nicole D’Agostino	2025	3 yr
	Elle (Elizabeth) O’Casey	2026	3 yr
	Mitch Osiecki	2024	3 yr

\* means an official appointed by the Select Board until the March 5, 2024 Town Meeting

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

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Animal Control Officer	Erika Holm
Assistant Town Clerk	Cheryl Grandfield
CVFiber Delegates	David Lawrence & Bruce Stevenson
CV Regional Planning Commission	Ron Krauth & Mitch Osiecki
CV Solid Waste Management District	Dell McDonough
Conservation Commission	Adrienne Magida, Chair
	George Longenecker, Vice Chair
	Dave Shepard, Secretart
	Larry Becker
	Ross Lieblappen
	Lee Rosberg
	John Udis
Emergency Management Coordinator	Stephen Dennis
Emergency Management Committee	Stephen Dennis, EMC
	Eric Metivier
	Dr. Robert Penney
	Liz Scharf
	Erika Holm
	Jeff Koonz
	Chris McVeigh
Fire Warden	Jason Merrill
Heath Officers	Dr. Robert Penney
	Elizabeth Fortman, Asst.
Recreation Director	Mitch Osiecki
Road Commissioner	Vic Dwire
Town Service Officer	Liz Scharf
Wrightsville Beach Board Member	George Longenecker
Zoning Administrator	Kevin Thompson

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## **A NOTE ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY VOTING**

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What many people like about Vermont is that voters do not have to register with a specific political party. In state and federal primaries, voters may vote for whatever party they choose.

Unlike the state primary in August - when voters receive all available party ballots but may only vote on one party's ballot (discarding unvoted ballots when checking out) - at the Presidential Primary in March voters are required by state statute to choose either a Democratic or Republican ballot when they check in at the entrance checklist. They then receive **ONLY** that ballot.

Statute 17 V.S.A. § 2704 reads, "A person voting at the Primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter's choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the secretary of state, to indicate the voter's party choice. The names of all candidates on the ballot shall be listed in alphabetical order. Each voter may vote for one candidate for the presidential nomination of one party, either by placing a mark opposite the printed name of a candidate as in other primaries, or by writing in the name of the candidate of the voter's choice. (Added 1979, No. 199 (Adj. Sess.), § 1, eff. May 6, 1980; amended 1995, No. 38, § 4; 2003, No. 59, § 43.)"

What many people don't like is being allowed to vote for one party **ONLY** at the primaries. People like to mix 'n' match their candidate picks. Voters should rest assured that they may mix 'n' match party selections at the November General Election when there is one ballot for all parties.

**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 5, 2024**

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The legal voters of the Town of Middlesex are hereby notified and warned to meet at RUMNEY MEMORIAL SCHOOL, 433 Shady Rill Road, in said Town of Middlesex on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 4:30 PM to act on the following business: (Voting by Australian ballot will be from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM in the Rumney School gym.)

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

ARTICLE 2: To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year. (To be voted by Australian ballot.)

Treasurer	1-year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1-year term
Select Board	3-year term
Select Board	2-year term
Select Board	2 years of a 3-year term
Budget Committee	3-year term
Budget Committee	3-year term
Budget Committee	2 years of a 3-year term
Budget Committee	2 years of a 3-year term
Budget Committee	1 year of a 3-year term
Cemetery Commission	3-year term
Lister	3-year term
Planning Commission	3-year term
Planning Commission	3-year term

ARTICLE 3: To receive and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town voters authorize payment of all property taxes to the Town Treasurer, as provided by law and without discount, in four installments made in hand or postmarked by the United States Postal Service on or before the following dates: the first installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, August 20, 2024; the second installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, November 20, 2024; the third installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, February 20, 2025, and the fourth installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, May 20, 2025? (32 V.S.A. § 4773)

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**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 5, 2024**

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- ARTICLE 5: Shall overdue taxes bear interest at a rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment? (32 V.S.A. §4873)
- ARTICLE 6: To vote a fiscal 2024-25 budget of \$1,845,508 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same. (THIS ARTICLE WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AT 5:15 PM.)
- ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town voters authorize the Select Board to purchase a new excavator in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed 15 years? (24 V.S.A. §1786a (c)) (To be voted by Australian ballot.)
- ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town allocate up to \$65,000 to pay for the design phase of a potential Middlesex Town Hall renovation?
- ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town voters appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to the Middlesex Conservation Fund? (By Select Board)
- ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$850 to support the Central Vermont Council on Aging? (By Petition)
- ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$4,500 to support Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice? (By Petition)
- ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$35,580 to support the Kellogg-Hubbard Library? (By Petition)
- ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$4,000 to support the Montpelier Senior Activity Center? (By Petition)
- ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$2,500 to support the North Branch Nature Center? (By Petition)
- ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$10,000 to support the Waterbury Area Senior Center Association's (WASCA) Meals on Wheels program which serves the residents of Middlesex? (By Petition)
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**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 5, 2024**

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ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$1,500 to Youth First Mentoring? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town appropriate a sum not to exceed \$4,242 to support the following organizations, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691:

American Red Cross	\$250.00
CV Adult Basic Ed	\$250.00
CV Economic Development Corp	\$250.00
Children’s Room	\$250.00
Circle	\$199.00
Community Harvest of CV	\$250.00
Elevate Youth Services	\$250.00
Family Center of Wash. Cty	\$250.00
Good Samaritan Haven	\$250.00
Green Mt. Transit Agency	\$249.00
Green Up Vermont	\$100.00
Montpelier Veterans Council	\$250.00
MOSAIC (Sexual Assault Crisis Team)	\$250.00
Our House of CV	\$250.00
VT Assoc for Blind & Visually Impaired	\$249.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$195.00
VT Family Network	\$250.00
Wash. County Diversion	\$250.00

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town vote to eliminate the office of constable pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651a(d)?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town provide notice of the availability of the annual report by a postcard mailed to all registered voters at least 30 days before the annual meeting instead of mailing or otherwise distributing the report to the voters of the town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1682(a)?

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**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 5, 2024**

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Approved at a Special Meeting of the Middlesex Select Board on January 23, 2024, by the **MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter O. Hood, Chair

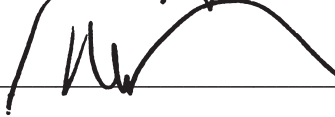
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Elizabeth Scharf, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Drury

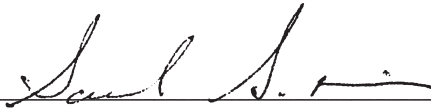
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Vic Dwire

\_\_\_\_\_  


Jeffrey Pryce

I attest that this Warning for the 2024 Town Meeting was approved by the above Select Board members and recorded in the Middlesex town records on January 23, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  


Sarah Merriman, Middlesex Town Clerk

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**TOWN MEETING RESULTS MARCH 7, 2023**

<b>TOTAL VOTES - 647</b>	<b>VOTES CAST</b>
<b>ARTICLE 1</b>	
<b>MODERATOR 1-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Susan Clark*	593
Write-ins	1
Overvote	0
Blanks	53
Total	647
<b>TOWN CLERK 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Sarah Merriman*	613
Write-ins	2
Overvote	0
Blanks	32
Total	647
<b>TREASURER 1- YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Dorinda Crowell*	578
Write-ins	0
Overvote	0
Blanks	69
Total	647
<b>COLLECTOR DELINQUENT TAXES 1-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Write-ins	31
Overvote	0
Blanks	616
Total	647
<b>SELECT BOARD 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Brigid Browning*	392
Stephen J. Dennis	118
Write-in	3
Overvote	16
Blank	118
Total	647
<b>SELECT BOARD 2-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Vic Dwire*	306
Theresa Mann	264
write ins	1
over vote	9
blank	67
Total	647

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**TOWN MEETING RESULTS MARCH 7, 2023**


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<b>BUDGET COMMITTEE 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 2)</b>	
Write ins	44
Overvotes	0
Blank	1250
Total	1294
<b>CEMETERY COMMISSION 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Gary Lamell*	558
Write-ins	0
Overvotes	0
Blank	89
Total	647
<b>LISTER 1 OF 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Write-ins	22
Overvotes	0
Blank	625
Total	647
<b>LISTER 2 OF 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Shelly Desjardin*	506
Write-ins	8
Overvotes	0
Blank	133
Total	647
<b>LISTER 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Annette Halasz*	499
Write-ins	4
Overvotes	0
Blanks	144
Total	647
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE 1)</b>	
Elle (Elizabeth) O'Casey*	511
Write-ins	5
overvote	0
blank	131
Total	647
<b>ARTICLE 3 (Setting tax dates)</b>	
Yes	572
No	24
Overvotes	0
Blank	51
Total	647

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**TOWN MEETING RESULTS MARCH 7, 2023**

<b>ARTICLE 4 (Interest on late installments)</b>	
Yes	531
No	92
Overvotes	0
Blank	24
Total	647
<b>ARTICLE 5 (\$1,657,287 FY24 Budget)</b>	
Yes	540
No	85
Overvotes	0
Blank	22
Total	647
<b>ARTICLE 6 (Adopting Zoning Regulations)</b>	
Yes	493
No	114
Overvotes	0
Blank	40
Total	647
<b>ARTICLE 7 (Creating Asset/Equipment Fund)</b>	
Yes	559
No	67
Overvotes	0
Blank	21
Total	647
<b>ARTICLE 8 (\$50,000 to Asset/Equipment Fund)</b>	
Yes	545
No	77
Overvotes	0
Blank	25
Total	
<b>ARTICLE 9 (\$5,000 to Conservation Fund)</b>	
Yes	500
No	114
Overvotes	
Blank	33
Total	

**TOWN MEETING RESULTS MARCH 7, 2023**

<b>ARTICLE 10 (\$4,500 to CVHH)</b>	
Yes	572
No	47
Overvotes	
Blank	28
Total	
<b>ARTICLE 11 (\$32,022 to Kellogg Hubbard Library)</b>	
Yes	466
No	155
Overvotes	
Blank	26
Total	
<b>ARTICLE 12 (\$2,500 North Branch Nature Center)</b>	
Yes	481
No	133
Overvotes	
Blank	33
Total	
<b>ARTICLE 13 (\$10,000 to Waterbury Senior Center)</b>	
Yes	531
No	85
Overvotes	
Blank	31
Total	
<b>ARTICLE 14 (\$1,500 Youth First Mentoring)</b>	
Yes	528
No	90
Overvotes	
Blank	29
Total	
<b>ARTICLE 15 (\$5,168 to Assorted Non-Profites)</b>	
Yes	542
No	81
Overvotes	
Blank	24
Total	
* indicates winning candidate	

TOWN MEETING BALLOT: MARCH 7, 2023

MIDDLESEX TOWN MEETING BALLOT  
MARCH 5, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK PEN to fill in the oval.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or stick his or her name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot.  
DO NOT ERASE.

ARTICLE 2:

To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

For TREASURER for a 1-year term.

Vote for not more than ONE.

CHERYL GRANDFIELD ..... ☐

Write-in: ..... ☐

For BUDGET COMMITTEE for 2 years of a 3-year term. Vote for not more than TWO.

SAMANTHA BEAUDOIN ..... ☐

STEVE DENNIS ..... ☐

ZARA VINCENT ..... ☐

Write-in: ..... ☐

Write-in: ..... ☐

For COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES for a 1-year term. Vote for not more than ONE.

CHERYL GRANDFIELD ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For BUDGET COMMITTEE for 1 year of a 3-year term. Vote for not more than ONE.

GEORGE LONGENECKER ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For SELECT BOARD for a 3-year term. Vote for not more than ONE.

PETER O. HOOD ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For CEMETERY COMMISSION for a 3-year term. Vote for not more than ONE.

JANET H. MCKINSTRY ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For SELECT BOARD for a 2-year term. Vote for not more than ONE.

ELIZABETH J. SCHARF ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For LISTER for a 3-year term. Vote for not more than ONE.

SAMANTHA BEAUDOIN ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For SELECT BOARD for 2 years of a 3-year term. Vote for not more than ONE.

STEVE DENNIS ..... ☐

ZARA VINCENT ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For PLANNING COMMISSION for 3-year term. Vote for not more than TWO.

SANDRA LEVINE ..... ☐

MITCH OSIECKI ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

For BUDGET COMMITTEE for a 3-year term. Vote for not more than TWO.

ELIAS K. GARDNER ..... ☐

MARK HARRIS ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

Write-in ..... ☐

ARTICLE 7:

Shall the Town of Middlesex voters authorize the Select Board to purchase a new excavator in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed 15 years? (24 V.S.A. §1786a (c))

YES ..... ☐

NO ..... ☐

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## SELECT BOARD REPORT

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Unable to anticipate the devastation July's 500-year storm would wreak, the Middlesex Select Board kicked off 2023 on a positive note full of hope for the year ahead by holding its first meeting in the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department station to mark the MVFD's formal inclusion into town government. After decades of operating as a separate 501c3 with financial support from the Town, the fire department that began as little more than a bucket brigade back in the 1950s, was finally an official Town department. Moreover, the department was thriving with new energy and enthusiastic members. Things were looking up!

The Town's fiscal outlook was rosy, too. For example, there was enough money in the general fund to pay for a much needed, used rescue vehicle from North Hyde Park without going into debt. Despite a voter approved FY24 budget increase of 10.24%, in July the Board managed to set a 2023 municipal tax rate of 0.6239 cents per \$100 of valuation, a mere 3% increase.

And there were grand plans.

Vermont Integrated Architects was given the green light to explore whether the Town should build a new Town Hall or revitalize the existing one. VIA investigated both options and decided that rehabilitating the existing Town Hall would be more cost efficient, especially since this would allow the building to qualify for possibly \$500,000 in grant money from the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.

Upon a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the Select Board created a local Cannabis Control Commission in April. Now, any group seeking a license to grow and/or distribute cannabis in Middlesex must seek approval from the Commission – i.e., the Select Board – in addition to a license from the State Cannabis Control Board. This helps the Select Board stay apprised of cannabis operations in town.

Having confirmed a large aquifer on property he recently bought from Jim Colby on Center Road near Exit 9, Russ Bennett, co-owner of Camp Meade and the newly formed Galaxy of Yes, proposed the Board consider creating a water district to supply public water to residents and businesses in the Village. In fact, the Board agreed to send out a questionnaire to those potentially affected asking for their input on the project.

And then the rain came.

According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, more than 8 inches of rain fell on Middlesex between July 9 and 10th, washing out every major corridor in town. I-89 was flooded between exits 8 & 9. A break in Brook Road captured a Kia. A family of four stranded on a broken section of Center Road had to be rescued along with their cats. The American Red Cross – trying to deliver supplies to Barre

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## **SELECT BOARD REPORT (cont'd)**

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since I-89 was closed – couldn't get past the break either and had to spend much of the night in the fire station. Many residents couldn't get to their jobs, check on their loved ones or access food and medicine.

Flood-weary residents of Three Mile, Cross, Rich, and Lower Sunny Brook roads evacuated. (On a bright note, one of the hardest hit homes on Rich Road was newly empty, the owner having closed on a Hazard Mitigation buyout less than a week before the flooding.)

The Select Board immediately held an emergency meeting despite the Governor urging everyone to stay off the roads due to yet another storm. During that meeting, the Board ordered three Dumpsters to be distributed in flooded areas so residents could dispose of their flood debris. The Board also signed off on hiring former Road Commissioner Steve Martin to act as a FEMA coordinator, assessing the repairs necessary to improve the flooded roads. This position would be 100% reimbursed by FEMA – eventually.

“Eventual reimbursement” became the key concept as the Town moved forward with repairing the roads ASAP, soliciting assistance from all sorts of sources: local contractors, the Town Road Crew and even the Town of Colchester. When the emergency work was done, the Town would have \$2.2 million in bills to submit to FEMA for reimbursement. In order to keep the Town financially afloat, the Select Board granted the Treasurer approval to take out a \$3 million line of credit from Community Bank of which \$1.5 million has been drawn down, so far.

Since the Montpelier US Post Office was flooded and temporarily non-functional and there was no guarantee tax bills would be delivered, the Board voted to move the due date for the first quarter payment on the 2023 taxes from August 20th to September 20th.

At the request of the Zoning Administrator, the Board waived permit fees for those whose flooded properties required rehabilitation to meet FEMA's standards. A memorandum of understanding with the State of Vermont to contract with a FEMA-approved hauler to remove flood debris was approved. The Board approved a FEMA-approved template for all contracts for non-emergency flood repairs and formally hired Steve Martin as FEMA coordinator.

As Middlesex property owners abutting streams sought assistance in shoring up their banks or removing debris from clogged streams, the Board signed off on letter requesting participation in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Program. The agreement is that the Town will be the official sponsor of the program that will be administered by the Middlesex Conservation Commission with federal money paying for the consulting and 75% of the engineering fees; property owners will pay the remaining 25%.

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## SELECT BOARD REPORT (cont'd)

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The Board gave the go-ahead to 14 FEMA buyouts of flooded properties under its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Due to the large number and concentration of these properties, these buyouts will be administered by the Vermont Emergency Management Program. All Seasons Excavating was awarded contracts to conduct more repairs on East Hill, Center, Davy and Upper Sunny Brook roads.

Still, there was normal business that needed attending. In July, the VT Agency of Human Services apprised the Board of plans to house four youths at any one time in the closed and vacated Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence (MTCR) on US Route 2. This would be a temporary measure until the State completed construction on a permanent residence for delinquent youth in another part of Vermont. The Board did not object.

In October, the Board held a public hearing featuring VIA's presentation on renovations to a Town Hall that suffers from a crowded vault with radon, a furnace that's so old it cannot be repaired and a poorly designed lift that's on its last legs. The Board made a site visit to Mead Road to help settle a dispute about the road's path and boundaries. And it dealt with persistent issues involving its IT services and a buggy email program. In November, the Board signed onto the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Municipal Technical Assistance Program offered to towns that need assistance applying for grants.

Finally, the Board turned its attention to the upcoming fiscal year budget and the effects of so many unknowns. Will FEMA reimburse the Town up to 75% of the flood-repair expenses by June 30, 2024? Would the State chip in to make up the 25%? If so, how much would the State pay? Also, what will happen if another natural disaster hits in the upcoming year? Will the Town have the resources and money to respond as quickly as it did in July?

For more discussion on the above questions – and other FY25 budget issues – please see the report from Budget Committee Chair Mark Harris below:

### **Select Board Analysis of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 (2024/2025) Town Budget**

This year's budget process has been impacted by the July flooding and its significant road damage to our town. Road repairs to-date have required loans in the short-term, and interest payments on those loans have been included in the proposed FY 2025 budget of \$1,845,508 the Select Board approved on January 23, 2024. The FY 2025 budget requests an increase of 11.36%. This increase is summarized as follows:

- A 3.75% increase to cover interest payments on current and future debt to complete road repairs and upgrades recommended by FEMA
  - An overall 3.63% increase in day-to-day operations of the town, which compares favorably to the current inflation rate of 3.4%
-

**SELECT BOARD REPORT (cont'd)**

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- A 3.98% increase in Capital Improvement, largely driven by a \$50,000 annual contribution to the new Asset Equipment Fund, approved by Special Articles 7 and 8 in last year's budget. The new fund was created to address large future capital purchases such as dump trucks, fire engines, etc.

A quick review of the major budget areas follows, noting reasons for any substantial increases.

**General Government** increased by 58% due to the addition of the interest payments on loans to repair the roads, and funds to address future tax abatements.

**Administration** increased by 13.94% largely due to consulting and equipment needed to replace our town computer server and the migration of the town e-mail accounts.

**Town Hall** and **Public Safety** experienced nominal increases of 1.37% and 0.21%, respectively.

The **Fire Department** had a 6.6% increase in its operating budget due to Radio Dispatch cost increases, and a 3.29% decrease in its debt service, resulting in an overall budget increase of 2.28%.

**Public Works**, which now comprises a little over half of the town budget, increased overall by 2.11%, well below the rate of inflation.

The **Cemetery** budget increased by 8.7%, due to a labor increase of \$600.

**Recreation** decreased by 3.87% and **Zoning/DRB** increased by 3.33%.

The **Planning Commission** budget decreased by 38.19% with a \$2000 reduction in Grant Matches.

The **Capital Improvement** budget increased by 125%, driven by the \$50,000 contribution to the Asset Equipment fund noted earlier, and one-time dollars earmarked for Town Hall elevator repairs.

In Summary, the proposed budget increase of 11.36% (\$188,223) may appear high to the casual observer. The carrying cost of the road repairs was an unforeseen expense, as this commitment alone raised the proposed budget increase from 7.7% to 11.36%. The Select Board, along with the Budget Committee, has tried to mitigate the impact of this unplanned expense by cutting back in other areas without reducing the quality of town services.

Looking forward, it's expected that additional loans will be required to finance road upgrades in FY 2025, as recommended by FEMA. Depending on the reimbursement schedules from Federal (FEMA) and State partners, which are likely

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## SELECT BOARD REPORT (cont'd)

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to occur in phases, it's conceivable that the FY 2026 budget will also contain a line item for interest charges on outstanding loans, until reimbursements are paid in full.

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The Board would like to thank Brigid Browning, who was very helpful in organizing the Emergency Watershed Program effort, for her service as Select Board member through a challenging year. Due to matters beyond her control, Brigid announced her resignation in December. Fortunately, two voters offered to fill out her term and the Board appointed Jeff Pryce to serve on the Board during that time. Thank you, Jeff!

The first in-person Town Meeting in four years will be held in Rumney Memorial School's gym on March 5, 2024, with ballot voting beginning at 7 AM and ending at 7 PM. The actual meeting begins at 4:30 PM with the budget discussion at 5:15 PM. We look forward to gathering with our neighbors and friends and to resuming this grand Vermont tradition. We hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted by,

### THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD

Peter O. Hood, Chair  
Liz Scharf, Vice Chair  
Randy Drury  
Vic Dwire  
Jeff Pryce

## ROAD FOREMAN HIGHWAY REPORT

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Where to begin with this past year's road report? Starting with spring, mud season wasn't nearly as bad as the spring of 2022 but then July came in with a bang. The flooding of July affected every road in town to some degree. Several sustained complete wash outs that required extensive repairs totaling millions of dollars. We still aren't finished. Some of the repairs were just temporary and there is a plan in the works to have permanent repairs done this coming summer.

After the immediate repairs were done so that roads were at minimally accessible for residents and emergency responders, the Highway Crew worked on Wood Rd, Macey Rd, Upper Barnett Hill Rd. Nelly Chace Rd, North and South Bear Swamps and West Hill Rd reestablishing ditches, installing road material, and replacing culverts. Multiple contractors worked on 13 roads installing culverts, reestablishing ditches, adding road material, and in some cases rebuilding and shoring up banks.

The beginning of winter brought wet heavy snow that brought down trees and power lines leaving most if not all in the dark for days. While dealing with the multiple Monday storms, we had the added hurdle of equipment problems that seem to plague us. The new truck having coolant consumption issues that still currently as I write this on the 9th of January is still at the dealer. The Freightliner is back in service after extensive work that took several weeks.

As we move forward in this coming year and beyond, we will certainly have our work cut out for us as these extreme weather events become more frequent. This coming construction season will bring work being done by several contractors and our own road crew to bring the roads up to a more resilient standard to better combat the ever-growing problems we seem to face.

Sincerely,

Road Foreman-Eric Metivier

The Road Crew: Jay Files, Charles Pelchar, and Richard Dudley

Road Commissioner-Vic Dwire

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**FIVE-YEAR ROAD CONSTRUCTION PLAN**

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The five-year road construction plan will have to be reevaluated after this coming construction season. We have a long list of projects that will be done by contractors and the town’s road crew. After the work is complete, we can give a better forecast of what needs to happen.

**Capital Plan for Equipment Replacement**

<b><u>Equipment Name</u></b>	<b><u>Replacement Schedule</u></b>	<b><u>Replacement Year</u></b>
1983 Tanker/Chloride Trk	as Needed	No Date
1989 Morbark Chipper	as Needed	No Date
2007 Caterpillar 420E Backhoe	21 years	2028/2029
2008 Kobelco 140SR Excavator	16 years	2024/2025 (due)
2018 International Dump Truck	7 years	2025/2026
2019 Freightliner Dump Truck	8 years	2027/2028
2021 John Deer 772GP Grader	15 Years	2036/2037
2021 Ford F-250 Pick Up	8 Years	2029/2030
2023 Kenworth T880 Dump Truck	8 Years	2030/2031

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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For the year ending June 30, 2023, the budget passed was for \$1,503,407, and I am happy to report expenses came in under budget at \$1,365,174 with a savings of \$138,233. With the savings, the Town Fire Department was able to replace the 37-year-old rescue vehicle without incurring any note payable debt.

As reported last year, Middlesex was awarded \$515,348 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), to assist in the recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID19 pandemic. Of that, \$70,000 was expended to replace the outdated breathing apparatus for the Fire Department and \$100,000 towards a matching grant to CV Fiber. The balance of the funds, \$344,907, must be committed by December 31, 2024, and be expended by December 31, 2026, or the funds must be returned. These funds are not reflected in any budgeted or income reporting data as part of this annual report.

The accounting firm of Batchelder Associates completed a full review of the financial records for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023. There were no weaknesses or deficiencies found. A copy is available for review at the Town Clerk's office or on the Town's website.

Based on budgets presented by town departments and committees, along with general expenses for the town, the Select Board is presenting a budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$1,845,508 (before Special Articles) for consideration of the voters. The proposed budget is an 11.36% increase over 2023-2024. In addition, "Special Articles" requests totaling \$130,672 are being presented to the voters for consideration.

Please refer to the Selectboard & Budget Committee reports for an overview of the entire proposed 2024/2025 budget.

This report would not be complete without mentioning the financial impact of the flood that occurred just 10 days into the current budget year. We were able to cover the first \$500,000 of emergency expenses by using our operating funds and borrowing the ARPA funds to pay the contractors and vendors. In October, we borrowed \$1.5 million from a \$3 million 1-year Line of Credit (LOC) so the Town could cover the remaining emergency invoices that totaled approximately \$2.1 million. FEMA will reimburse 75% of these expenses and it is anticipated the "State" will contribute some funds towards the remaining 25%, but as of the writing of this report we still do not know how much that will be. There will be additional expenses starting in the Spring to complete the remaining road repairs, that will also be partially paid for by FEMA and the State. Ultimately, the Town will have uncovered expenses that we will be obligated to cover.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorinda Crowell

Treasurer

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## **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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In a normal year, this report would be a recap of mundane activities in the Town Clerk's Office with chatter about digitizing records, recent improvements in ballot access and perhaps a finger wag about the need to license your pooches.

But 2023 was not a normal year.

The eight inches of rain that fell during the week of July 10th forever changed our Town and, in some ways, this office's profile. With nowhere else to turn, flooded residents called and showed up at 5 Church Street looking for answers about how to recover and how to deal without power. We were at a loss, too. The best we could do was to disseminate information and ask for permission to open Rumney School so people could charge their phones and refill their water containers.

The stories were heartbreaking and frightening. Every artery in and out of Middlesex was obstructed by cave-ins and washouts or simply water. A group of neighbors on Wood Road gamely emptied their powerless refrigerators and shared food. The owner of an ATV managed to corral vital medicine. A newborn with possible jaundice on devastated Culver Hill had to be handed over to EMTs so they could take him to the hospital. A father on Lower Sunny Brook escorted his young children one by one from their swamped house to dry safety via kayak.

A pond about to burst its banks on Zdon Road would have caused untold disaster if our then Emergency Management Coordinator Paula Otenti hadn't caught wind of the potential breach and hustled to bring in key resources. Thanks to the Town Road Crew and Ray Hickory – who fixed the break in Zdon Road that had prevented heavy equipment from getting to the pond – homes on Zdon, Center and maybe even Brook roads were saved.

The beleaguered residents of Three Mile Bridge, Cross and Rich roads took stock of the fickle Winooski which jumped its banks to record levels as evidenced by the high-water marks Gene Kennedy made in his basement for each flood. Most decided to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant "buyouts." In fact, so many applied that the State of Vermont relieved our office of the red tape to take over the process.

We were one of the hardest small communities hit in Vermont and, as a town, we are only beginning to recover. Don't forget that just seven months before, we'd had to open the Town Clerk's Office over the 2022 Christmas so people could charge their phones, make phone calls, and use the facilities. Thanks to that messy winter storm, some of us were without power for a week.

FEMA has been a constant presence in this office since the July flood. While an amazing organization with a daunting task, FEMA does require mind-boggling documentation in its reimbursement process. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell, former Road Commissioner Steve Martin and Road Foreman Eric Metivier and I have spent countless hours answering their questions that range from estimates for bridge repairs to the cost of material per the more than 150 culverts that had to be replaced after the flood, each culvert documented by GPS points.

I'm just glad it wasn't an election year, too.

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## **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

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Speaking of which, this will be the first year since the pandemic hit shortly after the 2020 Town Meeting where we will meet again in Rumney School at 4:30 PM on March 5, 2024, to decide on the budget and special articles. Town Meeting via ballot was an interesting exercise in 2021, 2022 and 2023. It proved that even when everyone has access to voting on articles that are normally voted on the floor, the results hardly differ. All articles and budgets passed. This year, the Washington Central Unified Union School District will continue the exercise by mailing every Middlesex voter a school ballot.

The Presidential Primary will also be held on March 5th. This is the ONLY VOTE where you must ask for either a Democratic or Republican ballot. That doesn't mean you are declaring your allegiance to either party. Historically and culturally, Vermonters are too independent for that! Instead, this is a compromise reached between the two major political parties and the State of Vermont because the state doesn't require party declarations during voter registration. (I think of it as an unreliable form of data mining.)

You can register as a Middlesex voter on Election Day. There will be (at least) three this year: March 5th, August 13th (for the Vermont Statewide Primary) and the General Election on November 5th. The Statewide Primary and General Election will be held in Town Hall at 5 Church Street. The March 5th Annual Town Meeting with Town, WC-UUSD, Central Vermont Career Center and Presidential Primary voting will be held at Rumney School, 433 Shady Rill Road.

You may request absentee ballots for any or all the 2024 elections by completing this form on our website and mailing it to 5 Church Street, Middlesex, VT 05602, or by dropping it off at our office at the same address.

Let's hope for a normal year without major weather events, nice gentle rain, and plenty of sunshine!

Sarah Merriman

Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

(Also, please license your dogs. I'm cracking the whip this year on unlicensed pups! Don't make me come back there.)

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## BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

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### Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

The Select Board's proposed budget for FY 2025 is \$1,845,508, an 11.36% increase (\$188,223) over the FY 2024 budget of \$1,657,285.

Major drivers of the budget increase are:

- A 3.75% increase (\$60,000) to cover interest payments on current and future debt to complete road repairs and upgrades recommended by FEMA, as a result of the July flooding
- An overall 3.63% increase (\$58,223) in day-to-day operations of the town, which compares favorably to the current inflation rate of 3.4%
- A 3.98% increase (\$70,000) in Capital Improvement, largely driven by a \$50,000 annual contribution to the new Asset Equipment Fund, approved by Special Articles 7 and 8 in last year's budget. The new fund was created to address large future capital purchases such as dump trucks, fire engines, etc.

The proposed budget does not include Special Articles, which are subject to approval by voters on Town Meeting day.

As part of the Capital Improvement Process (CIP), the Committee reviewed the Capital Asset Inventory, held a Capital Budget Review meeting in October, and submitted a FY 2025 CIP budget to the Select Board.

The Budget Committee also met after all department budgets were submitted to the Select Board, and compiled a list of proposed reductions to the budget, which were presented to and accepted by the Select Board in early January. The Budget Committee appreciates the effort and collaboration by the Select Board during the budgeting process, and recommends approval of this budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Budget Committee / *Mark Harris (Chair), Randy Drury, Elias Gardner, George Longenecker, and Zara Vincent*

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT

2024/2025 Budget	Budget FY - 2022/2023	Actual FY- 2022/2023	Budget FY - 2023/2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025	\$ Change	Percentage Change
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>						
Wages: Selectboard	4566	4101.01	3864	4018	154	4.00%
Wages: Selectboard Clerk	28221	28617.14	29633	30814	1181	3.99%
Wages: Payroll Tax(SS&MED&ACT76)	2508	2501.00	2562	2818	256	9.99%
Wages: Retirement	1905	1858.40	2000	2157	157	7.85%
Insurance: Health	9776	8876.51	8183	6273	-1910	-23.34%
Insurance: Property & Casualty	8538	5609.75	8538	8538	0	0.00%
Insurance: Workers Compensation	130	-1204.75	145	370	225	155.01%
Insurance: Unemployment Comp	116	0.00	116	70	-46	-39.59%
Advertising/Printing	1000	422.10	1000	1000	0	0.00%
Selectboard Courses	0	20.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Town Email	1000	1090.18	1350	1350	0	0.00%
Town Property Maintenance	1000	80.83	1000	175	-825	-82.50%
Welch Park	500	618.32	1000	0	-1000	-100.00%
Discretionary Fund	4028	333.48	4000	4000	0	0.00%
Legal Fees	3000	4527.50	7500	5000	-2500	-33.33%
Town Report	3000	2799.15	4000	4000	0	0.00%
VLCT Dues	3224	3329.00	3443	3500	57	1.66%
County Tax	19256	19256.00	20573	20573	0	0.00%
CV Solid Waste	1724	1779.00	1724	1800	76	4.41%
CV Reg Planning Comm	2366	2366.07	2366	2366	0	0.00%
Conservation Commission	500	383.74	500	500	0	0.00%
Elections	2000	3696.00	2500	2000	-500	-20.00%
Misc Expense	500	0.00	250	250	0	0.00%
Grant Matches	2000	2329.30	2000	2500	500	25.00%
Covid-19	0	5295.74	0	0	0	0.00%
FY24 Flood Recovery Debt Service-Principal	0	0.00	0	0	0	NEW
FY24 Flood Recovery Debt Service-Interest	0	0.00	0	60000	60000	NEW
Tax Abatements	0	39.95	0	7000	7000	100.00%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>100858</b>	<b>98725</b>	<b>108247</b>	<b>171072</b>	<b>62825</b>	<b>58.04%</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Office: Wages (Clerk, Ass't Clerk, Treas, Bookkeeper)	84914	84789.55	90764	94396	3632	4.00%
Listers: Wages	21216	10936.80	28357	18750	-9607	-33.88%
Delinquent Tax Collector: Wages	2912	0.00	2912	2912	0	0.00%
ADMIN: Payroll Tax (SS&MED&ACT76)	8342	7127.81	9336	9389	53	0.57%
ADMIN: Unemployment	281	156.74	116	175	59	50.79%
ADMIN: Retirement	5221	6256.98	5482	5912	430	7.85%
ADMIN: Insurance: Life/LTD/AD&D	840	683.94	840	816	-24	-2.86%
ADMIN: Insurance: Health	28560	27108.49	28804	29276	472	1.64%
ADMIN: Insurance: Workers Comp	541	81.91	598	1504	906	151.43%
Office Supplies	1500	3568.36	1500	3600	2100	140.00%
Equipment Repair	1000	0.00	1000	1000	0	0.00%
Equipment Purchase	1000	0.00	20000	10000	-10000	-50.00%
Lister Computer Upgrade & software	0	0.00	0	1000	1000	100.00%
Telephone	5000	5005.74	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Postage	3000	3279.90	3000	3500	500	16.67%
Auditing	9000	10000.00	10000	11000	1000	10.00%

# COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT

2024/2025 Budget	Budget FY - 2022/2023	Actual FY- 2022/2023	Budget FY - 2023/2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025	\$ Change	Percentage Change
Listing Mileage/Expenses	1000	348.00	1500	1000	-500	-33.33%
Clerical Mileage	200	23.43	200	200	0	0.00%
Clerk's /Listers Courses & Training	1000	132.00	750	2000	1250	166.67%
Lister NEMRC Assessor Contract	18000	2066.16	12000	26500	14500	120.83%
Lister/ParcelMapping	0		250	250	0	0.00%
Copier Lease	2000	1380.00	1500	1500	0	0.00%
Computer Maintenance	22000	17931.57	22000	40000	18000	81.82%
Consultant Fees	0	0.00	0	10500	10500	100.00%
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>217527</b>	<b>180877</b>	<b>245909</b>	<b>280180</b>	<b>34271</b>	<b>13.94%</b>
<b>TOWN HALL</b>						
Electricity	3500	2645.38	3500	3500	0	0.00%
Heat	2000	1629.29	3000	3000	0	0.00%
Grounds	960	1111.59	1080	1080	0	0.00%
Building Repairs	2000	1354.49	3500	3500	0	0.00%
Street Lights	1000	2076.16	2000	2200	200	10.00%
Janitorial	1500	1378.10	1500	1500	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL TOWN HALL</b>	<b>10960</b>	<b>10195</b>	<b>14580</b>	<b>14780</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1.37%</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>						
Wages: Health Officer	811	283.50	852	886	34	3.97%
Wages: Animal Control Officer	676	0.00	710	738	28	3.97%
P/S : Payroll Tax (SS & MED &ACT76)	114	8.44	119	131	12	10.41%
P/S: Workers Compensation	7	24.00	12	103	91	756.30%
Courses/Seminars	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Ambulance	72000	72702.00	75000	75000	0	0.00%
Speed Enforcement	5000	2992.84	2500	2500	0	0.00%
Dog Pound	300	260.00	300	300	0	0.00%
Emergency Management	500	0.00	500	500	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>79408</b>	<b>76271</b>	<b>79993</b>	<b>80158</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>0.21%</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>						
FD-Insurance: Property & Casualty	6713	5162.00	7500	7500	0	0.00%
FD-Insurance: Workers Compensation	1217	912.75	1300	1300	0	0.00%
FD-Supplies	400	500.11	600	600	0	0.00%
FD-Equipment Repair	10000	6200.25	9000	9000	0	0.00%
FD-Equipment Purchase	4200	4453.93	4200	4200	0	0.00%
FD-Telephone	1560	1533.44	1560	1560	0	0.00%
FD-Fast Squad	1000	90.00	1000	1500	500	50.00%
FD-Electricity	2300	1976.79	2415	2415	0	0.00%
FD-Fuel - Heat	4300	2910.88	4515	4515	0	0.00%
FD-Building Maintenance	3000	4552.62	4250	4250	0	0.00%
FD-Radio Dispatch	28394	28945.93	28394	33696	5302	18.67%
FD-VSFA/Dues/Accounting/Training	1875	100.00	1875	1875	0	0.00%
Courses & Seminars	300	325.00	300	300	0	0.00%
FD-Forest Fire Warden	250	0.00	250	250	0	0.00%
FD-GAS & Diesel	1200	456.29	1500	1500	0	0.00%

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2024/2025 Budget	Budget FY - 2022/2023	Actual FY- 2022/2023	Budget FY - 2023/2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025	\$ Change	Percentage Change
FD-Stipends	18000	11165.00	18000	18000	0	0.00%
FD-Communication/Radio	1200	1855.00	1200	1200	0	0.00%
E911 Signs	0	-20.00	0	0	0	0.00%
FD Sub-Total	85909	71120	87859	93661	5802	6.60%
FIRE DEPARTMENT DEBT SERVICE						
Fire Station Bond	40000	40000.00	40000	40000	0	0.00%
Fire Station Interest	15833	12488.55	12356	10548	-1808	-14.64%
VTECH Freightliner Tanker - PRIN	14594	14593.43	14593	14593	0	0.00%
VTECH Freightliner Tanker - INT	1751	1943.51	1313	876	-437	-33.29%
F/D DEBT SERVICE Sub Total	72178	69025	68263	66018	-2246	-3.29%
TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT	158087	140145	156122	159679	3556	2.28%
PUBLIC WORKS						
Winter Maintenance						
Road Salt	15280	24320.00	15840	19800	3960	25.00%
Winter Sand	21000	24332.96	25500	25500	0	0.00%
Trucking	25000	17096.25	20000	25000	5000	25.00%
Weather Consulting	600	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Tire Chains		15938.59	10000	10500	500	5.00%
WINTER MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	61880	81688	71340	80800	9460	13.26%
Summer Maintenance						
Seed	2000	0.00	2000	2000	0	0.00%
Hot Mix/Cold Patch	1000	2243.74	1000	1000	0	0.00%
Stone Ditch Lining	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Hay, Mulch, Netting	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Road Gravel	40000	51979.29	30000	40000	10000	33.33%
Roadside Mowing	7000	11321.17	7000	7000	0	0.00%
Chloride	23000	20944.66	23000	23000	0	0.00%
Rental Equipment	3000	0.00	3000	3000	0	0.00%
Tree Service	5000	0.00	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Green-Up	500	975.68	500	500	0	0.00%
Storm Water Discharge Fee	1590	1765.00	1590	1590	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous Summer Maintenance	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Unforeseen Road Repairs	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Trucking	0	1956.25	0	0	0	0.00%
SUMMER MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	83090	91186	73090	83090	10000	13.68%
Equipment Maintenance						
Equipment Repairs & Vendors	38000	25653.93	38000	38000	0	0.00%
Equipment Parts & Supplies	20000	15023.74	20000	20000	0	0.00%
Plow & Sander Equipment	8000	8041.39	8000	8000	0	0.00%
Bulk Oil & DEF	5000	2495.51	5200	5200	0	0.00%
Used Oil Recycling	0		400	400	0	0.00%
Inspections	750	488.40	750	750	0	0.00%
Towing	2500	4350.00	2500	2500	0	100.00%
Tires	9000	6946.68	9000	9000	0	0.00%
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	83250	63000	83850	83850	0	0.00%

# COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2024/2025 Budget	Budget FY - 2022/2023	Actual FY- 2022/2023	Budget FY - 2023/2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025	\$ Change	Percentage Change
<b>Specialized Services</b>						
Sub Contractor	20000	33154.00	30000	30000	0	0.00%
<b>SPECIALIZED SERVICES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>33154</b>	<b>30000</b>	<b>30000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Garage Maintenance</b>						
Shop Supplies (Towels, Rags, etc)	2000	2432.82	2000	2000	0	0.00%
Waste Disposal	2000	2574.11	2000	2000	0	0.00%
Air Gas Services	775	493.22	775	775	0	0.00%
Vermont State UST Fee	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Fuel Tank Maintenance	500	0.00	500	500	0	0.00%
Garage Door Maintenance	500	1445.04	500	500	0	0.00%
Office Supplies & Misc	500	239.97	500	500	0	0.00%
Small Tool Purchases	1500	3733.60	1500	1500	0	0.00%
Building Maintenance					0	0.00%
<b>GARAGE MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7775</b>	<b>10919</b>	<b>7775</b>	<b>7775</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Utilities</b>						
Electricity	4000	2278.27	4000	4000	0	0.00%
Heat	6500	5193.26	6500	6500	0	0.00%
Phone	1000	1291.06	1000	1000	0	0.00%
<b>UTILITIES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>11500</b>	<b>8763</b>	<b>11500</b>	<b>11500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Gas &amp; Diesel</b>						
GAS	5500	5683.07	6000	6000	0	0.00%
Diesel	54500	59353.82	60000	60000	0	0.00%
<b>Gas &amp; Diesel Sub-Total</b>	<b>60000</b>	<b>65037</b>	<b>66000</b>	<b>66000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Wages &amp; Benefits</b>						
Wages	262980	230503.36	266554	277226	10672	4.00%
P/W : Payroll Tax (SS & MED & ACT76)	20118	17600.88	20391	22428	2037	9.99%
Unemployment Taxes	465	304.26	465	280	-185	-39.72%
Retirement	17751	14799.04	17992	19406	1414	7.86%
Life & ADD& Long Term Disability	1500	1316.41	1500	1620	120	8.00%
Health Insurance	49945	30307.95	45084	60148	15064	33.41%
Uniforms, Safety Equip, DOT Compliance	5000	3964.49	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Property & Casualty Insurance	13300	8276.25	13300	13300	0	0.00%
Workers Comp Insurance	19855	17946.12	20231	19855	-376	-1.86%
Mileage Reimbursement	0	479.71	0	500	500	0.00%
Courses & Seminars	300	3960.00	300	300	0	0.00%
<b>Wages &amp; Benefits Sub-Total</b>	<b>391214</b>	<b>329458</b>	<b>390817</b>	<b>420063</b>	<b>29246</b>	<b>7.48%</b>
<b>HWY/MISC</b>						
Culverts	14000	1288.66	14000	9000	-5000	-35.71%
Signs	4000	516.06	4000	4000	0	0.00%
Construction & Paving	0	14000.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Guardrails	5000	0.00	5000	5000	0	0.00%
<b>Small Equipment Purchase</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>2500.00</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Grants: Town Match</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>HWY/MISC Sub-Total</b>	<b>24500</b>	<b>18305</b>	<b>24500</b>	<b>19500</b>	<b>-5000</b>	<b>-20.41%</b>

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2024/2025 Budget	Budget FY - 2022/2023	Actual FY- 2022/2023	Budget FY - 2023/2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025	\$ Change	Percentage Change
CONSTRUCTION						
Gravel	10000	0.00	10000	10000	0	0.00%
Ditch Stone	5000	4721.50	10000	10000	0	0.00%
Hydro Seeding	5000	2034.50	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Ledge Removal	6000	0.00	6000	6000	0	0.00%
Erosion Matting	600	0.00	600	600	0	0.00%
Mud Season Mitigation	0	0.00	37500	37500	0	0.00%
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL	26600	6756	69100	69100	0	0.00%
Public Works Sub Total	769809	708265	827972	871678	43706	5.28%
PUBLIC WORKS DEBT SERVICE						
2023 Kenworth Dump	0	0.00	40000	40000	0	100.00%
2023 Kenworth Dump - INT	0	0.00	5580	3889	-1691	100.00%
2021 John Deere Grader	18700	18700.00	18700	18700	0	100.00%
2022 John Deere Grader-INT	6872	6872.24	6414	5964	-450	100.00%
2019 Freightliner Dump	21409	21408.57	21409	21409	0	0.00%
2019 Freightliner Dump-INT	2783	2739.27	2087	1393	-694	-33.26%
2018 International Dump-PRIN	20355	20354.80	20355	0	-20355	-100.00%
2018 International Dump-INT	1282	1252.49	641	0	-641	-100.00%
P/ W DEBT SERVICE -Sub Total	71401	71327	115186	91354	-23832	-20.69%
TOTAL HIGHWAY	841210	779592	943158	963033	19875	2.11%
CEMETERY						
Labor	6900	4250.00	6900	7500	600	8.70%
Materials					0	0.00%
Repair to Cemetery	0	460.00	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CEMETERY	6900	4710	6900	7500	600	8.70%
RECREATION						
Wages: Recreation	6500	5276.25	6825	7098	273	4.00%
REC: Payroll Tax	497	395.67	522	574	52	10.01%
REC:Workers Comp Insurance	296	282.22	263	527	264	100.53%
Dues, Conferences, Travel	100	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Wrightsville Beach Dues	2750	2668.50	4520	4520	0	0.00%
Town BOR- mowing, brush hog, aerating	4720	3563.94	5250	5250	0	0.00%
Recreation Supplies (seed, soil, fertilizer)	500	44.20	0	0	0	0.00%
Portalet Rental Recreation field	900	1961.00	1000	1000	0	0.00%
Learn to Swim Program	600	0.00	0	700	700	0.00%
Recreation Equipment (nets/hardware)	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Ice Rink	500	0.00	500	500	0	0.00%
Walter Kelly Park-Mowing & Portalet	3120	2835.11	3110	2510	-600	-19.29%
Facility Maintenance	500	0.00	1850	1680	-170	-9.19%
Band Stand	0	0.00	1500	0	-1500	-100.00%
TOTAL RECREATION	20983	17027	25340	24360	-980	-3.87%

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2024/2025 Budget	Budget FY - 2022/2023	Actual FY- 2022/2023	Budget FY - 2023/2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025	\$ Change	Percentage Change
<b>ZONING/DRB</b>						
Wages: Zoning	8486	6460.66	8911	9238	327	3.67%
Zoning: Payroll Tax	649	504.39	682	747	65	9.59%
Zoning: Workers Compensation	39	0.00	43	111	68	157.81%
Mileage/expenses	150	345.20	250	250	0	0.00%
Advertising	400	0.00	400	400	0	0.00%
Zoning: Legal/enforcement	3000	112.50	3000	3000	0	0.00%
Postage	0	0.00	300	300	0	0.00%
Courses/Seminars	250	28.00	250	250	0	0.00%
<b>Total Zoning/DRB</b>	<b>12974</b>	<b>7451</b>	<b>13836</b>	<b>14297</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>3.33%</b>
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION</b>						
Advertising	1000	210.47	750	0	-750	-100.00%
Mail Drop/Postage	1000	0.00	800	800	0	0.00%
Printing & Copying	1000	0.00	150	150	0	0.00%
Consultation	3500	1772.89	3500	3500	0	0.00%
PC Legal	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Future Grant Match	2000	0.00	2000	0	-2000	-100.00%
NRPA-Natural Res Mapping	0	2197.38	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total Planning Commission</b>	<b>8500</b>	<b>4181</b>	<b>7200</b>	<b>4450</b>	<b>-2750</b>	<b>-38.19%</b>
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>1457407</b>	<b>1319174</b>	<b>1601285</b>	<b>1719508</b>	<b>118223</b>	<b>7.38%</b>
<b>CIP FUNDING(Capital Improvement Planning)</b>						
<b>GeneralGovernment</b>						
Town Hall Building Fund	10000	10000.00	10000	30000	20000	200.00%
Equipment/Computer purchases & upgrades	0	0	0	0	0	100.00%
Asset-Equipment Fund	0	0	0	50000	50000	100.00%
						0.00%
<b>Highway:</b>						
Highway Garage & Accessory Building Fund	5000	5000	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Heavy Equipment & Vehicle Upgrades/Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Bridge Fund	6000	6000.00	6000	6000	0	0.00%
Paving & Construction Fund	20000	20000.00	30000	30000	0	0.00%
						0.00%
<b>Public Safety/Fire Department</b>						
FD-Building Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Equipment Upgrades/Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Vehicle Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Radio Dispatch upgrade	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Recreation:						
Structures & Grounds Upgrades	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Tennis Court Rehab	5000	5000	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Total CIP Funding	46000	46000	56000	126000	70000	125.00%
<b>TOTAL TOWN BUDGET</b>	<b>1503407</b>	<b>1365174</b>	<b>1657285</b>	<b>1845508</b>	<b>188223</b>	<b>11.36%</b>

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2024/2025 Budget	Budget FY - 2022/2023	Actual FY- 2022/2023	Budget FY - 2023/2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025	\$ Change	Percentage Change
SPECIAL ARTICLES						
Middlesex Conservation Fund	5000	5000	5000	2500	-2500	-50.00%
CV Council on Aging	250	250	250	850	600	240.00%
CV Home Health & Hospice	4050	4050	4500	4500	0	0.00%
Middlesex Community Conn.	3000	3000	0	0	0	0.00%
Youth First Mentoring	1500	1500	1500	1500	0	0.00%
Kellogg-Hubbard Library	32022	32022	32022	35580	3558	11.11%
Montpelier Senior Center	7000	7000	0	4000	4000	0.00%
North Branch Nature Center	2000	2000	2500	2500	0	100.00%
Waterbury Area Senior Center	7500	7500	10000	10000	0	0.00%
Town Hall Design Plan	0	0	0	65000	65000	100.00%
By Request: Under \$251						
American Red Cross	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
Big Heavy World	250	250	250	0	-250	-100.00%
CV Adult Basic Education	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
CV Economic Development	600	600	0	250	250	#DIV/0!
The Childrens Room	0	0	250	250	0	0.00%
Circle	199	199	199	199	0	0.00%
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
Family Center of Washington County	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
Good Beginnings	250	250	250	0	-250	-100.00%
Good Samaitian Haven	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
Green Mtn Transit	249	249	250	249	-1	-0.40%
Green Up Vermont	100	100	100	100	0	0.00%
Montpelier Veteran's Council	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
Our House of Central Vermont	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
Peoples Health & Wellness	250	250	250	0	-250	-100.00%
MOSAIC Sexual Assault Crisis Team	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
VT Assoc for the Blind	249	249	249	249	0	0.00%
VT Center for Independent Living	195	195	195	195	0	0.00%
Vermont Family Network	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
VT Rural Fire Prot Task Force	100	100	250	0	-250	-100.00%
Washington County Diversion	250	250	250	250	0	0.00%
ELEVATE (Washington County Youth Service)	175	175	175	250	75	42.86%
Sub-Total Special Articles	67439	67439	60690	130672	69982	115.31%
TOTAL BUDGET Plus Special Articles	1570846	1432613	1717975	1976180	258205	15.03%

## **TOWN OF MIDDLESEX ANNUAL AUDIT**

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On December 14, 2023, Batchelder Associates, PC of Barre, Vermont, issued its audit report of the Town's finances for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. At a Special Meeting held on January 23, 2024, the Select Board reviewed and approved the audit report which showed the Town's books are in good order and there were no weaknesses or deficiencies found.

In order to save resources along with printing and postage costs, we no longer print the full Audit Report in the Town Report. However, a copy is available for anyone's review at the Town Clerk's Office, 5 Church Street, Middlesex. In addition, a copy is available online at [middlesexvermont.org](http://middlesexvermont.org).

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

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TOWN OF MIDDLESEX 2024-25 PROJECTED SALARIES COMPARISONS

Fiscal Years 2024 & 2025 Budgeted Salaries Comparisons				
Select Board	F/Y 23-24 Budgeted Wages	F/Y 23- 24 Budgeted Annual Hours	F/Y 24-25 Budgeted Wages	F/Y 24-25 Budgeted Annual Hours
Chairman	\$ 878.16	Flat Rate	\$ 878.16	Flat Rate
Member	\$ 702.53	Flat Rate	\$ 702.53	Flat Rate
Member	\$ 702.53	Flat Rate	\$ 702.53	Flat Rate
Member	\$ 702.53	Flat Rate	\$ 702.53	Flat Rate
Road Commissioner	\$ 878.16	Flat Rate	\$ 878.16	Flat Rate
SB Assistant	\$ 29,633.00	848	\$ 30,814.28	848
Administration				
Clerk	\$ 28,514.00	816	\$ 29,651.48	816
Assistant Clerk/Bookkeeper	\$ 52,695.00	1664	\$ 54,806.84	1664
Treasurer	\$ 9,555.00	250	\$ 9,937.20	250
Listers				
Lister	\$ 10,903.00	416	\$ 6,250.14	225
Lister	\$ 10,903.00	416	\$ 6,250.14	225
Lister	\$ 6,552.00	250	\$ 6,250.14	225
Highway				
Foreman	\$ 81,702.00	2305	\$ 84,970.50	2305
Crew	\$ 67,021.00	2305	\$ 69,702.30	2305
Crew	\$ 61,660.00	2305	\$ 64,136.38	2305
Crew	\$ 56,170.00	2305	\$ 58,417.22	2305
Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 2,800.00	100	\$ 2,912.00	100
Zoning Administrator	\$ 7,800.00	300	\$ 8,517.60	300
Assistant Zoning Administrator	\$ 686.00	30	\$ 720.72	30
Recreation Director	\$ 6,500.00	250	\$ 7,098.00	250
Animal Control Officer	\$ 520.00	26	\$ 738.19	26
Health Officer	\$520.00	26	885.83	26
TOTAL	\$ 437,997.91	14,612	\$ 445,922.87	14,205

DEBT SERVICE/NOTES PAYABLE

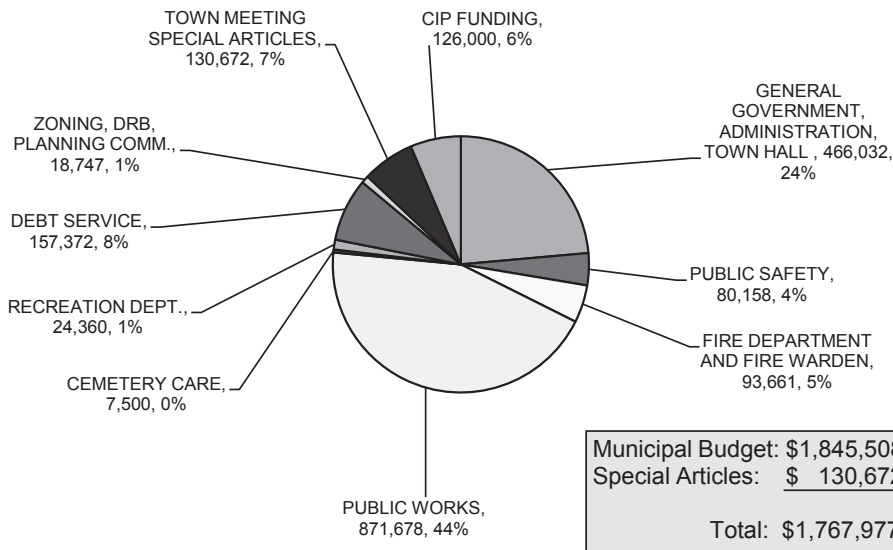
as of June 30, 2023			
Item	Outstanding Principal Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Matures F/Y
Highway:			
2018 International Hwy Truck	\$ 20,354.80	3.15	2024
2019 Freightliner Hwy Truck	\$ 64,225.72	3.25	2027
2019 John Deere Grader	\$ 261,800.00	2.45	2037
2023 Kenworth T880 Hwy Truck	\$ 179,276.00	2.79	2028
Subtotal Highway:	\$ 525,656.52		
Fire Department:			
Freightliner Fire Truck	\$ 43,780.28	3.00	2026
Fire Station	\$ 280,000.00	4.35	2030
Subtotal Public Safety:	\$ 323,780.28		
Total Debt Service:	\$ 849,436.80		

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Fiscal Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/2024
Grandlist	2,262,264	2,296,659	2,385,888	2,357,468	
Town Budget\$	1,187,891	1,323,867	1,382,738	1,503,407	1,657,287
Special Articles	64,222	73,319	65,468	67,439	110,690
Town Tax Rate	\$0.472	\$0.527	\$0.527	\$0.595	\$0.624
School-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.801	\$1.795	\$1.789	\$1.705	\$1.823
School-Non -Residential Tax Rate	\$1.638	\$1.646	\$1.681	\$1.631	\$1.701

WHERE THE \$ GOES

Town of Middlesex - Municipal Budget FY  
JULY 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025  
See line by line detail on Town Budget Pages



WHAT EACH LINE ITEM MEANS FOR YOUR TAXES

Estimated FY 24/25- What each item means for your taxes*									
Appraised Value of Property		\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000					
Grand List (2023*)		\$237,078,100	\$237,078,100	\$237,078,100					
Proposed Town Budget		\$1,667,180	\$1,667,180	\$1,667,180					Including Special Articles net of anticipated receipts
Proposed Town Tax		\$0.70	\$0.70	\$0.70					\$0.70
*Estimated municipal taxes		\$703	\$1,406	\$2,110					\$2,110
*NOTE: This is only an estimate based on the 2023 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts									
2024 Grand List (property values as of April 1, 2024) will be used in determining 2024 town tax rate									
		Tax for Property Appraised at \$100,000	Tax for Property Appraised at \$200,000	Tax for Property Appraised at \$300,000					
Town Government									
Article 6	\$1,667,180	\$703.22	\$1,406.44	\$2,109.66					General Government and Highway - net of anticipated receipts
Other Articles									
Article 8	65000	\$27.42	\$54.83	\$82.25					Proposed Town Hall Renovation Design Phase
Article 9	2500	\$1.05	\$2.11	\$3.16					Middlesex Conservation Fund
Article 10	850	\$0.36	\$0.72	\$1.08					Central VT Council on the Aging
Article 11	4500	\$1.90	\$3.80	\$5.69					CV Home Health & Hospice
Article 12	35580	\$15.01	\$30.02	\$45.02					Kellogg-Hubbard Library
Article 13	4000	\$1.69	\$3.37	\$5.06					Montpelier Senior Activity Center
Article 14	2500	\$1.05	\$2.11	\$3.16					North Branch Nature Center
Article 15	10000	\$4.22	\$8.44	\$12.65					Waterbury Area Senior Ctr Meals on Wheels
Article 16	1500	\$0.63	\$1.27	\$1.90					Youth First Mentoring (Formally Girls/Boys First Mentoring)
Article 17	4242	\$1.79	\$3.58	\$5.37					Misc Organizations (\$250 or less)
Estimated Municipal Tax**		\$758.34	\$1,516.67	\$2,275.01					
2023 Residential School Rate /Tax**	0.018	\$1,822.90	\$3,645.80	\$5,468.70					
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED TAXES</b>		\$2,581.24	\$5,162.47	\$7,743.71					
each additional	\$1,000	\$0.42	\$0.84	\$1.27					

ESTIMATED 2024 TOWN TAX EFFORT

2024-2025 General Government			
Expenses			
Budget (less Highway)	882475.00		
Special Articles	130672.00		
	0.00		
Total	1013147.00		
Anticipated Receipts			
Interest	1000.00		
Zoning	5000.00		
Licenses and Fees	16000.00		
RR Tax	5000.00		
PILOT/Hold Harmless Payment	83000.00		
PILOT/ Agy of Natural Resources	70000.00		
Delinquent Tax Interest	3000.00		
Delinquent Tax Penalty	3000.00		
Fund Balance Reduction	0.00		
Total	186,000.00	Total General Government	\$ 827,147.00
2024-2025 Highway			
Expenses			
Budget	963033.00		
Receipts			
State Aid to Highways	123000.00		
Other		Total Highway	\$ 840,033.00
Sub-total			\$ 1,667,180.00
Total Municipal Tax Effort			\$ 1,667,180.00
2023 Grand List*	\$ 2,370,781.00		
2023 Homestead Tax Rate*	1.823	(State of Vermont)	
2023 Non-Residential Tax Rate*	1.701	(State of Vermont)	
Estimated 2024 Municipal Tax Rate*	0.703		
Estimated Local Agreement Rate*	0.002		
Estimated 2024 Total Town Tax Rate*	0.706		
Total Non- Residential Rate*	2.407		
Total Residential Rate*	2.529		

*\*NOTE: This is only an estimate based on the 2023 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts 2024 Grand List (property values as of April 1, 2024) and 2024 State Education Rates and 2024 Municipal rate will be used in determining 2024 Total Residential & Non-Residential Rates*

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## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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This has been quite a year for Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD). Operations are working well being part of the town. The Department was called out 99 times, an increase of 25 calls over last year. We were able to replace our self-contained breathing apparatus packs with new ones. The old packs were no longer going to be supported by the manufacturer. The new packs have improved features making operations safer and easier. We were finally able to replace our 37-year-old rescue vehicle with a 2013 vehicle. It was purchased from North Hyde Park/Eden VFD. While this is a 10-year-old vehicle it is in very good condition with only about 6600 miles on it. The price was \$135,000 vs over \$247,000 for a new one. This vehicle is larger and safer for the members. It has a five-person cab and will give an increased level of safety when we have to be up on I-89.

MVFD was called to some major events this year. In May we were involved in a massive search and rescue with over eight local, state, and federal organizations responding, and opening Station 1 up as the Emergency Management Operations Center. We were involved with the July flood which called for Station 1 to be opened again as the Emergency Management Operations Center. Finally, we were called to support Montpelier Fire Department at the RK Miles fire. These were events at which the members of your Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department stepped up and did a fantastic job. In addition to these calls, we were called to neighboring towns 14 times. We had to ask for help seven times. The Department would not be able to respond to these and the many other calls we respond to without the dedication and hard work of all the members of the Department. With that being said we would love to have more members on the Department. As the saying goes: many hands make light work. It is not just fire-fighters and EMTs we are looking for. We can use help with doing many of the jobs that have to be done on a non-emergency basis. Ask yourself, “what is keeping me from joining the Department?” Every month we have training on the first Tuesday, business meeting the third Tuesday, and work night on the fourth Tuesday. All three events start at 7:00 PM. Come down to Station 1, at 55 Welch Park Drive and check out how you can help.

Eric Metivier, Chief

Jeff Koonz, President

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## MIDDLESEX FAST SQUAD

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The Middlesex FAST Squad would like to take this time to mention just how incredible this community is in the face of a disaster. Many people offered their time to assist others all the while being in distress themselves. Be proud to be part of this wonderful community.

FAST Squad (First Aide Stabilization Team) responded to 168 calls in 2023 which is significantly higher than previous years. The rise of families moving into the area mixed with an aging population along with the large stretch of I-89 we service this number is projected to rise. As always when the tones for need sound we will be there along with our transporting agency Montpelier Ambulance service. MAS is usually staffed with a paramedic on board to provide higher level care for prehospital care. Rest assured that our skilled EMT's and A-EMT's are well educated to care for you as well, your prehospital care is our top priority. We have added VEFR (Vermont Emergency First Responder) to our squad to help assist the above skilled members.

All providers have completed hours of additional training to adjust to the ever-changing medical field. Thank you goes out to Montpelier Ambulance service and providers for working alongside us to keep Middlesex safe, healthy and happy.

We have one new firefighter. Jessica Tobey is starting the EMT class in January and will be seen soon on calls with the FAST squad. She has prior EMS education and will be a much-needed addition to our team. Welcome aboard Jessica. Soon we'll be adding one more VEFR and he will take the next EMT class. As the Director of this program, I want to thank ALL my providers for their hard work, dedication and time.

**HELP NEEDED:** As always, we need extra volunteers, both FAST Squad and Fire Dept. Please ask if you can come to one of our Tuesday night meetings at 7pm to speak to myself Patty O'Neill or another fire officer to join us. Any amount of time is needed to help others in your community.

**TIDBITS:** When you call 911 for the FAST Squad and ambulance, it is extremely helpful to turn on outside lights, inside lights and if able secure all pets away from incoming providers. This is for several reasons; lighting helps us locate you faster in rural areas and lessens our chances of slips, trips and falls ourselves. Pets, even though they are the nicest ever, will protect the owner when the owner is not in dominance and when you need us you are vulnerable. Also, cluster mailboxes are posing a delay. If you can mark mailboxes with an arrow to your home, it would be helpful along with white reflective numbers for nighttime visibility. End of the driveway markers with address on them is also a great option in rural areas as GPS is not a reliable source. Rest assured, once you have called 911 the dispatcher has activated our system, and we are on the way even when they are getting further information from you.

As always stay safe, stay calm and be healthy!

Patty O'Neill

Director of FAST Squad

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## CEMETERY COMMISSION

The three town-owned cemeteries here in Middlesex continue to be in well maintained condition. Mowing and trimming add to their pleasant appearance. We have had many positive comments from visitors on the 'attractive-ness and order' of our cemeteries. However, the Cemetery Commission has requested an increase in funding for 2024-2025.

The right-of-way to the Carr Cemetery off East Hill Rd, suffered damage at its lower level, during the heavy rains of July 2023. Water carried through the culvert under East Hill RD, downhill through the neighboring property, and across the right-of-way/turn-around area of the cemetery, causing a deep washout in this area. Damage that will need to be repaired before summer mowing can begin. Other cemeteries seemed to suffer no damage.

The Village Cemetery on Gallagher RD, and the Carr Cemetery off East Hill RD are non-active, historic cemeteries, and are maintained in their present condition. North Branch Cemetery, the town's active cemetery, saw five lot sales and eight burials, this past summer. Many of our burials are for 'earlier residents,' who purchased their lots at the time of their residence and had since moved away. Sadly, this past summer, a couple of lots were purchased, and burials arranged for a present resident, and a neighboring resident. Quite a 'different' experience involving 'folks of acquaintance.' Our condolences to these families.

We wish to thank our commission members, volunteers and hired personnel for their expert services.

Report respectfully submitted,

Town of Middlesex – Cemetery Commission

Evelyn Gant, Chair - Gary Lamell, Field Expert - Janet McKinstry, Clerk/Treasurer



Village Cemetery



Carr Cemetery

Full name of deceased	Maria Wright
Age	7 yrs. 7 mos. 7 days
Date of birth	
Names of parents	Mead & Mary (Wright) Wright
Name of husband or wife, if married	
Date of death	Aug 18 1848
Name of cemetery	North Branch
Remarks	
A true copy	Attest: D. C. Chipman

Full name of deceased	Nancy Montague
Age	36 yrs. 3 mos. 3 days
Date of birth	
Names of parents	
Name of husband or wife, if married	Rufus Montague
Date of death	Mar 1 1829
Name of cemetery	Carr
Remarks	Wife of Rufus Montague
A true copy	Attest: H. B. Blahodan

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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The Middlesex Conservation Commission's (MCC) mission is to conserve the Town's natural and cultural resources. The MCC works with the Town's other governmental entities, the public, and other conservation groups to identify and assess natural resources, to offer the town and landowners guidance on planning for the conservation of these resources and to educate the residents of Middlesex about the importance of conserving these resources. The Town has a modest conservation fund to help conserve the Town's natural, scenic, recreational and historic and cultural resources.

### **Summary of 2023 Activities:**

**Middlesex Town Forest (MTF)** - The MCC received a report from a state forester who assessed the timber resources on the MTF. The report indicated there is timber that could be harvested; for reasons of access the MCC expects that any harvesting would be coordinated with a neighboring landowner. The MCC continues to do trail maintenance on the popular Chases Mountain and work has begun on a new short loop trail that begins at the base of the Chases Mountain trail.

**Middlesex Trails Committee (MTC)** - The MCC works closely with the Middlesex Trails Group (a sub-committee of the MCC). In 2023 signs with maps were posted on two Class 4 roads/trails. Plans are underway to identify and put signage up for other Class 4 roads/trails in town. The MTC is also working on a new shorter and easier loop trail at the base of the Chases Mountain Trail for those who don't wish to go to the summit of Chases Mountain.

**Green Up Day** - MCC members were joined by 90 town participants for a very successful town clean up. Bolduc Metal Recycling supplied a dumpster for metal again this year and also provided a dumpster for the trash, which made it much easier for people to dispose of the trash collected. People collected 66 tires and 146 bags of trash.

**National Resource Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program (NRCS EWPP)** - The MCC, along with the Select Board, is in the process of facilitating the implementation of this program for landowners in Middlesex. The program eliminates imminent hazards to property caused by declared natural disasters. Imminent would be another storm event. Ten property owners qualified for the program and are in the process of accessing the funds.

**Hunger Mountain Trail Steward** - The MCC has adopted the White Rocks Trail (Bob Kemp Trail) and will help with trail maintenance on the trail in the future.

**Knotweed Project** - The MCC has just begun to look at and map locations of knotweed growth in town. The hope is to identify volunteers in the spring and summer who are willing to help with removal.

The MCC meets the fourth Tuesday of the month by Zoom at 7:00. The MCC is looking for two more members to join our committee. Please let us know if you are interested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adrienne Magida – MCC Chair on behalf of the MCC

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## MIDDLESEX TRAILS COMMITTEE

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The Middlesex Trails Committee (MTC) is a group of volunteers dedicated to increasing the use of trails around Middlesex. It is a subcommittee of the Middlesex Conservation Commission and has the support of the Middlesex Select Board.

Did you know Middlesex has more than 12 miles of Class 4 roads and legal trails spread throughout town that range in length from 0.15 to 1.5 miles? To make it easier to find these, the MTC is creating maps and trailhead signs to put up around town.

In 2023 the first few signs were installed on two Class 4 roads/trails—Davy Road to Lower Sunnybrook Road and Upper Barnett to Lower Barnett Road. More will follow as they get designed. These are also online, with more information and maps, at <https://www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org/trails.html>

Keep in mind that these paths are not maintained so be prepared for spots with wet, icy, or rocky conditions and perhaps an occasional downed tree. Please stay within the public routes, be courteous to adjoining landowners, and always follow good trail etiquette.

The Trails Committee is also working on a new loop trail that begins at the Chases Mountain Trail but will be a shorter and easier option if you don't want to climb to the summit. The MTC continues to support trail development at the Wrightsville Recreation Area.

We'll continue to be a resource for any Middlesex landowners who have questions or would like to have their own trails included in our maps. For additional information contact the MTC at [conservation.commission@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:conservation.commission@middlesexvermont.org)

### **WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE BOB KEMP TRAIL?**

People have been climbing to the summits of the Worcester Range for hundreds of years, following deer paths and scrambling up the rock ledges of Mt. Hunger and White Rock Mountain for hunting, timber harvesting, and recreation. We are lucky to have these spectacular mountains in our own backyard – the peak of White Rock Mountain is in Middlesex and the peak of Mt. Hunger is in the town of Worcester. The current trail up Mt. Hunger was built as a carriage road in 1877 by the owner of the Pavilion Hotel in Montpelier, who wanted a way for his guests to see the spectacular mountain top sights. The trails have been worked on and renamed by various individuals and groups ever since.

The ridgelines of both mountains are currently owned by the State of Vermont, and are part of the C.C. Putnam State Forest. The trails to the peaks are maintained by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The main trail to the top of Mt. Hunger, which starts at the parking lot at the end of North Bear Swamp Road, is called the Middlesex Trail. The trail that veers off from the Middlesex Trail partway up and goes to the top of White Rock Mountain is called the Bob Kemp Trail. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Maintains this trail. The Middlesex Conservation Commission has recently adopted the trail.

The Middlesex Trails Committee and the Middlesex Historical Society have been trying to put together a timeline of when the Bob Kemp Trail was named, who Bob Kemp was, and who named the trail after him. Some of the questions have been

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## MIDDLESEX TRAILS COMMITTEE

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answered, but some remain. Here is what we know:

Until the 1980s and 1990s, the trails were simply known as “the trails up White Rocks and Mt. Hunger.” In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the trail to the top of Mt. Hunger from the Middlesex side began to be officially called the Middlesex Trail, while the ascent from the Waterbury side was called the Waterbury Trail. The trail to the peak of White Rock Mountain from the junction partway up the Middlesex Trail was called the White Rock (or White Rocks) Trail. But sometime around 2004, the White Rocks Trail from the junction to the summit was renamed the Bob Kemp Trail, while the trail between the peaks of White Rock Mountain and Mt. Hunger continued to be called the White Rock Trail.

Bob Kemp was a young man who had been born in Ohio and lived on Middlesex Center Road in the late 1970s and early 1980s. For a while he lived in the house now owned by Neely Washington. He worked for Washington County Mental Health. He loved running, biking, hiking, and backpacking. He was involved with creating bike trails in the Montpelier and Barre areas, and he loved hiking in the Worcester Range, especially on White Rocks and Mt. Hunger. He had many good friends locally, and there are people in town who still remember him with great fondness. Tragically, Bob Kemp was killed by a vehicle on Middlesex Center Road on December 13, 1982. The exact circumstances of his death are unclear.

Bob Kemp died, the Nature Conservancy of Vermont began a fundraising campaign to purchase the part of the Worcester Range that included Mt. Hunger and White Rock Mountain, which at the time was privately owned. The Central Vermont Chapter of the Audubon Society (of which, according to his obituary, Bob Kemp was an active member), assisted with the fundraising campaign. Shortly after purchasing the land, the Nature Conservancy turned it over to the State of Vermont.

We have spoken to many people who remember Bob and/or who were involved with the purchase of the land and the maintenance of the trail. No one knows, however, why or exactly when the trail was named for Bob. The sign that currently marks the trail was purchased by the Nature Conservancy. It was erected in 2004 by the trail adopter, John Buddington, a Middlesex resident. The first official mention of the Bob Kemp Trail is found in the 5th edition of the Green Mountain Club's *Day Hiker's Guide to Vermont*, printed in 2006. Bob Kemp's Minnesota nephew David Graffunder remembers traveling with his family to Vermont to spread Bob's ashes on the mountain. It is clear that Bob was a dedicated outdoorsman who contributed much to his community. It is fitting that an area that brought him great joy in life now permanently honors his memory.

The Nature Conservancy and the Green Mountain Club have provided us with as much information as they can. Is there anyone who can shed more light on the original naming of the trail? Is the sign that currently marks the trail the original from circa 2004? Did you know Bob Kemp and do you have any more information about him? If so, please get in touch with the Middlesex Trails Committee.

Joanne Mankoff, on behalf of the Middlesex Trails Committee

Patty Wiley, on behalf of the Middlesex Historical Society

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Middlesex Historical Society was incorporated in November, 1993, to help townspeople understand and preserve the history of the people who have lived and worked in Middlesex, and the buildings, roads, cemeteries, institutions and culture of this community. Our current membership stands at over 200. Members meet three times per year, generally in January, May, and September to share photographs, memorabilia and stories. We welcome donations of old photos and documents; they are stored safely and are available to anyone who wishes to study them.

**In 2023, the Society celebrated its 30th anniversary** with renewed energy and lively events. We are excited to announce that we are publishing a third edition of our history book, *Middlesex in the Making: History and Memories of a Small Vermont Town*. Copies will be available this spring at the town clerk's office, Bear Pond Books, and directly from the authors. Co-authored by MHS founders Patty Wiley and Sarah Seidman and designed by former resident Kate Alberghini, the book includes over 200 photographs as well as over 70 interviews with the town's oldest residents. It traces the history of the town from its earliest Abenaki roots to the changes of the 1950s and 60s.

The Society also held a grand celebration this fall, showing two films by local filmmakers and displaying a 2/3 size photographic replica of our historic theater curtain. Currently this curtain resides in the Worcester Town Hall, with hopes that it will be returned to Middlesex Town Hall once that building is renovated. The co-founders have been active in the initial planning for this long-overdue project to upgrade the Town Hall to adequately serve our town employees and residents.

Plans for 2024 include building a Middlesex Historical Society website and performing a short play next fall about our town's elders, inspired by the play *Worcester Voices* created in 2023 by Worcester stalwart J. David Book. More actors are welcome!

We are proud of our accomplishments, and our collection of valuable documents, artifacts and memorabilia continues to grow. These items document our community's history and belong to all of us; they deserve and will reward public viewing. We would be honored to be offered space in the renovated Town Hall to display our town's history.

Our Society needs new members to implement our goals for 2024 and beyond. Please get in touch if you'd like to learn more about our Town, which was chartered in 1763 and settled by Thomas and Sally Mead in 1783.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Middlesex history and costs one dollar (\$1) per person per year, \$15 for businesses. Our goal is to help citizens increase their sense of pride in our town's traditions and their sense of responsibility in planning for the future. We do all our fundraising through book sales and dues at Town Meeting. We hope to greet our neighbors in person this spring and ask for your support in pledging an extra dollar or two in dues to make up for the pandemic years.

Patty Wiley, President/Treasurer  
Sarah Seidman, V.P./Secretary  
Richard DeCosta, Director

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## **MIDDLESEX EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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Middlesex's Emergency Management Plan was put to the test this past July when what was possibly the second largest flooding event in Vermont's history happened upon our town. Monday morning, July 10th at 8:30am, Middlesex's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened, for the first time ever, at the Fire Department Headquarters at Welch Park.

Members of the Middlesex Emergency Management Planning Committee, Fire Department members, Fast Squad members and citizen volunteers, staffed the EOC for 30+ hours to oversee the emergency operations that required coordinating the emergency response for the town. Important duties included responding to emergencies, tracking the weather forecast, monitoring the water level of the Winooski River, monitoring the water level and condition of the Wrightsville dam, and addressing residents' concerns.

Telephones were staffed by citizen volunteers at the Fire Station to manage and address non-emergency calls from town residents. Many of the roads in town sustained considerable damage, thus keeping the town's emergency forces from responding to various locations. Requests for help in areas we could not reach were directed to the closest available town or to the state.

The EOC remained in contact with Vermont State Emergency Management receiving updates and requesting help for the type of incidents we were unable to perform, basically, high water rescues and evacuations.

The efforts continued in the following weeks with assistance in the planning and coordination of the cleanup and recovery activities. Community volunteers came to the aid of residents, who had been seriously impacted by the flooding, assisting with cleanup.

This flooding event highlights the importance for Middlesex to do emergency incident planning for all types of emergency situations, whether natural or human caused. The town's Emergency Management Planning Committee welcomes new members with or without emergency planning experience.

Bring your problem solving and planning skills to the group. Please consider volunteering to be part of this important planning group and help prepare Middlesex for the next emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Otenti

2023 Interim Emergency Management Coordinator

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## MIDDLESEX RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Notable highlights from 2023:

- We teamed up with the Middlesex Community Fund to hold a Community Celebration on a lovely September afternoon. Hotdogs and delicious, roasted local corn was consumed with great relish. (The relish was mostly on the hotdogs.) We look forward to the return of this event in the fall. In October, we partnered with Rumney volunteers in hosting our second annual soccer jamboree with pre-K/K and Grade1/2 teams from Middlesex, Worcester, Berlin, East Montpelier and Calais. The day was another big success.

Plans for 2024 include:

- Look for the return of the once-popular Learn-To-Swim program this summer.
- We have been making incremental improvements to the facilities at the Walter Kelley Park. We are exploring the viability of creating access to the Winooski River.
- Resurfacing of the town basketball and tennis courts remains a high priority. Challenges include availability of both funds and contractors.
- We have been working with volunteers on plans to improve the baseball and soccer field.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mitch Osiecki, Recreation Director*

## LISTERS REPORT

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In 2023, the Town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was calculated by the State to be 81.78%. This is the same as the previous year. Also, the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) was adjusted to 16.74%; in 2022 it was 16.74%. Both of these indicators are within specified state limits, but it is worth noting that they are on the rise, suggesting another town-wide reappraisal is in the near future. Taxable properties in town numbered 932 in 2023, for a town-wide assessment totaling \$251,864,600; this is up from \$250,438,800 in 2022.

The number of properties enrolled in the Current Use program increased by four to 107 from 103 in 2023. The value of Current Use exemptions now totals \$12535700.

In 2023, there were 10 Veteran Property Exemptions, this was the same as 2022 for a total of \$400,000 in exemptions. The Veteran Property Exemption equates to a \$40,000 deduction in the property tax owed on the particular property for which the owner is eligible (one deduction per eligible veteran).

Three grievance hearings were held in June, resulting in a change to the fair market value for 2 of the 3 properties.

Twenty-Five residential sales were recorded in Middlesex during 2023, compared with to Thirty-Three sales in the previous period.

Property inspections for 2023 were completed by Listers compared to 2022 using NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center). You may see them around town this spring with the "Listers" signs on their vehicles.

*Annette Halasz/Shelly Desjardin, Middlesex Lister*

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## PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

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**Zoning Update** – New zoning and subdivision regulations were approved by voters in March 2023. These new regulations have streamlined permitting and the new flood regulations have been helpful as Middlesex manages flood mitigation and resilience going forward.

**Housing** – Middlesex was selected as one of 5 communities to participate in the State’s “Housing for All” Toolkit development to showcase opportunities to expand local housing options. Many residents participated in the fall site visit and information session that looked at how Middlesex can foster new and more affordable homes such as duplexes or additional small housing units on existing developed parcels. The State’s Toolkit and report is expected in the Spring of 2024.

**Conservation & Outdoor Recreation** – Working with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission we updated the mapping of our Town’s natural resources, surveyed Townspeople on natural resource values and ideas for Middlesex, and began work on incorporating these into voluntary conservation efforts and our next Town Plan and Zoning update.

**Village Area** – The flood overtook efforts to make progress to better support walking, biking, and slowing traffic in the Village area along Route 2. We look forward to considering how improvements can be included as part of VTrans’s road work and budgets going forward, so Middlesex can bolster business development in the Village area while making the area safer and more pleasant for residents and visitors.

**Information** – More information on our work and projects can be found on the Planning Commission page of the What’s Next Middlesex website.

Respectfully,

**Middlesex Planning Commission: Sandy Levine, Chair; Jon Leibowitz, Vice-Chair; Mitch Osiecki, Secretary; Nicole D’Agostino; Elle O’Casey.**

## TOWN MEETING SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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The Solutions Committee is an ad hoc group of volunteers working since 2001 to improve participation in Middlesex's town meeting and our town's civic affairs in general. This year, given the continuing effects of the pandemic on Middlesex's town meeting, our committee functioned more like a network, collaborating on projects wherever we could be useful.

### **Town Meeting and Elections:**

In 2023, the Middlesex Selectboard chose to continue the break from our face-to-face town meeting for one more year, as allowed by emergency Covid-related legislation.

The Solutions Committee focused on making the temporary town meeting hearing/voting process as informed as possible. We sent our annual "Welcome New Voter" letter to new additions to the checklist, and in cooperation with the League of Women Voters, we solicited statements for a Candidates Profile page on the [www.whatsnextmiddlesex](http://www.whatsnextmiddlesex) website.

The committee looks forward to the return of our in-person floor meeting in March 2024, and will be making our committee's usual efforts including helping organize a town meeting meal, childcare, transportation, and more. See you at Town Meeting!

### **Front Porch Forum:**

A shout-out to Middlesex's Selectboard and other committees using Front Porch Forum (FPF) to keep the community updated! This online "bulletin board" is free and includes a built-in local events calendar. As of January 2024, Middlesex had 1,657 members from an estimated 735 households. FPF was launched in Middlesex in 2010 with a grant coordinated by the Solutions Committee, and this year Middlesex posted about 3,044 messages, from lost pets and escaped livestock to firewood and gardening tips. Find out more at [www.FrontPorchForum.com](http://www.FrontPorchForum.com).

While FPF is a great place to air ideas, it is not designed for controversial debate—that is better accomplished at facilitated meetings. The Solutions Committee is committed to creating additional venues for discussion and we welcome your ideas for improving communication in Middlesex.

### **Got an idea for improving local democracy?**

The Solutions Committee supports our town committees in outreach and constructive engagement. We are excited to support informed participation and welcome your ideas. For instance, if you have research, writing, design, or web skills, we'd love your help creating a *Middlesex Operator's Manual* update.

**Thank You** to all Solutions Committee members and supporters. The Solutions Committee welcomes your participation! Feel free to contact Susan Clark at 223-5824, [sclarkmountains@gmail.com](mailto:sclarkmountains@gmail.com).

*Respectfully submitted, Susan Clark, Chair*

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## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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There were 47 permit applications in 2023, of which 4 were referred to the Development Review Board. (DRB) for review and approval.

### Zoning Applications Approved in 2023

- 3 Subdivisions (2 by DRB, 1 by ZA), 6 new lots created.
- 3 Boundary Line Adjustments
- 3 Single Family Dwellings
- 2 Accessory Dwellings
- 23 Residential Alterations including additions, garages, decks etc.
  - 1 Pond, 1 Sign and 1 Setback Waiver (by DRB)
- 12 Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for flood repairs

All improvements over \$500.00 on property within the SFHA require a zoning permit, with a follow-up inspection and issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. These are requirements by FEMA to maintain our status as a participating Town with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Town's participation in the NFIP is required for homeowners to be able to purchase flood insurance and for the Town to receive FEMA benefits. The Select Board waived permit fees for all flood related work within the SFHA for 6 months from the date of the flood.

And a reminder to everyone that a Certificate of Occupancy is required for all completed construction projects.

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**CENTRAL VT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provides planning, development, and project implementation services to its 23 municipalities in Washington and western Orange Counties. Municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by a locally appointed member to the governing Board of Commissioners. CVRPC has no regulatory or taxing authority; each year, we request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to help offset costs and provide local matching funds needed for state and federal funding. Your continued support for local and regional planning is appreciated! CVRPC is your resource – please contact us at 802-229-0389 or [cvrpc@cvregion.com](mailto:cvrpc@cvregion.com) for assistance.

**Middlesex Activities Through June 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023)**

- Prepared and submitted Emergency Relief Assistance Fund information to town to facilitate elevated disaster relief aid.
  - Successfully completed application for municipality for \$4,000 to complete energy related engagement and outreach. And supported applications for energy assessments to the town hall, fire house, and town garage.
  - Provided letters of support for Middlesex to seek funding for a new salt shed and a town hall planning study.
  - Participated in strategy conversation with select board member for municipal planning grant application.
  - Drafted new zoning language for Planning Commission consideration following public hearing.
  - Prepared survey on natural resources and mapped survey results on interactive map viewer to use in local planning process.
  - Drafted new language for Natural Resources chapter of Middlesex Town Plan.
  - Participated in Middlesex Energy Fair.
  - Completed Bridge and Culvert inventory.
  - Facilitated development of public/private partnerships to help cover upfront costs of residential weatherization services for residents with low and moderate income and supported WindowDressers campaign resulting in storm window inserts for 21 households.
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## CENTRAL VT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (cont'd)

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\*During and following the July Flood, CVRPC staff provided outreach and guidance on recovery efforts and tracking of damages to aid response and maximize FEMA reimbursements for town and individual damages (\*Fiscal Year 2024)

### **CVRPC Projects & Programs**

- ❖ *Municipal Plan and Bylaw Updates that focus on predictable and effective local permitting*
  - ❖ *Brownfields environmental site assessments to facilitate redevelopment and economic growth*
  - ❖ *Transportation planning, studies, data collection, traffic counts, and coordination of local involvement through the regional Transportation Advisory Committee*
  - ❖ *Emergency planning for natural disasters and coordination with local volunteers and the State*
  - ❖ *Climate and energy planning to support projects to reduce municipal and residential energy burdens and build resilience*
  - ❖ *Natural resource planning to protect water resources, preserve forest blocks, enhance recreational opportunities and support agricultural and forest industries*
  - ❖ *Regional Planning to coordinate infrastructure, community development, and growth*
  - ❖ *Geographic Information System Services to support to municipalities*
  - ❖ *Clean Water Service Provider to identify and fund water quality projects to achieve phosphorous reduction targets*
  - ❖ *Special Projects such as recreation paths, farmland preservation, and affordable housing*
  - ❖ *Grant support through project identification, scoping, and applications*
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## CENTRAL VT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents. CVSWMD's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and services for residents and businesses in reducing and managing their solid waste in order to protect public health and the environment. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates, and providing information and resources to our member communities. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.00 for fiscal year 2025.

Middlesex's appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors is Adele McDonough.

CVSWMD continues to provide valuable programs and services to its residents, including:

- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC is located in Barre City, Vermont. We work with the State of Vermont to recycle TVs, computers and computer peripherals, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs and thermostats for free for Vermont residents. We also accept dozens of hard-to-recycle items that cannot be recycled in curbside recycling. In FY23, 352,978 lbs. of materials were collected and diverted from the landfill. ARCC operations came to an abrupt halt on July 10 when the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River surged through the facility, destroying most of our equipment and leaving up to three feet of mud in its wake. While simultaneously conducting emergency operations for our member towns, CVSWMD staff, with aid from FEMA and the State, began what would become a 5-month cleanup and refitting of the ARCC with a reopening on November 27.
  - **Grants:** CVSWMD continues to offer several grant programs: the Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse Program (OWRRP); the Municipal Services Program (MSP); the Emergency Municipal Solid Waste Response Program (EMSWRP); and the School Zero Waste (SZW) program. In FY23, CVSWMD awarded \$23,312 in grant funding to towns, businesses, organizations and schools in our District. Green-Up Day grants totaling \$5,964 were also distributed.
  - **Outreach and Education:** CVSWMD maintains its website with useful information on what can (and can't) be recycled, what is landfill banned (and how to dispose of those), what can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, and an A-Z Guide providing guidance to dispose of all types of waste. CVSWMD provides monthly newsletters and is active on social media, communicating waste management information and program updates to residents. Our knowledgeable staff provides guidance to residents and local businesses regarding all their waste management questions and concerns. CVSWMD's Outreach program continues to offer Waste Warrior trainings and composting workshops to District residents and event organizers.
  - **Household Hazardous Waste:** In FY23, CVSWMD held five one-day collections throughout the District and helped 533 resident households dispose of 43,593
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## CENTRAL VT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT cont'd

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lbs. of hazardous waste. CVSWMD is currently working to open a year-round collection facility in Berlin that will collect wastes that are labeled for and sold for home use. The District has reached a host-town agreement with the Town of Berlin for siting our “Eco-Depot,” and is in the process of acquiring permitting and purchasing the property with a goal of opening in January 2025. Vermont’s Department of Environmental Conservation has provided a generous grant to facilitate the project. In time, CVSWMD hopes to consolidate all its operations on the 5.2-acre site.

- **School Program:** In FY23 the CVSWMD School Zero Waste Program reached 4600 students, grades K-12, through 165 classroom/schoolyard programs, cafeteria visits, etc. Topics presented and initiatives supported included living more sustainably, engaging in the “Rs” (recycling, repurposing, reusing, etc.), utilizing food scraps as a natural resource, classroom worm composting, special recycling initiatives, etc. Support was also provided to school food services departments in reducing cafeteria waste, and school custodial in proper disposal of books, batteries, mercury-containing bulbs, and electronic waste through the CVSWMD ARCC, as well as the management and proper disposal of school-generated hazardous waste, including via District collection events.
- **Compost and Zero Waste:** CVSWMD sells Green Cone food digesters, Soil Saver composting bins, recycling bins, and kitchen compost buckets to District residents at discounted rates. We will also continue to offer our Event Kit and Bin Loan programs on a first-come, first-serve basis to help reduce and manage waste at events held within the District. These programs have been put on hold due to our inventory being destroyed by the July flooding, but we plan to re-establish them as soon as possible.
- **Emergency Operations:** In the aftermath of the July flood, CVSWMD teams cruised the streets of Montpelier and Barre, pulling paint cans, fluorescents, motor oil, batteries and a slew of other items that had been mixed with regular trash, in order to prevent their transport to the landfill. The District also called all member towns to offer organized collection events. These were provided in Barre City and Barre Town (who generously accepted drop-offs from neighboring Williamstown, Orange and Washington), where we partnered with Department of Environmental Conservation staff to ensure that collected items were handled and packaged correctly. Additionally, CVSWMD played a major role in connecting towns with vital State and Federal subsidized debris remediation programs.

CVSWMD posts useful information on what can (and can’t) be recycled, what items are banned from the landfill (and how to dispose of those), what items can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, Act 148, details about our special collections, and an A-to-Z Guide listing disposal options for many materials. For specific questions, call (802) 229-9383.

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## CVFIBER


[www.cvfiber.net/town\\_bulletin](http://www.cvfiber.net/town_bulletin)

2023 Middlesex

# Town Annual Report



## OVERVIEW

As a non-profit organization we are constantly reminded how lucky we are to call Central Vermont our home.

From the local legends and rolling mountains to the epic food and hidden trails, we all have a story on why we proudly call this state our backyard.

At CVFiber we believe that irrespective of location, everyone should have fair and equal access to fast, reliable, world-class Internet.

**We set the bar high — and we aim to meet it.**



In 2023, the CVFiber Community Network has gone live with our first subscribers.

Our Operations partner, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) began connecting CVFiber subscribers in October.

## 2024 FORECAST

(Pending Funding)



### 240 miles of fiber

Construction scheduled for 2024 will include constructing another 240 miles of fiber.




### 2,100 premises

Network design and make-ready which includes pole licenses and tree trimming are coming to completion in preparation for stringing fiber in 2024.

As a result, we will be offering high-speed Internet to an additional 2,100 premises.

### In 2023, CVFiber...

- Started in some of the most **unserved** and **underserved** towns in Central Vermont to provide high-speed Internet to areas that either have none or minimal access.
- Constructed nearly **200 miles** of fiber making access to high-speed fiber internet available to more than **1,900 premises** in parts of Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Woodbury, and Worcester.
- Performed **design and make-ready work** in preparation for the 2024 construction season.
-  Hired a professional staff to run the operation including an **Executive Director, Operations Manager, and Community Relations Manager**, with plans for a **Finance Manager** to join the team in early 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jerry Diamantides*  
Governing Board Chair,  
CVFiber

*David Lawrence*  
Town of Middlesex Delegate,  
CVFiber

*Bruce Stevenson*  
Town of Middlesex Alternate,  
CVFiber



"The fiber is great! I'm so happy to finally be hooked up, it's all I had hoped for, and more! A far, far cry from the old days of dial-up, then satellite Internet, most recently "high-speed" DSL from another provider, which I have now canceled."

-CVFiber customer



[dlawrence@cvfiber.net](mailto:dlawrence@cvfiber.net)  
[bstevenson@cvfiber.net](mailto:bstevenson@cvfiber.net)

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## LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

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### **Investigations:**

During the past year, four investigations were requested of the town health officer. Two were concerns about possible septic system failure. No evidence of septic failure was found in either case. A related concern was the possibility of abnormal growth of algae in a recreational swimming area. Investigation revealed no evidence of potentially harmful algae. There was one tenant complaint of inadequate heat in his rented room. This was resolved satisfactorily after discussion with the landlord.

There was one complaint of an inappropriate accumulation of trash on the grounds of a private residence. This was judged to be more a likely violation of town ordinances regarding trash disposal, rather than a public health issue. It was referred to the Select Board for further action as deemed appropriate. All investigation reports are a matter of public record and are filed in the Town Clerk's office.

### **Helpful Tip:**

I have observed that many landlords, renting rooms or homes, are not adequately familiar with the Vermont rental housing codes. These can be found at [rentalcodes.org](http://rentalcodes.org)

### **Public Health Note:**

One of the most consequential innovations in public health was the development of immunizations against serious infectious diseases. Although vaccines against smallpox and rabies appeared much earlier, the mid-20th century saw the rapid discovery of additional vaccines, and the refinement of pre-existing ones. One of the greatest success stories was the complete eradication of smallpox in 1980.

Immunization is an important public health measure because it not only protects the immunized individual, but greatly decreases the chances of transmission of an infection to one's family, friends, and others in the community. This is especially important for the protection of people who are at higher risk for complications of infection because of concurrent chronic medical conditions or reduced immune function.

While most of us alive today have never experienced or seen cases of diseases such as polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and several others; we have all witnessed the devastation caused by the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

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## **LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT cont'd**

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You can determine which immunizations are appropriate for adults and children by consulting your primary care medical practice or the website of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices: [cdc.gov/vaccines/acip](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/acip) . On this site, select the “view recommendations” link in the upper right box. Closer to home, similar information can be found on the Vermont Department of Health website: [healthvermont.gov](https://healthvermont.gov). Click the menu box in the upper left-hand corner.

In Vermont, we are very fortunate in having all currently recommended vaccines for children and adults up to age 64 provided at no cost from the Vermont Department of Health. There may be an administration charge, which is usually covered by insurance. Those without insurance can receive the vaccines for free from Vermont Department of Health offices. For more information, go to: [healthvermont.gov](https://healthvermont.gov). Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, passed last year, Medicare part D now covers most vaccines recommended for adults. Immunizations against influenza, COVID-19, Hepatitis B, and pneumococcal disease remain covered under Medicare part B.

Rob Penney MD  
Middlesex Town Health Officer

## VERMONT HEALTH OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

**Barre Local Health Office | 5 Perry Street, Suite 250, Barre VT  
802-479-4200 | AHS.VDHBarre@Vermont.gov**

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The Barre Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Washington and northeast Orange counties.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit [HealthVermont.gov/local/barre](https://HealthVermont.gov/local/barre)



### CENTRAL VERMONT FLOOD RESPONSE

**The historic flooding of 2023 devastated many of our central Vermont communities.** We disseminated hundreds of free water test kits for central Vermont homeowners, critical health and safety information and protective equipment for cleanup. We collaborated with community partners including Montpelier Alive, Rainbow Bridge Community Center, Central Vermont Medical Center and People's Health and Wellness Center to provide tetanus and wound care clinics and participated in multiple local initiatives to address the public health concerns of immediate flood response and long-term flood recovery.



### NUTRITION SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

**The Barre Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program serves pregnant Vermonters, parents, and caregivers with children under 5** with healthy food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and counseling. In 2023, we were given a Premiere Level Breastfeeding Award of Excellence by the Federal Food and Nutrition Service. Notably, 83% of pregnant WIC participants breastfed, with 63% continuing beyond 6 months—surpassing the 25% national rate.



### PROTECTING CENTRAL VERMONTERS

**Our team of epidemiologists, public health nurses and public health specialists act every day to prevent the spread of disease.** In 2023, we conducted nearly 200 reportable disease case investigations. With the help of community partners, we organized 23 vaccine clinics in locations such as farms, community events and flood recovery centers. In total, we provided 311 vaccines including COVID-19, flu, tetanus and Mpox.



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## WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH RECREATION DISTRICT

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The Wrightsville Beach Recreation District (WBRD) formed in 1985 is made up of the four member “District” towns of East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester. The five-member Board with representatives from each town (Montpelier has two) provides oversight of the District. Administrative and Bookkeeping assistance is contracted through the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. The Beach Manager is responsible for all operations, staffing, and more.

In March of 2023 the Beach Manager position was expanded to a year round position at 85% of full time hours. This change was made due to the significantly increasing role that the WBRD has in the provision of a variety of outdoor recreational activities. As it turns out this change was needed more than we had thought.

This season started out similar to recent ones, only significantly busier. When the flood hit our region in early July, our revenue to date was 13% ahead of 2022, our previous best year for use and revenue.

As most of you know Wrightsville Beach experienced an unprecedented amount of damage, park-wide. The Manager had the best intentions to reopen within a couple weeks with the help of countless volunteers from the community. However as time passed the damage proved too extensive, so with the support of our Board of Directors, the Manager made the extremely difficult decision not to reopen in 2023.

The damage has been assessed, and our plans for short and long term recovery made. Now the hard part is pulling together available resources to implement these plans over the next two years. The Park Manager is currently working with multiple FEMA Departments to implement some of the recovery and resiliency plans. We will also receive a small amount of Insurance funds. We also applied for a large grant from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Grant Program.

Although we don’t know how much it will cost to fully implement our long term plan, we are confident that the majority of the costs will be covered by the support from FEMA and hopefully VOREC. However, we still anticipate a funding to expense gap. The great news is that we will open for the 2024 season. Some facilities will have been repaired and improved, and others will have to wait. And if we do receive the VOREC Grant funds, those combined with the FEMA funds will not only repair the Park, but will significantly improve its resilience to future flood events.

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## WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH RECREATION DISTRICT cont'd

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We want to thank our amazing community. Your support expressed through volunteer work, and in other ways, has demonstrated how important Wrightsville is to our community, and has inspired the Manager to do all he can to make the Park better, and more resilient. But please bear with us over the coming many months because there is way too much to be done, but we'll find a way.

We sincerely look forward to seeing you all at the Beach in 2024!

The following 5 volunteer Board Members donate their time to help Wrightsville operate. Their time is valuable, and we greatly appreciate them for using some of it for Wrightsville!

**Carl Witke, Worcester, (Chair);**

Kim Kendall, (Secretary), East Montpelier;

**Jon Copans, & Dan Currier (Treasurer), Montpelier;**

George Longenecker, Middlesex.

Collin O'Neil, Beach Manager

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# Special Articles and Funding Requests \$250 or Less

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## ARTICLE 10: CENTRAL VT COUNCIL ON AGING

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The Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA services are available to those age 60 and up, caregivers, and families. CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, free of charge.

CVCOA utilizes town funding to provide individualized support to Middlesex residents through case management, information and assistance, options counseling, resource and benefit enrollment (nutrition, transportation, mental health counseling, legal services, etc), long-term care planning, health insurance counseling, family caregiver support, connection to wellness and social activities, and more.

CVCOA supported 41 residents of Middlesex. CVCOA case manager Bill Merrylees directly served older adults in Middlesex. CVCOA served 4,040 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2022 through 06/30/2023. CVCOA mobilized 497 volunteers through our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP and general volunteer programs. These volunteers served over 40,000 hours, providing direct service, delivering meals on wheels, supporting nutrition sites, leading wellness classes, offering companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

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

Contact:

Leanne Hoppe

Director, Philanthropy and Communications

Central Vermont Council on Aging

59 N. Main Street, Suite 200

Barre, VT 05641-4121

(802) 476-2662

Email: [lhope@cvcoa.org](mailto:lhope@cvcoa.org)

Website: [www.cvcoa.org](http://www.cvcoa.org)

**Funding request: \$850**

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**ARTICLE 11: CENTRAL VT HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE**

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Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (CVHHH) is a full-service, not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Association that provides intermittent, short-term medical care, education, and support at home to help Central Vermonters recover from an illness, surgery, or hospital stay and manage their chronic disease. We serve 23 communities in Washington and Orange Counties and care for people of all ages. Our services include home care, hospice, and maternal-child health care. We also offer public foot-care and flu vaccine clinics. In addition, we offer long-term care and private care services and free grief support groups.

CVHHH is guided by a mission to care for all Central Vermonters regardless of a person’s ability to pay, their geographic remoteness, or the complexity of their care needs. CVHHH embraces new technology and collaborates with other local providers to ensure that central Vermonters’ care needs are met. To learn more, visit [www.cvhhh.org](http://www.cvhhh.org).

**CVHHH Services to the Residents of Middlesex**

**Jan 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 \***

<b>Program</b>	<b># of Visits</b>
Home Health Care	858
Hospice Care	3
Long Term Care	0
Maternal Child Health	29
TOTAL VISITS/CONTACTS	890
TOTAL PATIENTS	65
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	72

*\*Audited figures are not available at the time of report submission. These preliminary figures are prorated based on the number of visits from January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023 and are not expected to vary significantly.*

Town funding is imperative in ensuring that CVHHH will provide services in Middlesex through 2024 and beyond.

Contact:  
Sandy Rousse, President & CEO or  
Kelly Finnegan, Community Relations & Development  
600 Granger Road, Barre  
(802) 223-1878  
[kfarnum@CVHHH.ORG](mailto:kfarnum@CVHHH.ORG)

**Funding Request: \$4,500**

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## ARTICLE 12: KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

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**The Kellogg-Hubbard** is an independent nonprofit Library serving six communities. Our multimedia collection includes 70,000 items, plus access to another 100,000+ digital items. **Our mission** is to empower community members to become lifelong learners by providing easy access to materials, online resources, programs and a welcoming place. Our vision is to be a resilient, inclusive and innovative library that continually learns and adapts to meet the changing needs of our community. We offer free programs from preschool story times to youth after-school activities to adult scholar-led lectures and home delivery for our housebound patrons.

**618 Middlesex patrons** borrowed 11,593 physical items from our collection last year plus digital content through the *Flipster*, *Kanopy* and *Libby* apps that we can't track by town.

**The Library is funded** annually through tax support from the municipalities we serve (53%), income from our endowment and reserves (28%), private contributions and fundraisers (18%) and other income (1%). Like most Vermont libraries, our funding requests are per capita based. This year we are requesting increased funding from Middlesex: \$35,580 or \$20 per capita. The increase is primarily due to inflationary pressures, including fair market salary adjustments for our staff. We did not request an increase last year. The state average per capita support for Libraries is \$35.82. Our total FY '24 budget is \$1,082,179. The Middlesex representative to our board of trustees is Sarah Seidman and our Executive Director is Dan Groberg. Please reach out to find out more and **thank you for your continued support!**

**Contact:**

Dan Groberg, Executive Director  
Kellogg-Hubbard Library  
135 Main St.  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 223-3338  
Email: [dgroberg@kellogghubbard.org](mailto:dgroberg@kellogghubbard.org)  
Website: [www.kellogghubbard.org](http://www.kellogghubbard.org)

**Funding request: \$35,580**

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## ARTICLE 13: MONTPELIER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

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The Montpelier Senior Activity Center provides programming to everyone aged 50+ and promotes lifelong learning, healthy aging, socialization, falls prevention, and more. It is our organization's mission to enhance the quality of life for older adults in the greater Montpelier area through opportunities that develop physical, mental, cultural, social, and economic well-being in a welcoming, flexible environment.

MSAC is a vital resource for our Central Vermont community by providing Meals on Wheels deliveries, congregate lunches, referrals to area services, over fifty affordable weekly classes each quarter, and several free drop-in groups. MSAC offers financial aid, tech assistance, tax preparation, foot care clinics, and more to all our participants.

MSAC has an operating budget of \$740,099, and we are seeking funding of \$4,000 to support our organization for FY25. Our request is based on the number of Middlesex residents served, which for FY23 was over 30 residents, as well as the average participation across our programs, in which town of residence isn't tallied. We value our services at approximately \$82 per person.

MSAC recognizes how important the Waterbury Area Senior Center's services are to Middlesex residents, and we believe in working collaboratively with area organizations to serve the vast number of older adults in our region. We appreciate Middlesex voters' support of MSAC and look forward to serving you in 2024.

Contact:

Matt Wilson (he/they) Communications & Development Coordinator

City of Montpelier, Community Services Department

Address: 58 Barre St, Montpelier, VT 05602

Email: [msac@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org)

Phone: (802) 223-2518

[www.montpelier-vt.org/msac](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/msac)

**Funding Request: \$4,000**

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## ARTICLE 14: NORTH BRANCH NATURE CENTER

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North Branch Nature Center's mission is Connecting People with the Natural World. For 28 years, NBNC has offered place-based nature education and community science programs for people of all ages, as well as free year-round access to our 28-acre preserve Montpelier, less than two miles from the Middlesex town line.

Annually, more than 4,000 people attend our programs, and we estimate 27,000 trail visits (activities include walking, running, picnicking, snowshoeing, skiing, biking, and swimming). Each year we serve a minimum of 250 Middlesex residents through programs including summer camps, after-school programs, Forest Preschool, and our wide array of festivals, classes, lectures, community science opportunities, and outings for youth and adults. We also have several dedicated volunteers from Middlesex who help with everything from managing invasive species, to cataloging our natural history library, to serving on our board of directors, to contributing to community science projects like our annual early spring amphibian conservation program.

NBNC is committed to making our programs open and accessible to all by keeping prices low and offering scholarships. Our buildings are fully accessible, and in 2023 we built an accessible trail and made accessibility improvements to our existing trails.

NBNC's 2024 annual budget is \$1,652,435. The Middlesex appropriation will support scholarships, accessibility improvements, and our core programs. For more information, please visit [NorthBranchNatureCenter.org](http://NorthBranchNatureCenter.org). Thank you for your support!

Contact:

Emily Seiffert, Deputy Director  
[EmilyS@NorthBranchNatureCenter.org](mailto:EmilyS@NorthBranchNatureCenter.org)  
802.229.6206

NBNC  
713 Elm Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

**Funding Request: \$2,500**

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**ARTICLE 15: WATERBURY AREA SENIOR CENTER**

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The Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Association (WASCA) once again needs your financial support to carry out the vital work it does to enrich the lives of seniors in Middlesex. This letter serves as our formal request for funding of \$10,000, which is the same amount that you allocated last year. We respectfully submit the following requested information:

**Purpose/Description of our organization:**

The Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Association (WASCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the planning, development, and coordination of comprehensive services for older residents in the towns of Waterbury, Duxbury, Middlesex, Bolton and Moretown, Vermont. These include nutritional programs, social and educational events, and health-promoting activities.

**Annual Budget: \$227,638**

Federal and State funding cover 37% of our overall operating expenses. That is why the financial support of the towns we serve is so critical.

**Middlesex Residents Served in prior fiscal year (ending September 30, 2023):**

2,011 meals were delivered to 21 homebound Middlesex residents.

**How this funding will be spent:**

- Through our partnership with Meals on Wheels, we help seniors live independently by preparing and delivering freshly made home-cooked meals, along with a friendly “hello” and informal wellness check. Our volunteer drivers delivered over 18,000 meals in our most recent fiscal year, and that number continues to grow. Of that number, 2,011 meals were delivered specifically to Middlesex residents.
- For seniors who can get out and about, our dining room and community gathering space in downtown Waterbury welcomes them Monday through Friday for a hot meal, good company and engaging activities. In the last year alone, we served over 2,000 congregate lunches in our dining room. We also offered health clinics, educational activities and opportunities to socialize.

**Contact Information:**

Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Association  
14 Stowe Street, Waterbury, VT 05677  
802-244-1234

Justin Blackman, Board Chairman  
justin@wasca.org

Maureen White, Board Treasurer  
maureen@wasca.org

**Funding request: \$10,000**

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## ARTICLE 16: YOUTH FIRST MENTORING

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After being known as Girls/Boyz First for over two decades, last year we launched our new name, logo, and website. Our new name is gender expansive and puts youth at the center of all we do. We have served youth in Washington Central Unified Union School District and Montpelier for the past for over 25 years. Mentees benefit from an additional healthy adult relationship in their lives, meeting weekly with their mentors to develop strong decision-making skills and healthy life choices as they move through adolescence. Youth who have mentors are more likely to graduate high school, get along better with their siblings and parents and avoid risky behaviors like alcohol and drug use.

Currently, we have six mentees and mentors (total) from Middlesex. Our mentor pairs take walks or go on hikes, do farm chores or build treehouses, ride bikes or cook together. Last year, Youth First Mentoring developed relationships with local and regional partners to provide cultural enrichment opportunities. Mentor pairs attended Barre Opera House performances, Shelburne Museum, and a State Park of their choice.

Whether sticking to familiar, comforting activities or finding creative new adventures, the bond between our mentor pairs is powerful. Families express how helpful it is for their children to have new opportunities and extra support from mentors, so integral for our youth's mental health and sense of connection.

We respectfully request \$1,500 to sustain our program through the coming year. Youth First Mentoring's annual budget is \$68,000. The contribution from the town of Middlesex will support general operating expenses.

We are so grateful for the town's support of mentoring in our community!

**Contact:**

Youth First Mentoring  
Contact: Sally Stroiney Russell  
802-552-0249  
73 Main St, #29 Montpelier, VT 05602  
[director@youthfirstmentoring.org](mailto:director@youthfirstmentoring.org)

**Funding Request: \$1,500**

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## AMERICAN RED CROSS NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

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Supported primarily by volunteers, the American Red Cross of Northern New England provides emergency support for victims of fire, flood and other disasters, as well as instruction in health, safety and aquatics.

In 2023, the American Red Cross responded to 6 disaster incidents, assisting 15 residents of Washington County. Most commonly, these were home fires. The organization hosted 118 blood drives and collected 3,802 pints of blood in Washington County. It supported 20 members of the Armed Forces through the Red Cross's Service to the Armed Forces program in Washington County.

Since the Red Cross is not a government agency, it relies on the financial support of individuals, businesses and local communities because it receives no federal or state funding. Its request this year is based on town population.

All money from town appropriations goes directly to disaster relief. The Red Cross is often the only organization to arrive on site during disasters to help families cope during the first hours and days and to provide first responders with water, hot beverages and food. The support from Middlesex and other contributing towns is vital to support the Red Cross's services.

**Contact:**

Lauren Jordan, Development Coordinator  
American Red Cross of Northern New England  
32 N. Prospect Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
(800) 464-6692  
Website: [www.redcross.org/nne](http://www.redcross.org/nne)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## CENTRAL VT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

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Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVABE), a community-based nonprofit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Middlesex residents for fifty-eight years.

CVABE serves as Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties' resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for adults (ages 16 - 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels.

By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Middlesex residents for generations to come.

Last year, 3 residents of Middlesex enrolled in CVABE's free programs. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups.

CVABE's total program budget for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$1,677,059. One hundred percent (100%) of support from Middlesex will be used for direct student services (instruction and educational materials). It currently costs CVABE \$3,726 per student to provide a full year of instruction.

For more information regarding CVABE's adult education and literacy instruction or volunteer opportunities, contact:

**Barre Learning Center**

46 Washington Street- Suite 100

Barre, Vermont 05641

**(802) 476-4588**

**Montpelier Learning Center**

100 State Street- Suite 3

Montpelier, Vermont 05602

**(802) 223-3403**

**[www.cvabe.org](http://www.cvabe.org)**

**[info@cvabe.org](mailto:info@cvabe.org)**

**Funding request: \$250**

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## CENTRAL VT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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The Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC,) one of twelve non-profit regional development corporations in Vermont, was organized in 1976 to provide an impetus for the region's economic development. Its funding primarily comes from the State of Vermont, municipalities and business members who pay dues.

CVEDC's mission is to assist in the retention and expansion of existing businesses and the relocation of businesses to the Central Vermont region. CVEDC helps emerging and developed businesses of all sizes connect to resources to promote workforce training and retention, business planning and growth, and funding opportunities for different phases of business development.

In two rounds of RDC-led technical assistance, 800 Vermont businesses have connected on federally-funded projects that provided things like marketing aids, legal assistance, bookkeeping and more.

In June, State legislation funded the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange. 183 technical assistance awards were made to small business owners. CVEDC hosted a program with UVM and the Patrick Leahy Rural Institute supporting Central Vermont Internships

CVEDC assisted local businesses with grant applications. We saw over \$3million awarded to our region after the flood.

Middlesex Select Board Treasurer Peter Hood is a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Kingsbury Construction Co., of Middlesex, is also a member.

The CVEDC is grateful for your support, and we look forward to working with Middlesex in 2024.

Melissa Bounty, Executive Director  
CVEDC  
PO Box 1439  
Montpelier, Vermont 05601  
(802) 223-4654  
Email: [info@cvedc.org](mailto:info@cvedc.org)  
Website: [www.centralvermont.org](http://www.centralvermont.org)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

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The Children's Room appreciates annual support from Middlesex Town, and requests your continued support in FY 2025, at \$250. We are a 39-year-old, volunteer-run nonprofit that serves families and caregivers with young children (birth - 6 yrs). Our drop-in center is a hub of parenting/caregiving resources, programming, playgroups and educational opportunities.

Our annual budget is under \$35,000. We receive no federal or state funding, instead relying on local resources and volunteers. The funds raised allow us to offer free programs to all. During the last full school year (2022/23), The Children's Room hosted over 400 families in our programs, consisting of roughly 2,800 child and adult visits. These include 200 visits coming from Middlesex families that utilized our services during the year.

- Drop-in play times 5 days a week
- Weekly Nature Explorations program on area trail heads
- Weekly Music & Movement class
- Weekly Art & Exploration class
- Parent and Caregiver workshops
- Special weekend events: Big Toy Night, Dabble Days, Barn Dance, Halloween party
- Spring and Fall preschool soccer sessions
- Monthly playground, sledding and ice skating meet ups

As we typically do, we will use this appropriation for program materials. This includes materials for crafting (paper, paints, markers, ribbons, baggies, glue) as well as free snacks and extra diapers for families when they visit The Children's Room. We've seen an incredible increase in need in this area, as family budgets are becoming increasingly tighter.

**Contact:**

Heather LaRocca  
47 Stowe Street, Waterbury, VT 05676  
802-345-7837  
childrensroom@huusd.org

**Funding request: \$250**

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## CIRCLE

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Circle –formerly Battered Women’s Services and Shelter - is a small, community-based organization dedicated to ending all forms of domestic violence by providing services to all victims regardless of their gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity. This year, Circle is requesting \$199 in funding from the Town of Middlesex.

During the previous fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) Circle provided the following services to Middlesex residents. (Due to confidential reasons, details are non-specific.):

- Advocates responded to 6 hotline calls and in-person meetings with people who identified themselves as Middlesex residents.
- 2 received help with civil legal issues.
- Housing advocacy was accessed 3 times by Middlesex residents.
- 7 Middlesex residents received safety planning.

In addition, Circle staff and volunteers responded to 4,053 hotline calls. Shelter services were provided to 13 women and 15 children for a total of 3,364 bed nights in Washington County.

Also:

- Advocates provided support to 89 plaintiffs during Final Relief from Abuse Hearings and assisted 86 individuals filing for temporary orders.
- Over 3,250 people received direct services from Circle which is maintained by trained staff and volunteers.

**If you are in danger, use a safe computer, call 911, or Circle’s confidential hotline 877-543-9498.**

**Contact:**

Karol Diamond

Circle

P.O. Box 652

Barre, VT 05641

Administrative office: (802) 476-6010

Email: [staff@circlevt.org](mailto:staff@circlevt.org)

24-hour toll-free HOTLINE: 1-877-543-9498

**Funding request: \$199**

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## COMMUNITY HARVEST OF CENTRAL VERMONT (CHCV)

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Community Harvest of Central Vermont (CHCV) brings community together through gleaning to recover surplus food grown on area farms which is then delivered to sites that serve those with limited access to healthy, fresh local food. In the process, the community has the opportunity to gain a greater awareness and appreciation of the local food system, healthy eating, and waste reduction.

CHCV partners with 51 area farms and growers to help reduce surplus food from going to waste. Hundreds of community volunteers helped glean farmers' unused produce, and we donate it to 37 area programs serving people with limited access to nutritious, fresh local food. We helped serve 12,111 individuals in Washington County in 2023, of which we estimate 200 were Middlesex residents. In addition to recovering food, CHCV connects community and helps it engage with local farms by bringing people to the fields to work together and see how local food is grown.

Over the past nine years, CHCV has recovered and donated just under 2.3 million servings of nutritious food, helping to increase food security for thousands of Central Vermonterers. CHCV is the only local program helping farms donate their surplus food to community members in need.

Our fiscal year 2024 budget is \$183,951. Funds from the Town of Middlesex will be used to support harvesting, processing, and delivery of gleaned produce.

Community Harvest of Central Vermont  
146 Lord Road  
Berlin, VT 05602  
802-229-4281  
CommunityHarvestVT@gmail.com  
www.CommunityHarvestVT.org

**Funding request: \$250**

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**FAMILY CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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The Family Center of Washington County provides services and resources to all children and families in our region. Our mission is building resourceful families and healthy children to create a strong community, and our vision is acceptance and hope for all families. We serve the diverse needs of our community's young children and families, including those who are at-risk of poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity.

In FY'23 we offered services for children, youth and families that included Early Care and Education; Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention; Child Care Financial Assistance; Child Care Referral; Welcome Baby outreach to new parents; Parent Education; Playgroups; Family Supportive Housing; Family Support Home Visiting; Food Shelf and Diaper Bank; Reach Up Job Development; Families Learning Together; Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project; and Family Stability Housing support.

We served 29 residents from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. \*6 families received Information & Child Care Referral; \*8 families received Child Care Financial Assistance; \*3 children and caregivers participated in Playgroups; \*8 individuals received Home Visiting services; AND \*4 children and parents attended Community Events.

Total Budget for 2022-2023 was \$2,788,251.

Funds from Middlesex and other communities are used to support the prevention and community development services offered by the Family Center, filling in the gaps from grants and state funding to enable us to deliver a wider variety of services to families, many of whom may be particularly vulnerable.

**Contact:**

Family Center of Washington County  
383 Sherwood Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602  
Joseph Ferrada and Claire Kendall, Co Executive Directors  
josephf@fcwcv.org and clairek@fcwcv.org  
802-262-3292, Ext. 126 and Ext. 151  
www.fcwcv.org

**Funding request: \$250**

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## GOOD SAMARITAN HAVEN

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Good Samaritan Haven provides emergency shelter, nutritious meals, street outreach, motel-based support services, COVID, flu, and monkeypox vaccine clinics, housing case management, recovery support and other services to people experiencing homelessness in central Vermont.

We operate a shelter network with facilities located in four different areas: Berlin, Barre City, Barre Town and our seasonal, low-barrier, winter shelter in Montpelier. Our Street Outreach Team works across Washington County.

### **Our Shelter Network Impact:**

- **15,014** annual bed nights provided in our shelters
- **274** individuals provided with shelter
- **86** people assisted by our street outreach program
- **17,000+** meals served
- **1604** Covid tests administered
- **11** Vaccination clinics held
- **52** Covid vaccines administered
- **20** families with children assisted
- **143** households in motels assisted
- **15** guests assisted in obtaining their own housing

Maintaining our services as the rate of homelessness rises in central Vermont comes with increased costs. A contribution from the community of Middlesex will be applied to our general operating fund which allows us to provide safe beds and living spaces, housing case management, meals, laundry facilities, recovery support, grief counseling and transportation to and from services, available day and night. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Contact:**

Rick DeAngelis & Julie Bond  
Co-Executive Directors at Good Samaritan Haven  
PO Box 1104, Barre, VT 05641  
(802) 922-4407  
[goodsamaritanhaven.org](http://goodsamaritanhaven.org)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AGENCY (GMTA)

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Each year, GMT provides thousands of rides to members within our community through traditional public transit services and coordinated special services. Each ride provided is a personal story of a need being met. Whether it's offering affordable commute options, access to essential medical services, adult day care and senior meals or convenient trips for daily services, we are proud to be a viable solution for so many.

Our ability to maintain our role as a trusted public transportation provider within the region would not be possible without our partnerships. Since 2003, GMT has relied on relationships with area organizations, state and federal agencies, local municipalities and the private citizens to keep us strong. Without these partnerships, we would not be able to provide the critical services that we offer.

It is with recognition and appreciation for all levels of support that Green Mountain Transit (GMT) would like to submit a funding request for FY24 from the Town of Middlesex. **We respectfully request \$249 for FY25 to be placed before the Town of Middlesex voters for consideration.** The requested funding directly supports GMT's ongoing operations and the amount is based on a fair share calculation applied to the municipalities GMT serves.

Please accept our genuine thanks and appreciation in continuing this mutually beneficial partnership. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Contact info:**

Jamie Smith  
Director of Marketing and Planning  
802-540-1098  
jamie@ridegmt.com

**Funding Request: \$249**

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## GREEN UP VERMONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Green Up Day 2024, May 4th!!!**

Kate Alberghini, Executive Director  
Green Up Vermont  
PO Box 1191  
Montpelier, Vermont 05601-1191  
(802) 522-7245  
Website: [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)  
Email: [greenup@greenupvermont.org](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org)

**Funding request: \$100**

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## MONTPELIER VETERANS' COUNCIL

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The Montpelier Vermont Veterans Council has been placing flags and markers at local cemeteries for over 35 years. Each year, the organization places over 2,500 flags in 26 local cemeteries including two in Middlesex.

The cost of these flags and markers has been covered by personal contributions and funds from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 792, American Legion Post #3 in Montpelier, the Montpelier Elk #924 as well as tax-payer contributions from Montpelier, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester. Due to the escalating costs of flags and markers, the Montpelier Veterans Council needs to ask towns to assist in these costs.

Because of rising costs, we ask for assistance with this annual memorial honoring our families and friends who served their country. Unpaid volunteers place these flags and markers and consider it their privilege. Will you please support our effort with a donation today? Any donation will help and be greatly appreciated.

**Contact:**

Carole Baker, Secretary/Treasurer  
Montpelier Veterans Council  
21 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 229-9043

**Funding request: \$250**

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## MOSAIC VERMONT

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- Over 5,000 direct responses to harm were provided.
- 277 individuals were served due to incidents of sexual violence. 76 were children.
- Mosaic engages in community-wide culture-change efforts to connect, share resources, increase accessibility to programming for all people, and to help end violence. This year, advocates and educators engaged over 1,200 youth and 150 adults across 5 public schools in addition to others throughout Washington County.

Mosaic's work is led by the people who have been impacted by sexual harm. Through the provision of services such as our 24-hour helpline; safety planning; advocacy at Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations; support in court hearings or at crime related appointments or interviews; referrals to and support in accessing community resources; parent, friend, and caregiver support; and case management; we help people begin to heal. We provide additional, specialized services for people who have experienced sex trafficking, adult survivors of child sexual abuse, and children and youth who have experienced sexual violence.

Mosaic's services are highly confidential, and people are not required to disclose their town of residence to receive services. Many do not. At least 58 people volunteered that they were residents of Barre when receiving services during this period. We are deeply grateful to the cities and towns of Washington County for your continued support as our advocates undertake highly complex and confidential work. Your steady allyship and preservation of privacy have saved lives.

**Contact:**

Anne Ward, MEd  
Executive Director, Mosaic Vermont  
info@mosaic-vt.org  
mosaic-vt.org  
PO Box 859, Montpelier, VT 05601  
Helpline: 802.479.5577

**Funding request: \$250**

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## OUR HOUSE OF CENTRAL VERMONT

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OUR House of Central Vermont is a non-profit children's advocacy center and special investigations unit serving all of Washington County. Its mission is to provide a safe and supportive setting for child victims of sexual abuse, their non-offending family members, and adult survivors of sexual assault. The OUR in OUR House stands for One Unified Response and to that end the organization works closely with the Vermont Department for Children and Family Services, as well as local and state law enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, Washington County Mental health and other organizations.

OUR House assisted with two cases in Middlesex and investigated 105 sexual-abuse cases in 2023. Of those, 14 involved children under age 6.

While it is difficult to monetarily quantify a child-abuse investigation, national statistics show that on a per-case basis, our approach saves a local police department and municipality \$1,000 per case.

**Contact:**

Rebecca Duranleau, Executive Director  
OUR House of Central Vermont, Inc.  
38 Summer Street  
Barre, VT 05641  
(802) 622-0821  
(802) 272-6312  
Email: [ourhousebarredirector@gmail.com](mailto:ourhousebarredirector@gmail.com)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## VT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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For many years, the town of Middlesex has supported our mission to help Vermonters with visual impairments to be more independent, cultivate adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life. With your help, the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) has completed another successful year. Thank you for your ongoing support!

It costs VABVI approximately \$1,000 to provide one year of service to each adult client. In FY23 VABVI served 1,083 clients in the state of Vermont, including 1 adult in Middlesex and 121 adults and 106 students in Washington County.

An estimated 14,000 Vermonters are currently blind or visually impaired. As the “Baby Boomer” generation ages, this number is expected to increase to at least 25,000 by 2030. We anticipate that the increase in demand for our services will continue well into the future. Our neighbors, family and friends are among those who may be coping with vision loss.

Last year local towns and cities provided us with over \$26,219 in support, which went directly to client services. We hope that Middlesex will consider supporting VABVI again this year with an allocation of \$249 to help fund our services in your township. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me by phone at (802) 863-1358 ext. 219 or by e-mail at [sgougher@vabvi.org](mailto:sgougher@vabvi.org).

**Contact:**

Samantha Gougher  
Development Associate  
VABVI  
60 Kimball Avenue  
So. Burlington, VT 05403  
(802) 863-1358 ext. 219  
[sgougher@vabvi.org](mailto:sgougher@vabvi.org)

**Funding request: \$249**

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## VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (VCIL)

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

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

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier – although we are working remotely due to the flood which devastated our offices. We also have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'23, 8 residents of **Middlesex** received services from the following programs:

- Meals on Wheels (\$1,696 spent on meals for residents)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC)
- Information Referral and Assistance (I, R&A)

### Contacts:

Linda Schwaner, Development Director  
VT Center for Independent Living  
11 E. State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(800) 639-1522  
Email: [lindas@vcil.org](mailto:lindas@vcil.org)  
Website: [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)

**Funding request: \$195**

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## VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK

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The **Vermont Family Network** is a statewide organization whose mission is to empower and support all Vermont families of children with special needs. Town funding would support our Family Support Program, through which we offer families a variety of services such as trainings, parent matches, school meeting support, and a helpline. Our Family Support Consultants are all experienced parents of children with special needs, allowing them to relate to and understand the unique needs of families before, during and after their child's diagnosis.

As the state's Family Voices and Parent Training and Information Center, we have continued to be involved in advocacy efforts around early intervention programs, special education, and budget decisions that impact families of children with special needs.

Last fiscal year we supported 106 families through 805 interactions in Washington County. Of those, six live in Middlesex. Thank you for your consideration of funding, together we can continue to support families all over the state who have children with special needs.

### **Contact info:**

Vermont Family Network  
600 Blair Park Road  
Suite 240  
Williston, VT 05495  
Claire Giroux-Williams, Development and Communications Manager  
Claire.giroux-williams@vtfn.org  
301-509-2435  
vermontfamilynetwork.org

**Funding request: \$250**

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## WASHINGTON COUNTY DIVERSION PROGRAM, INC.

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**Purpose:** The Washington County Diversion Program (WCDP) is a local non-profit organization that provides a range of restorative justice programs for the communities within Washington County. WCDP addresses unlawful behavior, supports victims of crime and promotes a healthy community. We follow a balanced and restorative justice model that strives to put right the wrongs that have been done and address the needs of all stakeholders, including the victim, the community and those who violated the law, holding the latter accountable in a manner that promotes responsible behavior.

WCDP runs six separate programs: Court Diversion (adult and youth), the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program, the Balanced and Restorative Justice Program, the Tamarack Program, Pretrial Monitoring and the Driving with License Suspended Program. During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP's with 485 participants across those programs.

Due to a heavy caseload, the financial and volunteer support of our local communities is critical to our success. Thank you for providing the support of our work that you have in the past, and for taking the time to consider this request.

We would welcome any Middlesex residents who'd like to join our volunteer ranks! Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering on our Community Restorative Panel.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the Diversion office at 802-479-1900 x3.

**Contact:**

Meg Rizzo, Executive Director  
322 North Main Street, Suite 5, Barre VT 05641  
meg@wcdp-vt.org, 802-479-1900 x3  
Middlesex Residents Served in FY22: 3

**Funding request: \$250**

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## ELEVATE YOUTH SERVICES

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The mission of Elevate Youth Services (formerly Washington County Youth Service Bureau) is to “promote safety, competence, and confidence as youth create their path through adolescence and into adulthood.” We accomplish this through the following services: youth & family counseling; emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth; transitional living support for homeless youth; support for pregnant/parenting teens; adolescent substance abuse treatment; transitional living support for young men exiting from jail; a teen center; support for youth involved in foster care; and a 24 hour on-call service. Last year, 3 Middlesex residents were served through one or more of the services identified above.

Elevate Youth Services has been providing services to Middlesex residents for 49 years. This year’s funding request represents a cost of approximately \$83/person served. This is only a small fraction of the cost of the services provided by the Bureau. Most services provided to Middlesex residents have involved multiple sessions, counseling services were provided by licensed counselors, and emergency temporary shelter included 24-hour supervision, meals, and transportation. For example, one night of emergency shelter if needed is \$40; and round-trip transportation for services provided from our main office directly in Middlesex are approximately \$16/trip. Elevate Youth Service’s annual operating budget is \$ 2,123,730. The \$250 requested will be applied to services delivered to Middlesex residents.

**Contact:**

Kreig Pinkham

Elevate youth Services (formerly Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club)

652 Granger Road, Suite 2

info@elevateyouthvt.org

802-229-9151

**Funding request: \$250**

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2023 DOG REPORT

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<u># Registered</u> <u>1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023</u>	<u>Total Fees</u>	<u>Fees to State</u>
128	\$1,253	\$635

More and more people are failing to license their dogs, a violation of 20 V.S.A. § 3581, the state law requiring that all dogs be licensed by April 1st. In 2023, 5 fewer dogs were licensed than in 2022. This means there are many, many dogs in Middlesex who might not be up to date on their rabies vaccinations. It also means if dogs are lost - or found - our Animal Control Officer cannot locate their owners.

Licensing your dog is easy, affordable and, also, the law. One tag is good for a year and costs less than a week's worth of puppy chow - \$9 per spayed/neutered animal: \$13 for all others. For your peace of mind and the safety of our community, please license your dog today. No one wants to start confiscating beloved pets for lack of tags.

Please see the VT Spay Neuter Program report below for information on how to affordably spay/neuter and vaccinate your pup. Once you have the rabies vaccination, you may apply for a license. To do so, please come to the Town Clerk's Office at 5 Church Street, Middlesex between 9 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Thursday OR download a 2024 Licensing Form from the Town's website ([middlesexvermont.org](http://middlesexvermont.org)) at: <http://tinyurl.com/yueb4b6e>

- Don't forget to include a check for \$9/spayed or neutered dog OR \$13 for natural made out to the Town of Middlesex.
- Please include a copy of your dog's rabies certificate (even if we have one on file)!
- Mail the above to: Middlesex Town Clerk, 5 Church Street, Middlesex, VT 05602

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VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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

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## **VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

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

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

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

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

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP      Executive Director: VVSA

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2023 BIRTHS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME
Barewicz	Elora
Bicknell	Max
Bicknell	Ruth
DiLauro	Henry
Gewissler	
Krokenberger	Clyde
Mudge	Elouan
Smith	Otto
Stearns	Greysin
Vandette	Wesley
Walsh	Morris
Watson	Silas

2023 DEATHS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	AGE
Baker	Jerry	Don	80 years
Blum	Sid		76 years
Frink	Diana	S.	75 years
Gallagher	Albert	Charles	85 years
Patterson	Steven	H	76 years
Sweet	Howard	I.	62 years

2023 MARRIAGES

4/23/2023	Fisher, Richard Harold	Crickard-Thompson, Wanda Jean
6/17/2023	Irwin, Seth Andrew	Fair, Faith Ashley
6/24/2023	Horrell, Hobie-Joe Wayne	Krezinski, Alexa Faith
7/3/2023	McCullough, Frederick William	Lawrey, Tammy l
7/18/2023	Hakopian, Molly Laura Taylor	Athanassios, Nicholas
7/29/2023	Sturgis, Laura Carolyn	Call, Matthew Ryan
8/5/2023	Bolduc, Cameron James	Conger, Amanda Marie
8/17/2023	Wilkin, Steven Robert	Smith, Patti Anne
9/5/2023	Grossi, Jacob Britton	Brooks, Zelda Clara

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## DEDICATION

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Few Middlesex residents have Town Reports dedicated to them, let alone two; Dorinda Crowell is the worthy exception.

Over the years, Dorinda has served this town in multiple – and valuable – unsung roles. Appointed to the Select Board in 1993, she was elected to a three-year term the following year and served until 2001 (which is when she received her first dedication!) After Cindy Carlson retired as Treasurer in 2017, Dorinda stepped up to the plate, serving until this

upcoming Town Meeting. She has also been an active Justice of the Peace during elections when attention to detail is vital to insuring an accurate voter count. (She was never off.)

Dorinda attended almost every Select Board meeting and most Budget Committee meetings as well. Thanks to her prior experience on the Select Board, she came to the financial position aware of the unique challenges facing this rural Vermont municipality. She was deeply sensitive to the needs of those fellow residents for whom every penny increase in the tax rate is a burden, while advocating for a Capital Improvement Plan so the Town could start saving for future purchases.

Perhaps nothing was more taxing than the detailed accounting required for FEMA reimbursements related to the July 2023 flood. Dorinda spent hours analyzing and documenting contractor invoices, employee time sheets and load slips to satisfy FEMA's nearly impossible standards. She wisely secured a line of credit for \$3 million so local contractors could be paid as soon as possible.

Mother to Jill Drury and Andrew Crowell, who live steps away from her back door, she's grandmother to Hannah and Kaitlyn Drury (pictured here with her). Dorinda is married to Middlesex native David Crowell, a former member of the Board of Adjustment who's walked every inch of this town and then some.

Thank you, Dorinda. You've been awesome. Now go have some fun!



TOWN OF MIDDLESEX  
5 Church Street  
Middlesex, VT 05602

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MONTPELIER, VT  
PERMIT NO. 61