

# Town of Middlesex, Vermont

## Annual Report For The Year Ending June 30, 2024



**Town Meeting – Tuesday, March 4, 2025**  
**Rumney Memorial School • 433 Shady Rill Road**  
**Polls Open 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**  
**In-Person Meeting starts at 4:30 PM**  
***Please Bring This Report To The Meeting***

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Cover Photo Credit: Photo of the historic April 8, 2024, eclipse over JJ Vandette and Molly Wallner's house on Center Road taken by neighbor Jayne Shoup.

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO VOTERS**

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### **TOWN MEETING DINNER**

Planning is in the works for our annual spaghetti dinner, to be served at Rumney School right after Town Meeting. Menu details and more will be available at [www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org](http://www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org) in early February, or call Susan Clark, Middlesex Solutions Committee, 802-223-5824. See you there!

Potluck Desserts Wanted! Here's your chance to show off a fabulous cake or cookie recipe, or that fruit salad that can't be beat! Please bring your favorite after-dinner treat to the Town Meeting Dinner to share. (Due to allergies, please, no nuts.) If you'd like to help with meal prep, serving or clean-up, please contact Susan at [sclarkmountains@gmail.com](mailto:sclarkmountains@gmail.com).

### **FREE TOWN MEETING CHILD CARE**

Childcare for kids ages 5 and older will be available free of charge at Rumney School on Tuesday, March 4 from 4:15-7:15 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, 2/21, 4:00 pm). Thanks to the Middlesex Community Fund for their support! For more information, please contact Kimberly Bolduc, Community Connections, 802-223-7936 x305, or email [kbolduc@u32.org](mailto:kbolduc@u32.org).

Middlesex never wants the cost of child care to be a barrier to participating in Town Meeting. If you have kids under age 5 and you need a childcare stipend, please contact Amy Rose, Middlesex Community Fund, 802-249-8473, [amy.rose.vt@gmail.com](mailto:amy.rose.vt@gmail.com).

### **NEED A RIDE TO TOWN MEETING?**

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

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**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 THE 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 .....	\$ 35.00
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Right-of-Way Permit .....	\$ 35.00
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**Dog Licenses:**

All dogs 6 months of age or older must be licensed on or before April 1, 2025

**Dog Fees for 2024**

Neutered/Spayed .....	\$ 11.00
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Natural .....	\$ 15.00
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*If Registered After April 1, 2024*

Neutered/Spayed .....	\$ 13.00
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Natural .....	\$ 19.00
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**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
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VT Property Transfer Tax Return .....	\$ 15.00
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Survey Maps (Mylar).....	\$ 25.00
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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS – KEEP THEM HANDY!

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### IMPORTANT NUMBERS – KEEP THEM HANDY!

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 Eric Metivier ..... (802) 752-5092  
Email: ..... [eric.metivier@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:eric.metivier@middlesexvermont.org)

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**..... Ela Chapin  
Phone ..... (802) 821-1004  
Email ..... [ela@elachapinvt.com](mailto:ela@elachapinvt.com)

<h4>MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES</h4>
Middlesex Select Board ..... 1st & 3rd Tuesday
Fire Department ..... 1st & 3rd Tuesday
Conservation Commission..... 4th Tuesday
Planning Commission ..... 3rd Wednesday
Town Roads Subcommittee ..... 3rd Thursday

Fire Department ..... 1st & 3rd Tuesday  
Conservation Commission..... 4th Tuesday  
Planning Commission ..... 3rd Wednesday  
Town Roads Subcommittee ..... 3rd Thursday

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## TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS

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	Phone
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER</b>	
Christina Steinbrecher	802-223-7694
Elizabeth Fortman, alternate	802-249-1058
 <b>ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK</b>	
Cheryl Grandfield	802-223-5915
 <b>BANDSTAND: Martha Pellerin &amp; Andy Shapiro Memorial Bandstand</b>	
Paul Boffa	802-522-4810
 <b>BUDGET COMMITTEE</b>	
Mark Harris, Chair	802-522-7362
Samantha Beaudoin	802-522-3770
Elias Gardner	802-778-0899
Zara Vincent	802-355-1400
Vacant	
 <b>CEMETERY CONTACTS</b>	
Middlesex Cemetery Commission (Carr, North Branch and Village cemeteries)	
Evelyn Gant, Chair	802-223-6488
Gary Lamell	802-223-2710
Janet McKinstry	802-223-5997
 Middlesex Center Cemetery - Private	
(Lot Sales) Steve Martin	802-371-8697
 <b>CV FIBER DELEGATE</b>	
David Lawrence	802-249-0235
 <b>CV REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE</b>	
Ronald Krauth	802-229-5496
Mitch Osiecki	802-760-9674
 <b>CV SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE</b>	
Adele McDonough	802-29-9874

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## **TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS**

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### **COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES**

Cheryl Grandfield

802-223-5915

### **E-911 Coordinator**

Mitch Osiecki

802-760-9674

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CHAIR**

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

Tammy McCullough

802-249-7103

Chris McVeigh

802-272-7871

Mary Just Skinner

802-223-7123

Jan Thouron

802-793-1177

### **LISTERS**

Samantha Beaudoin

802-223-5915

Shelly Desjardin

802-223-5915

Annette Halasz

802-223-5915

### **MODERATOR**

Susan Clark

802-223-5824

### **RECREATION DIRECTOR**

Mitch Osiecki

802-760-9674

## **TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS**

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### **ROAD COMMISSIONER**

Eric Metivier 802-752-5092

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Sandy Levine, Chair	802-223-1192
Mitch Osiecki, Vice Chair	802-760-9674
Betsy Davis	802- 229-0115
Paula Otenti	802-505-5272
Vacant	

### **SELECT BOARD**

Liz Scharf, Chair	802-223-9189
Randy Drury, Vice Chair	802-793-7635
Vic Dwire	802-522-8271
Peter O. Hood	802-371-8042
Zara Vincent	802-355-1400

### **TOWN CLERK**

Sarah Merriman 802-223-5915

### **TREASURER**

Cheryl Grandfield 802-223-5915

### **WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**

Aric Brown 802-461-8303

### **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Kevin Thompson 802-595-3464

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>EXPIRES</b>	<b>TERM</b>
Moderator	Susan Clark	2025	1 yr
Selectboard	Elizabeth Scharf, Chair	2026	2 yr
	Randy Drury, Vice Chair	2025	3 yr
	Vic Dwire	2025	2 yr
	Peter O. Hood	2027	3 yr
	Zara Vincent	2026	3 yr
Budget Committee	Mark Harris, Chair	2027	3 yr
	Samantha Beaudoin	2026	3 yr
	Elias Gardner	2027	3 yr
	Zara Vincent	2026	3 yr
	Vacant	2025	3 yr
Listers	Samantha Beaudoin	2027	3 yr
	Shelly Desjardin	2025	3 yr
	Annette Halasz	2026	3 yr
Town Clerk	Sarah Merriman	2026	3 yr
Treasurer	Cheryl Grandfield	2025	1 yr
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Cheryl Grandfield	2025	1 yr
Cemetery Commission	Evelyn Gant, Chair	2025	3 yr
	Gary Lamell	2026	3 yr
	Janet McKinstry	2027	3 yr
Planning Commission	Sandy Levine, Chair	2027	3 yr
	Mitch Osiecki, Vice Chair	2027	3 yr
	Elizabeth Davis*	2026	3 yr
	Paula Otenti*	2025	3 yr
	Vacant	2025	3 yr

\* indicates an official appointed by the Select Board until the March 4, 2025 Town Meeting

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

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Animal Control Officer	Christina Steinbrecher
Assistant Town Clerk	Cheryl Grandfield
CVFiber Delegates	David Lawrence
CV Regional Planning Commission	Ron Krauth & Mitch Osiecki
CV Solid Waste Management District	Dell McDonough & John Udis
Conservation Commission	Adrienne Magida, Chair
	Larry Becker
	Owen Dalton
	Kimberly Hagen
	Ross Lielappan
	Lee Rosberg
	Dave Shepard
	John Udis
Development Review Board	Peter Raymond, Chair
	Sandra Levine
	Mitch Osiecki
	Larry Rooney
	Stacey Skadberg
Emergency Management Coordinator	Stephen Dennis
Emergency Management Committee	Stephen Dennis, EMC
	Eric Metivier
	Dr. Robert Penney
	Liz Scharf
	Christina Steinbrecher
Fire Warden	Jeff Koonz
Heath Officers	Chris McVeigh
	Jason Merrill
Recreation Director	Dr. Robert Penney
Road Commissioner	Elizabeth Fortman, Asst.
Wrightsville Beach Board Member	Mitch Osiecki
Zoning Administrator	Eric Metivier
	Aric Brown
	Kevin Thompson

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**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 4, 2025**

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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 4, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. to act on the following business: (Voting by Australian ballot will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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.)

Town Clerk	1 year of a 3-year term
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
Cemetery Commission	3-year term
Lister	3-year term
Planning Commission	3-year term
Planning Commission	3-year term
Planning Commission	1 year of a 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 as follows: the first installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, August 20, 2025; the second installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, November 20, 2025; the third installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, February 20, 2026, and the fourth installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, May 20, 2026, except if postmarked by the US Postal Service on or before the aforementioned dates accordingly? (32 V.S.A. § 4773)

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote that taxes payable in installments will bear interest at a rate not to exceed 0.5% per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment? (32 V.S.A. §4873)

ARTICLE 6: To vote a fiscal 2025-26 budget of \$2,026,928 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 appropriate expenditures of \$850 to support the Central Vermont Council on Aging? (By Petition)

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**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 4, 2025**

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ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$4,500 to support Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$37,359 to support the Kellogg-Hubbard Library? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$6,000 to support the Montpelier Senior Activity Center? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$2,500 to support the North Branch Nature Center? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$7,500 to support the Waterbury Area Senior Center Association's (WASCA) Meals on Wheels program which serves the residents of Middlesex? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$1,500 to Youth First Mentoring? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town of Middlesex will 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

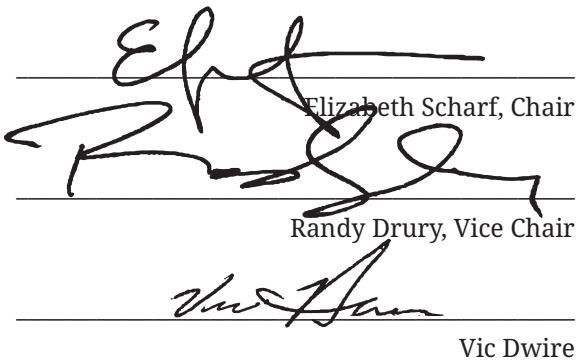
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## WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 5, 2024

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ARTICLE 15: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Approved as a warned agenda item at a regular meeting of the Middlesex Select Board on January 21, 2025, by the MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD:



Elizabeth Scharf, Chair  
Randy Drury, Vice Chair  
Vic Dwire



Peter O. Hood  
Zara Vincent

I attest that this Warning for the 2025 Town Meeting was approved by the above Select Board members and recorded in the Middlesex town records on January 22, 2025.



Sarah Merriman, Middlesex Town Clerk

**TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 5, 2024**

**Announcements:** Susan Clark introduces Select Board members Vic Dwire, Liz Scharf, Randy Drury, Town Clerk Sarah Merriman. Susan Clark reads reminders about Roberts Rules of Order. Kate Riley, Rumney School alumna, delivers the civil convocation. Susan Clark calls the meeting to order at approximately 4:33 PM.

**Public Announcements:**

Historical Society: Sarah Seidman mentions that the Historical Society is not town supported; and *Middlesex in the Making* books are available. Next meeting of the Historical Society is March 22, Worcester Town Hall. Welcomes anyone to attend the meeting.

Middlesex Bandstand Committee: Emily Boedecker thanks attendees of last season's concerts. Says that the committee would welcome another committee member, and thanks the community for their ongoing support of the bandstand. She also notes that \$1800 was donated to flood relief last season from concert proceeds.

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Jeff Koonz nominates Susan Clark. Greg Whitchurch seconds. The article passes.

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

Treasurer	1-year term	Cheryl Grandfield
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1-year term	Cheryl Grandfield
Select Board	3-year term	Peter O. Hood
Select Board	2-year term	Elizabeth Scharf
Select Board	2 years of a 3-year term	Zara Vincent
Budget Committee	3-year term	Elias Gardner
Budget Committee	3-year term	Mark Harris
Budget Committee	2 years of a 3-year term	Samantha Beaudoin
Budget Committee	2 years of a 3-year term	Zara Vincent
Budget Committee	1 year of a 3-year term	George Longenecker
Cemetery Commission	3-year term	Janet McKinstry
Lister	3-year term	Samantha Beaudoin
Planning Commission	3-year term	Sandra Levine
Planning Commission	3-year term	Mitch Osiecki

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

Jeff Koonz moves; Liz Scharf seconds. Liz Scharf acknowledges the work of Paula Otenti, who directed the town through serious flood-related crises; Honey Bean Barrett and her daughter Stella. Also thanks the road crew who stepped up after the flooding in a short amount of time to re-open roads; Eric Metivier (road foreman); and Town Clerk Sarah Merriman, Treasurer Dorinda Crowell, Assistant Clerk Cheryl Grandfield for all their work. She notes that work is still ongoing related to flood, e.g., FEMA paperwork. Also, thanks to outgoing Treasurer Dorinda Crowell for her exceptional service. Michael Levine notes that the usual 5-year road plan was not updated. Eric Metivier (road foreman)

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## TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 5, 2024

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responds and says we'll need to re-evaluate work that's needed to be done. Michael Levine says it would be helpful to have plans re culverts, etc. Eric Metivier says we have extensive work going on re culverts, ditches, resurfacing on just about all roads in town. Once finished, we'll re-evaluate to see what needs to get done next. Vic Dwire notes that the town has 13 projects that are coming out; contracts should be coming back by mid-March. We have 6 hydraulic studies out for culverts (e.g., Lower Sunnybrook, East Hill) and will be moving forward on those once we have bids back (from the state). Vic Dwire also says that Eric Metivier has been involved with FEMA and notes that maintenance will be ongoing over the summer; most roads are due to be re-graveled this summer via FEMA. The interest rate is also discussed. Nancy Reilly notes that there is an emergency shelter at Rumney, which is currently a custodians closet and thinks this wasn't used as it should be. School board member Chris McVeigh responds that Rumney School is still available for emergency use. Liz Scharf adds that a Red Cross shelter is under the guidance of the Red Cross and the emergency use is not just for Middlesex. Nancy Reilly also questions if there is inspection of dams. Liz Scharf notes that the Select Board would need to reach out to the state and can send an email to the Select Board to request this. The article passes by voice vote.

**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 as follows: 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, except if post marked by the US Postal Service on or before the aforementioned dates accordingly? (32 V.S.A. § 4773).

Jeff Koonz moves; Kimberly Hagen seconds. The article passes by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Town vote that overdue taxes will bear interest at a rate of 0.5% percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment? (32 V.S.A. §4873)

Laurie Scharf moves; Jeff Koonz seconds. Jeff Koonz notes that "overdue" was omitted from the article reading motion. The article passes by voice vote.

**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)

Motion: Greg Whitchurch; Liz Scharf seconds. Liz Scharf notes that, during the past 3 years, the Select Board has developed a capital improvement plan to set aside money.

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**TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 5, 2024**

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Dave Shepard asks if the construction budget for roads is just intended for fixing roads during mud season or fixing them so they won't be so bad during mud season. Vic Dwire says that the budget is for fixing the roads during mud season. Liz notes that we don't have the budget now to re-do roads. FEMA money may help with this. Julie Moore has a question about matches and reimbursement and mentions the Budget Adjustment Act. The State Treasurer has offered a low-interest loan to help with these costs. Liz notes that we did apply for this loan but is not sure if we've heard back from the state. This would go toward paying off our loan from Community Bank. Randy Drury notes there is a line item that covers interest payments; FEMA is expected to reimburse us for the costs, but interest on loans is not part of the repayment. Eric Metivier, Vic Dwire, and Steve Martin met with FEMA representatives recently, and FEMA says they want to repay the town quickly. Marissa Melamed has a question about the ambulance line item and whether that is a flat rate agreement or based on number of episodes that an ambulance is used? Jeff Koonz says we contract with the Montpelier Fire Department, and they give us their cost for being available. We can't shop around for that service. Marissa asks if the volume (use of ambulances) is higher, can it be more expense? Jeff responds, no, it is a set contract price. Budget Committee Chair Mark Harris notes that health care premiums are responsible for a large part of the budget increase. A capital improvement plan was approved; we put more money in this each year but didn't have funds put aside for dump trucks, heavy equipment that will be needed. Randy Drury adds that the \$50,000 in capital improvements in the budget is essentially the same as last year, but last year it was voted as a special article. Former road foreman Paul Cerminara asks whether we have any plans in the future to work on the worst spots on roads? Vic Dwire responds that no, we don't have money set aside. Prior to the July flooding, he said that they felt the crew had all they could handle to just do maintenance. If we could hire more help, maybe work with the Select Board to prioritize spots that could use reconstruction. Notes that materials alone have increased a lot in price. For example, Brook Road, Culver Hill were upgraded. They are open to suggestions from the townspeople. Liz Scharf notes that there's been a lot of upheaval in town over the past few years; they have needed to work on salaries so they could get/keep employees. There were plans to continue road upgrades, but ongoing staffing and costs are a problem. Hopefully the repairs that are being made with FEMA funds will make the roads better able to hold up to conditions. Charles Cook has a question about a capital improvement line item for \$200,000 and wonders if that is dedicated to specific equipment. Randy Drury responds that it is not dedicated to specific equipment but is an overall fund to help eliminate the peaks and valleys of spending. Randy notes that the article is to allow the Select Board to borrow up to that amount. Mark Harris notes that the asset equipment fund is designed to be a long-term fund. The intent of capital funds is to grow them, so that we're able to cover future expenses. Liz Scharf notes that, regarding the capital equipment plan, in the past, interest rates were low and it was easier to borrow for our equipment; now, interest rates are higher. The plan now is to use the fund to bring down debt. Article passes with a voice vote.

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## TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 7, 2024

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**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))  
(Voted by Australian ballot: YES = 412 votes/ NO = 78. The articles passes.

Susan Clark asks for any comments/questions. Liz Scharf notes that we're asking about this because it's a loan outside of the budget.

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town allocate up to \$65,000 to pay for the design phase of a potential Middlesex Town Hall renovation?

Motion: Chris McVeigh: Scudder Parker seconds. Liz Scharf notes that, because of the condition of the town hall, they have looked into whether it should be renovated or rebuilt; worked with VT Integrated Architecture (VIA) to put together a potential renovation of the town hall. This was the first phase; they determined there were many deficiencies: records vault overcrowded, plumbing issues, not ADA accessible (slides available on the What's Next Middlesex website), elevator problems, not weatherized, heating system cannot be serviced w/replacement parts, electrical systems outdated, high radon levels, etc. The proposed design plan doesn't change the footprint of the town hall but reconfigures it. This design phase amount would provide a detailed picture to voters of what would actually happen in terms of the renovation. Notes there is a sense of urgency related to a potential grant opportunity, which will probably open by fall 2024. If the \$65,000 passes, then we'll know the final cost which can be presented to voters in November 2025 as a bond vote. There is also other funding available, such as historic preservation grants, ADA grants (for elevator), and possible soliciting private donations from residents. Randy Harwood says he would encourage residents to approve this. Is this amount on top of the current budget? Liz notes that this is additive to the budget, not currently part of the current budget. Molly Wallner questions the need for the vault for records. Liz notes that we still need the vault; not all records are digitized. Sarah Merriman says that records from 2001 have been digitized; paper backup is still legally required. Molly: If we approve the \$65,000, and renovation is \$2,000,000, is that a maximum amount? Liz notes that the \$2,000,000 is as of today, but it may be more. Dave Magida notes that, during the design phase, the budget will be tested, and may go up or down. Notes that if we make renovations piecemeal it will be a lot more expensive. Liz: We want to create a wonderful community space, modern and efficient. Chris McVeigh encourages residents to also make the school a welcoming place. If we pass this amount, how soon can the project be done? Liz: There is not an exact time frame, but if it passes, she'll call VIA tomorrow and schedule; after design is completed, this will be followed by meetings to discuss the design. If the bond is passed in November, then probably looking at 2025 to start renovations. Chris McVeigh: Why does the boiler system in the firehouse need to be replaced? Jeff Koonz responds that it's nearing the end of its 10-year lifespan. Charles Cook: What would the cost be of building a new town hall? Dave Magida responds that a new building would be approx. \$500,000 more than renovation, not including purchase of land. Enrique Bueno notes that it's vital to have a roadmap and this item will allow us to have that

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## TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 7, 2024

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roadmap to do the work in the proper way. This is vital for people working at the town hall. Deb Wolfe motions to end the discussion: Chris McVeigh seconds. Debate ends. The article passes by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town voters appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to the Middlesex Conservation Fund? (By Select Board)

Motion: Mary Skinner; Julie Moore seconds. The article passes by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town voters appropriate expenditures of \$850 to support the Central Vermont Council on Aging? (By Petition)

Motion: Sarah Seidman; Dave Lawrence seconds. Wendy Freundlich voices her support of the organization. The article passes by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 11:** Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$4,500 to support Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice? (By Petition)

Motion: Kim Bolduc; Maribeth Domanski seconds. The article passes by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12:** Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$35,580 to support the Kellogg-Hubbard Library? (By Petition)

Motion: Sarah Seidman; Maribeth Domanski seconds. Sarah Seidman notes that the library has suffered more than \$1.5 million damage due to last year's flood. The library offers many programs other than books and is a great resource for the community. Urges support of library. The article passes by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$4,000 to support the Montpelier Senior Activity Center? (By Petition)

Motion: Mitch Osiecki; Eric Benedict seconds. The article passes by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$2,500 to support the North Branch Nature Center? (By Petition)

Motion: Jan Thouron; Susan Sussman seconds. The article passes by a voice vote.

**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)

Motion: Eric Benedict; Joe Loga seconds. Wendy Freundlich notes that the cost comes out to \$12 per taxpayer. The article passes by a voice vote.

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

Motion: David Wolfe; Jan Thouron seconds. Jeff Koonz asks how many residents have been served by this? And it seems like most costs are administrative. Deb Wolfe (Advisory Board Member of Youth First Mentoring) responds that they have 18 mentor pairs, though not all from Middlesex. \$1500 goes toward operating costs. The organization needs to pay their director to run the program. Maribeth Domanski says she has been a mentor for 10 years. She notes that, during Covid, they did lose

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## TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 7, 2024

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some youth in the program but are now doing trainings with kids. Wendy Freundlich says she ran into a parent of a child who was in the program and found out that the mentor still gets together with that child. Notes that this is a great program to support kids. Chaya Lichtig notes that a mentor currently helps out at Rumney. The article passes by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town of Middlesex will 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

Motion: Kyle Landis-Marinello; Lauri Scharf seconds. The article passes by a voice vote.

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

Motion: Liz Scharf; Jeff Koonz seconds. Sarah Merriman notes that there hasn't been a constable since she's been town clerk. This position needs to be a trained police officer or work under the guidance of a police officer. To be legal, we need to eliminate this position. Lauri Scharf asks what would the constable do if we had one? Sarah says that, with the example of the recent situation of dog bites in town, a sheriff would take 2 days to process; that is, a constable would be useful in animal-control situations. Liz Scharf adds an acknowledgment to Erika Holm, animal control officer, who's retiring. Tony Turner: Is there a penalty to leave the constable position open? Sarah Merriman says she's not sure. Randy Drury asks if this is passed, how would we re-establish the position if we wanted to---town vote? Sarah says she's not sure. Todd Daloz reads from the applicable statute and says voters can restore the constable position at a future town meeting. Anthony Pollina says he's sure what constables do but says we won't be missing much without a constable. The article passes by a voice vote.

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## TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 7, 2024

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**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)?

Motion: Vic Dwire; Jeff Koonz seconds. Vic notes that we'll save approx. \$1000 with this change. Liz Scharf thinks closer to \$2000 for printing and mailing. Sarah Merriman notes that the town report and mailing are expensive. She also notes that it's available online, or residents can pick it up in the town clerk's office. Thinks it would save \$1000+ per year. Sarah Seidman says that she thinks it is important for the town that the report continues to be mailed and widely available. Chris McVeigh also thinks mailing the report is important. Nancy Reilly wonders if people could "opt out" if they don't want it mailed to them?

Voice vote. The article does NOT pass.

**ARTICLE 20:** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Wendy Freundlich mentions community goings-on, such as trivia night at Filling Station; open mic night at The Local. She also says that if it's possible to use Rumney, it would be fun to do a Middlesex talent night. Other audience members echo Liz Scharf's sentiments to thank the Select Board, everyone working for the town, and everyone who put the slide show together.

Meeting is adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.

Submitted by Linda Belt-Burnier. Approved and signed by the following:

Elizabeth Scharf, Acting Chair Middlesex Select Board

Susan Clark, Moderator of the 2024 Middlesex Town Meeting

## TOWN MEETING BALLOT: MARCH 7, 2024

TEST 2025-01-27 15:46:36

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**TOWN OF MIDDLESEX, VERMONT**  
**MARCH 4, 2025**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. **DO NOT USE PENCIL**.
- 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 the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- 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**.

TOWN CLERK 1 YEAR OF A 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	SELECTBOARD 2 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	LISTER 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE
CHERYL GRANDFIELD <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	VIC DWIRE <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	SHELLY DESJARDIN <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
TREASURER 1 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	SELECTBOARD 2 YEARS OF A 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	PLANNING COMMISSION 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than TWO
CHERYL GRANDFIELD <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	STACEY SKADBERG <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	DAVID MAGIDA <input type="radio"/> PAULA OTENTI <input type="radio"/>
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES 1 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	BUDGET COMMITTEE 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
CHERYL GRANDFIELD <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	CEMETERY COMMISSION 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	PLANNING COMMISSION 1 YEAR OF A 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE
SELECTBOARD 3 - YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	TOM JACKMAN <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
STEPHEN DENNIS <input type="radio"/> LAWRENCE ROONEY <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		

## SELECT BOARD REPORT

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Thanks to a changing climate and aging Town assets, the Middlesex Select Board has had to tackle increasingly complex challenges from which 2024 offered no respite.

The year began with a significant move to divorce the Town from the Welch Park Association, an office park off US Route 2 which is home to the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department, when the Board approved making Welch Park Drive a Class 3 Town road. It took a year, but at the end of 2024, the Board approved a deed transferring the road from the Association to the Town and various documents of dissolution.

That goal was relatively easy compared to the budgeting for the daunting costs of road repairs from the July 2023 flood. There were no clear answers as to when FEMA would reimburse the Town for emergency and permanent work or if the State would chip in on paying the interest. Fortunately, the Board met all the requirements for a reduced share of a federal match by completing an update of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan before a crucial deadline. Still, there was a \$1.5 million line of credit to pay for and the prospect of expensive permanent road work scheduled for the summer.

The Board finalized an FY25 budget of \$1,845,508 which the voters passed without changes at the March 4, 2024, Town Meeting despite its 11.36% increase over the previous year's budget.

At the prompting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission and with administration by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, the Board approved the Town's participation in an Emergency Watershed Project, a federal program designed to shore up vulnerable waterfront properties. Due to uncustomary 100% funding from the federal and state governments, ten property owners were able to participate in this program at minimal cost to them and zero cost to the Town.

In response to complaints about muddy roads, a Town Roads Subcommittee (originally Mud Roads Committee) was formed by concerned citizens. New Select Board member Zara Vincent took on the task of chairing the popular committee which included a former and the current road foreman, a retired State rivers expert and other Middlesex residents who inventoried Town roads and tried to formulate solutions to the persistent problem of mud.

With plans to fix the roads once and for all, the Board turned its attention to making the emergency road repairs permanent per FEMA's wishes. FEMA coordinator Steve Martin and others solicited proposals and chose Dirt Tech to do the work for \$1,912,440. Dirt Tech was in the midst of work when another flood devastated the Town on July 10<sup>th</sup>, almost one year to the day of the 2023 flood.

This flood was different, though. Instead of raising the Winooski and swamping houses on Three Mile Bridge Road, the storm parked itself over the Worcester Range sending torrents of water down hillsides into low-lying areas. Brook Road was particularly hard hit, as was Lower Sunny Brook which was still reeling from the 2023 flood. Three private bridges were destroyed and the bridge to McCullough Hill Road was threatened. Expensive permanent repairs were nearly wiped out.

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## SELECT BOARD REPORT (cont'd)

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Fortunately, Dirt Tech's equipment was already in place and, with FEMA's permission, began the unanticipated task of putting the Town's roads back together again. Of course, this meant more borrowing and worrying since FEMA hadn't reimbursed the Town fully for the 2023 emergency work. Zara took over from Steve as Town FEMA Coordinator after volunteering her time for months on the projects. She and Road Foreman/Commissioner Eric Metivier began meeting with FEMA weekly and, often, twice weekly to get the projects submitted.

The day before the storm, the Board set a 2024 Town tax rate of \$0.6972 per \$100 of property valuation plus a local agreement tax of \$0.0026 for a total homestead tax rate of \$2.7266 and non-homestead rate of \$2.6393 per \$100 of valuation. That was actually only a 7-cent increase despite an increase in the budget of 14% due to special articles approved at Town Meeting.

With so many concerns and rumors about roads and floods swirling about, Select Board Chair Liz Scharf proposed a community meeting at Rumney School in August with a panel of river and road experts. The meeting was packed and informative, if sobering. Vermont DEC River Scientist Staci Pomeroy explained that Middlesex was once the shore of a great glacial lake extending to what is now Lake Champlain. This is why the bottom of the Great Brook is sandy blue "glacial till" and why the July 2024 storm dropped the brook by four feet. These massive storms were creating a valley in real time and the Town would need a creative approach to saving vulnerable homes threatened by landslides and floods.

Meanwhile, the Board continued its exploration of renovating Town Hall, an historic structure with inadequate meeting space, poor plumbing, an inefficient heating system and unhealthy levels of radon in the vault. After working with Vermont Integrated Architecture, the Board decided to ask the voters for approval of a \$2.5 million bond to pay for the renovation with the hope that grants might offset the total cost of \$3.25 million. Voters rejected that request 610 to 534.

In response to the persistent question of whether the Town or property owners are responsible for installing and/or maintaining culverts in the Town's rights of way, the Board passed a policy upon the recommendation of the Town Roads Subcommittee. In brief, the policy states: *Repair, maintenance or replacement of right of way culverts will be treated the same as other road work. Following initial installation, except for temporary, emergency work, repair, maintenance or replacement of a right-of-way culvert shall be done in accordance with Town standards and may be undertaken by the Town at the Town's discretion and at town expense to help preserve the Town's roadways.* Perhaps this will help clarify matters when the next flood inevitably hits Middlesex.

Financially, the Town inched toward dire straits as FEMA still hadn't come through with promised reimbursements. The Board approved a \$3.5 million loan from Community Bank and then a \$1 million loan from the Vermont Bond Bank at 0.5% interest. Fingers crossed that another flood doesn't hit this summer.

One final note: The Board is losing two valuable members in March. **Vice Chair Randy Drury** came to the Board from the Budget Committee, sharpened pencil at the ready in 2022. Randy has been a diligent member attending almost every

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## SELECT BOARD REPORT (cont'd)

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meeting and reading the fine print on every document. He's been a vocal advocate for fiscal responsibility while promoting extensive capital planning. His attention to detail, forthrightness and humor will be missed.

**Peter O. Hood**, the longest serving member of the Middlesex Select Board in recent history, announced that he was stepping down from his position effective March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board cannot fully express its gratitude for Peter's guidance and experience, his positive outlook and intelligence. Thank you, Peter, for all you've done for Middlesex. Please check out the dedication for more!

Signed, **THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**

Liz Scharf, Chair

Randy Drury, Vice Chair

Vic Dwire

Peter O. Hood

### **Zara Vincent Select Board Analysis of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Town Budget**

The FY 2026 budget requests an increase of 9.83%. This represents a \$181,420 increase over the FY 2025 budget. The increase is largely due to the following items:

- A \$33,861 increase to cover Lister Wages (3 people) for the next fiscal year. This increase is a combination of corrections to accurately reflect Lister annual hours worked, and the increased workload required to assist in the upcoming mandated town-wide reappraisal effort.
- A \$40,635 increase in Ambulance Services, provided by the city of Montpelier. This represents a 54% increase over the prior 2-year contract.
- A \$20,000 increase in Road Gravel to maintain town roads, several of which were repaired during the July 2023 & 2024 flooding.
- A \$50,000 allocation for Grant Matches, primarily for a grant being submitted to address the Portal Road 'slide off' issue.
- Approximately \$32,000 in Health Care premium increases for town employees, due to the 23% increase from BCBSVT.

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

**General Government** decreased by 6.15%.

**Administration** increased by 17.51%, largely due to Lister wages, and Town Hall employee wages and benefits, and a \$10,000 allocation for a new Town website, required by the State by April 2026.

The **Town Hall** decreased by 16.24%, or \$2,400.

**Public Safety** increased by 47%, due to the large increase in Ambulance Services.

The **Fire Department** experienced a 5.92% increase due to Radio Dispatch cost increases, employee benefits, and a higher allocation for Stipends.

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## SELECT BOARD REPORT (cont'd)

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**Public Works** increased overall by 13.16%, driven by increases for Road Gravel, Roadside Mowing, Equipment Repair, the purchase of Road Inventory software, Employee wages and benefits, the Grant Match for roads, and the new loan for the excavator purchased in 2024.

**Cemetery** decreased by 13%, or \$1,000. **Recreation and Zoning/DRB** decreased by 8.55% and 4.21% respectively.

The **Planning Commission** budget remained flat.

The **Capital Improvement** budget was reduced by 19.84%, driven by a return to the 2023 contribution level for the Town Building Fund, which netted \$20,000 in savings, and a \$5,000 reduction in the Tennis Court Rehab Fund.

This budget includes \$60,000 for flood loan repayments for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, until the town is fully reimbursed by FEMA. Also included is a 4% increase for full-time Town employees. In these challenging financial times, it was felt that this increase was warranted.

The Select Board and the Budget Committee have made best efforts to limit the budget increase while providing funding for necessary town services.

## ROAD FOREMAN HIGHWAY REPORT

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As I sit here putting my thoughts together in preparation for writing this year's highway report, I thought, "should I just cut and paste last year's report"? With a record number of mud seasons throughout the winter, the newly-founded Road Committee, which I believe is extremely beneficial, is helping identify problem areas and communicating needed information to the town's residents. This communication aspect shined when July 10th happened again, and everybody was feeling like they were in the movie *Groundhog Day*. The fortunate part was Dirt Tech was already working in town so they, along with the town road crew, were able to start working on getting roads back open.

Extensive work was done on Brook Rd shoring up the brook side of the road. Old Brook Rd, Notch Rd, Lower Sunny Brook Rd, Wood Rd, Macy Rd, Bolduc Rd, Portal Rd, Center Rd, Norton Rd, Nellie Chase Rd, Dolan Rd, French Rd, Danels Farm Rd, and all three Bear Swamps suffered damage during this year's flood. While we are still working to get reimbursed from FEMA for the flood of 2023, we now have 2024 to deal with. Thanks to the hard work from Steve Martin and now Zara Vincent, the 2023 flood paperwork is all wrapped up and submitted to FEMA and Zara and I are working on the 2024 flood paperwork.

I would like to thank Charles Pelchar for his years of service as he decided to leave the town and pursue another employment option. His replacement Ben Abare has fit in well with the team.

We took delivery of a new excavator and we worked it hard all summer and fall. The winter so far has been going fairly smooth with only one truck being down for repairs but nothing like years past.

We are moving forward in this coming year and beyond, with the help of the Road Committee and changing our thought process as we tackle problems and insuring resilience. Resilience is our new theme and everything we are doing needs to be centered around resilience and sustainability.

Sincerely,

The Road Foreman/Road Commissioner-Eric Metivier

The Road Crew-Jay Files, Ben Abare, Richard Dudley

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## FIVE-YEAR ROAD CONSTRUCTION PLAN

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### **Summer-2025**

Contract work will be finished up by Dirt Tech- Notch Rd, South Bear, and Center Rd. Work going out to bid for this summer- Box Culverts insulation on Lower Sunny Brook, squash culvert on Norton Rd. As of 1/6/2025 waiting to hear back on the State to see what is needed on the top side of Wood Rd near the town turn around, French Rd (next to 27), Bolduc Rd at the intersection of Portal Rd, Daniels Farm Rd bridge. The town will be grading, road side mowing, service work on Norton Rd. Macey Rd replacing a couple culverts and adding gravel.

### **Summer-2026**

May-June: Service on West Hill Rd

July-August: Service on East Bear Swamp Rd, North Bear Swamp Rd, road side mowing.

September- October: Service work on Davy Rd, Lower Barnett Hill.

### **Summer-2027**

May-June: Service on Old Brook Rd, Upper Barnett Hill.

July-August: Service work on Three Mile Bridge Rd, Cross Rd, road side mowing.

September-October: Service work on Molly Supple, French Rd.

### **Summer-2028**

May-June: Service work on Center Road, and Leland Farm Road.

July-August: Service on East Hill Rd, road side mowing.

September-October: Service work on Shady Rill Road, and McCullough Hill Road

### **Summer-2029**

May-June: Service work on Portal Rd, and Bolduc Rd.

July-August: Service work on Culver Hill Road, Government Hill Road, road side mowing.

**September-October:** Service work on South Bear Swamp, Wood Rd.

**Service work:** Shoulder cutting, ditching, and culvert replacement if needed

**Full service work:** Resurfacing gravel, brush cutting, ditching, and culvert replacement if needed.

**Mud season mitigation:** excavation, drainage, fabric

### Capital Plan for Equipment Replacement

<b>Equipment Name</b>	<b>Replacement Schedule</b>	<b>Replacement Year</b>
1983 Tanker/Chloride Trk	As Needed	No Date
1989 Morbark Chipper	As Needed	No Date
2007 Caterpillar 420E Backhoe	21 years	2028/2029
2024 Case 145D Excavator	16 years	2039/2040
2018 International Dump Truck	7 years	2025/2026 (Due)
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
2014 Komatsu WA270-7	12 Years	2025/2026 (Due)

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## TOWN ROADS SUBCOMMITTEE

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In April of this year the Select Board appointed a Road Subcommittee, and 18 magical unicorns trotted out of the woods to volunteer and got to work sharing their mighty skills to make some great improvements.

The Road Committee goals include but are not limited to:

**1) Supporting our Town Road Crew and its efforts to make our roadways safe and secure.**

We had a big win in November! when we convinced the Select Board to change the current driveway policy which will allow our crew to remove debris from right of way driveways and potentially upsize as needed.

**2) Identifying and asking for funding to repair and upgrade our road infrastructure.**

We made a list to build back areas from the ground up to mitigate the ongoing mud seasons. We applied for over 4 million dollars' worth of grants, but once the 2024 floods came, those dollars were rapidly diminished.

**3) Increasing Communication, Outreach and Information sharing within the community.**

The Road Committee has made a commitment to keep you updated with the work we are doing, and find ways to ask you what your concerns are. We were happy to be able to keep you informed on road conditions as we rebuilt again this summer. We know it helped, and we know you appreciated it and were very happy to be here to do it.

**4) Road mapping the larger ongoing projects needed over the next 5+ years that require design, funding and implementation.**

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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Hello everyone! This is my first Town Report as your newly elected Treasurer.

For the year ending June 30, 2024, the total budget passed was \$1,657,286.00. Special Articles added another \$60,690.00, bringing the total budget to \$1,767,976.00. From the budgeted dollars, the town placed \$106,000.00 into the Capital Improvement Planning Money Market Accounts (i.e., Bridge, Asset, Town Hall Building funds). You can find these details in the CIP Funding section of the Comparative Budget Report.

Fiscal Year 2024 was a challenging year, marked by the flooding on July 10, 2023. This disaster, occurring just 10 days into the budget year, placed a significant financial burden on the Town. We were hit by the second disaster on the one-year anniversary of the 2023 flood. The financial and property loss to taxpayers and the damage to our infrastructure were immense from both floods. As a small community, we pulled together to support one another through this disaster. At the fiscal year-end, flood-related costs amounted to \$3,012,465.06, with only \$194,249.15 being reimbursed by FEMA, thereby leaving the town in a deficit. Our unrestricted fund balance was and remains in a deficit position due to the flooding. Once we receive grant funds from FEMA, this impact on the unrestricted fund balance will be reversed.

We were assigned multiple FEMA representatives, each seeking different or differently formatted information. These issues combined with an inundation of misinformation resulted in the lack of FEMA reimbursement. This forced the Town to borrow funds to pay our bills to continue to operate. We utilized the entire \$3 million line of credit (LOC), eventually extending this line to February 2025, also increasing the interest rate from 3.99% to 5.48%. When available, we applied for and received \$938,000.00 from the Vermont Bond Bank at an interest rate of 1.3%, using those funds to pay down the LOC, hopefully saving some interest for the Town. We have been informed that the State would help with some portion of the interest, but those details are ever changing. As of this report, we are hopeful that FEMA will reimburse us at 90%, with the State covering 7.8% and the town 2.2%. However, they can disallow any portion of the money we have paid out for either flood.

Additional expenses will be incurred starting in the Spring of 2025 to complete the remaining road repairs, which will also be partially funded by FEMA and the State. Ultimately, the Town will have uncovered expenses that we will be obliged to cover for this flood as well, increasing the Town's debt service.

With the above being said, our expenses exceeded our FY2024 budget by \$2,767,295.47. Out of that amount, \$2,818,215.91 was flood-related costs as of June 30, 2024. We had \$23,098.67 in Property Tax Abatements, with the majority due to a court-ordered refund to a property owner and \$4,972.64 being flood-related. Without the disaster, we would have been under budget by \$50,920.44, with the Town Fire Department purchasing a 37-year-old rescue vehicle without incurring a note payable debt.

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

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$2,026,928.00 (before Special Articles) for voter consideration. The proposed budget represents a 9.83 % increase over 2023-2024. Additionally, "Special Articles" requests totaling \$65,451.00 are being presented to the voters for consideration. It has been suggested by many of our taxpayers to reduce the amount for the Special Articles by 10% (\$ 6,455.10). Voters may want to choose not to fund (all of them or non-essential ones) at all this year or until the Town is no longer borrowing or running in a deficit. We could always revisit them in another year. These items are certainly a heated subject at the annual Town Meeting.

Please refer to the Selectboard & Budget Committee reports for an overview of the entire proposed 2025/2026 budget. Again, you can find these details in the Comparative Budget Report in this book.

The accounting firm, Batchelder and Associates, completed a full review of the financial records for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024. 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.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge two of the most valuable people in this Town. I have learned so much about how a town operates and its history. They both genuinely love and care about this Town. They are both a wealth of knowledge that I have had pleasure to work with weekly. They have both been my biggest cheerleaders. The former Treasurer, Dorinda Crowell has been such a tremendous help and very supportive during the transition of Treasurer. She has generously shared her insight and knowledge with me. She has donated her time at a moment's notice. She has been available to assist the office in any way she can, even taking tax payments and opening mail. I deeply appreciate everything she does and will continue to do for me and the Town. Last but certainly not least, Sarah Merriman, our retiring Town Clerk. Sarah has taught me the duties of Assistant Town Clerk. She offers each one of us newbies (Listers & Select Board) such wonderful insight on the days of working for the Town of Middlesex. She is a wealth of knowledge. I have watched the fire and compassion that she carries in her heart for the Town and the local folk that she cherishes. I hate to see her go but I love that she is going to be doing what she loves- writing her books and enjoying the time with her family. However, I know she will always be a text\call away and right down the road. Congratulations Sarah!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Grandfield  
Treasurer

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## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

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This is my final Town Report after 12 years in office and I want to devote most of this space to thanking our fabulous community for its support and patience during often trying times. Middlesex may not be precious or quaint, but we have something better - grit.

It has been my pleasure to get to know so many of you, from residents whose families settled generations ago, to newcomers who bring their own fresh energy. Thank you for instilling in me your trust. Thanks for paying my wages.

Most of all, thank you for the stories, starting with the most troublesome members of our community – renegade animals. There was Lucky the pig who hopped off a truck destined for slaughter only to cause havoc on I-89 during the first snowfall of the year. The Vermont State Police called looking for town assistance since they didn't feel they could shoot him because, according to the dispatcher (and I am not making this up), "We can't have pigs shooting pigs." Lucky ran free for months until he was discovered nearly a year later in the woods trailing a hunter and his daughter. I dare not presume what happened to his fate.

We also had a runaway goat who dug up gardens and plantings in a melee of destruction. He was at last lured home with a rag soaked in nanny-goat urine. (I put that in a book.) Perhaps the worst offender was my own dog, Fred, a feckless basset who sauntered into a Rumney School spring concert, stole little-league baseballs and served as free traffic calming while taking siestas smack on the double-yellow line in the middle of Shady Rill. Our former ACO Erika Holm was not amused. (The truly bad dogs do not get a pass. Last fall's vicious attack on French Road haunts me still.)

I will sorely miss our charming residents who've passed off this mortal coil. Tim Kasten, patient, kind and wise, was not only a beloved Montpelier teacher, but a spiritual man with a wry sense of humor. When he showed me a button given to him by Buddhists confirming that he'd be spared – I think – 80,000 reincarnations, I asked him what would happen when he got to 80,001. Scratching his head, he joked, "Gee, I never thought of that."

Scott Skinner, attorney, adventurer and all-around great guy, claimed his love of Lee Child's books had taught him to always be prepared for an attack from behind, a skill he employed when visiting New York City. (Wish I could have been there to see him in action.) Faye Sweet did a little jig as she sang, "Sweet by name; sweet by nature!" And, of course, there was Betty C. Crowell and her once-upon-a-time nemesis Shirley Laplant. Their enmity forgotten in the fog of dotage, they allegedly became best buddies. While confined to a local nursing home, Shirley's husband, Jimmy, also a fellow resident of said institution, cooked up a scheme to spring the gals from the joint by sneaking out to the car and pulling up to the door. (I think he actually tried it.)

Then there are the saints who walk among us, starting with the Bolduc family whose quiet acts of generosity and selflessness make this town a very special place. Just the other day I learned that Jamie Bolduc not only bought the road crew lunch, but

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## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

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joined them for the meal. A small thing that makes such a big difference. Rupert Thouron got on his tractor after both recent floods and repaired his neighbors' driveways, gratis. During the 2024 flood, a neighbor carried another neighbor on his back up through the woods to the park-and-ride because she was having a medical event and couldn't get to the hospital due to a broken road. The folks on Wood Road came together during the floods, employing ATVs to get medicine and water to their most vulnerable neighbors. That crew even threw a block party with food that would have spoiled in their fridges during the long, flood-related power outages.

See what I mean? *Grit*.

Even this crotchety Town Clerk has been blessed by cards, baked goods and little trinkets of support during certain crises, municipal and personal. Col. Donald Jones, cruising toward 100, introduced me to birdwatching by bringing me fantastic books about hummingbirds and bird habits. (And to think our relationship started with his complaint that the plows were knocking down his mailbox.)

Eternal gratitude to my colleagues who do or have poured their energy into improving this town: Dorinda Crowell, former Treasurer, brought integrity and financial prudence while serving as the most reliable JP and assistant elections official ever, working long hours to ensure every vote was accurately counted and recorded. Former Assistant Clerk Maryke Gillis not only trained me to be a Town Clerk, but also kept every record organized and indexed. (She was also a genius at planning hikes.)

Liz Scharf has done a masterful job as Select Board Chair, spending her precious free time soliciting grants for a Town Hall revitalization, a capital improvement plan and, lately, addressing the long-overlooked radon situation in the clerk's vault while dealing with gripes serious and petty. Sandy Levine has assembled a proactive Planning Commission with an eye toward making Middlesex livable and enjoyable. Kevin Thompson is a knowledgeable and fair Zoning Administrator who's far more interested in helping people fulfill their goals than impeding their dreams. We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers and part-time staff (I'm looking at you, Listers!) who give so much to this tiny town.

Finally, I could not have survived these past few years without the cheerful assistance of hardworking Cheryl Grandfield. Originally hired as a bookkeeper/assistant clerk, Cheryl has quickly risen to become Treasurer and Collector of Delinquent taxes, handling the toughest cases with her gentle Southern charm and understanding approach. Cheryl is more than a Treasurer, she's a *treasure*, and we are very lucky to have her financial smarts, experience and organization, especially when dealing with the bureaucratic hydra known as FEMA.

On that note, thank you Select Board member Zara Vincent and overworked Road Foreman/Commissioner Eric Metivier for meeting with FEMA twice a week and compiling all the information they need – again and again and again. I fear the outcome if we have another flood this year before FEMA pays us the money we are owed. I say we gather at the gazebo on July 9<sup>th</sup> and do a community "dry dance."

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## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

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Hey, it can't hurt.

When we weren't flooding in 2024, it seemed like we were voting. (This is the traditional Town Clerk part of this report, by the way.) On March 5, 2024, the first in-person Town Meeting was held since the COVID pandemic forced a ballot-only Town Meeting in 2021 and voters attended with renewed enthusiasm, despite a relatively lackluster turnout for the Presidential Primary. Out of 1,464 voters, only 502 cast ballots – 308 for a Democratic candidate and 193 for Republican. Though there's no info on how Middlesex cast its ballots, the WCUUSD budget of \$43,810,548 failed district wide. A revised budget of \$41,662,364 was later approved during a revote in May.

Middlesex voters were similarly unenthusiastic about the statewide elections during the August primary with only a 16% turnout. The November General Election was another story. Thanks, in part, to the State's decision to mail ballots to all active, not challenged voters, as well as a hot presidential race, participation was a whopping 83%. Voters were not in a spending mood, though, denying a request to seek a bond of \$2,500,000 to pay for Town Hall renovations by a vote of 610 to 534.

Finally, before I sign off, I'd like to stress that Town Clerks come and go and those who came before me (Cindy Carlson, June Lakin, Sandy McCullough, and Eugene Joslin – plus his sidekick, Telma Patterson) built a solid foundation on which Town Hall stands. (In Eugene's case, literally – he helped dig out the ground floor!) They have been forward thinking, diligent and honest. I owe them a heap of gratitude for preserving and digitizing records on a shoestring budget. Their diligence will live on forever. Thank you, predecessors.

Unfortunately, due to space restrictions and my own scatterbrain, there are people I've failed to mention here. I'm sure I'll smack my head when I remember what they've done for Middlesex. Please rest assured you are appreciated and remembered.

So, goodbye and good night. Stay well. Stay dry. Stay hopeful. Because of you, I count myself far luckier than that pig. (Though maybe not as tasty....)

Sarah Merriman  
(Outgoing) Town Clerk and Select Board Assistant

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**2024 DOG REPORT**

<u># Registered</u>		
<u>1/1/2024– 12/31/2024</u>	<u>Total Fees</u>	<u>Fees to State</u>
152	\$1,452	\$608

Dog licensing is important for so many reasons, firstly for assuring your dog; if lost and found, can quickly return home to you. Registration and current rabies vaccines on file helps us mitigate having to track down valuable information in the event of emergencies and in the event of animal and human bites.

This year has seen an uptick in missing/lost dogs, dogs running loose off property (at large), animals left unattended for extended periods, and multiple dog bites. The reality is we do not come take your dog away from you, but it is immensely helpful to your community members if your dog(s) are registered and vaccinated. Being able to have this registration list and either a registration or rabies tag number, with a description of a dog helps us pinpoint an owner within just a few minutes time. The best example is this: If a dog is hit by a car and it has no tags, no collar, no chip we wait and wonder who owns, cares, and misses this animal. If Fido has a registration tag, and a rabies tag we can look it up and call the owner!

Many dogs are not collared or microchipped, making it difficult to get your beloved pet home. There are many resources available to the public for all these services. Spay and neuter clinics, vaccine clinics, microchip clinics, and VSNIP <https://dcf.vermont.gov/vsnip> are resources to help the community if needed. Tractor Supply, CVHS, and other local shelters run regular clinics to help get your dog(s) and/or cat(s) vaccinated.

The annual number of dog registrations varies every year. We know that many dogs are left unregistered based on the volume that are returned and not on the current registration list. About 152 dogs were registered here in Middlesex this year. Not registering your dog is a violation of 20 V.S.A. § 3581. The law requires dogs be registered this year by April 1st, 2025. Newly adopted dogs should be registered within 30 days.

Registering your dog is a fast and easy process. It takes about 5-10 minutes! All you need is a veterinarian's signed current rabies certificate. Dogs typically have a one-year vaccine their first year and the next is a 3 year viable vaccine. Older dogs who have multiple vaccines over their lives may either get a titer check or a letter of exemption because of age. Fees collected help fund the State's Spay and Neuter and Rabies program.

- Christina Steinbrecher, Middlesex Animal Control Officer

## 2024 DOG REPORT

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### Fees:

Before April 1st: \$11 per fixed dog /\$15 per intact

After April 1st: \$13 per fixed /\$19 per intact

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 \$11/spayed or neutered dog OR \$15 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**

## VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

### **DOG LICENSING & THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”!**

Pursuant to: 20 V.S.A. §3581 of the Vermont Statutes Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet or Wolf-hybrid Control. Sub-chapter 002: Licenses: A dog must be licensed (registered) by six months of age at your town office to be legal. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year is required. Dogs not licensed can be seized and euthanized per state statute.

Registering identifies your dog. It's proof of protection against rabies in case an animal or person is bitten. Immediate medical attention is needed. Animals not vaccinated and registered could be quarantined or possibly seized and euthanized, enabling the brain to be tested. Rabies is deadly. PLEASE LICENSE NOW!

Vermont Statutes Title 20 - Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 193 - Domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid Control §3621. Issuance of warrant to impound; complaint.

**(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers, constables, pound keepers, or appointed animal control officers, directing them to promptly impound all dogs or wolf-hybrids within the town or city not licensed according to the provisions of this subchapter, except as exempted by section 3587 of this title, and to enter a complaint against the owners or keepers of the impounded dogs and wolf-hybrids.**

A puppy (or kitten) can have their first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. Community Animal Aid hosts a Wellness Clinic, including rabies vaccinations, for those unhoused or those receiving state benefits usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month: East Barre Fire Station. Check for updates: [AnimalAidVT@gmail.com](mailto:AnimalAidVT@gmail.com) or 802-734-0259. Tractor Supply Stores host a monthly rabies clinic, and some VT Humane Societies and veterinarians offer a rabies clinic in March.

### **THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”**

**VSNIP helps income eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them.** Veterinary offices are throughout the state and we invite other veterinarians to join this altruistic effort to help continue eliminating routine euthanasia of mostly, an over population of cats and kittens. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: [VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV](http://VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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## BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

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### **Town Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)**

The Select Board's proposed budget for FY 2026 is \$2,026,928, a 9.83% increase (\$181,420) over the FY 2025 budget of \$1,845,508.

Major drivers of the \$181,420 budget increase are:

- A \$33,861 increase to cover Lister Wages (3 people) for the next fiscal year. This increase is a combination of corrections to accurately reflect Lister annual hours worked, and the increased workload required to assist in the upcoming mandated town-wide reappraisal effort.
- A \$40,635 increase in Ambulance Services, provided by the city of Montpelier. This represents a 54% increase over the prior 2-year contract.
- A \$20,000 increase in Road Gravel to maintain town roads, several of which were repaired during the July 2023 & 2024 flooding.
- A \$50,000 allocation for Grant Matches, primarily for a grant being submitted to address the Portal Road 'slide off' issue.
- Approximately \$32,000 in Health Care premium increases for town employees, due to the 23% increase from BCBSVT.

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 the FY 2026 CIP budget to the Select Board, which was \$9,000 lower than the FY 2025 CIP budget.

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 the Select Board in early January, as part of the budget review process.

The Budget Committee appreciates the effort and collaboration by the Select Board during the budget review process, and recommends approval of this budget.

Respectfully submitted,

*Budget Committee / Mark Harris (Chair), Elias Gardner, Zara Vincent, and Samantha Beaudoin*

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## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>						
Wages: Selectboard	\$3,864.00	\$3,863.91	\$4,018.00	\$3,500.00	(\$518.00)	-12.89%
Wages: Selectboard Clerk	\$29,633.00	\$27,976.40	\$30,814.00	\$7,500.00	(\$23,314.00)	-75.66%
Wages: Fema Project Manager	\$-	\$36,645.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Wages: Fema Wages	\$-	\$6,999.76	\$-	\$9,085.00	\$9,085.00	0.00%
Wages: Payroll Tax (SS&MED&ACT76)	\$2,562.00	\$5,704.21	\$2,818.00	\$1,624.88	(\$1,193.12)	-42.34%
Wages: Retirement	\$2,000.00	\$2,180.47	\$2,157.00	\$543.75	\$1,613.25	-74.79%
Insurance: Health	\$8,183.00	\$5,757.54	\$6,273.00	\$7,554.19	\$1,281.19	20.42%
Insurance: Property & Casualty	\$8,538.00	\$9,350.50	\$8,538.00	\$4,259.20	(\$4,278.80)	-50.11%
Insurance: Directors & Officers	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$4,818.86	\$4,818.86	0.00%
Insurance: Workers Compensation	\$145.00	(\$595.86)	\$370.00	\$59.25	(\$310.75)	-83.99%
Insurance: Unemployment Comp	\$116.00	\$43.75	\$70.00	\$72.52	\$2.52	3.60%
Advertising/Printing	\$1,000.00	\$142.34	\$1,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$600.00	60.00%
Selectboard Courses	\$-	\$40.00	\$-	\$250.00	\$250.00	0.00%
Town Email & Meeting Expense	\$1,350.00	\$2,582.53	\$1,350.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,150.00	85.19%
Town Property Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$671.80	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$25.00	14.29%
Welch Park	\$1,000.00	\$1,378.51	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
General Government	\$-	\$1,756.35	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Discretionary Fund	\$4,000.00	\$179.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Legal Fees	\$7,500.00	\$4,301.06	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,500.00	50.00%
Town Report	\$4,000.00	\$2,867.26	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$-	0.00%
VLCT Dues	\$3,443.00	\$3,443.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,700.00	\$200.00	5.71%
County Tax	\$20,573.00	\$19,619.00	\$20,573.00	\$22,630.30	\$2,057.30	10.00%
CV Solid Waste	\$1,724.00	\$1,779.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,900.00	\$100.00	5.56%
CV Reg Planning Comm	\$2,366.07	\$2,366.07	\$2,366.00	\$2,455.02	\$89.02	3.76%
Conservation Commission	\$500.00	\$342.74	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%
Elections	\$2,500.00	\$1,753.13	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Misc Expense	\$250.00	\$16.75	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$50.00	20.00%
Grant Matches	\$2,000.00	\$1,559.70	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$500.00	20.00%
VBB 2023 Loan Principal	\$-	\$50,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$-	0.00%
VBB 2023 Loan Interest	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Tax Abatements	\$-	\$23,098.67	\$7,000.00	\$5,000.00	(\$2,000.00)	-28.57%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>\$108,247.07</b>	<b>\$215,822.59</b>	<b>\$171,072.00</b>	<b>\$160,552.97</b>	<b>(\$10,519.03)</b>	<b>-6.15%</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>						
Office: Wages (Clerk, Ass't Clerk, Treas, Bookkeep)	\$90,765.00	\$86,713.58	\$94,396.00	\$116,350.69	\$21,954.69	23.26%
Listers: Wages	\$28,357.00	\$23,167.58	\$18,750.00	\$52,610.88	\$33,860.88	180.59%
Delinquent Tax Collector: Wages	\$2,912.00	\$864.25	\$2,912.00	\$-	(\$2,912.00)	-100.00%
ADMIN: Payroll Tax (SS & MED & ACT76)	\$9,336.00	\$8,285.96	\$9,389.00	\$13,668.99	\$4,279.99	45.59%
ADMIN: Unemployment	\$116.00	\$160.21	\$175.00	\$168.19	\$6.81	-3.89%
ADMIN: Retirement	\$5,482.00	\$5,456.14	\$5,912.00	\$8,171.52	\$2,259.52	38.22%
ADMIN:Insurance: Life/LTD/AD&D	\$840.00	\$595.89	\$816.00	\$816.00	\$-	0.00%

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
ADMIN: Insurance: Health	\$28,804.00	\$26,975.16	\$29,276.00	\$34,348.44	\$5,072.44	17.33%
ADMIN: Insurance: Workers Comp	\$598.00	\$-	\$1,504.00	\$1,410.22	(\$93.78)	-6.24%
Office Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$2,672.48	\$3,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$400.00	11.11%
Equipment Repair	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Equipment Purchase	\$20,000.00	\$-	\$10,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$3,000.00	30.00%
Lister Computer Upgrade & software	\$-	\$-	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Telephone	\$5,000.00	\$5,224.27	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$500.00	10.00%
Postage	\$3,000.00	\$3,753.52	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$500.00	14.29%
Auditing	\$10,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$11,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$4,000.00	36.36%
Listing Mileage/Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,257.71	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Clerical Mileage	\$200.00	\$84.40	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$-	0.00%
Clerk's /Listers Courses & Training	\$750.00	\$435.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	50.00%
Lister NEMRC Assessor Contract	\$12,000.00	\$237.50	\$26,500.00	\$20,000.00	(\$6,500.00)	-24.53%
Lister/ParcelMapping	\$250.00	\$-	\$250.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,750.00	700.00%
Copier Lease	\$1,500.00	\$1,802.49	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	33.33%
Computer Maintenance	\$22,000.00	\$18,358.94	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	(\$20,000.00)	-50.00%
Website Development	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
Consultant Fees	\$-	\$-	\$10,500.00	\$-	(\$10,500.00)	-100.00%
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$245,910.00</b>	<b>\$197,545.08</b>	<b>\$280,180.00</b>	<b>\$329,244.93</b>	<b>\$49,064.93</b>	<b>17.51%</b>
<b>TOWN HALL</b>						
Electricity	\$3,500.00	\$2,846.35	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$-	0.00%
Heat	\$3,000.00	\$1,702.53	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Grounds	\$1,080.00	\$980.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,880.00	\$800.00	74.07%
Building Repairs	\$3,500.00	\$525.00	\$3,500.00	\$-	(\$3,500.00)	-100.00%
Street Lights	\$2,000.00	\$2,181.50	\$2,200.00	\$2,500.00	\$300.00	13.64%
Janitorial	\$1,500.00	\$1,403.94	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL TOWN HALL</b>	<b>\$14,580.00</b>	<b>\$9,639.32</b>	<b>\$14,780.00</b>	<b>\$12,380.00</b>	<b>(\$2,400.00)</b>	<b>-16.24%</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>						
Wages: Health Officer	\$828.00	\$147.42	\$886.00	\$885.83	(\$0.17)	-0.02%
Wages: Animal Control Officer	\$710.00	\$-	\$738.00	\$738.19	\$0.19	0.03%
P/S : Payroll Tax (SS & MED &ACT76)	\$119.00	\$24.53	\$131.00	\$131.38	\$0.38	0.29%
P/S: Workers Compensation	\$12.00	\$15.34	\$103.00	\$64.43	(\$38.57)	-37.45%
Public Safety: unemployment	\$24.00	\$3.48	\$-	\$7.96	\$7.96	0.00%
Insurance Property & Casualty	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$8.20	\$8.20	0.00%
Courses/Seminars	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
Ambulance	\$75,000.00	\$76,500.00	\$75,000.00	\$115,635.00	\$40,635.00	54.18%
Speed Enforcement	\$2,500.00	\$2,819.07	\$2,500.00	\$-	(\$2,500.00)	-100.00%
Dog Pound-Other Animal Control Expenses	\$300.00	\$-	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$-	0.00%
Emergency Management	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00	\$-	(\$500.00)	-100.00%
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>\$79,993.00</b>	<b>\$79,509.84</b>	<b>\$80,158.00</b>	<b>\$117,970.99</b>	<b>\$37,812.99</b>	<b>47.17%</b>

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>						
FD-Insurance: Property & Casualty	\$7,500.00	\$7,902.00	\$7,500.00	\$11,362.97	\$3,862.97	51.51%
FD-Insurance: Workers Compensation	\$1,300.00	(\$5,469.00)	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$-	0.00%
FD-Supplies	\$600.00	\$422.15	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$-	0.00%
FD-Equipment Repair	\$9,000.00	\$20,956.60	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$-	0.00%
FD-Equipment Purchase	\$4,200.00	\$2,868.87	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$-	0.00%
FD-Telephone	\$1,560.00	\$1,654.21	\$1,560.00	\$1,750.00	\$190.00	12.18%
FD-Fast Squad	\$1,000.00	\$1,046.86	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	(\$500.00)	-33.33%
FD-Electricity	\$2,415.00	\$1,973.68	\$2,415.00	\$2,415.00	\$-	0.00%
FD-Fuel - Heat	\$4,515.00	\$2,199.47	\$4,515.00	\$4,515.00	\$-	0.00%
FD-Building Maintenance	\$4,250.00	\$7,117.53	\$4,250.00	\$4,500.00	\$250.00	5.88%
FD-Radio Dispatch	\$28,394.00	\$33,037.92	\$33,696.00	\$36,026.44	\$2,330.44	6.92%
FD-VSFA/Dues/Accounting/Training	\$1,875.00	\$235.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,700.00	(\$175.00)	-9.33%
Courses & Seminars	\$300.00	\$480.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$200.00	66.67%
FD-Forest Fire Warden	\$250.00	\$-	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
FD-GAS & Diesel	\$1,500.00	\$219.33	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	(\$500.00)	-33.33%
FD-Stipends	\$18,000.00	\$20,307.30	\$18,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$4,000.00	22.22%
FD: Payroll Taxes	\$-	\$772.06	\$-	\$1,779.80	\$1,779.80	0.00%
FD-Communication/Radio	\$1,200.00	\$2,731.50	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$-	0.00%
FD: Subcontracted Services	\$-	\$240.00	\$-	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
FD: Towing	\$-	\$400.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
FD: Purchase Fire Truck	\$-	\$135,000.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
FD: Flood	\$-	\$777.93	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
E911 Signs	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>FD SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$87,859.00</b>	<b>\$234,873.41</b>	<b>\$93,661.00</b>	<b>\$105,399.21</b>	<b>\$11,738.21</b>	<b>12.53%</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT DEBT SERVICE</b>						
Fire Station Bond	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Fire Station Interest	\$12,356.00	\$10,742.91	\$10,548.00	\$8,699.70	(\$1,848.30)	-17.52%
VTECH Freightliner Tanker - PRIN	\$14,593.00	\$14,593.43	\$14,593.00	\$14,593.00	\$-	0.00%
VTECH Freightliner Tanker - INT	\$1,313.00	\$1,457.02	\$876.00	\$437.49	(\$438.51)	-50.06%
F/D DEBT SERVICE Sub Total	\$68,262.00	\$66,793.36	\$66,017.00	\$63,730.19	(\$2,286.81)	-3.46%
<b>TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>\$156,121.00</b>	<b>\$301,666.77</b>	<b>\$159,678.00</b>	<b>\$169,129.40</b>	<b>\$9,451.40</b>	<b>5.92%</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>						
<b>WINTER MAINTENANCE</b>						
Road Salt	\$15,840.00	\$11,747.20	\$19,800.00	\$19,800.00	\$-	0.00%
Winter Sand	\$25,500.00	\$37,093.70	\$25,500.00	\$30,000.00	\$4,500.00	17.65%
Trucking	\$20,000.00	\$22,223.75	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Tire Chains	\$10,000.00	\$16,445.00	\$10,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$2,000.00	19.05%
Salt Shed	\$-	\$585.55	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>WINTER MAINT. SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$71,340.00</b>	<b>\$88,095.20</b>	<b>\$80,800.00</b>	<b>\$87,300.00</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>	<b>8.04%</b>

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
<b>SUMMER MAINTENANCE</b>						
Seed	\$2,000.00	\$-	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Hot Mix/Cold Patch	\$1,000.00	\$1,548.36	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	50.00%
Stone Ditch Lining	\$-	\$560.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Hay, Mulch, Netting	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Road Gravel	\$30,000.00	\$32,077.00	\$40,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$20,000.00	50.00%
Roadside Mowing	\$7,000.00	\$-	\$7,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00	42.86%
Chloride	\$23,000.00	\$16,480.17	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Rental Equipment	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Tree Service	\$5,000.00	\$713.20	\$5,000.00	\$-	\$(5,000.00)	-100.00%
Green-Up	\$500.00	\$1,560.81	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	200.00%
Storm Water Discharge Fee	\$1,590.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,590.00	\$1,590.00	\$-	0.00%
Miscellaneous Summer Maintenance	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Unforseen Road Repairs	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Trucking	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>SUMMER MAINT. SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$73,090.00</b>	<b>\$54,289.54</b>	<b>\$83,090.00</b>	<b>\$102,590.00</b>	<b>\$19,500.00</b>	<b>23.47%</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE</b>						
Equipment Repairs & Vendors	\$38,000.00	\$42,621.50	\$38,000.00	\$43,000.00	\$5,000.00	13.16%
Equipment Parts & Supplies	\$20,000.00	\$19,353.59	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Plow & Sander Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$11,300.37	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Bulk Oil & DEF	\$5,200.00	\$4,657.81	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$-	0.00%
Used Oil Recycling	\$400.00	\$487.36	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	25.00%
Inspections	\$750.00	\$162.75	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$-	0.00%
Towing	\$2,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$500.00	20.00%
Tires	\$9,000.00	\$4,564.24	\$9,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00	11.11%
<b>EQUIPMENT MAINT. SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$83,850.00</b>	<b>\$86,647.62</b>	<b>\$83,850.00</b>	<b>\$90,450.00</b>	<b>\$6,600.00</b>	<b>7.87%</b>
<b>SPECIALIZED SERVICES</b>						
Sub Contractor	\$30,000.00	\$-	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$(10,000.00)	-33.33%
Road Inventory Software	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$6,600.00	\$6,600.00	0.00%
<b>SPECIALIZED SERVICES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$26,600.00</b>	<b>\$(3,400.00)</b>	<b>-11.33%</b>
<b>GARAGE MAINTENANCE</b>						
Shop Supplies (Towels, Rags, etc)	\$2,000.00	\$2,450.63	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	25.00%
Waste Disposal	\$2,000.00	\$2,519.36	\$2,000.00	\$2,700.00	\$700.00	35.00%
Air Gas Services	\$775.00	\$684.87	\$775.00	\$775.00	\$-	0.00%
Vermont State UST Fee	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Fuel Tank Maintenance	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%
Garage Door Maintenance	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%
Office Supplies & Misc	\$500.00	\$32.24	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%
Small Tool Purchases	\$1,500.00	\$1,541.48	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$-	0.00%
Building Maintenance	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>GARAGE MAINT. SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,775.00</b>	<b>\$7,228.58</b>	<b>\$7,775.00</b>	<b>\$8,975.00</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	<b>15.43%</b>

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
<b>UTILITIES</b>						
Electricity	\$4,000.00	\$2,513.31	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Heat	\$6,500.00	\$5,831.01	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$-	0.00%
Phone	\$1,000.00	\$1,341.52	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	50.00%
<b>UTILITIES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>	<b>\$9,685.84</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>4.35%</b>
<b>GAS &amp; DIESEL</b>						
GAS	\$6,000.00	\$3,217.93	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Diesel	\$60,000.00	\$56,455.77	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$-	0.00%
<b>GAS &amp; DIESEL SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,000.00</b>	<b>\$59,673.70</b>	<b>\$66,000.00</b>	<b>\$66,000.00</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>WAGES &amp; BENEFITS</b>						
Wages	\$266,554.00	\$251,245.65	\$277,226.00	\$288,000.96	\$10,774.96	3.89%
PW: Payroll Tax (SS & MED & ACT76)	\$20,391.00	\$19,467.88	\$22,428.00	\$23,299.28	\$871.28	3.88%
Unemployment Taxes	\$465.00	\$467.16	\$280.00	\$290.08	\$10.08	3.60%
Retirement	\$17,992.00	\$17,220.48	\$19,406.00	\$20,880.07	\$1,474.07	7.60%
Life & ADD& Long Term Disability	\$1,500.00	\$1,170.22	\$1,620.00	\$1,620.00	\$-	0.00%
Health Insurance	\$45,084.00	\$41,940.43	\$60,148.00	\$85,580.93	\$25,432.93	42.28%
Uniforms, Safety Equip, DOT	\$5,000.00	\$3,808.85	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Compliance						
Property & Casualty Insurance	\$13,300.00	\$11,733.50	\$13,300.00	\$11,800.00	\$(1,500.00)	-11.28%
Workers Comp Insurance	\$20,231.00	\$26,578.32	\$19,855.00	\$21,312.07	\$1,457.07	7.34%
Mileage Reimbursement	\$-	\$254.34	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%
Courses & Seminars	\$300.00	\$40.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$-	0.00%
FEMA: Wages	\$-	\$599.04	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
FEMA Mileage	\$-	\$318.13	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>WAGES &amp; BENEFITS SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$390,817.00</b>	<b>\$374,844.00</b>	<b>\$420,063.00</b>	<b>\$458,583.39</b>	<b>\$38,520.39</b>	<b>9.17%</b>
<b>HWY/MISC</b>						
Culverts	\$14,000.00	\$-	\$9,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$5,000.00	55.56%
Signs	\$4,000.00	\$1,183.32	\$4,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	75.00%
Guardrails	\$5,000.00	\$-	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Small Equipment Purchase	\$1,500.00	\$-	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$-	0.00%
Grants: Town Match	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	0.00%
<b>HWY/MISC SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,183.32</b>	<b>\$19,500.00</b>	<b>\$77,500.00</b>	<b>\$58,000.00</b>	<b>297.44%</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>						
Gravel	\$10,000.00	\$-	\$10,000.00	\$-	\$(10,000.00)	-100.00%
Ditch Stone	\$10,000.00	\$-	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Hydro Seeding	\$5,000.00	\$-	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Ledge Removal	\$6,000.00	\$-	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Erosion Matting	\$600.00	\$-	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$-	0.00%
Mud Season Mitigation	\$37,500.00	\$13,866.00	\$37,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$(17,500.00)	0.00%
<b>CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$69,100.00</b>	<b>\$13,866.00</b>	<b>\$69,100.00</b>	<b>\$41,600.00</b>	<b>\$(27,500.00)</b>	<b>-39.80%</b>

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
<b>FLOOD DISASTER-UNBUDGETED</b>						
Highway-Emergency Flood 2023	\$-	\$1,949,667.50	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-Shady Rill	\$-	\$47,579.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-Macey Road	\$-	\$161,658.60	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-Wood Road	\$-	\$230,294.32	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-Government Hill Road	\$-	\$35,280.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-Culver Hill Road	\$-	\$82,320.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-Boulduc Road	\$-	\$36,328.98	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-East Hill	\$-	\$124,704.90	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Dirt Tech-Portal	\$-	\$45,772.48	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
ASE-USB	\$-	\$1,787.60	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
	\$-	\$2,715,393.38	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
<b>PUBLIC WORKS SUB TOTAL</b>	\$827,972.00	\$3,410,907.18	\$871,678.00	\$971,598.39	\$99,920.39	11.46%
<b>PUBLIC WORKS DEBT SERVICE</b>						
2023 Kenworth Dump	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$-	100.00%
2023 Kenworth Dump - INT	\$5,580.00	\$5,153.87	\$3,889.00	\$2,768.00	\$(1,121.00)	100.00%
2021 John Deere Grader	\$18,700.00	\$18,700.00	\$18,700.00	\$18,700.00	\$-	100.00%
2022 John Deere Grader-INT	\$6,414.00	\$6,414.10	\$5,964.00	\$5,491.00	\$(473.00)	100.00%
2019 Freightliner Dump	\$21,409.00	\$21,408.57	\$21,409.00	\$21,409.00	\$-	0.00%
2019 Freightliner Dump-INT	\$2,087.00	\$2,060.65	\$1,393.00	\$695.00	\$(698.00)	-50.11%
2018 International Dump -Prin	\$20,355.00	\$20,354.80	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
2018 International Dump -INT	\$641.00	\$597.26	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
2024 Case Excavator-PRIN	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$18,200.00	\$18,200.00	0.00%
2024 Case Excavator-INT	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$10,865.00	\$10,865.00	0.00%
<b>P/W DEBT SERVICE-SUB TOTAL</b>	\$115,186.00	\$114,689.25	\$91,355.00	\$118,128.00	\$26,773.00	29.31%
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY</b>	\$943,158.00	\$3,525,596.43	\$963,033.00	\$1,089,726.39	\$126,693.39	13.16%
<b>CEMETERY</b>						
Contracted Services	\$6,900.00	\$4,205.00	\$7,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$(1,000.00)	-13.33%
Materials	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Cemetery-Flood 2023	\$-	\$460.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL CEMETERY</b>	\$6,900.00	\$4,665.00	\$7,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$(1,000.00)	-13.33%
<b>RECREATION</b>						
Wages: Recreation	\$6,690.00	\$4,477.20	\$7,098.00	\$4,724.10	\$(2,373.90)	-33.44%
REC: Payroll Tax	\$522.00	\$333.84	\$575.00	\$382.18	\$(192.82)	-33.53%
REC:Workers Comp Insurance	\$263.00	\$338.58	\$527.00	\$363.76	\$(163.24)	-30.98%
Rec Unemployment	\$135.00	\$17.40	\$-	\$23.15	\$23.15	0.00%
Dues, Conferences, Travel	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Insurance: Property & Casualty	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$209.58	\$209.58	0.00%
Wrightsville Beach Dues	\$4,520.00	\$4,447.50	\$4,520.00	\$4,700.00	\$180.00	3.98%

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
Town BOR- mowing, brush hog, aerating	\$5,250.00	\$3,027.61	\$5,250.00	\$5,050.00	\$(200.00)	-3.81%
Recreation Supplies (seed, soil, fertilizer)	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.00%
Portalet Rental Recreation field	\$1,000.00	\$1,282.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Learn to Swim Program	\$-	\$-	\$700.00	\$-	\$(700.00)	-100.00%
Recreation Equipment (nets/hardware)	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Ice Rink	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00	\$-	\$(500.00)	-100.00%
Walter Kelly Park-Mowing & Portalet	\$3,110.00	\$1,880.00	\$2,510.00	\$3,125.00	\$615.00	24.50%
Facility Maintenance	\$1,850.00	\$-	\$1,680.00	\$-	\$(1,680.00)	-100.00%
Band Stand	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$-	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL RECREATION</b>	<b>\$25,340.00</b>	<b>\$17,304.13</b>	<b>\$24,360.00</b>	<b>\$22,277.76</b>	<b>\$(2,082.24)</b>	<b>-8.55%</b>
<b>ZONING/DRB</b>						
Wages: Zoning	\$8,911.00	\$7,125.30	\$9,238.00	\$9,547.68	\$309.68	3.35%
Zoning: Payroll Tax	\$682.00	\$662.12	\$747.00	\$772.41	\$25.41	3.40%
Zoning: Workers Compensation	\$44.00	\$-	\$112.00	\$75.43	\$(36.57)	-32.65%
Mileage/expenses	\$250.00	\$275.44	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
Advertising	\$400.00	\$93.60	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	25.00%
Zoning: Legal/enforcement	\$3,000.00	\$-	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$(1,000.00)	-33.33%
Postage	\$300.00	\$-	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$-	0.00%
Courses/Seminars	\$250.00	\$-	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
Wages: FEMA	\$-	\$1,629.90	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
FEMA Mileage	\$-	\$102.75	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL ZONING/DRB</b>	<b>\$13,837.00</b>	<b>\$9,889.11</b>	<b>\$14,297.00</b>	<b>\$13,695.51</b>	<b>\$(601.49)</b>	<b>-4.21%</b>
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION</b>						
Advertising	\$750.00		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Mail Drop/Postage	\$800.00		\$800.00	\$800.00	\$-	0.00%
Printing & Copying	\$150.00		\$150.00	\$150.00	\$-	0.00%
Consultation match for Municipal plan. grant	\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$-	0.00%
PC Legal	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Future Grant Match	\$2,000.00		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
NRPA-Natural Res Mapping	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>TOTAL PLANNING COMMISSION</b>	<b>\$7,200.00</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$4,450.00</b>	<b>\$4,450.00</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,601,286.07</b>	<b>\$4,361,638.27</b>	<b>\$1,719,508.00</b>	<b>\$1,925,927.95</b>	<b>\$206,419.95</b>	<b>12.00%</b>

## COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)

2025/2026 Budget	Budget FY - 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024	Budget FY - 2024/2025 July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025	Budget FY 2025/2026 July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026	\$ Change	Percent Change
<b>CIP FUNDING(Capital Improvement Planning)</b>						
<b>General Government</b>						
Town Hall Building Fund	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$(20,000.00)	-66.67%
Equipment/Computer purch & upgra	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Asset-Equipment Fund	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$-	0.00%
						0.00%
<b>HIGHWAY:</b>						
Highway Garage & Accessory Bldg Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Heavy Equipm.& Vehicle Upgrad/Purch	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Bridge Fund	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$-	0.00%
Paving & Construction Fund	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$-	0.00%
						0.00%
<b>Public Safety/Fire Department</b>						
FD-Building Fund	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Equipment Upgrades/Purchases	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Vehicle Purchases	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Radio Dispatch upgrade	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
<b>Recreation:</b>						
Structures & Grounds Upgrades	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Tennis Court Rehab	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$-	\$(5,000.00)	-100.00%
Total CIP Funding	\$106,000.00	\$106,000.00	\$126,000.00	\$101,000.00	\$(25,000.00)	-19.84%
<b>TOTAL TOWN BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,707,286.07</b>	<b>\$4,467,638.27</b>	<b>\$1,845,508.00</b>	<b>\$2,026,927.95</b>	<b>\$181,419.95</b>	<b>9.83%</b>
<b>SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>						
Middlesex Conservation Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$-	\$(2,500.00)	-100.00%
CV Council on Aging	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$-	0.00%
CV Home Health & Hospice	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$-	0.00%
Middlesex Community Conn.	\$-		\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Youth First Mentoring	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$-	0.00%
Kellogg-Hubbard Library	\$32,022.00	\$32,022.00	\$35,580.00	\$37,359.00	\$1,779.00	5.00%
Montpelier Senior Center	\$-	\$-	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00	50.00%
North Branch Nature Center	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$-	0.00%
Waterbury Area Senior Center	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,600.00	\$(2,400.00)	-24.00%
Town Hall Design Plan (Article 8)	\$-	\$6,943.20	\$65,000.00	\$-	\$(65,000.00)	-100.00%
<b>By Request: Under \$251</b>						
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
CV Adult Basic Education	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
CV Economic Development	\$-		\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
The Childrens Room	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
Circle	\$199.00	\$199.00	\$199.00	\$199.00	\$-	0.00%
Community Harvest of Cent Vermont	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%

**COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (cont'd)**

<b>2025/2026 Budget</b>	<b>Budget FY - 2023/2024</b> <i>July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024</i>	<b>ACTUAL 2023/2024</b> <i>July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024</i>	<b>Budget FY - 2024/2025</b> <i>July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025</i>	<b>Budget FY 2025/2026</b> <i>July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026</i>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Family Center of Washington County	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
Good Beginnings	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%
Good Samaitian Haven	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
Green Mtn Transit	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$249.00	\$249.00	\$-	0.00%
Green Up Vermont	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$-	0.00%
Montpelier Veteran's Council	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
Our House of Central Vermont	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
MOSAIC Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
VT Assoc for the Blind	\$249.00	\$249.00	\$249.00	\$249.00	\$-	0.00%
VT Center for Independent Living	\$195.00	\$195.00	\$195.00	\$195.00	\$-	0.00%
Vermont Family Network	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
Washington County Diversion	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
ELEVATE (Washington Co. Youth Serv)	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%
<b>SUB-TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>	<b>\$59,940.00</b>	<b>\$66,883.20</b>	<b>\$130,672.00</b>	<b>\$64,551.00</b>	<b>\$(66,121.00)</b>	<b>-50.60%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET Plus Special Articles</b>	<b>\$1,767,226.07</b>	<b>\$4,534,521.47</b>	<b>\$1,976,180.00</b>	<b>\$2,091,478.95</b>	<b>\$115,298.95</b>	<b>5.83%</b>

## **TOWN OF MIDDLESEX ANNUAL AUDIT**

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On December 12, 2024, Batchelder Associates, PC of Barre, Vermont, issued its audit report of the Town's finances for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. On January 21, 2025, as a warned agenda item at a regular meeting, the Select Board reviewed and approved the audit report which showed the Town's books are in good order and there were no findings.

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) or by going to: [tinyurl.com/muj2f2hm](https://tinyurl.com/muj2f2hm)

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk



**TOWN OF MIDDLESEX 2025-26 PROJECTED SALARIES COMPARISONS****Fiscal Years 2025 & 2026 Budgeted Salaries Comparisons**

Department	Position	F/Y 24-25 Budgeted Wages	F/Y 24- 25 Budgeted Annual Hours	F/Y 25-26 Budgeted Wages	F/Y 24-25 Budgeted Annual Hours
Select Board	Chairman	\$913.29	Flat Rate	\$700.00	Flat Rate
	Member	\$730.63	Flat Rate	\$700.00	Flat Rate
	Member	\$730.63	Flat Rate	\$700.00	Flat Rate
	Member	\$730.63	Flat Rate	\$700.00	Flat Rate
	Road Commissioner	\$913.29	Flat Rate	\$700.00	Flat Rate
	SB Assistant	\$30,814.28	848	\$7,500.00	300
	FEMA Coordinator	\$0.00	0	\$9,085.00	250
Administration	Clerk	\$29,651.48	816	\$39,305.34	1040
	Assistant Clerk/Bookkeeper	\$54,806.84	1664	\$34,100.00	1364
	Treasurer	\$9,937.20	250	\$39,305.34	1040
	Assistant Treasurer	\$0.00	0	\$3,640.00	100
Listers	Lister	\$6,250.14	225	\$17,536.96	607
	Lister	\$6,250.14	225	\$17,536.96	607
	Lister	\$6,250.14	225	\$17,536.96	607
Highway	Foreman	\$84,970.50	2305	\$90,919.45	2330
	Crew	\$69,702.30	2305	\$72,485.35	2330
	Crew	\$64,136.38	2305	\$63,830.00	2330
	Crew	\$58,417.22	2305	\$60,766.16	2330
	Delinquent Tax Collector	\$2,912.00	100	\$0.00	0
	Zoning Administrator	\$8,517.60	300	\$8,857.68	300
	Assistant Zoning Administrator	\$720.72	30	\$690.00	30
	Recreation Director	\$7,098.00	250	\$4,724.10	160
	Animal Control Officer	\$738.19	26	\$738.19	26
	Health Officer	\$885.83	26	\$885.83	26
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$446,077.43</b>	<b>14,205</b>	<b>\$492,943.32</b>	<b>14,205</b>

\*Note: FY25 Wages were reported incorrectly in the FY24 Annual Report

\*\* Wages for Administration prior to restructuring of office (Town Clerk Retiring)

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**DEBT SERVICE/NOTES PAYABLE/ LINES OF CREDIT**

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as of June 30, 2024

Item	Outstanding Principal Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Matures F/Y
<b>General Government:</b>			
Community Bank Line of Credit	\$562,000.00	5.48	2025
Vermont Bond Bank	\$938,000.00	1.3	2031
<b>Subtotal General Government:</b>		<b>\$1,500,000.00</b>	
<b>Highway:</b>			
2019 Freightliner Hwy Truck	\$42,817.15	3.25	2027
2019 John Deere Grader	\$243,100.00	2.45	2037
2023 Kenworth T880 Hwy Truck	\$139,276.00	2.79	2028
<b>Subtotal Highway:</b>		<b>\$425,193.15</b>	
<b>Fire Department:</b>			
Freightliner Fire Truck	\$29,073.33	3.00	2026
Fire Station	\$240,000.00	4.35	2030
<b>Subtotal Public Safety:</b>		<b>\$269,073.33</b>	
<b>Total Debt Service:</b>		<b>\$2,194,266.48</b>	

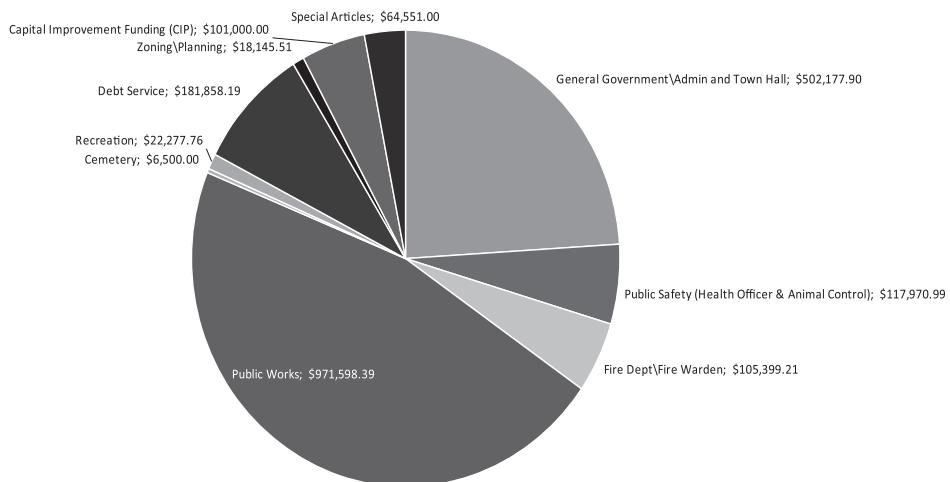
## THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	Fiscal Year				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Grandlist	2,296,659	2,385,888	2,357,468	2,370,781	2,391,178
Town Budget\$	1,323,867	1,382,738	1,503,407	1,657,285	1,845,508
Special Articles	73,319	65,468	67,439	60,690	130,672
Town Tax Rate	\$0.527	\$0.527	\$0.595	\$0.624	\$0.700
School-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.795	\$1.789	\$1.705	\$1.823	\$2.027
School-Non -Residential Tax Rate	\$1.646	\$1.681	\$1.631	\$1.701	\$1.935

## WHERE THE \$ GOES

### Town of Middlesex-Municipal Budget FY26

July 1,2024-June 30,2025



Department	Budget Amount	Percentage of Budget
General Government\Admin and Town Hall	\$502,177.90	24%
Public Safety (Health Officer & Animal Control)	\$117,970.99	6%
Fire Dept\ Fire Warden	\$105,399.21	5%
Public Works	\$971,598.39	46%
Cemetery	\$6,500.00	0%
Recreation	\$22,277.76	1%
Debt Service	\$181,858.19	9%
Zoning\Planning	\$18,145.51	1%
Capital Improvement Fundin (CIP)	\$101,000.00	5%
Special Articles	\$64,551.00	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,091,478.95</b>	<b>100%</b>

Municipal Budget	\$2,026,927.95
Special Articles	\$64,551.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,091,478.95</b>

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## WHAT EACH LINE ITEM MEANS FOR YOUR TAXES

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Estimated FY 25/26- What each item means for your taxes\*

Appraised Value of Property	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Grand List (2024*)	\$239,117,900	\$239,117,900	\$239,117,900
Proposed Town Budget	\$1,667,080	\$1,667,080	\$1,667,080 Including Special Articles net of anticipated receipts
Proposed Town Tax	\$0.697	\$0.697	\$0.697
*Estimated municipal taxes	\$697	\$1,394	\$2,092

*\*NOTE: This is only an estimate based on the 2024 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts*

*2025 Grand List (property values as of April 1, 2025) will be used in determining 2025 town tax rate*

	Total Proposed Tax Effort	Tax for Property Appraised at \$100,000	Tax for Property Appraised at \$200,000	Tax for Property Appraised at \$300,000	Explanation
<b>Town Government</b>					
Article 6	\$1,786,379	\$747.07	\$1,494.14	\$2,241.21	General Government and Highway - net of anticipated receipts
<b>Other Articles</b>					
Article 7	850	\$0.36	\$0.71	\$1.07	Central VT Council on the Aging (By Petition)
Article 8	4500	\$1.88	\$3.76	\$5.65	CV Home Health & Hospice (By Petition)
Article 9	37359	\$15.62	\$31.25	\$46.87	Kellogg-Hubbard Library (By Petition)
Article 10	6000	\$2.51	\$5.02	\$7.53	Montpelier Senior Activity Center (By Petition)
Article 11	2500	\$1.05	\$2.09	\$3.14	North Branch Nature Center (By Petition)
Article 12	7500	\$3.14	\$6.27	\$9.41	Waterbury Area Senior Ctr Meals on Wheels (By Petition)
Article 13	1500	\$0.63	\$1.25	\$1.88	Youth First Mentoring (By Petition)
Article 14	4242	\$1.77	\$3.55	\$5.32	Misc Organizations (\$250 or less)
Estimated Municipal Tax**		\$774.02	\$1,548.05	\$2,322.07	
2024 Residential School Rate / Tax**	0.019	\$1,939.50	\$3,879.00	\$5,818.50	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED TAXES</b>		<b>\$2,713.52</b>	<b>\$5,427.05</b>	<b>\$8,140.57</b>	
each additional		\$1,000	\$0.42	\$0.84	\$1.25

*\*\*NOTE: Estimated Municipal Tax is only an estimate based on the 2024 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts*

*Estimated School Tax is based on the 2024 Residential Rate*

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## ESTIMATED 2025 TOWN TAX EFFORT

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**2025-2026 General Government**

Expenses	
Budget (less Highway)	877201.58
Special Articles	64551.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>941752.58</b>

**Anticipated Receipts\*\*\***

Interest	2000.00		
Zoning	3500.00		
Licenses and Fees	15600.00		
RR Tax	4000.00		
PILOT/Hold Harmless Payment	83000.00		
PILOT/Agy of Natural Resources	66000.00		
Delinquent Tax Interest	3000.00		
Delinquent Tax Penalty	5000.00		
<b>Fund Balance Reduction</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>182,100.00</b>	<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>\$759,652.58</b>

**2024-2025 Highway**

Expenses			
Budget	1149726.39		
Receipts			
State Aid to Highways	123000.00		
Other		Total Highway	\$1,026,726.39
<b>Total Municipal Tax Effort</b>		<b>\$1,786,378.97</b>	

<b>2024 Grand List*</b>	<b>\$2,391,178.00</b>
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2024 Homestead Tax Rate*	2.027	(State of Vermont)
2024 Non-Residential Tax Rate*	1.940	(State of Vermont)
Estimated 2025 Municipal Tax Rate*	0.747	
Estimated Local Agreement Rate*	0.003	
Estimated 2025 Total Town Tax Rate*	0.750	
 Total Non- Residential Rate*	2.689	
Total Residential Rate*	2.776	

**\*NOTE: This is only an estimate based on the 2024 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts**

2025 Grand List (property values as of April 1, 2025) and 2024 State Education Rates and 2025 Municipal rate will be used in determining 2025 Total Residential & Non-Residential Rates

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT & FAST SQUAD

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Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) had another busy year in 2024. We responded to 103 calls, an increase of four over last year. This is still much higher than in the years prior to 2023. Of those calls, 39 were on I-89. We responded to 14 requests for mutual aid to neighboring towns and requested mutual aid 10 times. Our average member response has increased over the year and since July we have had an average of over 5 members per call. This shows the dedication of the Department membership. We have had three new people join the Department in 2024. We believe part of the reason for this increase in membership is a result of the improved equipment we are getting in the Department. For 2024 we were able to get new coats and pants for all of our members. We currently have four members going to Vermont State Fire Training.

The Department would not be able to respond to all these calls 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.

The First Aid Stabilization Team (FAST Squad) was called out 173 time in 2024, seven more than 2023. The FAST Squad has grown in 2024. We currently have two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and we have four new Vermont Emergency First Responder (VEFRs), bringing us up to 5 VEFRs. Montpelier Ambulance Service is contracted by the town to provide ambulance service to the residents of Middlesex. FAST Squad members provide first response to the scene of a medical/trauma emergency and assist Montpelier Ambulance Service in the care of the people having the emergency. The exciting news for 2025 is four of our members have expressed a desire to take an upcoming EMT class being put on by East Montpelier Fire Department starting in April. This class will be cost free to the members because of State grants covering the \$1200 cost.

Eric Metivier, Chief

Jeff Koonz, President

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## CEMETERY COMMISSION

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The three town owned cemeteries, here in Middlesex, remain in good condition, despite the often heavy, rainy conditions of 2024. Summer 'mowing and maintenance,' keep them looking their best. Thank you to our mowers for their good work.

The lower part of the driveway at Carr Cemetery off East Hill was washed away, once again, due to heavy and reoccurring summer rains. It has been repaired several times during the summer, and is in need of repair once again. We feel that this damage could be avoided by moving the culvert on East Hill RD from the 'Bolduc RD' side of the Cemetery driveway, to the 'Hickory Corner' side of the driveway, allowing water in the ditch along East Hill to run down to a safer area, away from the driveway, and into a field, at the lower end of the cemetery.

Village Cemetery remains its 'picturesque' self. Often, it's 'parking area, in front of the cemetery,' along the stone wall, at the edge of Gallagher RD, is 'taken up' by piles and stacks of lumber and building materials, stored there by the lumber company business on Gallagher RD. We need to restore this parking area for use by Village Cemetery visitors.

North Branch Cemetery, off Bolduc RD, is our only 'active' cemetery. Seven burials were arranged at North Branch Cemetery, one full casket and six cremation burials, during the summer of 2024. Gracious comments were received on this 'pleasant, well maintained' area, and friendly helpfulness of our cemetery personnel.

Thank you to commission members and hired personnel for their expert services and support. Report respectfully submitted,

Town of Middlesex - Cemetery Commission

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



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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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The Middlesex Conservation Commission (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 2024 Activities:**

**Middlesex Town Forest (MTF)** - The MCC continues to do trail maintenance on the popular Chases Mountain and continues to work with the Trails Committee 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 2024 signs with maps were posted on two more Class 4 roads/trails. 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 85 town participants for a very successful town clean up. Bolduc Metal Recycling supplied a dumpster for metal again this year which was completely filled with metal. They also provided a dumpster for the trash, which makes it much easier for people to dispose of the trash collected. People collected 178 tires - a record - and 148 bags of trash. The trash was collected from roadsides. In addition volunteers climbed down steep gullies, into streams and river banks to pick up all kinds of junk that people thoughtlessly threw out. A big thank you goes out to Bolduc for their generous donations, to the Road Crew who plays an essential role in facilitating a successful Green Up Day, and to our Middlesex Girl Scouts who once again provided free treats and drinks and whose efforts are very much appreciated.

Finally, thanks to the Conservation Commission members who staff the collection site and help to make Green Up Day a success.

**National Resource Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program (NRCS EWPP)** - The MCC, along with the Select Board, facilitated 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 in 2023 and six landowners followed through with the program and

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have had work done on their property to eliminate hazards. Four landowners have qualified for the same program after the flood in July 2024.

**Hunger Mountain Trail Steward** - The MCC has adopted the White Rocks Trail (Bob Kemp Trail). This fall work was done to improve water bars on the trail, clear branches and brush and we also made note of ladders that were in disrepair.

The MCC meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall and by Zoom at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Middlesex Conservation Commission:

Adrienne Magida – chair, Larry Becker, Owen Dalton, Kimberly Hagen, Ross Lieblappen, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard, Jon Udis



## 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 has created maps and trailhead signs that are put up around town.

In 2024 signs were installed on two Class 4 roads/trails - Bushey Road to Center Road, Dolan Road to Bolduc Road and N Bear Swamp Road to E Bear Swamp Road. These are in addition to signs placed last year on 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 continuing work on a new loop trail that will begin at the Chases Mountain Trail in the Middlesex Town Forest. This will offer a shorter and easier option if you don't want to climb to the summit.

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. The Trails Committee meets on the second Monday of every month by Zoom at 7:00. For additional information contact the MTC at [conservation.commission@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:conservation.commission@middlesexvermont.org)

## 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 late 2023, the Society published a third edition of our history book, *Middlesex in the Making: History and Memories of a Small Vermont Town*. Copies are available at the town clerk's office 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 last 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. Sadly, the historic preservation grant for which the Society is eligible, has been put on hold after voters did not approve the project to upgrade the Town Hall.

Other plans were also delayed, including building a Middlesex Historical Society website and completing a short play about our town's elders, inspired by the play *Worcester Voices* created in 2023 by Worcester stalwart J. David Book. Members are exploring and enjoying a stronger partnership with the Worcester Historical Society. An archive of digital photos from the July 2023 flood has been compiled and additional photos from residents are welcome.

In 2024 we lost one of the founding members of the Society, Charles Martin. His sharp mind, his wit and his kindness will be greatly missed.

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 but right now, we have no public space to display our town's history.

Our Society needs new members to implement our goals for 2025 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.

Patty Wiley, President/Treasurer

Sarah Seidman, V.P./Secretary

Richard DeCosta, Director

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## MIDDLESEX EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Receive emergency, weather, traffic, and other alerts from state and local responders.

### Two easy steps!

**1**

Scan QR code or go to  
[VTALERT.GOV](http://VTALERT.GOV)



**Scan here!**

**2**

Create an account to receive alerts by app, phone, text, email, or  
TTY/TDD devices.

#### Alert examples:

- ◊ Evacuation information
- ◊ Severe weather
- ◊ Chemical spills
- ◊ Boil water advisories
- ◊ Shelter-in-place orders
- ◊ Roadway interruptions

#### VT-511 Traffic Alert: Windham County

Please click here to confirm receipt

#### VT-511 Traffic Alert - Windham County

**Traffic Description:** Incident - New TRAFFIC ALERT: A rolling roadblock will be employed between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on I-91 southbound Westminster between exits 6 & 5. Motorists should expect minor delays.

**Traffic Alert Start Time:** Nov 10 2023, 10:00 AM

**Anticipated End Time:** Nov 10 2023, 2:00 PM

*Note: Anticipated End Time will not always be known.  
Click [here](#) for all State of Vermont road closures*



For assistance with your account please contact the VT-Alert Administrator via email at: [DPS.VTALERT@vermont.gov](mailto:DPS.VTALERT@vermont.gov)

**Powered by:**



## MIDDLESEX RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Notable highlights from 2024:

- Middlesex hosted a third annual soccer jamboree with Grade 1/2 teams from Middlesex, Worcester, Berlin, East Montpelier and Calais. Another beautiful fall day, and another wildly successful soccer jamboree!

Plans for 2025 include:

- We are planning for the return of the Learn to Swim program in 2025, but likely under a slightly altered model. The goal remains the same: to provide resources for parents interested access to swim lessons for their youngsters.
- We are finalizing cost estimates for refurbishing the town basketball and tennis courts. Provided we are able to find a contractor with availability, this project should proceed this summer. We expect to add markings for pickleball to the tennis courts.
- We are also planning to make some significant improvements to the baseball and soccer this summer. This project is also planned for June or July, again depending on availability of our contract partner.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mitch Osiecki, Recreation Director*

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## BANDSTAND COMMITTEE

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This past summer, the Bandstand's 18th annual concert series at the Martha Pellerin/Andy Shapiro Memorial Bandstand, aka The Middlesex Bandstand, celebrated with renowned touring artists and some of the best regional and Vermont artists, as the program continues to evolve.

The Bandstand first welcomed back Grammy-winner Dobet Gnahoré to kick off the season with their fiery Pan-African rhythms. The Pointe Noir Cajun Band, with local (flood-relief) hero Katie Trautz, had to be rescheduled to the end of the season due to (1 year to the day!) heavy rain and flooding. But, despite being moved into the Rumney School gym due to yet another rainy evening, they delivered their fiddle-driven Cajun dance rhythms to an enthusiastic, tho' scaled-down, audience! Other highlights included touring artists The Empty Pockets, with their good old fashioned rock 'n roll out of Chicago, and Ramon Chicharrón, Colombian dance rhythms by way of Montreal! Other local faves included the Chad Hollister Band and Noah Young Trio. And the Billy Wylder group, led by former Vermonter Avi Salloway, moved the crowd with their art-rock/global spirited music.

To fund our stellar lineups, generous support continues to grow as provided by our audiences, numerous local businesses, banks, and institutions and the Town of Middlesex. In-kind sponsors included Brian P. Graphic Arts and Story Road Nursery, Madtech Sound & Lovetown Recording, and Minuteman Press.

The Bandstand Committee also welcomed new committee member Danielle Mishkit, whose enthusiastic support and considerable skills have already enhanced our presence in the community.

Stay tuned for news of the upcoming 2025 concert season of 6 consecutive Wednesdays starting July 9th, with the already-booked acclaimed Pittsburgh-based Americana band Buffalo Rose! Anyone can access up-to-date Bandstand info on Facebook (search "Middlesex Bandstand") and on the website ([middlesexbandstand.com](http://middlesexbandstand.com)), where you will find a gallery of photos from past concert seasons. Hope to see you at the Bandstand this summer!

Respectfully submitted,

*The Middlesex Bandstand Committee (Linda Belt-Burnier, Emily Boedecker, Paul Boffa, Danielle Mishkit, Ron Sweet)*

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## **LISTERS REPORT**

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In 2024, the Town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was calculated by the State to be 71.72%. This is less than the previous year. Also, the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) was adjusted to 17.34%; in 2023 it was 16.74%. Towns are required by statute to maintain a Common Level of Appraisal that does not exceed 115% and does not go below 85%. Towns are required by statute to maintain a Coefficient of Dispersion that does not exceed 20%. There will be a town-wide reappraisal in the near future. Taxable properties in town numbered 932 in 2024, for a town-wide assessment totaling \$253,705.000; this is up from \$251,864,600 in 2023.

The number of properties enrolled in the Current Use program decreased by seven to 100 from 107 in 2024. The value of Current Use exemptions now totals \$14,187,200.

In 2024, there were 10 Veteran Property Exemptions, this was the same as 2023 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).

One grievance hearing was held in February and resulted in a BOA hearing, no change. Four grievance hearings were held in June, resulting in a change to the fair market value for 2 of the 4 properties.

Twenty-Six residential valid sales were recorded in Middlesex during 2024, compared with to Twenty-Five valid sales in the previous year.

Property inspections for 2024 were completed by Listers, same as in 2023. You may see them around town this spring with the "Listers" signs on their vehicles.

There will be a townwide re-assessment that will take place from July 2025 – April 2027, expect appraisers to come see your properties.

*Annette Halasz/Shelly Desjardin/Samantha Beaudoin, Middlesex Listers*

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## PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

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**Zoning & Town Plan** – The zoning regulations in place in 2023 and the Town Plan & Enhanced Energy Plan from 2022 have put the Town in a good place and the new flood regulations helped in dealing with the effects of the two floods and impacts on property, as well as mitigating damage going forward.

**Traffic & Walking by Rumney** – We hosted meetings with neighbors near Rumney and developed a 4-step plan to help slow traffic and improve safety around Rumney School. We will work with the Road Foreman to put signs in place as part of the first phase. We are exploring opportunities with neighbors to create a walking path on private lands.

**Housing** – Middlesex was highlighted in State’s “Housing for All” Toolkit development to showcase opportunities to expand local housing options.

**Village Area** – The two floods 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. We sent a survey to Village residents to gauge interest in a possible municipal or community water system.

**Bears** – We gathered and shared information and hosted a game warden at the Energy Fair to help people learn about keeping bears out of garbage & compost.

**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; Mitch Osiecki, Vice Chair; Paula Otenti; Betsy Davis.**

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## TOWN MEETING SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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The Middlesex Solutions Committee has been working since 2001 to improve participation in town meeting and civic affairs in general. This volunteer network supports local leaders on communication and public engagement, and we welcome your participation!

**Town Meeting and Elections:** In March, 2024, after a three-year break due to Covid precautions, Town Meeting was back in person! Middlesex turned out in high numbers and participated with enthusiasm.

The Solutions Committee worked hard to ensure that voters were informed and welcomed. We organized free Town Meeting child care (thank you, Rumney Community Connections and Middlesex Community Fund); coordinated Town Meeting dinner (thanks to April Davis for cooking in support of the Middlesex Community Fund and Rumney PTNO, and to Persons Brothers Farm for meat for the spaghetti sauce!); offered Town Meeting Day transportation; recruited energetic student microphone runners; coordinated our annual “Welcome New Voter” letter; organized a Candidates Profile page at [www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org](http://www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org); and more.

The Solutions Committee publicized the ORCA livestream where residents could observe Town Meeting online. For many years (2008-2020), with guidance from the Secretary of State, the Solutions Committee facilitated remote town meeting participation (including speaking and voting) for those who could not attend. However, we have discontinued this practice pending regulations regarding remote-voter verification. We hope to bring this back once details are worked out.

**Communication and Engagement:** Gratitude to all who submitted photos for our series of online slideshows at [www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org](http://www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org), offering jaw-dropping views of local flood damage, but also celebrating the joy and beauty of Middlesex. We were also pleased to offer support for the format, outreach, and follow-up for the Selectboard’s post-flood Roads and Rivers Forum.

Thanks to everyone using Front Porch Forum (FPF) to keep the neighbors updated. Check out this online “bulletin board”—it’s free and includes a built-in local events calendar. As of January 2025, Middlesex boasted 1,712 members from an estimated 735 households. FPF was launched in Middlesex in 2010 with a grant coordinated by the Solutions Committee, and in the 15 years since, Middlesex has posted 39,737 messages, from lost pets and escaped livestock to events and gardening tips. Remember: FPF is a great place to air ideas, but isn’t designed for controversial debate—that is better accomplished at facilitated meetings. Find more at [www.FrontPorchForum.com](http://www.FrontPorchForum.com).

Thank You to all Solutions Committee supporters, including Joanne Breidenstein, Mark Bushnell, Kimberly Hagen, Kimberly Jessup, Chris and Nancy Reilly, Lauri Scharf, Dave Shepard, Woden Teachout, Barb and Greg Whitchurch, as well as Bennett Shapiro (Mad Tech Sound), the Selectboard, and Town Clerk’s office. Got an idea for strengthening local democracy and community?

Feel free to contact *Susan Clark* at (802)223-5824, [sclarkmountains@gmail.com](mailto:sclarkmountains@gmail.com).

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## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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There were 48 permit applications submitted in 2024 (as compared to 47 in 2023) of which 10 were referred to the Development Review Board (DRB) for review and approval. 2024 saw an increase of 19 new dwelling units permitted compared to 5 in 2023.

### Zoning Applications Approved in 2024

- 2 Subdivisions (1 by DRB, 1 by ZA), 4 new lots created.
- 4 Boundary Line Adjustments
- 13 Single Family Dwellings
- 2 Accessory Dwelling Units
- 2 Duplexes
- 20 Residential Alterations including additions, garages, decks etc.
- 4 Commercial Projects
- 1 Church

Permit applications, zoning applications zoning maps and other helpful information can be found on the Town web site at [middlesexvermont.org](http://middlesexvermont.org). Zoning inquiries can be sent via email to [kevin.thompson@middlesexvermont.org](mailto:kevin.thompson@middlesexvermont.org).

Respectfully Submitted

*Kevin Thompson, Zoning Administrator*



## CENTRAL VT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**Regional Commissioner • Ron Krauth**

**Transportation Advisory Committee • Ron Krauth**

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 valued! 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, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2024)**

- Assisted Middlesex apply for the VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program for new salt shed.
- Administered the Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program in collaboration with the Conservation Commission and Selectboard in response to July 2023 Storm.
- Provided support and guidance for town and FEMA process from July 2023 (DR-4720) flooding.
- Matched municipal plan Goals, Objectives, and Actions with clean water project opportunities within the Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Project Database.
- Initiated process of drafting the update to the town Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (substantially completed Fall 2024).
- Consulted with Town on traffic calming to field test Walkable Middlesex design concept, developed Demonstration Project concept design for future implementation and held multiple public meetings for community feedback and education.
- Provided data support and participated in Road Committee meeting to help members define problem and begin considering alternatives.
- Hosted Central Vermont Energy Roundtables, workshops on enhanced energy planning, community resilience hubs, health equity, municipal solar, & Window Dressers.
- Prepared & provided resources and assistance on funding, programming, and project development including Middlesex/Mad River Window Dressers Community Build, EVSE planning & VT Community Charging Program, municipal heating system replacement (Sustainable Energy for Municipal Buildings & Community Facilities programs).

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## CENTRAL VT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (cont'd)

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- Facilitated Energy Assessments of the Town Hall & Fire House- provided application, assessment workflow, and technical assistance throughout as part of the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). Assisted the municipality in identifying and applying for \$500,000 in Implementation Phase MERP funding.

### 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*

## **MIDDLESEX ENERGY COMMITTEE**

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The MEC is an unofficial volunteer group dedicated to helping the town and its residents reduce its energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions while saving money & improving their comfort and health. This past year, the MEC hosted its annual spring energy fair at Camp Meade, with demonstrations of electric vehicles and electric yard tools, information about efficient home-building, Window Dressers, solar, and more. It also participated in Window Dressers with the Mad River Valley to provide low-cost insulating window inserts to area residents. It assisted the select board with the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program (MERP) and with considering weatherization and HVAC systems for town buildings. And it darkened the night sky around Rumney School by installing appropriate shading to the exterior lights. The MEC is open to all and meets monthly on the third Thursday at 5:30 PM. Visit [WhatsNextMiddlesex.org](http://WhatsNextMiddlesex.org) for more information.

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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 municipalities and just over 53,000 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. Middlesex's appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors is Adele McDonough. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.25 for fiscal year 2026.

With your support, CVSWMD offers valuable programs and services to its residents, including:

- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** Our Barre recycling facility for special items that cannot go in your regular recycling accepts TVs, computers, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs, and thermostats from Vermont residents at no cost through the State's Extended Producer Responsibility programs. We also accept other electronics and hard-to-recycle materials. Unfortunately, our facility was flooded again on July 10, 2024, a year to the day since we were forced to close due to historic flooding in July 2023. Despite both floods, 139,678 lbs. of materials were collected through the ARCC and diverted from the landfill in FY24. We also continued to sell composting and recycling equipment to District residents at discounted rates once we re-opened.
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** In FY24, we helped 639 households dispose of 53,616 lbs. of hazardous waste through seven single-day collections, including two special emergency collections in response to the July 2023 flood. We are planning to open our Eco-Depot in 2025, which will include the ARCC, our administrative offices, and our new year-round household hazardous waste facility in one convenient location in the Berlin industrial park.
- **Grants:** CVSWMD offers grants to towns, businesses, organizations, and schools for Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse, Municipal Services, Emergency Solid Waste Response, and School Zero Waste initiatives. In FY24, CVSWMD awarded \$23,669 in grant funding across the District, including \$6,830 in non-competitive Green-Up Day grants.
- **Outreach and Education:** CVSWMD maintains a website, social media accounts, and a searchable A-Z guide with information on landfill-banned items, composting, blue bin recycling, special materials recycling, and household hazardous waste. We also send out monthly email newsletters to communicate relevant information and program updates to residents. In FY24, our School Zero Waste Program provided solid waste management support for 28 public and 3 independent schools. This included 1,871 students, pre-K-12, reached through 118 on-campus programs.

## CVFIBER

# 2024




## ANNUAL REPORT

As of August 16, 2024 NEK Broadband and CVFiber merged under 30 V.S.A. 3052a forming one Communications Union District (CUD) dba NEKCV. NEK Broadband and CVFiber will continue to use their brands within their respective territories.

The district now includes 71 member communities in Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Lamoille, Washington and Orange Counties.

50 of our towns currently have public fiber-optic infrastructure, and 57 towns have started pre-construction licensing work.

**Broadband Nutrition Labels** - In compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirement that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) display standardized broadband information labels, you will find these listed under the service offerings on NEK Broadband and CVFiber websites.

## CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE PROJECTED GROWTH BY YEAR

2024	33	Towns Served
	681	Miles to Date
	8,200	Addresses Passed
2025	50	Towns Served
Projected	1,165	Miles
	15,000	Addresses Passed

**8200**   
**SERVICE AVAILABLE**  
WE NOW OFFER SERVICE TO  
8200 ADDRESSES IN THE  
NEKCV.

**681**   
**MILES OF NETWORK**  
AT THE END OF 2024, WE  
NOW HAVE 681 MILES OF  
FIBER NETWORK  
THROUGHOUT THE NEKCV.

**1199**   
**CUSTOMERS SERVED**  
NEKCV MORE THAN  
DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF  
CUSTOMERS SERVED IN 2024

  
NEK  
BROADBAND | CVFIBER

## GRANTS & FINANCING

We were awarded \$2,847,276 through the Community Connect Grant program. This is in addition to the USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000, which we received in 2023.

The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$4M in construction grants and \$21M as a match for our Broadband Equity and Deployment Grant Application coming later this year. This brings our foundational support to over \$73 million for the Northeast Kingdom Region and over \$20 million in Central Vermont.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

We have doubled the size of staff, with a full-time staff of 13.

We have active warehouses in Danville, Montpelier and Brighton for the storage of construction materials.

In May we completed our first workforce development program, with 7 NEK residents receiving training to become Broadband Technicians/Installers.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

NEKCV dba NEK Broadband & dba CVFiber Communications Union District - 2025 Budget / 2024 Budget to Actual			
	2024 Combined NEKCV Budget	Projected 2024 Year End	2025 Proposed
	Gov Board	at 9/30/24	2025 Budget
<u>Surpluses from Prior Fiscal Years</u>			<b>\$1,832,742</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Operations Revenue	852,455	874,871	2,047,769
Administrative Grant Revenue	1,885,621	3,442,342	3,856,318
Capital Grant Revenue	36,200,196	16,607,798	36,529,448
Other Revenue	\$0	\$1,837,490	\$1,467,290
<b>TOTAL CASH IN</b>	<b>\$38,938,272</b>	<b>\$22,762,502</b>	<b>\$43,900,825</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Operational Cost	\$378,912	\$823,330	\$1,247,036
Administrative Costs	\$1,885,621	\$2,935,997	\$3,856,318
Construction Costs	\$36,200,196	\$17,431,128	\$36,529,448
<b>TOTAL CASH OUT</b>	<b>\$38,464,729</b>	<b>\$21,190,454</b>	<b>\$41,632,802</b>
<b>Annual Net Cashflow</b>	<b>\$473,543</b>	<b>\$1,572,048</b>	<b>\$2,268,023</b>

## SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org) or [cvfiber.net](http://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. There was a call requesting advice regarding management of an unused old well on the property. Advice was provided regarding VT Health Dept. protocol for closing and reporting closure of old wells.

There was a report of a homeowner allowing an inhabited trailer to reside near his home, and the trailer possibly not having a septic hookup. An investigation revealed that the trailer inhabitant was using the bathroom facilities in the home, and nothing was being discharged from the trailer.

There were two separate reports of dog attacks, at different times but involving the same dogs. These were addressed jointly with the Middlesex Selectboard and Animal Control Officer in accordance with state statutes.

### Change in Enforcement of Rental Property Health and Safety Regulations:

Act 181, passed in 2002 and effective Dec. 31, 2023, removes the requirement that town health officers conduct rental housing inspections upon request of a landlord or tenant. This authority has transferred to the Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire Safety (DPS).

DPS is now the government entity with the primary authority to enforce State laws governing rental housing health and safety. This department has designed a complaint-driven inspection system, updated inspection forms, and hired inspectors to conduct rental housing inspections, including inspections of short-term rentals.

On their website, the Division of Fire Safety has a complaint form which can be completed online and electronically submitted to the appropriate office based on the zip code of the rental property. Emergencies, such as smoke or carbon monoxide activation, possible gas leaks, arcing wires, or burst water pipes, should be reported to the local fire department.

The Division of Fire Safety will determine the next steps in responding to the complaint and will take the lead on conducting most rental housing inspections, but may request the the Town Health Officer assist with inspections in certain circumstances.

The Division of Fire Safety webpage has information on rental housing health and safety and access to the complaint process: <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/staff-contact>

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

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### **Public Health Note:**

Speaking of rental properties, Vermont Department Of Health requires periodic testing of their well water. While not required, similar testing is advised for all private homes. Recommendations are:

1. Coliform bacteria every year
2. Inorganic chemicals (includes heavy metals) every five years
3. Naturally occurring alpha radiation every five years

Testing kits are grouped in the Vermont Homeowner Testing Package and can be purchased from the Vermont Public Health Lab by calling 802-338-4724 or online at [www.HealthVermont.gov/lab/forms](http://www.HealthVermont.gov/lab/forms). The Health Department offers laboratory analyses, guidance, and technical advice on treatment options. Samples can also be sent to various commercial labs.

Rob Penney MD  
Middlesex Town Health Officer

## VERMONT HEALTH OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

### Local Health Office Annual Report: 2024

Barre Local Health Office | 5 Perry St., Barre VT  
802-479-4200 | [AHS.VDHBarre@Vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHBarre@Vermont.gov)

#### Central Vermont Flood Response

For the second consecutive year, central Vermont faced severe flooding, and in response, the Barre Office of Local Health provided essential resources, including:

- Free water test kits for residents
- Health and safety information to guide through immediate dangers and long-term recovery.
- Protective equipment to assist in cleanup.

We organized a tetanus vaccination clinic on the lawn at Grace Methodist Church in Plainfield, successfully vaccinating 17 individuals who cleaned up contaminated flood areas.

Our collaboration with key community partners, such as Barre Up, Waterbury CREW, Central Vermont Hospital, and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, was vital in ensuring the availability of necessary supplies and information. Together, we addressed both the immediate public health concerns related to floodwaters and the long-term recovery needs of affected residents. Additionally, we worked closely with THRIVE, central Vermont's network of service providers, to share real-time updates from impacted communities, ensuring that state officials were kept informed of evolving conditions.

#### Protecting Central Vermonters

Our team of epidemiologists, public health nurses, and public health specialists works tirelessly every day to prevent the spread of disease and protect the health of our communities. In 2024, we conducted a total of 211 reportable disease investigations within the Barre district, responding quickly and effectively to emerging health threats.

With the support of our community partners, we organized vaccine clinics at key locations such as farms, community events, and treatment centers to ensure easy access to essential vaccines. In total, we administered 284 vaccines, including those for COVID-19, flu, tetanus, Mpox, and Hepatitis A, helping to reduce the spread of these diseases and protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

#### Celebrating 50 Years of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Advancing Public Health for Families

For 50 years, the WIC program has been at the forefront of improving public health outcomes, ensuring families have access to nutritious food, breastfeeding support, health screenings, and referrals to essential services. The Barre Office of Local Health enrolled 968 central Vermont residents in its WIC program between January and October 2024.



## WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFFS

Countywide, our patrol efforts during fiscal year to date 2024 generated 2268 total incident reports, to include 1317 Traffic Stops, 468 Vermont Traffic Citations and 1245 Traffic Warnings.

During our patrol efforts in Middlesex the following Vermont Traffic Complaints, Warnings and Incidents were recorded by the Washington County Sheriff's Department while on patrol:

**Tickets/Warnings:**

DEF - Condition Of Vehicle	3	Warning
DLT - Driving On Roadways Lanad For Traffic	1	Warning
DP2 - Failed to Display Rear Registration Plate or Failed to Display Both Registration Plates	3	Warning
IS - 31 Or Mora MPH Ovar Spaad Limit	1	Traffic
LK- Lights	1	Warning
NR - Persons Required To Register	1	Warning
S02 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit	1	Warning
SL2 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit	1	Warning
SL3 - 21-30 MPH Over Speed Limit	1	Traffic
VNI - Vehicle Not Inspected Within 15 Days Of Vt. Registration	1	Warning

**Incidents:**

Call Type	Call Type
1	Motorist assist
1	VIN Verification
4	Agency Assist
8	Directed Patrol
19	Traffic Stop

Through all the issues we all deal with in today's world, we take pride in our efforts in making Washington County a safe place to live and work, for all of us. Professionally,

Marc Poulin

Washington County Sheriff

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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.

The 2024 season saw a continuation of planning for the Park’s recovery from the 2023 Flood. In May we had the Park’s roads repaired, and two culverts replaced. That work was completed in time to open for Memorial Day Weekend. It was great to have people back in the park, to play, picnic, swim, and chillout.

Over June we continued to implement our Resiliency Plan. Then the 2024 Flood hit, and we had to close the Park again. But thanks to the resilience of the just completed repair work the Park’s facilities came through without any damage. Once the thin layer of silt had dried we were able to reopen, just two weeks after the flood event. After reopening Park use was significantly reduced.

We continue to work on fully implementing our Resilience Plan. Once completed the Park grounds will be easy to prepare for all threats of flooding. The grounds and facilities will also be far more resilient, enabling us to quickly reopen following future rain events. Even with the complete and coming resilience improvements we expect future challenges to operations and attendance. With that reality and the unknown nature of what climate change has in store we are actively researching new ways to deliver a great recreation experience for as many days annually.

The implementation of our Resilience Plan is currently funded by FEMA and Vermont’s VOREC Grant program, but there will be a funding gap. We plan to seek additional public funds, and will conduct a Donations and Sponsorship Drive to finance the Plan’s completion.

We want to thank our amazing community members, who we look forward to continuing to provide a great outdoor recreation experience for, and for visitors.

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, (term just completed), East Montpelier; Jon Copans, & Dan Currier (Treasurer), Montpelier; Aric Brown, Middlesex.

*Collin O’Neil, Beach Manager*

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# Special Articles and Funding Requests \$250 or Less



## ARTICLE 7: CENTRAL VT COUNCIL ON AGING

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Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is the primary agency serving older Vermonters age 60 and over as well as their families and caregivers throughout the 54 towns of Central Vermont. CVCOA is a nonprofit organization that assists older adults to remain independent for as long as possible. All services are made available to our clients at no charge, without regard to health, income, or other resources.

The funding provided by the Town of Middlesex, along with the 53 other towns in our service area, is essential to CVCOA and directly supports older adults and family caregivers in leading self-determined, healthy, and dignified lives in their homes and communities. We accomplish this by connecting older adults to a wide array of benefit programs, resources, services, and healthy aging opportunities needed to thrive. We have included more information about CVCOA's programs and services following this letter.

It's also important to note that due to the State's implementation of conflict-free case management, we expect to serve 20% more clients in 2025.

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

Thank you for your contribution to making the Central Vermont communities what they are today.

**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: [lhopppe@cvcoa.org](mailto:lhopppe@cvcoa.org)  
Website: [www.cvcoa.org](http://www.cvcoa.org)

**Funding request: \$850**

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## ARTICLE 8: CENTRAL VT HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

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, 2024 – December 31, 2024 \***

Program	# of Visits
<b>Home Health Care</b>	<b>653</b>
<b>Hospice Care</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Long Term Care</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Family Child Health</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Palliative Care Consultative Service</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL VISITS/CONTACTS</b>	<b>813</b>
<b>TOTAL PATIENTS</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	<b>65</b>

*\*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, 2024 – August 31, 2024 and are not expected to vary significantly.*

Town funding is imperative in ensuring that CVHHH will provide services in Middlesex through 2025 and beyond.

#### **Contact:**

Sandy Rousse, President & CEO or  
Emily McKenna, Chief Advancement Officer  
600 Granger Road, Barre  
(802) 223-1878  
[emckenna@CVHHH.ORG](mailto:emckenna@CVHHH.ORG)

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

## ARTICLE 9: KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

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We are delighted to serve more than 600 patrons from Middlesex each year as we work to empower community members to become lifelong learners by providing easy access to materials, online resources, programs and a welcoming place. At the Library, you can borrow from our physical collection of over 60,000 books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, and newspapers and our digital collection including over 100,000 downloadable titles.

Middlesex patrons borrowed more than 10,300 items from our collection this year, plus digital library use, which we can't separate by town. This year, we offered 286 programs for children and teens and 163 programs for adults. In September, we hosted National Book Award Finalist Amber McBride for a writing workshop and presentation at U-32, which was attended by the entire 8th grade class.

The Library is funded annually through tax support from the municipalities we serve (54% in the current fiscal year), income from our endowment and reserves (24%), and private contributions and fundraisers (19%). We are requesting \$37,359, or \$21 per capita, a \$1,779 increase (5%) over last year, primarily due to inflationary pressure and significantly increased health insurance costs. The \$1 per capita increase matches the requested increase in our other towns and compares to \$57.50 per capita for our Montpelier request. The state average per capita support for Libraries is \$38. Our total FY '25 budget is \$1,153,159.

Our Middlesex board representative is Sarah Seidman and our Executive Director is Dan Groberg. 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: \$37,359**

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## **ARTICLE 10: 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. Our organization's mission is 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 offers technology assistance, tax preparation, foot care clinics, and more to all our participants. We provide members with updates through our weekly email newsletter, our monthly newsletter, and other communications channels. MSAC partners with local community organizations to support the needs of older adults and ensure they thrive while aging in place.

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) respectfully requests funding of \$6,000 for our annual appropriation request to your voters for Fiscal Year 2026. We thank you for considering this request. Budget information for the City of Montpelier can be found on our website: [www.montpelier-vt.org](http://www.montpelier-vt.org). We thank the town of Middlesex for their support of our senior programming in Central Vermont!

To learn more about the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, visit our office at 58 Barre Street, go to our website at [www.montpelier-vt.org/msac](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/msac), call us at 802-223-2518, or email us at [msac@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org).

**Contact:**

Amy Pitton  
MSAC Director  
Montpelier Senior Activity Center  
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: \$6,000**

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## ARTICLE 11: 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 2025 annual budget is \$1,662,426. 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 12: WATERBURY 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 \$7,500**. 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: \$227,429**

Federal and State funding cover 38% 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, 2024):**  
1,191 meals were delivered to 12 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, 1,191 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 2,300 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

Maureen White, Board Treasurer  
[maureen@wasca.org](mailto:maureen@wasca.org)

We thank you for your consideration.

**Funding request: \$7,500**

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## ARTICLE 13: YOUTH FIRST MENTORING

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Youth First Mentoring supports quality mentoring relationships to ensure all youth have access to nurturing mentors who help them develop into confident, responsible, and positive members of our Central Vermont community. YFM is fiscally managed by Washington Central Friends of Education, a 501c3 that supports youth and education programs in our county. For more than two decades our program has been working to increase healthy outcomes for children, addressing issues of poverty, educational achievement gaps, substance use, teen depression, and suicide. 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.

Our program establishes a relationship between a stable adult volunteer and a vulnerable youth in our community. Our program conducts mentor recruitment, training, and ongoing support for our mentor pairs, who meet two or more hours weekly within the community. We screen and match adult volunteers to youth, work with families to support the mentoring relationship and provide ongoing educational and training workshops on topics such as mental health, internet safety, and gender diversity.

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 \$84,000. 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 2024, the American Red Cross responded to 185 disaster cases in Washington County, assisting 373 individuals including one in Middlesex. The organization hosted 37 blood drives and collected 1,123 pints of blood in Washington County. It supported 29 service members, veterans and their families in Washington County. It assisted 47 homeowners in helping families develop emergency evacuation plans and taught CPR, baby-sitting skills and water safety to 436 Washington County residents.

All Red Cross services are provided free of charge through the generosity of the American public and are available to everyone in need without discrimination.

**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-nine 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, 2 residents of Middlesex enrolled in CVABE's free program and 2 residents volunteered with us. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups.**

CVABE's total program budget for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$1,665,653. One hundred percent (100%) of support from Middlesex will be used for direct student services (instruction and educational materials). It currently costs CVABE \$3,701 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 Fiscal Year 24 began with devastating floods to our region just 10 days in, and that dominated the work of our organization in the 12 months that followed. A typical year for CVEDC involves site visits with about 48 unique businesses in our region. In FY24, we had 2,037 of those visits. We did not add any permanent staff or expand our budget—this extra work was taken on by our organization as it has traditionally existed to respond to the incredible demand for our services in responding to the floods.

Generally, the work of CVEDC is to provide free support to business owners and municipalities as it encourages economic growth and the retention and addition of good wage-paying jobs in Central Vermont. While we did lots of this work in 'FY24, we also worked with business owners and municipalities to access grants related to devastating floods, access lending to support flood recovery, and to strategize a return to business for those impacted by floods. Businesses were encouraged to prioritize financial forecasting to ensure future viability and to also consider pivoting the work of the business and mitigating the business against future flooding.

In FY'24 we additionally brought together several other programs that support business growth in our region. We had worked to secure \$1.25M deployed in FY'24 to create the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange. This program funded 209 projects pairing in-state service providers with small- to medium-sized businesses in Vermont, completing transformative work that helped the business growth and thrive. Projects like eCommerce websites, sales coaching sessions, creation of HR tools like employee handbooks, and legal services for copyright registrations and intellectual property protection were all examples of this incredible program which ran from November 2023-June 2024.

CVEDC also secured funding through the Vermont Department of Labor to administer a year-long internship program. Participating employers received one half of the wages of their interns as a grant, as well as support for both employers and interns for a successful internship. In 2024, CVEDC attended 11 of the 18 Town Meetings in our region and presented to these communities to spread awareness of the free services offered by our offices.

**Contact:**

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 2026, at \$250. We are a 40-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 (2023/24), The Children's Room hosted over 450 families in our programs, consisting of roughly 5,088 child and adult visits. These include 294 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 open gym meetups.

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](mailto:childrensroom@huusd.org)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## CIRCLE

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Circle –formerly Battered Women’s Services and Shelter - is requesting \$199 in funding from the Town of Middlesex in support of the work that we do for victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

During the previous fiscal year of 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) Circle provided the following services to individuals who self-identified as Middlesex residents:

- Advocates responded to 42 hotline calls and in-person meetings from clients who identified as Middlesex residents.
- Housing advocacy was accessed 2 times by Middlesex residents
- 1 individual residing in Middlesex received assistance filing for a temporary protection order
- Civil legal advocacy was provided 1 time to a Middlesex resident
- 1 Middlesex resident attended multiple support groups
- Safety planning and community referrals were accessed 2 times by Marshfield residents
- 2 Middlesex residents accessed support on employment and education issues

Fiscal Year 24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) has been a very busy year for Circle. We are experiencing increased demand for all of our direct services. For example, we responded to 481 more calls than we did last year, and we worked with a total of 2,691 individuals, of which 16.6% were new to our services. We want to recognize that we couldn’t meet the increased needs of our community without the help from our dedicated and generous volunteers, who give their time and energy to hotline, to shelter, to community events, and to the governance of our organization. Circle’s volunteers gave 8,958 hours to our work during this fiscal year, which averages to about 746 hours per month. We appreciate all that they give to Circle and to the families we work with.

**Circle’s confidential, 24-hour, toll-free hotline is 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)

**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 50 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 30 area programs serving people with limited access to nutritious, fresh local food. We helped serve 12,668 individuals in Washington County in 2024, of which we estimate 175 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 Vermonters. CHCV is the only local program helping farms donate their surplus food to community members in need.

Our fiscal year 2025 budget is \$210,903. 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](mailto:CommunityHarvestVT@gmail.com)  
[www.CommunityHarvestVT.org](http://www.CommunityHarvestVT.org)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## FAMILY CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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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 Middlesex we provided the following free services to community members:

- **15 parents** and **9 children** received Early Intervention support for children from birth to age 3.
- **1 parent** and **1 child** participated in Family Support Home Visiting.
- **3 parents** and **4 children** received Specialized Child Care support.
- **2 families** were assisted in finding childcare through our referral services.
- **7 families** received help paying for childcare.
- **4 parents** and **2 children** received information and general services referrals.
- **3 parents** and **3 children** engaged in our weekly playgroups.
- **1 parent** and **1 child** participated in parent support groups.
- **1 parent** and **1 child** benefited from our food pantry.
- **1 parent** and **1 child** received financial support during times of hardship.

Total Budget for 2023-2024 was \$3,092,184

In total, 2408 parents\* and 2362 children in Central Vermont were positively impacted by The Family Center from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

\* We use parents as a term inclusive of all caregivers who play a parenting role

Thanks to donations we receive from towns and community members, we are able to lend an extra helping hand to support the needs of local families while they are particularly vulnerable during these trying times. The demand for our services, including food, meals and diapers, continues in large part due to increased prices, and the hardships faced by flooding events.

### Contact:

Family Center of Washington County  
383 Sherwood Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602  
Joseph Ferrada and Claire Kendall, Co Executive Directors  
[josephf@fcwcvt.org](mailto:josephf@fcwcvt.org) and [clairek@fcwcvt.org](mailto:clairek@fcwcvt.org)  
802-262-3292, Ext. 126 and Ext. 151  
[www.fcwcvt.org](http://www.fcwcvt.org)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## GOOD SAMARITAN HAVEN

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Good Samaritan Haven provides comprehensive services to individuals experiencing homelessness in central Vermont. Our programs include emergency shelter, street outreach, motel-based support, housing case management, and recovery support. We also offer access to essential healthcare resources, including covid testing, vaccine clinics, mental health services, and nurses who connect guests with additional healthcare resources.

We ensure guests have access to safe beds, meals or meal benefits, laundry facilities, chaplaincy services for grief counseling and general support, and some transportation services. These services are available day and night to address the complex needs of those we serve.

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

- 4 emergency shelters across 4 municipalities
- 81 beds across 4 shelters
- 339 unique individuals provided with shelter
- 30 individuals permanently housed
- 70 unique individuals served at the winter shelter
- 125 households supported at the Hilltop Inn
- 114 assisted by street outreach
- 17,900 meals provided
- 2,231 Covid tests provided
- 12 families with children supported

Due to the circumstances of the population that we serve, we are unable to accurately collect and report specific data regarding the previous residency of our clients. In our experience, however, we know that the vast majority of our guests come from the towns within Washington County or that have important connections to Washington County residents.

Maintaining our services as the rate of homelessness rises in central Vermont comes with increased costs. A contribution from the people of Middlesex will go towards providing safe beds and living spaces, housing case management, meal provision, laundry facilities, recovery support, grief counseling and transportation to and from services, available day and night.

### **Contact:**

Meredith Warner, Deputy Director  
Good Samaritan Haven  
PO Box 1104, Barre, VT 05641  
(802) 479-2294  
[goodsamaritanhaven.org](http://goodsamaritanhaven.org)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## **GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AGENCY (GMTA)**

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This letter is to formally request funding in the Town of Middlesex upcoming municipal budget for State fiscal year 2026, in support of Green Mountain Transit (GMT) operations in central Vermont. GMT is the provider of essential public transportation services for Washington County, including several towns within Orange County, with connecting service to Chittenden and Caledonia Counties, and we rely upon contributions from the communities we serve to assist in meeting our obligations to draw down state and federal funding.

The mission of GMT is to promote and operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative, and sustainable public transportation services that reduce congestion and pollution, encourage transit oriented development, and enhance the quality of life for all. GMT is honored to provide essential transportation services throughout central Vermont, and respectfully requests funding from the Town of Middlesex in the amount of \$249 (level funded from prior years' requests) in the upcoming fiscal year to support our ability to continue to serve.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. Many thanks in advance for considering this request.

**Contact info:**

Monica White, Director of Central Vermont Services  
Green Mountain Transit  
6088 VT Route 12  
Berlin, VT 05602  
[mwhite@ridegmt.com](mailto:mwhite@ridegmt.com)  
(802) 338-7065 cell

**Funding request: \$249**

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## GREEN UP VERMONT

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**Green Up Day**, saw a 30% growth in volunteers over 2023, picked up over four tons of litter and 15,813 tires. In flood clean-up projects we took care of an additional 10,000 tires. We also attempted a Guinness World Records® title and succeeded! The record is: “The Most Pledges Received to Pick Up Trash in 24 Hours.” Vermont is the only State in the nation that can boast this achievement and the only State that offers a program like Green Up Day. 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, and 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, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2025.

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).

**2025 Green Up Day is May 3rd.**

**Contact:**

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

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**

## MOSAIC VERMONT

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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.

- In FY24, over 2,300 direct responses to harm were provided.
- 200 individuals were served due to incidents of sexual violence. 35 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 600 adults across 9 schools in Washington County

Mosaic's services are highly confidential, and people are not required to disclose their town of residence to receive services. Many do not. 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  
PO Box 859  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
[info@mosaic-vt.org](mailto:info@mosaic-vt.org)  
[mosaic-vt.org](http://mosaic-vt.org)  
802-476-1388

**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.

In 2023-2024, OUR House assisted with one case in Middlesex and conducted 72 forensic interviews with 25 cases involving children under age 12.

Again this year, we noticed an increase in homelessness and a need for support for LGBTQI individuals. National data shows that each case handled by a CAC/SIU saves local police departments and towns about \$1,000 per case at a minimum.

**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)

[www.OURHouseCentralVT.com](http://www.OURHouseCentralVT.com)

**Funding request: \$250**

## 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 FY24 VABVI served 1,048 clients in the state of Vermont; no Middlesex residents were served this year.

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.

**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 45 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'24 (10/2023-9/2024) 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 **297** individuals to help increase their independent living skills. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **232** 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 **151** individuals with information on assistive technology; **43** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **507** 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 **40** people and provided **31** 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 from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:

1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org).

### **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.

In FY24, Vermont Family Network Family Support Consultant provided two Middlesex families with individualized support through six different interactions. In addition to the two families we served, our webinars, newsletters and website are accessed by families and individuals at any time, but identifying data isn't collected for this.

We are grateful for the funding that Middlesex provides to us and will use it to continue to serve families, youth and children in Middlesex and throughout the state of Vermont.

**Contact info:**

Michelle Kessler, Director of Operations  
Vermont Family Network  
600 Blair Park Road  
Suite 240  
Williston, VT 05495  
[Michelle.kessler@vtfn.org](mailto:Michelle.kessler@vtfn.org)  
802-876-5315  
[vermontfamilynetwork.org](http://vermontfamilynetwork.org)

**Funding request: \$250**

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## **WASHINGTON COUNTY DIVERSION PROGRAM, INC.**

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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 2024, WCDP's with 573 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 for 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 volunteer with us! Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering on our Community Restorative Panel.

Middlesex Residents Served in FY24: 0

Though we did not serve any Middlesex residents in our last fiscal year the average of the three previous years is 5.6 residents. We appreciate the continued support of our programs.

**Contact:**

Meg Rizzo, Executive Director  
322 North Main Street, Suite 5, Barre VT 05641  
[meg@wcdp-vt.org](mailto: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 (EYS) 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 use treatment; transitional living support for juvenile justice involved young men; a teen center; support for youth involved in foster care; and a 24 hour on-call service. Last year, **4 Middlesex** residents were served through one or more of the services identified above.

Elevate Youth Services has been providing services to Middlesex residents for 50 years. This year's funding request represents a cost of approximately \$62/person served. This is only a small fraction of the cost of the services provided by EYS. 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 \$50; 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 \$2,406,305. The \$250 requested will be applied to services delivered to Middlesex residents.

**Contact:**

Favor Ellis

Elevate youth Services (formerly Washington County Youth Service Bureau)

652 Granger Road, Suite 2

[info@elevateyouthvt.org](mailto:info@elevateyouthvt.org)

802-229-9151

**Funding request: \$250**

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**2024 BIRTHS**

Last Name	First Name
Bove	Lenore
Ciampi-Richardson	Alice
Drolet	Lucy
Irwin	Elyse
Keenan	Josephine
Lemmon	Max
McDonald	Lucy
Raymond	Zealand
Reid	Ivy
Saintonge Cohen	Naomi

**2024 DEATHS**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	AGE
Alger	Ada	Mabel	101 years
Burghdurf	Cheryl	Jane	79 years
Delaney	Sean	Leo	19 years
Erickson	Jane	M	76 years
Hayward	Timothy	Yeatman	82 years
Korey	Elana	G.	20 years
Maranville	Shawn	Lee	52 years
Morey	Roger	Lee	67 years
Preis	Anastasia	Nancy	92 years
Ritter	Linda	Lea	79 years
Sbardellati	Edward	John	77 years

**2024 MARRIAGES****Date of Marriage**

3/22/2024	Lenzi, Maria Luisa	Winberry, Spencer Chase
6/7/2024	Keenan, Gabriel	Hinton, Rachel Julia Bauer
7/6/2024	Hrenko, Lucas Daniel	Dowen, Allyson Rae
7/13/2024	Anderson, Quinlan Brian	Echevarria, Amy Marcela Panduro
7/30/2024	Hum, Abigail	Lim, Tan Zhou
8/3/2024	Gordon, Jennifer Ryan	Barry, Douglas Joseph
8/17/2024	Raymond, Eleanor MacKenzie	Prevost, Charles Jerome III
9/1/2024	Penney, Eamon Allen	Kara, Erin Amira
9/10/2024	Broderick, Dylan Elaine	McCullough, Andrew Douglas
12/31/2024	Gewissler, Dejung Theodor	Gewissler, Melissa Lynn

# VERMONT TOWN MEETING DAY

# BINGO

Macaroni salad	Major budget amendment from the floor	Baked beans	Someone defending the work of the road crew	Carhartt
Someone claims they "don't need a mic"	Technology problems	Red flannel hash	Maple syrup	Reference to "back in my day"
Complaints about potholes	Camo muck boots		A lone "nay" during a voice vote	Pie
Pulling out Robert's Rules of Order book	Flannel	Heartfelt speech to honor a town employee or volunteer	Complaints about plowing	A dog at the polls
Beef stew	Talking about the weather	Knitting	Epic beard, mustache or other facial hair	Bake sale



Vermont Public

## DEDICATION

The Select Board would like to dedicate the 2024 Town Report town report to two people who have had a great impact on our town over the last 53 years combined.



**Peter O. Hood**

When Peter Hood steps down from his Select Board seat on March 4th, he will end not only 32 years on the Board - including 22 years as Chair - but a long, long history (perhaps the longest of anyone, we just don't have the time to go through a couple of hundred years of town reports) serving the Town of Middlesex. Elected as a Justice of the Peace in 1984, Peter joined the Budget Committee in 1986 before becoming Town Moderator in 1990, a role he performed for 15 years.

When he wasn't in Town Hall or behind the podium at Town Meeting, he was running his insurance company, Noyle Johnson, and raising his two sons, Alex and Matt, with his wife, Mary, in their home on East Hill Road. Or he was on the slopes occasionally coaching the U32 ski team. Or snowmobiling in the Northeast Kingdom. Or racing cars in New Hampshire with his college pal and Middlesex resident John Rahill. Or driving his BMW motorcycle cross country. Or on Lake George where he enjoyed summers at a family home.

Peter, to his credit, always looks on the sunny side of life. His favorite line is, "Listen, the good news is....", a mantra he's applied to old and new challenges both municipal and personal. Lately, he's been the senior statesman on the Board, providing a wealth of knowledge and experience after handing the reins to new chair Liz Scharf last year. Now splitting time in Colorado with his sons and their families, Peter and Mary are shifting into a lower gear, never Peter's preference. But it's time to relax and we are very grateful for his dedication.

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## DEDICATION

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**Sarah Merriman**

We also want to extend our gratitude to Sarah Merriman, (aka Sarah Strohmeyer for the fiction readers out there) who has guided and supported our town in countless ways. For the past 12 years, she has answered our phone calls in one hurried breath (“Town Clerk’s office, Sarah speaking”), calmed (or amplified) our fears about property tax bills, filed our marriage licenses and birth certificates, ensured safe and secure elections, checked on older residents during power outages, and kept copious minutes every other Tuesday.

She was there to guide our town through COVID and two floods, too. Sarah did it all with grace, patience (usually), and lots of wit—often working after hours and weekends to answer emails, texts and phone calls. As a Board, we relied on Sarah to have all the answers—or to find the answers if she didn’t have them, and she always would. Sarah will go down in Middlesex history as one of the best town clerks we’ve ever had, and the Board and townspeople will miss her greatly.

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TOWN OF MIDDLESEX

5 Church Street

Middlesex, VT 05602