

One Hundred and Sixty-fifth
ANNUAL TOWN REPORT
of the
Town of Townshend



Please bring this report to
TOWN MEETING

Dutton Gym
March 5, 2024
9:00 am

TOWN of TOWNSHEND

TOWN HALL - P.O. Box 223 - 2006 Vermont Route 30 - Townshend, Vermont 05353

Town Hall Phone 802-365-7300

www.unofficialtownshendvt.net

Population 1,232

Registered Voters: 1,083

Area: 27,200 acres

Roads 62,857 miles

TOWN CLERK HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 9am - 4pm

2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 9am - 6pm & by appointment

TOWN CLERK:	802-365-7300 x1	townclerk@townshendvt.gov
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:	802-365-7300 x3	treasurer@townshendvt.gov
SELECTBOARD ASSISTANT:	802-365-7300 X5	cholt@townshendvt.gov
LISTERS: Tuesday & Friday 9 am - noon	802-365-7300 x4	listers@townshendvt.gov
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	802-365-4260	jzumbruski@townshendvt.gov
TOWNSHEND COMPACTOR HOURS:	Tuesday & Thursday 2pm - 6pm	Saturday 9am - 5pm

TOWNSHEND TRASH BAGS are \$3.50 each & a roll of 5 for \$17.50 and are available at:

TOWNSHEND TOWN HALL - RIVERBEND FARM MARKET - HARMONYVILLE STORE

TOWNSHEND PUBLIC LIBRARY 1971 VERMONT ROUTE 30 802-365-4039

LIBRARY HOURS: Monday 1pm - 5pm, Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 9am - 1pm, Wednesday 1pm - 7pm

FIRST CONSTABLE - Warren Beattie - 802-365-7334 SECOND CONSTABLE - Mike Cutts - 802-365-7393

TOWNSHEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 66 COMMON ROAD 802-365-7506

LELAND & GRAY MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL 2042 VERMONT ROUTE 30 802-221-2100

TOWNSHEND POST OFFICE 1955 VERMONT ROUTE 30 802-365-7765

TOWNSHEND DAM 3845 VERMONT ROUTE 30 802-365-7703

FOR RESERVATIONS 877-444-6777

MEETINGS at TOWN HALL

SELECTBOARD:	2 th & 4 th Tuesdays	6pm	cholt@townshendvt.gov
PLANNING COMMISSION:	2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays	7pm	plan@townshendvt.gov
CEMETERY COMMISSION:	2 nd Mondays (March - December)	5pm	Charlie Marchant 802-365-7937
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:	Wednesday	6pm	Daniel Holt 802-365-7541

OTHER TOWN MEETINGS

FIRE DEPARTMENT (work detail)	at the Fire House	4 th Monday	6pm
FIRE DEPARTMENT (business meeting)	at the Fire House	2 nd Thursday	7pm
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	at the Library	2 nd Wednesday	6:30pm
WEST RIVER MODIFIED UNION EDUCATION DISTRICT	at the L&G Library	3 rd Monday	7pm

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**WARNING FOR THE TOWN OF TOWNSHEND
2024 ANNUAL MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Townshend are hereby notified and WARNED to meet at Dutton Gym, located at 2030 VT Route 30, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:00 am, to act on the following articles, viz:

ARTICLE I: To choose a moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE II: To act upon the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 independent auditor's report.

ARTICLE III: To see what salaries the Town will vote to pay its various officials for the ensuing year.

Town Clerk and Town Treasurer: The clerk and treasurer are paid from the General Fund and not by fees that are collected. The budget represents the salaries for these offices. Please reference ARTICLE VII of the Town Warning and the Budget in the Town Report.

Selectboard:

(1) Chair	\$1,500.00
(4) Members:	\$5,200.00

Town Clerk Assistant(s) & Casual Labor:	\$17.55
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ARTICLE IV: To elect all Town Officials for ensuing year(s):

Town Clerk:	(1) 1 year term
Town Treasurer:	(1) 1 year term
Selectboard:	(1) 3 year term
Selectboard:	(2) 1 year term
Listers:	(1) 3 year term
Delinquent Tax Collector:	(1) 1 year term
First Constable:	(1) 1 year term
Second Constable:	(1) 1 year term
West River Modified Union Education Union:	(1) 5 year term
Cemetery Commissioner:	(1) 5 year term
Library Trustee:	(1) 5 year term

ARTICLE V: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to cover all monies raised for municipal entities for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

ARTICLE VI: To see if the Town will authorize its Property Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 23, 2024, November 22, 2024, February 21, 2025, and May 23, 2025. Monthly interest will be charged at the rate of one-half percent (.5%) or fraction thereof, interest of one percent (1%) or fraction thereof plus penalties will commence on May 30, 2025?

ARTICLE VII: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$441,565 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town of which \$267,827 to be raised in taxes?

ARTICLE VIII: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$921,552 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads of which \$782,956 to be raised in taxes?

ARTICLE IX: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$63,473, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the library?

ARTICLE X: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$13,000, by taxation, to increase the librarian's hours by 8 hours per week?

ARTICLE XI: To see if the Town will raise \$2,100, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund?

ARTICLE XII: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$21,243 by taxation, for the support of Social Services, as recommended by the Social Services Committee?

ARTICLE XIII: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$200,000, by taxation, to be held in a reserve account for the purchase of new highway department equipment?

ARTICLE XIV: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$50,000, by taxation, to be held in a reserve account for the repair/renovation of Town Hall. This includes: prompt compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for building accessibility, and an ADA compliant bathroom?

ARTICLE XV: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$50,000, by taxation, to be held in a reserve account for the restoration of the stone arch bridge on Back Windham Road?

ARTICLE XVI: To see if the Town will vote to decide what the format for Town Meeting will be in the future?

ARTICLE XVII: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire land by gift or purchase for municipal forest to promote reforestation water conservation and good forestry practices?

ARTICLE XVIII: To transact any other non-binding business to properly come before said Meeting?

ARTICLE XIX: To see if the Town will vote to set the first Tuesday in March 2025, as the date for the 2025 Town of Townshend Annual Meeting?

Dated at Townshend, this 30th of January 2024.

Townshend Selectboard:

Sherwood Lake

Rob Wright

Katie Marrow

Rob Swiger

Haley Felker

Elected Town Officials:

(* indicates chairman)

Town Moderator:David Liebow- *1 year term to March 2024***Town Clerk:**Ellenka Wilson- *1 year term to March 2024***Town Treasurer:**Elaine Hill- *1 year term to March 2024***Select Board:**

- * Sherwood Lake- *to March 2025*
- Rob Wright- *3 year term to March 2024*
- Robert Swiger- *1 year term to March 2024*
- Haley Felker- *1 year term to March 2024*
- Catherine Morrow- *3 year term to March 2026*

Listers:

- * Mike Bills- *3 year term to March 2024*
- Helen Holt- *3 year term to March 2025*
- Eugene Kuch- *3 year term to March 2026*

Delinquent Tax Collector:Becky Reilly- *1 year term to March 2024***First Constable:**Warren Beattie- *1 year term to March 2024***Second Constable:**Mike Cutts- *1 year term to March 2024***Town Grand Juror:** appointed on March 19, 2021Margaret Bills- *1 year term to March 2024***Town Agent:****Library Trustees:**

- Judy Slowik- *5 year term to March 2024*
- Jean McIntire- *5 year term to March 2025*
- Marilee Attley- *5 year term to March 2026*
- Katherine DeGrenier- *5 year term to March 2027*
- Elizabeth Brown- *5 year term to March 2028*

Cemetery Commissioners:

- Bruce Bills- *5 year term to March 2024*
- Paula Newton- *5 year term to March 2025*
- Scott Nystrom- *5 year term to March 2026*
- Charles Marchant- *5 year term to March 2027*
- * Carly Sanderson- *5 year term to March 2028*

Appointed Town Offices:

Position	Expires	Appointee
911 Coordinator	2024	Anita Bean
	2024	Helen Holt
911 Fire Dept Liaison	2024	Brian Schmidt
Animal Control	2024	Constables
Board of Adjustment	2024	Planning Commission
Cell Tower	2024	Craig Hunt
DC Fiber	2024	Bob DeSiervo
	2024	Andrew Snelling
Emer. Mgmt. Coord.	2024	Sherwood Lake
Energy Coordinator	2024	Craig Hunt
FEMA Admin	2024	Select Board
Fence Viewer	2024	Ellenka Wilson
	2024	Kristina Wright
Flood Plain Admin	2024	Joe Winrich
Health Officer	2024	Select Board Chair
Howard Legacy	2024	Margaret Bills
	2024	Barbara Bedortha
	2024	Eileen Fahey
Insp. Of Shingles	2024	Robert Wright
Insp. Of Wood & Timber	2024	Robert Wright
Planning Commission	2024	Robert DeSiervo
	2025	John Evans
	2026	Andrew Snelling
	2027	Elizabeth Martin
	2028	Brandon Canevari
Pound Keeper	2024	Select Board
Recreation Comm.	2024	Ellenka Wilson
	2024	Kristina Wright
Rescue Inc Liaison	2024	Kathy Hege
Senior Solutions	2024	Ellenka Wilson
Social Serv. Screening	2024	Kathy Greve
	2024	Kris Grotz-Kuch
	2024	Barbara Guerrero
Town Forest Fire Warden	2024	Roger Brown
Town Grand Juror	2024	Margaret Bills
Tree Warden	2024	Robert Wright
Valley Cares Board	2024	Susan LeCours
Weigher of Coal	2024	Craig Hunt
	2024	Robert Wilson
Windham Cty. Sheriff Liaison	2024	Constables
Windham Reg. Comm.	2024	Andrew Snelling
Windham Waste Mgmt.	2024	Irvin Stowell

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

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P.O. Box 947
Montpelier, VT 05601
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www.sullivanpowers.com

Richard J. Brigham, CPA
Chad A. Hewitt, CPA
Jordon M. Plummer, CPA
VT Lic. #92-000180

January 10, 2024

Townshend Select Board
Town of Townshend, Vermont
P.O. Box 121
Townshend, VT 05353

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Townshend, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023.

The financial statements and our report thereon are available for public inspection at the Town Office.

Sullivan, Powers & Co.

Members of The American Institute and Vermont Society of Certified Public Accountants

TOWNSHEND SELECT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Board has had a challenging year as we seem to have every year lately. Our greatest concern has been the budget and holding the line on spending. While we came out of FY2023 with a slight surplus, the economy has not been exceedingly helpful.

Fiscal responsibility has been our theme for the past 3 years. The process of budgeting begins November 1st when the departments submit their requests to the Budget Committee. After the Budget Committee has the information necessary, the budget is developed and forwarded to the full Board for decisions. The results of that work are published in this report. Over the last 3 years we have cut the budget consistently to justify all expenditures, remove waste, and hold the line on spending.

To that end the Board has decided to present these special articles to the tax payers for a vote, understanding that approval of these additional items will directly affect the tax rate come the first of the fiscal year. We look forward to discussing this year's budget and its challenges at Town Meeting.

It has been an active year in several areas. First, the town entered into a contract with Decorcie Emergency Vehicle & E-One to construct the town's new fire vehicle, which is now in the building process.

Second, in July we were struck with another significant rain event that caused substantial damage to our town's infrastructure. All the repairs were made either by our highway crew or contractors, with a cost of around \$300,000. Jeremy Zumburski, the new Highway Foreman, and Connie Holt, Select Board Assistant are working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Vermont to recover as much of the costs as possible.

Third, in July of this year, the Select Board determined that the Gazebo was unsafe due to significant structural decay. The gazebo was taken down and a committee was appointed to research the building of a new gazebo to replace it.

Finally, the issue of building a new gazebo highlighted a bigger concern. The building site, on the Town Common, did not belong to the town. Using deeds and other historical documents, research showed that the property belonged to the Boardman family. On behalf of the town, the Select Board signed a quit claim deed with the Boardman heirs releasing the Boardman's interest in the property. This, along with legal precedent and interpretation, establishes the Town of Townshend as the owner of the Town Common. This protects the public use of the Town Common in perpetuity.

At the end of last year, Select Board member, Phoebe Connolly, resigned her position. It was encouraging to see three great candidates submit their interest in serving on the Select Board. After some consideration, former Select Board member Haley Felker was appointed and is fulfilling the unexpired term. We look forward to these candidates, and others, running for Select Board positions in the future.

Sherman Lake- Chair
Katherine Marrow- Clerk

Haley Felker- Member

Robert Wright- Vice Chair
Robert Swiger- Member

General Fund Revenue	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
Property Taxes				
Property Tax - Current	338,563	288,428	392,482	267,827
Property Tax - Delinquent	-	304,544	-	-
Tax Collector Late Interest	500	2,517	500	750.00
Delinquent Collector Int	7,000	28,948	7,000	8,000.00
Education Billing Fee	6,284	5,833	5,712	6,144.00
Property Taxes Total	352,347	630,270	405,694	282,721
Intergovernmental Revenue				
US Dam Tax-Loss Payment	-	-	5,656	5,656.00
PILOT VT & USA	29,743	29,351	29,743	20,745.00
STVT Current Use	64,530	74,362	74,083	78,653.00
Civil/Local Fines	864	230	300	300.00
Intergovernmental Revenue Total	95,137	103,943	109,782	105,354
Licenses				
Town Interest Earned	466	17,062	3,000	5,000.00
Town Hall/Common Rental	100	470	100	100.00
Reimbursement	-	-	2,000	-
Misc Revenue	239	3,490	-	-
SOVEREN Land Lease	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000.00
Tax Sale FY2023	-	6,434	-	-
Liquor Licenses	70	200	70	200.00
Licenses Total	2,874	29,656	7,170	7,300
Town Clerk's Office				
TC Office Fees/OTC	2,690	3,971	3,000	3,000.00
TC Recording Fees	11,750	13,601	12,000	12,000.00
TC Marriage License	40	80	40	40.00
TC Dog License	202	836	1,000	900.00
TC Fish & Game	36	107	150	150.00
TC Vehicle Registration	51	87	100	100.00
Election Reimbursement	-	357	-	-
FD Grant \$\$	5,000	-	-	-
Trash Bag Sales	27,221	37,954	30,000	30,000.00
Town Clerk's Office Total	46,989	56,993	46,290	46,190
General Fund Revenue Total	497,347	820,861	568,936	441,565



Girls on the Run – National Girls empowerment Program

<u>General Fund Expenses</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
TOWN GOVERNMENT				
<u>Selectboard</u>				
Wages-SB	5,200	5,200	5,200	6,600
Wages-Admin	27,040	20,696	22,062	22,775
Bene-Admin-Ins	6,000	6,000	6,696	6,996
Bene-Admin-Eye	-	37	85	60
Bene-Admin-Dental	50	326	350	350
PACIF-SB 100-7-20-10-650	5,000	3,826	-	-
Legal Exp-SB	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Zoom & R Hege (Domain)	250	235	250	250
Annual Support/Licenses	400	1,548	3,000	-
Notices - SB	1,000	846	1,000	1,000
Town Report Print	3,000	1,848	2,500	2,000
Dues-Windham Regional	3,500	3,061	3,500	3,500
Dues-VLCT	3,000	2,710	3,000	3,000
Travel/Meetings - SB	200	40	200	50
Supplies - SB	300	346	300	350
Tax Bill Expense - SB	2,500	577	1,500	1,000
Town Meeting Lunch	1,000	448	1,000	700
SOVEREN SOLAR	-	7,208	-	-
Equip-SB	1,200	-	600	500
Selectboard Total	64,640	54,951	56,243	54,131
<u>Municipal Land Management</u>				
Taft Meadows	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Tree Management	3,500	-	3,500	3,500
Tree Care Common	3,000	2,740	3,000	3,000
Fountain Care Common	300	357	300	300
Repair/Maintenance Gazebo	200	-	-	500
Supplies Common	-	253	-	300
Municipal Land Management Total	8,000	3,350	7,800	8,600
<u>Elections</u>				
Wages-Elections	500	702	500	750
Supplies - Elections	1,000	-	500	250
Elections Total	1,500	702	1,000	1,000
<u>Town Clerk's Office</u>				
Wages-TC	39,393	39,393	40,181	41,467
Wages-Clerical	5,500	4,186	6,000	5,000
Bene-TC-Ins	16,000	16,678	16,100	18,000
Bene-TC- Eye	90	-	-	-
Bene-TC-Dental	700	-	-	-
Bene-TC-Retire	2,660	2,561	2,725	2,903
PACIF-Bond 100-7-20-10-65	100	105	100	-
Training/PD - TC	300	70	300	200
Cloud/Disaster Recovery	500	1,463	240	-
Annual Support/Licenses	-	1,085	2,752	-
Repair/Maint-TC	500	-	500	-
Copier Lease CIT	2,100	2,407	2,500	2,500
Supplies - TC	1,500	1,240	2,000	2,000
Equipment TC	-	-	500	250
COTT - digital records	-	1,870	2,040	2,040
Town Clerk's Office Total	69,343	71,058	75,938	74,360

<u>General Fund Expenses</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
<u>Finance Office</u>				
Wages-Treasurer	31,668	31,668	32,301	33,335
Wages-Tax Collector	5,000	4,603	5,000	5,000
Finance Office Asst	-	-	-	2,500
Bene-FO-Insurance	2,400	2,250	2,219	2,450
Bene-FO-Eye	85	-	-	-
Bene-FO-Dental	350	-	-	-
PACIF-Bond 100-7-20-10-65	900	1,048	1,000	-
Training - Finance Office	500	35	500	200
Contract-Audit	19,300	20,386	19,300	20,000
Europa IT	-	3,406	4,504	-
Europa IT	2,000	263	240	-
Technical Support	1,000	951	500	500
Copier Lease/Kyocera	500	445	725	446
Travel-Finance	-	-	-	300
Supplies - FO	500	411	600	500
Copier Maintenance	-	295	-	288
Miscellaneous	-	1,656	-	500
Finance Office Total	64,203	67,418	66,889	66,019
<u>Delinquent Tax Collector</u>				
Del Tax Emplr Exp	700	1,648	1,000	1,000
PACIF-Bond 100-7-20-10-65	450	419	400	-
Legal Exp-Del Tax	1,000	2,132	-	-
Cloud/AnSprt/DisasterRec	1,300	2,451	1,300	1,300
Supplies - Del Tax	500	756	500	500
Delinquent Tax Collector Total	3,950	7,407	3,200	2,800
<u>Listers</u>				
Wages-Listers	19,000	15,953	19,380	18,750
Marshall Swift/APEX	1,000	529	530	600
Legal Exp-Listers	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
CAMA	1,000	821	750	850
Cloud/Disaster Recovery	2,000	561	240	-
Annual Support/Licenses	1,250	2,191	4,504	-
Copier Lease Kyocera	775	761	760	760
Notices - Listers	150	132	-	150
Dues-Listers	100	-	50	50
Travel/Meetings - Listers	250	143	150	150
Supplies - Listers	800	112	360	250
Map Exp - Listers	3,500	4,044	4,040	4,250
Equip-Listers	250	-	-	-
Listers Total	33,075	25,244	33,764	28,810
<u>Planning Board</u>				
Town Plan	-	-	-	10,000
PB Technical	800	1,125	400	600
Notices - PB	500	-	250	250
Printing - PB	450	-	225	225
Supplies - PB	250	-	125	100
Map Expense - PB	750	-	375	375
Planning Board Total	2,750	1,125	1,375	11,550
<u>Board of Civil Authority</u>				
Supplies - BCA	25	-	25	25
Appeals Exp - BCA	50	-	50	50
Board of Civil Authority Total	75	-	75	75

<u>General Fund Expenses</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
<u>Municipal Town Hall</u>				
Wages-Janitorial	2,432	2,045	1,250	1,700
Contract-Clock	125	-	125	125
Computer Exp - TH	800	245	-	-
Alarm - TH	500	635	550	600
Repair/Maint-TH	10,000	564	5,000	7,500
PACIF-TH 100-7-20-10-650	15,000	7,338	10,319	-
Phone/Internet-TH	7,500	6,125	7,500	7,000
Supplies - TH	2,500	2,260	3,000	3,000
Office Exp - TH	2,000	1,031	1,000	1,000
Municipal Town Hall Total	40,857	20,244	28,744	20,925
TOWN GOVERNMENT TOTAL	288,393	251,498	275,028	268,270
TOWN SAFETY				
<u>Constable</u>				
PACIF-Bond 100-7-15-50-26	300	210	200	-
PACIF-Police 100-7-20-10-	900	639	600	-
Supplies-Constable	200	569	100	200
Constable Total	1,400	1,418	900	200
<u>Emergency Management</u>				
Emergency Mgmnt	2,500	2,912	2,500	3,500
Emergency Management Total	2,500	2,912	2,500	3,500
<u>Fire House/Department</u>				
PACIF-WC FD 100-7-20-10-6	3,500	1,624	1,500	-
Repair/Maint-FH	3,000	420	1,500	6,500
PACIF-FD 100-7-20-10-650	4,200	2,149	2,000	-
Phone/Internet-FH	600	535	600	600
Communications - FH	2,500	5,909	3,000	3,000
Dues-District Mutual Aid	21,700	21,901	22,500	23,000
Dues-FH	250	-	100	-
Supplies - FH	500	269	500	500
Equip-FH	500	43	250	200
New FH Contingency Funds	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Fire House/Department Total	41,750	32,850	36,950	38,800
<u>Fire Vehicles</u>				
Repair/Maint-FT	14,000	8,323	14,000	14,000
PACIF-FT 100-7-20-10-650	7,500	4,455	4,000	-
Supplies - FT	1,200	256	1,000	500
Equip-FT	2,000	818	1,500	500
Fire Vehicles Total	24,700	13,853	20,500	15,000
Rescue Inc	38,500	38,085	38,859	38,859
Poundkeeper	350	385	350	350
TOWN SAFETY TOTAL	109,200	89,502	100,059	96,709
PUBLIC WORKS				
<u>Municipal</u>				
Municipal Electric	10,000	-	9,000	9,000
Electric-TH	-	260	-	-
Electric-Garage	-	1,576	-	-
Electric-FH	-	95	-	-
Electric-Common	-	176	-	-
Electric-Streetlights	-	4,304	-	-
Municipal #2 Fuel	-	-	-	13,000
Town Hall	6,000	6,700	8,177	-
Fire House	5,000	5,019	5,000	-

<u>General Fund Expenses</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
Municipal Propane	-	-	-	5,070
Garage	5,200	6,135	5,070	-
Insurance VLCT/PACIF	-	-	-	44,047
EUROPA Domain	-	-	-	2,984
EUROPA MSP Platinum	-	-	-	9,000
NEMRC	-	-	-	6,835
Municipal Total	26,200	24,265	27,247	89,936
<u>Town Barn/Garage</u>				
Internet/phone COMCAST	1,300	1,809	1,500	2,000
Annual Support/Licenses	-	228	1,752	-
Repair/Maint-Garage	1,000	2,513	1,000	1,000
PACIF-Garage 100-7-20-10-	5,200	4,718	4,500	-
Phone Garage 1st Light	600	441	600	600
Supplies - Garage	100	93	100	2,000
Equipment - Boiler	-	7,530	-	400
Town Barn/Garage Total	8,200	17,331	9,452	6,000
<u>Waste/Recycling/Compactor</u>				
Wages-Attendant	12,970	12,643	13,230	14,000
Wages-Janitor	-	772	-	700
Contracts-Recycling	18,000	21,259	19,000	22,854
Repair/Maint-Compactor	2,500	9,917	2,500	5,000
PACIF-Compctr 100-7-20-10-	200	131	200	-
Dues-WSWMD	8,100	8,099	8,906	9,252
Supplies - Compactor	5,000	8,739	5,000	5,000
Tipping Fees Paid	28,000	27,576	29,400	29,644
Green-Up Day Expenses	200	-	200	200
Waste/Recycling/Compactor Total	74,970	89,137	78,436	86,650
PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	109,370	130,733	115,135	182,586
<u>Appropriations Expense</u>				
Appropriations Expense	-	20,951	-	-
Appropriations Expense Total	-	20,951	-	-
<u>Employer/Debt</u>				
FICA - Town	10,000	12,284	11,053	13,000
Unemployment - Town	1,000	947	1,000	1,000
WC - Town	1,000	-	-	-
Transfer Out Expense	-	6,625	-	-
Employer/Debt Total	12,000	19,856	12,053	14,000
<u>Other Expenses</u>				
Contract-BCTV	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,500
Windham County Tax	16,000	14,860	16,750	21,000
Principal Paid-Long Term	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Interest Paid: Notes	16,500	13,162	15,000	15,000
Radar Control Signs	10,000	12,198	-	-
Memorial Day Expense	300	704	300	500
Miscellaneous Expense	-	898	1,675	2,000
Other Expenses Total	84,000	83,023	74,925	80,000
Total General Fund Expenses	602,963	595,563	577,200	641,565
Less: General Fund Revenues				(173,738)
Less: Surplus				(200,000)
Net to be Raised in Taxes - General Fund				267,827

<u>Highway Revenues</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
Taxes Raised: Highway				
Taxes Raised: Highway	598,925	598,925	610,214	782,956
Taxes Raised: Highway Total	598,925	598,925	610,214	782,956
Aid & Supplements				
STVT HW State Aid	110,000	119,794	110,000	120,000
Aid & Supplements Total	110,000	119,794	110,000	120,000
Other Highway Revenue				
FEMA 072921 Flood Reimb.	-	244,725	-	-
FEMA 071023 Flood Reimb.	-	-	-	-
Plow: Other Towns	3,000	5,200	3,000	5,000
Grants & Aid	-	17,500	-	-
Better Back Roads Grant	-	627	-	-
VTRANS BB Roads Grant	-	20,000	-	-
Windham Regional Grant	-	5,005	-	-
Health Ins Reimb	-	-	-	13,596
FY23 Paving/Culvert Grant	-	222,400	-	-
Other Highway Revenue Total	3,000	515,457	3,000	18,596
Highway Revenue Total	711,925	1,234,177	723,214	921,552



1st Annual Trunk or Treat Celebration - 2023

<u>Direct Highway Expense</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
General Maintenance				
Wages - GM	215,500	180,210	212,000	240,422
Hired Services - GM	7,500	10,195	6,500	6,500
Road Signs - GM	500	297	500	1,000
MRGP State Fee	2,000	1,765	2,000	2,000
Materials & Supplies - GM	105,000	111,623	137,000	177,000
Contract - Retreatment	100,000	-	100,000	125,000
Grants & Aid Expenses	-	26,500	-	-
Better Back Roads Expense	-	659	-	-
VTRANS BB Roads Expenses	-	27,900	-	-
FY23 Paving/Culvert Grant	-	328,753	-	-
Gravel Crushing	-	40,000	40,000	60,000
Jaw Crushing	25,000	25,000	-	-
All Special Projects	60,000	44,419	17,000	57,750
General Maintenance Total	515,500	797,321	515,000	669,672
<u>Indirect Highway Expense</u>				
Ancillary Highway Expense				
Uniforms - Highway	4,900	4,236	4,900	5,300
PACIF-Hwy 100-7-20-10-650	4,200	4,193	4,000	-
Misc Ancillary Exp - Hwy	400	966	400	1,000
Ancillary Highway Expense Total	9,500	9,395	9,300	6,300
Employer Expense: Highway				
Bene-Hwy Ins	47,300	33,918	43,950	60,000
Bene-Hwy Eye	320	152	320	320
Bene-Hwy Dental	2,600	1,390	2,600	2,600
FICA Tax - Highway	13,330	11,862	13,144	13,000
Bene-Hwy Retirement	14,440	10,832	14,310	14,000
Unemployment - Highway	1,000	-	1,230	1,000
PACIF-WC Hwy 100-7-20-10-	12,500	13,260	11,500	-
Misc. Employers Exp - Hwy	400	100	400	1,000
Employer Expense: Highway total	91,890	71,514	87,454	91,920
Total Indirect Highway Expense	101,390	80,909	96,754	98,220
Total - Highway Expense	616,890	878,230	611,754	767,892

<u>Direct Equipment Expense</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
OTHER EQUIP FUND REVENUE				
Insurance Reimbursement	-	15,577	-	-
Equip fund Interest Earne	-	1	-	-
OTHER EQUIP FUND REVENUE TOTAL	-	15,577	-	-
<u>DIRECT EQUIPMENT EXPENSE</u>				
TK#4: Western Star				
Outside Repairs	-	1,080	-	-
Ins/Registration	50	50	50	50
Supplies/Parts	4,000	8,514	5,000	10,500
TK#4: Western Star Total	4,050	9,644	5,050	10,550
BACKHOE: 2008 JD 410				
Supplies/ Parts: Backhoe	5,500	837	5,000	2,200
BACKHOE: 2008 JD 410 Total	5,500	837	5,000	2,200
TK#03: 2015 International				
Outside Repairs: TK#03	-	3,149	-	-

Direct <u>Equipment</u> Expense	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
Ins/Reg: TK#03	50	-	50	50
Supplies/Parts: TK#03	4,000	5,048	5,000	8,250
TK#03: 2015 International Total	4,050	8,197	5,050	8,300
Western Star 2022 TK5				
Outside Repairs Tk#5	-	7,370	-	-
Ins/Reg Tk#5	50	-	50	50
Tk#5 Supplies Parts	1,500	2,527	4,000	9,150
Western Star 2022 TK5 Total	1,550	9,897	4,050	9,200
TK1: 2012 Freightliner				
Ins/Reg: TK1	50	-	-	-
Supplies/Parts: TK1	1,000	2,139	1,000	8,250
TK1: 2012 Freightliner Total	1,050	2,139	1,000	8,250
TK2: 2012 F550				
Supplies/Parts: TK2	-	565	-	-
TK2: 2012 F550 Total	-	565	-	-
2018 Dodge 550				
Ins/Registration Dodge	75	-	50	50
Supplies/Parts: Dodge 550	2,500	9,847	3,500	5,600
2018 Dodge 550 Total	2,575	9,847	3,550	5,650
Misc Eq: YORKRAKE/SAWS/ETC				
Supplies/Parts: Misc EQ	1,000	117	1,000	2,000
Misc Eq: YORKRAKE/SAWS/ETC Total	1,000	117	1,000	2,000
Tractor: Kubota				
Supplies/Parts: Kubota	500	266	500	750
Tractor: Kubota Total	500	266	500	750
Grader: JD 772				
Supplies/Parts: JD Grader	5,000	5,238	6,000	8,000
Grader: JD 772 Total	5,000	5,238	6,000	8,000
Loder 524				
Outside Repairs	-	399	-	-
Supplies/Parts: Loader 52	1,500	2,911	1,500	10,000
Loder 524 Total	1,500	3,310	1,500	10,000
All Equipment				
Liq Chloride Machine Exp	-	-	-	1,000
PACIF-Equip 100-7-20-10-6	8,000	7,430	-	-
Supplies/Parts: AQ	4,000	2,887	4,500	5,000
Diesel: AQ	32,000	44,617	50,000	50,000
Unleaded Gas: AQ	500	511	500	1,000
All Equipment Total	44,500	55,445	55,000	57,000
Other Equipment Expense				
Rented Equipment	-	-	-	8,000
Equ. Principal Payments	23,760	22,000	23,760	23,760
Interest PD-EQ Financing	-	880	-	-
Other Equipment Expense Total	23,760	22,880	23,760	31,760
Total Direct <u>Equipment</u> Expense	95,035	128,382	111,460	153,660
Direct Highway Expense	616,890	878,230	611,754	767,892
Net Department Expense	711,925	1,006,612	723,214	921,552
Less: Revenue		(15,577)		(138,596)

Amount to be Raised in Taxes: Highway & Equipment Funds

782,956

Reserve Funds

	as of 06/30/2022	as of 06/30/2023
ARPA Funding	\$185,193	\$186,824
Cemetery CD	\$70,896	\$71,087
Cemetery Perpetual Care CD	\$116,443	\$117,173
Common Fund*	\$5,760	\$5,761
*closed TD Bank Acct- funds moved to GF checking		
Fire Pond	\$1,011	\$1,715
Fire Truck Capital Fund	\$281,480	\$299,277
FogLine Painting Reserve Fund	\$2,775	\$2,775
GC Sewer Fund	\$42,534	\$42,593
Mosley Fund	\$62,468	\$62,847
Planning Commission Reserve Fund	\$6,619	\$6,619
RDAG MM	\$69,029	\$69,447
Restoration Fund	\$44,762	\$49,686
Sidewalk Project Fund	\$6,834	\$6,851
Stone Arch Bridge Reserve Fund	\$189,585	\$239,585
Town Equipment Fund**	\$5,206	\$5,207
**closed TD Bank Acct- funds moved to GF checking		
Reappraisal Fund	\$133,529	\$133,710

	State Reappraisal Pmt	State Equalization Pmt	Combined Total
FY2022	\$8,798	\$1,035	\$9,833
FY2023	\$8,764	\$1,032	\$9,796



**2023 Leland & Gray Girls Varsity Soccer Team
State Runners Up**

<u>Library Fund</u>	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
Library Revenue				
Library Town Appropriation	57,719	57,719	59,609	63,473.00
WinnieBelleLearned Grant	-	500	-	-
State Library Grant	-	300	-	-
Library Fund Drive	-	10,246	-	-
Library Donations	-	1,272	-	-
Library Memorials	-	100	-	-
Reimbursements/petty cash	-	677	-	-
Book of Month Club	-	3,000	-	-
Book Sale	-	55	-	-
Library Interest Revenue	-	63	-	-
Library Revenue Total	57,719	73,932	59,609	63,473
Library Fund Expenses				
Library Payroll Expenses				
Wages-Librarian	31,400	39,652	32,350	33,970
Wages-Asst Librarians	9,200	8,476	9,300	10,000
Wages- Library Custodian	1,650	1,333	1,600	1,900
PACIF 100-7-20-10-650.000	2,200	1,307	1,500	-
Bene - Library Hlth Ins	-	4,892	-	-
Bene - Library Eye	-	28	-	-
Bene - Library Dental	-	223	-	-
Library FICA Tax	3,225	3,784	2,675	3,700
Retirement Library	2,100	2,577	2,184	2,378
Library Payroll Total	49,775	62,273	49,609	51,948
Library Operations				
Website	200	168	200	225
Telephone	800	712	800	800
Travel/Meetings	400	559	400	600
Supplies	500	999	1,000	1,300
Postage	500	686	1,000	1,000
Equipment	400	430	400	800
Maintenance	2,500	1,784	2,800	3,000
Snow Removal	1,200	1,890	1,400	2,000
Oil	1,800	1,071	2,000	1,800
Library Operations Total	8,300	8,300	10,000	11,525
Total Library Fund Expenses	58,075	70,573	59,609	63,473
Library Trustee Expenses				
Bequest Expenses	-	-	15,000	-
Professional	450	86	450	500
Performance	450	300	450	450
ARPA Expenses	-	1,056	-	-
Technical	1,200	842	1,200	1,200
Audio Visual	1,800	1,084	1,800	1,800
Newsletter	250	194	250	300
Subscription	700	598	700	1,000
Supplies	1,500	666	1,500	1,500
Programs	2,000	1,534	2,000	2,500
Fundraisers	900	959	1,500	1,500
Books	10,000	6,532	10,000	10,000
Book of Month Club	-	2,369	-	-
Trustees EE Gifts	500	600	500	750
Trustees Misc	200	1,263	200	200
Total Library Trustee Expenses	19,950	18,082	35,550	21,700

Cemetery Fund	Budget FY2023	Actual FY2023	Voted FY2024	Proposed FY2025
<u>Cemetery Fund Revenue</u>				
Old Cem General Fund Rev.	2,100	-	2,100	2,100.00
Old Cem Town Approp Rev.	-	2,100	-	-
Cem Interest-to be D Rev	-	380	-	-
Oakwood Ann Care Rev.	-	720	-	-
Oakwood Perp Care Rev.	-	1,150	-	-
Oakwood Gen. Revenue	-	40	-	-
Oakwood Lot Sales Rev.	-	2,025	-	-
Oakwood Fees Revenue	-	300	-	-
Oakwood-GC Field Use Rev	-	800	-	-
Round Hill Ann Care Rev.	-	160	-	-
Round Hill Misc Rev	-	1,800	-	-
Taft Perpetual Care Reven	-	325	-	-
Taft General Revenue	-	213	-	-
Taft Lot Sales Revenue	-	2,570	-	-
Taft Fees Revenue	-	60	-	-
Donation Taft Maintenanc	-	1,000	-	-
Cemetery Revenue Total	2,100	13,642	2,100	2,100
<u>Cemetery Fund Expenses</u>				
Old Back Cemetery				
Old Back Cemetery Labor E	-	540	-	-
Old Cem FICA Tax Exp.	-	41	-	-
Old Back Cem Use of Equip	-	67	-	-
Old Back Cem Mileage Reim	-	151	-	-
Cemetery Miscellaneous	-	287	-	-
Old Back Cemetery Total	-	1,087	-	-
Oakwood Cemetery				
Oakwood Wages Exp.	-	2,339	-	-
Oakwood FICA Tax Exp.	-	179	-	-
Oakwood Use of Equip Exp.	-	156	-	-
Oakwood Maint/Repairs Exp	-	328	-	-
PACIF 100-7-20-10-650	-	126	-	-
Oakwood Supplies Exp.	-	334	-	-
Oakwood Postage Exp.	-	30	-	-
Oakwood Deed Fees Exp.	-	120	-	-
Oakwood Electricity Exp.	-	74	-	-
Oakwood Water Elect Exp.	-	74	-	-
Oakwood Cemetery Total	-	3,759	-	-
Round Hill Cemetery				
Round Hill Wages Exp.	-	474	-	-
Round Hill FICA Tax Exp.	-	36	-	-
Rnd Hill Use of Equip Exp	-	101	-	-
Round Hill Supplies Exp.	-	18	-	-
Round Hill Cemetery Total	-	629	-	-
Maple Grove Cemetery				
Maple Grove Wages Exp.	-	242	-	-
Maple Grove FICA Tax Exp.	-	18	-	-
Maple Grove Supplies Exp.	-	70	-	-
Maple Grove Cemetery Total	-	330	-	-
Total Cemetery Fund Expenses	2,100	19,447	2,100	2,100

Fiscal Year 2023 Salaries & Wages

Cemetery

Wyatt Beattie	\$224
Michael Cutts	\$2,097
Charlie Marchant	\$877
Delano Schmidt	\$396

Delinquent Tax Collector

Becky Reilly	\$21,549
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Finance Office

Anita Bean	\$3,453
Elaine Hill	\$32,818

Highway Department

Steve Frisk	\$60,076
Robbie Germon	\$17,507
Robert Lecours	\$210
Anthony Paraspolo	\$25,064
Billy Roberts	\$54,785
Jeremy Zumbruski	\$22,568

Library

Christine Chandler	\$6,411
Karen LaRue	\$39,652
Elizabeth Etman	\$1,712
Pamela Russo	\$1,686

Listers

Mike Bills	\$5,733
Helen Holt	\$9,292
Gene Kuch	\$928

Select Board

Connie Holt	\$20,696
Sherwood Lake	\$1,200
Steve Frisk	\$1,000
Catherine Marrow	\$1,000
Rob Swiger	\$1,000
Rob Wright	\$1,000

Town Hall

Anita Bean	\$756
Kurt Tietz	\$4,131
Ellenka Wilson	\$39,393

Town Hall & Garage Janitor

Anita Bean	\$1,341
Christine Chandler	\$30
Eddie Benoit	\$1,446

Transfer Station

Eddie Benoit	\$12,367
Wanye Allen	\$125
Delano Schmidt	\$127
Laura Richardson	\$125
Michele Valliere	\$27

TOWNSHEND SOCIAL SERVICES – Fiscal Year 2025

American Red Cross of Vermont and NH Upper Valley Region		www.redcross.org/local/me-nh-vt.html
2024 appropriation: \$500	2025 request: \$500	2025 recommendation: \$500
Brattleboro Area Hospice, Inc.		www.brattleborohospice.org
provides non-medical, volunteer-staffed programs for dying and grieving community members.		
2024 appropriation: \$300	2025 request: \$300	2025 recommendation: \$300
Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (SoVEDS)		www.brattleborodevelopment.com
promotes regional economic development, improving wages and fosters job creation.		
2024 appropriation: \$3,696	2025 request: \$3,873	2025 recommendation: \$3,873
Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital		www.gracecottage.org
Local health care provider		
2024 appropriation: \$1000	2025 request: \$1,000	2025 recommendation: \$1,000
Green Mountain Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)		www.rsvpvt.org
Supports and develops programs for seniors who wish to volunteer within the community.		
2024 appropriation: \$275	2025 request: \$275	2025 recommendation: \$275
Green Up Vermont		www.greenupvermont.org
Sponsors Green Up Day		
2024 appropriation: \$100	2025 request: \$100	2025 recommendation: \$100
Groundworks Collaborative		www.groundworksvt.org
Is a merger of the Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center and Morningside Shelter, providing emergency food, housing and case management services.		
2024 appropriation \$1,200	2025 request \$1,200	2025 recommendation \$1,200
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)		www.hcrs.org
Provides a broad range of community mental health services.		
2024 appropriation: \$1,100	2025 request: \$1,100	2025 recommendation: \$1,100
MOOver		www.moover.com
Provides transportation for the elderly, the disabled, and children and families who receive Medicaid.		
2024 appropriation: \$750	2025 request: \$750	2025 recommendation: \$750
Senior Solutions Southeastern VT		www.seniorsolutionsvt.org
Supports aging seniors in Townshend with information and assistance, senior nutrition programs, transportation, case management and caregiver respite.		
2024 appropriation: \$800	2025 request: \$950	2025 recommendation: \$950
Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA)		www.sevca.org
Provides weatherization, emergency heating repair, tax preparation services, thrift store vouchers and fuel assistance.		
2024 appropriation: \$1,500	2025 request: \$1,500	2025 recommendation: \$1,500
Southern Vermont Therapeutic Riding Center		www.sovtrc.org
Currently on hiatus due to staffing and facilities issues. No request for support received at this time.		
2024 appropriation: \$750	2025 request: \$0	2025 recommendation: \$0
The Gathering Place		www.gatheringplacevt.org
Provides a safe, supportive environment, a full array of services and activities for elders and adults with disabilities		
2024 appropriation: \$500	2025 request: \$500	2025 recommendation: \$500

TOWNSHEND SOCIAL SERVICES – Fiscal Year 2025 (continued)

Townshend Community Food Shelf

jkwinrich@gmail.com

Provides food for families & individuals facing food insecurity. (Last year we contributed through Project Feed the Thousands)

2024 appropriation (to PFTT) \$700

2025 request \$700

2025 recommendation \$700

Vermont Adult Learning

info@vtadultlearning.org

Provides free GED tutoring & testing & workforce readiness to adult learners in Vermont.

2024 appropriation: \$0

2025 request: \$800

2025 recommendation: \$800

Vermont Center for Independent Living

www.vcil.org

A statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities & supports Townshend residents.

2024 appropriation: \$255

2025 request: \$255

2025 recommendation: \$255

Vermont Family Network

www.vermontfamilynetwork.org

Provides the state's largest children's integrated services early intervention program, and provides family support consultants throughout the state.

2024 appropriation: \$250

2025 request: \$250

2025 recommendation: \$250

Vermont Independent Media/The Commons

www.commonnews.org/site/sitenext/index.php

Publishers of The Commons, "Windham County's Independent Source for News and Views", is a non-profit (501c3) organization

2024 appropriation: \$250

2025 request: \$1,000

2025 recommendation: \$1,000

Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH

www.vnhcare.org

Delivers nursing, hospice & rehabilitation services at home provides assessment, medical care & education

2024 appropriation: \$2,700

2025 request: \$2,700

2025 recommendation \$2,700

Windham County Humane Society

www.windhamcountyhumane.org

Their mission is to "ensure the safety and well-being of animals as well as enhancing the relationship between individuals and pets"

2024 appropriation: \$500

2025 request: \$500

2025 recommendation: \$500

Winston Prouty Center for Child & Family Development

www.winstonprouty.org

Provides services for preschool children with special needs

2024 appropriation: \$250

2025 request: \$250

2025 recommendation: \$250

Women's Freedom Center

www.womensfreedomcenter.net

Works to end physical, sexual and emotional violence against the women and children of Windham County

2024 appropriation: \$1,200

2025 request: \$1,200

2025 recommendation: \$1,200

Youth Services

www.youthservicesinc.org

Coordinates the Big Brother/Big Sister program, provides in-home parent education and support, and a 24/7 crisis hotline

2024 appropriation: \$1,540

2025 request: \$1,540

2025 recommendation: \$1,540

2024 Approved Total: \$20,866

2025 recommendation total \$21,243

Department of Public Works Annual Report

This past year saw a big change in the Highway Department. Highway Foreman, Steve Frisk retired after years of commendable service. We wish the best for Steve in his next chapter.

The storm of 7/10/2023 presented many challenges for the state and here in town. The road crew repaired the damaged roads and is in the process of seeking FEMA reimbursements for the damage.

The proposed budget for the highway department reflects several large expenses that have not been budgeted for in the past few years. The first is the West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge Preservation Project is scheduled for 2024. As such, the town is responsible for a few aspects of the road on top of the bridge. The installation of drainage off the bridge surface, the railings, and the paving of the road results in a large expense in the paving and special projects part of the budget. In addition, this budget includes regular maintenance of the equipment. Lastly, the cost of materials such as diesel, sand, salt, and paving are deeply impacting the budget of the highway department. We continue to look for ways to run the department efficiently and effectively.

Looking forward to the future, it is apparent that new equipment is necessary. To that end, the Select Board, upon the recommendation of the Highway Foreman Jeremy Zumbruski, are introducing an article at Town Meeting for a Highway Equipment Capital Fund. This reserve fund will allow for the planning of the purchase of equipment.

A reminder that the Transfer Station operates under a permit from the State of Vermont ANR. Recyclables and garbage can only be dumped off during the posted hours of operation.

The Road Crew appreciates the continued support from Townshend residents and the town officials.



Zach Clark

Billy Roberts

Leonard 'Red' Reynolds
Townshend Road Crew

Jeremy Zumbruski

Townshend Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report

The Fire Department has had an active year that matches the last several years. This means the majority of our calls do not have much to do with an actual fire. This trend is widespread around Vermont and the nation.

Because of this trend, we are recruiting new members for the department. New members would help in an assortment of ways that do not necessarily involve firefighting. If you are interested in being a volunteer please contact Fire Chief, Glen Beattie, at 802-874-4300.

A new pumper has been ordered. It may take up to two years before it is delivered. This pumper will have to be custom designed because of limitations with our fire station. With that in mind, we have a building committee that is meeting to design a new station for the fire department.

We continue to participate in the training program of the West River Training Group. We also have some in-house training programs that generally meet monthly. An example of the in-house trainings is training with vehicle extraction. With donated junk cars, we have members work with our new equipment such as a set of Jaws. This piece of equipment allows members to disassemble a damaged vehicle for patient extrication.

We thank the Townshend residents for their past and continued support.



Local Heros in Training

Townshend Planning Commission Annual Report 2023

The Planning Commission is authorized by VSA 24 § 4321 with its primary responsibility being preparing a town plan and interpreting the Town Plan for Act 250 and Act 248 hearings. The Planning Commission consists of five citizen volunteers who are appointed by the Select Board for five-year terms. The Town Plan is a town bylaw that is prepared by the Planning Commission but adopted by the Select Board.

The Town Plan is an important document that is prepared every eight years to show how the Town is approaching State guidelines and State planning goals. The document provides a future vision based on community input and charts a path for the future development of the Town. The State does not require a Town Plan but encourages adoption by making various grants either contingent on a Town Plan or providing a preference in grant awards. A Vermont town must have a Town Plan in order to enact any type of land use bylaws. Townshend's current Town Plan expires in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Townshend Planning Commission started the work on a new Town Plan this past year and applied for a State Municipal Planning Grant to fund updating the Town Plan. Unfortunately, Townshend was not awarded the grant. The Town will need to fund the work with a prior reserve fund and through the general revenue in order to retain the benefits of a current Town Plan.

The Planning Commission has also been exploring how to maintain the Town Hall as the center of town government and the community in the future. The Town Hall is an important historical structure and a key community resource used by many town residents. The physical structure is sound but it does not meet all the current requirements and codes for a public structure. The Planning Commission has reviewed the previous studies on the building going back to the 1990's, including the 2021 update by architectural firm Keefe & Wesner. This updated report projects a cost range of \$1,029,000 to \$1,239,000 to bring the building up to current standards so that it can remain a vital resource for many more years.

The Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and participation is welcome.

John Evans, Chair

Bob DeSiervo, Vice Chair

Andy Snelling, Clerk

Brandon Canevari

Liza Swenn Martin

Town Treasurer & Tax Collector Report

FY 2023: 7/1/2022-6/30/2023

The town audit had another successful year with Sullivan & Powers ... minimal corrections and adjustments. Per Sullivan & Powers, FY2023 ended with a surplus in the General Fund of \$325,034 and a surplus balance of \$182,000 in Highway & Equipment Fund. With each new budget year, the Select Board determines how best to appropriate any surplus/deficit funding. The FY2023 audit booklet from Sullivan & Powers is available in the Town Clerk's office for your perusal.

The Finance Office continues making bank deposits of quarterly tax collecting and miscellaneous revenue income as well as managing the towns five M&T CD's: Fire Dept. Municipal CD, Reappraisal CD, Grace Cottage Municipal CD, Cemetery Perpetual Care CD and Cemetery Interest Retained CD.

The yearly administrative processes with the Library Trustees and Cemetery Commission continues going well. Town of Townshend is responsible for handling payroll, accounts payable and CD maintenance.

I continue working closely with Sherwood Lake (Fire Department) to handle Fire Department & Fire Pond Grants / and the highway department for the State of Vermont Grants & Aid Programs and Better Back Road grants. With the **FEMA disaster on July 10, 2023**, I've been working with Connie Holt, Sherwood Lake, Steve Frisk and Jeremy Zumbruski with the on-going FEMA paperwork ... paying bills and keeping track of expenses. Town ARPA funding has now been spent – per request from Sherwood Lake - \$319,952.13 was sent to E-One, Inc. as a down-payment on the new Fire Truck.

Since the Tax Collector position is only a ***part-time position within the Town***, I continue processing tax payments and answering questions from the taxpayers, as well as mortgage companies. Property taxes are consistently being paid each quarter. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR TAX PAYMENT COUPON WHEN MAKING A PAYMENT.** If your

property taxes are escrowed with a mortgage company or bank, it is your responsibility to make sure they receive a copy of the current tax bill. Town of Townshend only sends a copy to companies that make this request.

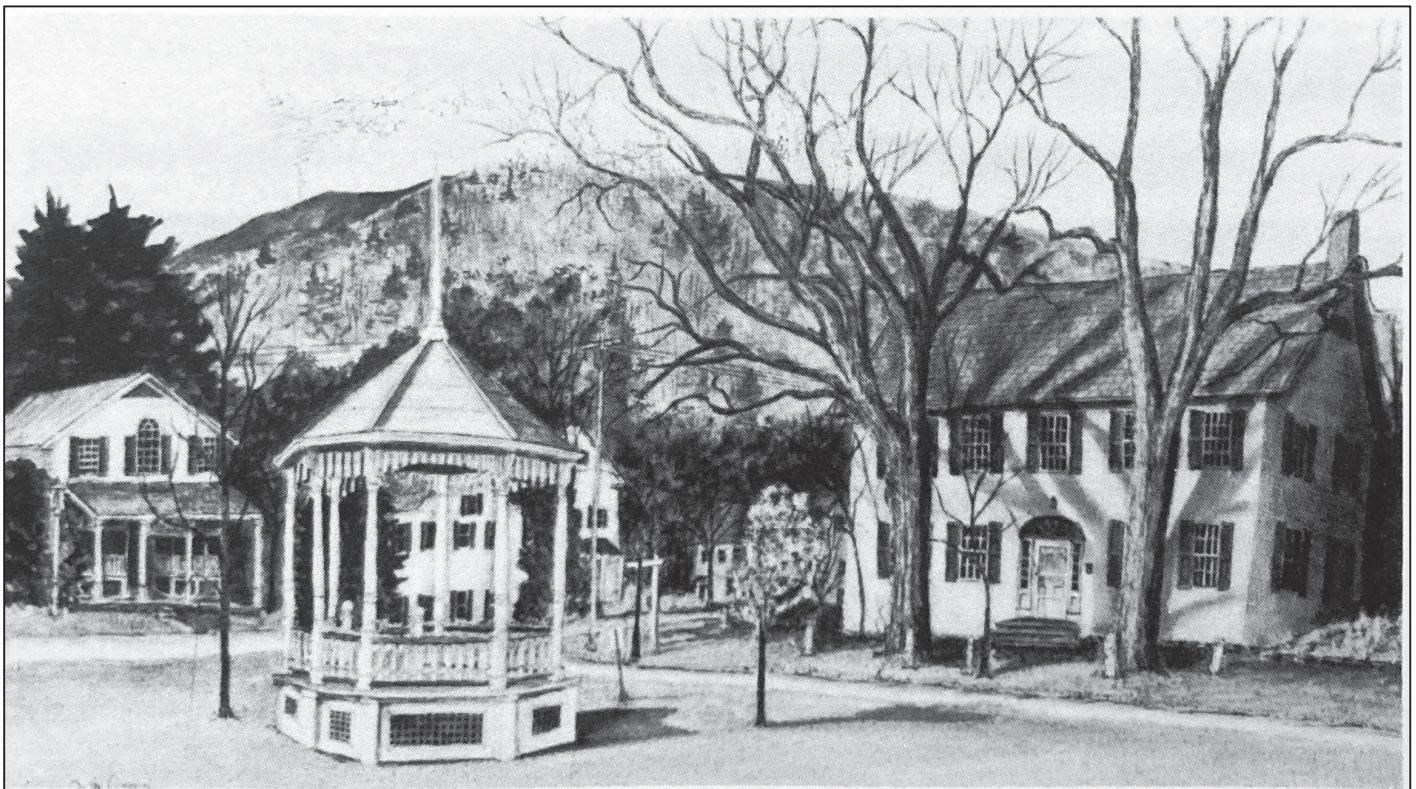
Any Delinquent taxes are still handled by Becky Reilly (802) 282-3827, or email nystrombecky@yahoo.com.

Additional note: it is very important that every Vermont resident **file their Homestead Declaration** by April 15. Not doing so results in the state assessing a penalty as well as the Town of Townshend imposing a penalty for late filed homestead declarations.

Do not hesitate to call or email me (802) 365-7300, ext. 103 [only] Elaine Hill

Do not leave messages @ext. 102

email treasurer@townshendvt.gov



DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR 2022-2023 REPORT

After receiving the warrant in June of 2023 for \$155,859.29, the total delinquent taxes owed to the Town of Townshend was \$190,883.79. Prior to receiving the warrant, the total due was \$37,348.12, a record low. One property ended up going to tax sale in 2023. I am currently in the process of another tax sale.

The tax sale that I am working on right now consists of eight properties and over \$12,000 in delinquent taxes. The tax sale date has not been scheduled yet but will likely be in late spring 2024. The struggle remains with deceased property owners with delinquent taxes where there is no estate or death certificate on file which are needed to enter the properties into probate court. I currently have three properties that account for nearly \$21,000 in delinquent taxes which the select board has advised me to hold off on pursuing to avoid up front legal fees. The remaining dollars on my list are under monthly payment arrangements with me to pay their balances off within 12 months.

I do my best to work with everyone as much as I can while sticking to my policy that I implemented when I began collecting delinquent taxes. I would be happy to serve the Town in this position for another year.

*Note - All of the figures mentioned above are principal only and do not include interest and penalty.

BECKY REILLY

	<u>7/1/2022</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Adjusted</u>	<u>6/30/2023</u>
2010-2011	1,752.76			1,752.76
2011-2012	2,003.48			2,003.48
2012-2013	1,963.04			1,963.04
2013-2014	1,516.23			1,516.23
2014-2015	3,178.63	1,603.83		1,574.80
2015-2016	5,735.87	4,294.22		1,441.65
2016-2017	5,241.91	3,763.26		1,478.65
2017-2018	6,377.70	4,977.92		1,399.78
2018-2019	8,515.18	6,432.25		2,082.93
2019-2020	7,860.04	5,165.97		2,694.07
2020-2021	51,038.47	45,702.29	(87.09)	5,249.09
2021-2022	200,697.64	186,654.41	(13.65)	14,029.58
2022-2023*	155,859.29	39,001.84	(9,143.67)	107,713.78
	451,740.24			144,899.84

***Warrant 5/31/2023 \$155,859.29**

Amounts from 2021-2022 Annual Report



2nd Annual Pickle Day

2022-2023 Delinquent Tax Report (Tax Only)

<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>Previous Years</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>Previous Years</u>
\$212.08			\$115.40		
\$2,185.24			\$4,336.52		
\$727.73	\$694.18		\$110.20		
\$615.44	\$585.71		\$203.77	\$212.59	\$357.58
\$435.66				\$288.52	\$160.67
\$1,641.45				\$229.94	
\$588.42			\$21.83		
\$1,788.11					\$295.26
\$422.08			\$5,031.66		
\$537.99	\$726.72	\$533.60	\$280.69	\$292.86	
\$160.10			\$313.96		
\$338.91			\$1,201.78	\$122.26	
\$95.13	\$132.33		\$212.08	\$56.15	\$216.31
\$48.34			\$2,135.34	\$615.74	
	\$17.15		\$187.13	\$75.74	
\$73.29			\$1,033.36	\$362.90	
		\$480.21	\$65.50		
\$2,605.24					\$288.98
\$313.96	\$605.24		\$102.92	\$36.86	
\$825.44			\$48.34	\$67.25	65.38
\$1,331.91			\$84.02		
\$60.29			\$3,430.69		
\$2,255.93					
\$247.43	\$258.14	\$2,208.54			
\$1,278.71	\$1,334.12	\$15,340.18			
\$169.20					
\$852.48					
\$164.76					
			\$70,175.35	\$6,588.17	\$2,584.70
				*	
			\$109,065.86	\$13,302.57	\$22,531.41
				TOTAL	\$144,899.84

= Collected in full before
report printed

* = Adjusted after 6/30/23

CEMETERY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

The Cemetery Commission would like to thank Mike Cutts and his crew for their fine maintenance work at Oakwood and Maple Grove Cemeteries this past season. We also want to acknowledge the hard work of Ellenka Wilson, Helen Holt and Connie Holt for their organization of the Day of the Dead program at Oakwood Cemetery in November. Scott Dorman is to be thanked for arranging a wreath for each veteran in Oakwood Cemetery as part of the Wreaths Across America program.

On the subject of maintenance, the Commission is looking for people who want to mow or adopt one or more of the cemeteries the Commission has to care for. These are paying jobs and the Commission has the equipment to do the work. The mowing season for some cemeteries goes from early May to September and leaves need to be done by Thanksgiving. For other cemeteries the care need is only twice a season. The Commission has 13 cemeteries to take care of.

The Commission is also exploring the concept of “green Burials” in Oakwood and Howe Cemeteries. If you are interested in this burial concept or wanting to mow/maintain a cemetery, contact any member of the Commission or leave a contact note in the Cemetery box in the Town Hall.



Scott & Holly Dorman
Organizers of Wreaths Across America for Townshend

The Townshend Historical Society Report for the Town Report 2024

The Townshend Historical Society has been very busy this year raising funds for the West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge Project. We have received contributions and pledges that have gotten us near the necessary funds to go forward with the project. The contract with the Certified Master Stone Mason is signed. Work is scheduled to begin in early this spring.

We want to express our sincerest thanks to Lee Petty for her tireless work with the Stone Arch Bridge Projects. She is going to stay involved until the work on the West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge has begun. She was very instrumental in obtaining a Grant from the Federal government, which was a gigantic task. She also previously served as Treasurer and did a fabulous job at that as well. We wish her well with all the different community jobs, we know, she will do in Newfane.

We had a great time at the Pumpkin Festival. We talked to new friends and old. A large thank you goes out to Makhaila Janiszyn. Even though she was sick and couldn't come to the festival, she and her folks dressed up our both like professional set designers. We also would like to send out our congratulations to Kevin Burke, the staff and the students at L&G for the amazing job putting the Pumpkin Festival on.

We also participated in the Library Festival of Trees at the Town Hall. It was a wonderful sight to behold. If you missed the event a lot of business's and organization's decorated trees, you should make sure it's on your "Dance Card" for next December!

We invite you to visit our website: Townshendvt.org. Our site is full of wonderful History of Townshend, Pictures, a lot of information on who we are and what we do. You can join the Society, buy items from our online store, and donations are always welcome.

The Townshend Historical Society

Email Address: info@Townshendvt.org

Charlie Marchant, President

Robert DuGrenier, Vice-President

Helen Holt, Treasurer

Katie Marrow, Secretary

Heidi Clawson, Board Member

Eileen Fahey, Board Member

Lonny Winrich, Board Member



West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge

TOWNSHEND LISTERS REPORT

Except for being busier than ever not too much has changed in the Townshend Listers office. The increased property sales and transfers has been challenging, but we're doing our best to stay current.

We continue to take classes to keep up with the changes mandated from the state and learn the best ways to fulfill our duties.

We want to thank all the Townshend property owners who continue to be so gracious and helpful throughout the year and we're always grateful to the owners of the Bald Mountain and Camperama campsites for their ongoing assistance.

Please remember to file your Homestead Declaration (HS-122) every year and give us a holler if you have any questions.

Our scheduled hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings and that's the best time to reach us by phone, but we always keep an eye on our email so that's often the quickest way to hear back from us

802-365-7300 X4

Listers@TownshendVT.gov

Mike Bills

Helen Holt

Gene Kuch



Dr. Bob Backus cruises through the Grace Cottage Fair August 5, 2023

Librarian's Town Report 2023

This last year has been a very busy one for the Library, in all the best ways. The Trustees and I have been working hard on our strategic planning project. I think that the trustees would agree that we've found this process to be both more work and much more fulfilling than we had initially imagined. This year the Library offered a greater variety of programs than we've ever offered before, partly due to responses that we received to our strategic planning survey questions. New relationships were forged and better collaboration fostered with other community service groups that work within the community. And I was very excited to see my dreams for a town newsletter come to fruition due to the help of Ellenka Wilson, Jean McIntire, Mikhaila Janiszyn, and others. We're very grateful to everyone who contributed to the creation of the "Townshend News".

About 800 more visitors came to the Library than last year and circulation increased by more than 900 items. Nearly 700 people attended our programs. Some of the new programs included cribbage/game nights, painting parties, and pajama storyhours. We were also pleased to be able to participate outside the library in the Reality Fair at L&G and the Day of the Dead celebration, both held for the first time last year. Such a successful year wouldn't have been possible without support and encouragement from the library trustees and the strategic planning committee, our great staff members Pam Russo, Christine Chandler, Beth Etman, and Jean Danilow, and the others who pitch in when we need a hand.

As I look to the New Year and the completion of our strategic planning project, I look forward to improving our services, reaching out to residents, starting new traditions and continuing to work to provide the best library services for our community. Please keep your comments coming. It really helps us focus our attention on your needs!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen LaRue



1st Annual Festival of Trees Sponsored by Townshend Library - 2023

TOWNSHEND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD of TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Townshend Public Library has been providing our community with essential services for more than 120 years and we are always looking for ways to improve. To that end, we spent much of 2023 interviewing residents and community groups to find out what aspirations people have for our town.

The results were fascinating and wide-ranging. One idea that kept coming up was that there just aren't enough things to do in Townshend. So the library – particularly our wonderful librarian Karen LaRue – set to work.

In addition to story hours, games nights, painting parties and reading with pets, the library offered book clubs, wildlife presentations, and summer reading programs for both kids and adults. There was also a presentation from Leland and Gray's Journey Away program and visits from state legislators to allow residents to voice their concerns. Activities hit a high note in December with the Townshend Holiday Fest and the Festival of Trees at Town Hall. More than 200 people attended.

All of this was in addition to providing bedrock library services such as online research tools, books and audiobooks and movies, downloadable audio and digital books as well as computer access and wi-fi.

Not bad for a small town library.

But it takes a lot of work and many hours. We couldn't make it happen without Karen LaRue and our wonderful assistants and volunteers Christine Chandler, Beth Etman, Jean Danilow and Pam Russo as well as all the people who help with small repair jobs and garden maintenance. And we couldn't do it without the support of our wonderful community.

For more information on library events, visit our website at TownshendPublicLibrary.org or see *The Townshend News*.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Marilee Attley, chair
Townshend Public Library
Board of Trustees



Leland & Gray Players Production of Mean Girls

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Town Clerk, I love that I never know what each day at Town Hall will bring! I also wish to thank Kurt Tietz & Anita Bean for continuing to be the best Assistants a gal could ask for, especially helping me with the many strange questions that always seem to arise! Kurt is responsible for the fun signs out front and we always welcome suggestions.

The fourth edition of *Townshend News* will be out before Town Meeting. A wonderful group has been working together to bring this to you. Feel free to let us know what you would like to see in it. Linda Sperry helped spearhead the Newsletter, after doing the Church's one for a long while, and even though she has moved away, she deserves our appreciation!

We will be putting a Welcome Packet together for new Townshend Residents, and we hope it can be nice for locals too. If you have ideas for things to make sure we include or services you provide, let me know. It would be helpful for folks to know where they can get wood, who plows, where nice walks are, who cleans chimneys, etc.

This will be the first year that Townshend will be using a tabulator to count votes as we have over 1,000 voters on our checklist. Please make sure that you register to vote, it's easy, you can come into Town Hall, go to the DMV or register online at: **olvr.vermont.gov**. As we said on our sign once, *Earn the Right to Gripe!* You can request an absentee ballot if it is hard to get to Town Hall. The Presidential preference Primary is the same day as Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 5th. The Primary will be held on Tuesday, August 13th and the General Election will be held on November 5th. The Polls are open at Town Hall from 8 am - 7 pm.

I wish you all a healthy coming year, filled with many moments of joy. Take good care and good care of one another!

In gratitude,
Ellenka Wilson



TOWN CLERK NOTES

Fiscal July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

MONIES HANDLED BY THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Recording & filing	\$19,100	Marriage & Civil Licenses	Town	\$ 110
Copies	\$2,515.15		State	\$ 550
Certified Copies	\$ 1,300	Animal Licenses	Town	\$ 1,032
Title Search Hours	\$ 359		State	\$ 922
Burial Transits	\$ 50	Vermont Fish & Wildlife	Town	\$ 73.50
DMV Registrations	\$ 123		State	\$ 1,441.50
Liquor Licenses	\$ 385	Green Mountain Passes		\$ 16
Green Mountain Passes	\$ 16	Land Posting		\$ 25
Trash Bags	\$ 3,939	Road Permits		\$372.50

ANIMAL LICENSING

All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed on or before April 3rd. An up-to-date Certificate of Vaccination for Rabies is required for licensing. If you are moving or your dog passed away, please contact the Town Clerk's office.

FEES: \$ 9 for spayed or neutered dogs \$13 for not spayed or neutered dogs

LATES FEES: \$ 2 for spayed or neutered dogs \$4 for not spayed or neutered dogs

FIRE PERMITS for burning must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office or from Rodger Brown, our Fire Warden unless there is snow covering the ground. Individuals must notify Keene Mutual Aide prior to burning at 603-352-1291. This permit does not relieve you from any liability related to damage caused by the fire. Permits are to BURN BRUSH ONLY and remember that burning household trash, treated/painted wood and construction materials is against the law.

GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORTS are available to Vermont residents, 65 years or older or totally disabled or injured serving in the armed forces or residents of Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington. The passport holder is eligible statewide for reduced prices on goods or services of Vermont's private businesses and for free admission to state parks, museums, and fully state sponsored events.

TOWNSHEND RESIDENTS TOWN OFFICE RESOURCE CENTER

Information:	past & present land records for public review
Certified copies:	birth, marriage & death certificates \$10
Meetings:	times, minutes, posted & warned
Compactor:	rules & regulations & automobile tag
Licenses:	civil marriage, animal & Vermont Fish & Wildlife
Auto:	registration renewals (must be within 2 month of expiration) & forms
Permits:	outside burning & driveway access
Property:	location, taxes, appraisal, deeds, etc.

Vital Statistics

Filed in the Town Clerk's Office during the year 2023

BIRTHS

NAME of CHILD	DATE	NAME of MOTHER	NAME of FATHER	RESIDENCE
Potter, Luka Mari	December 22 nd , 2022	Potter, Marina	Krol, Jack	Townshend
Powers IV, James Michael	January 27 th	Powers, Katherine	Powers III, James Michael	Townshend
Woodruff, James Owen	January 27 th	Woodruff, Laura	Woodruff, Paul	Windham
Palmer, Vera Maxine	March 16 th	Palmer, Samantha	Palmer, Cody	Townshend
Lee, George Philip	July 10 th	Lee, Melodie	Lee, Colton	Townshend
Wilson, Ruby Jean	September 12 th	Wilson, Emily	Wilson, Eric	Townshend
Osborne, Sofia Charlotte	September 18 th	Osborne, Shelly	Osborne, Joshua	Townshend
Ahearn, Lylah Irene	October 1 st	Ahearn, Amber	Ahearn, William	Townshend
Havreluk, Liza May	November 7 th	Bristol, Katherine	Havreluk, Trevor	Townshend
Taddei	December 31 st	Taddei, Kelsey	Taddei, David	Townshend

MARRIAGES

SPOUSE	RESIDENCE	SPOUSE	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE
Carusona, Lauren	Townshend	Michael "Jamie" Weller	Townshend	September 16 th	Londonderry
Peck, Sarah	Sanibel, Florida	Galbraith, Peter	Sanibel, Florida	September 17 th	Townshend
Bostrom, Kelsi	Townshend	Carlson, Christopher	Jamaica	September 23 rd	Townshend
Geller, Lija	Townshend	Langsdorf, Austin	Townshend	October 28 th	Townshend
Salomone, Luciene	Townshend	Lancaster, Johnathan	Townshend	December 10 th	Townshend

NAME	AGE	DEATHS	RESIDENCE
		DATE	
Harrington, Bruce	89	December 26 th 2022	Newfane
Dowley, Sandra	86	January 1 st	Townshend
Murphy, June	81	January 5 th	Brattleboro
Lucier, Richard	90	January 8 th	Townshend
Devens, Aaron	26	January 21 st	Jamaica
Dibble, Philip	91	February 20 th	Newfane
Moriarty, Philip	77	February 23 rd	Townshend
Meinke, Donald	87	March 8 th	Putney
Vanleeuwen, Alanah	57	March 15 th	Wardsboro
Jeffrey, Richard	69	April 12 th	Townshend
Knapp, Ira	80	April 20 th	Wardsboro
Bokum, Florina	91	May 7 th	Putney
Colburn Jr., Wilfred	82	May 7 th	Brattleboro
Greene, John	90	May 12 th	Townshend
Doerfler, Joel	78	May 14 th	Dummerston
Forbes, Elizabeth	94	May 22 nd	South Londonderry
LaVelle, Ruth	84	May 24 th	Springfield
Rounds, Jerry	83	June 3 rd	Brattleboro
Delano, May	90	June 13 th	Putney
Rowell, Genevieve	95	June 22 nd	Townshend
Giguere, Louiselle	74	June 30 th	Windham
Chapline, Evelyn	98	July 9 th	Brattleboro
Jenness, Carolyn	76	July 13 th	Townshend
Young, Diane	62	July 14 th	Newfane
Dowley, Margaret	60	August 2 nd	Guilford
Carroll, Adrienne	92	August 4 th	Jamaica
Lawrence, Paulene	80	August 9 th	Townshend
Deming, Gloria	93	September 27 th	Chester
Fontaine, Sr., David	89	October 1 st	Townshend
Bratton, Jessica	74	October 2 nd	Townshend
Perry, Sally	83	October 4 th	Dummerston
Cotter, William	91	October 14 th	Townshend
Ritchie, Brian	51	November 14 th	Newport, New Hampshire
Moser, Jr., George	92	November 19 th	Townshend
Frisk, Rachel	80	November 19 th	Townshend
Hartshorne, Whitney	95	November 20 th	Townshend
Reilly, Elaine	78	November 21 st	Townshend
Bosna, Alexandria	84	November 21 st	Hamilton, New Jersey
Bosek, Leopold	82	November 25 th	Townshend
Corriveau, Lyndon	73	December 3 rd	Windham
Eckhardt, Nancy	94	December 4 th	Townshend
Driscoll, Jerome	87	December 7 th	Winhall
Thomas, Edith	92	December 15 th	Marlboro
Joseph, David	68	December 19 th	Brookline
Stevens, Jane	93	December 30 th	Londonderry

**OFFICIAL RESULTS
FROM THE 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 7, 2023**

ARTICLE I: To choose a moderator for the ensuing year.

David Liebow

ARTICLE II: To act upon the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 independent auditor's report.

Yes

ARTICLE III: To see what salaries the Town will vote to pay its various officials for the ensuing year.

	Election Results
Town Clerk:	\$40,180.86
Town Treasurer:	\$32,301.36
Selectboard:	
(1) Chair:	\$1,200.00
(4) Members:	\$1,000.00 each
Town Clerk Assistant(s) & Casual Labor:	\$17.00

ARTICLE IV: To elect all Town Officials for ensuing year(s):

		Election Results
Town Clerk:	Ellenka Wilson	(1) 1 year term
Town Treasurer:	Elaine Hill	(1) 1 year term
Selectboard:	Katie Marrow	(1) 3 year term
Selectboard:	Rob Swiger	(1) 1 year term
Selectboard:	Phoebe Connolly	(1) 1 year term
Listers:	Eugene Kuch	(1) 3 year term
Delinquent Tax Collector:	Becky Reilly	(1) 1 year term
First Constable:	Warren Beattie	(1) 1 year term
Second Constable:	Mike Cutts	(1) 1 year term
West River Modified Union Educational:	Al Claussen	(1) 3 year term
Cemetery Commissioner:	Carly Sanderson	(1) 5 year term
Library Trustee:	Elizabeth Brown	(1) 5 year term

ARTICLE V: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to cover all monies raised for municipal entities for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Yes

ARTICLE VI: To see if the Town will authorize its Property Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, **August 25, 2023, November 22, 2023, February 23, 2024, and May 24, 2024.** Monthly interest will be charged at the rate of one-half percent (.05%) or fraction thereof, Interest of one percent (1%) or fraction thereof plus penalties will commence on May 30, 2023?

**Amended to correct interest and penalties to commence on May 30, 2024-
-- Passes as amended**

ARTICLE VII: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$581,199** to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town of which **\$392,482** to be raised in taxes?

Yes

ARTICLE VIII: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$723,214** to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads of which **\$610,214** to be raised in taxes?

Yes

ARTICLE IX: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$59,608.93, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the library.

Yes

ARTICLE X: To see if the Town will raise \$2,100, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund?

Yes

ARTICLE XI: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$20,000, by taxation, to be placed in the capital expenditure fund fire department reserve toward a future pumper? **Yes**

ARTICLE XII: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$20,866, by taxation, for the support of Social Services, as recommended by the Social Services Committee? **Yes**

ARTICLE XIII: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$50,000, by taxation, to be held in a reserve account for the repair of the stone arch bridge on Back Windham Road contingent upon successful award of grant funds? **Yes**

ARTICLE XIV: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire land by gift or purchase for municipal forest to promote reforestation water conservation and good forestry practices? **Yes**

ARTICLE XIV: To see if the Town will vote to set the first Tuesday in March 2024 as the date for the 165th Town of Townshend Annual Meeting? **Yes**

TOWNSHEND NEWS

Volume 1, Edition 1 Summer 2023

Richard "Dick" Jackson: Through WWII to Townshend

Transcribed by Kate Jansak

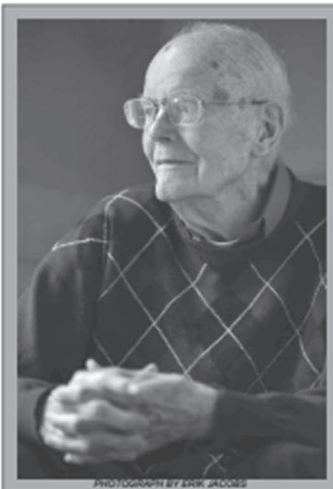
I was born on a Sunday [October 14, 1923] and have always been a listener; I learn more by listening.

My mother and grandmother were born in the same farmhouse in Walpole [Massachusetts], a mill town. These women were strong, self-reliant Yankees. My father, Bill, was the last of the Victorians; he was strict but fair.

Because I goofed off in college and couldn't pass the French test needed to get into Massachusetts State, I had to take two years of German. The smatterings of both languages came in handy when I and walked—and occasionally rode—from Marseille [France] to Stuttgart [Germany].

By enlisting in the army in November 1942, I was allowed to finish my sophomore year in college. After Infantry Basic Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, most of our group was sent to Army Specialized Training Program for the winter of 1943/44. By spring, the Army needed to refill its Infantry divisions, so I was sent to Charlie Co., 399th INF, 100th Infantry Division and assigned to a 60 millimeter mortar squad as the gunner.

I turned 21 on the JW McAndrew, the boat to Europe. The invasion of southern France was in August 1944, and I arrived in Marseilles in October. Going up the Rhine



PHOTOGRAPH BY KATE JANSACK

Valley, we passed wreckage left by retreating Germans. The driver of our truck faked a mechanical issue, so we had to stop in Orange where there was a bordello. We younger kids were left to explore, so we did and found a Roman amphitheater.

I sure remember driving through the stone gate of a walled French city named Langres and the poplar trees along the roads to Nancy where we fought the Germans. My father had also fought the Germans in WWI in the same area and lost part of his leg to trench foot, but we didn't talk about the war; I just came home from the war and went back to college.

In Lemberg [Germany], we had to go house to house, shed to barn, and cellar to attic to sort out who was civilian and who was German. I wasn't aware of the concentration camps, but I had read a 1939 book entitled "Address Unbekannt, [Address Unknown]" so I knew a little and saw people in the striped camp uniforms among the displaced people scavenging for food.

By January 1945, I was the squad leader in charge of four men and one 60 millimeter mortar.

War is difficult to describe. It happens in moments, like when the weather suddenly cleared one morning after the Battle of

This newsletter is an all-volunteer publication providing reports of town events and organizations, as well as stories and profiles of townspeople. Through this, we aim to promote cooperation and understanding toward a greater Townshend community.

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