

Annual Reports

Town of Thetford, Vermont

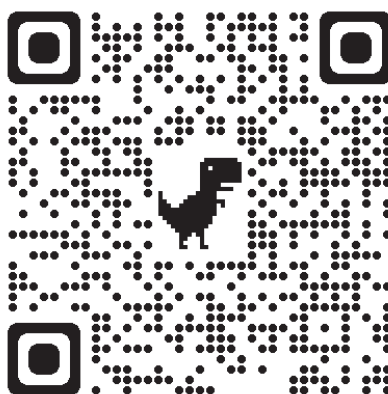
Year Ending December 31, 2023



**THETFORD TOWN OFFICES
PO BOX 126
3910 ROUTE 113
THETFORD CENTER, VT 05075-0126**

(802) 785-2922

On the web at:
www.thetfordvt.gov



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POLICE, FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, dial 911

ANNUAL REPORTS

TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT

***YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2023***

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Cover photo was taken by Diahann Tanke. Thank you to all who submitted photos.

★ NOTES ★

THETFORD ELECTED OFFICIALS

[term expires in “()”]

Cemetery Commissioners: 3-year term		
Sam Eaton ('24)	333-9232	sam56short@gmail.com
Ruth MacKinnon ('25)	649-9012	ruth.mackinnon@gmail.com
Richard Landry ('26)	356-9664	rich.landry.414@gmail.com
Justices of the Peace: 2-year term		
Richard Balagur	785-4514	richard@balagur.com
Martie Betts	299-5293	martieb2018@gmail.com
Robin Brown	333-4727	rrbrown1122@gmail.com
Wendy Cole	785-2698	wendycole723@gmail.com
Jessica Eaton	333-9491	krash537@hotmail.com
Greg Kasten	785-2970	gakasten@gmail.com
Bill Keegan	333-9372	bill.b.keegan@gmail.com
Orin Pacht	345-7146	orinpacht@gmail.com
Wayne Parks	333-9761	wayneparksvt@yahoo.com
Kate VanArman	785-2881	kate.vanarman@icloud.com
Listers: 3-year term		
Sean Boyce ('24)	785-2922	sboyce@thetfordvt.gov
Sue Howard ('26)	785-2922	showard@thetfordvt.gov
Barbara Harrington ('25)	785-2922	bharrington@thetfordvt.gov
Representatives for Windsor – Orange – 2		
Rebecca Holcombe		rholcombe@leg.state.vt.us
James Masland	785-4146	jmasland@leg.state.vt.us
School Directors: 2- & 3-year terms		
Jeff Jamele ('26)		jeff.jamele@oesu.org
Greta Marchesi ('25)	727-4089	greta.marchesi@oesu.org
Nic Cook, Vice-Chair ('24)	785-4464	nicholas.cook@oesu.org
Mary Chin ('25)	785-2649	mary.chin@oesu.org
Megan Snider, Chair ('24)		megan.snider@oesu.org
School Moderator: 1-year term		
Deecie Denison		deecie49@gmail.com
Selectboard: 2-& 3-year terms		
David Forbes ('24)	333-4329	dforbes@thetfordvt.gov
David Goodrich, Vice-Chair ('24)	785-2170	dgoodrich@thetfordvt.gov
Sharon Harkay, Chair ('26)	785-4924	sharkay@thetfordvt.gov
Li Shen, ('24)	785-4950	lshen@thetfordvt.gov
Steve Tofel ('25)	649-2934	stofel@thetfordvt.gov
Martie Betts – Selectboard Assistant	785-2922 x120	sba@thetfordvt.gov
Senators – Windsor – Orange – 2		
Alison Clarkson		aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us
Dick McCormack		rmccormack@leg.state.vt.us
Becca White		rwhite@leg.state.vt.us

Sheriff of Orange County		
George Contois	685-4875	gcontois@orangecountyvt.gov
Town Clerk: 3-year term		
Tracy Borst ('26)	785-2922	townclerk@thetfordvt.gov
Town Moderator: 1-year term		
Deecie Denison		deecie49@gmail.com
Town Treasurer: 3-year term		
Tracy Borst ('25)	785-2922	treasurer@thetfordvt.gov
Trustees of Trust Funds: 3-year term		
Priscilla Hall ('26)	333-4077	
J. Rick Hoffman ('25)	785-2438	
Joe Tofel ('24)	649-1434	



Tracy Borst

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Assistant Town Clerk		
Martie Betts	785-2922	mbetts@thetfordvt.gov
Assistant Treasurers		
Kristie Wadsworth	785-2922	kwadsworth@thetfordvt.gov
Martie Betts	785-2922	mbetts@thetfordvt.gov
Conservation Commission, 9: 4-year term		
Tom Ebert ('26)	603-923-3493	tomebert88@gmail.com
Jim McCracken, Chair ('26)	785-2925	jcmcc211@gmail.com
Sue Tallman ('25)	785-4579	sue.tallman@gmail.com
Alicia Houk ('26)	802-727-0003	aliciahouk@gmail.com
Sara Cavin, Vice Chair ('25)		sara.cavin@gmail.com
Janet Dowell ('27)		contactjanetd@gmail.com
Donn Downey ('26)		donn@uppervalleyforest.com
Krysta Karlson, Secretary ('24)	860-221-9598	kkarlson@gmail.com
Matt Parno ('26)		parnomd@gmail.com
Development Review Board, 5: 3-year term		
Sue Howard ('26)	785-2922	showard@thetfordvt.gov
Bill Bridge ('26)	785-2964	unharried@gmail.com
Angela McCanna ('24)	333-3030	angiemccanna@gmail.com
Orin Pacht ('25)		orinpacht@gmail.com
Tim Taylor, Chair ('25)	333-9248	timhappyhiker2@gmail.com
DPW Foreman		
Dale Lewis	785-4679	dlewis@thetfordvt.gov
ECFiber Representative(s):		
Jim Masland		
Tom Monego		
Emergency Management Director:		
Mariah Whitcomb	802-291-1445	emd@thetfordvt.gov
Thetford Joint Energy Committee, 9: 3-year term		
Chris Hebb - School Board Appointee	333-9689	chris.hebb@gmx.com
Nolan Riegler, Chair – School Board Appointee ('24)	802-333-0075	nolan.riegler@gmail.com
Stephanie Daniels – TA Liaison	802-785-4469	slgdaniels@gmail.com
Erica Ko ('24)	917-407-5116	ericako@gmail.com
Chuck Cole ('26)		chuck.cole@dartmouth.edu
Alice Stewart ('26)	785-3087	afstewartvt@myfairpoint.net
Tom Ward ('24)		tom.ward3@gmail.com
Weston Martin ('25)		weston.lee.martin@gmail.com
Vacant (1)		

Fire Warden: 5-year term		
Chad Whitcomb ('28)	356-2100	thetfordfire@gmail.com
Greater UV Solid Waste District Representative: 2-year term		
Jim Masland ('25)		
(Vacant – 1 alternate)		
Health Officer:		
Mariah Whitcomb	291-1445	emd@thetfordvt.gov
Historian: 3-year term		
Marshall Van Norden ('24)	333-4574	
Historic Preservation Committee, 3-year term		
Sean Boyce ('25)		sboyce1776@gmail.com
Stephen Branchflower, Chair ('26)	785-2667	stephen@smithandvansant.com
Catherine Saunders ('24)		catherine.saunders@gmail.com
Greg Gundlach ('25)		greg@vermont3d.com
Susan Thrane ('25)		swthrane@gmail.com
Planning Commission, 7: 3-year term		
Liz Ryan Cole ('26)	785-4124	lizryancole@me.com
Jeff Jamele ('25)		jeff.jamele@gmail.com
Jamie Thaxton, Vice-Chair ('24)	785-4222	james.thaxton.01@gmail.com
David Forbes, Chair ('25)	333-4329	vtvuren@gmail.com
Didi Pershouse ('24)	603-252-1930	didi.pershouse@gmail.com
Helen Carter ('25)	208-860-3298	thetford.helen@gmail.com
Michael Snow ('24)		msnow@fastmail.com
Police Department		
Karie Tucker, Sergeant	785-2200	kari.tucker@vermont.gov
Michael Scruggs, Police Chief	785-2200	michael.scruggs@vermont.gov
Judith Powell, Administrative Assistant		judith.powell@vermont.gov
Recreation Advisory Council, 9: 3-year term		
Charlotte Rutledge ('26)		charlotte284@gmail.com
Nathan Hill ('24)		natehill187@gmail.com
Andy McGovern ('23)		akmcgovern@gmail.com
Joseph Deffner ('26)		jjdeffner@gmail.com
Stefanie Gulick ('24)		stefanie_dyke@yahoo.com
Stacy Barton, ('25)		stacyabarton@thet.net
Brent Mellen ('25)		b_mellen@hotmail.com
Vacant (2)		
Recreation Coordinator		
Rachael Cook	785-2922	recreation@thetfordvt.gov

Thetford Housing Committee, 5: 3-year term		
Sarah Martel, Chair ('26)	785-2018	martel71@gmail.com
Pippa Drew ('26)	333-4308	pippa@pippadrew.com
Cathee Clement ('24)	802-359-3436	catherinedaumclement@gmail.com
Melissa Krzal ('26)		merillin34@gmail.com
Vacant (1)		
Thetford Elder Network, 10: 4-year term		
Jody Biddle, Chair ('24)	785-4508	
Pat Pisano ('25)	785-4831	
Sue Gault, Secretary ('24)	785-2805	
Dale Gephart, Vice-Chair ('25)	333-9748	
Priscilla (Pril) Hall ('27)	222-7885	
Cathy Newbury ('24)	785-3136	
Sue Rump ('27)	785-4029	
Inge Trebitz ('27)	785-2129	
Vacancies (2)		
Town Service Officer: 1-year term		
Jessica Eaton ('24)	333-9491	krash537@hotmail.com
Treasure Island Exploratory Committee, 7: 3-year term		
David Roth, Chair ('26)		dmr@thewakayagroup.com
Chris Leitao ('25)		jhzien@gmail.com
Dale Gephart ('26)		dalegep@gmail.com
Ann Jane Kemon ('25)		ajkemon@comcast.net
Lucas Stepno ('25)		steppy.vt@gmail.com
Doug Tift ('26)		dtift.redwing@gmail.com
Vacancies (1)		
Tree Warden: 1-year term		
Vacant		
Tri Town Commission: 3-year term		
Jessica Eaton ('26)	333-9491	krash537@hotmail.com
David Goodrich ('25)		dgoodrich@thetfordvt.gov
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC: 1-year term		
Angela McCanna ('23)	333-3030	angiemccanna@gmail.com
Upper Valley Ambulance: 1-year term		
David Goodrich ('24)	785-2170	dgoodrich@thetfordvt.gov
Zoning Administrator:		
Kelly Gardner	785-2922	zoning@thetfordvt.gov

Notaries Public		
Martie Betts	299-5293	
Wendy Cole	785-2698	
Kate Cone	785-2964	
Lynn J. Daley	785-4336	
Dana C. Grossman	785-4074	
Daniel F. Grossman	785-4074	
Mary M. Hathorn	333-9176	
Lynn Irwin	785-4581	
Rick Maynard	333-9130	
Susie Weider	785-4014	



TEN Luncheon speaker, Dale Gephart with Pat Pisano – Sue Rump

2024 CANDIDATES FOR TOWN AND SCHOOL OFFICES	
Cemetery Commissioner, 3 year	Samuel Eaton
Lister, 3 year	Sean M Boyce
Selectboard, 3 year	Li Shen
Selectboard, 2 year	David W Goodrich
Selectboard, 1 year to complete 3 year	David Forbes John Piecuch
Town Moderator, 1 year	Deecie (Mary) Denison
Trustee of Trust Funds, 3 year	Joe Tofel
School Director, 3 year	Nicholas Cook
School Director, 2 year	Stephanie Hareld
School Moderator, 1 year	Deecie (Mary) Denison



MODERATOR’S MUSINGS

A Moderator’s Thoughts ... How do we want Thetford to be perceived?

Are we **SAVAGE**? Are we **CIVILIZED**? Are we **COURTEOUS**?

Savage: Not civilized, barbaric; vicious or merciless; brutal.
The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition

Civilized: Showing evidence of moral and intellectual advancement; humane, ethical, and reasonable.
The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition

Courteous: Polite, showing respect and having good manners.
Cambridge English Dictionary

Let us set expectations for ourselves and our community that we will daily demonstrate our collective civilized and courteous nature.

*Let us deport with skill,
Let us discourse with care,
Powder exists in Charcoal.
Before it exists in Fire.
- Emily Dickinson*

Please participate in Town Meeting and Vote on Election Day.

Deecie Denison, Town Moderator

TOWN OF THETFORD VOTER INFORMATION

Clerk's Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Contact us at Townclerk@thetfordvt.gov or 802-785-2922 x100

Register to Vote

Registered voters may vote at Town Meeting March 2 and via ballot for Presidential Primary and local ballot on March 5. Applications to the voter checklist are available at the town office, online at mvp.vermont.gov or call or email the Town Clerk's office for assistance.

Early or Absentee Voting

Absentee ballots can be requested via the voter portal, email to the town clerk, or via phone request to the Town Clerk's Office.

Voter Portal: mvp.vermont.gov townclerk@thetfordvt.gov 802-785-2922

Absentee Ballots must be returned by 7 pm on March 5:

Public Information Hearing:

February 26, 7:00 pm. Public Information Hearing and Candidates Forum at Thetford Town Hall
To participate via zoom, please go to the town calendar on the thetfordvt.gov website.

School Informational Hearing:

February 22, 5:00 pm at Thetford Elementary School, 2689 Route 113, Thetford

Town and School Annual Meeting: Saturday, March 2, 2024

For Town & School Articles

Thetford Academy, 304 Academy Road, Thetford

9:00 am School Meeting, 10:00 am Town Meeting

Daycare, Coffee & Snack Bar, and Luncheon available.

Voting by Australian Ballot - Tuesday, March 5, 2024

For Town and School Officers, School Budget & Presidential Primary

Thetford Town Hall, 3910 VT Route 113, Thetford Center

Polls open 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

*Absentee ballots must be returned by March 5, 2024, 7 pm to be counted.

For up-to-date election information on all upcoming elections, go to the elections Page on the Town of Thetford website – use the QR code to the right or go to thetfordvt.gov





Town of Thetford Vermont

3910 Vermont Route 113 • P.O. Box 126 • Thetford Center, VT 05075
802-785-2922 • thetfordvermont.us

2024 THETFORD TOWN MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Thetford, in Orange County in the State of Vermont, are hereby warned to meet in the gymnasium of Thetford Academy, in the Town of Thetford, on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 10:00 am to transact the following business:

- Article 1 To hear the reports of the Town.

- Article 2 Shall the Town authorize payment of real and personal property taxes by physical delivery to the tax collector before 5 pm on Tuesday, October 15th, 2024?

- Article 3 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$2,420,946 (two million four hundred twenty thousand and nine hundred forty-six dollars) of which \$1,462,907 (one million four hundred sixty-two thousand and nine hundred seven dollars) shall be raised by taxes and \$958,039 (nine hundred fifty-eight thousand and thirty-nine dollars) by non-tax revenues for the budgeted expenditures of the Town General Fund?

- Article 4 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,568,486 (one million five hundred sixty-eight thousand and four hundred eighty-six dollars) of which \$1,330,586 (one million three hundred thirty thousand and five hundred eighty-six dollars) shall be raised by taxes with \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) from surplus funds, and \$237,900 (two hundred thirty-seven thousand and nine hundred dollars) by non-tax revenues for the budgeted expenditures of the Department of Public Works Fund?

- Article 5 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$337,260 (three hundred thirty-seven thousand and two hundred sixty dollars) as an appropriation to the Thetford Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.?

- Article 6 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$130,000 (one hundred thirty thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the Thetford Library Federation?

- Article 7 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$5,250 (five thousand and two hundred fifty dollars) as an appropriation to the Lake Fairlee Association whose mission is to protect the health of the lake and its environs?

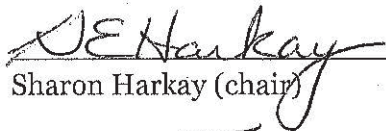
- Article 8 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$8,000 (eight thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the Community Nurse of Thetford?

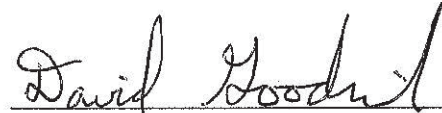
- Article 9 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$13,000 (thirteen thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the VNA/VNH to provide visiting nurse and hospice care?


- Article 10 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the White River Council on Aging for the purpose of providing services through the Bugbee Senior Center including Meals on Wheels?
- Article 11 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$4,800 (four thousand eight hundred dollars) as an appropriation to the Tri-Valley Transit (formerly Stagecoach) for the purpose of providing scheduled bus runs as well as door-to-door transportation services?
- Article 12 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$4,266 (four thousand two hundred and sixty-six dollars) as an appropriation to the Clara Martin Center for the purpose of providing behavioral health care services?
- Article 13 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,400 (one thousand four hundred dollars) as an appropriation to Senior Solutions for the purpose of providing services and resources for aging in Southeastern Vermont?
- Article 14 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,388 (one thousand three hundred and eighty-eight dollars) as an appropriation to the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley for the purpose of providing shared public health initiatives and services within a variety of health networks?
- Article 15 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,300 (one thousand three hundred dollars) as an appropriation to Safeline for the purpose of providing services to women and children experiencing domestic and sexual violence?
- Article 16 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$750 (seven hundred fifty dollars) as an appropriation to the Orange County Parent Child Center for the purpose of providing family support and outreach programming?
- Article 17 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$500 (five hundred dollars) as an appropriation to the Orange County Restorative Justice Center for the purpose of addressing legal and conflict issues as well as the needs of harmed parties?
- Article 18 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) as an appropriation to WISE for the purpose of ending gender-based violence through advocacy, prevention, education, and related services?
- Article 19 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$300 (three hundred dollars) as an appropriation to The Family Place for the purpose of supporting families with children through a variety of programs?
- Article 20 To transact any other business of the Town.

The following Article shall be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The Australian balloting will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Thetford Town Hall, 3910 VT Route 113, Thetford Center, Vermont.

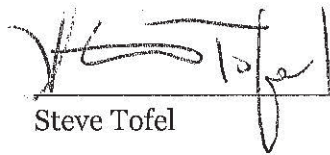
Article 21 To elect Town officers.


Sharon Harkay (chair)



David Goodrich (vice chair)


David Forbes


Li Shen


Steve Tofel

A true copy, attest:


Tracy Borst, Town Clerk


Date



Thetford Hill Fair Hobby Horses – Jane Francisco

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Dear Thetford Residents,

It is an honor and privilege that I present my first Thetford Town Manager Report. I am grateful to serve as your new Town Manager, and I hope that we can all work together for our community. We have had a challenging year, and we've risen to the challenge. We have dealt with major staffing changes and multiple devastating storms. I am confident that we have a great team that's ready for the future.

Personnel

In June, I joined the Town of Thetford as its new Town Manager. I have lived in Vermont for over 15 years and was previously employed as the Town Administrator for Johnson, Vermont. I bring experience with finance and public infrastructure and a resolve that myself and all of our employees be worthy of the public's trust.

In September, we welcomed Kelly Gardner as our new Zoning Administrator. Kelly is a long-time Thetford resident and has experience as a Title Abstractor and researcher. Kelly is a great asset to the town. She has a good understanding of the information that might be needed in the future and a dedication to providing timely and knowledgeable customer service.

In October, we were joined by Rachael Cook as our new Recreation Director. Rachael has been an enthusiastic member of our community, participating in volunteer led events. I look forward to everything that Rachael will be able to bring to our town.

In December, we were able to secure Heather Elder as a seasonal employee with our Department of Public Works. Heather has experience as an equipment operator and with plowing. She has been a great asset to our team. We will miss her when she returns to her landscaping business over the summer, but if we are lucky, she might join us again next winter.

Also in December, we were able to hire Karie Tucker as Police Sergeant. Karie is a third-generation officer and has almost 14 years of experience herself. She is extremely professional and highly values continuing education. We can expect great things from her.

Despite this marathon of new hires, we still have two vacant positions, one in the Department of Public Works and one in Law Enforcement. We are working aggressively to retain the excellent employees that we have and are working to fill these vacant positions. We have an excellent team working for you, and I hope you come into Town Hall to meet us.

Academy Road Paving

Using surplus funds from 2022, we completed a paving project on Academy Road this summer. This paving project was one of the first projects recommended by the Stantec Road Assessment because maintenance of roads in good condition will be the most effective use of our limited resources. We will continue to work through our deferred maintenance projects while we ensure that our more recent investments are protected.

2023 Storm Damage and Deferred Grants

This year was a bad year for rain and flooding. Thetford fared better than a lot of our neighbors, but we still suffered significant damage. The unplanned work and storm damage itself has deferred a significant public works grant planned for the summer of 2023 to 2024. We are continuing to make infrastructure improvements that make us more resilient to storm damage in the future.

Capital Equipment Reserve Funds

We have identified significant gaps in the capital equipment funds for both Law Enforcement and the Department of Public Works. The estimates used for future costs were not keeping up with the rate of inflation and required interventions to keep the funds healthy into the future. The Law Enforcement Capital Equipment Fund will need additional study in the near future as there have been significant discussions about how to manage that equipment.

Transfer Station and Recycling

Susanne Simon and all of our staff at the transfer station continue to be outstanding. I am proud that our town attracts such dedicated service. Costs have risen significantly this year, especially for food scraps. The volume of food waste is too much for volunteers to take and we are forced to start paying for its disposal.

Conclusion

I want to thank all the department heads and staff not mentioned elsewhere for their excellent service. Our town’s staff work very hard to meet the community’s needs. I am grateful for their committed and conscientious service to the town.

Always know that I have an open-door policy and when you’re in town hall, please feel welcome to stop to say “hi”, email me at townmanager@thetfordvt.gov or call 802-785-2922, ext. 2.

Respectfully,

Brian Story
Town Manager



SELECTBOARD REPORT

The year 2023 saw some significant changes at Town Hall. In February, Town Manager Bryan Gazda announced he would depart at the end of April to become Public Works Director in Hartford. The Selectboard hurried to locate both an interim manager and Bryan's replacement. Fortunately, Tom Yennerell, interim manager in 2020-21, was available to again be temporary manager. Municipal Resources Inc. performed the search and presented three candidates to the board in mid-April. The Selectboard extended a provisional offer and then welcomed Brian Story as our new Town Manager on June 19th. Brian was the Town Administrator and Community and Economic Development Coordinator in Johnson, Vermont. He is conversant with municipal management and VT statutes and well-connected with the network of managers in VT as president of the VT Town and City Managers Association.

After Town meeting, David Goodrich replaced Li Shen as Selectboard Vice-Chair while Sharon Harkay remained as Chair. In August, Mary Bryant stepped down from the board and was replaced in September by David Forbes, Planning Commission Chair, until the next town election.

Following the July resignation of Zoning Administrator Angela Jones, the Selectboard approved the hiring of Mary Ellen Hayward Parkman as interim Zoning Administrator. In September, we welcomed Kelly Gardner as the Town's new Zoning Administrator. Recreation director Amy Fahey also retired and Brian Story recruited Rachael Cook to fill that position. In December, we welcomed Sargeant Karie Tucker to the police department.

As a new manager, Brian Story inherited some ongoing issues including resolving a dangerous building on Houghton Hill Road. It was demolished in early August. Within a month of his arrival, he was faced with severe flooding in parts of Thetford as a result of prolonged rain on July 7th onto an already saturated landscape. An evacuation order was placed on Rt 132 from Tucker Hill Road to the Strafford town line as the Ompompanoosuc River crested. Other roads, including New Boston, Five Corners, Teft, Phelps, West Fairlee and Ulman were closed due to washouts and flooding. We are grateful to Director of Emergency Services Mariah Whitcomb who coordinated efforts and kept the town fully informed, and to Brian and the DPW who worked together on the aftermath. By July 12th, all roads were passable, although cleanup and road/culvert restoration continued for weeks.

Another "inherited" project was the replacement of the aging HVAC system at Town Hall that had been approved by the Selectboard in 2022 and initiated under Bryan Gazda. It was funded with \$257,133 from the Town's share of the VT ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) payment. The project proceeded slowly in 2023 due to issues with electric panels, supply chain delays and a labor shortage. The protective caps over the external heat pump condensers were finally installed in December.

The Selectboard discussion regarding use of the roughly \$500,000 of remaining ARPA funds has been lengthy. The federal government restricts the funds to any service traditionally provided by a government (e.g. construction of schools and roads, government administration, health and public safety, environmental remediation) so long as it does not create an ongoing financial obligation. Residents' preferences on how to spend the money were gathered in a survey. In various Selectboard discussions, upgrading the town garage and stabilizing the Timothy Frost building were two items that were mentioned repeatedly. Brian pointed out that the main room of the Timothy Frost building needs to be secured or future problems will be more costly. While the housing shortage and village water systems are outstanding needs, there were concerns about using ARPA money since other funding sources are available. Related to housing, there is also interest in the town commissioning a buildout study (also called a capacity study) for approximately \$15,000, to analyze which areas of town are best

suited to absorbing more housing. However, back in January, the Regional Planning Commission had recommended paying our highway budget with ARPA money, thus creating a surplus in the General / Highway fund that would not be restricted by the federal government. In December, the Selectboard authorized Brian to put the remaining ARPA funds into the 2024 budget under General Fund revenue.

The Town Service Officer, Jessica Eaton and others raised the possibility of hiring a part-time Town social worker, generating ongoing discussions and two community forums. The issue concerns people who receive assistance from the Farm Trust but fail to follow up with the recommended social services. Thus, they remain in a cycle of dependence. Jessica reported that it is beyond her capacity to keep checking on follow-up. Resident Edie Ham suggested that a book of resources could solve a lot of these problems. It was suggested that the town determine what we think is needed and investigate the role of existing social services so we don't duplicate efforts. For instance, some agencies are already set up to deliver fuel assistance. The Selectboard recognized that another salaried position with benefits etc. will cause taxes to creep up more, and that many residents can barely afford their taxes as it is. There was discussion about police department personnel and how a social worker would interact with that department.

While the flood of July 1st, 2017 has become a distant memory, the town had not yet paid off its FEMA fund balance from that disaster. An independent audit of the town, finalized in late summer, recommended paying off the final amount of \$202,362.00 from the town General Fund surplus. Using the Highway Fund surplus was not advised as this could have unforeseen consequences. The Selectboard authorized using the General Fund balance to pay off this outstanding amount.

In other business, the Selectboard drafted and adopted an agricultural tax stabilization policy and approved the Planning Commission's interim zoning bylaw facilitating construction of accessory dwelling units. The Selectboard also approved the updated Local Emergency Management Plan, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the hiring of Appraisal Resource Group to manage the upcoming town-wide property reappraisal. Highway signs to indicate East Thetford businesses are accessible via Rt. 113 despite the Thetford/Lyme bridge closure were installed after Thetford pressured NH DOT. The board congratulated Selectboard Assistant Martie Betts on her achievement of Certified Clerk status, as was recognized at the conference of the Vermont Clerks' and Treasurers' Association.

Two former employees passed away in 2023. We learned with sadness of the passing of Roberta Howard. Roberta was a dedicated public servant, who served first as a Town Auditor and Assistant Town Clerk, and later as Town Clerk and Treasurer, and Town Service Officer. She also served for many years on the boards of the North Thetford Library Association and the Thetford Historical Society. We also honor the memory of Claude Thurston, who served as Road Commissioner for 17 years and who was a founder of the Upper Valley Fish & Game Club.

Respectfully,

Thetford Selectboard

Sharon Harkay (Chair), David Forbes, David Goodrich, Li Shen, and Steve Tofel

TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER REPORT

Town Clerk & Treasurer

Monday – Thursday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Also, by Appointment

Townclerk@thetfordvt.gov

802-785-2922

2023 began with our return to the in-person Town Meeting! Approximately 100 Thetford voters attended on a snowy Saturday morning at Thetford Elementary School. This year, the Town Meeting will be at Thetford Academy and I've arranged the return of free childcare, morning coffee and snack bar, and a group to provide lunch for purchase as well.

Our non-election year was busier than expected. Once March elections wrapped up, we were able to focus on some projects like a regular publication and promotion of our e-news and constant updates to our website. The adoption of our Records Management and Retention Policy made way for reviewing and purging records. Time spent with another Town Manager transition and some new coworkers has been worthwhile and Town Hall continues to be a pleasant place to visit and work.



Use this QR Code to sign up for our e-Newsletter!

Our goal is 2000 emails so that we know we are getting reminders, vital information, and emergency information to a vast majority of residents with this email format.

Oxbow Vet, the provider of our Rabies Clinic, will be holding clinics in Fairlee and Bradford this year – see details on page 17 - and be sure to plan for vaccinations if your pet is due for updates. We are happy to check our records for you, simply call the office or email us for assistance. We can process your renewals through the mail, through our drop box, and in the office. See office hours above.



I am so blessed with your support for education and professional development. I have served on many Clerk and Treasurer associations for the county, state, and beyond. In May of 2023, one of those roles, Director of the New England Municipal Clerks Institute, led to me becoming the first New England recipient of the Institute Director of the Year by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. The role of Institute Director provided me with access to education, further development of leadership skills and a chance to network with Clerks around the world while providing education to my fellow clerks. This award was presented at the annual conference in Minneapolis.

Later in 2023, Martie Betts obtained her Certified Vermont Clerk status from the Vermont Municipal Clerk and Treasurer Association. Certification requires three years of municipal service, participation in mandatory courses and commitment to education and service. To meet the requirements Martie attended conferences and training in online webinars and conferences across New England. Her skills have added value to the Town Clerk's office in her role of Assistant Town Clerk, and as Selectboard Assistant, where I credit her with strengthened communication. We are lucky to have her here.



On the Treasurer side, 2023 continued to be a year of transition in Town Hall with the departure of Town Manager Brian Gazda and creation of the Town Accountant position filled by former Assistant Treasurer Kristie Wadsworth. The Town Accountant reports to the Town Manager, with a focus on Accounts Payable, Payroll and duties related to collection of delinquent taxes. As Treasurer, my focus is on the overall General Ledger and financing, tax billing and Accounts Receivable. Regarding tax billing, the State of Vermont mandates the software program for our grand list and tax billing; a new system was contracted for 2022 yet didn't get off the ground for tax billing. At this point, I can only warn you that tax bills MAY have a different look in 2024. Personally, I am hoping for an option to use our current system for one more year.

The town continues to hold ARPA funds and those funds have supported the town with an increase in interest revenue and no tax anticipation loan. For the first year, we've been able to place funds in CDs for additional revenue.

As I enter my 22nd year as your Town Clerk and 6th as Treasurer, thank you for your continued trust. We continue to serve you to the best of our abilities. 2024 proves to be a busy year ahead with three election seasons. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Tracy Borst
Master Municipal Clerk
Certified Vermont Clerk
Certified Vermont Treasurer

ANIMAL LICENSES

ALL DOGS, FERRETS AND WOLF-HYBRIDS OVER 6 MONTHS MUST BE LICENSED

Present a valid rabies certificate and fees to the Town Clerk.

LICENSING FEES:

Male/Female (unaltered) \$13 Spayed/Neutered \$9

Renewals are due by April 1. After April 1, the penalty of \$10 will be applied and the licensing fee increases.

2024 RABIES CLINICS

(No Thetford Clinic this year)



Bradford, VT

Wednesday, March 13th
Bradford Fire Station
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Fairlee, VT / Orford, NH

Wednesday, March 27th
Fairlee Fire Station
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Rabies Vaccine only. Vaccine cost is \$10. All animals must be on a secure leash or in a carrier.
Please register ahead online at www.oxbowvetclinic.com.

If you are unable to pre-register, please bring a copy of the previous year license or certificate or something with you and your pet's information written out.

TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

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

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

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

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard “Snook” Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are!

Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!

800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP; Executive Director: VVSA

**LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS
TOWN AND SCHOOL CANDIDATES & SCHOOL BUDGET
MARCH 7, 2023**

Total Votes: 331 – Checklist of 2419

Cemetery Commissioner, 3 year	
Richard P. Landry	298
Write In	3
Blank	30
	331

Town Moderator	
Mary Deecie Denison	301
Write In	2
Blank	28
	331

Lister, 3 year	
Susan Howard	307
Write In	1
Blank	23
	331

Trustee of Trust Funds, 3 year	
Priscilla Hall	309
Write In	0
Blank	22
	331

Lister, 2 year to complete 3 year	
Barbara Harrington	292
Write In	2
Blank	37
	331

School Director, 3 year	
Jeff Jamele	282
Write In	4
Blank	45
	331

Selectboard, 3 year	
Sharon Harkay	280
Write In	16
Blank	35
	331

School Director, 2 year	
Mary Chin	300
Write In	2
Blank	29
	331

Selectboard, 2 year	
Steve Tofel	279
Write In	12
Blank	40
	331

School Moderator	
Mary Deecie Denison	297
Write In	2
Blank	32
	331

Town Clerk, 3 year	
Tracy Borst	315
Write In	2
Blank	14
	331

School Article IV School Budget	
Yes	262
No	68
Blank	1
	331

STATE REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

As we begin the second year of our biennium, we are working hard to make sure Vermont is a place people can work hard, play, raise their kids and retire safely and not worry about their bills.

In the last session, we extended the Vermont Child Tax Credit, made unprecedented investments in permanently affordable housing, and made zoning changes that should make it easier to build climate friendly and affordable housing where people need it. These investments help less wealthy Vermonters and contribute to our long-term affordability as a state. We also took steps to reduce carbon emissions and build Vermont's resilience to climate change. We funded Universal School Meals and navigated the end of the COVID pandemic. We worked hard with the Senate to pass a balanced budget that meets our needs.

However, we still must grapple with some of the same challenges we faced last session. According to Vermont's Joint Fiscal Office, the share of working-age Vermonters, ages 25 to 64, was about 54.5 percent in 2010 but dropped to about 50.5 percent in 2022. We have a growing gap between the number of working age Vermonters and the number of jobs employers seek to fill: currently there are three job openings for every unemployed worker. This is part of why restaurants and stores are offering shorter hours, and you may see longer waiting times to get appointments for health care services. The pandemic also harmed the mental health of our state's children, leaving them at risk of worse outcomes.

Over the summer and fall, Vermont experienced two catastrophic floods that caused extensive damage to homes, businesses, and municipal operations in several regions. These events have become very expensive and will have major impacts on this year's budget. We in the Upper Valley were spared the worst of this damage. However, planning for long-term resilience and helping some of the hardest hit communities get back on their feet has to be part of the plan. As we build back, road by road and house by house, we need to be building back in ways that are more robust to future climate events.

We know how important our schools are to our communities. As the state transitions to the new education funding formula, it is grappling with several unintended consequences of the transition. It will be a difficult transition. Unprecedented increases in statewide education spending are being driven by:

- years of unfunded infrastructure needs,
- uncontrollable increases in health care costs in every budget,
- discovery of PCBs in schools across the state,
- new mandates,
- shrinking student populations and competition amongst schools for students,
- significant mental health challenges amongst our young people, and
- tax abatements to protect flood damaged communities.

We are fighting to make every dollar go farther for our communities and the people who live in them. We will also be pushing for better ways to make our communities welcoming and affordable, not just for the people who already live here, but also for following generations, on whom we depend to build a bright future for our towns.

We have been sustained by the hard work, good ideas and civic spirit of so many of you.

Please reach out to us with questions and suggestions at rholcombe@leg.state.vt.us or jmasland@leg.state.vt.us.

Town of Thetford
Town Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2023

Deecie Denison, Town Moderator, called the 2023 Town Meeting to order at 10:10am, at the Thetford Elementary School Multi-purpose room. The pledge of allegiance was led by two school students, Oliver Emery and Cecilia Huling. Sharon Harkay, Selectboard Chair, introduced the Selectboard including Li Shen, Vice Chair, and members Steve Tofel, Mary Bryant, and David Goodrich.

The 2023 Civic Pride Award was presented to Heinz and Inge Trebitz, and Jody Biddle, for their various volunteer services in various department and civic organizations in Thetford.

Moderator Denison called for a motion (moved and seconded) to suspend rules to allow for the Town Manager, not a resident of Thetford, to speak to the assembly. This motion passed by voice vote.

Article 1 To hear the reports of the Town.

The article was moved and seconded. Tracy Borst, Town Clerk, thanked Assistant Town Clerk Martie Betts for her efforts on the town report and urged voters to read the report. Article 1 passed by voice vote.

Article 2 Shall the Town authorize payment of real and personal property taxes by physical delivery to the tax collector before 5 pm on Monday, October 16th, 2023?

Article 2 was moved and seconded; with no discussion the article passed by voice vote.

Article 3 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,766,274 (one million seven hundred sixty-six thousand and two hundred seventy-four dollars) of which \$1,327,318 (one million three hundred twenty-seven thousand and three hundred eighteen dollars) shall be raised by taxes and \$438,956 (four hundred thirty-eight thousand and nine hundred fifty-six dollars) by non-tax revenues for the budgeted expenditures of the Town General Fund?

Article 3 was moved and seconded. Bryan Gazda, Town Manager, spoke to the budget noting that the 2022 Town Report, page 55-56, contains his budget report. He worked with department heads over the fall to present a budget that covers expenses and maintains services. There were no questions and Article 3 passed by voice vote.

Article 4 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,537,135 (one million five hundred thirty-seven thousand and one hundred thirty-five dollars) of which \$1,309,235 shall be raised by taxes with \$60,000 (sixty thousand dollars) from surplus funds, and \$167,900 (one hundred sixty-seven thousand and nine hundred dollars) by non-tax revenues for the budgeted expenditures of the Department of Public Works Fund?

Article 4 was moved and seconded. Bryan Gazda, Town Manager, spoke to the budget increase of 6.99 percent; a major component of the increase being the payment for the Route 132 project.

Article 4 passed by voice vote.

Article 5 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$327,441 (three hundred twenty seven thousand and four hundred forty-one dollars) as an appropriation to the Thetford Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc.?

Article 5 was moved and seconded. Bryan Gazda, Town Manager explained this budget from Chief Whitcomb, Thetford Volunteer Fire Department, reflects the inflationary costs resulting in a 3.4% increase in expenses and the Capital Fund allocation of 4% as scheduled. There were no questions. Article 5 passed by voice vote.

Article 6 Shall the Town vote to exempt from the grand list for a period of five (5) years the properties located in Post Mills and on Thetford Hill that are owned by the Thetford Volunteer Fire Department and are used exclusively for the purposes of the organization?

Article 6 was moved and seconded. Town Manager Bryan Gazda explained the two parcels are tax exempt by vote every 5 years; this vote was not warned last year but the exemption was honored. There were no questions; Article 6 passed by voice vote.

Article 7 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$130,000 (one hundred thirty thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the Thetford Library Federation?

Article 7 was moved and seconded. Article 7 passed by voice vote.

Article 8 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$5,250 (five thousand and two hundred fifty dollars) as an appropriation to the Lake Fairlee Association whose mission is to protect the health of the lake and its environs?

Article 8 was moved and seconded. With no discussion Article 8 passed by voice vote.

The Moderator offered to accept a motion to combine Article 9 – Article 20. Sharon Harkay, Selectboard Chair made a motion for the town to raise the sum of \$44,504 to fund the combined total of the appropriations listed in the town report. With some discussion for and against the motion, Sharon Harkay withdrew her motion.

Article 9 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$8,000 (eight thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the Community Nurse of Thetford?

Article 9 was moved and seconded. The article passed by voice vote.

Article 10 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$13,000 (thirteen thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the VNA/VNH to provide visiting nurse and hospice care?

Article 10 was moved and seconded. Tracy Bach, resident and a member of the Board of Trustees of VNH offered a brief description of VNA services. Missy Krzal, resident, spoke in support of VNA and proposed an amendment to change the appropriation from \$13,000 to \$16,000. The amendment was seconded. After some discussion a motion to Call the Question was seconded. This motion passed. The vote on the proposed amendment (to increase the contribution from \$13,000 to \$16,000) failed by voice vote. Article 10, as presented, passed by voice vote.

Article 11 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) as an appropriation to the White River Council on Aging for the purpose of providing services through the Bugbee Senior Center including Meals on Wheels?

Moved and seconded. Article 11 passed by voice vote.

Article 12 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$4,266 (four thousand two hundred and sixty-six dollars) as an appropriation to the Clara Martin Center for the purpose of providing behavioral health care services?

Moved and seconded. With no discussion Article 12 passed by voice vote.

Article 13 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$3,200 (three thousand two hundred dollars) as an appropriation to the Tri-Valley Transit (formerly Stagecoach) for the purpose of providing scheduled bus runs as well as door-to-door transportation services?

Article 13 was moved and seconded. With no discussion Article 13 passed by voice vote.

Article 14 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,400 (fourteen hundred dollars) as an appropriation to Senior Solutions for the purpose of providing services and resources for aging in Southeastern Vermont?

The article was moved and seconded. Article 14 passed by voice vote.

Article 15 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,388 (thirteen hundred and eighty-eight dollars) as an appropriation to the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley for the purpose of providing shared public health initiatives and services within a variety of health networks?

Article 15 was moved and seconded. Motion passes by voice vote.

Article 16 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,300 (thirteen hundred dollars) as an appropriation to Safeline for the purpose of providing services to women and children experiencing domestic and sexual violence?

Moved and seconded. With no discussion Article 16 passed by voice vote.

Article 17 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$750 (seven hundred fifty dollars) as an appropriation to the Orange County Parent Child Center for the purpose of providing family support and outreach programming? Moved and seconded. With no discussion Article 17

passed by voice vote.

Article 18 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$500 (five hundred dollars) as an appropriation to the Orange County Restorative Justice Center for the purpose of addressing legal and conflict issues as well as the needs of harmed parties?

Moved and seconded. Article 18 passed by voice vote.

Article 19 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) as an appropriation to WISE for the purpose of ending gender-based violence through advocacy, prevention, education, and related services?

Moved and seconded. Stacey Glazer, Thetford resident and Program Operations Manager at WISE spoke to the services provided. Article 19 passed by voice vote.

Article 20 Shall the Town raise the sum of \$300 (three hundred dollars) as an appropriation to The Family Place for the purpose of supporting families with children through a variety of programs?

Moved and seconded; with no discussion Article 20 passed by voice vote.


Article 21 Shall the voters of Thetford reduce the number of Thetford's Tri-Town Commission members from three members to two members?

Moved and seconded. Article 21 passed by voice vote.

Article 22 To transact any other business of the Town.

Moved and seconded. Steve Tofel, Selectboard, acknowledged that our Town Manager, Bryan Gazda, will be moving on; he thanked him for his good service and wished him the best of luck. State Representatives Rebecca Holcombe and Jim Masland addressed the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.


Respectfully submitted: Tracy Borst, Town Clerk

A true record, attest:


Deecie Denison, Town Moderator


Sharon Harkay, Selectboard Chair

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD & ZONING OFFICE REPORT

2023 was once again another year of transition for the DRB. We said goodbye to Angela Jones and welcomed longtime resident Kelly Gardner as the new Zoning Administrator. She has settled into the job with great enthusiasm. She brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the job. The Town of Thetford is lucky to have her onboard.

The Thetford Zoning Bylaw governing ADUs has changed, reducing a number of requirements. The State of Vermont in Act 47 made changes to what municipalities must permit with respect to zoning and single unit homes. The trend in statewide land use has been to loosen regulations in the hopes that such action will increase the development of workforce housing. Time will tell.

The Development Review Board (DRB) is a five-member quasi-judicial board appointed by the Selectboard. The DRB conducts hearings and issues decisions on all subdivision applications, certain zoning applications and appeals from actions of the Zoning Administrator. Regularly scheduled meeting dates are set for the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month unless there are no matters requiring hearings. Agendas are posted at the town office, at local post offices and the DRB calendar.

The Zoning office encourages applicants to plan for projects. The reasons for this are that the zoning office is part-time, a hearing may be necessary, and due to public notice requirements, the application deadline in these cases can be well in advance of hearing dates. The applicant is responsible for understanding and following the zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations both of which may be found online at thetfordvt.gov/departments/zoning.

Summary of Permits:	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Subdivision Plats Approved	0	1	2	2	2	1
Number of Lots Created	0	2	4	4	4	2
Annexations	3	2	2	2	1	0
Boundary Adjustments	0	0	0	0	3	2
Business/Conditional Use	1	1	0	1	2	3
Driveways	4	3	1	1	9	4
Residences	2	6	4	7	8	9
Accessory Buildings	19	23	20	13	29	19
Additions	6	8	8	4	3	2
Telecommunication Facility	0	0	0	0	1	0
Agricultural	1	0	2	5	0	0
Miscellaneous *	4	7	6	5	9	12
Total Permits Processed **	52	71	57	53	70	54

* Miscellaneous: Porch/Decks, Enclosures, etc.

** Summary permit numbers may not add up to the total. Some permits include multiple categories.

Regular scheduled office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00AM-4:00PM. Your calls and email inquiries are invited. Permits are available. Appointments are appreciated!

Tim Taylor, Chair
Development Review Board

Kelly Gardner, Zoning Administrator
VT E9-1-1 Coordinator, Town of Thetford

Telephone: 802-785-2922, ext. 6
Email: zoning@thetfordvt.gov



New Thetford Residents who are developing their property, with their own natural resources and their own hands. These photos are from their “Chainsaw” Class in the fall of 2021, courtesy of Max VanPelt and Jenny Sparks.



Rebecca Lafave

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Your Planning Commission is composed of volunteers. We meet twice a month. Over the course of a cycle of years our job is to propose updates, sometimes very significant ones, to Thetford's Town (Master) Plan, our Zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations.

Our work is advisory. In the past, changes proposed by the Planning Commission were voted on at Town Meeting. The Selectboard is now the entity that adopts the laws that govern the use of land, and what and where we can build.

After completing work on the Town Plan (adopted in 2020), we would ordinarily work through a complete review of our Zoning bylaw. Because we see housing as such a pressing problem, however, the Planning Commission moved housing to the top of our "to do" list as we began our zoning review. Instead of working through the Bylaw in order, we took two steps to address housing first. One step was to draft an Interim Zoning Bylaw (approved by the Thetford Selectboard on February 27, 2023), and the second was to join a seven-town consortium formed to help towns consider housing-related changes beyond those contained in the Interim changes. Funding from the State of Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development paid a planner from the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to work with us. Volunteers from Thetford's Housing Committee also provided much appreciated input and support.

Our work is shaped by two goals. One is to make sure the existing zoning bylaws match the Goals, Policies and Recommendations outlined in the Town Plan. Right now, we are focusing primarily on the Housing chapter. The second is to simplify and streamline the language we use and processes we set out.

One important housing-related focus is on Zoning Districts. We proposed the creation of a new (to Thetford) district called a Neighborhood Residential District. A second set of changes we are working on involve changes to definitions. What is a "single family home"? How should the town regulate Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)? Some of the changes we discussed have become proposals, discussed in hearings organized by the PC and then later by the Selectboard. Others, such as what the purpose of zoning is, or whether there is zoning language that can or should regulate the kind of businesses that can operate in town, will be the work of coming years.

Given that the Interim Zoning Bylaw and Housing Consortium Project proposals were intrinsically linked, the PC hosted both a Public Forum (held on October 17) and a Public Hearing (on November 7). Both sessions allowed the PC and the consultant planner from TRORC to present information and solicit comment(s) about the proposals. The PC will take suggestions into account and present our final recommendation to the Thetford Selectboard, who will hold a final Public Hearing about these revisions on January 8, 2024.

Another activity of the PC in 2023 was the development of a Policies and Procedures document, intended to facilitate increased efficiency of the Commission-as-a-whole through improved inter-member communication, task allocation and the improvement of group work within the Planning Commission.

Solid data helps inform the work of the Planning Commission. We appreciate the work of the Thetford Water Systems Study Committee (WSSC) – working in partnership with the engineering consultant company, Stantec – to ascertain the current layout and capacities of Town water systems. The resultant data will serve as a foundation for future water infrastructure planning and development.

In addition, the Planning Commission, together with the Thetford Housing and Energy Committees and Conservation Commission advocated for the Town to undertake a Capacity Study and prepare a Capital Budget Program. A capacity study is designed to allow the development of data that can support recommendations on matters of land development, transportation, economic and social development, historic and scenic preservation, the conservation of energy and the development of renewable energy resources, and wetland protection. Currently, the Town has issued RFQ (Request for Qualifications), and RFP (Request for Proposals) documents to solicit relevant responses and evaluate potential applicants.

We welcome Thetford's new Zoning Administrator, Kelly Gardner, and look forward to working with her in the coming year. We thank former Planning Commission member Cynthia Shelton for her service to the Commission and know she will continue to contribute to Thetford in the future.

The Commission welcomes expressions of interest in serving on the PC. Talk to any one of us, come to a meeting or two and learn more about what we do.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Forbes, Chair
Mike Snow, Vice Chair
Jeff Jamele, Recording Clerk
Liz Ryan Cole, Didi Pershouse and Jamie Thaxton



Stopping by a barn on a snowy evening – Scott Carter

BOARD OF LISTERS REPORT

Thetford residents Sean Boyce, Sue Howard and Barb Harrington staff the Board of Lister's office.

Sean brings assessing and reappraisal experience from his work with Vermont Appraisal Company and his background as a home builder. He has lived in Thetford for 7 years and worked in the Thetford Lister's office since 2018. He is up for re-election in March 2024.

Sue was elected to the Board of Lister's in March 2022. She has been a Thetford resident for over 30 years, works as a Horticulturist, and brings her business experience and desire to serve the community to her work as a Lister.

Barb was elected in March 2023 and has lived in Thetford for 9 years. She brings a variety of small business consulting, government, and non-profit experience, in addition to a background in forestry and natural resource management.

Together, the Thetford Board of Listers forms a well-balanced team in a field with a steep learning curve that requires strong analytics and communication skills, an understanding of property rights and deeds, and expertise in all the unique aspects of land ownership in Vermont (such as Homestead declarations and Current Use Valuation).

TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL: State guidelines and real estate equalization study results all indicate a need for a Town-wide reappraisal, and the Board of Listers commenced a 100% reappraisal in the Fall of 2023. Because of the enormity of this undertaking, we expect it to take 1.5 years to complete. The town, with the lister's recommendation, has contracted with Appraisal Resource Group (Russ Beaudoin, principal) to help complete the reappraisal. We will be sending out postcards with the date of inspection visits for your neighborhood, and property owners will have an opportunity to schedule an appointment.

GRAND LIST: Each year the Listers establish a Grand List specifying the value of all taxable properties as of April 1st. The Preliminary Grand List is filed with the Town Clerk on or before June 4th. Grievance hearings begin no later than June 19th, and the final Grand List is lodged with the Town Clerk by July 25th.

In 2023, at the time of Grand List filing, Thetford had a parcel count of 1,407 of which almost 50% was comprised of residential properties under six acres, fourteen veterans received a property tax exemption, and 156 properties were part of the State Current Use valuation system. Over 50 parcels changed hands in town in 2023.

EQUALIZATION STUDY RESULTS: Vermont Equalization Studies look at 3 years of sales activity, (not including family and estate sales). The 2023 Equalization Study results, released in January 2024, show Thetford's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) at 72.9%, and Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) at 24.9%. For additional information, please go to: <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/understanding-property-taxes>

USE VALUE APPRAISAL PROGRAM (CURRENT USE): Owners of agricultural and forest land may be eligible to have land taxed at a lower "use value" rate by enrolling in the State Current Use Program. A minimum of 25 acres is commonly required for enrollment, but there are special criteria for smaller agricultural parcels. Farm buildings can also be enrolled in the program. In 2023, Thetford had

a total of 13,173 acres enrolled in Current Use. For additional information and to file an application electronically, please go to: <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-use>

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION (FORM HS-122): By Vermont law, resident property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration each year, 32 V.S.A. § 5410. Many people file their Homestead Declaration at the same time they file their Vermont Income Taxes. However, if you apply for an extension, or even if you are not required to file a Vermont Income Tax return, the Homestead Declaration must still be filed by April 15th. Penalties apply after the April deadline. For additional information and to file electronically, please go to: <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

VETERANS EXEMPTION: Veterans who own their home and declare a Vermont homestead may be eligible for a property tax exemption. For information and requirements, please go to: www.veterans.vermont.gov

THETFORD GIS MAPS AND PROPERTY INFORMATION: The Town of Thetford works with a mapping contractor to provide public access to digital maps of town properties. The maps are prepared for listing and reference purposes and should not be used for legal descriptions, conveyances, current or former occupation or determination of legal title. The maps are a good way to get to know the town, your neighbors, the topography of an area, and to see the roads, bridges, and protected areas that link it all together. Find the Thetford GIS maps link here: <https://www.thetfordvt.gov/community/maps>

The State of Vermont maintains a similar map through the GIS office. You can review and compare information across all towns to understand variations across many indicators. Find that mapping service at: <https://maps.vermont.gov/vcgi/html5viewer/?viewer=vtmapviewer>

PROPERTY RECORDS RESEARCH: The town vault contains original deeds, surveys, and other legal documents related to land records going back to the 1800s. These records are available to the public during Town Office hours, and digital records of the same are available to search via public computer in the Town Clerk's office. A small fee is charged for printing and copying.

The Listers are here to assist you with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Our office hours are Wednesdays, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

Telephone: 785-2922, ext. 5

Email: Listers@thetfordvt.gov

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Boyce

Barb Harrington

Sue Howard



Jane Francisco

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

The 2023 season was very busy for the highway crew with all the rain and flooding and with some immediate issues that came up.

We did some grader shimming on Sawnee Bean Road, Gove Hill Road, Tucker Hill Road, and some areas on Godfrey Road.

We have numerous projects planned for the upcoming year. I would like to send a big thank you to the members of the road crew: Rocky Clark, Dennis Streeter, Neal Rich, and Heather Elder for always being here - especially in the winter months when they are called in early.

I would like to welcome Heather Elder to our staff as a part time road crew member.

I would like to thank the Thetford Fire Department, the Police Department and all the local contractors that have offered or have helped us out in times of need. As always, if you are aware of any road problems or have questions, you can call or email Dale.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Lewis, DPW Foreman
802-785-4679
dlewis@thetfordvt.gov



Sharon Harkay



Jeanne Fabrikant

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Thetford Cemetery Commission is currently responsible for the maintenance of seven of the ten Town cemeteries. This includes hiring a mower, making regular visits to inspect the properties and tackling larger projects. It is our mission to preserve the cemeteries as well and as cost effectively as possible.

The Evergreen Rest cemetery, located behind the Town Clerk's office in Thetford Center, has been privately maintained but no longer has the funds to pay for mowing and upkeep. Moving forward, the Town of Thetford will assume responsibility for the care of this cemetery. This cemetery has room for many more burials so its continued maintenance is a benefit to the community.

In 2023, the Commissioners wrote Rules and Regulations for the Town cemeteries. This can be found on the Town website. There were some major trees that were removed for the safety of gravestones. Inspecting the cemeteries for condition, there are many old stones that no longer have family to care for them that are in great need of repairs/restorations for their safety and the safety of the public.

In 2024, our focus is to begin annual repairs and restoration of gravestones. Volunteers have offered to clean and straighten stones but repairing foundations, bases and broken stones will require professional help. We hope to have funds allocated in the yearly budget to restore as many stones as afforded each year moving forward. We also need to replace a 40-year-old wooden fence at the Pleasant Ridge North Thetford Cemetery. It is in very poor condition and it is necessary to have a boundary marker around a public burial ground. We propose to replace the wood with granite posts, which will be a permanent solution with no upkeep.

There is plenty of work ahead of us as we look forward to improving the burial grounds of Thetford. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help us continue to preserve our cemeteries, please reach out to us.

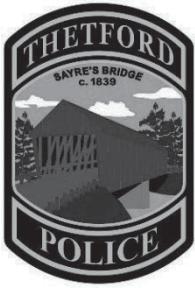
Respectfully submitted,

Sam Eaton, Chair
Richard Landry
Ruth MacKinnon



Jeanne Fabrikant

THETFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



2023 was a busy year for your Police Department. We saw the departure of Officer Stuart Rogers II at the end of January. Officer Rogers provided more than a decade of service to the Town of Thetford. I would like to thank him for his dedication and time he has given to our town. I wish him well in his future endeavors. We finished the year with the



addition of Sergeant Karie Tucker. She comes to us with 14 years of law enforcement experience. She is a certified Field Training Officer, Forensic Interviewer, and is working towards a Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health. She will be an asset to our department. Please welcome her when you see her out on the roads and around town. It is my hope to return to a three-member department to provide the same level of services we had in the past. It has been a challenging 10 months being the only member, and now with Sergeant Tucker, our calls for service and presence will increase.

You'll notice our report has a very similar look to last year with the police sedan in the upper right corner. It's service to our town has come to an end. Both sedans are out of service and waiting for replacements. They have exceeded their useful life for police use and require repairs well beyond their value. We are in the process of ordering the new cruiser which will take approximately 12-14 weeks to upfit and deliver.

Requests for directed patrols to address motor vehicle complaints remain high. The complaints focus on speed and manner of operation. We have installed speed feedback signs around town. These signs will provide information which is helpful to monitor speed and traffic volume. We have acquired two mobile speed trailers to use throughout town. Requests can be made for a sign or trailer to be set up in your area.

We continue to receive calls about loose dogs and barking dogs. Thetford has an animal ordinance (which can be found on the Town's Website) which addresses animal noise and loose animals. On a side note, animal registrations are due by April 1st. A registered dog helps us provide for a quick return home should they become loose.

To reach us for a new complaint, please call and speak with a dispatcher. We are in the process of evaluating our dispatch services. However, the need to speak with a dispatcher about a new complaint or to speak with an on-duty officer has not and will not change. Voicemail should be used to follow up with an Officer for an ongoing complaint. E-mail is great to share information should you have the resources available. As always, feel free to stop by the office or flag us down to talk in person. There are no set office hours due to the services we provide. We are currently dispatched by the Vermont State Police, and the phone number is 802-748-3111.

On behalf of Sgt. Karie Tucker and Administrative Assistant Judy Powell, it is our pleasure to partner with you to make Thetford a safe, vibrant community. Please let us know if you have ideas or concerns about how we might do so more effectively, and as always, look out for your neighbor and be kind to one another.

Michael Scruggs
Chief of Police

Phone #
802-748-3111

STATE OF VERMONT

Fax #
802-748-1585



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
VERMONT STATE POLICE**

St. Johnsbury Barracks
1068 US Route 5 Suite #1
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

January 3, 2024

To the Residents of the Town of Thetford:

The Vermont State Police continues to provide professional law enforcement service for the community. Troopers from the St. Johnsbury Barracks and Bradford Outpost are responsible for patrolling more than 200 miles of interstate and state roads, along with hundreds of miles of local town roads.

Enclosed is a list of offenses that the Vermont State Police responded to in the town of Thetford from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The total number of cases generated in the Town of Thetford during that timeframe was 116.

We remain committed to protecting the people of Vermont using best police practices and strive to reduce crashes which result in serious injury or death on Vermont roadways.

Sincerely,

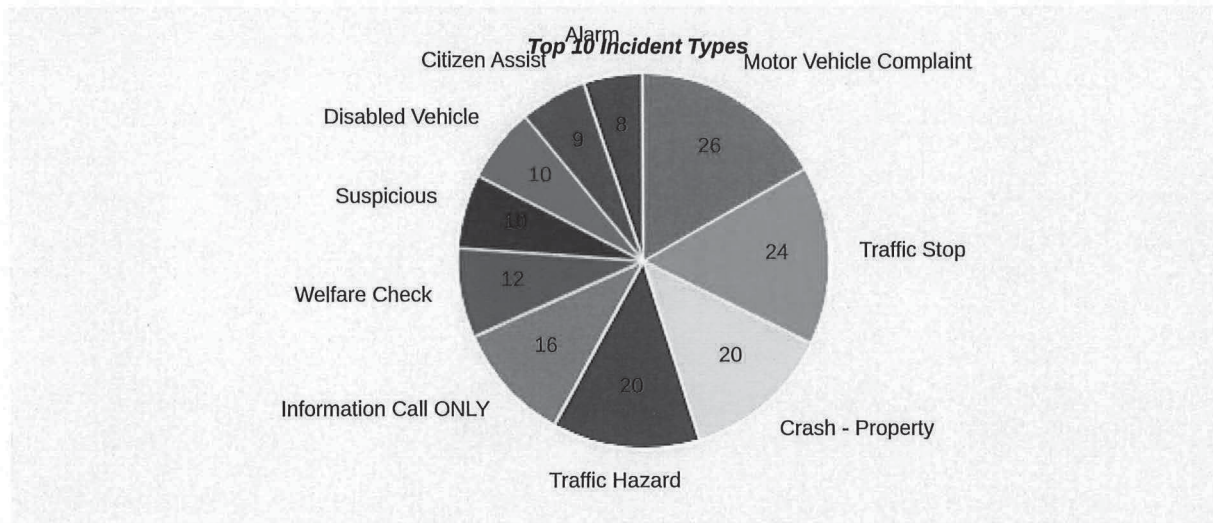
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Owen Ballinger".

Lieutenant Owen Ballinger
Station Commander

Station Commander: Lieutenant Owen Ballinger

Patrol Commanders: Sgt. Sean Brennan, Sgt. Jonathan Duncan, A/Sgt. Crista Maurice

VERMONT STATE POLICE STATISTICS TOWN OF THETFORD



Diahann Tanke

THETFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Thetford Volunteer Fire Department (TVFD) provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the town of Thetford. The organization has matured into a strong community resource.

In 2023, TVFD responded to a total of 290 emergencies.

Structure Fires	8
Car Fires	3
Wildland Fires	2
EMS (medical)	162
Extrication / Technical Rescue	31
Hazardous Conditions (power lines, Hazmat)	26
Service Calls	34
Alarm activation and investigation	24

Combining the many hours of training and maintenance of equipment and facilities, in addition to responding to emergencies each year, our volunteers donate hundreds of thousands of dollars in labor annually. This is because of the significant time volunteered to support our community. Required regulatory reporting continues to increase, and there are additional regulatory training requirements each year as well as National Fire Protection Agency standards required to be met.

Responding to emergencies often means leaving our families, our full-time work and other activities to help our community. When we return, a minimum of 1 hour is required to decontaminate equipment and vehicles after every call. We continue to provide this service willingly to keep our community safe. This service is provided 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. We see it as our duty and honor within this community.

As with many volunteer organizations, we continue to have a need for additional personnel. We recognize the time commitment is extensive, but the reward of serving this community is worth it. Anyone interested in learning more, should contact us at thetfordfire@gmail.com.

Follow us on Facebook for more information and regular updates from the department. You can also use the department's website that contains safety tips, permit information in addition to department information. www.thetfordfire.org

Please help us help you in an emergency. If your address is unmarked, it takes us longer to locate you. We ask that you place a reflective address sign at the end of your driveway. The fire department has these signs available for a small fee. Please contact us at thetfordfire@gmail.com.

If you have a Fire Alarm system and/or a medical monitoring system that reports to a monitoring agency, please consider the installation of a Knox Box. A Knox Box is a secure system that allows us quick access to the location. For more information on this system please contact us at thetfordfire@gmail.com.

I would like to thank all the members of the department and the community for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad A. Whitcomb, Fire Chief
Thetford Volunteer Fire Department Inc.



2023 Town Meeting

THETFORD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management Director is responsible for coordinating the various components of the emergency management system in an emergency. This can be during a public health emergency, localized and/or widespread weather emergency, or planned event that has the potential to overwhelm resources. This includes the coordination with the fire department, rescue services, law enforcement, public works and various state resources.

2023 brought better management of the global pandemic and new treatment options allowing us to move from a pandemic to an endemic state, in which we are now living with this new virus. Additional vaccines have been made available and continue to evolve based on the virus as well similar to annual flu vaccines. With this change, the focus of emergency management continued to shift back to a planning and response mode for other town wide emergencies.

In 2023, working with our partners at Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission, we completed the updates for the Hazardous Mitigation Plan for the town and presented it to the Selectboard for approval and adoption. This plan is critical to review and update every 5 years as it allows the town to access a greater percentage of reimbursement from the state when there is a declared emergency. The comprehensive plan details emergencies from storms to health concerns and their mitigation strategies including preplanning and educational outreach.

The July storms that created multiple challenges for the state were not as severe for Thetford and our surrounding areas. While we did sustain some road damage and a small number of homes sustained water damage, our emergency crews and Department of Public Works managed the trouble areas well. Our emergency operations center was open and staffed for several days, coordinating resources here in town and at the state level. Due to concerns about the flooding due to culvert issues on the Strafford town line and rising river on the west side of town, an evacuation order was issued for areas of Route 132 towards Strafford. Fire department personnel went door to door to inform our residents of the order and their options including the opening of the emergency shelter at the Elementary School. While the shelter was staffed, we did not have any residents utilize those services. Our recovery from this one storm was quick, and our DPW crews worked to repair the damaged infrastructure in town.

As we enter 2024 continued strengthening of communication to and from the community will be a focus for both prior to and during emergencies. Thank you for your continued support of your neighbors and our community.

Respectfully,

Mariah Whitcomb, MBA
Emergency Management Director
emd@thetfordvt.gov
thetfordemergencymanagement.weebly.com

FIRE WARDEN REPORT

You can now request a burn permit with our online form which can be found on the fire department and Town of Thetford websites. After submitting the online request, you will receive an email with an approval or denial of the requested burn permit.

Most fires are caused by people burning without permits, as well as careless activities. Unpermitted and unattended fires will be extinguished by the fire department with the possibility of a fine issued by the Fire Warden.

Please understand that during times of unfavorable fire conditions, permits will not be issued in the Town of Thetford. Please remember burn permits must be obtained before burning your brush and natural debris pile.

Burn permits are not required when there is complete snow cover. However, I do ask that you call the numbers listed below to notify us of your burning during this time. This helps cut down the cost of fire department resources being sent on nuisance emergency calls.

Please note the following Vermont law relating to open burning permits:

Title 10 V.S.A Chapter 83: 2645

OPEN BURNING -PERMITS:

Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not kindle or authorize another to kindle a fire in the open air for the purpose of burning weeds, grass, or rubbish of any kind except where there is snow on the site, without first obtaining permission from the fire warden or deputy warden of the town, stating when and where such fire may be kindled. Whenever such permission is granted, such warden, within 12 hours, shall issue a written permit for record purposes stating when and where such fire may be kindled. During periods of extreme fire hazard, the Commissioner of Forest and Parks may notify town fire wardens that for a specified period no burning permits shall be issued. The wardens shall issue no permits during the specified period.

Fires kindled for the purpose of burning brush or for other lawful purpose shall be kindled only at such times and under such conditions as will enable the parties starting them to keep them entirely under control and not creating a public nuisance or hazard. **Fires must be attended at all times.**

To obtain a burn permit, please call:

Chad Whitcomb	Fire Warden	802-356-2100
Mariah Whitcomb	Deputy Warden	802-291-1445

Respectfully submitted,

Chad A. Whitcomb
Fire Warden



5445 Lake Morey Road, Fairlee VT05045
802-333-4043 (office) 802-333-4234 (fax)
info@uppervalleyambulance.com

Proudly serving Bradford, Corinth, Fairlee, Orford, Piermont, Strafford, Thetford, West Fairlee & Vershire since 1990

To all community members in the Upper Valley Ambulance coverage area:

2023 has been a busy year for Upper Valley Ambulance. We are on track to respond to more calls than ever before. Ambulance services across the country are seeing this same trend. Some folks have asked for my opinion on this. Honestly, some of it has to do with our healthcare system and most of it has to do with our growing population that is aging.

The mission statement of Upper Valley Ambulance continues to be:

MISSION STATEMENT

Upper Valley Ambulance is a pre-hospital service whose primary focus is to provide high quality emergency care to our nine member towns. Our organization is committed to providing efficient, prompt and creative transportation systems both on a local and regional basis. We will meet the ongoing healthcare needs of the communities that we serve, and strive to provide total customer satisfaction. We will be proactive in seeking new opportunities to fulfill this mission.

To fulfill this, we have built a plan to replace equipment on a regular basis while keeping cost as low as possible. We have had to increase our staffing to accommodate the increase in calls over the past several years. We have seen a 49% increase in 911 calls since 2015. This increase affects equipment and personnel.

Our overall insurance budget for 2024 will be 21% higher than 2023. Our well-trained personnel need to be able to pay for their rent, food, groceries and fuel to have fulfilling lives. We believe that happy employees make better employees and thus better providers for all that call us in a time of need.

The per capita rate that we receive from the nine Towns that we serve covers 40% of our total operating budget. We cover the remainder of our budget by billing for services provided. On average, it costs \$822.00 to provide one ambulance transport. Insurance carriers reimburse us a fraction of this cost. We take on extra work such as doing interfacility transfers, cover races and other events to help offset these deficits.

We currently have eleven full-time providers (including two administrative staff) and about 24 part-time providers. We have six providers certified at the Paramedic level, twelve at the Advanced EMT level, and seventeen at the EMT level. We have three ambulances, two of which are 4-wheel drive to accommodate the winter road conditions. We are slated to replace our oldest ambulance (2017) in early 2024 with another 4-wheel drive ambulance. We continually keep our providers well-trained and up to date on new equipment, procedures and protocols.

Our providers are extremely proud of the work that they do, and they should be. Upper Valley Ambulance has become highly respected in the EMS community for their professionalism, skill and compassion. I am proud to be the Director of this fine organization.

If you ever have questions, please feel free to contact me. I love to brag about who we are and what we do!

Very Sincerely

Alan Beebe, Executive Director

TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING CENTER

Hours – Saturday Only
Year-round 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

We had another good year at the Thetford Transfer Station, as Thetford residents focus on reducing waste, reusing, and recycling. Together, we did not increase our solid waste. Recycling of our glass, plastics (bags and film), paper, cardboard, clothing, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, corks and scrap metal continued at a steady rate. Our food scraps totaled about 11 tons this year and were composted locally by the Pellerin family and Amy Record. Other totals for recycling and solid waste can be found on our website.

This past year, the team of Susanne Simon (Coordinator), Amy Record, Ellen Stone, and Cody Corcoran maintained the smooth operation of our recycling center while Sandra Marsh from Quintown Container Service provided consistent solid waste services and dog/human treats. Tim Cole continues to assist in maintenance, repairs and occasional Saturday morning. Our volunteer group has grown rapidly this year to 53 volunteers giving a total of over 250 hours of service! This past year the following residents worked/provided materials as volunteers: F. Alexandre, L. Arnold, K. Babbitt, T. Bach, R. Balagur, R. & J. Biddle, J. Blaiklock, P. Blodgett, S. Blood, D. Bornstein, J. Buchinsky, C. Buttrey, N. Byron, M. Campbell, P. Cole, R. & J. Crowley, B. DeFelice, J. Deffner, R. Dickson, L. Doss, J. Dunlop, S. Duston, J. Eaton, J. Evans, D. Fisk, S. & A. Fraser, G. Froehlich, D. Goudy, J. Harvey, L. Hildebrant, G. Joff, A. Kennedy, B. Lombardo, N. Meglathery, J. Morton (lumber), P. Parenteau, B. Pespisa, A. Priscilla, E. Pyle, A. Record (lumber), A. Rowles, N. Schindler, C. Shelton, T. Smith, S. Sturman, P. Thompson, I. Trebitz, R. Wagner, G. Wallis, T. Ward, and G. Welch. Please consider volunteering for a Saturday morning for a 2-hour shift.



Transfer Station Crew – David Goudy

We would like to give special thanks this year to Chuck DeVries, Audio Visual Advisors, for the donation of the recycling center t-shirts. We continue to receive great support from Dale Lewis & the Highway Crew in keeping the facility plowed/sanded and recycling bins compacted. Bryan Story, town manager, was very helpful in obtaining a storage container and providing assistance with the state recertification process. We have had Jean Gerber's and Sarah Monego's continued support of the Thetford Book Shed Committee. Their work in maintaining an organized book shed is appreciated by all our avid readers! These enterprises could not run without the support of Thetford residents: purchasing each year a permit, donating redeemable cans, bottles, and scrap metals and volunteering time/materials. Revenues from these permits, donations and scrap metals provide almost 50% of the cost of running the transfer station.

Please thank all those who have kept our transfer station running each week!

Thetford Recycling Rocks!!

Contact Susanne Simon at ssimon@thetfordvt.gov.



Old Evans Farm – Sue Rump

THETFORD HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Thetford Housing Committee's charge is to promote efforts related to housing that support current residents and people who wish to join our community.

Recent goals of the Committee have been to engage Thetford residents in housing issues in a variety of ways and participate in efforts to have town committees work together on housing related issues intended to lead to a better housing situation in Thetford.

To this end, the Committee hosted educational forums last year, and conducted a small survey at the March 2023 Town Meeting. Information presented at the forums is posted on the Housing Committee's section of the town website.

Members of the Housing Committee regularly attend Selectboard and Planning Commission meetings and, in 2023, hosted a gathering of town committee members to encourage cross pollination and good working relationships among committees whose work closely relates to Housing. In addition, a member of the Housing Committee participated in the town Water Study Committee which not only has provided information concerning current water issues but lays good groundwork for continued capacity and infrastructure analysis.

THC continues to look for ways to engage residents in housing related efforts and education. Some possibilities for further engagement include supporting other committees and area groups in their efforts related to helping people stay in their homes, the renovation and development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), and the continued focus on capacity studies in Thetford to help individuals and companies modify and create units to meet Thetford's housing needs.

Thetford residents are invited to attend monthly THC meetings. Specific dates and times can be found on the town website. We are encouraged by the support for, and interest in, the Committee's work expressed by community members. Current members of the committee are Sarah Martel, Chair, Cathee Daum Clement, Pippa Drew and Melissa Krzal.



Rebecca Lafave

TEN: THETFORD ELDER NETWORK

In 2023, TEN celebrated 15 years of serving and celebrating our Experienced Elders in town. We are here to nurture and expand relationships and connections. Take a look at what we offer, then join us for support, good conversations and fun.

- **Senior Lunches - Pat Pisano** - We offered Take Out meals during COVID, and resumed sit down lunches in April. Our volunteers and guests are happier being together “in person”. We serve outstanding local produce and meat whenever possible. Students at T.A. enjoy baking treats for dessert. Usually there is a program after our meal. We work closely with Bugbee, Senior Solutions and Hospice. Join us on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:30. Our meal is served at noon. We gather on Route 5, at the Northeast Farmers of Color building (formerly the North Thetford Church). Thanks to our leader, Pat Pisano, our chef, Pam Mainville and our volunteers.

- **TEN Walking Group - Sue Rump** - Every Friday that’s safely walkable, the TEN Walking Group meets on Thetford Hill, selecting a different route in town for a walk. Individuals set the distance and the pace, with good company. New walkers are always welcome. Call Sue (802) 785-4029 to receive a weekly email and more details.

- **Coffee Klatch - Pril Hall** - For seven years, the Senior Coffee Klatch has been held every 2nd Wednesday morning of the month at the Thetford Center Community Center from 10:00-11:30. Both new and longstanding attendees gather for conversation, refreshments, and community.

- **Community Nurse of Thetford - Pril Hall** - The need for a community nurse was first identified by our TEN Board in 2012. Out of that seed of an idea, Community Nurse of Thetford, Inc. was established. Our TEN meetings are attended by our current nurse, Sunny Martinson, and also by Pril Hall, who is a liaison to TEN from the CNT Board. We periodically collaborate with CNT offering presentations or events of interest to seniors.

- **Patchwork News – Inge Trebitz** - Every month Inge writes a newsletter with useful information for all of us to read. Find copies at the town hall or at our luncheons.

- **Monthly Movie – Inge Trebitz** - On the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Latham Library, TEN shows a movie in the community room at 10:30.

- **Tai Chi – Ursula Austin** – Every Friday at 9:00, Ursula Austin teaches Tai Chi at the Thetford Community Center, free of charge. Ursula is an excellent teacher. Try it.

TEN meets on the first Monday of the month on Zoom. Check the town website or call 785-4508 for more information or with your suggestions. We are here for you!!

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Biddle, Chair

TRI-TOWN COMMISSION

The Lake Fairlee Dam continued to be stable, and we had another quiet year. This year with Bryan Gazda's help, we purchased and installed the warning buoys with the help of High Country. There was also warning signage added to ensure we were in compliance with the State regulations.

The Tri-Town Commission was reduced by a vote of the towns from nine members to six, this enabled it easier to schedule meetings and to attain a quorum. I would like to thank Lisa Hinsley, as the Tri-Town Treasurer has been invaluable in keeping the finances and communications with the State in order.

Included in this year's budget is an expense to paint the safety railing on the Dam. One topic for discussion is to work with Dubois and King in a long-term agreement to provide advice and information while the towns maintain the Dam. We are all aware of the importance of Lake Fairlee as a valuable asset to the three towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Berger
Chair, Tri-Town Commission



Rebecca Lafave

JOINT THETFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Joint Thetford Energy Committee (JTEC) works with the Town, Thetford Town School Board, Thetford Academy Board of Trustees, residents, and businesses to help reduce energy use and protect the environment. Four members are appointed by the Selectboard, three by the Thetford Town School Board, and one by the Thetford Academy Board of Trustees. Current members of the committee are listed in the Town Report.

In 2023, we engaged in an internal discussion about our committee charge, and our relationship to the Town and schools, and worked on revising our charge to focus more on the ongoing challenges presented by a changing climate and our responsibilities as laid out in the Enhanced Energy Plan. In 2024, we are talking with the Selectboard about changing our committee's name, rewording the charge, and adopting a climate resolution. We anticipate that the Selectboard will reach a conclusion prior to the March 2024 Town Meeting.

We continue to host meetings via Zoom but have committed to meeting quarterly in-person at Town Hall, with Zoom access. Here are some other highlights of the year.

In March, in part as a reaction to the Holiday storm of 2022 that resulted in some Thetford residents being without power for 4-5 days, we hosted a home battery webinar with Green Mountain Power, Sun Common and several Thetford Residents who had installed batteries in their homes before the storm. Despite the springlike weather it was well attended, and many residents got a better understanding of the potential benefits of installing these alternatives to gas and propane generators. Video of the webinar is available on our website.

In 2021, JTEC worked with the Thetford Town School District and then-IREC Coordinator Geoff Martin, on an application to expand the school's array from 125 kW to 500 kW. The Public Utilities Commission held a hearing in February 2023, and it issued a Certificate of Public for the additional 375 kW in December 2023. We anticipate the array will begin construction in the Summer of 2024. If you are interested in reducing your annual electric bill by subscribing to this array, please visit our booth outside the TA gymnasium or our website for more information.

Due to the ongoing effects of climate change on our region, and the commitments our town has made in its Enhanced Energy Plan, we looked at the Climate Resolutions passed by the citizens of other IREC towns to draft language of our own. At the encouragement of our Town Manager, Brian Story, we are engaging directly with the Selectboard on its adoption. The language acknowledges the impact of climate change, commits the town to meet with the Committee to prioritize recommendations from the Enhanced Energy Plan, and requires that the town report annually on any progress made towards those priorities. This regular communication and added accountability should provide a clearer picture of our progress, where we can make improvements, and provide the data necessary for future commitments. You can review this language on our website and at the booth outside the gym, please stop by and discuss our plans for 2024 with us.

Our webpage www.thetfordvt.gov/government/energy-committee continues to serve as a resource to the community, including links to incentives and programs to help you save money and energy at home and on the road, and to do your part in meeting our greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Finally, we are looking to fill a final position that is appointed by the Thetford School Board, and one appointed by Thetford Academy. We are happy to answer any questions and invite anyone interested to come to our regularly scheduled meetings, 6-7:30 on the first Thursday of each month. Furthermore, if any of our plans interest you and you'd like to support our work or have questions, you can always contact us by email at energy@thetfordvt.gov or nolan.riegler@gmail.com or by phone at 802-333-0075. We are your neighbors ready to assist in connecting you with various programs or help you find answers to your energy-related questions.



Joel Teenyanoff

THETFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



The Thetford Conservation Commission stewards town properties, creates opportunities for residents to learn about and celebrate our town's landscapes, and collaborates with other organizations doing conservation work.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- Continued restoration of the Taylor Floodplain Preserve through invasives treatment and native tree planting. This project aims to reduce erosion from flooding and enhance the habitat for birds and other wildlife. Funding for this project was made possible by the town of Thetford and a Watershed Grant from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.
- More than 140 residents, covering an estimated 75 miles of roadside, participated in Green Up Day. Thanks to Wells River Savings Bank, Susanne Simon, and Chief Scruggs for helping provide safety vests for the volunteers working along the roads.
- Co-hosted with the West Fairlee Conservation Commission a very well attended educational presentation by Jesse Mohr about local bat species, which are in decline.
- Worked on updating the Town Lands Management Plan, which outlines management priorities for the four town-owned forests: Thetford Town Forest, Hughes Forest, Taylor Floodplain Preserve, and Post Mills Nature Area. With support from the Orange County Forester, we undertook a careful process of assessing the current state of these properties and discussing various management options. We will present the draft plan for public input in early 2024.
- Worked on creating an interactive digital map of Thetford's natural resources. This map will make the Natural Resources Inventory data more accessible to town committees and commissions in order to facilitate informed and well-rounded decision making.
- Began Phase 2 of the Natural Resources Inventory, which involves a 2-year-long study of wildlife crossings on Thetford's roads.
- Hosted the inaugural salamander crossing event, where 10 volunteers helped 8 species of salamanders and frogs cross busy roads to access nesting grounds during the first rainy, warm nights in spring. Salamanders, and amphibians more broadly, are severely impacted by climate change. Contact TCC Chair Jim McCracken to help monitor one of 5 sites in 2024.
- Hosted a public walk-and-talk at the Thetford Town Forest to discuss the draft Town Lands Management Plan and view the vernal pool at the top of the hill. We will host additional walks on the other three properties in 2024.
- Assisted the Thetford Trails Team with outreach and financial support for the natural resources inventory of the Union Village Dam trail network, as the group begins stewardship in that area.



The Watershed Grant from the VT Fish and Wildlife Department is funded by these license plates.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

This committee serves as an advisory body to assist property owners with issues of historic preservation within the Thetford Hill Historic District, and to advise, through written report forms, the Development Review Board and Zoning Administrator.

2023 continued with a full committee which includes Susan Thrane, Greg Gudlach, Sean Boyce, Catherine Saunders, and Stephen Branchflower.

In the course of 2023, we had several inquiries for permit work within the Thetford Hill Historic Overlay:

- Rebecca and Arthur LaFave proposed a new sheltered doorway at the rear of their home along with solar panels. The Committee recommended approval to the DRB as the project fit the historic character and the panels could not be seen by the public from any public paths or roads.
- We consulted with John Jackson on his new garage on Route 113, advising him on siding materials and stain colors to keep with the character of historic barns and garages in the district; also, to set the structure as far back from the road as possible without disrupting existing site infrastructure. This allowed for the view of the historic house to be maintained as one travels up the road into the district from the east.
- Across the street from Mr. Jackson, the Committee also reviewed and advised on the Thetford Historical Society's proposal for a shed addition and barn rehabilitation project. The flood event from 2017 impacted their barn complex, and subsequent fundraising and grants (they were recipients of a 2022 VT Barn Grant) allow for structural repairs, renovations, and the shed structure which will house their historic steam engine.
- We advised a new deck project on the rear of Daniel Greenwoods home on Academy Road.
- We consulted with Jonas Cole and Madilyn Gamble on an addition/renovation project to add two rooms and a screen porch to help provide space for their expanding family.
- Maple Leaf Child Care Center proposed a new sign, but unfortunately it was too much like a billboard, so we could not recommend approval. A recent meeting with the new Director suggests they are opting for a new design that's similar to the original sign (that no longer exists), and it is in the process of moving forward.

No other official business required our attention in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Branchflower
President for Thetford Hill Historic Preservation Committee

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In November, I was made the Director of Thetford Recreation. I am loving this new role and I look forward to eventually adding new programming for everyone in Thetford.

In preparation for writing this report, I've been reviewing the numbers and information from this past year and looking to others for specific notes to include. By next year I will have been in this role for enough time to be able to go into more detail. Season by season, here is what Thetford Recreation has done in 2023.

Winter:

- 2023's Friday Ski and Snowboard Program at the Dartmouth Skiway was a success with 110 kids signed up to hit the slopes on Ski Fridays in January and February assisted by 46 dedicated volunteers who assisted and taught these kids skiing and snowboarding while providing them with a fun and safe experience!
 - There was a dedicated group of parents who voluntarily worked to help get this program going in the months that led up to the Ski Fridays Program and then continued to keep the program going each Friday. I want to give a shout out to them as they have put a lot of time and effort into this wonderful program! Dave Lloyd, Lisa Harmon, Brent and Melissa Mellen, Sara Cavin, Ed Meyer, Jake Emery, Nolan Riegler, TES Staff and of course the folks at the Dartmouth Skiway... in addition to the rest of the 46 volunteers who taught the kids each Friday! Thank you!

Spring:

- Baseball and Softball had 104 participants (up from 88 in '22).
 - The Thetford baseball program had another successful year. Two players from the majors team (Benjamin Barton and Liam McGovern) and three players from the minors team (Clark Barton, Owen Hill and Rennick Oshoniyi) were selected to play on the Central Vermont All Star teams. The three Thetford players on the 10u Central Vermont All Star team played integral roles in helping their team win the state championship, and they moved on to play in the New England Tournament in July. The boys represented their town and state well, winning multiple skills competitions. They finished with a record of 2-1 in pool play, and lost a hard-fought game in the bracket round.
 - Softball Minors had a successful fundamental 2023 season. They attended the final league tournament where they placed 3rd.
- Maui Thai / Kickboxing was offered to adults mornings and evenings from January to March.

Summer:

- Treasure Island offered swim lessons and had 87 swim lesson participants (about half were Thetford residents and the other half from surrounding towns). More can be found about the goings on at Treasure Island in the Treasure Island Report.
- In July, Michaela Pomeroy ran a one week soccer clinic for children.
- Summer/Fall Softball and Baseball and the Babe Ruth program ran from June to October and had about 20 participants total.
 - Summer Softball is becoming increasingly popular. 14u is the current popular age group. We foresee 12u and 16u will also be a popular age group this summer and fall.
- Challenger Soccer hosted soccer lessons for our local children.

Fall:

- 87 Kids from PreK to 6th grade participated in our Fall Soccer program learning skills and playing in games.

Winter:

- From November to February 76 kids have been participating in our Basketball program (up from 67 in '22). This season we have 12 dedicated volunteer coaches and 7 teams.
 - Preschool through 2nd graders are learning to play basketball with weekly practices while 3rd-6th Graders participate in both practices (multiple times a week) and games and some teams are playing in tournaments as well.
 - New: This year we have decided to create a Girls 5th/6th grade team which does practices but does not play in games. This decision was made after learning that these girls wanted to join basketball to learn basketball skills but did not want to partake in games. Creating this team has given these girls an opportunity to join a sport, practice basketball skills and be physically active in a way that works best for them.

Coaches: I want to say thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who coach each of our sports teams! I'd probably need a whole page to fit all of them in here but I just wanted to say a great big THANK YOU! Our recreation department would be nothing without all of you!

Looking Forward:

- While I am currently learning on the job each day and have not been in this position for long enough to start anything new, I have lots of ideas for Thetford Rec and I plan to offer recreational programming for all ages in the future.
- Eventually, I will be creating a survey for town members to fill out so I can see what recreational activities folks in town want to do. The definition of recreation is an *“activity done for enjoyment when one is not working.”* With a definition like that, the sky's the limit!
- I've been digging through the various storage locations that hold our town's recreational supplies. *I will be scheduling one or two volunteer work days to help pull everything out of each space so we can clean, take inventory of what we have and reorganize them.*
- Lastly, if you'd like to stay up on new things happening with Thetford Rec, you can create a profile on the Thetford Recreation website <https://thetfordvt.myrec.com>. I'll be working on updating information on the website and will be adding new and different activities in the future.

Sincerely,

Rachael Cook (she/her)
Thetford Recreation Director
recreation@thetfordvt.gov
802-785-2922 ext. 4
Public Office Hours: Wednesdays 10am-2pm

TREASURE ISLAND

Treasure Island, a town-owned recreation area on the shore of Lake Fairlee, offers the public an ideal place to swim, fish, play, picnic and spend time with friends and family in the summer months. Treasure Island also offers rentable spaces for groups to gather.

Here is some information about the goings on at Treasure Island this year.

- Treasure Island offered swim lessons taught by Thetford resident and professional swim coach Jamie Holder. There were 87 swim lesson participants (about half were Thetford residents and the other half from surrounding towns). Parents/guardians were very happy with the progress that their children had made in learning to swim.
- Treasure Island had 14 staff members for the summer.
 - 1 manager - Megan Dubuque
 - 4 life guards
 - 9 gatekeepers
- They offered a number of fun community events this past summer. Treasure Island Manager Megan Dubuque has done a wonderful job of planning fun community events at Treasure Island! All of these events were well attended.
 - June 30th: Pirate Party with Shiloh's Easy Eats food truck, and games such as walk the plank, limbo and a treasure hunt
 - July 17th: Luau with the Box food truck
 - July 28th: Community Dinner with Shiloh's Easy Eats
 - August 26th: Back to School Party with Tug Mountain Pizza and JD Arts and Entertainment
- Emily Zollo continued to run her popular weekly Beach Storytime during the summer months. This activity creates an opportunity for children to come sit on their towels and take a break from beach play to listen to wonderful books read by Emily. Kids have always flocked to Emily when she comes and rings her bell signaling the start of Beach Storytime.
- Here are some Treasure Island numbers worth sharing:
 - Day Passes bought 2,301
 - Season Passes bought 88
 - Group Event Rentals (pavilion or island rental) 16
 - Kayak Rentals 212

Sincerely,

Rachael Cook (she/her)
Thetford Recreation Director
rcook@thetfordvt.gov or
recreation@thetfordvt.gov
802-785-2922 ext. 4

THETFORD PUBLIC LIBRARIES LATHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND GEORGE PEABODY LIBRARY

It was a busy and exciting year at the Thetford Public Libraries. At the end of 2022, Latham and Peabody welcomed Holly Lague as our new Director. Holly comes to us from Wisconsin where she was the Director at the New Glarus public library. Emily Zollo, former Children's Librarian, became Assistant Director after serving as Interim Director following Peter Blodgett's retirement. We have welcomed back many of our devoted volunteers, who took a break during the pandemic when our buildings were closed. We've also welcomed many new patrons who are new to the area or are long-time residents who are using their hometown libraries for the first time.

With Latham's completion of its lower level Community Room project in 2021, we committed to collaborating with the Thetford Library Federation, owner of the Bicentennial Building, to make Latham fully accessible to all. In April of 2022, the Vermont Arts Council awarded a matching grant for a lift elevator to provide an accessible connection between the main library and the lower level, with its meeting spaces, teen and graphic novel collections, craft area, art gallery, and public access computers. The lift elevator project was completed in the fall of 2023 and we are grateful to the many donors who made the project possible.

Peabody Library was recently awarded a grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont to help paint the exterior of the building. The oldest library building in the state, which is on the national register of historic places, is now looking fresh and beautiful with its new paint. We invite you to visit this lovely space with its small but high-quality collection of library materials and year-round programming for all ages.

Thetford residents clearly love their two public libraries and our levels of patron participation are at an all-time high. Visits to the two libraries totaled 13,988 this past year, an amazing 79% increase. Program attendance at 2879 was up 20%.

Thetford also ranks high among other Vermont libraries in public library participation. Our circulation at Latham is 95% higher and our number of programs is 57% higher than the average of other Vermont libraries in towns of our size (2022 Vermont Public Library Annual Report).

While the libraries in 75% of Vermont towns are municipal libraries, that is, they are funded directly through the town budget, Thetford has the advantage of a public – private partnership. Three non-profit organizations, The Latham Library Corporation, The George Peabody Library Corporation and the Thetford Library Federation all contribute substantial resources to support our public libraries. This includes the provision of both library buildings and approximately 40% of annual operating costs, with the Town providing the remaining 60%. This partnership has resulted in a public library system of exceptional quality and affordability for the citizens of Thetford.

2023 Program Highlights

Storytimes at Latham and Treasure Island
Modern Times Theater Puppet Show
Penny Carnival at Peabody
Summer Reading Program
Unplugged Game Nights
Concert with the Swing Peepers
Montshire Museum science presentations
Rocket making workshop
Tales & Tunes with Tots playgroup
Soap making workshop
Gardening workshop with Janet Taylor

Senior Movies
VT Humanities Book Discussion series
Halloween book giveaway
“Read with Dasher” the therapy dog
Southern VT Natural History Museum
Ripliam Menagerie Circus
Spooky storytelling with Simon Brooks
T-Rex Tea party
VT Health Dept presentation on opioids
Medicinal herb talk with Dale Gephart
Celtic music for St. Patrick’s Day



A crowd enjoys the Ripliam Menagerie Circus at the Peabody Library in August.



Families created model rockets at the “Shelter in Space” Maker Day at Latham Library in January.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Zollo, Acting Library Director

Latham Board of Trustees 2023: Barbara DeFelice (Chair), David Goudy (Vice Chair), Ashley Jamele (Secretary), Matt Senger (Treasurer), Matthew Benzing, Megan Campbell, Kathleen Grady, Tara Tomlinson, Heinz Trebitz, Amy VanderKooi, and Melissa Weinstein

Peabody Board of Trustees 2023: Cheryl Twerdowsky (Chair), Nicole Leibon (Vice Chair), Melissa Weinstein (Secretary), Andy Boyce (Treasurer), and Michele Joyce

THETFORD LIBRARY FEDERATION

The Thetford Library Federation (TLF) is requesting a Town appropriation of \$137,000 in 2024 for support of library services to the community.

The TLF is a private non-profit that has been serving Thetford for over 50 years. It is composed of five member organizations: George Peabody Library, Latham Memorial Library, Thetford Academy Library, Thetford Elementary School Library, and the Thetford Historical Society Library.

The TLF is governed by a board of trustees, including representatives from the five member organizations and three community members. Thetford residents interested in serving on the TLF Board are encouraged to contact us for further information. The primary purposes of TLF are:

- Maintaining the Bicentennial Building and providing space to the Latham Library and the Historical Society free of charge, including utilities.
- Promoting collaboration among members, including providing OPALS, a unified online catalog that brings together the public and school libraries' collections.
- Providing direct financial support to the two public libraries, Latham and Peabody, to cover the majority of the costs of professional staff and circulation expenses.

Summary of the combined circulation and use of resources by the Thetford community:

- 17,038 physical items checked out at the public and school libraries.
- 7,987 digital items (ebooks, e-audiobooks, streaming movies) checked out.
- 84 museums passes used.

Visitors:

- 13,988 visitors to the public libraries

Programs:

- 220 programs + 52 public meetings at the public libraries.
- 2,879 attendees at programs.

For details about the services, collections, and programs provided through the Latham and Peabody libraries, and through the Thetford Historical Society Library, please refer to their individual reports in this Town Report.

The TLF works to improve energy efficiency, safety, and accessibility of the Bicentennial Building. To that end, these major projects have successfully undertaken during the past two years:

- The installation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the lower level Community Room of the Latham Library was completed, creating a healthy and attractive space for a wide variety of community uses.

- In collaboration with Latham Library, TLF received a Cultural Facilities grant from the Vermont Arts Council to install an Elevator Lift in the Library making the lower level facilities accessible to all.
- Under the leadership of Chair Kate Owen, the TLF engaged students with the Dartmouth Social Impact Non-Profit Consulting (SINC) program in an in-depth review of accessibility. This project resulted in a report and presentation, “Reimagining an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming space” which guides the TLF’s work on the Bicentennial building.
- Thetford Academy students made and installed window inserts to greatly improve energy efficiency and comfort in the Bicentennial Building. This project was made possible through a collaboration with the TLF, Thetford Academy, and the community-led WindowDressers program.

The Federation’s services depend on the town’s appropriation, grants, its endowment, the hard work of volunteers, and your donations. You are always welcome to attend the TLF meetings.

Members of the TLF Board of Trustees are:

Kate Owen
Peter Blodgett
Nicole Liebon
Phebe McCosker

Mary Wunderlich
Ruth MacKinnon
Barbara DeFelice



Renee Snow

TOWN OF THETFORD BUDGET REPORT

Fiscal Year 2024

The Selectboard is presenting a total budget in the amount of \$3,989,433. Overall, the 2024 budget is financially sound and continues to fund the same level of governmental services. Please see below for an overview of the budget.

General Fund

Revenue

- Funds to be raised by property taxes \$1,462,908, a 10.21% increase from 2023.
- Funds to be raised by non-property taxes, \$958,039, a 107.25% increase from 2023.

Expenses

- Total expenses of \$2,420,947, a 37.06% increase from 2023.

Department of Public Works

Revenue

- Funds to be raised by property taxes \$1,330,586, a 1.63% increase from 2023.
- Funds to be raised by non-property taxes \$187,900, an 11.91% increase from 2023.
- Surplus funds to be used \$50,000, a 16.67% decrease from 2023.

Expenses

- Total expenses of \$1,568,486, a 2.04% increase from 2023.

Additional Appropriations – Warned Articles

- Thetford Library Federation - \$137,000, a 5.38% increase from 2023.
- Thetford Volunteer Fire Department - \$337,260, a 3.00% increase from 2023.
- Lake Fairlee Association - \$5,250, level funded from 2023.
- Social Service Organizations - \$46,104, a 3.60% increase from 2023 due solely to Tri Valley Transit's increased request.

Please see the Estimated Tax Rate and Budget Summaries for additional details regarding the breakdown of revenues and expenses and the impact on the estimated tax rate.

General Fund

At the closing of 2023, the General Fund has an estimated total surplus of \$296,007. It is anticipated that the surplus funds of 2023 will be utilized to help stabilize the Law Enforcement capital equipment reserve funds and additional paving projects, if possible.

Overall, the General Fund Budget has a proposed increase of \$654,573 from 2023. The increase to the General Fund is largely due to two factors: making salary adjustments and expending the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Studying the wages paid by the towns across the state, with a special emphasis placed on our neighboring communities, revealed that our employees were generally receiving less compensation compared to others with similar responsibilities. We believe that this was a key issue in the difficulty we were having filling vacant positions, and it needed to be addressed.

The actual largest reason for the budget increase will not have an impact on taxes. This year, 2024, is the last year to obligate ARPA funds. To ensure that all of the funds will be used for the residents of Thetford, and not returned to the Federal Government, the funds are being used as part of the revenue for the General Fund to offset losses due to COVID-19. That allows for other revenue to be reallocated. The plan at this time is to spend it on improvements to town-owned buildings (the town garage and the Timothy Frost building), studies to assist in housing development, and capital projects planning, all items that residents and the selectboard have expressed interest in.

Department of Public Works Fund

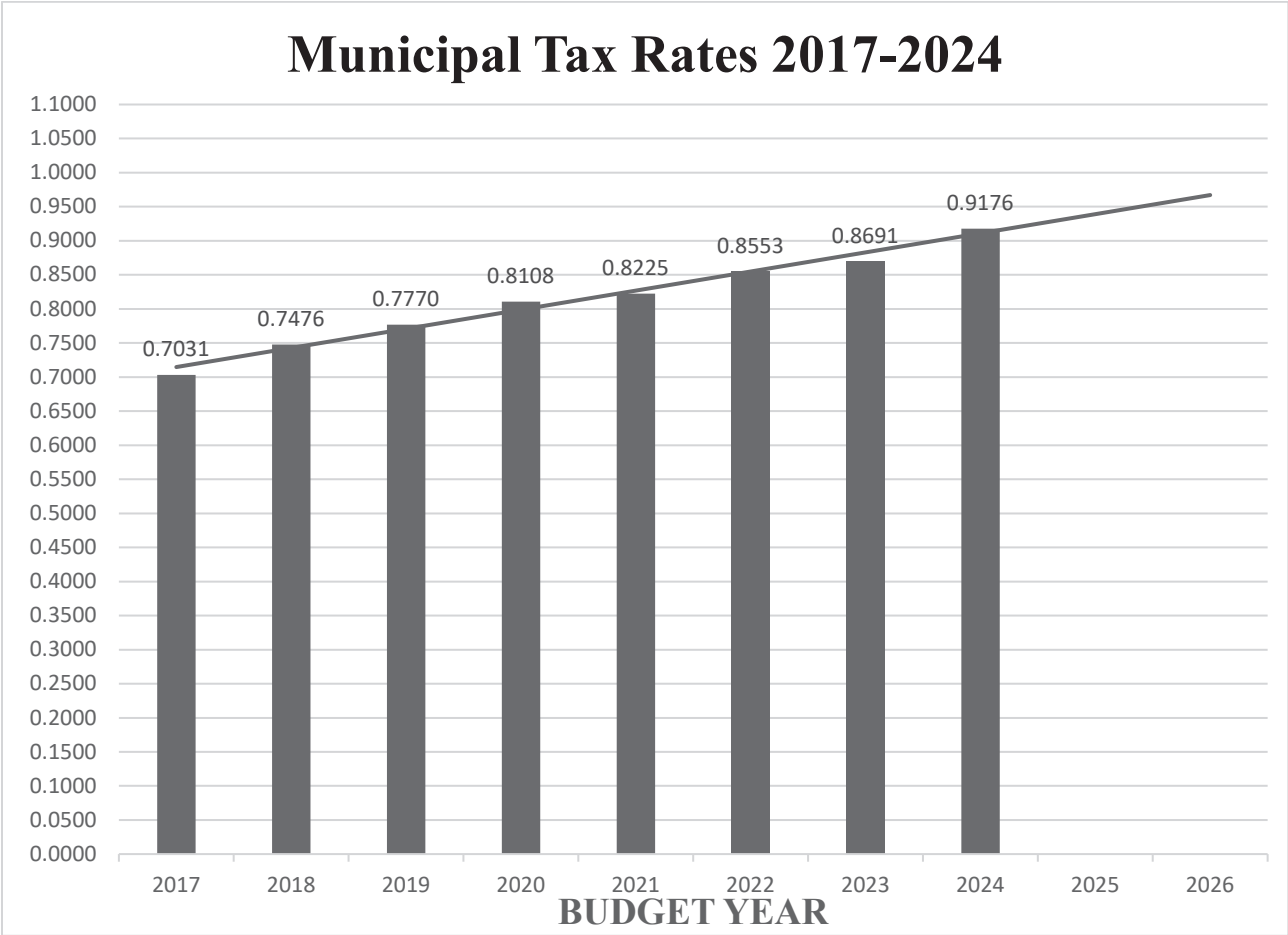
At the closing of 2023, the Department of Public Works Fund has an estimated cumulative fund surplus of \$109,593. A little less than is recommended by our auditor.

The Department of Public Works Budget for 2024 is in good shape, with non-tax revenue growing by 12% while total expenses are rising by only 2%. The growth in expenses is driven primarily by changes in compensation.

Total Municipal Tax Rate

The last several years have seen the budget rise at a rate significantly less than the rate of inflation. That was a sound strategy during the worst economic impacts of COVID-19. However, the Town cannot maintain services indefinitely as the buying power of our budget decreases. This budget reflects the need to adjust our spending to meet our priority goals of providing a good, safe, and welcoming community.

The municipal tax rate will rise from \$0.8691 per \$100 to \$0.9176 per \$100. Meaning the municipal tax on a home assessed at \$250,000 will rise from approximately \$2,173 to \$2,294 annually. This is a significant increase, but it's important to consider that during the pandemic, and its immediate aftermath, the tax rate was held to less than the rate of inflation. To maintain Thetford's infrastructure and services, its tax rate must increase. Thankfully the increase is not significantly greater than the trend of tax rates over the recent years, as illustrated in the following chart.



Union Village Dam – Kim Hargis

APPROPRIATIONS SUMMARY

In 2023, the following organizations received the appropriation listed:

Clara Martin Center, for 56 years, has provided confidential services including counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short-term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services. The Clara Martin Center served 66 residents of Thetford in 2023. **Appropriation \$4266.**

Community Nurse of Thetford, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that serves all residents of Thetford. The intent of this organization is to fill gaps in service not currently being fully met by other health care support services. Sunny Martin assumed the nurse position in April of 2023 and between then and August had 220 encounters. She currently averages 24-25 active clients in a month. There are often additional calls and emails requesting information from medical offices, town officers or service providers, the Community Nurse Connection, Senior Solutions and individuals that are not current clients or residents. **Appropriation \$8000.**

The Family Place operates a variety of programs designed to promote strong, resilient families, and nurturing, high quality early experiences for children, partnering with families to identify the potential areas for support and connecting them with the resources that are the most appropriate. The Family Place served more than 90 children and their families from Thetford in 2023 through both on-site and home-based services. **Appropriation \$300.**

Orange County Parent Child Center is one of 15 parent child centers in Vermont designed to strengthen families with young children, and connect them to their communities through home visiting, supervised visitation, weekly playgroups, case management, onsite programming and community outreach events. OCPCC provided 53 services to Thetford residents in 2023. **Appropriation \$750.**

Orange County Restorative Justice Center is a community based restorative justice program, offering cost-effective alternatives to the criminal and civil court systems by building and advocating for just communities by providing restorative programs. They currently offer 10 programs, and OCRJC worked with 13 individuals from Thetford this past year, along with conducting 2 informational sessions and the screening of a moving on Restorative Justice. **Appropriation \$500.**

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley is the largest and broadest coalition of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. In 2023, PHC staff and partners released a new Community Health Improvement Plan, distributed COVID test kits, hosted 6 flu clinics providing over 1,500 free vaccines and collaborated with local school districts to provide summer meals for children. **Appropriation \$1388.**

Safeline is a nonprofit that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and stalking. These services include crisis support, safety planning, resources, legal advocacy, day shelter services, financial management and job readiness skills, among other services. One hundred and nineteen services were provided for 14 victims and their support people who identified themselves as residents of Thetford. **Appropriation \$1300.**

Senior Solutions promotes the well-being and dignity of older adults, envisioning that every person will age in the place of their choice, with the support they need and the opportunity for meaningful relationships and active engagement in their community. In 2023, 27 residents of Thetford received information and assistance, 17 received Medicare assistance, 11 residents received in-home social services, and 11 residents received 1,600 Meals on Wheels provided by The Bugbee Center.

Appropriation \$1400.

Tri-Valley Transit offers an environmentally healthy option for transportation to work and shopping routes, and affordable access to public health care. During the past 4 years, TVT provided an annual average of 387 free Dial-A-Ride trips for Thetford residents, with an additional 428 riders who boarded public buses at Thetford bus stops. **Appropriation \$3200.**

Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of VT and NH is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH provides high quality care from maternal childcare to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. In 2023 VNH provided 1,665 visits to 53 residents. **Appropriation \$13,000.**

WISE leads the Upper Valley to end gender-based violence through survivor-centered advocacy, prevention, education and mobilization for social change. WISE offers a confidential and free 24-hour crisis line, support groups and workshops, emergency shelter, safety planning and accompaniment to hospitals, police stations, court houses and other social service agencies. **Appropriation \$400.**

White River Council on Aging/Bugbee Center is a nonprofit agency which provides a range of social services for people aged sixty and older, along with their families. Services include transportation, nutrition, fitness, enrichment programs and activities, all with the goal of enhancing the health, well-being and independence of older adults. A total of 59 Thetford seniors received 2,595 service units of some sort in fiscal year 2023, and Thetford seniors increased usage of Bugbee Senior Center by 25%. **Appropriation \$10,000.**

To see the full reports from each organization, go to: www.thetfordvt.gov, click on Community, then Social Service Reports, under Social Services.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

***YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2023***

ESTIMATED TAX RATES FOR 2024

With Social Service Agencies

(USING 2023 GRAND LIST)

	2024 Estimated Grand List 3,628,654		2023 Grand List 3,628,654		2022 Grand List 3,603,142	2021 Grand List 3,590,542	2020 Grand List 3,569,682	2019 Grand List 3,535,930
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	2024 Est. Tax Rate	2024 Proposed	2023 Tax Rate	2023 Budget	2022 Tax Rate	2021 Tax Rate	2020 Tax Rate	2019 Tax Rate
General Fund	0.4032	\$ 1,462,908	0.3661	\$ 1,327,418	0.3722	0.3478	0.2998	0.2760
Highway Fund	0.3667	\$ 1,330,586	0.3608	\$ 1,309,235	0.3476	0.3552	0.3001	0.2875
Articles	0.1449	\$ 525,614	0.1398	\$ 507,195	0.1325	0.1166	0.2089	0.2102
Veteran's Exemption	0.0023	\$ 8,500	0.0020	\$ 8,500	0.0024	0.0024	0.0022	0.0023
Local Agreements	0.0006	\$ 2,000	0.0005	\$ 2,000	0.0006	0.0006	0.0002	0.0010
Total	0.9176	3,329,608	0.8691	3,154,348	0.8553	0.8225	0.8108	0.7770
% change from previous year	5.58%		1.62%		3.98%	1.44%	4.35%	3.93%
Municipal taxes per \$100,000:	\$917.59		\$869.12		\$855.26	\$822.50	\$810.80	\$777.00
Prior Year \$\$ Difference:	\$48.47		\$13.86		\$32.76	\$11.70	\$33.80	\$29.40
5-year % change:	13.17%							
Average % change per year:	3.39%							

TOWN OF THETFORD 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

SUMMARY	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
General Administration						
Selectboard & Town Manager	290,927	268,359	376,621	363,545	592,844	57.41%
Town Hall & Town Lands	101,315	96,675	72,633	76,335	457,480	529.85%
Town Clerk & Elections	130,043	129,899	145,896	148,735	168,578	15.55%
Town Treasurer	130,280	125,392	37,807	31,769	34,945	-7.57%
Listers	69,165	54,262	78,787	55,919	67,517	-14.31%
Transfer Station	58,316	56,084	62,819	65,118	84,847	35.07%
Planning and Zoning	50,610	49,817	64,709	55,415	70,835	9.47%
Total General Administration	830,656	780,488	839,273	796,836	1,477,045	75.99%
Recreation						
Adminstration	26,168	26,884	26,410	29,811	26,808	1.51%
Parks and Recreation	27,900	21,132	26,350	27,869	27,345	3.78%
Treasure Island	50,424	54,486	54,828	55,187	64,898	18.37%
Total Recreation	104,492	102,502	107,588	112,866	119,051	10.65%
Public Safety						
Police Department	435,801	370,357	463,845	280,830	463,687	-0.03%
Police Contracted Detail	20,210	9,746	20,210	9,802	20,210	0.00%
Emergency Management (EMS)	19,044	10,990	19,044	18,713	19,054	0.05%
Fire Warden	2,758	2,758	2,758	2,857	2,758	0.00%
Health Officer	588	-	588	538	589	0.19%
Animal Control	1,238	1,292	2,100	1,024	2,200	4.76%
Total Public Safety	479,640	395,143	508,546	313,764	508,498	-0.01%
Fixed Costs						
Regional Dues & County Tax	284,493	270,719	277,181	273,596	283,181	2.16%
Tax Appropriations	900	900	900	900	900	0.00%
Tri-Town Commission	29,423	27,959	27,887	27,003	27,271	-2.21%
Miscellaneous	9,500	1,045	5,000	5,502	5,000	0.00%
Total Fixed Costs	324,316	300,623	310,968	307,001	316,352	1.73%
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	1,739,104	1,578,756	1,766,374	1,530,467	2,420,947	37.06%
Remaining ARPA Funds	-	-	-	-	(526,583)	
Less Previous Year Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	
Less Non-Tax Revenues	(397,856)	(432,815)	(438,956)	(484,300)	(431,456)	-1.71%
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	1,341,248	1,145,941	1,327,418	1,046,168	1,462,908	10.21%

SUMMARY	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
Highway Fund - Department of Public Works						
Administration	448,573	417,718	463,025	396,219	515,725	11.38%
Facilities	16,750	17,693	16,250	16,370	16,250	0.00%
Roads & Structures	471,540	510,625	536,860	931,337	504,642	-6.00%
Highway Maintenance	254,550	197,346	256,550	227,419	259,450	1.13%
Engineering	35,000	5,426	25,000	8,183	25,000	0.00%
Vehicles	210,350	237,938	239,450	211,659	247,419	3.33%
PUBLIC WORKS TOTALS	1,436,763	1,386,746	1,537,135	1,791,188	1,568,486	2.04%
<i>Less Previous Year Surplus</i>	(50,000)		(60,000)		(50,000)	-16.67%
<i>Less Non-Tax Revenues</i>	(134,400)	(176,792)	(167,900)	(144,781)	(187,900)	11.91%
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	1,252,363	1,209,954	1,309,235	1,646,407	1,330,586	1.63%

Additional Appropriations - Articles

Thetford Library Federation	116,190	\$ 116,190	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 137,000	5.38%
Thetford Volunteer Fire Dept.	316,581	\$ 302,410	\$ 327,441	\$ 327,441	\$ 337,260	3.00%
Social Service Organizations	39,504	\$ 39,504	\$ 44,504	\$ 44,504	\$ 46,104	3.60%
Lake Fairlee Association	5,250	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250	0.00%
Total	477,525	463,354	507,195	507,195	525,614	3.63%

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

General Fund	1,341,248	1,145,941	1,327,418	1,046,168	1,462,908	10.21%
Department of Public Works Fund	1,252,363	1,209,954	1,309,235	1,646,407	1,330,586	1.63%
Additional Articles	477,525	463,354	507,195	507,195	525,614	3.63%
Veterans Exemption	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	0.00%
Local Agreements	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.00%
Upper Valley Fish & Game Club	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.00%
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	3,081,636	2,829,749	3,154,348	3,210,270	3,329,608	5.56%

GENERAL FUND REVENUE	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
General Non-Tax Revenue						
100-2000-01.00 Hold Harmless (Current Use)	172,500	181,650	178,000	189,656	185,000	3.93%
100-2030-00.00 Interest on Delinquent Taxes	22,000	23,333	22,000	26,604	22,000	0.00%
100-2035-00.00 Late Homestead Penalty	10,000	11,201	11,000	9,381	11,000	0.00%
100-2040-00.00 School Tax Billing Fee	12,500	11,700	12,000	11,712	11,750	-2.08%
100-2101-00.00 Liquor Taxes	280	350	280	465	280	0.00%
100-2110-00.00 Dog Penalties (late fee)	-	622	-	977	-	
100-2120-00.00 Dog Licenses	2,400	2,601	2,475	2,404	2,500	1.01%
100-2121-01.00 Zoning Permits	5,000	7,285	5,775	5,375	6,000	3.90%
100-2121-02.00 SubDivision Permits	-	-	-	-	-	
100-2211-00.00 Penalty on Taxes	18,000	15,541	16,000	20,430	16,000	0.00%
100-2310-00.00 Town Clerk Fees	27,000	28,406	27,000	23,306	27,000	0.00%
100-2351-00.00 Use of Town Records	250	261	250	251	250	0.00%
100-2400-00.00 Traffic/Civil Fines	1,500	861	1,500	2,771	1,500	0.00%
100-2400-10.00 Police Receipts	500	325	500	125	500	0.00%
100-2400-15.00 Police Contracted Services	24,500	15,105	24,500	14,812	16,000	-34.69%
100-2400-20.00 Misc Police Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	
100-2630-00.00 Recycling Sticker Revenue	15,000	15,600	15,000	16,049	16,000	6.67%
100-2634-02.00 Recycling Receipts	10,000	8,787	9,000	8,113	9,000	0.00%
100-2690-00.00 Sale Town Owned Property	-	-	-	-	-	
100-2700-00.00 Treasure Island Receipts	28,000	40,719	35,000	38,139	36,500	4.29%
100-2700-00.01 Recreation Donations	-	-	-	-	-	
100-2750-00.00 Recreation Receipts	13,000	18,693	14,500	18,420	17,000	17.24%
100-2750-00.00 Uniform Receipts	2,000	1,124	2,000	18,420	1,000	-50.00%
100-2810-00.00 Insurance Claim Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	
100-2850-00.00 Municipal Fine Receipts	-	27	-	-	-	
100-2930-00.00 Bank Interest	3,500	6,199	6,000	23,473	10,000	66.67%
100-2985-00.00 Flood Cont-Water Resource	3,675	3,675	3,675	3,675	3,675	0.00%
100-2986-00.00 Current Use Withdrawals	-	-	-	500	-	
100-2986-00.00 Tri-Town Commission Stipend	500	500	500	500	500	0.00%
100-2987-00.00 Forest & Parks Tax	-	-	-	-	-	
100-2989-00.00 PILOT Revenues	13,750	14,447	14,000	15,490	14,000	0.00%
100-2990-00.00 Miscellaneous Receipts	-	4,796	-	4,934	-	
100-2993-00.00 Cemetery Lot Sales	-	-	-	3,995	-	
100-2994-00.00 AT&T Telecommunications Tower	12,000	18,500	24,000	24,320	24,000	0.00%
100-2995-00.00 Grant Income	-	506	-	-	-	
100-2996-00.00 Donations	-	-	-	-	-	
100-2997-00.00 Transfer Reappraisal Fund		New Revenue Account	14,000	-	-	-100.00%
100-2999-00.00 Fish & Game Lease	1	1	1	1	1	0.00%
Total General Non-Tax Revenue	397,856	432,815	438,956	484,300	431,456	-1.71%

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
Public Works Non-Tax-Revenue						
200-2100-00.01 Bank Interest	-	1,143	500	2,525	500	0.00%
200-2232-00.00 State Highway Aid	134,000	147,916	140,000	141,851	145,000	3.57%
200-2240-00.00 Grant Receipts (Grant in Aid)	-	14,518	27,000	-	42,000	55.56%
200-2250-00.00 FEMA/FHA Flood Repair	-	-	-	-	-	
200-2509-00.00 DPW Receipts	-	108	-	-	-	
200-2519-00.00 Materials Receipt	-	-	-	-	-	
200-2600-00.00 Insurance Claims Receipts	-	2,039	-	-	-	
200-2700-10.00 Overweight Permit Fees	400	475	400	405	400	0.00%
200-2800-00.00 Insurance Refunds	-	11,845	-	-	-	
200-2990-00.00 Misc. Receipts	-	3,920	-	-	-	
Total DPW Non-Tax Revenue	134,400	181,964	167,900	144,781	187,900	11.91%
TOTAL NON-TAX REVENUE	532,256	614,779	606,856	629,081	619,356	2.06%

SELECTBOARD & TOWN MANAGER	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
SELECTBOARD						
100-3000-10.01 Selectboard Stipend	5,000	3,500	5,500	3,500	5,500	0.00%
100-3000-11.00 Selectboard Assistant	11,805	11,878	12,601	12,600	14,506	15.12%
100-3000-14.00 Social Security	1,286	1,169	1,385	1,232	1,530	10.52%
100-3000-15.00 Selectboard Contingency	5,000	924	5,000	5,282	5,000	0.00%
100-3000-15.02 Benefits - Richard Group	1,092	1,888	1,900	1,849	1,900	0.00%
100-3000-15.03 Retirement	620	596	662	646	798	20.60%
100-3000-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				44	
100-3000-20.00 Supplies/Publications	250	71	150	58	150	0.00%
100-3000-30.00 Advertising	2,000	167	1,000	207	1,000	0.00%
100-3000-40.01 Dues/Meetings/Travel	750	506	750	10	750	0.00%
100-3000-60.00 Legal Services	30,000	10,016	20,000	13,568	20,000	0.00%
100-3000-80.00 Professional Audit	25,000	29,718	25,000	23,316	30,000	20.00%
100-3000-85.00 Transfer to Planning/Consulting (#314)	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	179,529	4388.22%
Subtotal	86,803	64,433	77,947	66,267	260,706	234.47%

SELECTBOARD & TOWN MANAGER	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
TOWN MANAGER						
100-3100-10.00 Town Manager	83,985	85,061	87,974	90,089	100,650	14.41%
100-3100-11.00 Town Accountant			62,000	62,115	68,000	9.68%
100-3100-14.00 Social Security	6,425	6,591	11,473	10,805	12,902	12.45%
100-3100-15.02 Benefits	21,264	21,018	25,044	35,462	26,377	5.32%
100-3100-15.03 Retirement	4,409	4,144	7,874	7,288	9,276	17.81%
100-3100-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				371	
100-3100-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	1,000	714	2,500	3,857	2,500	0.00%
100-3440-20.00 Del. Taxes – Supplies	100	205	-	-	100	
100-3440-35.00 Del. Taxes – Postage	925	-	500	-	500	0.00%
100-3440-60.00 Del. Taxes - Legal Fees	300	-	5,000	-	2,500	-50.00%
100-3440-65.00 Del. Taxes - Publication	100	-	500	-	750	50.00%
Subtotal	118,508	117,733	202,865	209,618	223,925	10.38%
TOWN OPERATIONS						
100-3210-20.00 Supplies	2,000	1,029	2,500	1,844	2,500	0.00%
100-3210-23.00 Copier Contract Support	2,000	1,844	2,000	2,021	2,000	0.00%
100-3210-24.00 Copier Maintenance/Supplies	75	25	100	-	100	0.00%
100-3210-27.00 Computer Support and Licensing	32,000	36,079	35,000	33,565	52,400	49.71%
100-3210-28.00 Computer Supplies	500	289	500	1,397	500	0.00%
100-3210-34.00 Telecommunications	11,400	11,123	11,500	8,806	6,700	-41.74%
100-3210-35.00 Town Operations Postage	New Line Item				750	
100-3210-42.00 Unemployment	947	947	653	589	458	-29.86%
100-3210-48.00 PACIF Liability	14,047	14,046	14,088	12,364	14,086	-0.01%
100-3210-48.01 Workers Compensation	1,461	1,500	1,728	1,729	1,478	-14.50%
100-3210-68.00 Equipment Maintenance/Repairs	200	442	200	-	500	150.00%
100-3210-83.00 Equipment/Tools	1,000	837	500	491	500	0.00%
Subtotal	65,630	68,161	68,769	62,807	81,972	19.20%
COMMITTEES						
100-4000-20.00 Transfer to THC (#333)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.00%
100-4000-50.00 Energy Commission	2,500	546	2,500	313	1,700	-32.00%
100-4000-60.00 Transfer to Energy (#324)	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.00%
100-4000-70.00 Regional Energy Coordinator	13,986	13,986	15,540	15,540	15,540	0.00%
100-4000-80.00 Thetford Elder Network (T.E.N.s)	New Committee Request		5,000	5,000	5,000	0.00%
Subtotal	19,986	18,032	27,040	24,853	26,240	-2.96%
TOTAL	290,927	268,359	376,621	363,545	592,844	57.41%

TREASURER	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
TREASURER						
100-3400-10.00 Treasurer	36,858	37,377	18,936	18,580	21,016	10.99%
100-3400-11.00 Assistant Treasurer	55,021	52,141	See 100-3100-11.00			
100-3400-14.00 Social Security	7,029	6,760	1,449	1,378	1,608	10.99%
100-3400-15.02 Benefits	21,108	20,868	11,528	5,804	6,219	-46.05%
100-3400-15.03 Retirement	4,364	4,412	994	970	1,156	16.27%
100-3400-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				46	
100-3400-20.00 Supplies	1,600	1,520	1,600	1,951	1,600	0.00%
100-3400-35.00 Postage	1,800	1,509	1,800	1,918	1,800	0.00%
100-3400-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	2,500	805	1,500	1,169	1,500	0.00%
TOTAL	130,280	125,392	37,807	31,769	34,945	-7.57%

TOWN CLERK & ELECTIONS	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
TOWN CLERK						
100-3500-10.00 Town Clerk	36,858	37,377	56,807	57,233	63,048	10.99%
100-3500-10.01 Assistant Town Clerk	35,414	37,078	37,802	37,903	43,517	15.12%
100-3500-14.00 Social Security	5,529	5,645	7,238	7,152	8,152	12.64%
100-3500-15.02 Benefits	31,548	31,462	23,183	29,140	31,066	34.00%
100-3500-15.03 Retirement	3,794	3,610	4,967	4,848	5,861	18.00%
100-3500-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				234	
100-3500-20.00 Supplies	1,750	1,746	1,750	2,107	1,750	0.00%
100-3500-25.00 Town Hall Technology Initiative	2,000	1,862	2,000	59	1,000	-50.00%
100-3500-35.00 Postage	1,800	845	1,800	1,879	1,800	0.00%
100-3500-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	2,500	1,761	2,500	2,035	2,500	0.00%
Subtotal	121,193	121,386	138,046	142,357	158,928	15.13%

RECORDS						
100-3080-62.00 Town Report	4,500	4,531	4,500	4,881	5,000	11.11%
100-3080-65.00 Transfer to Restoration (#302)	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	4,500	4,531	4,500	4,881	5,000	11.11%

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY						
100-3300-10.02 Expenses	200	170	200	100	200	0.00%
100-3300-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	100	-	100	-	100	0.00%
Subtotal	300	170	300	100	300	0.00%

TOWN CLERK & ELECTIONS	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
ELECTIONS						
100-3310-10.00 Officials	300	220	300	50	300	0.00%
100-3310-21.00 Supplies	650	1,597	650	427	1,050	61.54%
100-3310-23.00 Tabulator Programming/Ballots	1,600	1,482	1,600	920	2,000	25.00%
100-3310-35.00 Postage	1,500	513	500	-	1,000	100.00%
Subtotal	4,050	3,812	3,050	1,397	4,350	42.62%
TOTAL	130,043	129,899	145,896	148,735	168,578	15.55%

PLANNING & ZONING	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
ZONING						
100-3620-10.00 Zoning Administrator	21,140	23,875	31,764	32,993	44,928	41.44%
100-3620-14.00 Social Security	1,617	1,704	2,430	2,154	3,437	41.44%
100-3620-15.02 Benefits	19,584	20,206	22,865	14,867	12,408	-45.73%
100-3620-15.03 Retirement	1,110	1,132	1,668	1,700	2,471	48.18%
100-3620-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				99	
100-3620-20.00 Supplies	500	718	500	707	500	0.00%
100-3620-30.00 Advertising	500	411	500	1,382	1,200	140.00%
100-3620-35.00 Postage	650	518	650	797	1,000	53.85%
100-3620-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	500	88	500	146	500	0.00%
Subtotal	45,601	48,652	60,877	54,746	66,543	9.31%

PLANNING						
100-3650-10.01 Clerical Support	1,680	1,088	1,517	383	1,800	18.69%
100-3650-14.01 Social Security	129	77	116	28	138	18.95%
100-3650-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				4	
100-3650-21.00 Printing	250	-	250	-	400	60.00%
100-3650-30.00 Advertising	250	-	250	259	250	0.00%
100-3650-35.00 Postage	100	-	100	-	100	0.00%
100-3650-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	100	-	100	-	100	0.00%
Subtotal	2,509	1,165	2,333	669	2,792	19.69%

BUILDING REGULATION						
100-4300-10.00 - Engineering Services	2,500	-	1,500	-	1,500	0.00%
Subtotal	2,500	-	1,500	-	1,500	0.00%
TOTAL	50,610	49,817	64,709	55,415	70,835	9.47%

LISTERS OFFICE	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
LISTERS						
100-3430-10.00 Lister Staff	40,822	32,271	56,789	39,164	56,259	-0.93%
100-3430-11.00 Lister Clerk	12,684	12,535	8,763	2,701	-	-100.00%
100-3430-14.00 Social Security	4,093	3,362	4,344	3,187	4,304	-0.93%
100-3430-15.03 Retirement	666	679	460	-	-	-100.00%
100-3430-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				124	
100-3430-20.00 Supplies	650	591	650	3,554	650	0.00%
100-3430-23.00 Service Contracts	4,100	3,403	3,216	5,357	3,615	12.41%
100-3430-30.00 Advertising	150	67	165	67	165	0.00%
100-3430-35.00 Postage	250	426	275	475	275	0.00%
100-3430-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	750	268	1,125	784	1,125	0.00%
100-3430-68.00 Professional Services	5,000	660	3,000	630	1,000	-66.67%
TOTAL	69,165	54,262	78,787	55,919	67,517	-14.31%

TOWN HALL & TOWN LANDS	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
TOWN HALL						
100-3710-20.00 Supplies	500	1,205	500	683	1,000	100.00%
100-3710-48.00 PACIF Liability	4,390	4,390	4,413	2,689	4,370	-0.97%
100-3710-56.00 Rubbish Removal/Recycling	500	164	500	227	500	0.00%
100-3710-60.00 Contracted Custodial Services	6,500	6,885	6,500	9,994	7,500	15.38%
100-3710-68.00 Maintenance/Repairs	3,000	1,875	3,000	3,225	4,000	33.33%
100-3710-76.00 Utilities	8,000	7,925	8,000	9,264	9,000	12.50%
100-3710-80.00 Alarm Service	250	250	250	775	250	0.00%
100-3710-83.00 Equipment	500	226	500	509	500	0.00%
100-3710-84.00 Transfer to Town Hall (#308)	10,000	10,000	7,500	7,500	185,527	2373.69%
100-3710-90.00 Town Hall Bond Payment	31,500	30,186	-	-	-	
Subtotal	65,140	63,106	31,163	34,866	212,647	582.37%

TIMOTHY FROST BUILDING						
100-3750-48.00 PACIF Liability	2,075	2,075	2,100	376	2,106	0.29%
100-3750-76.00 Utilities	300	291	300	330	300	0.00%
100-3750-90.00 Transfer to Timothy Frost (#339)	-	-	-	-	175,527	
Subtotal	2,375	2,366	2,400	706	177,933	7313.88%

	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	%
TOWN HALL & TOWN LANDS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Proposed	Change
TOWN LANDS						
100-3800-20.00 Conservation Supplies	800	895	1,000	1,042	800	-20.00%
100-3800-80.00 Transfer to Conservation (#306)	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.00%
100-3800-90.00 Mowing/Maintenance	13,000	13,790	12,570	14,280	17,500	39.22%
100-3800-92.00 Transfer to Town Lands (#342)	7,500	7,500	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.00%
Subtotal	23,800	24,685	28,570	30,322	33,300	16.56%
CEMETERIES						
100-6820-01.00 Mowing	7,500	6,480	8,000	7,905	21,100	163.75%
100-6820-20.00 Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	
100-6820-68.00 Maintenance/Repairs	2,500	38	2,500	2,535	12,500	400.00%
Subtotal	10,000	6,518	10,500	10,440	33,600	220.00%
TOTAL	101,315	96,675	72,633	76,335	457,480	529.85%

PUBLIC SAFETY	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
POLICE DEPARTMENT						
100-4100-10.00 Chief of Police	66,184	56,725	86,600	86,757	95,249	9.99%
100-4100-10.01 Patrol	152,844	122,401	137,320	24,894	139,381	1.50%
100-4100-10.02 Patrol Overtime	8,000	4,848	8,000	549	8,000	0.00%
100-4100-10.07 Admin. Assistant	3,646	2,914	3,680	2,463	9,152	148.68%
100-4100-14.00 Social Security	17,647	13,510	18,023	7,622	19,261	6.87%
100-4100-15.02 Benefits	50,334	30,643	55,039	26,003	31,541	-42.69%
100-4100-15.03 Retirement	20,776	16,492	19,713	10,135	25,197	27.82%
100-4100-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				554	
100-4100-20.00 Office Supplies	500	641	650	1,182	700	7.69%
100-4100-21.00 Police Supplies	2,500	2,579	3,000	3,795	3,000	0.00%
100-4100-25.00 Uniforms	5,500	7,140	7,000	11,327	7,000	0.00%
100-4100-34.00 Telecommunications	5,500	4,871	5,500	3,563	5,500	0.00%
100-4100-35.00 Postage	100	21	150	233	150	0.00%
100-4100-36.00 Radio/Dispatch	2,000	880	2,000	-	8,000	300.00%
100-4100-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	860	262	1,000	752	1,000	0.00%
100-4100-42.00 Training	5,000	3,701	6,000	4,996	6,000	0.00%
100-4100-43.00 Body Cameras & Storage	9,000	13,556	8,160	8,125	8,161	0.01%
100-4100-47.00 Unemployment	327	327	300	236	286	-4.67%
100-4100-48.00 PACIF Liability	9,084	9,084	10,387	8,663	9,220	-11.23%
100-4100-48.01 Workers Compensation	20,799	16,868	21,622	21,624	21,034	-2.72%
100-4100-60.00 Contracted Services	3,200	1,957	3,200	3,707	3,800	18.75%
100-4100-68.00 Vehicle Repair	8,000	16,422	15,000	5,697	10,000	-33.33%
100-4100-74.00 Police Fuel	9,000	9,737	14,000	4,581	11,000	-21.43%
100-4100-83.00 Equipment Repair	1,500	1,278	1,500	7,925	1,500	0.00%
100-4100-91.00 Transfer to Small Equipment (#327)	2,500	2,500	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.00%
100-4100-93.00 Transfer to Capital Equipment (#301)	31,000	31,000	32,000	50,000	35,000	9.38%
100-4100-95.00 Grant Matching						
Subtotal	435,801	370,357	463,845	298,830	463,687	-0.03%
POLICE DETAILS						
100-4100-10.06 UVD Contracted Detail	9,200	7,463	9,200	7,584	9,200	0.00%
100-4100-10.08 Other Contracted Details	8,200	1,636	8,200	1,610	8,200	0.00%
100-4100-14.04 Detail Social Security	1,331	647	1,331	608	1,331	-0.01%
100-4100-15.06 - Detail Retirement	1,479	-	1,479	-	1,479	0.00%
Subtotal	20,210	9,746	20,210	9,802	20,210	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT						
100-3900-10.00 Emergency Management Director	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	0.00%
100-3900-14.00 Social Security	344	344	344	344	344	0.00%
100-3900-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				10	
100-3900-30.00 Emergency Management	10,200	2,146	10,200	9,869	10,200	0.00%
100-3900-90.00 Transfer to Emer. Infrs. (#334)	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.00%
Subtotal	19,044	10,990	19,044	18,713	19,054	0.00%

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
FIRE WARDEN						
100-4500-10.01 Fire Warden	2,758	2,541	2,758	2,857	2,758	0.00%
Subtotal	2,758	2,541	2,758	2,857	2,758	0.00%
HEALTH OFFICER						
100-6140-10.00 Health Officer	500	500	500	500	500	0.00%
100-6140-14.00 Social Security	38	38	38	38	38	0.00%
100-6140-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				1	
100-6140-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	50	-	50	-	50	0.00%
Subtotal	588	538	588	538	589	0.00%
ANIMAL CONTROL						
100-6150-10.00 Animal Control	500	-	-	-	-	
100-6150-14.00 Social Security	38	-	-	-	-	
100-6150-15.00 Pound Fees		990	1,500	750	1,500	0.00%
100-6150-22.00 Animal Control Supplies	300	-	200	-	300	50.00%
100-6150-37.00 Licensing Supplies (Town Clerk)	300	302	300	274	300	0.00%
100-6150-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	100	-	100	-	100	0.00%
Subtotal	1,238	1,292	2,100	1,024	2,200	69.59%
TOTAL	479,640	395,464	508,546	313,764	508,498	6.03%

TRANSFER STATION	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
TRANSFER STATION						
100-6340-10.00 Transfer Station Staff	22,094	23,199	23,500	22,265	29,811	26.86%
100-6340-14.00 Social Security	1,690	1,775	1,797	1,703	2,281	26.89%
100-6340-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				66	
100-6340-20.00 Supplies	1,000	1,327	1,200	1,743	1,000	-16.67%
100-6340-34.00 Utilities	900	836	950	940	1,000	5.26%
100-6340-40.00 Comingled NRRA	23,000	19,916	28,000	28,502	34,000	21.43%
100-6340-42.00 Unemployment	136	136	158	94	190	20.25%
100-6340-48.01 Workers Compensation	3,096	2,248	2,264	2,266	3,000	32.51%
100-6340-50.00 Community Education	100	23	-	-	-	
100-6340-74.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	200	210	250	97	100	-60.00%
100-6340-75.00 Maintenance/Repairs	1,000	1,127	1,300	4,395	4,500	246.15%
100-6340-76.00 Portable Toilets	1,600	1,755	1,600	1,800	1,800	12.50%
100-6340-80.00 Composting	250	230	250	250	5,500	2100.00%
100-6340-82.00 Green-Up Day	750	802	800	313	600	-25.00%
100-6340-90.00 Transfer to Recycling (#303)	2,500	2,500	750	750	1,000	33.33%
TOTAL	58,316	56,084	62,819	65,118	84,847	35.07%

FIXED COSTS	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
REGIONAL DUES & COUNTY TAX						
100-9300-00.00 County Tax	110,523	96,749	100,000	96,415	96,415	-3.59%
100-9300-10.00 GMEDC Dues	1,266	1,266	1,400	1,400	1,350	-3.57%
100-9300-20.00 GUVSWMD Dues	27,750	27,750	24,975	24,975	26,000	4.10%
100-9300-30.00 TRORC Dues	4,385	4,385	4,523	4,523	4,662	3.07%
100-9300-40.00 Upper Valley Ambulance	135,975	135,975	141,525	141,525	149,850	5.88%
100-9300-50.00 VLCT Dues	4,594	4,594	4,758	4,758	4,904	3.07%
Subtotal	284,493	270,719	277,181	273,596	283,181	2.16%
TAX APPROPRIATIONS						
100-9900-01.00 Veterans' Flags	400	400	400	400	400	0.00%
100-9900-02.00 Scholarships	500	500	500	500	500	0.00%
Subtotal	900	900	900	900	900	0.00%
TRI-TOWN COMMISSION						
100-6960-00.00 Annual Allocation	3,523	2,061	2,500	1,641	2,383	-4.68%
100-6960-84.00 Dam Bond Payment	25,900	25,898	25,387	25,363	24,888	-1.97%
Subtotal	29,423	27,959	27,887	27,003	27,271	-2.21%
MISC.						
100-9990-01.00 Miscellaneous	-	1,000	-	-	-	
100-9990-04.00 Real Estate Abatements	7,000	45	5,000	5,502	5,000	0.00%
100-9990-10.00 Interest on Loans	2,500	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	9,500	1,045	5,000	5,502	5,000	0.00%
TOTAL	324,316	300,623	310,968	307,001	316,352	1.73%

SOCIAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
APPROPRIATIONS						
100-6900-01.00 Clara Martin Center	4,266	4,266	4,266	4,266	4,266	0.00%
100-6900-10.00 VNA/VNH	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	0.00%
100-6900-40.00 WR Council on Aging	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.00%
100-6900-53.00 The Family Place	300	300	300	300	300	0.00%
100-6900-58.00 Orange County Restorative Justice	500	500	500	500	500	0.00%
100-6900-62.00 Safeline	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.00%
100-6900-81.00 Orange County Parent Child Center	750	750	750	750	750	0.00%
100-6900-83.00 Tri-Valley Transit (formerly Stagecoach)	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	4,800	50.00%
100-6900-84.00 Senior Solutions	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.00%
100-6900-90.00 Lake Fairlee Association						
			Moved to Additional Appropriations			
100-6900-92.00 Community Nurse of Thetford	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	0.00%
100-6900-94.00 Public Health Council of the Upper Valley	1,388	1,388	1,388	1,388	1,388	0.00%
100-6900-95.00 WISE	400	400	400	400	400	0.00%
TOTAL	39,504	39,504	44,504	44,504	46,104	3.60%

NOTE: Social service appropriations are warned as a separate article for 2022.

RECREATION & TREASURE ISLAND	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
ADMINISTRATION						
100-7000-12.00 Parks & Recreation Coordinator	21,174	23,151	21,906	25,777	21,840	-0.30%
100-7000-14.00 Social Security	1,620	1,789	1,676	1,970	1,671	-0.30%
100-7000-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				48	
100-7000-42.00 Unemployment	271	271	293	229	293	0.00%
100-7000-48.00 PACIF Liability	594	-	665	-	560	-15.78%
100-7000-48.01 Workers Compensation	2,509	1,876	1,870	1,835	2,396	28.12%
Subtotal	26,168	26,884	26,410	29,811	26,808	1.51%
RECREATION						
100-7000-20.00 Supplies	200	25	300	1,502	300	0.00%
100-7000-20.01 Youth Sports Equipment	4,000	2,770	4,500	1,732	4,500	0.00%
100-7000-20.02 Youth Sports Uniforms	2,000	2,048	2,000	3,051	1,500	-25.00%
100-7000-27.00 Licensing Agreements (MyRec)	3,000	2,595	3,000	3,295	3,295	9.83%
100-7000-30.00 Advertising	250	-	250	-	250	0.00%
100-7000-34.00 Utilities	500	562	500	406	750	50.00%
100-7000-40.00 Dues/Meetings/Travel	300	200	300	-	1,000	233.33%
100-7000-40.01 Skiing Program	6,000	5,081	6,000	5,691	6,000	0.00%
100-7000-40.03 Adult Programs	-	180	500	1,140	500	0.00%
100-7000-40.10 Special Events	100	65	200	-	200	0.00%
100-7000-50.00 Officials' Fees	2,250	985	2,250	2,460	2,250	0.00%
100-7000-50.01 Tournaments	1,500	1,287	2,000	2,457	2,250	12.50%
100-7000-50.03 Instructor and Registration	1,500	250	1,500	491	1,250	-16.67%
100-7000-50.04 Summer Camps	-	-	-	-	-	
100-7000-50.90 Transfer to Recreation (#325)	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	
100-7000-68.00 Maintenance/Repairs	1,500	334	1,500	4,024	1,500	0.00%
100-7000-76.00 Portable Toilets	1,550	1,500	1,550	1,620	1,800	16.13%
100-7000-80.00 Transfer to Scholarship (#345)	250	250	-	-	-	
Subtotal	27,900	21,132	26,350	27,869	27,345	3.78%
TREASURE ISLAND						
100-7005-10.00 Treasure Island Staff	20,000	23,340	25,000	23,592	28,862	15.45%
100-7005-14.00 Social Security	1,530	1,786	1,913	1,654	2,208	15.45%
100-7005-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				63	
100-7005-17.00 Property Taxes	14,000	13,772	14,000	16,855	18,000	28.57%
100-7005-22.00 Supplies & Equipment	2,500	3,094	3,000	2,605	3,500	16.67%
100-7005-30.00 Advertising	200	-	150	-	150	0.00%
100-7005-34.00 Telephone	650	595	600	819	600	0.00%
100-7005-48.00 PACIF Liability	594	629	665	665	514	-22.65%
100-7005-68.00 Maintenance/Repairs	5,000	6,652	5,000	6,205	7,000	40.00%
100-7005-76.00 Utilities	450	448	500	291	500	0.00%
100-7005-79.00 Training/Certifications	1,500	170	1,500	-	1,000	-33.33%
100-7005-99.00 Transfer to Treasure Island (#344)	4,000	4,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.00%
Subtotal	50,424	54,486	54,828	55,187	64,898	18.37%
TOTAL	104,492	102,502	107,588	112,866	119,051	10.65%

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
ADMINISTRATION						
200-5000-10.02 Public Works Director	Position not funded					
200-5000-10.00 Road Crew	229,554	222,912	249,355	210,137	278,643	11.75%
200-5000-11.00 Road Crew Overtime	20,000	29,103	22,500	27,882	25,000	11.11%
200-5100-05.01 Retirement	13,102	12,299	14,404	11,996	16,700	15.94%
200-5100-15.00 Benefits	100,980	85,322	116,648	93,656	134,043	14.91%
200-5100-15.01 Social Security	19,091	19,122	20,988	18,020	23,229	10.68%
200-5100-16.00 Child Care Contribution	New State Tax Starting July of 2024				668	
200-5100-17.03 Clothing Expense	2,000	1,608	2,000	1,130	2,000	0.00%
200-5100-20.00 Office Supplies	800	319	800	708	800	0.00%
200-5100-34.00 Telecommunications	1,000	610	1,000	1,662	1,000	0.00%
200-5100-36.00 Radio Maintenance	2,000	286	1,500	-	1,500	0.00%
200-5100-40.00 Dues/Meetings	1,500	146	750	100	500	-33.33%
200-5100-42.00 Unemployment	436	436	597	533	489	-18.09%
200-5100-48.00 PACIF Liability	12,042	12,042	11,984	10,260	12,180	1.63%
200-5100-48.01 Workers' Compensation	18,168	14,990	19,899	19,901	18,373	-7.67%
200-5100-74.00 Mileage	400	433	600	235	600	0.00%
200-5100-80.00 Project Loan Interest	27,500	18,090	-	-	-	
Subtotal	448,573	417,718	463,025	396,219	515,725	11.38%
HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE						
200-5110-22.00 Road Maintenance Supplies	60,000	54,244	75,000	77,073	75,000	0.00%
200-5110-25.00 Contract Services	35,000	33,445	35,000	19,690	35,000	0.00%
200-5110-35.00 Winter Road Supplies	125,000	80,619	120,000	114,083	120,000	0.00%
200-5110-36.00 Streetlights	3,200	2,067	3,200	2,211	3,200	0.00%
200-5110-38.00 Sidewalk Maintenance	4,100	2,050	4,100	2,250	4,500	9.76%
200-5110-40.00 Traffic Signs	11,000	14,391	8,000	912	8,000	0.00%
200-5110-42.000 Striping	1,000	530	1,000	-	1,000	0.00%
200-5110-44.00 Tree Warden Operations	250	-	250	-	250	0.00%
200-5110-48.00 Transfer to Town Tree (#340)	10,000	10,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	0.00%
200-5110-60.00 Guardrails	5,000	-	2,500	3,700	5,000	100.00%
Subtotal	254,550	197,346	256,550	227,419	259,450	1.13%
ROADS AND STRUCTURES						
200-5120-22.00 Transfer to Paving Fund (#336)	128,000	128,000	125,000	465,298	125,000	0.00%
200-5120-25.00 Route 132 Bond Payment	261,950	261,950	330,510	330,510	297,842	-9.88%
200-5120-50.00 Transfer to Structures (#310)	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.00%
200-5120-56.00 Gravel Resurfacing	60,000	97,825	70,000	123,765	70,000	0.00%
200-5120-60.00 - Contract Services	-	1,500	-	-	-	
200-5120-70.00 MRGP Fee (Act 64)	1,590	1,350	1,350	1,765	1,800	33.33%
200-5120-99.00 Transfer to Better Roads (#323)	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	471,540	510,625	536,860	931,337	504,642	-6.00%

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	% Change
200-5310 FACILITIES						
200-5310-22.00 Supplies	2,500	2,631	2,000	1,944	2,000	0.00%
200-5310-68.00 Maintenance/Repairs	2,500	2,391	2,500	1,537	2,500	0.00%
200-5310-76.00 Utilities	5,000	5,498	5,000	5,850	5,000	0.00%
200-5310-80.00 Alarm Service	250	250	250	420	250	0.00%
200-5310-83.00 Equipment	1,500	1,923	1,500	1,619	1,500	0.00%
200-5310-85.000 Transfer to Facilities (#332)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.00%
Subtotal	16,750	17,693	16,250	16,370	16,250	0.00%
200-5140-65.00 Engineering Services	35,000	2,441	25,000	8,183	25,000	0.00%
Subtotal	35,000	2,441	25,000	8,183	25,000	0.00%
200-5330 VEHICLES						
200-5330-10.00 Transfer to Capital Equipment (#304)	129,000	129,000	132,600	132,600	140,569	6.01%
200-5330-20.00 Transportation Fuel	40,000	57,017	60,000	54,933	60,000	0.00%
200-5330-21.00 Vehicle Oil	2,000	800	2,000	2,903	2,000	0.00%
200-5330-22.00 Vehicle Supplies	350	-	350	-	350	0.00%
200-5330-23.00 Vehicle DEF Fluid	1,500	1,623	2,000	1,622	2,000	0.00%
200-5330-56.00 Equipment	2,500	2,486	2,500	13,429	2,500	0.00%
200-5330-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	35,000	169	40,000	6,172	40,000	0.00%
200-5330-68.01 Repairs - Truck 1		1,011		558		
200-5330-68.02 Repairs - Truck 2		7,174		6,300		
200-5330-68.03 Repairs - Truck 3		1,142		14,103		
200-5330-68.04 Repairs - Truck 4		4,377		1,700		
200-5330-68.05 Repairs - Tractor JD		619		13,244		
200-5330-68.06 Repairs - Grader		-		9,795		
200-5330-68.07 Repairs - Excavator		22,815		665		
200-5330-68.08 Repairs - Chipper		-		-		
200-5330-68.09 Repairs - Chainsaw		-		-		
200-5330-68.10 Repairs - Chloride Trailer		-		-		
200-5330-68.11 Repairs - Roller		15		356		
200-5330-68.13 Repairs-Rock Rake		-		-		
200-5330-68.14 Repairs - Mower		1,519		3,636		
200-5330-68.15 Repairs - Pole Saw		-		-		
200-5330-68.16 Repairs - Trimmer		-		-		
200-5330-68.17 Repairs - Water Pump				-		
200-5330-68.18 Repairs - Wheel Loader		1,422		2,343		
200-5330-68.22 Repairs - DPW Hot Box		720		-		
200-5330-68.23 Repairs - JD 310D Backhoe		-		-		
200-5330-68.50 Repairs - Truck 5		5,279		2,111		
200-5330-88.00 Trucking/Towing	-	750	-	4,040		-
200-5330-68.00 Maintenance & Repairs (Total)	35,000	47,012	40,000	65,024	40,000	0.00%
Subtotal	210,350	237,938	239,450	211,659	247,419	3.33%
TOTAL	1,436,763	1,383,761	1,537,135	1,791,188	1,568,486	2.04%

POLICE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND - 10-YEAR PROJECTION

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Fund (\$ thousands)												
Anticipated Fund Balance as of Jan 1	68.0	145.1	106.8	74.0	41.3	83.0	46.2	10.1	(25.2)	27.5	(5.6)	(37.3)
Added to fund	50.0	35.0	37.1	39.3	41.7	44.2	46.9	49.7	52.7	55.9	59.3	62.9
Increase in Contribution	61%	-30%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Trade/Sale	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Estimated Revenue	118.6	179.8	149.0	118.3	83.0	127.2	93.2	64.9	32.6	88.5	58.8	30.7
Anticipated Police Equipment Purchases (\$ thousands)												
EQ1 - 2015 Ford Cruiser		73.3				81.0				89.0		
EQ2 - 2015 Ford Cruiser				77.0				85.0				
EQ3 - 2018 Ford F150			75.0				83.0				91.0	91.0
Total Payments from Fund	-	73	75	77	-	81	83	85	-	89.0	91.0	91.0
Anticipated Fund Balance as of Dec 31	118.0	106.8	74.0	41.3	83.0	46.2	10.1	(25.2)	27.5	(5.6)	(37.3)	(65.4)

Note: Figures are approximate

PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND - 10 YEAR PROJECTION

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Fund (\$ thousands)												
Fund Balance as of Jan 1	35.1	103.9	207.2	266.9	266.5	174.6	92.8	74.9	(16.0)	(24.4)	34.1	46.1
Added to fund	132.61	140.6	149.0	157.9	167.4	177.5	188.1	199.4	211.4	224.0	237.5	251.7
Increase in Contribution	3%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Anticipated Public Works Equipment Purchases (\$ thousands)												
Truck 1 F550 - 5 yrs. (2018)			34.0	34.0	34.0				41.5	41.5	41.5	
Truck 2 10WL - 8 yrs. (2016)			52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0			59.0	59.0	59.0
Truck 3 10WL - 8 yrs. (2017)	29.5			53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0			60.0	60.0
Truck 4 6WL - 8 yrs (2017)	28.1			47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0			49.0
Truck 5 10WL - 8 yrs (2018)	-			54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0			61.0
Grader - 20 yrs (2010)								65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0
Excavator - 20 yrs (2013)								59.0				
Loader - 15 yrs (2021)	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3						
Tractor - Discontinued												
Mower - Discontinued (2017)								12.3	12.3			12.3
Chipper - 20 yrs (2008)		18.0	18.0									
Roller - 20 yrs (2013)												
Total Payments from Fund	76.9	37.3	89.3	158.3	259.3	259.3	206.0	290.3	219.8	165.5	225.5	306.3
Anticipated Fund Balance as of Dec 31	90.8	207.2	266.9	266.5	174.6	92.8	74.9	(16.0)	(24.4)	34.1	46.1	(8.4)

Note: Figures are approximate

DAM REPLACEMENT BOND REPAYMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Total Payment		Interest Amount	Principal Balance	Interest Paid
	Amount	Principal Amount			
07/15/2015				374,000.00	
01/15/2016	5,184.77		5,184.77	374,000.00	5,184.77
07/15/2016	23,828.41	18,700.00	5,128.41	355,300.00	10,313.18
01/15/2017	4,925.53		4,925.53	355,300.00	15,238.71
07/15/2017	23,545.22	18,700.00	4,845.22	336,600.00	20,083.93
01/15/2018	4,666.29		4,666.29	336,600.00	24,750.22
07/15/2018	23,290.21	18,700.00	4,590.21	317,900.00	29,340.43
01/15/2019	4,407.05		4,407.05	317,900.00	33,747.48
07/15/2019	23,035.20	18,700.00	4,335.20	299,200.00	38,082.68
01/15/2020	4,147.81		4,147.81	299,200.00	42,230.49
07/15/2020	22,802.73	18,700.00	4,102.73	280,500.00	46,333.22
01/15/2021	3,888.58		3,888.58	280,500.00	50,221.80
07/15/2021	22,525.17	18,700.00	3,825.17	261,800.00	54,046.97
01/15/2022	3,629.34		3,629.34	261,800.00	57,676.31
07/15/2022	22,270.16	18,700.00	3,570.16	243,100.00	61,246.47
01/15/2023	3,370.10		3,370.10	243,100.00	64,616.57
07/15/2023	22,015.15	18,700.00	3,315.15	224,400.00	67,931.72
01/15/2024	3,110.86		3,110.86	224,400.00	71,042.58
07/15/2024	21,777.05	18,700.00	3,077.05	205,700.00	74,119.63
01/15/2025	2,851.62		2,851.62	205,700.00	76,971.25
07/15/2025	21,505.13	18,700.00	2,805.13	187,000.00	79,776.38
01/15/2026	2,592.38		2,592.38	187,000.00	82,368.76
07/15/2026	21,250.12	18,700.00	2,550.12	168,300.00	84,918.88
01/15/2027	2,333.15		2,333.15	168,300.00	87,252.02
07/15/2027	20,995.10	18,700.00	2,295.10	149,600.00	89,547.13
01/15/2028	2,073.91		2,073.91	149,600.00	91,621.03
07/15/2028	20,751.36	18,700.00	2,051.36	130,900.00	93,672.40
01/15/2029	1,814.67		1,814.67	130,900.00	95,487.07
07/15/2029	20,485.08	18,700.00	1,785.08	112,200.00	97,272.15
01/15/2030	1,555.43		1,555.43	112,200.00	98,827.58
07/15/2030	20,230.07	18,700.00	1,530.07	93,500.00	100,357.65
01/15/2031	1,296.19		1,296.19	93,500.00	101,653.84
07/15/2031	19,975.06	18,700.00	1,275.06	74,800.00	102,928.90
01/15/2032	1,036.95		1,036.95	74,800.00	103,965.85
07/15/2032	19,725.68	18,700.00	1,025.68	56,100.00	104,991.53
01/15/2033	777.72		777.72	56,100.00	105,769.25
07/15/2033	19,465.03	18,700.00	765.03	37,400.00	106,534.28
01/15/2034	518.48		518.48	37,400.00	107,052.76
07/15/2034	19,210.02	18,700.00	510.02	18,700.00	107,562.78
01/15/2035	259.24		259.24	18,700.00	107,822.02
07/15/2035	18,955.01	18,700.00	255.01	0.00	108,077.03
	482,077.03	374,000.00	108,077.03		108,077.03

BOND DEBT SERVICE

Vermont Bond Bank 2021 Series 1 and Series 2 Bonds

Thetford, Town of

** Final **

New Money Loans: Supplemental Coupon = 0.28%

Refunding Loans: Supplemental Coupon = 0.70%

Dated Date 03/04/2021

Delivery Date 03/04/2021

Period Ending	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Debt Service	Annual Debt Service
11/01/2021			48,239.95	48,239.95	48,239.95
05/01/2022			32,521.31	32,521.31	
11/01/2022	266,667	0.450%	32,521.31	299,188.31	331,709.62
05/01/2023			31,921.31	31,921.31	
11/01/2023	266,667	0.560%	31,921.31	297,841.64	330,509.62
05/01/2024			31,174.64	31,174.64	
11/01/2024	266,667	0.700%	31,174.64	297,841.64	329,016.28
05/01/2025			30,241.31	30,241.31	
11/01/2025	266,667	0.830%	30,241.31	298,908.31	327,149.62
05/01/2026			29,134.64	29,134.64	
11/01/2026	266,667	0.960%	29,134.64	295,801.64	324,936.28
05/01/2027			27,854.64	27,854.64	
11/01/2027	266,667	1.130%	27,854.64	294,521.64	322,376.28
05/01/2028			26,347.97	26,347.97	
11/01/2028	266,667	1.260%	26,347.97	293,014.97	319,362.94
05/01/2029			24,667.97	24,667.97	
11/01/2029	266,667	1.701%	24,667.97	291,334.97	316,002.94
05/01/2030			22,399.97	22,399.97	
11/01/2030	266,667	2.047%	22,399.97	289,066.97	311,466.94
05/01/2031			19,670.63	19,670.63	
11/01/2031	266,667	2.294%	19,670.63	286,337.63	306,008.26
05/01/2032			16,611.96	16,611.96	
11/01/2032	266,667	2.466%	16,611.96	283,278.96	299,890.92
05/01/2033			13,323.96	13,323.96	
11/01/2033	266,667	2.427%	13,323.96	279,990.96	293,314.92
05/01/2034			10,087.95	10,087.95	
11/01/2034	266,667	2.527%	10,087.95	276,754.95	286,842.90
05/01/2035			6,718.61	6,718.61	
11/01/2035	266,667	2.609%	6,718.61	273,385.61	280,104.22
05/01/2036			3,239.94	3,239.94	
11/01/2036	266,667	2.430%	3,239.94	269,901.94	273,141.88
	4,000,000.00		700,073.57	4,700,073.57	4,700,073.57

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS REPORT

Both the Farm Trust and the Cemetery Trust were established by contributions from Anna Poore on December 4, 1957. She stipulated that they be overseen by trustees elected by residents of Thetford. The funds are audited annually by Thetford's town auditor.

Farm Trust: The Farm Trust provides emergency and urgently needed short-term financial help for individuals or families for essential expenses such as food, rent, heat, home repair, childcare, transportation, medical and dental care and the like. These requests for assistance are confidential and are made through the Town Service Officer. The Trust additionally provides grants and donations to Thetford organizations, including schools, and other groups for special projects and efforts benefitting residents of the town. These requests are made directly to the Trustees.

Fund value 12/31/2022	\$1,084,941.00
Fund value 12/31/2023	\$1,210,527.38

Checking account balance 12/31/2022	\$12,327.13
Deposits to checking from Fund in 2023	\$65,000.00
Other deposit to checking	\$5,600.00
Checks issued	\$81,323.37
Service fees	\$18.00
Checking account balance 12/31/2023	\$1,585.76

24 families/individuals and 3 organizations helped

Cemetery Trust: The Cemetery Trust provides financial assistance to the town for the maintenance of town-owned cemeteries.

Fund value 12/31/2022	\$44,055.14
Fund value 12/31/2023	\$44,259.75

Checking account balance 12/31/2022	\$3,847.79
Deposits to checking from Fund in 2023	\$8,000.00
Checks issued	\$8,150.00
Checking account balance 12/31/2023	\$3,697.79

Latham Library Scholarship Fund: Established anonymously in 1988, the Latham Library Scholarship Fund provides educational scholarships to high school graduates who fill out the application for the fund and meet the criteria. The criteria include acceptance in a college or university, financial need to cover post-secondary education, and residency in Thetford. Since its inception, the Library Fund has awarded over \$150,000.

Fund value as of 12/31/2022	\$144,287.71
Fund value as of 12/31/2023	\$134,004.00

During 2023, nine scholarships were awarded totaling \$12,000.

Trustees of Trust Funds

Priscilla D. Hall J. Rick Hoffman Joseph S. Tofel

TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023							
	General Fund	Highway Fund	Highway Equipment Fund	ARPA Fund	Paving Fund	Rte 132 Bond Project Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS							
Cash	\$ 5,502,152	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,502,152
Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	44,260
Receivables (Net of Allowance for Doubtfuls)	221,364	0	0	0	0	0	370,917
Due from Other Funds	0	151,937	103,901	524,466	126,166	0	1,634,241
Inventory	0	72,189	0	0	0	0	72,189
Total Assets	\$ 5,723,516	\$ 224,126	\$ 103,901	\$ 524,466	\$ 126,166	\$ 0	\$ 7,627,457
LIABILITIES							
Accounts Payable	\$ 100,205	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 108,400
Accrued Payroll and Benefits Payable	12,769	5,676	0	0	0	0	18,445
Due to Other Funds	1,551,851	0	0	0	0	0	1,640,224
Unearned Revenue	13,030	108,857	0	512,141	0	0	641,677
Due to School District	3,379,358	0	0	0	0	0	3,379,358
Total Liabilities	\$ 5,057,213	\$ 114,533	\$ 0	\$ 512,141	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,788,104
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Prepaid Property Taxes	16,476	0	0	0	0	0	16,476
Unavailable Property Taxes, Penalties and Interest	163,500	0	0	0	0	0	163,500
Unavailable Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	149,553
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 179,976	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 329,529
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT)							
Nonspendable	0	72,189	0	0	0	0	72,189
Restricted	0	0	0	0	0	0	117,477
Committed	0	0	0	0	0	0	490,772
Assigned	0	37,404	103,901	12,325	126,166	0	439,627
Unassigned (Deficit)	486,327	0	0	0	0	0	(96,568)
Total Fund Balances (Deficit)	\$ 486,327	\$ 109,593	\$ 103,901	\$ 12,325	\$ 126,166	\$ 0	\$ 1,589,824
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Bal	\$ 5,723,516	\$ 224,126	\$ 103,901	\$ 524,466	\$ 126,166	\$ 0	\$ 7,627,457

**TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Highway Equipment Fund	ARPA Fund	Paving Fund	Bond Project Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:								
Property Taxes	\$ 1,869,374	\$ 1,309,235	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,178,609
Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Taxes	47,034	0	0	0	0	0	0	47,034
Intergovernmental	208,821	141,851	0	243,801	0	0	26,479	620,952
Charges for Services	120,724	0	0	0	0	0	0	120,724
Permits, Licenses and Fees	47,599	405	0	0	0	0	7,308	55,312
Fines and Forfeits	13,130	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,130
Investment Income	23,473	2,525	575	10,002	469	1,106	18,651	56,801
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Other	5,434	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,434
Total Revenues	2,335,589	1,454,016	575	253,803	469	1,106	52,538	4,098,096
Expenditures:								
General Government	886,608	0	0	0	0	0	27,931	914,539
Public Safety	738,577	0	0	0	0	0	0	738,577
Highways and Streets	0	890,633	0	0	0	0	0	890,633
Culture and Recreation	240,476	0	0	0	0	0	0	240,476
Solid Waste and Recycling	64,368	0	0	0	0	0	0	64,368
Cemetery	10,440	0	0	0	0	0	8,150	18,590
Capital Outlay:								
General Government	0	0	0	243,801	0	0	4,252	248,053
Public Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,698	3,698
Highways and Streets	0	8,500	0	0	340,298	0	0	348,798
Culture and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,177	2,177
Debt Service	25,363	330,510	112,418	0	0	0	0	468,291
Total Expenditures	1,965,832	1,229,643	112,418	243,801	340,298	0	46,208	3,938,200
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	369,757	224,373	(111,843)	10,002	(339,829)	1,106	6,330	159,896
Other Financing Sources/(Uses):								
Transfers In	0	442	132,600	0	465,962	0	114,250	713,254
Transfers Out	(91,750)	(620,398)	0	0	0	(1,106)	0	(713,254)
Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	(91,750)	(619,956)	132,600	0	465,962	(1,106)	114,250	0
Net Change in Fund Balances	278,007	(395,583)	20,757	10,002	126,133	0	120,580	159,896
Fund Balances - January 1, 2023	190,320	505,176	83,144	2,323	33	0	568,932	1,349,928
Fund Balances - December 31, 2023	\$ 468,327	\$ 109,593	\$ 103,901	\$ 12,325	\$ 126,166	\$ 0	\$ 689,512	\$ 1,509,824

**TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Fund Cemetery Fund	Total
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Cash	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,698	\$ 3,698
Investments	0	0	44,260	44,260
Receivables	0	149,553	0	149,553
Due from Other Funds	<u>408,971</u>	<u>336,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>745,771</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 408,971</u>	<u>\$ 486,353</u>	<u>\$ 47,958</u>	<u>\$ 943,282</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Liabilities:				
Due to Other Funds	\$ 0	\$ 88,373	\$ 0	\$ 88,373
Accounts Payable	0	8,195	0	8,195
Unearned Revenue	<u>7,649</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,649</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>7,649</u>	<u>96,568</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>104,217</u>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>				
Unavailable Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>149,553</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>149,553</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>0</u>	<u>149,553</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>149,553</u>
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>				
Restricted	69,519	0	47,958	117,477
Committed	171,972	336,800	0	508,772
Assigned	159,831	0	0	159,831
Unassigned	<u>0</u>	<u>(96,568)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(96,568)</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>401,322</u>	<u>240,232</u>	<u>47,958</u>	<u>689,512</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources Fund Balances and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 408,971</u>	<u>\$ 486,353</u>	<u>\$ 47,958</u>	<u>\$ 943,282</u>

TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT
COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Fund Cemetery Fund	Total
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental	\$ 26,479	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 26,479
Permits, Licenses and Fees	7,308	0	0	7,308
Investment Income	5,500	4,946	8,205	18,651
Donations	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>
Total Revenues	<u>39,387</u>	<u>4,946</u>	<u>8,205</u>	<u>52,538</u>
Expenditures:				
General Government	27,931	0	0	27,931
Cemetery	0	0	8,150	8,150
Capital Outlay:				
General Government	0	4,252	0	4,252
Public Safety	0	3,698	0	3,698
Culture and Recreation	<u>0</u>	<u>2,177</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,177</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>27,931</u>	<u>10,127</u>	<u>8,150</u>	<u>46,208</u>
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>11,456</u>	<u>(5,181)</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>6,330</u>
Other Financing Sources/(Uses):				
Transfer In	30,500	83,750	0	114,250
Transfers Out	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	<u>30,500</u>	<u>83,750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>114,250</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	41,956	78,569	55	120,580
Fund Balances - January 1, 2023	<u>359,366</u>	<u>161,663</u>	<u>47,903</u>	<u>568,932</u>
Fund Balances - December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 401,322</u>	<u>\$ 240,232</u>	<u>\$ 47,958</u>	<u>\$ 689,512</u>

TOWN OF THEFORD, VERMONT COMBINING BALANCE SHEET NON-MAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023											
	Restoration of Records Fund	Conservation Fund	Reappraisal & Lester Education Fund	Planning & Consulting Fund	Composting Fund	Energy Committee & Improvements Fund	Town Land/Tree Funds	Other Grant Funds	Community Development Grant Fund	Senior Affordable Housing Fund	Total
ASSETS											
Due from Other Funds	\$ 60,099	\$ 31,394	\$ 155,216	\$ 37,737	\$ 2,366	\$ 7,850	\$ 85,966	\$ 2,048	\$ 16,420	\$ 9,875	\$ 408,971
Total Assets	\$ 60,099	\$ 31,394	\$ 155,216	\$ 37,737	\$ 2,366	\$ 7,850	\$ 85,966	\$ 2,048	\$ 16,420	\$ 9,875	\$ 408,971
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES											
Liabilities:											
Due to Other Funds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Unearned Revenue	0	0	0	0	2,366	4,000	0	1,283	0	0	7,649
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	2,366	4,000	0	1,283	0	0	7,649
Fund Balances:											
Restricted	53,099	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16,420	0	69,519
Committed	7,000	31,394	0	37,737	0	0	85,966	0	0	9,875	171,972
Assigned	0	0	155,216	0	0	3,850	0	765	0	0	159,831
Total Fund Balances	60,099	31,394	155,216	37,737	0	3,850	85,966	765	16,420	9,875	401,322
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 60,099	\$ 31,394	\$ 155,216	\$ 37,737	\$ 2,366	\$ 7,850	\$ 85,966	\$ 2,048	\$ 16,420	\$ 9,875	\$ 408,971

TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES NON-MAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023											
	Restoration of Records Fund	Conservation Fund	Reappraisal & Lester Education Fund	Planning & Consulting Fund	Composting Fund	Energy Committee & Improvements Fund	Town Land/Tree Funds	Other Grant Funds	Community Development Grant Fund	Senior Affordable Housing Fund	Total
Revenues:											
Intergovernmental	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 14,578	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,800	\$ 1,101	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 26,479
Permits, Licenses and Fees	7,308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,308
Investment Income	737	459	2,238	519	0	0	1,159	11	243	134	5,500
Donations	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Total Revenues	8,045	559	16,816	6,519	0	0	5,959	1,112	243	134	39,387
Expenditures:											
General Government	4,151	4,440	2,360	4,575	0	0	11,304	1,101	0	0	27,931
Total Expenditures	4,151	4,440	2,360	4,575	0	0	11,304	1,101	0	0	27,931
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	3,894	(3,881)	14,456	1,944	0	0	(5,345)	11	243	134	11,456
Other Financing Sources(Uses):											
Transfers In	0	5,000	0	4,000	0	3,000	17,500	0	0	1,000	30,500
Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	0	5,000	0	4,000	0	3,000	17,500	0	0	1,000	30,500
Net Change in Fund Balances	3,894	1,119	14,456	5,944	0	3,000	12,155	11	243	1,134	41,956
Fund Balances - January 1, 2023	56,205	30,275	140,760	31,793	0	850	73,811	754	16,177	8,741	359,366
Fund Balances - December 31, 2023	\$ 60,099	\$ 31,394	\$ 155,216	\$ 37,737	\$ 0	\$ 3,850	\$ 85,966	\$ 765	\$ 16,420	\$ 9,875	\$ 401,322

TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT COMBINING BALANCE SHEET NON-MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023											
	Town Hall Fund	Police Small Equipment & Cruiser Funds	Recycling Fund	Recreation Capital Fund	Structures & BBR Grant Funds	Highway Facility Fund	Theftford Sidewalk Fund	Emergency Infrastructure Fund	Treasure Island Capital Fund	Timothy Frost Building Fund	Total
ASSETS											
Receivables	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 149,553	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 149,553
Due from Other Funds	29,807	168,378	42,659	16,225	0	17,766	11,070	29,212	17,904	3,779	336,800
Total Assets	\$ 29,807	\$ 168,378	\$ 42,659	\$ 16,225	\$ 149,553	\$ 17,766	\$ 11,070	\$ 29,212	\$ 17,904	\$ 3,779	\$ 486,353
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES											
Liabilities:											
Due to Other Funds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 88,373	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 88,373
Accounts Payable	0	0	0	0	8,195	0	0	0	0	0	8,195
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	96,568	0	0	0	0	0	96,568
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES											
Unavailable Grants	0	0	0	0	149,553	0	0	0	0	0	149,553
Total Deferred Inflows of Resou	0	0	0	0	149,553	0	0	0	0	0	149,553
Fund Balances:											
Committed	29,807	168,378	42,659	16,225	0	17,766	11,070	29,212	17,904	3,779	336,800
Unassigned	0	0	0	0	(96,568)	0	0	0	0	0	(96,568)
Total Fund Balances	29,807	168,378	42,659	16,225	(96,568)	17,766	11,070	29,212	17,904	3,779	240,232
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 29,807	\$ 168,378	\$ 42,659	\$ 16,225	\$ 149,553	\$ 17,766	\$ 11,070	\$ 29,212	\$ 17,904	\$ 3,779	\$ 486,353

TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES NON-MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023											
	Town Hall Fund	Police Small Equipment & Cruiser Fund	Recycling Fund	Recreation Capital Fund	Structures & BBR Grant Funds	Highway Facility Fund	Thetford Sidewalk Fund	Emergency Infrastructure Fund	Treasure Island Capital Fund	Timothy Frost Building Fund	Total
Revenues:											
Intergovernmental	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Investment Income	1,410	1,376	622	240	231	207	164	387	253	56	4,946
Total Revenues	1,410	1,376	622	240	231	207	164	387	253	56	4,946
Expenditures:											
Capital Outlay:											
General Government	4,252	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,252
Public Safety	0	3,698	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,698
Culture and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,177	0	2,177
Total Expenditures	4,252	3,698	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,177	0	10,127
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	(2,842)	(2,322)	622	240	231	207	164	387	(1,924)	56	(5,181)
Other Financing Sources/(Uses):											
Transfers In	7,500	54,000	750	0	10,000	5,000	0	4,000	2,500	0	83,750
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Financing Sources/(Uses)	7,500	54,000	750	0	10,000	5,000	0	4,000	2,500	0	83,750
Net Change in Fund Balances	4,658	51,678	1,372	240	10,231	5,207	164	4,387	576	56	78,569
Fund Balances - January 1, 2023	25,149	116,700	41,287	15,985	(106,799)	12,559	10,906	24,825	17,327	3,724	161,663
Fund Balances - December 31, 2023	\$ 29,807	\$ 168,378	\$ 42,659	\$ 16,225	\$ (96,568)	\$ 17,766	\$ 11,070	\$ 29,212	\$ 17,903	\$ 3,780	\$ 240,232

SCHEDULE OF INDEBTEDNESS

SCHEDULE OF INDEBTEDNESS	Balance 01/01/2023	Additions	Deletions	Balance 12/31/2023	Interest Paid
Bond Payable US Bank	243,100		18,700	224,400	
Lake Fairlee Dam Interest 2.75% Payable Jan. 15 and July 15 and Principal payable July 15 through July 15, 2035					
Note Payable Mascoma Bank	104,573		15,327	89,246	3,787
Front End Loader Interest @ 2.7% due annually through 2028					
Note Payable Daimler	28,224		28,224	0	1,183
#3 '17 Western Star Truck Interest @ 4.19% due annually through 2023					
Note payable Daimler	27,040		27,040	0	1,005
#4 '17 Western Star Truck Interest @ 3.72% due annually through 2023					
Note Payable Mascoma Bank	35,676		35,676	0	176
#5 2018 Western Star Truck Interest @ 2.9% due annual through 2023					
US BANK ROUTE 132 BOND	3,733,333		266,225	3,467,108	64,285
Ranging from .45% to 2.43 Due May 1 and November 1 through 2036					
Annual Maturities TOTAL PRINCIPAL & INTEREST	4,171,946	0	391,192	3,780,754	70,436

**TOWN OF THETFORD, VERMONT
TAX BILLING RECONCILIATION
December 31, 2023**

	<u>Amount</u>
Billings per Tax Book - including late penalties	9,567,330.44
Education Tax for the School - Paid and Accrued	(5,379,358.00)
Education Tax Payments Pd to School by State	(1,026,352.59)
Late Homestead Penalty	(9,381.44)
School Tax Billing Fee Retained	(11,712.36)
Highway Fund Taxes (includes taxes for paving, Equipment, Project Reserves and Bond Repayment)	(1,309,235.00)
General Fund Taxes (includes payments for (reserve fundings)	<u>(1,831,291)</u>
	0

DELINQUENT TAX LIST

As of December 31, 2023

The Vermont Supreme Court declared certain tax information confidential. Based on this decision, only the names of the property owners are listed.

<p>Alsup, Andrea V. Banios Jr., Philip Beasley IV, Joe Dotson Berez, Thomas Bragg, James Bryant, Robert & Mary * Busnach, George J. & Elise Z. Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust Clifford, Gary Cummings, Florence Dalpe, Mark Davidonis, Theresa De Lyon Stralka, Jennifer & Matthew A. Stralka * Girard & Margaret Menard Trust * Graham, Christopher Haynes, Brooke C. Howe, Matthew & Kimberly Howell, Blair W. Joiner-Claflin, Margaret & Tomlinson-Huggett, JoAnn</p>	<p>Kogel, Christine Lake Fairlee Cottage LLC Magoon, Robert J. Manifested Realities LLC Panella, Donna Marie * Parker, Martin & Tammy Perkins, Kippy & Roger Perry, Leslie Phelps, Dawn Pompy Press Inc. River Cat LLC * Rosenquest, Ryan & Christopher Santor, Allen Statewide Corporation Telephone Operating Co. of VT LLC Tyler, Hillary Vernon, Dale & Vierzen, William Williams, Shannon & Melissa Zagaeski, Theodore</p>
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*Paid in full by January 31, 2024

Total amount of taxes delinquent as of 12/31/2023	\$226,268.92
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Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

77 Barre Street
P.O. Box 947
Montpelier, VT 05601
802/223-2352
www.sullivanpowers.com

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

January 29, 2024

Selectboard
Town of Thetford, Vermont
P.O. Box 126
Thetford Center, VT 05075-0126

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Thetford, Vermont as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022. Our report on the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining information, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the Town of Thetford, Vermont, was unqualified.

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

In addition, the audit for the year ended December 31, 2023 is in process. The financial statements and our report thereon will be available for public inspection at the Town Treasurer's Office when complete.

Sullivan, Powers & Co.

★ NOTES ★

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

2023

***COMMUNITY, AREA
and
STATE ORGANIZATIONS***

THETFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Thetford Historical Society, established in 1943, collects, exhibits, and preserves Thetford's history. We have a 13-member board and a part time director, and you can find us in two locations: our library and archives in the northern half of the Bicentennial Building, which we share with Latham Library, and at the Hughes Barn Museum, just down the hill on Route 113 near Garey Road. We're open for research at the Bicentennial Building on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and also by appointment.

The Hughes Barn Museum remains closed, but we can happily report that the first phase of improvements there were completed in mid-December: namely, repairs to the foundation and structure of our Main Barn and grading work to improve site drainage. This work was partially funded by a Vermont Barn Grant, awarded to the Historical Society by the VT Division for Historic Preservation in 2022. Other work at the Museum continues, and includes improved lighting, artifacts care, and upgrades to many exhibits. We're grateful for your support during our Museum revamp, which has come in the form of cash donations, labor, materials, equipment, and expertise. If you have a particular skill or interest and would like to become involved, either at the Barn or our archives, please visit our website – www.thetfordhistoricalsociety.org – for more information.

Our spring program series for 2023, *A Rock and a Hard Place*, focused on the trials and tribulations of making a life in the challenging landscape of Vermont. Our annual meeting in the fall featured a program by Larry Coffin, who spoke about floods in the Connecticut River Valley. A program series is planned for 2024, but details have not been finalized at this point. Stay tuned! If you have a topic that you'd like to learn more about, either in the form of a program or demonstration, drop us a line - we're always interested to hear where your interests lie.

We've reinvigorated our Oral History collecting, and in 2023, interviewed Priscilla Bond Banker, Paul Rump, Jerome Vaughan, and Lawrence Barker. Paul was the first in a series of Vietnam veteran interviewees whose stories we hope to capture. We realize that for every interview we gather, there are many that we miss. Please contact us with suggestions of interviewees. If you'd like to learn more about becoming an oral history interviewer or transcriber, we'd love to hear from you as well.

We had a number of interesting donations in 2023, which you can read more about on our website, above – it's a good starting point to learn more about who we are and what we do, and how you can become involved. We'd also like to remind folks who find themselves in a position of getting rid of 'old stuff', please consider the Historical Society before you toss it in the trash. If it's Thetford related and can help to tell a local story or two, we're interested, and would love to hear from you.

Martha Howard
Director, Thetford Historical Society

THETFORD HILL VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The purpose of the Thetford Hill Village Improvement Society (THVIS) is to care for and manage the Thetford Hill Common.

The public is welcome to enjoy this unique and beautiful space in all seasons which, with surrounding buildings, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Local schools, especially Open Fields, often use it as a place for play or more formal activities. Members of our community may obtain rules and make reservations for use of the Common by emailing the THVIS President. The rules exist to keep everyone safe from traffic on the roads, prevent damage to the Thetford Hill water system which runs under the Common, and make sure there are no competing events at the same time.

Bill Hodge's Property Service expertly handled groundskeeping, including a spring cleanup, regular mowing, and a fall cleanup.

Tree Committee Annual Report for 2023:

Last spring several signs were posted along Library Lane to discourage drivers from parking underneath the four large maples in order to prevent further root damage. In April an autumn blaze red maple was planted along Academy Road at the site of the Norway spruce taken down in 2020 and in June, a small yellowbud hickory was planted at the south end of the common, similar to the pignut hickory on the east side of the green. During the fall a number of trees on the green required attention. The four aging maples on Library Lane were treated with a slow release fertilizer to improve health and vigor. In addition, these maples were pruned to remove a significant number of dead and/or damaged limbs. A cable was installed in the pignut hickory on Library Lane to support a weakly attached lower limb and a second cable was installed in one of the sugar maples along Academy Road to support a defective trunk union. No additional tree work was necessary during the remaining months of 2023.

We held a very successful Fair this summer. Major thanks go to Greg Kasten for his organization of the event. New committee heads and new ideas brought a few changes, but the Fair – which serves to raise money to support the maintenance of the Common, and to bring together the community -- was a most enjoyable day for all, and its proceeds will fund the care and management of the Common for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lafave, President (rebeccalafave@gmail.com)

Sam Van Dam, Vice President

Jon Ingbar, Secretary

Beth Fernandez, Treasurer

THETFORD CENTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCCA)

The Thetford Center Community Association, TCCA, oversees the care, maintenance and use of the Thetford Community Building - located across from the Town Offices in Thetford Center. This historic former schoolhouse was built in 1900 and has had many uses over the years. It is currently used for community meetings, classes and events and is available to rent for private use.

We provide the building free of charge for Memorial Services.

The Association does not receive town funding. Operating expenses are paid for from rental income, donations and grants. Many tasks are done by the Board of Directors and volunteers.

The Community Building and its kitchen have been used this past year for community potluck dinners, and a wonderful takeout dinner put on by the Thetford Baptist Church to benefit the Thetford Food Shelf. It is also used for free Bone Building exercise groups and weekly Tai Chi classes, Senior Coffee Klatches, public and private meetings, memorial services, art classes, weddings, showers, birthday parties, family reunions, political meetings and much more. It is a wonderful gathering space with its large windows and old wood floor and fully functional kitchen with two new gas ranges.

The building is available for rent and free use. Details are on our website rental page. Rental income generates almost enough income to cover basic operating expenses, however, fundraising is necessary to fund shortfalls and for a number of capital improvements that will need to be made to the building. Our major capital expenses for this year were the repainting of the entire outside of the building and the unexpected replacement of the furnace.

TCCA is currently fundraising for the following capital improvements:

Kitchen Interior Painting: \$3200.00

Sound remediation (decrease echoing): \$400.00- \$600.00

Wood floor prep and re-coating: \$1500.00-\$2000.00 (to be done Spring 2024 to help preserve the floor)

Replacement Windows -2 west facing windows: \$2000.00 to improve energy efficiency and function

Kitchen Floor replacement: \$3400.00

New toilet and bathroom plumbing: \$?

Large Windows repairs etc.: \$?

Details are on our website. Donations of any amount are most welcome!

The TCCA Board of Directors would like to acknowledge all of the people over the years who have donated their time and energy and money to lovingly care for the building. Additionally, we thank Kevin Brown and Brown's Nursery for the donation of the new hedge of lilacs and hydrangeas. We thank Ellis Paige and Jed Betts for continued help with plowing and mowing and shoveling and sanding. We also thank Effie Cummings for her work while she was on the TCCA Board. We know there are many others who have volunteered their energy and expertise to take good care of this wonderful town resource over the decades. We Thank You All!

Sincerely,

TCCA Board of Directors: Nicky Corrao, president; Joanne Sandberg-Cook, secretary; Andrew Cook and Ben Bradley <https://sites.google.com/view/tccavt/home> and tccavt@gmail.com

THETFORD FOOD SHELF INC.

The Thetford Food Shelf serves as a source of food assistance for residents of Thetford, Vershire, Fairlee, West Fairlee, and Strafford. Households in these communities may use the Food Shelf on Tuesday or Thursday morning from 10 am until noon. There is no income eligibility for using the Thetford Food Shelf. Everyone is welcome.

This year we were able, with the help of the local churches including a dinner put on by Thetford Baptist Church, the “Trailblazers Against Hunger” hike done by Thetford Elementary students, a grant from the NARA Fund, and individual donations to provide grocery/gift cards to those in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Seventy-nine households received cards for Thanksgiving and eighty-one households for Christmas.

The Thetford Food Shelf was greatly appreciative of the donations we received in 2023. We received numerous, generous donations from Community Members, Thetford Academy and Thetford Elementary School in both cash and food. Proceeds from a softball tourney and the church dinner were given to the food shelf. We were extremely fortunate to receive grants from the Vermont Food Bank, the CROPWalk, the NARA Fund, Mascoma Bank, and the NHCF. The Thetford Trust provides funds for local meat and purchased the sign you may see out front on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Thetford Food Shelf’s fabulous volunteers include Mary Allen, Bob Hagen, Shari Gouwens, Pat Ware, Mark Sadoques, Pat Pisano, Jody Biddle, Jim McCracken, Kim Arsenault, and Betsy Johnstone. These volunteers show up each week to staff and run the food shelf. They make deliveries to clients unable to get to the food shelf, shop for groceries and supplies, pick up the EveryOne Eats meals in Bradford, keep the food shelf clean and pleasant, unload deliveries from Willing Hands and the Vermont Foodbank, stock shelves, and provide smiling faces to all. Thank you for all your hard work!

Each week, Willing Hands fills our produce bins with great fruits and vegetables and fills our bread shelves with bread. Until May and the end of the program, we received restaurant quality meals from Upper Valley EveryOne Eats. Our partnership with the Vermont Foodbank allows us to purchase groceries and other items once a month.

The Town of Thetford provides a space for Thetford Food Shelf at no cost, and we greatly appreciate the Town’s support.

The Thetford Food Shelf is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation.

Thank you for your support!

COMMUNITY NURSE OF THETFORD, INC.

Community Nurse of Thetford, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit that serves all residents of Thetford. The intent of our organization is to fill gaps in service not currently being fully met by other health care support services. A few examples of frequent needs include education about new or existing medications or services, assistance with preparation for homecoming after scheduled surgery, or when support is needed in an ongoing way for family members navigating as caregivers for a loved one. We do not charge for the nurse's services, which frees both the individual or family being served, and the nurse, of reimbursement or financial concerns. It also allows our nurse to provide assistance, sometimes quite long-term, after the VNA or other agencies have completed their involvement.

Brian Champion retired in April 2023. Sunny Martinson RN assumed the nurse position at that time and has adapted to the role quickly. She has been active on the Listserv introducing herself and the services of the Community nurse. Between April and August 2023, she had 220 encounters, which included home visits, phone calls/follow up, emails, and coordination of care with other providers. Interventions included emotional support, education about meds and symptom management as well as other available services. The primary source of contacts in Thetford has been self-referral. She currently averages 24-25 active clients in a month. Sunny seeks opportunities to meet residents and other providers. The position is currently budgeted at 12 hours/week.

There are often additional calls and emails requesting information from individuals that are not current clients or residents, with general questions such as how to pass along assistive equipment no longer needed, what residential care or respite care options we have in our area, what it is the community nurse does that might be of help to them, and more. Other calls come from medical offices, town officers or service providers, the Community Nurse Connection, and Senior Solutions (our regional Vermont senior organization). The nurse attends meetings with the other Upper Valley community nurses, the Thetford Elder Network steering committee, and our monthly senior meal (on hold for the winter) and Coffee Klatch.

Our estimated budget for 2024 is \$27,000 of which the Town Appropriation is 29% of CNT budget. In addition to a generous appropriation from the town in recent years, we are supported by grants from local and regional sources as well as much appreciated private contributions from individual town residents.

Betsy Johnstone, board Secretary
Community Nurse of Thetford, Inc.

Other board members:
Priscilla Hall, board President
Joanne Sandberg-Cook, Treasurer
Cindy Grigel
Wendy Cole

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

White River Junction Local Health Office | 118 Prospect Street, White River Junction, VT
802-295-8820 | AHS.VDHWhiteRiverJct@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The White River Junction Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Northern Windsor and Southern Orange counties. Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction



Collaboration with Partners

The White River Junction (WRJ) staff works with over 30 diverse health care and social service organizations in the Greater Upper Valley Integrated Services Team (GUVIST). GUVIST is making services and support for community members of all ages more efficient, effective, responsive and appropriate to the desires of those in need. To learn more about this initiative, visit uvpublichealth.org/guvist/



Addressing Health Equity

Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program helps pregnant people and families with children under age 5. We provide healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to community resources. Our office understands that not having transportation can make it difficult to get services. Our office has the most access points in the state with our nutritionists' hosting clinics at seven satellite sites. If you would like to learn more visit www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction



Planning For and Responding to Emergencies

Our Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Immunization Nurse, Epidemiologist and other staff have worked with the Upper Valley Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to help our communities. They have spent hundreds of hours conducting COVID testing, administering COVID and Mpox vaccinations, investigating over 210 infectious disease cases and collecting kits for water testing during flood recovery. Learn more about the MRC at uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/



ECFIBER

ECFiber (East Central Vermont Telecommunications District)

Thetford is one of the original towns of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide wicked fast world-class fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District consists of 31 member towns and owns the business that operates under the trade name ECFiber. In 2023, the business added over 800 new customers despite critical labor shortages and now serves over 8,500 customers via 1,700 miles of network which, when fully built out, will bring fiber-to-the premises (FTTP) to about 32,000 premises over more than 2000 miles of network.

In June, ECFiber celebrated the completion of its original 23 town network when it activated its operation center in White River Junction. In August, the District was awarded a \$13 million, nine stage network completion plan. In November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & Poor's Global Credit arm, an historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This rating was extended to six earlier bonds as well. This bond rating allows ECFiber to borrow critical funding at lower cost, thereby enabling the business to put a greater percentage of revenues from bond sales into improving service and eventually reducing rates.

The ECFiber network is completed in our town. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged a thing until your service starts.

You can reach ECFiber at (802) 763-2262.

Jim Masland, your ECFiber town delegate. (802) 785-4146 or jmasland@leg.state.vt.us

Representative Jim Masland
Thetford Center, VT
(802) 785-4146



Diahann Tanke

GREEN MOUNTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC) is one of twelve statewide Regional Development Corporations (RDCs), serving a 30-town region in Orange and northern Windsor counties.

Our primary function is to develop economic vitality and prosperity consistent with the goals of the communities we serve.

In FY2023, dues from member towns contributed \$19,273 of our annual operating budget of \$220,183. Town dues are assessed at \$0.50/resident, as determined by population data from the VT Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau. Further operating revenue comes from business memberships and federal, state, and other funding sources. ***Your support helps provide client-specific economic development services free of charge and available to municipalities, new entrepreneurs, established and expanding businesses.*** Services include business development guidance, relocation support, and project development; for requests that are beyond our level of expertise, GMEDC has a ready referral network to meet client needs. Additionally, the RDCs work collectively throughout the legislative session to promote the needs and interests of the business community across the state. GMEDC and our local partners have assisted 100+ businesses and municipalities seeking additional information on economic development activities, local business projects, funding opportunities, legislative action and more.

FY2023 activities included:

- Supporting numerous funding applications for capital investment, brownfield assessment and redevelopment, project planning and pre-development, totaling **over \$5 million in funding to our service area.**
- Securing state funding to implement a third round of the successful small business technical assistance program, providing small grants and administrative support to match specific business needs with service providers.
- Leveraging a \$1.5 million Economic Development Administration partnership for the Randolph Innovation Hub to hire staff and rebrand as Cultivator: Where Community Collaborates, gathering community input to map the way forward. Continued support of the \$300,000 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Communities Challenge White River Valley Consortium project, working to improve housing opportunities in 14 towns in the White River Valley.
- Ongoing partnership with Orange County Parent and Child Center to develop a new, \$6 million childcare facility offering 88 new seats in the Randolph region. Closeout of \$500,000+ Environmental Protection Agency-funded brownfield clean-up of former Valley Motors site in Bethel.

On behalf of the GMEDC Board of Directors and all of our members, I would like to thank the Town of Thetford for your continued support and partnership. For further information, call us at (802) 295-3710 or visit our website at www.gmedc.com.

Erika C. Hoffman-Kiess, Executive Director



UPPER VALLEY FISH & GAME CLUB

PO Box 279, Thetford Center VT 05075



PURPOSE:

To work for improvement and stimulate interest in the sports of hunting and fishing.
 To promote and maintain friendly relations with landowners.
 To promote good sportsmanship and educate the public with respect to conservation, hunting and fishing.

OFFICERS:

President:	Al Stone	Thetford Center	(802) 727-0034
Vice Pres.:	Bob Stone	Thetford Center	(802) 785-4525
Treasurer:	David Goodrich	Thetford Center	(802) 785-2170
Secretary:	Rhett Scruggs	East Thetford	(802) 281-9814

MEMBERSHIP:

The Club currently has 178 members, which includes 30 junior members. Junior membership is available to anyone 15 years old and under.

To become a member, contact the Club at uppervalleyfishgameclub@gmail.com, or call one of the Club Officers.

MEETINGS:

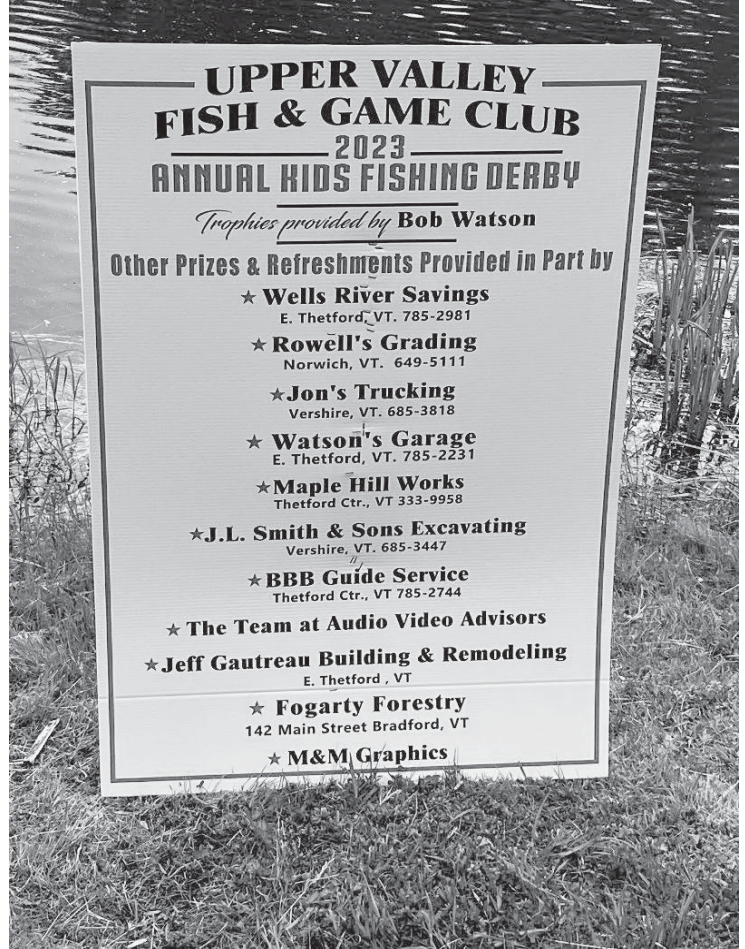
Club meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at the Thetford Center Community Center from September through May at 6:30 pm, and at the club grounds June, July, and August at 6:30 pm. The Club's annual meeting with election of officers is held in February.

FACILITIES:

The club maintains a pond and shooting ranges on approximately fifty-seven acres at 940 Five Corners Road in Thetford Center. The shooting ranges provide for rifle, pistol, shotgun, archery, and action pistol shooting.

ACTIVITIES During 2023:

The club spread 3200 pounds of lime in accordance with our Environmental Stewardship plan. The annual ice fishing derby had 211 participants. A youth perch category was added this year. The annual kids fishing derby was its usual fun day. This year we had a record-breaking 84 youngsters. The club hosted another successful Women's Handgun Class. We also hosted a Hunter Safety class in the fall of 2023. Certificates were presented to 12 Firearms Hunter Safety students and to 12 Bow Hunter Safety Students. Look for the 2024 Women's Handgun Class in May and Hunter Safety classes in early September.

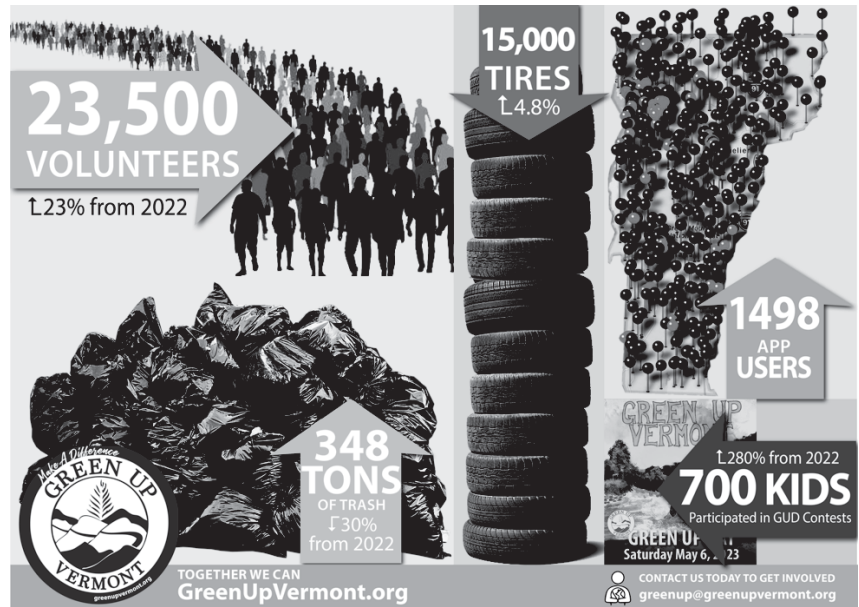


Union Village Schoolhouse - Kim Hargis



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
 May 6, 2023



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

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

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

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

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at www.greenupvermont.org.

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

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottawuechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2023.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues: Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has supported eligible towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

Economy and Public Health: This year, TRORC supported the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid-19, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC also helps identify and clean contaminated parcels of land for reuse.

Emergency Management and Preparedness: TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process and have done so most recently with the July floods.

Energy/Climate Change: TRORC assisted towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support member towns through assessing town buildings for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation: TRORC also worked with towns to get funding to implement road improvement projects. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Thetford this past year, TRORC helped complete the Local Emergency Management Plan, and worked with the Town to update its zoning bylaws to facilitate housing. For hazard mitigation, staff worked with the Town to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff supported an energy upgrade project at the Town Hall that included installation of heat pumps, electrical upgrades, and new distribution ducts. Staff also assisted in submitting a pre-application for two EV charging locations and assisted the town in applying for energy assessment grants for the Town Garage and Town Hall.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret

INTERMUNICIPAL REGIONAL ENERGY COORDINATOR REPORT

The Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) program, hosted by the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), is a collaboration among six towns designed to lessen overall energy use, lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and move to renewable generation of electricity. Thetford joined the IREC program in 2020, the program's first year, and thanks to the ongoing support of Thetford residents and the Selectboard, continued its participation in 2023. The program is guided by an IREC Steering Committee, made up of one representative from each of the seven towns. Erica Ko, also a member of the Joint Thetford Energy Committee (JTEC), is Thetford's representative.

In 2023, the IREC worked with town staff and the JTEC to apply for Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grants. MERP is a federally funded program managed by the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS). It is a 3-stage sequential program that consists of:

1. A \$4000 MERP mini-grant that can be used for energy consulting services or education
2. A 100% funded energy assessment of town buildings
3. An energy grant of up to \$500,000 for weatherization, upgrading heating systems and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

So far, Thetford has received the \$4000 mini-grant and is expected to be awarded a MERP energy assessment of the town offices and town garage. The awards will be announced in the first few months of 2024.

In 2022, the Selectboard approved a proposal from EEI, an Energy Services Company (ESCO), to improve the Town Hall's HVAC systems. This project includes installing heat pumps and ventilation that will improve the comfort of building occupants, improve indoor air quality, and will eliminate fossil fuels as the primary heating source. Many thanks to the Town Staff and Town Manager for their patience and understanding as this project kept moving forward this year despite delays caused by flooding, worker shortages, and another round of COVID. This project is essentially complete with a few minor items remaining to complete in January 2024. A key IREC project in 2024 and beyond will be to monitor, track and verify the energy savings resulting from this project.

Town vehicles are a major source of GHG emissions that need to be addressed. Most Vermont towns spend more on fuel for their vehicle fleets than to heat and cool their buildings, and Thetford is no exception. In 2023, the IREC worked with the Town Manager and JTEC to apply for grants for EV charging stations at key locations in the town. No funding has yet been awarded, but there are a number of funding opportunities in 2024 and Thetford is well positioned for an EV charging grant. Obtaining funding for EV chargers and clean, electric school buses remains a priority for the IREC in 2024.

TRORC would like to thank Erica Ko, Town Manager Brian Story, the Selectboard, and the residents of Thetford for continuing to make the IREC program possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Grout
Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator, TRORC

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs as well as offering technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities

- GUV held three special collections in 2023 in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford. We collected 7.25 tons of tires, 7 tons of electronics, and approximately 10 tons of “big” trash. Collection events are open to any resident or business within the district. 140 Thetford residents took advantage of the September 23 collection event.
- As of November 1, members of the district recycled 1.7 tons of batteries. Batteries and fluorescent bulbs may be dropped off at the Thetford Recycling Center.
- Vermonters saved over 103,166 gallons of paint from the landfill in 2022. Check here for year-round paint drop-off locations: <https://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-sites/>
- 408 GUV residents (42 from Thetford) participated in two household hazardous waste events.
- 148 GUV residents participated in two Styrofoam collection events sponsored by Sustainable Lebanon and Lebanon Rotary.
- 2024 GUV collection event dates and recycling updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town list servs, and in local newspapers.
- In FY2023, Jim Masland once again represented Thetford on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors. We thank him for his dedication and ongoing support. We also thank Susanne Simon and her team at the Transfer Station, and the town crew for their help at our collection event.
- For information call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@marcvt.org, or visit www.guvsamd.org

LAKE FAIRLEE ASSOCIATION



Greeters: In 2023, a rotating team of 6 greeters welcomed nearly 2,500 watercraft to the lake and inspected over 2,200 of them. Of this total, watercraft required decontamination 16 times this summer - meaning that, on average, potential introduction of invasive species to Lake Fairlee or other waters was averted approximately once per week since greeters began work in May.

Herbicide Application: In May 2023, the LFA sponsored an early season survey for aquatic invasive species, which suggested an herbicide treatment was unnecessary for 2023. While good news, new patches of milfoil were observed throughout the summer. Future surveys will guide the application of herbicide in the coming years.

DASH: In September 2023, the LFA used approximately \$14,000 in funds to conduct Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) of Eurasian Milfoil from the lake bed. The DASH team worked over 10 days to harvest and compost 5000 gallons of milfoil in several areas around the lake.

Water Quality Action Committee: The WQAC completed its fourth season of tributary water sampling in 2023. LFA volunteers collected water samples from eight locations along Blood Brook and Middle Brook over a 16 week period to help identify sources of phosphorus entering the lake. The WQAC also conducted weekly Cyanobacteria testing at 3 locations on Lake Fairlee.

Lakewise: The LFA provided a Lakewise representative with a public platform for communicating the benefits of property owner participation at its July 2023 meeting. Five homeowners participated in the Lakewise program this year. Of note, if 2 more properties earn the LakeWise award, Lake Fairlee will join a small handful of other Vermont Lakes to earn the State's Gold Award. The Gold Award is given to lakes where more than 15% of the lakeshore properties have earned LakeWise awards.

Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes/RWVL: LFA worked with partners at RWVL to advocate limiting wake boat operations to bodies of water where a minimum distance to shoreline of 1,000 feet can be maintained. If adopted, this requirement would exclude Lake Fairlee from the list of lakes where wake sports would be allowed. As of this writing, the VT Agency of Natural Resources has not yet published its final rule proposal.

Loon Cam: The LFA deployed Vermont's first "LoonCam" at the northern end of the lake in Spring 2023. It enables remote observation of a loon pair that have nested on the lake since 2016. The story of the loons and the LoonCam were the topic of a June 2023 article in the Valley News. The LoonCam was funded through a donation of \$1,000, and enables ecologists, Thetford residents and others to observe the lake, and its loons. To date, there are nearly 550 subscribers to the LoonCam's YouTube channel.

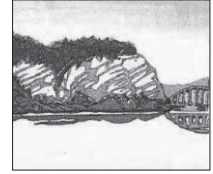
Website: Updates on LFA activities and Lake Fairlee-related information are regularly updated on the Association's website (www.lakefairleevt.org)

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Detrick
Board Member, Lake Fairlee Association, kirsten.detrick@att.net

Upper Valley Local River Subcommittee

of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions



New Hampshire – Piermont, Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Lebanon
Vermont – Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford, Norwich, Hartford

The Upper Valley Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by riverfront municipalities, with allowance for alternates. Throughout 2023, the Subcommittee has maintained a hybrid meeting format where a quorum of participating municipalities is required to be present in person. Current members of Vermont are Ben Dana and Peter Berger from Fairlee; Lynn Bohi and David Barrell from Hartford; Bill Bridge and Linda Matteson from Thetford; Ted Unkles from Bradford; and openings in Norwich. Current members of New Hampshire are Alice Creagh from Hanover; Ruth Bleyler and Eric Agterberg from Lebanon; Bill Malcolm from Lyme; Carl Schmidt and Edmond Cooley from Orford; and openings in Piermont. Those with one representative have an opening for a second volunteer. During 2023, Bill Malcolm served as chair. Meetings and events are open to the public.

Upper Valley is one of the five subcommittees a part of the CRJC since 1989. The Subcommittees provide a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality, wildlife habitat, and appropriate development. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback on proposed permits and plans to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and municipalities. In addition, CRJC is responsible for maintaining a bi-state watershed plan.

During 2023, Upper Valley engaged several issues. Projects that were reviewed include a RT12A bridge replacement, erosion control and stormwater discharges off residential and commercial properties, water reclamation project in Hanover, gas station development, stream alteration permits, and relicensing of Wilder Dam. Upper Valley is also following the relicensing of the Glen Hydro Facility on the Mascoma River.

CRJC supported outreach efforts in service of the Connecticut River, including the Making Room series: Planning for those who are here and those on their way; as well as the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership meeting in coordination with Friends of Conte. Further, Upper Valley supported water quality monitoring efforts along the Connecticut River.

In 2024, Upper Valley will continue their activities in management, outreach, and learning for the Connecticut River. Upper Valley welcomes local participation in permit reviews, educational events, watershed planning, and water quality monitoring. If you are interested to learn more, please contact us at info@crjc.org.



VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

Member Benefits - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing.

VLCT also offers members group rates on important benefits for municipal employees: life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government. **To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit vlct.org.** Recent audited financial statements are available at vlct.org/AuditReports.



Tracy Borst

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

~ LATHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY ~

Thetford Hill
785-4361
Emily Zollo, Librarian
Holly Lague, Library Director

~ PEABODY LIBRARY ~

Post Mills
333-9724
Emily Zollo, Librarian
Holly Lague, Library Director

CHURCHES

~ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN THETFORD ~

Thetford Hill
785-2915
Office@ThetfordHillChurch.org
www.ThetfordHillChurch.org

~ POST MILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ~

Post Mills
333-9352
Postmillschurch@gmail.com
www.postmillsucc.com

~ THETFORD BAPTIST CHURCH ~

East Thetford
785-2050
www.ThetfordBaptistChurch.org
pastornathan.tbc@gmail.com

~ UNITED CHURCH OF THETFORD~

North Thetford
Unitedchurchofthetford@gmail.com

THETFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thetford Hill
785-2068
info@thetfordhistoricalsociety.org
Marshall VanNorden, President 333-4574
Martha Howard, Director 333-9171

**Town of Thetford
Thetford Center, VT 05075**

TOWN MEETING

Informational Hearing

Monday, Feb. 26, 2024

At Town Hall & Via Zoom

Meet the Candidates 7pm

Town Meeting Article Review 7:30pm

TOWN MEETING

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Thetford Academy

9:00 School Meeting

10:00 Town Meeting

VOTING

Presidential Primary

Town & School Officers

& School Budget

Via Ballot

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

8:00am to 7:00pm

Thetford Town Hall