

# Town of Mendon

## Vermont



2023

Annual Report

Financial Reports

July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023

Budget Proposals

July 1, 2024—June 30, 2025

# Town of Mendon, Vermont

www.mendonvt.gov

## Town Office Staff

Town Office: by appointment only Mon. - Thurs., closed Fri.

Updated office hours are posted at [www.mendonvt.gov](http://www.mendonvt.gov)

Phone: 802-775-1662

Animal Control Officer – Rod MacCuaig		802-775-1545
Bookkeeper/Assistant Clerk – Jesse Bridge	<a href="mailto:mendonbookkeeper@comcast.net">mendonbookkeeper@comcast.net</a>	802-775-1662
Collector of Delinquent Taxes-Nancy Merrill		802-775-4689
Constable – Lema Carter	*in emergency dial 911	802-775-1662
Dir. Emergency Management - Lema Carter	<a href="mailto:Lema.Carter@vermont.gov">Lema.Carter@vermont.gov</a>	802-775-1662
Fire Warden – Seth Bridge	<a href="mailto:mendonbridge10@gmail.com">mendonbridge10@gmail.com</a>	802-558-1944
Health Officer – Sara Hebert Tully	<a href="mailto:mendonadmin@comcast.net">mendonadmin@comcast.net</a>	802-775-1662 or 802-558-3935
Planning Commission – Therese Corsones		802-773-3413
Road Commissioner – Chris Baird	<a href="mailto:mendonroadguy@gmail.com">mendonroadguy@gmail.com</a>	802-773-4402
Selectboard:		
Val Taylor	<a href="mailto:kvemhj@gmail.com">kvemhj@gmail.com</a>	802-353-2737
Seth Bridge	<a href="mailto:mendonbridge10@gmail.com">mendonbridge10@gmail.com</a>	802-558-1944
Tax Assessor – Spencer Potter	<a href="mailto:vtassessor@gmail.com">vtassessor@gmail.com</a>	802-496-9689
Town Administrator – Sara Hebert Tully	<a href="mailto:mendonadmin@comcast.net">mendonadmin@comcast.net</a>	802-558-3935
Town Clerk/Treasurer- Nancy Gondella	<a href="mailto:mendontown@comcast.net">mendontown@comcast.net</a>	802-775-1662
Zoning Administrator – Steve Ellerin	<a href="mailto:mendonzoningadmin@comcast.net">mendonzoningadmin@comcast.net</a>	802-775-1662

## Meeting Schedule

Planning Commission	First Monday at 5:15 PM at Town Office/Remote, please see notices
Selectboard	Second and fourth Monday at 5:30 PM at Town Office/Remote please see notices
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Meets as required

## Important Dates

February 27, 2024	Barstow Unified Union School District Meeting, 6:30 PM
March 4, 2024	Town Meeting at VTRANS Office Building, 61 Valley View, Mendon 6:00 PM
March 5, 2024	Town of Mendon Annual Meeting polls open 8:00 AM- 7:00 PM, Town Office
March 11, 2024	Taxes Due at the Town Office
April 1, 2024	Dog License registration due at the Town Office
September 9, 2024	Taxes Due at the Town Office

\*Please check the website [www.mendonvt.gov](http://www.mendonvt.gov) regularly for additions or changes to the above information.

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Cover: Photo of a rainbow over the Bridge field off Park Lane in Mendon taken by Jesse Bridge.

## Barstow Graduating Class of 2023



The Town of Mendon is proud of all the students of the 2023 graduating class and wishes them future success as they continue their education.

## Elected Town Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Moderator (one year)	Christopher Corsones	2024
Selectboard (three years)	Seth Bridge	2026
	Val Taylor	2024
	Lisa Brooks (resigned 1/22/24)	2025
Delinquent Tax Collector (three years)	Nancy Bridge Merrill	2025
Justice of the Peace (two years)	Rich Carlson	2025
	Susannah Loffredo	2025
	Lindsey MacCuaig	2025
	Betsy Reddy	2025
	Jim Reddy	2025
	Ann Singiser	2025
	Al Wakefield	2025
Constable (two years)	Lema Carter	2024

\*Voters approved Article 13 at Town Meeting 2021 to appoint the Constable effective at the conclusion of this term in 2024.

## Appointed Town Officers

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Town Clerk (three years)	Nancy Gondella	3/31/26
Town Treasurer (three years)	Nancy Gondella	3/31/26
Assistant Clerk (Appointed by the Town Clerk)	Jesse Bridge	03/31/26
Assistant Treasurer (Appointed by the Town Treasurer)	Ann Singiser	03/31/26
Road Commissioner (one year)	William Ellis (retired 1/31/24)	3/31/24
	Chris Baird	3/31/25
Road Commissioner Admin. (one year)	Sara Hebert Tully	3/31/24

Fire Warden (three years)	Seth Bridge	6/30/27
Town Service Officer (one year)	Mary Ann Gaherty-Reich	4/14/24
Planning Commission (four years) (7 member board)	Lisa Swett	3/31/27
	Therese Corsones, Chair	3/31/24
	Justin Lindholm	3/31/24
	Dick Howe	3/31/24
	Vacancy	3/31/25
	Fred Bagley	3/31/25
	Phil Douglas (resigned Jan. 2024)	3/31/25
Energy Committee (four years)	Therese Corsones	3/31/27
	Justin Lindholm	3/31/24
	Vacancy	3/31/25
Zoning Administrator (three years)	Fred Bagley (appointed 1/9/23 until 4/1/23)	
	Steve Ellerin	3/31/26
Zoning Board of Adjustment (three years)	Harvey Zara	3/31/26
	Jack Kennelly, Chair	3/31/24
	Therese Corsones	3/31/25
	Mike Curran (retired September '23)	
	Susannah Loffredo (appointed September '23)	3/31/25
	Vacancy	3/31/25
Town Recreation (four years)	Lisa Brooks	3/31/27
	Betsy Reddy	3/31/27
	Jesse Bridge	3/31/24
	Jim Reddy	3/31/24
	Larry Courcelle	3/31/25
	Liam Fracht-Monroe	3/31/25
	Leo Lawrence, <i>member emeritus</i>	
Cemetery Commission (one year)	Val Taylor	3/31/24
	William Ellis	3/31/24
	Dennis Charles	3/31/24
Rutland Regional Transportation Commission (three years)	Larry Courcelle	3/31/28
Emergency Management (two years)	Lema Carter	3/31/25
E911 Coordinator (two years)	Jesse Bridge	3/31/25
Rutland Regional Planning Commission (three years)	Larry Courcelle	3/31/24

Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee	Lema Carter Val Taylor	3/31/24 3/31/24
Town Health Officer (three years)	Sara Hebert Tully	4/30/25
Deputy Town Health Officer (three years)	Mary Ann Gaherty-Reich	4/14/24
Regional Ambulance Service (three years)	Mary Ann Gaherty-Reich	3/31/24
Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative (three years)	Susannah Loffredo	3/31/24
Otter Creek Communications Union District Representative	Larry Courcelle	3/31/25
*The office of Fence Viewers was eliminated.		
Animal Control Officer/Poundkeeper (one year)	Rod MacCuaig	3/31/24
Tree Warden (one year)	William Ellis	3/31/24
Route 4 Steering Committee	Selectboard Member (Seth Bridge) Larry Courcelle Fred Bagley Patti Lancaster Sara Tully	3/31/24 3/31/24 3/31/24 3/31/24 3/31/24

The Town of Mendon is always looking for volunteers to fill various positions. Town government can not operate without our volunteers. The time commitment of each appointment varies greatly from a few hours per year to a few hours per week. Please reach out to the Town Office to discuss what role you may be able to fill to help your local government run smoothly and efficiently.



Val Taylor, Seth Bridge, Lisa Brooks



Sara Tully, Jesse Bridge, Nancy Gondella

## Highlights and Objectives

**Financial:** The town ended FY23 with a surplus balance of \$172,000. The Selectboard rolled \$96,000 from FY23 of surplus funds into the amount to be collected in taxes for FY24. \$76,000 was retained as surplus highway funds. The proposed budget for 2024-2025 reflects a \$72,843 increase in operating expenses and a \$15,700 increase in revenue over the 2023-2024 budget. The appropriation requests total \$10,342. The proposed budget reflects sizable increases in law enforcement and Health Insurance based on rate increases and eligible health plans for the employees. There are moderate increases in computer services, continuing education, election expenses, legal fees and office and garage utilities. The proposed budget also reflects moderate decreases in the cost of insurance and streetlights. The proposed budget reflects an increase of 4.34%.

**Local Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The Hazard Mitigation plan is one tool the Town utilizes to identify all hazards facing the community and identify strategies to begin reducing risks from these hazards. The Plan outlines goals and actions to prevent future loss of life and property. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Committee, with the assistance of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, redrafted the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and submitted it to FEMA for approval. It was adopted by the Selectboard on February 13, 2023 and approved by FEMA on March 2, 2023. Mendon updated the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan with a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant funding of \$7,612 and match funding of \$2,537. The purpose of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program is to provide grants to States and Indian Tribal government or territory that, in turn, provide Subawards to local governments for cost-effective mitigation activities. Funds were used to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program to reduce overall risk to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. The town is eligible to receive additional funding from FEMA in the event of a declared disaster with a FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Infrastructure Improvements:** The Town completed an erosion control project on Wheelerville Road that consisted of ditching two Hydrologically Connected Road Segments. The Mendon Road Crew completed the project, but experienced severe washout of the area in the August 2023 flooding event. The FY23 Grants in Aid funding was extended for a year due to the statewide flooding events in July and August. It is estimated the town incurred \$166,000 in flood damage to Wheelerville Road, Notch Road and the Falls Road. Unfortunately, Rutland County did not meet the threshold to be eligible for FEMA assistance. Sara Tully will be seeking grant opportunities to help bridge this gap. In the summer of 2024, the Road Crew will work on multiple Hydrologically Connected Road Segments to meet standards of the Municipal Roads General Permit with \$22,500 from the FY23 & FY24 Grants in Aid program. This summer, the town plans to reconstruct the roadway and pave the dirt section of Journeys End to be paid for out of the Highway Improvement Fund.

**AARP Vermont Livable Community Program – Winter Placemaking** Mendon was awarded \$4,000 to enhance an underutilized space at the Mendon Recreation Area for all ages and abilities while boosting winter outdoor recreation activities. The project's goal is to build more social opportunities and promote outdoor recreation by advertising the diverse array of activities the park provides, while creating a vibrant and welcoming space. The funds received purchased two ADA compliant picnic tables and implemented the Snowshoe Saturday Program last winter.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** The State of Vermont received \$1.25B from ARPA. The Town of Mendon received \$302,285 which was received in two installments. These funds have been deposited in an ARPA Fund as required by the Treasury Department. There are federally imposed project eligibility requirements for these funds. The Selectboard approved expending funds on municipal services. The town must obligate the funds by December 2024 and all money spent by December 2026. The Selectboard has worked this year prioritizing the projects with the goal of using the funds in a way that would be the most benefit to the Town as a whole. To date, the Selectboard has obligated \$181,400 on priority projects and the requests for funding far exceed the balance of the funds.

**Transportation Alternatives Program Grant** awarded \$36,000 with additional matching funds from the Town of \$9,000 to conduct a scoping study to create a comprehensive plan to reimagine and improve the Route 4 corridor in the Town of Mendon. Project management is contracted with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The Town is working with VHB to develop a comprehensive vision and thoughtful recommendations for improvements to enhance safety for all users along and across the US Route 4 corridor, while enhancing access and aesthetics to the Village District and recreational resources. The need for this scoping study is driven by the deficiencies in the current transportation infrastructure and a need for comprehensive corridor planning. In October 2023, VHB presented a range of alternatives for the Town's consideration. The Local Steering Committee has made its recommendation to the Selectboard for the selection of a preferred alternative. VHB will complete the scoping report, which will include development of a cost estimate for planning, design, construction, and maintenance of the selected alternative. The project will conclude with a final public meeting to present the draft scoping report followed by submission of the final report.

**Homeland Security Grant Program** supports state, tribal, territorial, and local preparedness activities that address high priority gaps across all core capabilities that support terrorism preparedness. The Town was awarded \$14,158 to purchase equipment to respond to emergencies, acts of terrorism, and increase cybersecurity.

**Emergency Operations Center Grant** awarded funds to provide backup power to the Town Office to serve as the Emergency Operation Center if activated during emergency response. The Town installed a Generac 24KW generator and automatic transfer switch at the Town Office. The total project cost was \$17,400. The Emergency Operations Center Grant paid \$8,700 and the American Rescue Plan Act paid \$8,700.

**Municipal Planning Grant** awarded \$9,027 to revise the Zoning Bylaws to reflect statewide goals and address the community goals developed in the Town Plan. The Town Plan adopted in 2022 set goals and action items which identified areas of the Zoning Bylaws to be considered for updates and modernization amendments. The passage of Act 74 in 2023 outlined statewide goals to increase housing. The VCRD Mendon on the Move Community Visit identified two town priorities to boost outdoor recreation and revitalize US Route 4 in Mendon. The Zoning Bylaws will be amended to meet these identified goals both at a state and local level. Please reach out to the Planning Commission with questions and comments on this process.

**Visitor Code of Conduct** The Selectboard adopted a Visitor Code of Conduct Policy in June 2023. It states the Town's commitment to providing a positive experience for those working, conducting

business, and visiting Town facilities, including the town office, and other public spaces, is of the highest importance. The Town supports a workplace that is conducive to personal safety, security and is free from intimidation, threats, or violent acts. The Town will not tolerate workplace violence, including the threat of violence by anyone who conducts business with the Town. The Town will not tolerate harassing conduct that affects employment conditions, that interferes unreasonably with an individual's performance or that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Complying with this Visitor Code of Conduct is required by all people doing business with Town employees.

**Mendon Town Website, Facebook Page and Front Porch Forum:** The Town is utilizing the Mendon Town Website, Facebook Page and Front Porch Forum as primary sources to distribute information. The website provides new news in town and information on important dates, minutes and agendas of meetings, town contact information, permits and forms and emergency information. **The Town updated the website address last year, changing from a .ORG address to a .GOV address.** Please go to the website at [www.mendonvt.gov](http://www.mendonvt.gov) for the most up to date information. Current events, due dates for taxes, dog registrations and emergency information will also be posted on the Town of Mendon, VT Facebook Page and Front Porch Forum. Please follow our page or sign up for Front Porch Forum.

**Otter Creek Communication Union District:** The Selectboard continued to support the OCCUD through the appointment of Larry Courcelle to represent Mendon. The Otter Creek CUD (OCCUD) serves 18 towns in the Rutland region, and they are working to provide a fiber optic internet connection of at least 100Mbps (download and upload) to each and every on-grid premise that is classified by the state as being Underserved (below 25/3 to 4/1) or Unserved (less than 4/1).

**Elected Officials, Appointed Officials and Staff:** In March 2023, Lisa Brooks was elected in to serve on the Selectboard for the remaining 2 years of a three-year term. A seat that was left vacant by the resignation of Brian Sell from the Selectboard. Lisa Brooks resigned from the Selectboard in February 2024. The voters will elect two seats on the Selectboard at Town Meeting 2024. Fred Bagley was appointed Zoning Administrator in January 2023 to serve in this role temporarily until April 2023. Steve Ellerin was appointed in April 2023 as the Zoning Administrator. Mike Curran retired as a long-time member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Susannah Loffredo was appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment in September 2023. Lisa Swett was appointed to the Planning Commission in March 2023. Phil Douglas resigned from the Planning Commission in January 2024. Bill Ellis and Newt Jones retired from the Road Crew. Newt retired in September 2023 and Bill in January 2024. The Town welcomed Chris Baird and Thane Beattie to the Road Crew in November 2023. The Selectboard wishes to thank all officials and employees for their dedication to the Town.

The Selectboard is currently looking to fill positions on the Planning Commission and Mendon Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Selectboard is looking to hire a full-time Road Crew position.

**\*\*WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS\*\*** Please contact the Town Office!



# Batchelder Associates, PC

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Selectmen  
Town of Mendon  
Mendon, Vermont

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Mendon, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Mendon, Vermont's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Mendon, Vermont, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Mendon, Vermont and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Mendon, Vermont's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Mendon, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Mendon, Vermont's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

**Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison on pages 3-9 and 37, respectively, the Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Position Liability on Schedule 1 and the Schedule of Contributions on Schedule 2 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

**Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Mendon, Vermont's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory and statistical sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 10, 2023, on our consideration of the Town of Mendon, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Mendon, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Town of Mendon, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Batchelder Associates PC*

Batchelder Associates, P.C.  
License #945  
Barre, Vermont  
November 10, 2023

TOWN OF MENDON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

As management of the Town of Mendon, Vermont ("Town") we offer readers of the Town's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the year ended June 30, 2023. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with additional information that we have furnished in our letter of transmittal, which can be found at the beginning of this report.

**Financial Highlights**

The assets of the Town exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$7,813,900 (*net position*). Of this amount, \$460,388 (*unrestricted net position*) may be used by the various funds of the Town to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to its citizens and creditors.

The Town's total net position for governmental activities decreased by \$64,793.

As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,880,285, a decrease of \$38,185 from the prior year end. Of the total ending fund balances, \$2,867,790 is available for spending at the government's discretion. Of this amount, \$2,348,634 is assigned and \$519,156 is unassigned.

The Reserve Funds reported a surplus this year of \$645 which resulted in a fund balance of \$2,345,878 as of June 30, 2023.

**Overview of the Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) Government-wide financial statements, 2) Fund financial statements, and 3) Notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

**1. Government-wide Financial Statements**

The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the Town's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Town is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, public works, health and social services, conservation, and development.

The government-wide financial statements are designed to include not only the Town itself (*known as the primary government*), but also any legally separate entities for which the Town is financially accountable (*known as component units*). The Town has no such entities that qualify as component units.

The government-wide financial statements can be found in Exhibits A and B of this report.

TOWN OF MENDON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**2. Fund Financial Statements**

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town can be classified as governmental funds.

**A. Governmental Funds**

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Town maintains one (1) individual governmental funds, the General Fund and fifteen (15) Reserve Funds and (1) Grant Fund. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General Fund and Reserve Funds. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found in Exhibits C through E of this report.

**B. Proprietary Funds**

The Town has no Proprietary Funds.

**C. Fiduciary Funds**

The Town has no Fiduciary Funds.

**3. Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found immediately following the basic financial statements in this report.

**4. Other Information**

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain supplementary information to provide additional financial information not included in the basic financial statements. This supplementary information includes combining statements for various funds, and budgetary comparison statements. The supplementary information can be found immediately following the notes to the financial statements in this report.

TOWN OF MENDON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**The Town as a Whole – Net Position**

*Governmental Activities* - As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the Town, assets exceeded liabilities by \$7,813,900 at the close of the fiscal year end.

By far the largest portion of the Town's net position, reflective of 63.9% of the balance, is the investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, equipment, and infrastructure) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending.

The remaining balance of unrestricted net position of \$451,688 may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. Included in unrestricted net position are amounts that management has assigned for particular purposes, such as special revenue funds, capital project funds and reserves for expenditures in subsequent years.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town is able to report positive balances in both categories of net position for the government as a whole.

	Governmental Activities		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current and other assets	3,213,614	\$ 3,139,552	\$ 3,213,614	\$ 3,139,552
Capital assets, non-depreciable	265,934	265,934	265,934	265,934
Capital assets, depreciable	4,917,449	4,937,479	4,917,449	4,937,479
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8,396,997</b>	<b>8,342,965</b>	<b>8,396,997</b>	<b>8,342,965</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOW OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>44,561</b>	<b>35,496</b>	<b>44,561</b>	<b>35,496</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Other liabilities	342,501	212,001	342,501	212,001
Long-term liabilities outstanding	272,028	242,720	272,028	242,720
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>614,529</b>	<b>454,721</b>	<b>614,529</b>	<b>454,721</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>13,128</b>	<b>45,047</b>	<b>13,128</b>	<b>45,047</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>				
Unavailable for spending	12,494	62,453	12,494	62,453
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	4,992,383	4,983,413	4,992,383	4,983,413
Assigned	2,357,334	2,347,987	2,357,334	2,347,987
Unrestricted	451,688	484,840	451,688	484,840
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 7,813,900</b>	<b>\$ 7,878,693</b>	<b>\$ 7,813,900</b>	<b>\$ 7,878,693</b>

TOWN OF MENDON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**The Town as a Whole – Changes in Net Position**

Governmental activities decreased the Town's net position by \$64,793 during the current fiscal year.

	Governmental Activities		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Program revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 20,052	\$ 49,517	\$ 20,052	\$ 49,517
Operating grants and contributions	151,179	112,666	151,179	112,666
Capital grants and contributions	-	-	-	-
General revenues				
Property taxes	927,952	923,287	927,952	923,287
Unrestricted investment earnings	80,949	16,435	80,949	16,435
Fees and licenses	15,016	18,226	15,016	18,226
Other revenues	12,235	149,720	12,235	149,720
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,207,385</b>	<b>1,269,851</b>	<b>1,207,385</b>	<b>1,269,851</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Governmental activities				
General government	470,926	401,282	470,926	401,282
Public safety	182,439	151,750	182,439	151,750
Public works	566,388	657,837	566,388	657,837
Cultural and recreation	3,470	3,429	3,470	3,429
Cemetery	1,000	-	1,000	-
Health and social services	1,408	1,240	1,408	1,240
Conservation and development	42,012	39,374	42,012	39,374
Interest on long-term debt	4,534	5,896	4,534	5,896
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,272,177</b>	<b>1,260,808</b>	<b>1,272,177</b>	<b>1,260,808</b>
Change in net assets	(64,793)	9,043	(64,793)	9,043
Net position-beginning of year	7,878,693	7,869,650	7,878,693	7,869,650
Net position - end of year	<b>\$ 7,813,900</b>	<b>\$ 7,878,693</b>	<b>\$ 7,813,900</b>	<b>\$ 7,878,693</b>

TOWN OF MENDON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Below is a table showing cost of each of the Town's six largest programs – general government, public safety, public works, health & social services, conservation, and development, and cultural and recreation – as well as each program's net cost (total cost less revenue generated by the activities). The net cost shows the financial burden that was placed on the Town's taxpayers by each of these functions:

	2023		2022	
	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services
General government	\$ 470,926	\$ 360,836	\$ 401,282	\$ 323,336
Public safety	182,439	168,587	151,750	123,511
Public works	566,388	519,098	657,837	601,839
Cultural and recreation	3,470	3,470	3,429	3,429
Cemetery	1,000	1,000	-	-
Health and social services	1,408	1,408	1,240	1,240
Conservation and development	42,012	42,012	39,374	39,374
Interest	4,534	4,534	5,896	5,896
	<u>\$ 1,272,177</u>	<u>\$ 1,100,945</u>	<u>\$ 1,260,808</u>	<u>\$ 1,098,625</u>

**Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds**

As noted earlier, the Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

**1. Governmental Funds**

The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,880,285 a decrease of \$38,185 in comparison to the prior year.

**a. General Fund**

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year the General Fund unrestricted balance was a surplus of \$531,651. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it would be useful to compare total fund balance to total general fund expenditures and operating transfers. The general fund balance represents 44.5% of the total general fund expenditures and operating transfers for the year ended June 30, 2023.

The General Fund balance decreased by \$38,831 during the fiscal year.

**b. Reserve Funds**

Reserve funds include Town Office Maintenance, Garage Maintenance, Shop Maintenance, Recreation, New Office Equipment, Reappraisal, Preservation, Cemetery, Truck and Other Road Equipment, Highway Improvement, Bridge Improvement, Law Enforcement, Mendon Economic Development Committee, and Irene Funds.

Total Reserve Fund balances are \$2,345,878.

TOWN OF MENDON, VERMONT  
 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

The table below compares actual to budget for the General Fund. The most significant variances of actual to budget is as follows:

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>REVENUES</b>			
General Government	\$ 1,253,186	\$ 1,154,325	\$ (98,861)
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,253,186</u>	<u>\$ 1,154,325</u>	<u>\$ (98,861)</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General Government	\$ 1,253,186	\$ 1,193,155	\$ 60,031
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,253,186</u>	<u>\$ 1,193,155</u>	<u>\$ 60,031</u>

**Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

**1. Capital Assets**

The Town's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities for the year ended, amounted to \$5,183,383 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings and improvements, infrastructure, furniture, vehicles, and equipment.

	Governmental Activities		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Capital assets				
Land	\$ 265,934	\$ 265,934	\$ 265,934	\$ 265,934
Buildings and improvements	475,952	502,001	475,952	502,001
Equipment and furnishings	37,457	47,708	37,457	47,708
Vehicles	320,258	382,882	320,258	382,882
Infrastructure	4,083,782	4,004,888	4,083,782	4,004,888
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 5,183,383</u>	<u>\$ 5,203,413</u>	<u>\$ 5,183,383</u>	<u>\$ 5,203,413</u>

Additional information on the Town's capital assets can be found on page 25 of the notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF MENDON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**Capital Asset and Debt Administration (continued)**

**2. Long-term Debt**

	Governmental Activities		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Notes payable, bank	\$ 191,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 191,000	\$ 220,000
Net pension liability	101,355	51,136	101,355	51,136
Uncompensated balances	8,673	5,584	8,673	5,584
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 301,028</b>	<b>\$ 276,720</b>	<b>\$ 301,028</b>	<b>\$ 276,720</b>

At the end of the current year, the Town had total long-term debt outstanding of \$191,000. This debt was a result of the building improvement bonds for both the Town Offices and Garage.

The Town's total debt increased by \$24,308, primarily due to the increase in pension liability during the year.

State statutes limit the amount of bonded debt any governmental entity may issue to 10 times its total assessed valuation. The current debt limit for the Town is significantly in excess of the Town's outstanding bonded debt.

**Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates**

Recent data on Vermont economic conditions indicate that the performance of the Vermont economy has generally outperformed the developments in the U.S. economy overall during the past 12 to 18 months.

All of these factors were considered in preparing the Town's budget for the year ended June 30, 2023, and fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

The Town approved a general fund budget for the year ended June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$1,253,186 and for the fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$1,295,460. This represents an annualized increase of \$42,274 (3.4%) from the approved budget for the prior fiscal year.

**Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all those with an interest in the Town's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Town Treasurer, 2282, US Route 4, Mendon, VT 05764 (802)775-1662. Or by email: Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk/Treasurer at Mendontown@comcast.net.

# Budget History

<b>Budget History Summary</b>	<b>2021-2022 Actual</b>	<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actual</b>	<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>
Cash Balance Forward	125000	188000	188000	90000
Total Property Taxes Collected				
On-Time	885246	900653	925783	1050157
Delinquent	10538		14687	
Non-Property Tax Revenue				
Revenue Allocated to Administration	118095	95875	133107	101645
Revenue Allocated to Infrastructure	73613	44000	46914	47000
Revenue Allocated to Public Safety	28238	35000	12484	27000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1240731</b>	<b>1263528</b>	<b>1320975</b>	<b>1315802</b>
Total Expenses				
Expenses Allocated to Administration	367249	429819	383210	459865
Expenses Allocated to Infrastructure	622743	649531	565827	668664
Expenses Allocated to Public Safety	149333	184178	178142	187273
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1139325</b>	<b>1263528</b>	<b>1127179</b>	<b>1315802</b>

<b>Administration Budget History</b>	<b>2021-2022 Actual</b>	<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actual</b>	<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue Allocated to Administration</b>				
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	60887	55000	60247	55000
Interest Late Taxes 1%	12959	10000	10490	11000
Delinquent Tax 8%	17690	10000	13228	15000
Investment Interest	2115	2600	26520	2600
Licenses & Fees				
Recording Fees	16549	10000	13993	10000
Marriage Licenses	50	125	90	125
Dog Licenses	1397	900	703	900
Zoning and Building Permits	3150	4000	4542	4000
Site Plan Review and Warning Fees	220	300	112	300
Truck Permits	400	400	375	400
Copying Fees	2412	2000	2508	2000
Liquor Licenses	230	460	230	230
Miscellaneous	36	90	69	90
<b>Total Revenue Allocated to Administration</b>	<b>118095</b>	<b>95875</b>	<b>133107</b>	<b>101645</b>

<b>Administration Budget History Continued</b>	<b>2021-2022 Actual</b>	<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actual</b>	<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>
<b>Administration Expenses</b>				
Wages and Salaries				
Town Clerk/Treasurer	50149	52656	52665	56879
Bookkeeper/Asst Clerk	29173	31502	31442	34553
Selectboard	7000	7000	6499	7000
Town Administrator	42997	44257	44482	47803
Zoning Administrator	6631	8000	6302	8000
Tax Collector	1500	1500	1500	1500
Fees Paid				
Tax Collector	8432	6300	8957	6300
Office Expenses				
Advertising and Warning	168	1000	756	1000
Animal Control	654	800	592	800
Appraisal Services	19579	18000	19620	18000
Auditing	10645	11000	11500	11000
Computer Services	9123	9040	9200	9040
Continuing Education	1730	3500	3497	3500
Copier Service	248	600	518	600
Election Expenses	446	2000	852	500
Insurance	17289	36000	26950	36000
Landscaping	129	200	62	200
Legal	490	3000	5067	3000
Mendon Economic Development	1240	2000	1408	2000
Office Supplies and Maintenance	4263	4500	4754	5000
Planning and Zoning Expense	251	1000	108	1000
Postage and Printing	4365	3500	3601	3500
Street Lights	4218	5500	4347	5500
CAI/Tax Maps	2400	3100	3950	2400
Town Office Utilities	7544	6000	7393	7000
Miscellaneous	2260	3200	2387	2500
Payroll Taxes and Benefits				
Health Insurance	74712	104337	72741	109013
Disability Insurance	1859	1800	1890	1900
Payroll Taxes	21212	23497	22198	24648
Retirement Fund	13869	17530	14972	16429
Unemployment Insurance	4674	4500	0	5300
Reserve Funds				
Community Center				10000
Town Office Maintenance	4000	4000	4000	4000
Recreation Fund	5000	5000	5000	5000
New Office Equipment	5000	500	500	5000
Contingency	500	0	0	500
Reappraisal	0	0	0	0
Preservation	1000	1000	1000	1000
Cemetery	500	500	500	500
Mendon Economic Development	2000	2000	2000	2000
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>367249</b>	<b>429819</b>	<b>383210</b>	<b>459865</b>
<b>Percent of Total Expenditures</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>35%</b>

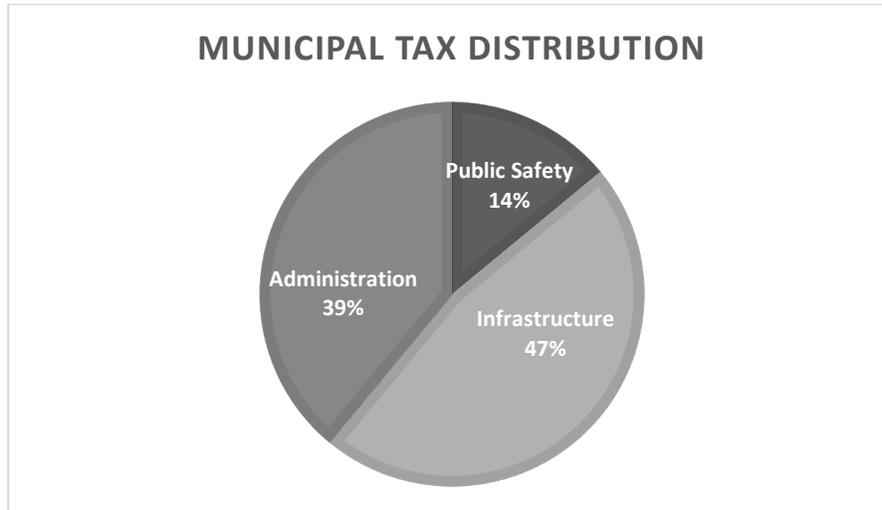
<b>Infrastructure Budget History</b>	<b>2021-2022 Actual</b>	<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actual</b>	<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue Allocated to Community Infrastructure</b>				
State Aid to Highways	50733	37000	46914	40000
Road Maintenance Revenue	15060	7000	0	7000
Grant Income Infrastructure	7820	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenue Allocated to Community Infrastructure</b>	<b>73613</b>	<b>44000</b>	<b>46914</b>	<b>47000</b>
<b>Community Infrastructure Expenses</b>				
<b>Salaries</b>				
Winter	56274	87008	61586	97835
Summer	44194	52731	42133	61623
Road Commissioner	3250	3250	3250	3250
Administrative Road Commissioner	1750	1750	1749	1750
<b>Winter Roads</b>				
Fuel	14723	14950	13338	18000
Salt	44567	45600	42123	48500
Liquid Chloride	4215	7500	0	5000
Sand	17861	18000	16100	18000
Repairs and Supplies	1086	3500	1584	3500
Equipment Hire	1450	4300	1800	4300
<b>Summer Roads</b>				
Fuel	5998	7150	4539	8650
Gravel	16983	17000	4779	17600
Repairs and Supplies	7904	3500	1093	3500
Equipment Hire	1929	2500	8132	2500
<b>Miscellaneous Road Expenses</b>				
VT DEC Municipal Roads General Permit	500	1500	1557	1000
Robinwood Roads	4000	5000	0	5000
Garage Utilities	10420	9000	14249	10500
Sign Replacement	808	1500	1392	1500
Vehicle Maintenance	23401	30000	32334	30000
<b>Reserve Funds</b>				
Garage Maintenance	10000	10000	10000	8000
Highway Equipment	50000	50000	50000	50000
Highway Improvement	160000	110000	110000	100000
Bridge & Culvert	50000	50000	50000	50000
<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>	0	18304	1755	19219
Field Maintenance	429	810	90	1200
<b>Other Community Infrastructure Expense</b>				
Recreation Programs & Barstow Youth Club	3000	3500	3000	3500
Library	24680	25174	25174	26432
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	975	1000	1000	1000
Vermont League of Cities and Towns	2529	2529	2612	2612
Mendon Historical Society	500	500	500	500
Rutland County Tax	14078	17900	16082	20589
<b>Appropriations</b>				
ARC	1500	1500	1500	1500
Marble Valley Regional Transit	1200	1200	1200	1200
Retired & Senior Volunteers	700	700	700	700
Rutland Area Visiting Nurse	2600	2600	2600	2600
Rutland Mental Health	1242	1242	1242	1242
Southwest Council Aging	600	600	600	600
Wonder Feet	2500	2500	2500	2500

Town Office Bond				
Principal	10000	9801	9801	9785
Interest	890	307	108	255
Garage Bond				
Principal	19000	19000	19000	19000
Interest	5006	4625	4625	4222
<b>Total Community Infrastructure Expenses</b>	<b>622743</b>	<b>649531</b>	<b>565827</b>	<b>668664</b>
<b>Percent of Total Expenditures</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>51%</b>

<b>Public Safety Budget History</b>	<b>2021-2022 Actual</b>	<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actual</b>	<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue Allocated to Public Safety</b>				
Law Enforcement Income	28238	35000	12484	27000
<b>Total Revenue Allocated to Public Safety</b>	<b>28238</b>	<b>35000</b>	<b>12484</b>	<b>27000</b>
<b>Public Safety Expenses</b>				
Wages and Salaries				
Constable	2505	1500	1500	1500
Director of Public Safety	5000	5000	5000	5000
Law Enforcement Staff	46628	77442	66888	80537
Constable Training	75	500	500	500
Fire Protection				
Rutland Fire Department Equipment	60000	60000	60000	60000
Rutland Fire Department Variable	28500	30000	37523	30000
Fire Warden - Salary	1200	1200	1200	1200
Fire Warden - Expenses	100	100	78	100
Law Enforcement Expenses				
Vehicle #1 Expense	0	1000	0	1000
Vehicle #1 Fuel	93	1200	45	1200
Equipment Replacement & Repairs	17	1000	622	500
Barstow Shelter	478	500	50	500
Rutland Regional Ambulance	4236	4236	4236	4236
Law Enforcement Reserve Fund	500	500	500	1000
<b>Total Public Safety Expense</b>	<b>149333</b>	<b>184178</b>	<b>178142</b>	<b>187273</b>
<b>Percent Total Expense</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>

NOTES:

# 2024/2025 Estimated Municipal Tax Rate



- (a) Amount to be raised by taxes \$1,197,300\*
- (b) Estimated Grand List/100 \$2,415,036
- (c) Estimated Tax Rate \$.4958

\* Assumes the voters pass all appropriation articles totaling \$10,342.

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## Calculation of Municipal Tax Rate

The *Municipal Tax Rate* is expressed as the amount of tax to be paid for each \$100 of assessed value.

**Tax Rate** = Amount to be raised by taxes / (Grand List / 100)

**Amount to be raised by taxes** = total expenditures for general government and roads, reduced by other sources of revenue.

**Grand List** = the total value of all taxable real estate and personal estate taxable to the town.

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## 2023/2024 Tax Rate:

**Homestead = \$1.6341**  
 (\$.4328+\$1.2005+\$0.0008)

**Non-Residential = \$1.8140**  
 (\$.4328+\$1.3804+\$0.0008)

**Municipal Tax Rate: \$.4328**

2023-2024 Amount to be raised by taxes \$1,044,157 (cash forward \$ 96,000)

2023-2024 Municipal Grand List \$2,413,107

**Education Tax Rate:**

Homestead = \$1.2005

Non-Residential = \$1.3804

**2023-2024 Summary:**

**Municipal Tax Rate= \$.0584 increase or 15.5% increase**

**Education Tax Rate:**

Homestead = \$1.2005 a \$.03 decrease or 2.5% decrease

Non-Residential = \$1.3804 a \$.0954 increase or 7.4% increase

**Total Homestead = \$.0284 increase or 1.8% increase**

**Total Non-Residential = \$.1538 increase or 9.3% increase**

**Local Agreement Tax: \$.0008**

**2023-2024 Total Taxes Billed \$3,918,792**

# 2024-2025 Budget

<b>Budget Summary</b>	<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>
Cash Balance Forward	0
Total Property Taxes Collected	
On-Time	1186958
Delinquent	
Non-Property Tax Revenue	
Revenue Allocated to Administration	117345
Revenue Allocated to Infrastructure	47000
Revenue Allocated to Public Safety	27000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1378303</b>
Total Expenses	
Expenses Allocated to Administration	540702
Expenses Allocated to Infrastructure	641915
Expenses Allocated to Public Safety	195687
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1378303</b>

<b>Administration Budget</b>	<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue Allocated to Administration</b>	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	55000
Interest Late Taxes 1%	12000
Delinquent Tax 8%	15000
Investment Interest	13000
Licenses & Fees	
Recording Fees	13000
Marriage Licenses	125
Dog Licenses	900
Zoning and Building Permits	5000
Site Plan Review and Warning Fees	300
Truck Permits	400
Copying Fees	2300
Liquor Licenses	230
Miscellaneous	90
<b>Total Revenue Allocated to Administration</b>	<b>117345</b>

<b>Administration Budget Continued</b>	<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>
<b>Administration Expenses</b>	
Wages and Salaries	
Administrative Staff	5000
Town Clerk/Treasurer	58585
Bookkeeper/Asst Clerk	35590
Selectboard	7000
Town Administrator	51041
Zoning Administrator	8000
Tax Collector	1500
Fees Paid	
Tax Collector	6300
Office Expenses	
Advertising and Warning	1000
Animal Control	800
Appraisal Services	20000
Auditing	11500
Computer Services	15000
Continuing Education	5000
Copier Service	600
Election Expenses	2000
Insurance	30000
Landscaping	200
Legal	4000
Mendon Economic Development	2000
Office Supplies and Maintenance	5000
Planning and Zoning Expense	1000
Postage and Printing	4000
Street Lights	4600
CAI/Tax Maps	2400
Town Office Utilities	9700
Miscellaneous	2500
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	
Health Insurance	179413
Disability Insurance	1900
Payroll Taxes	25700
Retirement Fund	16373
Unemployment Insurance	5000
Reserve Funds	
Community Center	0
Town Office Maintenance	4000
Recreation Fund	5000
New Office Equipment	5000
Contingency	500
Reappraisal	0
Preservation	1000
Cemetery	500
Mendon Economic Development	2000
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>540702</b>
<b>Percent of Total Expenditures</b>	<b>39%</b>

<b>Infrastructure Budget</b>	<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue Allocated to Community Infrastructure</b>	
State Aid to Highways	40000
Road Maintenance Revenue	7000
<b>Total Revenue Allocated to Community Infrastructure</b>	<b>47000</b>
<b>Community Infrastructure Expenses</b>	
Salaries	
Winter	93766
Summer	60262
Winter Roads	
Fuel	18000
Salt	48500
Liquid Chloride	5000
Sand	18000
Repairs and Supplies	3500
Equipment Hire	4300
Summer Roads	
Fuel	8650
Gravel	17600
Repairs and Supplies	3500
Equipment Hire	2500
Miscellaneous Road Expenses	
VT DEC Municipal Roads General Permit	1000
Robinwood Roads	5000
Garage Utilities	12200
Sign Replacement	1500
Vehicle Maintenance	30000
Reserve Funds	
Garage Maintenance	8000
Highway Equipment	50000
Highway Improvement	100000
Bridge & Culvert	50000
Buildings and Grounds	15201
Field Maintenance	1200
Other Community Infrastructure Expense	
Recreation Programs & Barstow Youth Club	3500
Library	27490
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	1000
Vermont League of Cities and Towns	2693
Mendon Historical Society	500
Rutland County Tax	17395
Appropriations	
ARC	0
Marble Valley Regional Transit	0
Mendon Seniors	0
Retired & Senior Volunteers	0
Rutland Area Visiting Nurse	0
Rutland Mental Health	0
Southwest Council Aging	0
Wonder Feet	0

Town Office Bond	
Principal	8861
Interest	0
Garage Bond	
Principal	19000
Interest	3797
<b>Total Community Infrastructure Expenses</b>	<b>641915</b>
<b>Percent of Total Expenditures</b>	<b>47%</b>

<b>Public Safety Budget</b>	<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue Allocated to Public Safety</b>	
Law Enforcement Income	27000
Alarm Ordinance Fines	0
Grant Income Public Safety	0
<b>Total Revenue Allocated to Public Safety</b>	<b>27000</b>
<b>Public Safety Expenses</b>	
Wages and Salaries	
Constable	1500
Director of Public Safety	5000
Law Enforcement Staff	88591
Constable Training	500
Fire Protection	
Rutland Fire Department Equipment	60000
Rutland Fire Department Variable	30000
Fire Warden - Salary	1200
Fire Warden - Expenses	100
Law Enforcement Expenses	
Vehicle #1 Expense	1000
Vehicle #1 Fuel	1200
Grant Expense Public Safety	0
Equipment Replacement & Repairs	500
Barstow Shelter	500
Rutland Regional Ambulance	4596
Law Enforcement Reserve Fund	1000
<b>Total Public Safety Expense</b>	<b>195687</b>
<b>Percent Total Expense</b>	<b>14%</b>

NOTES:

## Schedule of Outstanding Bond Payments

### Town of Mendon Office

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2024-2025	8,860.87	0.00	8,860.87
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,860.87</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$8,860.87</b>

\*\* The FY25 budget will pay off the bond for the construction of the Mendon Town Office.

### Town of Mendon Garage Improvement

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2024-2025	19,000.00	3,796.75	22,796.75
2025-2026	19,000.00	3,349.10	22,349.10
2026-2027	19,000.00	2,874.85	21,874.85
2027-2028	19,000.00	2,375.90	21,375.90
2028-2029	19,000.00	1,862.70	20,862.70
2029-2030	19,000.00	1,340.95	20,340.95
2030-2031	19,000.00	810.65	19,810.65
2031-2032	19,000.00	271.80	19,271.80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>152,000.00</b>	<b>16,682.70</b>	<b>\$168,682.70</b>



Amanda O'Connell registering to vote after becoming a US Citizen.  
She and her husband, Dennis own DePalo's Coffee in Mendon.

## Reserve Fund Balances

<b><u>Office Maintenance</u></b>		<b><u>Restoration/Preservation</u></b>	
Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$17,806	Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$51,697
Income: Interest	460	Income: Interest	1,288
Annual Appropriation	4,000	Annual Appropriation	1,000
Expense: Alarm Monitor	299	Recording Fees	5,057
Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$21,967	Expense: Restoration	1,770
		Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$57,272
 <b><u>New Office Equipment</u></b>		 <b><u>Reappraisal</u></b>	
Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$25,609	Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$104,083
Income: Interest	616	Income: Interest	1,648
Annual Appropriation	500	Annual Appropriation	0
Expense: Computer Setup	126	State Payment	7,233
Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$26,599	Expense: 2021 Reappraisal	16,075
		Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$96,889
 <b><u>MEDC</u></b>		 <b><u>Contingency</u></b>	
Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$15,222	Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$97,763
Income: Interest	372	Income: Interest	2,284
Annual Appropriation	2,000	Annual Appropriation	0
Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$17,594	Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$100,047
 <b><u>Recreation</u></b>		 <b><u>Public Safety</u></b>	
Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$14,719	Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$51,879
Income: Interest	409	Income: Interest	1,298
Annual Appropriation	5,000	Annual Appropriation	500
Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$20,128	Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$53,677
 <b><u>Cemetery</u></b>		 <b><u>Community Center*</u></b>	
Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$14,366	Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$0
Income: Interest	345	Income: Interest	107
Annual Appropriation	500	Annual Appropriation	10,000
Expense: Burial Fees	350	Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$10,107
Plot reimbursement	1,000		
Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$13,861		

\*Community Center Reserve Fund established by voters at Town Meeting on March 6, 2023

<u>Highway Equipment</u>		<u>Highway Improvement</u>	
Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$308,179	Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$1,206,987
Income: Interest	7,392	Income: Interest	25,773
Annual Appropriation	50,000	Annual Appropriation	110,000
Expense: Lawn mower	3,760	Expense: Sherwood, Office Lot	277,914
Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$361,811	Ending Balance 06/30/23	1,064,846
<u>Bridges and Culverts</u>		<u>Garage Maintenance</u>	
Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$423,487	Opening Bal. 07/01/22	\$115,709
Income: Interest	9,645	Income: Interest	2,786
Annual Appropriation	50,000	Annual Appropriation	10,000
Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$483,132	Ending Balance 06/30/23	\$128,495

## American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

The Town of Mendon received \$302,285 as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Town is able to use these funds for normal expenditures of the Town. All monies must be allocated by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026. Annual reporting is required to let the federal government know how funds are being spent.

It is the Town’s goal to use these funds in a way that would be of the most benefit to the Town as a whole. We currently have requests for funding in excess of the amount allocated to the Town and will combine this funding with grant funding whenever possible in order to get the largest benefit possible.

	<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>\$302,285</b>
Project Description	Estimated Allocation	Expenditures to Date	
Folding Chairs & Storage Racks	\$1,200	\$1,956	
Office Safety	\$1,800	\$1,849	
Land Record Digitization	\$50,000	\$33,094	
Highway Improvement	\$50,000	\$0	
Office Generator*	\$7,000	\$17,400	
Playground Equipment	\$50,000	\$47,263	
Town Garage Upgrades	\$6,400	\$0	
Vault Upgrades	\$15,000	\$0	
<b>Total Estimated Allocations</b>	<b>\$181,400</b>		
<b>Total Expenditures to Date</b>		<b>\$101,562</b>	
<b>Current Balance (01/31/2024)</b>			<b>\$200,723</b>

\*Office Generator – Some of these expenses will be offset by Grant Revenue.

# Mendon Office Maintenance Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

Assumptions:	Life Expectancy:	Facts:		
Paint	10 years	Paint	2019	\$7,750
Carpeting	15 years	Carpeting	2005	\$5,000
Drainage	30 years	Drainage	2005	\$10,000
Water Pump	20 years	Water Pump	2005	\$7,500
Grinder Pump #1 & #2	12 years	Water Treatment	2014	\$1,650
		Grinder Pump #1	2015	\$2,200
Interest rate	2.00% percent	Grinder Pump #2	2020	\$2,535
Inflation rate	5.0% percent	Boiler	2005	\$2,200

Fiscal Year	Opening Balance	Annual Contribn	Available Cash	Project	Cost (inflation adj)	Interest Earned	Maint	Closing Balance	Bond	Total Annual
2023	\$17,806	\$4,000	\$21,806		\$0	\$460	\$299	\$21,967	\$9,909	\$13,909
2024	\$21,967	\$4,000	\$25,967	Security Upgrades	\$15,000	\$439	\$500	\$10,906	\$10,040	\$14,040
2025	\$10,906	\$4,000	\$14,906		\$0	\$218	\$500	\$14,624	\$8,861	\$12,861
2026	\$14,624	\$7,000	\$21,624	WaterPump	\$15,375	\$292	\$500	\$6,042	\$0	\$7,000
2027	\$6,042	\$7,000	\$13,042	Grinder Pump #1	\$3,520	\$121	\$500	\$9,143	\$0	\$7,000
2028	\$9,143	\$7,000	\$16,143	Carpeting	\$10,750	\$183	\$500	\$5,076	\$0	\$7,000
2029	\$5,076	\$7,000	\$12,076		\$0	\$102	\$500	\$11,677	\$0	\$7,000
2030	\$11,677	\$7,000	\$18,677	Paint	\$12,013	\$234	\$500	\$6,398	\$0	\$7,000
2031	\$6,398	\$7,000	\$13,398		\$0	\$128	\$500	\$13,026	\$0	\$7,000
2032	\$13,026	\$7,000	\$20,026	Grinder Pump #2	\$4,070	\$261	\$500	\$15,717	\$0	\$7,000
2033	\$15,717	\$7,000	\$22,717		\$0	\$314	\$500	\$22,531	\$0	\$7,000
2034	\$22,531	\$7,000	\$29,531	Drainage	\$24,500	\$451	\$500	\$4,982	\$0	\$7,000
2035	\$4,982	\$7,000	\$11,982		\$0	\$100	\$500	\$11,581	\$0	\$7,000
2036	\$11,581	\$7,000	\$18,581	Boiler	\$8,000	\$232	\$500	\$10,313	\$0	\$7,000
2037	\$10,313	\$7,000	\$17,313		\$0	\$206	\$500	\$17,019	\$0	\$7,000
2038	\$17,019	\$7,000	\$24,019	Carpeting	\$13,250	\$340	\$500	\$10,610	\$0	\$7,000
2039	\$10,610	\$7,000	\$17,610	Grinder Pump #1	\$4,840	\$212	\$500	\$12,482	\$0	\$7,000
2040	\$12,482	\$7,000	\$19,482	Paint	\$15,888	\$250	\$500	\$3,344	\$0	\$7,000
2041	\$3,344	\$7,000	\$10,344		\$0	\$67	\$500	\$9,911	\$0	\$7,000
2042	\$9,911	\$7,000	\$16,911		\$0	\$198	\$500	\$16,609	\$0	\$7,000
2043	\$16,609	\$7,000	\$23,609		\$0	\$332	\$500	\$23,441	\$0	\$7,000

# Mendon Preservation Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

Projects				ARPA funded:	
Book Preservation	4000	annually	Digitization	50000	
Land Records Computers	2025		Vault Upgrades	15000	
Humidifier Vault	2022		(roller shelving, map cabinet)		
Map Cabinet	2021		ARPA request:		
Roller Shelving	2024		Humidity Control		
Interest rate	2.00%	percent			

Fiscal Year	Opening Balance	Annual Contribn	Recording Fees & Grant Income	Available Cash	Books Preservation	Projects	Interest Earned	Closing Balance
2023	\$51,697	\$1,000	\$5,057	\$57,754	\$1,770		\$1,288	\$57,272
2024	\$57,272	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$62,272	\$3,000		\$1,145	\$60,417
2025	\$60,417	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$65,417	\$3,000	Land Records Computers	\$5,650	\$57,976
2026	\$57,976	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$62,976	\$3,000		\$1,160	\$61,135
2027	\$61,135	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$66,135	\$3,000		\$1,223	\$58,708
2028	\$58,708	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$63,708	\$3,000		\$1,174	\$61,882
2029	\$61,882	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$66,882	\$3,000		\$1,238	\$65,120
2030	\$65,120	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$70,120	\$3,000	Land Records Computers	\$6,000	\$62,422
2031	\$62,422	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$67,422	\$3,000		\$1,248	\$65,671
2032	\$65,671	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$70,671	\$3,000		\$1,313	\$62,984
2033	\$62,984	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$67,984	\$3,000		\$1,260	\$66,244
2034	\$66,244	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$71,244	\$3,000		\$1,325	\$69,569
2035	\$69,569	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$74,569	\$3,000	Land Records Computers	\$6,300	\$66,660
2036	\$66,660	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$71,660	\$3,000		\$1,333	\$69,993
2037	\$69,993	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$74,993	\$3,000		\$1,400	\$73,393
2038	\$73,393	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$78,393	\$3,000		\$1,468	\$76,861
2039	\$76,861	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$81,861	\$3,000		\$1,537	\$80,398
2040	\$80,398	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$85,398	\$3,000	Land Records Computers	\$6,600	\$77,406
2041	\$77,406	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$82,406	\$3,000		\$1,548	\$80,954
2042	\$80,954	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$85,954	\$3,000		\$1,619	\$84,573
2043	\$84,573	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$89,573	\$3,000		\$1,691	\$88,265
2044	\$88,265	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$93,265	\$3,000		\$1,765	\$92,030

# Mendon Office Equipment Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

Assumptions:	Life Expectancy:	Facts:	Year	Cost
Server Computer (1)	4 years	Server Computer	2017	\$2,000
Computers (4)	4 years	Computer (replace 2 per year)		\$1,600
Photocopier	10 years	Photocopier (Sharp)	2016	\$5,220
Laptop Computers (7)	5 years	Photocopier (Canon)	2020	\$5,220
		Printer	2010	\$800
Interest rate	2.00%	Laptops (3)	2020	\$1,800
		Laptops (4) grant funded	2023	\$9,900

Fiscal Year	Opening Balance	Annual Contribn	Available Cash	Project	Computer Replacement	Interest Earned	Closing Balance
2023	\$25,609	\$500	\$26,109	Computer Setup	\$126	\$0	\$26,599
2024	\$26,599	\$5,000	\$31,599	Security Upgrades	\$2,000	\$3,200	\$26,399
2025	\$26,399	\$5,000	\$31,399		\$3,200	\$0	\$28,199
2026	\$28,199	\$5,000	\$33,199		\$3,200	\$0	\$29,999
2027	\$29,999	\$5,000	\$34,999	Laptops	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$28,599
2028	\$28,599	\$5,000	\$33,599	Photocopier	\$6,003	\$3,200	\$24,396
2029	\$24,396	\$5,000	\$29,396		\$3,200	\$0	\$26,196
2030	\$26,196	\$5,000	\$31,196		\$3,200	\$0	\$27,996
2031	\$27,996	\$5,000	\$32,996		\$3,200	\$0	\$29,796
2032	\$29,796	\$5,000	\$34,796	Laptops	\$3,360	\$3,200	\$28,236
2033	\$28,236	\$5,000	\$33,236		\$3,200	\$0	\$30,036
2034	\$30,036	\$5,000	\$35,036		\$3,200	\$0	\$31,836
2035	\$31,836	\$5,000	\$36,836		\$3,200	\$0	\$33,636
2036	\$33,636	\$5,000	\$38,636		\$3,200	\$0	\$35,436
2037	\$35,436	\$5,000	\$40,436	Laptops	\$3,528	\$3,200	\$33,708
2038	\$33,708	\$5,000	\$38,708	Photocopier	\$6,264	\$3,200	\$29,244
2039	\$29,244	\$5,000	\$34,244		\$3,200	\$0	\$31,044
2040	\$31,044	\$5,000	\$36,044		\$3,200	\$0	\$32,844
2041	\$32,844	\$5,000	\$37,844		\$3,200	\$0	\$34,644
2042	\$34,644	\$5,000	\$39,644	Laptops	\$3,704	\$3,200	\$32,740
2043	\$32,740	\$5,000	\$37,740		\$3,200	\$0	\$34,540
2044	\$34,540	\$5,000	\$39,540		\$3,200	\$0	\$36,340

# Mendon Highway Equipment Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

The Highway Equipment Fund combines the Truck Fund, Backhoe Fund, Grader Fund and New Road Equipment Fund as approved by the voters at Town Meeting 2014

Assumptions:		Facts:			
Big Trucks have a life expectancy of	12 years	Big Truck #1	Mack	2014	\$168,000
Small Truck has a life expectancy of	7 years	Big Truck #2	Freightliner	2020	\$175,333
Grader has a life expectancy of	30 years	Small Truck	Ford	2015	\$86,000
Backhoe has a life expectancy of	15 years	Grader	CAT	1993	\$100,000
Pickup Truck has a life expectancy of	12 years	Backhoe	JCB	2018	\$149,600
Roadside Mower	25 years	Pickup	Ford F150	2021	\$33,836
Riding Lawnmower	12 years	Roadside Mower	John Deere	2016	\$79,300
Walk Behind Mower	10 years	Riding Lawnmower	John Deere	2021	\$6,099
		Walk Behind Mower	John Deere	2017	\$5,450
Interest rate	2.00% percent				

Fiscal Year	Opening Balance	Annual Contribn	Available Cash	Equipment Replaced	Cost (inflation adj)	Trade In/Grant	Net Expend	Interest Earned	Closing Balance
2023	\$308,179	\$50,000	\$358,179	Lawn Mower	\$3,760		\$3,760	\$7,392	\$361,811
2024	\$361,811	\$50,000	\$411,811	Small Truck	\$107,500	\$20,000	\$87,500	\$7,236	\$331,547
2025	\$331,547	\$50,000	\$381,547					\$6,631	\$388,178
2026	\$388,178	\$50,000	\$438,178	Big Truck # 1	\$193,200	\$33,600	\$159,600	\$7,764	\$286,342
2027	\$286,342	\$50,000	\$336,342	Walk Behind Mower	\$6,268	\$500	\$5,768	\$5,727	\$336,301
2028	\$336,301	\$50,000	\$386,301	Grader	\$300,000	\$60,000	\$240,000	\$6,726	\$153,027
2029	\$153,027	\$50,000	\$203,027					\$3,061	\$206,088
2030	\$206,088	\$50,000	\$256,088	Small Truck	\$4,042	\$752	\$3,290	\$4,122	\$256,919
2031	\$256,919	\$50,000	\$306,919					\$5,138	\$312,058
2032	\$312,058	\$50,000	\$362,058	Pickup	\$38,911	\$6,767	\$32,144	\$6,241	\$279,914
				Big Truck #2	\$201,633	\$35,067	\$166,566		\$163,347
2033	\$163,347	\$50,000	\$213,347	Backhoe	\$172,040	\$29,920	\$142,120	\$3,267	\$74,494
2034	\$74,494	\$50,000	\$124,494	Riding Lawnmower	\$7,014	\$500	\$6,514	\$1,490	\$119,470
2035	\$119,470	\$50,000	\$169,470					\$2,389	\$171,860
2036	\$171,860	\$50,000	\$221,860	Walk Behind Mower	\$6,268	\$500	\$5,768	\$3,437	\$219,529
2037	\$219,529	\$50,000	\$269,529	Small Truck	\$4,345	\$808	\$3,537	\$4,391	\$270,383
2038	\$270,383	\$50,000	\$320,383	Big Truck # 1	\$231,878	\$60,000	\$171,878	\$5,408	\$153,913
2039	\$153,913	\$50,000	\$203,913					\$3,078	\$206,991
2040	\$206,991	\$50,000	\$256,991					\$4,140	\$261,131
2041	\$261,131	\$50,000	\$311,131					\$5,223	\$316,354
2042	\$316,354	\$50,000	\$366,354					\$6,327	\$372,681
2043	\$372,681	\$50,000	\$422,681	Backhoe	\$175,000	\$29,920	\$145,080	\$7,454	\$285,054

2020 Mendon and Rutland Town jointly purchased a 2016 John Deere Tractor with Tiger Boom to do roadside mowing. Mendon paid for 1/3 of the purchase price.

# Highway Improvement Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

Town Roads:						
	Last Paved	Cost		Last Paved	Cost	
Townline Road	2013	100,000		Cream Hill	2018	66,387
Brookwood	2014	50,000		Old Turnpike Road	2010	122,521
Eastridge	2014	60,000		Woodward Road	2014	59,000
Pond Road	2014	6,300		Journey's End	2013	56,000
Mountain Road	2014	11,620		Meadowlake Drive	2019	200,296
Garage Pavement	2014	15,500		Sherwood Drive	2022	239,828
Cedar Lane	2018	31,175		Terra Lane	2022	25,000
Park Lane	2018	98,271		Medway	2008	13,000
South Mendon Road	2014	54,000		Falls Road		220,000
Notch Road	2010	119,400		Town Office	2022	13,086

Beginning Balance	Fund Contribution	Interest Earned	Other Income	Planned Projects:				MRGP & Normal Maintenance	Total Cost	Ending Balance
				Road	Road	Road	Road			
2023 1,206,987	110,000	25,773		Sherwood Drive & Terra Lane reclaim and resurface 264,828			Town Office 13,086	-	277,914	1,064,846
2024 1,064,846	100,000	21,297	150,000 (60K paving+175K end of road)	Journeys End 235,000	Falls Road 275,000	Notch Road 339,000		30,000	879,000	457,143
2025 457,143	100,000	9,143		Townline Road 100,000	Medway 28,000			30,000	158,000	408,286
2026 408,286	110,000	8,166		Brookwood 50,000	South Mendon Road 55,000			30,000	135,000	391,451
2027 391,451	110,000	7,829		Woodward Road 60,000	Eastridge 60,000	Pond Road 8,000	Mountain Road 12,000	30,000	170,000	339,281
2028 339,281	110,000	6,786						30,000	30,000	426,066
2029 426,066	110,000	8,521		Cedar Lane 30,000	Cream Hill 80,000	Park Lane 65,000		30,000	205,000	339,587
2030 339,587	110,000	6,792		Meadowlake Drive 125,000	Garage 20,000			30,000	175,000	281,379
2031 281,379	110,000	5,628						30,000	30,000	367,007
2032 367,007	110,000	7,340		Old Turnpike 125,000				30,000	155,000	329,347
2033 329,347	110,000	6,587		Sherwood 125,000	Terra Lane 12,000			30,000	167,000	278,934
2034 278,934	110,000	5,579		Journeys End 60,000				30,000	90,000	304,513
2035 304,513	110,000	6,090		Townline Road 100,000	Notch Road 150,000	Medway 28,000		30,000	308,000	112,603
2036 112,603	110,000	-		Brookwood 50,000	South Mendon Road 55,000			30,000	135,000	87,603
2037 87,603	110,000	-		Woodward Road 60,000	Eastridge 60,000	Pond Road 8,000	Mountain Road 12,000	30,000	170,000	27,603
2038 27,603	110,000	-						30,000	30,000	107,603
2039 107,603	110,000	-		Park Lane 65,000	Cedar Lane 30,000	Cream Hill 80,000		30,000	205,000	12,603
2040 107,603	110,000	-		Meadowlake Drive 125,000				30,000	155,000	62,603
2041 12,603	110,000	-						30,000	30,000	92,603

## Bridge & Culvert Fund

FY 2025

Year	Beginning Balance	Fund Contribution	Interest Earned	Grant Income	Available Balance	Projects	Cost	Ending Balance
2023	\$423,487	\$50,000	\$9,643		\$483,130	culverts 07-20, 07-28, 07-29 culvert upsizing	\$200,000 \$50,000	\$233,130
2024	\$233,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$288,130	culverts bridge maintenance	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$228,130
2025	\$228,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$283,130	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$223,130
2026	\$223,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$278,130	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$218,130
2027	\$218,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$273,130	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$213,130
2028	\$213,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$268,130	culverts bridge maintenance	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$208,130
2029	\$208,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$263,130	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$203,130
2030	\$203,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$258,130	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$198,130
2031	\$198,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$253,130	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$193,130
2032	\$193,130	\$50,000	\$5,000		\$248,130	culverts bridge maintenance	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$188,130
2033	\$188,130	\$50,000	\$4,800		\$242,930	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$182,930
2034	\$182,930	\$50,000	\$4,500		\$237,430	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$177,430
2035	\$177,430	\$50,000	\$4,400		\$231,830	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$171,830
2036	\$171,830	\$50,000	\$4,200		\$226,030	culverts bridge maintenance	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$166,030
2037	\$166,030	\$50,000	\$4,000		\$220,030	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$160,030
2038	\$160,030	\$50,000	\$3,800		\$213,830	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$153,830
2039	\$153,830	\$50,000	\$3,700		\$207,530	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$147,530
2040	\$147,530	\$50,000	\$3,600		\$201,130	culverts bridge maintenance	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$141,130
2041	\$141,130	\$50,000	\$3,500		\$194,630	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$134,630
2042	\$134,630	\$50,000	\$3,400		\$188,030	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$178,030
2043	\$178,030	\$50,000	\$4,400		\$232,430	culverts culvert upsizing	\$10,000 \$50,000	\$172,430

\* A comprehensive capital improvement plan is annually evaluated based on meeting the State of Vermont's Codes and Standards as well as requirements of the Municipal Roads General Permit. Projects receive priority based on the condition of a bridge, culvert and/or roadway as well as if they are located on a hydrologically connected road segment.

# Mendon Public Safety Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

Assumptions:				Facts:			
Vehicle #1 has a life expectancy of	12	years		Vehicle #1: Ford Explorer	2016	\$29,700	
Interest rate	2.0%	percent		Town Office Generator (Grant&ARPA)	2023	\$15,000	
Inflation rate	3.0%	percent		Barstow Generator (total cost \$100K split with Chittenden)		\$50,000	
trade in value	15.0%	percent		AED Heart Defibrillator	2020	\$1,180	

Fiscal Year	Opening Balance	Annual Contribn	Law Fines	Fine Split	Available Cash	Equipment Replaced	Cost (inflation adj)	Trade In	Net Expend	Interest Earned	Barstow Generator	Closing Balance
2023	\$51,879	\$500	\$0	100/0	\$52,379					\$1,298	\$3,000	\$50,677
2024	\$50,677	\$500	\$0	100/0	\$51,177					\$1,300	\$500	\$51,977
2025	\$51,977	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$58,077	Dry Hydrant Replacement	\$18,000		\$18,000	\$1,300	\$500	\$40,877
2026	\$40,877	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$46,977					\$1,000	\$500	\$47,477
2027	\$47,477	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$53,577					\$1,000	\$500	\$54,077
2028	\$54,077	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$60,177					\$1,300	\$500	\$60,977
2029	\$60,977	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$67,077					\$1,400	\$500	\$67,977
2030	\$67,977	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$74,077	Vehicle #1	\$42,174	\$4,455	\$37,719	\$1,500	\$500	\$37,358
2031	\$37,358	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$43,458					\$800	\$500	\$43,758
2032	\$43,758	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$49,858					\$1,000	\$500	\$50,358
2033	\$50,358	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$56,458					\$1,300	\$500	\$57,258
2034	\$57,258	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$63,358					\$1,400	\$500	\$64,258
2035	\$64,258	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$70,358					\$1,500	\$500	\$71,358
2036	\$71,358	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$77,458					\$1,600	\$500	\$78,558
2037	\$78,558	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$84,658					\$1,700	\$500	\$85,858
2038	\$85,858	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$91,958					\$1,800	\$500	\$93,258
2039	\$93,258	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$99,358					\$1,900	\$500	\$100,758
2040	\$100,758	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$106,858					\$2,000	\$500	\$108,358
2041	\$108,358	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$114,458					\$2,100	\$500	\$116,058
2042	\$116,058	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$122,158					\$2,200	\$500	\$123,858
2043	\$116,058	\$500	\$5,600	80/20	\$122,158	Vehicle #1	\$53,757	\$6,326	\$47,431	\$1,373	\$500	\$75,600

**Notes:**

Effective 1/1/17: 100% of fine revenue is deposited in the General Fund and 0% to the Reserve Fund

Effective 7/1/23: 80%/20% split of fine revenue deposited in the General Fund to the Reserve Fund

**Barstow Generator:**

2018-2019	500	
2019-2020	500	
2020-2021	500	The Towns of Mendon is setting aside \$500 per year
2021-2022	500	earmarked for the replacement of the generator at Barstow.
2022-2023	500	
2023-2024	500	
2024-2025	500	
Total	3500	

# 2023 Town Clerk Report

Greetings from the Town Clerk's office. I'd like to start off by thanking all of you for your patience, as we navigate a very different looking town office this year.

While the office is currently open to the public on Tuesday's and Wednesday's from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Jesse and I strive to continue to serve the Town to the best of our abilities.

When we are not in the office, I can be reached at 802-712-4561 and Jesse can be reached at 802-712-4555. We monitor these phones from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Please know that we are working with the Selectboard to re-open the office while maintaining a safe working environment.

The upcoming year will be a busy one, with three elections: Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary on March 5<sup>th</sup>, the State Primary on August 13<sup>th</sup>, and the General Election on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please plan on attending the annual Town Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS) building located at 61 Valley View Drive. Voting will be the following day, Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office. If you'd like, you can also request an early ballot.

Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, we were able to purchase a large format scanner which will enable us to scan maps and surveys into our digitized records program. In addition, land records are now indexed back to 1982. We continue to look for ways to make records as easily accessible to all as possible. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, as to what you'd like to see going forward, please let us know.



Jesse was busy with E911 updates this past year! This included a new road name assignment, Falls Rd (legal Trail 6), which entails correcting current addresses to the new address when a road is named. There were nine new E911 numbers assigned this year due to permits being filed. Each town in Vermont is required to provide updates to the E911 Board. These updates include identifying all building locations and other locations frequented by the public, as well as cooperating in the development and maintenance of necessary databases. These updates are submitted to the E911 Board for any changes to addresses and/or road assignments as they occur.

Once a year each municipality receives an updated map book to review and verify. There were about a dozen fixes this year. It is an ongoing process to make sure the town is following E911 standards.

Finally, I'd like to thank Jesse for her hard work and dedication to the Town. She stepped up and managed the office by herself for almost six weeks while I was out on leave.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Gondella

## Assessor's 2023 Report

The 2021 reappraisal is now complete, all reappraisal values have been finalized. The State of Vermont has authorized a study to look into a statewide requirement for towns to do reappraisals every six years. At this time it is not clear when the clock will start for Mendon.

It is very possible that the State will require Mendon to do a statistical reappraisal in the next few years. This will not require property inspections. It may involve updating values on specific types of properties such as condos.

Assessment data can be found at <https://www.axisgis.com/mendonvt/>

My email is [vtassessor@gmail.com](mailto:vtassessor@gmail.com) My Waitsfield Vermont office phone is 802-496-9689. If you want to schedule a telephone call from me (instead of playing telephone tag) you can use <https://VermontAssessor.as.me/Telephone> and I will call you at the scheduled time.

If you are a Vermont resident and you own your residence, you are required by the State to file a Homestead Declaration. The State has a website <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

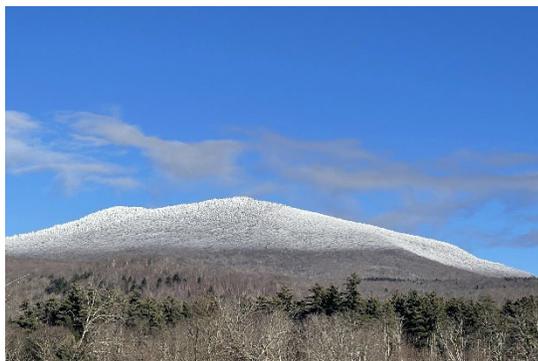
That can get you started. Please note that this is not an optional filing. If you meet the requirements, you must file. Also note that there is no extension for filing this declaration. If you get an extension to file your Vermont taxes the extension does not apply to the Homestead declaration.

Sincerely,  
Spencer B. Potter, Assessor

## Cemetery Report

Val Taylor, Bill Ellis, and Dennis Charles are the Cemetery Commission. The Cemetery Commission manages the maintenance of the town cemeteries and plans for future projects or any needed projects down the road. Clean up of the cemeteries was a priority this year. I would like to acknowledge Bruce Peacock for his work in the Parker Cemetery. Bruce has cleaned several stones and has replaced fallen monuments and pieced together stones. The town now has a map of the location of the cemeteries created by the Mendon Historical Society after they created a metal sign for each cemetery in Mendon with its name on it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Val Taylor



Blue Ridge Mountain  
taken from Bridge's  
field.

# Delinquent Tax Collector Report

Turned over for collection on March 25, 2023 were 91 delinquent taxes some for multiple years totaling \$172,084.86.

On January 15, 2024 there is one delinquent tax totaling \$1411.83.

Paige Gowan,, Donald Greer Jr., Christopher Gowan, and Victoria Sicillian \$1411.83

No tax sales were held this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Merrill, Delinquent Tax Collector

## 2023 Dog License Report

Neutered males or spayed females		\$1,430
Males not neutered		105
Females not spayed		86
Late fees		<u>112</u>
	Total	\$1,733
State of Vermont Rabies Control		715
Total to General Fund		1,018

Please register your dog on or before **April 1, 2024** to avoid a late charge. The fee to register Spayed or Neutered dogs is \$11.00, while the fee for unaltered dogs is \$15.00. The State of Vermont requires a current rabies vaccination certificate to be on file at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Failure to register your dog is a VIOLATION of the Mendon Animal Control Ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk



(L) Town residents  
Lucy and Casimir  
greeting each  
other.  
  
(R) Maisie  
standing by her  
road.



# Emergency Management Director & Constable Report

2023 was a tragic year in Mendon with multiple fatal accidents occurring. US Route 4, a federal highway, continues to make the list of being one of the most dangerous roads in the county. We saw an increased presence from the Vermont State Police, Rutland County Sheriff's Department, and various other law enforcement agencies participating in the Highway Safety Program. Unfortunately, enforcement alone is not solving the issue. Everyone is reminded to obey posted speed limits and wear their seatbelts.

We maintain our contract with the Rutland County Sheriff's Department for 32 hours per week. Staffing for all Vermont law enforcement continues to be a challenge across the state. There have been many faces in Mendon due to this. During the year of 2023, the Deputy Sheriffs wrote 429 Tickets, issued 357 Warnings, responded to 152 calls for service and had 23 criminal arrests. We worked with the Sheriff's department to ensure a variety of coverage times through varied shift hours. There has also been an increase in residential area patrols. Increased time in residential areas is a known deterrent to criminal activity. Mendon continues to be pro-active and takes pride in the safety of its community and roadways.

Mendon continues to update their Local Emergency Management Plan yearly and work with other towns to maintain Mutual Aid agreements to help others when we're fortunate and to also receive assistance when we're not. Mendon was awarded a grant to enhance our Emergency Operations Center capabilities and have successfully installed a generator for that purpose.

As a reminder, residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Town Ordinances which can all be found on the Town website. Burn permits can be applied for from the Mendon Fire Warden. Fireworks permits can be applied for from the Fire Warden or Constable. These permits are crucial as the Town coordinates activities with the Rutland City Fire Department. Properly filed and followed permits, helps eliminate unnecessary responses from the Fire Department. Per the ordinances, responses due to lack of the proper permit can be charged to the owner via a municipal ticket to recover the charge to the Town. Valid fire calls are not charged. As always, please test in-home smoke/CO detectors and make sure to replace the batteries. There was an increase in false alarm responses this year, violations are being issued per the ordinance, so the town doesn't have to bear the financial impact of faulty systems. Out of the 51 responses the fire department made to Mendon last year, 12 of those were for false alarms.

Mendon continues to be involved with the Barstow school, both in the way of working with Chittenden to ensure a proper emergency shelter is available to the residents of both towns and has also been working with the school to ensure a safe environment for the children. I am happy to announce that there have been security upgrades completed at the school.

As always, a huge thank you to the dedicated town employees who keep everything running smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

Lema Carter

Emergency Management Director/ Constable

# Record of Vital Statistics – Mendon, VT 2023

## Births

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Parents Names</u>
Ryley Hunter Keating	M	Jan. 12	Rutland	Ashley Marie Smith Ryan Victor Keating
Mordecai Anthony-Jameson Patch	M	Jul. 16	Rutland	Stephanie Lynn St. Lawrence Zachary Michael-John Patch
Rory Ann Drexler	F	Aug. 26	Randolph	Carli Marie Drexler Brendan Joseph Drexler
Kevin Michael McAuliffe	M	Sep. 11	Burlington	Alison Shappy McAuliffe Timothy Joseph McAuliffe

## Deaths

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>
Judith Ann Dark	81	Feb. 08	Mendon
Corena May Van Liew	90	Feb. 15	Mendon
Jody Irene Wilcox	74	Feb. 26	Rutland
Gregory Stephen Hilz	67	Mar. 15	Mendon
Helvi Abatiell Furlan	52	Mar. 19	Rutland
Billy W. Godair	67	Mar. 20	Rutland
Michael G. Aponowich	76	Apr. 12	Rutland
Glenda Silber	80	Apr. 24	Rutland
Charles Ernest French	82	Jul. 24	Mendon
Jean Mary Panoushek	74	Jul. 24	Mendon
John Alfred Panoushek	79	Jul. 24	Mendon
Stephen P. Marcoulier	62	Aug. 11	Mendon
Rheba Haley	93	Aug. 19	Rutland Town
Albert Trinci	86	Nov. 06	Rutland
Betty Viola Bailey	99	Nov. 16	Mendon
Theodore G. Corsones	94	Dec. 05	Rutland
Laurie Ann Elwell	63	Dec. 13	Mendon
Harriet Phillips	80	Dec. 23	Rutland

## Marriages

<u>Party A</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Party B</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kristen Ann Peacock	MA	Michael Bernard Moran	MA	Apr. 15
Amanda Marie Joncas	NH	Ryan Michael Kobrenski	MA	May 13
Karen Lynn Browning	FL	Richard Lee McAndrew, Jr.	FL	May 17
Emma Marie Hartswick	MA	Daniel Joseph Finch	MA	Jun. 03
Asia Christianne Vaganek	NJ	John Vizcaya	NJ	Sep. 30
Kelsey Margaret McGinnis	VT	Benjamin Jacob Layden	VT	Oct. 07

## Mendon Planning Commission

The Mendon Planning Commission includes members Justin Lindholm, Fred Bagley, Dick Howe, Elizabeth Swett and Teri Corsones. We would like to acknowledge and thank Phil Douglas for his many years of service on the Mendon Planning Commission. Phil's contributions have been invaluable, and he will be sorely missed!

The Planning Commission has jurisdiction over subdivision permit applications and applications for building development for other than one or two-family residences. It meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m. at the Mendon Town Offices. If a monthly meeting falls on a state or federal holiday, the meeting for that month is typically held on the next ensuing Monday.

The Mendon Planning Commission recently applied for and was awarded a Municipal Planning Grant in order to update the Mendon Zoning Regulations. We will be working with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission towards that end. We welcome your input in the zoning update process. Please contact the Mendon Planning Commission regarding any questions or suggestions you have otherwise about the planning process, or if we can be of assistance to you. Lastly, please contact the Town Office if you are interested in serving on the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teri Corsones

## Zoning Board of Adjustment Report

Mike Curran retired from the ZBA in September after serving for 21 years. Mike worked through two changes of the Zoning Ordinance and demonstrated strong knowledge of the regulations with his work on the ZBA. We want to thank him for his dedicated service to the Town. Susannah Loffredo was appointed last fall and has experience with the Zoning Ordinance. Another position remains vacant, but we look forward to a volunteer being appointed soon.

The ZBA dealt with two matters last year:

Cooper Application for Conditional Use Permit- The Applicant , David H Cooper, sought a conditional Use Permit to construct a house on Notch Road in the Wheelerville Zone. After a hearing on October 4, 2023 the permit was granted. The ZBA's decision was issued on November 2,2023.

Appeals of Gates' Zoning Permit -Four neighbors filed appeals of a Zoning Permit issued to Brian and Carol Gates for construction of an accessory building (for a garage and storage, on their property at 166 Terra Lane (in the Residential 2 Zone). The hearing on the Appeals began on October 4, 2023 and was continued through November 15. The ZBA, denied three of the appeals, the other appeal had been withdrawn on October 4, 2023. The ZBA's decision was issued on December 6, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Kennelly

# Zoning Administrator Report

It was a transitional year for the Zoning Department as Fred Bagley (interim Zoning Administrator) was replaced by Steve Ellerin in April, who is now the fourth person to have this position in the last two years.

One of the primary objectives of the ZA for the new year is to work closely with the Planning Commission to re-write our current zoning regulations which were last revised in 2010. The Town received a Municipal Planning Grant through the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to assist with modernizing the many out of date and ambiguous regulations that exist currently. Some of the challenges we are faced with are the ever-increasing short-term rentals (aka Airbnb), minimum sizes for habitable housing (aka “Tiny Houses”), clearer definitions for agriculture use and marijuana cultivation, clearer definition of what constitutes business use of a residential property and addressing many other regulations that have become somewhat antiquated in the last 13-plus years. We would gratefully accept any suggestions or opinions from residents regarding this as we work through the rewrite.



Fred Bagley filled in as Zoning Administrator until a permanent replacement could be appointed.

The Zoning Office can be reached by email at [mendonzoningadmin@comcast.net](mailto:mendonzoningadmin@comcast.net) or by voice mail at (802) 775-1662 extension #4. Please be advised email is the preferred way to initiate contact as voicemail is not regularly checked. All emails will be returned within 2 business days of receipt.

There were 25 permits issued in 2023, itemized as follows:

Single Family Home	6
Solar Array	1
Accessory Structure	5
Addition	2
Withdrawn Application	1
Demolition/Clean Up	1
Certificate of Occupancy	9

There was one Zoning Board of Adjustment Hearing regarding (1) conditional use and (1) appealed zoning permit. Additionally, (2) zoning violations were issued.

It is the Zoning Administrator’s goal to continue increased responsiveness and to better address Resident’s concerns as the department moves forward into 2024.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Steve Ellerin  
Mendon Town Zoning Administrator

# Mendon Recreation Report

The Mendon Recreation Area was well used in 2023 for a variety of activities. Since adding the basketball court in 2020, we've seen a steady increase in the use of the court by people of all ages. The Rutland County Little League used the ball field once again for many games and practices, and walking trails are used year-round for hiking and snowshoeing.

Through the generous grants from the AARP, we also added 2 new handicap accessible picnic tables to the property this year. These tables are ready to stand the test of time, with composite construction and a heavy base.

Sadly, our play structure reached its end of life in the spring of 2023 and was decommissioned for safety reasons. Knowing this day was coming, we had already started down the path of identifying a new structure. We're scheduled to install a new playset which is bigger, better, and longer lasting than the last this spring, 2024. With this, however, we need your help! The Rec Committee has been working to raise funds to make this a reality, and we're nearly there. We're accepting donations of all sizes at the town office. Roughly 90% of the cost has been covered via ARPA funding, and we're looking for private donations to cover the rest.



If you're interested in donating, please send it to the town offices. If you're looking for more information on the project, feel free to email Rec Committee member, Liam Fracht-Monroe at [liamfmvt@gmail.com](mailto:liamfmvt@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
The Mendon Recreation Committee



# Road Commissioner Report

The State of Vermont experienced historic flooding in July 2023. Multiple waves of heavy rains and high winds swept through causing flooding and road washouts throughout most of Vermont. Mendon came through these storms without significant damage. Mendon offered help to neighboring communities through the Rutland County Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement, but our services were not called upon. FEMA was dispatched to many counties throughout the state. August brought another round of heavy rains. This storm caused significant flood damage to Wheelerville Road from Bridge 15 at the intersection of the Falls Road to the Notch Road, Falls Road and Notch Road experience multiple washouts of culverts and ditches. Damage was estimated at over \$160,000. Unfortunately, Rutland County did not reach the necessary thresholds to qualify for any FEMA assistance.

In accordance with the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP), the Town continues to update road segment and culvert inventories to plan for future projects. The Town is not in compliance with the MRGP. The Town is required to keep all segments that meet compliance up to standards. The flooding in August affected multiple road segments that no longer meet standards. In addition, the next deadline to upgrade all categorized high priority segments must be completed by the end of 2025. The Grants in Aid funding for FY23 & FY24 will contribute \$22,500 to accomplishing this work. The remaining cost will be paid with municipal highway funds.

The Town did not perform paving in 2023 and the Journeys End project of reconstructing the end of the road and paving was delayed until 2024.

## **Mailboxes Missing?**

The Town of Mendon Highway Protection and Specifications Ordinance, "Section 9: Mailboxes, the Town of Mendon is not responsible for mailboxes in the rights-of-way damaged by snowplows or other municipal equipment." The Mendon Highway Department is careful not to damage structures in the town's right of way, however there are times unintentional damage does occur to mailboxes and other structures. It is the ordinance of the town not to replace these structures.

## **Snow in the Right-Of-Way**

The Mendon Selectboard would like to remind residents that pushing excess snow from private walks and driveways onto the roadside is prohibited by Vermont law. It is also illegal to plow snow across a town road. The excess snow in the roadway may obstruct traffic or create safety hazards for drivers. Please remember when removing snow that under 19 VSA §1105, violators can be held personally liable for any damage caused and are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000. Please help keep our roads safe and clear. We thank you for your cooperation.

## **Residential Sand Shed Policy**

In February 2019, the Selectboard adopted a Residential Sand Shed Policy. The Town of Mendon makes sand available to Mendon residents to help with icy sidewalks and driveways. The Residential Sand Shed is located outside the Town Garage gate on Park Lane for 24/7 access. You may fill, by shovel, up to **three** 5-gallon pails with sand in anticipation of or response to a storm event or weather pattern that creates icy and slippery conditions. The complete policy is posted on the Residential Sand Shed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Newt Jones retired in September 2023. He has been a dedicated employee and I wish him luck in his retirement. This is my last Road Commissioner report as I will be retiring as well. I would like to thank the community for their support over the years. It has been a pleasure serving you. I would also like to thank all the town staff in the office and my fellow members of the Road Crew. I am leaving the work in the capable hands of Chris Baird, the new Road Commissioner, and Thane Beattie. I have offered to assist in training and sharing information about our roads and equipment in the Spring.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Ellis  
Road Commissioner



Road Commissioner Bill Ellis turning over the keys to new Road Commissioner Chris Baird.

Kurt Hathaway was hired as a Road Foreman this winter to assist the Road Crew in winter operations while new employees underwent training. Thane Beattie was hired as a full-time employee and Chris Baird as the new Road Commissioner. Welcome to Mendon!



Longstanding Mendon Road  
Crew  
Newt Jones  
Bill Ellis  
Dan Hendee

## 2024-2025 Appropriation Requests

TOTAL \$10,342

### ARC Rutland Area Serving Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

128 Merchants Row, Suite 401, Rutland, VT 05701 [www.ARCRutlandArea.org](http://www.ARCRutlandArea.org) 802-775-1370

ARC requests \$1,500 to support community inclusion and social opportunity for local citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities. This mission is supported by two internal local clubs, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered and Aktion Club, by holding social events including five themed dances; the Great Outdoor Initiative, Representative Payee Services for those who cannot manage their own funds; attending state and local meetings to keep informed of issues that affect the population we serve. With a generous grant from the Marble Valley Regional Transportation, ARC is able to provide transportation for our members to attend events educational and recreational activities.

### Marble Valley Regional Transportation District “The Bus”

158 Spruce St., Rutland, VT 05701 [www.thebus.com](http://www.thebus.com) 802-773-3244

Marble Valley Regional Transportation District “The Bus” requests \$1,200 to provide safe, reliable, accessible and coordinated public transit service to enhance economic, social and environmental quality of life throughout Rutland County and surrounding communities. The Bus has been providing transportation for over 45 years.

### RSVP & The Volunteer Center

6 Court St., Rutland, VT 05701 [www.volunteersinvt.org](http://www.volunteersinvt.org) 802-775-8220

Retired Senior Volunteer Program requests \$700 to provide a volunteer management program for people of all ages who want to meet community needs through volunteer service.

In fiscal year 2023 Mendon residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as free income tax return preparation and our free osteoporosis prevention classes. Currently in Mendon RSVP volunteers donated their services to the following non-profit organizations: AARP Tax Program, Bridges & Beyond, RSVP Operation Dolls and More, Community Cupboard and RSVP Bone Builders.

### Rutland Area Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice

7 Albert Cree Dr., Rutland, VT 05701 [www.vermontvisitingnurses.org](http://www.vermontvisitingnurses.org) 802-775-0568

The Rutland Area Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice requests \$2,600 to provide Rutland County residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. RAVNAH’s mission is to provide medically necessary healthcare wherever it is needed, regardless of a client’s ability to pay, location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

### Rutland Mental Health Services

78 South Main St., Rutland, VT 05701 [www.rmhsccn.org](http://www.rmhsccn.org) 802-775-2381

Rutland Mental Health Services requests \$1,242 to provide individual counseling for children, adults and families, substance abuse treatment services, emergency/crisis services, and developmental disability services. Rutland Mental Health Services and is committed to providing quality services regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

During fiscal year 2023, Rutland Mental Health Services provided 305 hours of service to 35 Mendon residents.

### Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

143 Maple St., Rutland, VT 05701 [www.svcoa.org](http://www.svcoa.org) 802-786-5990

The Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging requests \$600. This funding will be used to help support the work they do on behalf of Mendon residents. The services provided are: Nutrition Support, Case Management Assistance, and a variety of other services.

In 2023, the Council helped provide 1,374 meals that were delivered to the homes of 9 elders in your community (Meals on Wheels). In addition, 18 Mendon elders came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 238 meals were provided. Additionally, SVCOA provided 13.25 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 8 residents of Mendon. SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 4 older residents in your community for a total of 64.25 hours. Other Services and Support include "Senior Helpline" assistance, Medicare and health benefit counseling, Legal service assistance, information about elder issues and opportunities, Senior Companion support for frail, homebound elders; Outreach services to older Vermonters dealing with mental health issues, Transportation assistance, Caregiver support, and Money Management programs.

### Wonderfeet Kids' Museum

PO Box 6243 Rutland, VT 05702 [www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org](http://www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org) 802-282-2678

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is a gem in the heart of Downtown Rutland. Wonderfeet serves families in our community, and lives by its mission to foster curiosity and exploration, inspire creativity and ignite the imagination of every child through the power of play.

2023 has been a record setting year for Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Not only did we open our new location on Merchants Row, Rutland in the Green Mountain Power Energy Innovation Center, but we have had the opportunity to serve more children and families than ever before! Over 20,000 visits, almost 400 member families, over 150 families receiving access memberships based on economic need, over 800 students attending programs and field trips seven weeks of specialized preschool day camps and 1000 attendees at our free postpartum play group and support group.



### MENDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023

The Mendon Historical Society had three meetings last year, May, September and December.

The historical society is pleased to have installed signs in all seven of the Mendon cemeteries. Jennifer and Fred Bagley placed the signs and Jennifer has updated the burials in each cemetery and has added the names to the list in the town office. There is also a history of the cemeteries and a map available at the office.

The Vermont Historical Society has a list of historical blurbs on their website of each town. You can read the section about the cemeteries in Mendon at [vermonthistory.org>history-in-the-252](http://vermonthistory.org/history-in-the-252).

Thank you to all our members for their support, please contact any of us for information or to be added to our email list.

The Mendon Historical Society is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization "with the intent to educate and preserve Mendon's history for the future".

Shelly Scott Susina, President

Jennifer Bagley, Secretary

Fred Bagley, Vice President

Richard Kaufman, Treasurer



# Otter Creek communications union district

## **2023 Annual Summary and Proposed Budget**

In 2023, Otter Creek Communications Union District (OCCUD) continued its mission to revolutionize broadband accessibility in the Rutland County region. The year began with the appointment of a new Project Manager from Vantage Point Solutions, a seasoned engineering and consulting firm, marking a crucial step in the development of OCCUD's broadband infrastructure. Collaboration with the proposed partner-provider progressed as they refined the design and cost projections for the extensive fiber broadband network.

Financial stability was a significant achievement for OCCUD in 2023. An updated budget of \$1,314,650 was approved by the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), ensuring operational sustainability through 2026. This funding was an extension of the initial \$441,000 received from Vermont's Act 71 PreConstruction Grant.

A pivotal moment arrived with the successful construction grant application presentation to the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB). OCCUD secured a substantial grant of \$9,952,273, covering 4,135 passings, including 2,316 locations previously underserved.

The year will culminate in the formalization of a partnership contract with Consolidated Communications (CCI). This partnership, with a total project value of \$14,655,482, includes a significant contribution of \$4,343,210 from CCI. Construction is slated to commence in 2024, with completion anticipated by the end of 2025.

Financially, OCCUD effectively managed its resources, drawing from the initial \$441,000 Act 71 PreConstruction Grant award to cover operational expenses, as funds from the H315 CUD Capacity Building Grant Program expired in April of 2023. These achievements in 2023 underscore OCCUD's commitment to closing the digital divide and bolstering the region's digital infrastructure, promising a brighter future for their communities.

## **Proposed 2024 Budget Overview**

To support the OCCUD with its goals and strategy over the next 12 months, it has and will need to retain the expertise and services such as:

### Staff Salary & Benefits

- Executive Director: Manage and advise OCCUD in its relations with partner-provider, and contractors such as the construction engineer. Assist and manage communication with VCBB. Provide communications and responses to all public inquiries (CUD town residents, state representatives, press, etc.), manage alignment with VCBB policies and contractual agreement with our partner-provider. Provide leadership in terms of the CUD's public outreach and messaging. Seek funding including the potential BEAD funds for the completion of the Otter Creek CUD fiber build-out. Develop funding resources and management structure for the Otter Creek CUD to continue its mission beyond the end of the fiber network construction. OCCUD looks to share this position with Lamoille Fiber CUD with OCCUD's portion being around \$105,000 for 2024.

### Project Management

- Contract with Vantage Point Solutions to actively manage project-level activities, collaborate with partners, manage existing and future grants and file all required reporting, and other duties as assigned. VPS fee is \$240/hr and expects around 10 hours a week resulting in \$125,000 for 2024.

### Construction Services

- Construction Engineer: Assist and oversee the work of our proposed partner, ensuring accuracy and efficiency in all aspects of the network build-out and adherence to safety standards by line crew in the field. Additional scope to be clarified by the Executive Director. OCCUD expects this position to be \$125,000 for services in 2024.

### Legal Services

- Legal services may include, but are not limited to, contract review, drafting, and compliance work to manage risk and ensure operations are carried out lawfully. OCCUD has budgeted \$21,500 in legal services for 2024.

### Audit

- Conduct an audit to ensure OCCUD's accuracy and adherence to accounting and grant standards and regulations. OCCUD has budgeted \$7,700 in services for 2024, for a 2023 audit.

### Make Ready & Pole Application/Engineering Design

- Assist potential partner in:

- Make Ready Work: Preparing utility poles for the new fiber installation
- Pole Application: Applying for and obtaining the necessary permits and approvals to install, replace, or modify utility poles as part of the fiber installation.
- Engineering Design: Designing network which can include routing, equipment use, planning for potential obstacles or challenges, and ensuring that the design meets all relevant regulations and standards.
- OCCUD plans to put \$360,000 towards Make Ready and Pole Application/Engineering Design.

#### Accounting Services

- Contracted with Seward & Associates, PLC to pay all invoices and future payroll. Also aids in assisting Project Manager with providing financials for reports. OCCUD has an accountant contracted for a monthly fee of \$695/month. With an anticipated increase for 2024, OCCUD has budgeted \$8,000 for 2024.

#### Association Fees/Membership

- VCUDA & Fiber Broadband Association. OCCUD has budgeted \$10,285 for 2024.

#### Events & Conferences

- Training and broadband conferences for CUD members and employees to grow public awareness and knowledge. OCCUD has budgeted \$4,250 for 2024.

#### Contingency

- 2% of the budget set aside as a reserve of funds set aside to cover unexpected costs or financial risk that might arise during the course of the project. OCCUD has budgeted \$12,400 for 2024.

Funding will additionally be needed expenses such as Google LLC, banking fees, insurance, marketing/community engagement, website, and advertising.

**Proposed Expenses for 2024**

Staff Salary & Benefits (Executive Director, shared )	\$135/hr @ 15 hr/wk	\$105,000.00
Project Management	\$240/hr @ 10 hr/wk	\$125,000.00
Construction Services	\$120/hr @20 hr/wk	\$125,000.00
Legal Services	Est. \$21,500	\$21,500.00
Audit	Est. \$7,700	\$7,700.00
Make Ready & Pole Application/Engineering Design	\$360,000	\$360,000.00
Accounting Services	\$695/mo	\$8,340.00
Association Fees/Membership – (VCUDA & local Membership)	\$10,600/yr	\$10,600.00
Events & Conferences	\$4,250/yr	\$4,250.00
Contingency	2% of overall budget	\$12,400.00
Google LLC	\$30/mo	\$360.00
Bank	\$3/mo	\$36.00
Insurance	\$600/yr	\$600.00
Marketing - Community Engagement	\$100/mo	\$1,200.00
Website	\$200/mo	\$3,630.00
		\$785,616.00

# RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

Rutland Free Library was a busy place in Fiscal Year 2023, with an increase in circulation of almost 11 percent from the previous year. Library users checked out 125,000 items this year, including print books and magazines, audio books on CD, DVDs, downloadable audio and e-books, and streaming video and music. We had 462 Mendon card holders, up 4% from the previous fiscal year.

Demand for online borrowing continues to blossom, increasing to 22,000 items from less than 9,000 in just five years, with double-digit growth each year. This is made possible because of the generosity of Nella Grimm Fox, whose bequest pays for all our materials. Most libraries are struggling to meet the demand for e-books and audiobooks, where publishers impose penalties on library purchases far exceeding the list price, and arbitrarily withdraw titles from our collections. Without the Fox Fund, which is restricted to spending on materials and programs, Rutland Free would also be in dire straits.

Also taking advantage of the Fox Fund, the library has greatly increased its programming, especially children's programs. In addition to a full schedule of events in the building, children's librarian Amanda Münch had over 120 attendees at Mendon Mountain Orchard for story time as well as a visits to Hathaway Farms, Friday Night Lives, and events at parks and schools around the area.

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Roger Pike, we are digitizing our local genealogy collection, which should be available online by the time this report is published. The largest part of that collection is hand-written family trees done by local genealogist Marvel Swan some decades ago.

The library also received welcome news on the building front. The state Department of Libraries announced \$16.2 million to be available in competitive grants for capital improvements statewide. Although the deadline has been pushed back, Rutland Free is applying and hopes to receive a substantial grant to enable a long-overdue renovation of the city-owned building at 10 Court St.

We continue to partner with a wide variety of organizations, including The Mint, Chaffee Art Center, Wonderfeet Kids Museum, Rutland County Parent Child Center, Partners for Prevention, Rutland City Public Schools, Rutland Homeless Prevention Center, VINS, Rutland South Rotary, Rutland Garden Club, Vermont Humanities, and a huge number of volunteers.

Of particular note is the hard work done by The Friends of Rutland Free Library, whose ongoing book sales generated over \$20,000 in direct support to the library last year, and to Dolly Parton Imagination Library, whose Rutland Free Library chapter mails books free of charge to children from birth until their fifth birthday.

Randal Smathers, *Director*

## **Board of Trustees 2023**

Barry Cohen – President / Treasurer (Tinmouth)  
Sharon Courcelle – VP/Immediate Past President (Rutland City)  
Clare Coppock – Secretary (Rutland City)  
William Notte (Rutland City /mayoral appt.)  
Jennifer Bagley (Mendon)  
Joe Bertelloni (Rutland Town)  
Candice Britt (Rutland City)

Matt Britt (Rutland City)  
Allyn Kahle (Ira)  
Sarah Marcus (Rutland City)  
Matt Olewnik (Rutland City)  
John Skinner (Rutland City)  
Ken Watson – (Rutland Town)



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

As we reflect on the past year, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) extends its deepest gratitude to the towns within our region for their unwavering support and collaborative efforts in advancing community and economic development, thoughtful planning, and sustainable growth.

## **Community and Economic Development**

In the pursuit of fostering vibrant communities, we are actively engaged in community and economic development initiatives, such as Brownfields Redevelopment. Through strategic partnerships and public investment, we've worked to transform underutilized areas, like Pittsford Village Farm, into valuable community assets.

## **Town Planning and Zoning**

By providing guidance and support to towns modernizing and updating their municipal plans and zoning regulations, we aim to create balanced, sustainable, and resilient communities that meet the needs of residents and businesses.

## **Water Quality and Natural Resources**

Preserving our region's water quality and natural resources is a shared responsibility. Through collaborative efforts with local governments and organizations, our work as the South Lake Champlain Clean Water Service Provider identifies and develops projects that safeguard our water sources and protect the richness of our natural landscapes.

## **Emergency Preparedness and Climate Resilience**

The RRPC led the charge responding and recovering from this summer's historic flooding. Beyond enhancing planning processes, we are committed to training local Emergency Management Directors (EMDs), ensuring swift and effective emergency responses, and building resilient communities equipped to navigate evolving climate dynamics.

## **Multimodal Transportation**

Efficient and sustainable transportation is vital for the well-being of our communities. The RRPC has worked towards developing multimodal transportation solutions, such as an analysis of the Rutland City Bus System, that prioritize accessibility and safety.

## **Energy Conservation and Efficiency**

Addressing the importance of energy conservation and efficiency, the RRPC has supported initiatives aimed at reducing energy consumption and promoting the use of renewable energy sources. We are working with towns across the region to implement the Municipal Energy Resilience Program, aimed at saving energy and money for our critical town-owned buildings.

## **Affordable Housing**

Recognizing the need for diverse and affordable housing options, the RRPC has actively supported initiatives to address housing challenges. We worked closely with Vermont Finance Housing Agency (VHFA) to complete the 2023 Rutland Region Housing Needs Assessment and created a new planning program to help towns navigate housing challenges and opportunities.

## **Equity**

Promoting equity is at the core of our planning efforts. We are dedicated to ensuring that our planning processes consider the needs and perspectives of all residents, fostering inclusive and equitable communities.

## **Regional Planning**

We are thrilled to initiate a three-year process to update the 2018 Regional Plan, aiming to make it a true reflection of local priorities. We encourage active participation from residents, businesses, and organizations in meetings, workshops, and surveys to ensure diverse perspectives shape the updated plan. Your insights are invaluable in creating a blueprint for sustainable development, economic growth, and community enhancement. Stay tuned for upcoming engagement opportunities!

In closing, we want to thank all of the dedicated local volunteers and civil servants for their commitment to our region. Active participation in the local planning process ensures that diverse perspectives contribute to our shared vision. All are invited to join in helping shape our future as we look forward to another year of progress, innovation, and shared success.

Devon Neary, Executive Director

## Rutland County Solid Waste District | Annual Report - Calendar Year 2023

The Rutland County Solid Waste District offers a variety of solid waste, recycling, waste education, household hazardous waste, composting and administrative support programs for our eighteen member municipalities, residents, and businesses. Some services are also available to non-district communities on a fee for service basis. In addition, the District operates a regional drop-off center and transfer station at 14 Gleason Road in Rutland City. District program, facility and rate and program information and obtaining your required annual permit on our web site, [www.rcswd.com](http://www.rcswd.com).

This year, The District has had many new challenges amid COVID-19. Being deemed essential by Governor Scott we remained on the job in full force. Each of our employees raised for the occasion in implementing the guidelines from the CDC, VOSHA, and VBOH. The District also has developed many efficiencies. A new annual permit can be obtained from the convenience of your home or business via [www.rcswd.com/permits](http://www.rcswd.com/permits) in about 5 minutes. Debit and credit cards are accepted as an added means of payment accepted at our facilities. A small convenience fee will be charged.

The RCSWD did complete the Districts Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) for the 2020-2025. The State requires that all communities have a current SWIP in place that meets the requirements of the State's Material Management Plan and delineates how solid and hazardous waste will be managed in the District towns for a five-year period. Milestones will need to be reported back as required. The community's involvement in drafting and developing this document was encouraged.

The District has worked and will continue to engage local businesses informing them about recycling composting, hazardous waste and the programs that we offer. The District will also be working with local schools on many of these same issues. To this end, RCSWD was awarded a USDA, rural development grant this year. This assisted the District in providing an expanded outreach program to 12 member towns with fewer residents. This included reaching out to every household in these towns. It included working with town Boards, employees, residents. This included seeking what each town needs to reduce reliance on landfills through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs. Pre and post surveys will assist in measuring these efforts.

Our website has been updated! This is your virtual Solid Waste Administration Office. Appointments, permits, events, and so much information and detail at your fingertips 24 -hours a day. To keep up to date do ensure you subscribe to our newsletter, and to your choice e-mail events alerts. Please see our 2023 Annual Report Book which covers greater detail and all our programs to include but not limited to:

Waste Disposal: During 2023, residents and businesses in our member municipalities disposed of approximately 36,931 tons of municipal solid waste which includes the construction and demolition activity along with a significant amount of bulky waste.

Recycling: The District owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), recycling center in Rutland City that is leased to Casella Waste Management for their operations. The MRF accepts Zero Sort recycling from transfer stations, commercial haulers and large generators for processing and sale for re-use. The facility currently receives approximately 36,931 tons of recyclables a year from a large geographical area. Since we began tracking material in 2013 the facility has processed over 259,843.27 tons of recyclables.

Household Hazardous Waste: Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents and small business generators. The program operates year-round from the Gleason Road facility by appointment. An additional 32 events are scheduled collections at twelve town transfer stations within eighteen member towns through the spring, summer, and fall. The HHW program collects and safely disposes of dozens of hazardous, flammable, and toxic materials. The RCSWD HHW also collects electronic waste and has collected over 45.95 tons of material.

Other Programs: The District also offered waste management education, and reduction programs, construction, demolition waste, clean wood, and composting. The District is continuing with its "Merry Mulch" program in collecting and processing over 1,200 Christmas trees annually. The District also has been working local organizations including the Rutland Master Gardener's Club, 350 Rutland County, the Rutland Dismas House, Rutland Neighborhood Program, and Vermont Southwestern Council on Aging, Rutland Hospital and Women's Network & Shelter and the Rutland County Humane Society and our valued haulers.

Mark S. Shea, District Manager

**RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION**  
**ANNUAL BOARD REPORT**  
January 2024

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) Board has been dealing with the ESSER Cliff that I mentioned to you last year. This means that all of the COVID monies we had received from the Federal Government have been depleted. The Administration has made some very hard decisions about what positions to keep within our budget that benefits our children the most. We decided that it made sense to keep the following previously ESSER funded positions in the current budget: a communications coordinator, elementary special education coordinator, a school psychologist, a mental health coordinator, and an out of district LEA. The Board made the decision this year to increase the number of Pre-K lottery slots from 5 to 10. This will allow additional families who cannot access our Pre-K programs to use state funds to attend a Pre-K program outside of our district. We are faced with a 16.4% increase in health care costs for our staff that is negotiated at the state level and is out of our control. Therefore, our budget reflects an 11.85% increase in spending. We have made no significant changes in programming.

We are currently hiring for bus drivers and paraprofessionals, so if you or someone you know are looking for a rewarding position, check us out!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rebecca Watters for her tireless work on behalf of the RNESU Board, as she is not seeking re-election. It is with a mixture of sadness and pride that we say goodbye to our Special Education Director, Marsha Bruce, who is retiring after many years of selfless dedication to our students.

Thank you for your support of our schools, staff and students! We are committed to the education of all of our students. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member or use the Reach Out! button on any school website.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Laurie Bertrand**  
RNESU Board Chair





**Kristin Hubert, EdD**  
Superintendent of Schools  
khubert@rnesu.org

Dear Residents of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, & Whiting:

I am pleased to write this report to capture RNEU, Otter Valley Unified Union and Barstow Unified Union activities for 2022-2023. Although each town and school within our system is unique, we are committed to supporting OVUU and BUU working together toward achieving RNEU's vision and mission of educating every child in our eight towns. This report summarizes the talent and dedication of the staff in providing learning opportunities for all students despite the lingering challenges of the pandemic. I want to emphasize how honored and privileged I am to continue to work within such a resilient, passionate, and innovative community.

Over this current school year, we began the collaborative process to identify the hopes, dreams, and aspirations we have for our children and the competencies that best reflect the skills, characteristics, and traits needed to achieve that vision, otherwise known as **"Strategic Planning."** We will build on past experiences to ensure that current and future students have opportunities to explore their interests and leave prepared to engage as positively contributing members of an ever-evolving society. This cohesive work will provide our roadmap for our work as we journey towards becoming a district of excellence.

In 2022-2023, each of our schools across the system took stock and measure of our academic, social, emotional, and behavioral growth priorities to support positive student outcomes. RNEU educators across the system prioritized the core work of teaching and learning, working to develop and refine student-focused measurable outcomes. It is through a focus on these outcomes, and other data sources, that our schools and educators are able to honestly reflect on how well our systems are operating and where we need to improve. In 2022-2023, RNEU schools and educators focused on the work of attending to Vermont's Act 173 legislation, asking for a commitment to:

1. Ensure elementary Tier 1 core instruction meets the needs of most students;
2. Provide additional instructional time outside core subjects aligned to the core instruction, to students who struggle, rather than providing interventions instead of core instruction;
3. Ensure students who struggle receive all instruction from highly skilled teachers;
4. Create or strengthen a systems-wide approach to supporting positive student behaviors based on expert support; and
5. Provide students having more intensive support needs with specialized instruction from skilled and trained experts.

**Debbie Alexander**  
Asst. Supt. of Curriculum,  
Instruction & Assessment  
dalexander@rnesu.org

**Alexis Blake**  
Director of Technology  
ablake@rnesu.org

**Marsha F. Bruce**  
Dir. of Student  
Support Services  
mbruce@rnesu.org

**Brenda L. Fleming**  
Dir. of Business & Finance  
bfleming@rnesu.org

**Tyler Weideman**  
Dir. of Safe Schools  
tweideman@rnesu.org



**RUTLAND NORTHEAST  
SUPERVISORY UNION**  
49 Court Drive, Brandon, Vermont 05733  
802.247.5757  
www.rnesu.org

**Kristin Hubert, EdD**  
Superintendent of Schools  
khubert@rnesu.org

In RNESU schools and across Vermont, we are committed to making sure each and every student thrives, improving outcomes for ALL students, while also accelerating growth for students that need the most support. In the 2022-2023 school year, we also sought to amplify the voices of our students - those most affected by District decisions – by developing a Student Advisory Council and engaging in “listening walks” in each of our schools. This focus and commitment continues in 2023-2024, with expanded opportunities for student voice in each of our schools, and engagement with student groups around Strategic Planning.

As you review the 2022-2023 annual report, I hope you take the time to reflect on this past school year and all that we accomplished together, while knowing that we still have much work to do as a school system and community. This proposed budget reflects the services and resources to support a student-centered educational program that will help our students flourish. I know from personal experience the transformational power of a great public education and have seen the positive difference it makes for individuals, families, and communities. The health of our greater community depends on the excellence of our public schools, and I am committed to making them work for every one of our children. Thank you for your continued support of each and every student. Together, we can ensure that our children receive the public education they deserve and support they need to achieve their hopes and dreams.



In partnership,  
**Kristin Hubert, Superintendent**  
RNESU

**Please read the full  
Barstow Unified Union School District  
Annual Report  
available online at [www.rnesu.org](http://www.rnesu.org).**



**Debbie Alexander**  
Asst. Supt. of Curriculum,  
Instruction & Assessment  
dalexander@rnesu.org



**Alexis Blake**  
Director of Technology  
ablake@rnesu.org



**Marsha F. Bruce**  
Dir. of Student  
Support Services  
mbruce@rnesu.org

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Dir. of Business & Finance  
bfleming@rnesu.org

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Dir. of Safe Schools  
tweideman@rnesu.org

**BARSTOW UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS’  
LETTER TO THE TOWNS OF  
CHITTENDEN AND MENDON  
January 2024**



Hello Neighbors,

The Barstow Unified Union (BUU) Board has been quite busy this past year. From changes in staff to changes in education funding, the BUU board has visited several topics over the past year while continuing to focus on our Global Ends.



We welcomed long-time Middle School teacher Bob Myers as Interim Principal in January and Bob officially took over the role as Principal in April. Bob’s dedication to Barstow can be seen in all that he does, and we are confident that he will continue to excel in his role as Principal.

Our Pre-K hours have expanded this past year to 18hrs a week (M-W-F) and we have also enhanced our Universal Pre-K partnerships with the addition of Fox Hollow Forest School. Fox Hollow is a nature-based classroom offering full-time care located at Barstow.

Improvements have also been made to the school grounds. With huge thanks to the Barstow Youth Club, donations and community support, the Barstow courts project was completed. New tables were added, a pollinator garden was planted, and the community pitched in to clean up the grounds and spread wood chips.

In the Senate, there were a few bills passed this year related to education. ACT 29, pertaining to Safety, and ACT 127 pertaining to student weighting with regards to funding.

In March, the BUU board adopted a new Safety Policy (2.0) which aligns with ACT 29. Other safety changes included new front doors added to the school entryway and the implementation of the RAPTOR system for visitor identification screening.



ACT 127 changes the method in which education funding is calculated in Vermont. While funding was previously based on Equalized Pupils, it will now be based on what is called Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership. This ACT does provide a guardrail that states that the tax rate will not exceed more than 5% if a district’s per pupil spending does not increase by 10%. We are currently within 5% and all measures available to remain under 5% will be taken by the central office.



Combined with ACT 127, another major factor in our FY25 budget is the end of pandemic era ESSER funding, or what has been referred to as the “ESSER cliff”. While the funding may be ending, the needs of our students remain. Because of this, the positions established with these funds will not be eliminated but rather incorporated into the budget. The perfect storm of these two changes along with the rising cost of living, are the contributing factors towards this year’s budget increase of 12.10%.

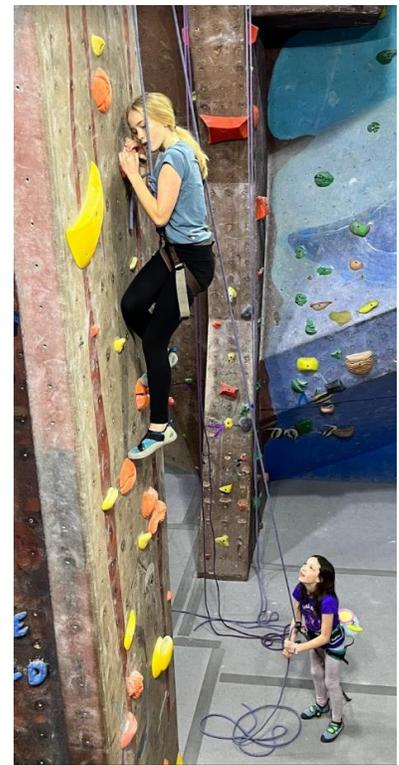
I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our board members. Welcome to the BUU board, Tony Roberts. Tony was appointed to a 1-year term for the At-Large position last year when the seat was left vacant. We would also like to thank Suzannah Loffredo for her service to the BUU board as she will not be running for re-election. A big thank you to you both for your dedication to the board, the school, and its students.



If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member, or use the [Reach Out!](#) button on the RNESU website.

Respectfully,

Jessica Quesnel (Chair)  
 Ethan Bodin (Clerk)  
 Robin Crossman  
 Susannah Loffredo  
 Tony Roberts



# Minutes of Town Meeting

## March 06, 2023

### VTRANS Building

**32 Voters Present**

Moderator Chris Corsones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Chris went over the rules for the meeting.

With permission from the audience, State Representative Jim Harrison updated the voters on what is being discussed in Montpelier. Jim mentioned that after redistricting, he now represents the Towns of Chittenden, Mendon, Killington, and Pittsfield, all Rutland County Towns. He mentioned that some of topics being discussed in Montpelier now are paid family leave, free school meals for all students, school choice, clean heat, and housing. There is currently a bill which seeks to supersede some zoning regulations in some communities in order to build affordable housing.

Neil Langer commented that it's important to keep free meals for the children who can't otherwise afford it. He then asked if Vermont would be seeing any of the federal money earmarked for infrastructure. Jim replied that Vermont would be getting a significant amount and that the Governor is asking for \$150 million of ARPA funds to be set aside for matching funds.

Jennifer Van Sciver asked what was being done about broadband. She finds it challenging to do her job without adequate cell phone coverage. Jim stated that state grants were being used to help extend broadband coverage throughout the state.

Chris Van Sciver spoke about school choice and how important it is for students to be at a school that is right for them.

Chris thanked Jim.

Val Taylor thanks Jim for his accessibility to our town and for keeping us informed.

Val recognized the following people:

- Gary Sihler, a Planning Commission member since 2019 who was stepping down this year. During his tenure, the Planning Commission worked on the Town Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Energy Plan. He was applauded and presented with a gift certificate.
- Larry Courcelle, Selectboard member who accepted the position when Mendon needed an experienced body. Larry has done a great job over the years. He was on the Selectboard during Tropical Storm Irene, and again during the Pandemic. Larry has done a great job for all of this. Larry was applauded and presented with a gift certificate.
- Bill Ellis, Road Commissioner, Road Foreman, and road crew member has announced his retirement. Bill has worked for the town for 44 years. Bill and his crew have done a great job taking care of Mendon's roads. Newt Jones, road crew member, has also announced his retirement, and has worked for the town for 18 years. They have been very dedicated to the Town and we will have a retirement party for them this fall. Thank you to Dan Hendee for stepping in over the past three years while the town was shorthanded.
- Dr. Andy Zak, who has been on the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) since 1981. He has participated in many hearings over the years and retired in October of 2022. The Town is grateful for his many years of service. Dr. Zak was applauded and presented with a gift certificate.

- Board of Civil Authority members for their dedication for the countless hours spent on appeals for the 2021 Townwide Reappraisal. Fifty-six appeals were heard by the BCA.
- Everyone who has dedicated their time and energy to make sure the Town runs smoothly

Val mentioned that there are many volunteer opportunities in the Town for anyone who might be interested.

**Article 1 – Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to set the rate of compensation for non-salaried employees and Town Officers appointed mid-term?** Neil Langer made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Patty Lancaster. With no discussion, the motion **passed unanimously**.

**Article 2 – Shall the Town vote to approve the 2023-2024 Municipal Budget at \$1,295,460?**

Nancy Gondella presented a recap of the 2021 Townwide Reappraisal. Nancy explained the process of appealing an assessment and went over the expenses involved. In total, each appeal to the BCA takes approximately five hours. The total cost to the Town was approximately \$114,000. Nancy thanked the BCA members for their hard work and dedication during this lengthy process. A full report can be found in this year's town report. Larry Courcelle added that the Assessor uses comparable sales to support property values. Jessica Posch stated that she appreciated the hard work of everyone involved, but mentioned how difficult it must be for the Assessor to value a property without going into the house. She questioned if she appealed, what year would be appealed. Nancy explained the process.

Larry Courcelle updated the work of the Otter Creek Communications Union District (OCCUD) and the work they are doing.

Larry Courcelle gave a presentation regarding the timeline of the budgeting process, as well as the highlights of the budget presented. If passed as presented, the budget will increase by \$31,932 (2.52%). Tom Soriano made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Gary Sihler. Tom Soriano questioned whether or not the Sheriff's department was providing the budget amount of service. Abby English asked that a speed cart be put on Town Line Road. Lema Carter, Constable, stated that one could be requested in the spring. Larry discussed the Route 4 scoping study that would be coming up soon. The motion **passed unanimously**.

**Article 3 – Shall the Town vote to create a Community Center Reserve Fund and appropriate \$10,000?** Patty Lancaster presented information regarding Mendon on the Move and how the need for a community center was discussed. The committee is requesting the reserve fund so there are funds available as needs arise to pursue the options. Fred Bagley gave a short presentation on Route 4 safety. Jennifer Bagley made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Wanda Courcelle. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Justin Lindholm questioned how the Rutland Free Library is supported. Chris Corsones stated that it was supported through the budget that was just passed.

Steve Singiser made a motion to consider articles four through ten as one question. Chris Corsones explained that this would mean all of those articles would be voted at one time and either pass or fail as one article. Gary Sihler seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the **motion passed unanimously**.

**Article 4 through 10 – Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,500 for the support of ARC Rutland Area Serving Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, \$1,200 for the support of Marble Valley Regional Transit District (The Bus), \$700 for the support of RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program, \$1,242 for the support of Rutland Mental Health Services, \$2,600 for the support of VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region, \$600 for the support of Southwest Council on Aging, and \$2,500 for the support of Wonderfeet Kids' Museum?** Chris Van Sciver made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ann Singiser. Danielle Monroe stated

she's the Executive Director of the Wonderfeet Kids Museum and available to answer questions if anyone had any. There was no further discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Article 11 – To Elect the following town officers: Town Moderator – 1 year term, Selectboard Member – 2 years to complete a 3-year term, and Selectboard Member – 3-year term.** This article will be voted on by Australian ballot on March 07, 2023 at the Town Office. Candidates running for these positions introduced themselves.

Larry Courcelle made a few comments about his retirement and told Val it had been a pleasure working with her. He asked the voters to be supportive of the new Selectboard as they will have a lot on their plate with the retirement of the road crew, and everything else going on in town.

Seth Bridge in his role as fire warden, discussed the reason and need for burn permits. If someone burns without a permit, they will be fined \$800. Burn permits can be submitted via e-mail to Seth. If there are no issues, Seth will send an approval e-mail back to the applicant.

Jennifer Bagley discussed the fact the Declaration of Inclusion which has been signed by almost 100 towns in Vermont started in Mendon with Al Wakefield, town resident and Bob Harnish, former owner of the Cortina Inn. We should be proud of our town for that.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Gondella, Town Clerk  
Larry Courcelle, Selectboard Chair  
Chris Corsones, Moderator



**Warning**  
**Town of Mendon Annual Meeting –March 5, 2024**  
**VTRANS Building**  
**61 Valley View, Mendon, Vermont**

The legal voters of the Town of Mendon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the **VTRANS Office Building** on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM to transact all business except Article 10. The meeting will adjourn until March 5, 2024 at 8:00 AM, at the Mendon Town Office, to vote by Australian ballot on Article 10. Voting will close at 7:00 PM.

- Article 1 - Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to set the rate of compensation for non-salaried employees and Town Officers appointed mid-term?
- Article 2 - Shall the Town vote to approve the 2024-2025 Municipal Budget at \$1,378,303?
- Article 3- Shall the Town appropriate \$1, 500 for the support of ARC Rutland Area Serving Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities?
- Article 4 - Shall the Town appropriate \$1,200 for the support of the Marble Valley Regional Transit District (The Bus) for public transportation for Mendon residents, visitors and surrounding communities?
- Article 5- Shall the Town appropriate \$700 for the support of the RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program which allows older Americans the opportunity to apply their life experience to help meet community needs?
- Article 6 - Shall the Town appropriate \$1,242 for the support of Rutland Mental Health Services formerly Rutland Area Community Services to ensure early intervention and mental health treatment and support as needed?
- Article 7 - Shall the Town appropriate \$2,600 for the support of VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region to provide services when in-home care is needed?
- Article 8 - Shall the Town appropriate \$600 for the support of the Southwest Council on Aging to be a community force in creating and sustaining opportunities for elders and caregivers?
- Article 9 - Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 for the support of Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum to foster curiosity and exploration, inspiring creativity and igniting the imagination of children through the power of play?
- Article 10: To elect the following town officers:
  - Town Moderator for a 1 year term.
  - Selectboard Member for a 3 year term.
  - Selectboard Member for 1 year (to complete a 3 year term).

Dated at Mendon, Vermont on this 22nd day of January, 2024

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Mendon:

/s/ Val Taylor

/s/ Seth Bridge

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MENDON, VERMONT  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the Right of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MODERATOR</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>One Year Term _____</p> <p><u>CHRISTOPHER CORSONES</u> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Write-in)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SELECTBOARD</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>One year to complete a Three Year Term _____</p> <p><u>THANE E. BEATTIE</u> <input type="radio"/></p> <p><u>MEGAN M. SMITH</u> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Write-in)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SELECTBOARD</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>Three Year Term _____</p> <p><u>CAROL GATES</u> <input type="radio"/></p> <p><u>VAL TAYLOR</u> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Write-in)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.5;">SAMPLE BALLOT</p>



2023 Town Meeting Participation

## Recognition of Service

# Newt Jones

Just give him a call and he will be there.



Newt started working part time on the Mendon Road Crew in 2004. He then stepped up to fill in full time hours whenever asked to do so and eventually became a full time employee in 2016.

Newt decided to retire in September 2023.

He has worked 18 years as a dedicated member of the Road Crew being called out for every storm that raged through Mendon.

Thank you Newt for always answering the call for the Town of Mendon. The golf course is now calling your name.



Bill and Newt surveying the damage after Tropical Storm Irene

## Recognition of Service

# Bill Ellis

It is the end of an era not to have an Ellis at the Town Garage.



Bill has decided to retire after an exceptional 33 years of dedicated service to the Town of Mendon.

Bill started working on the Mendon Road Crew following in his father Frank's footsteps. Bill became the Road Commissioner in 1994.

Bill worked tirelessly in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. He directed the Road Crew and hired contractors to reestablish access and evacuate stranded residents. In the months and years that followed he worked with FEMA, engineers and managed two dozen projects to repair the damage the storm left behind.

Mendon became well known for having the best maintained winter roads under Bill's leadership. Through the snow, sleet, rain and high winds, Bill was out there in the dead of night clearing our roads. You could often find Bill in his free time in his Jeep checking on our back roads. The commute to the Town Garage was not a long one from Cedar Lane where he lives with his wife Tina and where they raised their daughter Katie.



Bill Ellis and Scott Bradley  
pictured in 2006

Bill also served on the Mendon Cemetery Commission and prepared sites for burials.

You are a cherished member of the community, Bill, and we thank you for all you have done. Time to kick your feet back Bill, you deserve it.