



2022

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**160TH ANNUAL REPORT**

INCLUDING THE OTTER VALLEY  
UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL REPORT



~ DEDICATION ~  
"Nifty Thrifty"

One of Nifty Thrifty's stated missions is "to help our community as it cultivates its image as a cultural, spiritual, commercial, recreational and educational center".

For nearly fifty years, the volunteers who are sustaining and extending founder Bette Moffett's vision have been delivering on that mission. The shop is located in Brandon, stocked with donations from the people of Brandon, staffed by volunteers from Brandon, and dedicates all of its proceeds to people, projects, and programs for the good of the community of greater Brandon. The incomparable Bette and a group of like-minded women founded Nifty Thrifty in 1975. The shop has found its home in a number of locations around the village since then and is now hosted by St Thomas and Grace Episcopal Church in their antique rectory at 19 Conant Square, across Prospect Street from the church.

The positive impact of this can-do institution on our shared hometown far exceeds the approximately \$300,000 that it has generously provided in direct grants to community endeavors since its inception. These range from its quiet, behind-the-scenes contributions to deserving programs of \$500 each month, to occasional showstopper splash-outs such as \$6,000 to construct the new gazebo in Central Park to put the cherry on top of the reconstruction of our downtown, and \$15,000 to the Brandon library for its current major all-systems renovation, accessibility, and expansion work.

Nifty Thrifty was green before green was cool. Buying local, reducing waste by repurposing, and consuming less are three intentional lifestyle choices that this active organization facilitates in our community. Not only do folks of limited means find can't-beat bargains on necessities like clothing; but artisans, creative minds, and those who enjoy the hunt can and do find inspiration and hard-to-find vintage items among the merchandise on offer. There is something for everyone, and all patrons become junior participants in Nifty Thrifty's good works.

For exemplifying in the best possible way the truth that "Vermont runs on volunteers"; for philanthropically bolstering the work of other organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life in Brandon; and for its resilience through challenge and change, the Brandon Selectboard is pleased to honor Nifty Thrifty's volunteers — past, present, and future — by dedicating this year's book of town reports to Nifty Thrifty.

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~ In Memoriam ~

*Wayne Kingsley*

(1937 - 2022)

Brandon Tree Warden

*Tina Wiles*

(1967 - 2023)

Brandon Zoning Administrator

## ***Town Meeting Procedures 2023***

The rules that govern Town Meeting are designed to transact the public business efficiently while giving everyone the opportunity to speak his or her mind. Robert's Rules are the foundation, but even they are modified by State Statute, tradition, and the standing rules adopted by previous Town Meetings. Perhaps even more important is the informal rule that through it all we retain our sense of humor and civility, for the person you attack tonight you will inevitably meet in the grocery store tomorrow!

Like the Australian Ballot, you must be a registered voter of Brandon to fully participate in Town Meeting. While everyone who is interested is invited to observe the meeting, only registered voters may speak without special permission; only voters may actually vote on any question. The job of the Moderator is to keep the discussion focused and to help the people operate within the rules. If you are not quite sure how to make a motion, just ask and the Moderator will guide you through the process. From time to time, the Moderator may have to rule on other issues- most of which relate to the question of germaneness.

Remember the acid test for any motion: Could someone not here have expected that the motion would be offered? If the answer is clearly "yes" it's probably germane, and if not, you may have a problem. If you make sure that your remarks or motions do not unreasonably stray from the subject, purpose, or funding method of the original warning, you should be well within the rules.

### **Three final points to remember:**

1. To maintain order, all comments, questions, and rebuttals must be addressed to the chair – even when the urge to respond directly to the previous speaker is close to overwhelming.
2. Our standing practice is to allow a follow-up to every question, to give the original questioner a chance to clarify or comment on the response.
3. Even moderators can be overruled. If you think that a bad ruling has been made, make a point of order and the full assembly will decide the question.



### **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. §1682(a)(2) and the affirmative vote at the Brandon Annual town Meeting on March 6, 2006, the Town hereby gives notice that the independent audit for fiscal year 6/30/2022 conducted by RHR Smith & Company, CPA's is available in the Town Offices located at 49 Center Street. A complete copy may be requested by contacting the Town Office at 802-247-3635 or may be accessed on the website [townofbrandon.com](http://townofbrandon.com).

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# Town Officers

## SELECT BOARD (5)

### Brian Coolidge

bcoolidge@townofbrandon.com  
1227 McConnell Rd; Call or text (802) 345-8961

### Ralph Ethier

rethier@townofbrandon.com  
56 Pearl Street; Call or text (802) 247-6957

### Tim Guiles

tguiles@townofbrandon.com  
44 Carver St; Call or text (802) 279-2168

### Seth Hopkins (board chair)

shopkins@townofbrandon.com  
850 Park St; Call or text (802) 247-3300

### Tracy Wyman

twyman@townofbrandon.com  
114 Wyman Rd; Call (802) 247-5748

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (12)

*The following JPs officiate at weddings*

### KATHY CLARK (D)

802-247-3935; Kdclark23@yahoo.com

### BERTRAM COOLIDGE (R)

802-247-6512; bjcool3@comcast.net

### HILLARY KNAPP (I)

802-558-2345; Hillary.knappy@gmail.com

### WILLIAM MOORE III (D)

802-774-8135; bmoore@townofbrandon.com

### LAURA PETERSON (D)

802-247-3280; laura@redmudboots.com

### JOHN PETERSON (D)

802-247-3280; John.peterson@ottertin.com

*The following JPs do not officiate at weddings*

### DOUG BAILEY (R)

802-247-8386; BaileysDbldRanch@yahoo.com

### BOB CLARK (D)

802-247-3935; misterclark09@yahoo.com

### SETH HOPKINS (R)

802-247-3300; oskarhop@me.com

### WENDY ROWE-FELDMAN (I)

802-236-9112; wendy@rowerealestate.com

### LINDA STEWART (D)

802-247-5343; Lstewart11@aol.com

### JEFF STEWART (D)

802-247-5343; 22jstewart@gmail.com

## VT STATE REPRESENTATIVES (1)

### Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome (D)

515 Wheeler Rd, Brandon 05733  
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us  
(802) 683-8209

## VERMONT STATE SENATORS (3)

### Sen. Brian Collamore (R)

124 Patricia Ln, Rutland 05701  
bcallamore@leg.state.vt.us  
(802) 773-1365

### Sen. David Weeks (R)

35 Warner Ave, Proctor 05765  
dweeks@leg.state.vt.us  
(802) 417-9013

### Sen. Terry Williams (R)

319 Ruby Rd, Poultney 05746  
twilliams@leg.state.vt.us  
(802) 828-2228

## GOVERNOR OF VERMONT

### Governor Phil Scott (R)

109 State Street Pavilion, Montpelier 05609  
(802) 828-3333

To contact the Governor:

go to <https://governor.vermont.gov/contact>

## REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. CONGRESS (1)

### Congresswoman Rebecca Balint (D)

1408 Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4115

To contact Rep. Balint:

go to <https://balint.house.gov/contact>

## U.S. SENATORS (2)

### U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I)

1 Church St 3rd Floor, Burlington 05401  
(802) 862-0697

To contact Sen. Sanders:

go to <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/contact/>

### U.S. Sen. Peter Welch (D)

128 Lakeside Ave., Suite 235, Burlington 05401  
(802) 652-2450

To contact Sen. Welch:

go to <https://www.welch.senate.gov/contact>

# Notice to Voters

**FOR TOWN MEETING - MARCH 7, 2023**

## **BEFORE ELECTION DAY:**

**CHECKLIST POSTED** at Clerks Office by **February 5, 2023**. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by **February 25, 2023**.

**TOWN BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED TO ALL ACTIVE, NON-CHALLENGED VOTERS. PLEASE USE THESE BALLOTS TO VOTE BY EITHER RETURNING EARLY BALLOTS TO THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE OR BRINGING THE BALLOTS TO THE POLLING PLACE ON Tuesday March 7, between 10 am and 7 pm.**

**SCHOOL BALLOTS ARE NOT MAILED TO VOTERS, THOSE MUST BE REQUESTED.**

**HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:** There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to **olvr.vermont.gov**.

**REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at [mvp.sec.state.vt.us](http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us). The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on Monday, March 6, 2023. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

## **WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:**

- **All town ballots will be mailed to active, unchallenged voters.**
- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

## **ON ELECTION DAY:**

**If your name was dropped from the checklist in error**, or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

**If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document**, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

**If you have physical disabilities**, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

**If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place** let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

**If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.**

## NOTICE TO VOTERS FOR TOWN MEETING - MARCH 7, 2023

### NO PERSON SHALL:

- ! Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- ! Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- ! Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- ! Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- ! Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

**FOR HELP OR INFORMATION:** Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

**If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated**, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

**If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process**, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

**If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process**, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Vote Tabulator Ballots at the Polling Place

#### CHECK-IN:

- Go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- If you do not bring your mailed ballot, an election official will give you a ballot.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

**MARK YOUR BALLOT:** For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- WRITE-IN candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

#### CHECK OUT:

- Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

**CAST YOUR VOTE** by depositing your voted ballot into the vote tabulating machine.

**LEAVE** the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.



# 2023 Warning

## WARNING FOR EVENING MEETING - MARCH 6, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to convene at the **Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square**, Brandon, VT on **Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** to transact the following business:

1. To hear a presentation by the Select Board of its recommended budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. This budget and appropriations will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 7, 2023 at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT, between the hours of 10 am and 7 pm.
2. To transact any other business proper to be done when met.
3. Adjourn.

## AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - MARCH 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are further notified and warned that ballots for the following articles will be mailed to all registered, active voters and they may return them by mail or drop them off at the town offices or meet at the **Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT** on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023** between the hours of **10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.** to vote in person by Australian Ballot or to drop off mailed ballots on the following matters:

1. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year:  
Moderator.....One for one-year term  
Selectman.....One for three-year term  
Selectman.....Two for one-year term  
Town Clerk .....One for three-year term  
Town Treasurer.....One for three-year term  
Trustee of Public Funds.....One for three-year term  
Library Trustee.....One for two-year term
2. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon authorize total general fund expenditures of Three Million, Three Hundred Forty-six Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$3,346,150) for the FY 2023-2024 budget year, of which the sum of Six Hundred Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety Dollars (\$608,890) is to be raised by non-tax revenues and Two Million, Seven Hundred Thirty-seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$2,737,260) is to be raised by property taxes?
3. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$7,000 for the Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee, to support activities offered at the Independence Day celebration, to be raised by property taxes?
4. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$25,000 for the Brandon American Legion Post #55, to be raised by property taxes?
5. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,000 for the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, for the improvement and advancement of businesses and community in Brandon, to be raised by property taxes?
6. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$82,580 for the Brandon Area Rescue Squad Inc., to support volunteer emergency medical services, to be raised by property taxes?
7. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$92,000 for the Brandon Free Public Library, to support the programs, resources, and community activities of the library, to be raised by property taxes?
8. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$2,500 for the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace Community Center, Inc, to protect and maintain the building and historical artifacts, to be raised by property taxes?
9. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$13,500 for Brandon Senior Citizens Center, Inc, to support free community lunches, and activities and programs at the center, to be raised by property taxes?
10. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$3,000 for the Charter House Coalition, to support community meals and emergency shelter programs, to be raised by property taxes?
11. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,000 for the Open Door Clinic, Community Health Services of Addison County, to support access to free dental and healthcare to those who are uninsured or under-insured, to be raised by property taxes?
12. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$550 for RSVP & The Volunteer Center, to support free income tax preparation and volunteer placements, to be raised by property taxes?

## WARNING - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**13.** Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,500 for Rutland County Humane Society, to support shelter and care of companion animals, to be raised by property taxes?

**14.** Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$2,900 for the Southern Vermont Council on Aging, to support meals on wheels, case management and other elderly services, to be raised by property taxes?

**15.** Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$10,200 for the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, to support home care, hospice and community health services, to be raised by property taxes?

Select Board Signed and Certified January 23, 2023

Seth Hopkins  
Timothy Guiles  
Brian Coolidge  
Ralph Ethier  
Tracy Wyman

Adopted and approved at a duly warned meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Brandon called, noticed and held on January 23, 2023. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Brandon on January 24, 2023.

## Brandon 2022 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, 7 PM**

### REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

**MEETING RECORDING: <https://youtu.be/A1zWWiEMwMw>**

Moderator Bill Moore called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Attending the meeting were Select Board Members, Seth Hopkins, Michael Markowski, Brian Coolidge, Tracy Wyman and Timothy Guiles, Town Manager, David Atherton, Moderator, Bill Moore, Clerk, Sue Gage and 45 attendees. Moderator Moore reminded all attending that this zoom format was an informational meeting only and that there would be no voting.


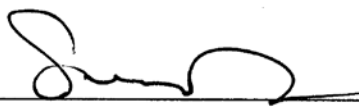
Selectman Seth Hopkins began the meeting by recognizing the Brandon Police Department, to whom the town report was dedicated this year. Chris Brickell, who retired from the force at the end of December, thanked the Town Manager and Selectboard for the honor and recognition.

Mr. Hopkins, Selectman Timothy Guiles, and Selectman Michael Markowski then presented a comprehensive

budget proposal to the attendees. The budget to be voted by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2021, at the Brandon American Legion from 10 am to 7 pm, is for \$3,230,130 of which \$2,712,274 is to be raised by property taxes. Mr. Hopkins noted that this budget is a decrease of 1.16% from the prior year and will not raise taxes.

The Selectboard then opened the floor for questions. There were discussions about tax stabilization, paving plans, increases in appropriation requests and concerns about housing and childcare in the community. The Selectboard then invited Representatives Stephanie Jerome and Butch Shaw to speak about activity in the legislature.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

  
Bill Moore, Moderator  
Susan Gage, Clerk



## Selectboard Report

By law and by custom, the voters of Brandon entrust to the Selectboard the general supervision of the affairs of the Town. The selectboard in turn relies upon the dedication of a professional town manager and full- and part-time staff to provide the community with the services it requires. We both began and ended 2022 with concrete measures, one citizen-initiated and one board-driven, designed to assess and enhance our ability to retain our valued town staff in the ongoing economy-wide "great resignation" (historically low labor market participation across the United States). In between those two instances were additional occasions of the board and the town manager making appropriate and requisite efforts toward this same goal, such as a side letter making an upward adjustment to the police union salary schedule. We are gratified at the progress we've achieved in this area and trust that the residents of Brandon are receiving the services they rely on the Town to deliver. We are able to do this because of our Town's objectively strong financial condition.

Brandon finds itself in an enviable financial position in 2023 thanks to 1) the townspeople's foresight to augment our revenue stream with the local option tax ("the 1% fund" — see treasurer's accounting of this fund and town manager's report elsewhere in this book); 2) year after year of careful and prudent management of Town resources by the board and management; and 3) the unique provision of \$1M to the town through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Initially it was held that ARPA funding came with extensive limitations, but in 2022 the US Treasury made determination through the "standard allowance approach" that ARPA grants such as ours are eligible for spending on general government (things the Town normally pays for in the regular conduct of its business). The board continues to hear and consider requests for allocation of portions of the ARPA grant and will undertake to obligate all of its ARPA allotment before the deadline to do so. When we can leverage ARPA to draw down additional funds by serving as a grant match, we will do that. ARPA is unique in that it functions in essentially the opposite way that most grants function: it was provided in advance, and now the Town's job is to identify how best to spend it. Sometimes the Town will expend on its own, and sometimes we will expend together with other partner agencies of government. We will endeavor to spend ARPA in ways that ensure the greatest possible benefit, to the broadest population of our community, enduring for the longest time.

The budget workshop series with the budget advisory committee was particularly substantive this year. We took a more comprehensive look at the Town's revenue sources and priorities than ever before. This resulted in a proposed budget — on the heels of last year's voter-approved budget, which you may recall involved a slight decrease both in actual spending and in the amount to be raised by taxes — with only a modest increase compared to other Vermont towns and to the school district's proposed budget, while at the same time achieving the board's goal of fully staffing our employee positions with quality people dedicated to the provision of needed services to the community.

The Selectboard encourages reading the reports of the town manager, the department heads, and the other boards and committees for a survey of the substantial accomplishments of 2022 in many areas.

Respectfully submitted,

### Selectboard Members

Seth Hopkins, Chair .....	2023
Brian Coolidge, Clerk .....	2023
Tim Guiles .....	2025
Ralph Ethier .....	2023
Tracy Wyman, Vice-Chair .....	2024



TOWN OF BRANDON

## 2023-2024 Budget - Summary

REVENUES DESCRIPTION	FY-21/22 ACTUAL	FY-22/23 APPROVED	FY-23/24 PROPOSED
<b>To Be Raised in Taxes .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,744,135</b>	<b>\$ 2,712,274</b>	<b>\$ 2,737,260</b>
Tax Revenues .....	54,297	45,000	45,000
Town Administration Revenue ..	24,535	250	1,750
Assessor Revenues .....	1,995	2,000	2,000
Code Enforcement Revenues....	11,291	14,000	15,700
Clerk/Treasurer Revenues .....	193,683	160,556	191,690
Police Dept. Revenues.....	26,199	61,500	10,600
Highway Dept. Revenues .....	323,817	159,450	161,400
Intergovernmental Revenue.....		14,000	
Recreation Revenues.....	69,755	51,100	69,750
Bldg. & Grounds.....	10,685	10,000	11,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE .....</b>	<b>3,460,392</b>	<b>3,230,130</b>	<b>3,246,150</b>
Tax Expenditures .....	-	5,000	5,000
Town Administration .....	374,923	388,475	411,595
Assessor .....	30,462	44,895	41,195
Code Enforcement.....	30,625	42,515	43,625
Town Clerk .....	189,448	212,090	218,615
Police Dept. ....	802,446	765,420	864,915
Highway .....	971,891	896,350	824,520
Intergovernmental .....	209,515	219,000	240,585
Recreation.....	189,998	147,400	177,780
Debt Service .....	254,040	252,250	239,250
Economic Develop. ....	39,313	45,840	53,280
Bldgs. & Grounds.....	205,085	210,895	225,790
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....</b>	<b>3,297,745</b>	<b>3,230,130</b>	<b>3,346,150</b>
Net Change to General Fund Balance .....	162,647		
<b>Use of Fund Balance to Offset Taxes .....</b>			<b>-100,000</b>
<b>NET MUNICIPAL BUDGET</b>			
<b>TO BE RAISED BY TAXES.....</b>	<b>\$ 2,744,135</b>	<b>\$ 2,712,274</b>	<b>\$ 2,737,260</b>
% increase from prior year ..			0.92%
\$ increase from prior year...			24,986
<b>APPROPRIATIONS.....</b>	<b>\$ 296,024</b>	<b>\$ 217,330</b>	<b>\$ 242,730</b>



## Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee is comprised of five members charged with the responsibility of providing insight and transparency to the budget process. All Budget Committee meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend. Since its inception in 2014, the committee has observed a vast improvement and streamlining of the process.

Along with the Select Board and town manager, the committee members are presented the budget with some departments' budget reported by their respective department head. Throughout the process, the committee members are given ample opportunities to ask questions, give feedback and understand the drivers to operating costs.

It is the opinion of the committee that department heads are mindful of the needs of the community while demonstrating fiscal responsibility. In addition to discussing current needs the departments have projected future desires, which has allowed the Select Board to make well-informed budgetary decisions using the 1% option tax money and ARPA funds.

It is proving to be challenging for smaller towns everywhere to compete regarding personnel and this was discussed in depth. The challenge is retaining employees while trying to stay competitive in this job market.

The Budget Committee acknowledges the efforts put into compiling and presenting the data. With this information, the committee is able to get a comprehensive view of what is required to support the Town going forward. A diversity of viewpoints was considered, and while not every Budget Committee or Select Board member is in agreement with every item. However, the Select Board did reach a general consensus on the final budget through this process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barry Varian, Doug Bailey, Janet Coolidge, Neil Silins and Peter Werner

## Vermont League of Cities and Towns

*Serving and Strengthening  
Vermont Local Government*

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

**Member Benefits** - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members

have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. During the past year, staff responded to thousands of member questions and published guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2022, VLCT began offering additional government finance training and consulting services and launched the new Federal Funding Assistance Program (FFAP). FFAP offers communities advice on complying with federal rules surrounding pandemic funding, provides direction and insight on accessing billions of dollars in federal infrastructure funding, and provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.

- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to officials** who carry out their duties required by state law. The League provided training via webinars, onsite classes, and during the hallmark annual event, Town Fair, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. VLCT's Equity Committee also published an online equity toolkit that assists municipalities in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in their decision making, policies, practices, and programs.

- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative

### TOWN OF BRANDON

## 2023-2024 Budget - Revenues

REVENUES DESCRIPTION	FY-21/22 ACTUAL	FY-22/23 APPROVED	FY-23/24 PROPOSED
Current Tax Revenue .....	\$3,048,990	\$2,929,604	-
Abatements .....	(4,260)	-	-
Delinquent Taxes .....	11,814	-	-
Misc./Extraordinary .....	-	-	100,000
Penalty & Interest .....	37,912	45,000	45,000
Duplication .....	26	-	-
Vendor Permit .....	675	250	250
Misc. ....	23,834	-	1,500
Misc./Revenues Assessor ....	1,995	2,000	2,000
Misc Zoning .....	50	-	200
Land Use Permit .....	6,816	5,000	6,500
Rental Code Compliance ....	4,425	9,000	9,000
Pilot/CU .....	52,488	51,211	52,500
Wastewater Administration .	30,000	30,000	30,000
Liquor License .....	1,965	2,195	2,000
Land Records .....	39,066	37,960	38,000
Vault Time .....	5,885	5,500	5,500
Misc. Clerk .....	360	500	500
Marriage Licenses .....	260	300	300
Hunting/Fishing Licenses .....	33	50	35
Vital Statistics .....	5,811	5,800	5,800
Dog License .....	1,516	1,500	1,500
Records Preservation .....	14,144	14,040	14,055
Interest .....	2,822	1,500	2,500
Penalty & Int. ....	39,333	10,000	39,000
State Traffic Ticket .....	6,693	4,000	4,000
Misc. Police .....	3,312	-	-
Bravo Fees .....	100	-	-
Police Grants .....	-	-	1,600
SRO Officer .....	-	53,500	-
Police Dog Rev./Donation ...	10,180	-	-
DOCUMENT REIM. REQ. PD	5,914	4,000	5,000
Misc./Extraor. ....	3,094	500	500
Access Permit .....	200	250	200
Excavation Permit .....	-	50	50
State Highway .....	175,558	158,000	160,000
Grant .....	20,340	-	-
Over Weight Permits .....	725	650	650
Transfer In-other funds .....	123,900	-	-
Mosquitos-Trustees Reim. ....	-	14,000	-
Recreation Department .....	69,755	51,100	69,750
Solar Lease Payments .....	10,000	10,000	10,000
Town Hall Rent .....	600	-	-
EV Charging Station .....	85	-	1,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,756,416</b>	<b>\$3,447,460</b>	<b>\$ 608,890</b>



## Town Manager's Report

Last year I was hoping to start my annual report bidding the pandemic adieu... well, it took another year, like most municipal projects. But look at us now, Brandon is open for business and is the best-looking Town on the Route 7 corridor!

### Some highlights of the year are:

The installation of a new box culvert on Arnold District Road. We will be continuing work on Arnold District with ditching and culvert replacement and end with repaving from the intersection of Hollow Road north to the town line. Most of the paving will be funded again with a VTrans Class 2 Highway paving grant.

The property buyouts on Newton Road continued this year with four properties utilizing FEMA and State funds to move out of harm's way and bring back natural flood areas along the Neshobe River. There are two more properties pending FEMA approval as well as another scoping grant for engineering and design for the replacement of the Wheeler Road Bridge.

The Union Street sidewalk project has been moving slower than expected, as there are a few more steps at the State level than anticipated. I will be starting the right-of-way phase of the project in the Spring of 2023 and hopefully get this ready to bid for early 2024.

We were also able to purchase a new backhoe and a slightly used excavator with the Local Option Tax funds. This has proved to be a great revenue generator that is starting to cover some of the capital expenses that used to be in the annual operating budget.

Another big THANK YOU to all our phenomenal staff! I'm quite sure we have the best Public Works Department in the State! The guys in the Highway and Wastewater give 110% every day and it shows throughout the Town. It's also been great to see our Police Department rebuild after a complete turnover. This is another Department that gives 110% to keep us safe. And lastly, everyone in the Town Office that work behind the scenes to keep the Town running.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David J. Atherton, Town Manager

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>TOWN ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Select Board Various .....	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Salary / Wages.....	199,203	198,850	218,380
Benefits / Taxes .....	81,669	87,025	99,665
Travel & Expenses .....	620	500	3,200
Misc. ....	0	-	-
Dues & Subscriptions .....	6,541	6,750	6,700
Professional Development..	344	100	500
Legal Services.....	12,957	20,000	10,000
Auditors .....	14,000	14,000	14,000
Office Supplies .....	3,546	3,000	3,000
Service Contracts .....	11,096	12,000	12,000
Postage Expenses.....	12,077	8,250	8,250
Technical Support.....	10,184	15,000	15,000
Office Equipment .....	2,800	2,000	1,000
Legal Advertising .....	260	1,000	400
Town Report .....	4,430	5,000	5,000
Telephone Exp. Admin. ....	8,011	8,000	7,500
Animal Control Expenses ..	1,186	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Town Administration ..</b>	<b>\$374,923</b>	<b>\$388,475</b>	<b>\$411,595</b>

## Vermont League of Cities and Towns continued ...

efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to respond to the pandemic, address road and bridge repair, tackle cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2022 includes securing \$45 million in funding to help municipalities make energy improvements in their buildings, securing \$250,000 for VLCT's Federal Funding Assistance Program, increasing Municipal Planning Grants to \$870,000, securing \$250,000 for the Vermont Office of Racial Equity to launch the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Program, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.

- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also provides members with the option to purchase life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products at a competitive price. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are only available to VLCT members.

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

## ***Tree Warden Report***

Statutes regulating the position of tree warden were amended and updated effective November 2020. The statutes limit municipal control, via the tree warden, to "shade trees". A "shade tree" is defined as a shade or ornamental tree located in the public way or public place, provided that the tree was planted by the municipality or designated as a shade tree through a municipal Shade Tree Preservation Plan (STPP).

The position of tree warden in Brandon has historically been reactive, not proactive. What that means is the tree warden doesn't usually tour the Town streets looking for trees posing a hazard to the community. The first step starts with the citizen. When a towns person has or observes a tree that they think may be failing or dangerous, they should contact the Town Manager, the tree warden, or the head of the Department of Public Works. Contact information can be found on Brandon's website. There is frequent communication between the three departments regarding trees. Public Works will then likely perform a preliminary evaluation of the tree.

Trees contribute a lot to our community and take a long time to develop and grow. The tree warden has the authority to determine if a shade tree should be considered a public hazard and, if so, to authorize some remedial action, typically pruning or removal. Removing a tree is never a lightly made decision.

Again from the regulation, a shade tree shall not be cut or removed in whole or in part, except by a tree warden or his or her deputy, or by a person having the written permission of a tree warden. There is also a notification and hearing process when a removal is deemed necessary. If these steps are not taken, there is a penalty for "Whoever shall willfully mar or deface a shade tree without the written permission of a tree warden or legislative body..." or who "willfully and critically injures or cuts down a shade tree without written permission..."

## ***Police Department Report***

As I write this, I am closing on my first year as the Chief of Police for the Brandon Police Department. I have worked for several large and small police agencies in both Massachusetts and Vermont and have garnered years of experience during that time, but in my almost first full year as Chief, I have found working for the Brandon Police Department to be the most challenging, yet rewarding experiences of my career.

Since becoming Chief of Police, I have attempted to grasp the myriad of issues and nuances that encompass public safety in the Town of Brandon. Although challenges such as retaining and hiring officers are at the forefront of things that I have been tasked with addressing, I am very impressed with the high-quality of our police officers that we do have and it is both an honor and privilege to have such a dedicated staff of employees. Our officers and administrative staff give no less than 100% effort in everything they do and they take enormous pride in the work that they accomplish. Law enforcement in the State of Vermont has unfortunately suffered a great deal of attrition over the last four years and it is of the utmost importance that law enforcement agencies maintain staffing levels in order to provide adequate service for the community. I see staffing challenges as one of the most pressing issues, especially when an agency operates with a minimum number of officers, in the coming years.

The Brandon Police Department currently has two open officer positions, which leaves us with only a current staff of 4 full-time officers and myself as Chief, to provide full-time coverage for the Town of Brandon. It is now November (2022) and we are currently in the process of testing and interviewing two viable candidates to fill those two open officer jobs. Recruitment has been a top priority since I have become Chief and my goal is to make sure that we are fully staffed by the end of 2023 and to eventually re-establish a true "24-hour" police presence in the Town of Brandon. I also want to work towards having the School Resource Officer "SRO" Program re-established in our school system as well in the coming year.

Being a huge advocate of the use of K-9's for police work, one of the first programs that I re-instituted here at the police department was a brand-new K-9 Unit. Through very generous private donations and fund-raising efforts, the Brandon Police Department was able to purchase a European German Shepherd puppy from overseas, who we officially named "Guinness" and is now part of our law enforcement family. Two weeks ago, at the beginning of November, K-9 Guinness and his handler, Officer Alnwick, started the 8-week Narcotics Detection School at the Orange County Sheriff's Department in the State of New York and once certified, will be coming back to help us in our ongoing fight to keep drugs out of our community and away from our children. We are also looking forward to continuing Guinness's training later next year when he is scheduled to attend tracking/patrol school.

To help curtail the ongoing motor vehicle complaints around Brandon, I have created a H.E.A.T. Unit, which stands for "Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic." This unit, which is currently being run by Officer VonSchleusingen, has a mission to target aggressive and dangerous driving in our town and to concentrate on specific areas that we receive a lot of complaints from. My plan is to increase the number of officers on this unit as staffing hopefully increases in the near future.

Another specialty capability that I added here at the Brandon Police Department was in using drone technology. I was able to secure funding to purchase two small drones for our agency and we now have two at our disposal to use for Search and Rescue operations, natural disasters, traffic crash investigation



## ***Police Department Report cont.***

and re-construction, searching for wanted subjects, assisting with monitoring barricaded and/or armed subjects, and a myriad of other tasks that the use of a drone may be needed for. Our department's drone pilot, Officer Mannino, has been trained and certified through the FAA as a drone pilot and trains often in the use of this technology so that the equipment is ready to be deployed at a moment's notice. As always, the Brandon Police Department is very cognoscente of the rights of our residents and visitors to our community and I can assure you that this technology is not used for general monitoring of residents around our town and is always used under strict department policies and/or Federal and State guidelines to assure the preservation of everyone's right to privacy.

The next piece of technology I was able to acquire for the department was through a cooperative partnership with Green Mountain Power and that piece of equipment was a Kollter Electric Motorcycle. The Brandon Police Department is committed to using Green Technology and because of this, we were able to secure grant money to purchase the motorcycle. The motorcycle uses roughly \$.88 worth of electricity a day, which saves on gas consumption, and is utilized for both general patrol, traffic enforcement duties throughout the town and for patrolling the downtown village area of Brandon. The Town of Brandon is the birthplace of the electric motor and I think it is very fitting that although not the first law enforcement agency in Vermont to have an electric motorcycle for police work, it is the first municipal police agency to use this technology and we are also the first, and so far, only law enforcement agency in the United States to use a Kollter motorcycle for police work. So far, the motorcycle has been a huge success and we are looking forward to the Spring time to get it back out onto the road once the weather gets warmer after the Winter passes.

One of the most important jobs that we have as the caretakers and protectors of our community is to watch over those vulnerable individuals that live in Brandon. Many of our aging residents and their families potentially face having to deal with declining health issues, two of which are Alzheimer's Disease and/or Dementia. The Brandon Police have set up the Sheepdog Program to address this issue. This program helps us in addressing and dealing with those individuals with Alzheimer's, Dementia and elderly individuals at risk of wandering off and getting lost. Just like a sheepdog watching over a flock of sheep, the Brandon Police Department wants to keep our seniors and most vulnerable individuals safe from harm. Information gained through this program would greatly help us in reducing the possibility of a tragedy should one of our elderly or vulnerable community members wander off or get lost. This program allows families of those afflicted with either Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia to fill out a registration sheet that will be retained at the police department, which contains information that could help our department and any other public safety entities, in locating and dealing with an individual that may have wandered off and is at risk both physically and mentally.

These programs and technologies are only the beginning of where I envision our department going in the future. As both an individual and as your Chief of Police, I do not believe in complacency and I always endeavor to look at better and more efficient ways to do things. We will continue to strive towards making the Brandon Police Department one of, if not these most, professional, and capable law enforcement agencies in the State of Vermont. I intend on making sure that our officers are the best trained and equipped and that they continue to embrace a solid relationship with all members and visitors to our community. My goal as your Chief of Police, and for our police department, is to create the highest level of trust between our officers and the community that we serve and to keep the Town of Brandon a safe place to live, work, and visit.

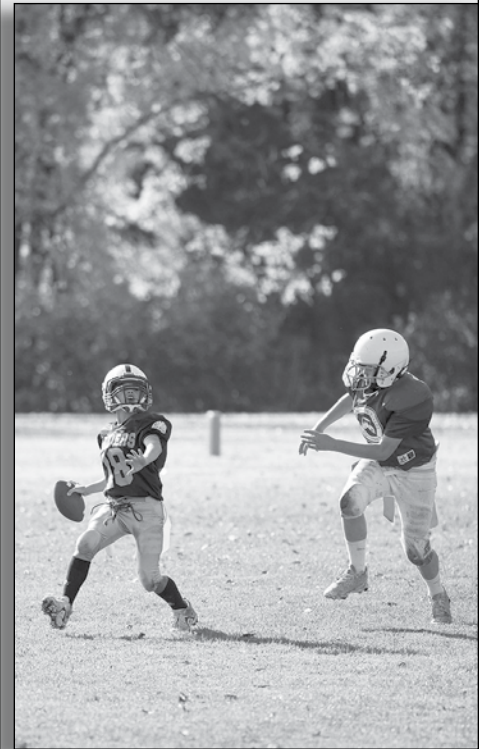
## ***Tree Warden Report cont.***

The tree warden published several articles in the Brandon Reporter this year. The articles concerned tree warden responsibilities and also best practices for managing your trees. Brandon has a tree inventory in process. The inventory was started in 2021 using a volunteer squad who went out and catalogued trees on specific streets. This inventory was conducted using software loaned by the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program (UCF). We frequently don't have records that indicate who planted a specific tree, making the municipal ownership part of the shade tree definition difficult to determine.

This year the tree warden has worked with UCF to develop a Shade Tree Preservation Plan that meets the requirements set forth in the regulations. The Brandon STPP has been submitted Town personnel for review, following which it will be presented to the Select Board. We're making great progress towards having a program that will protect the entire tree canopy in Brandon for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Neil Silins,  
Town Tree Warden



## E911 Coordinator Report

Our emergency services, Police Dept, Fire Dept, and Rescue Squad, depend strongly on the owners of all properties to have their street numbers posted and visible in time of emergency.

Vermont E-911 requires accurate up to date locatable addresses for all municipalities. The Town of Brandon requires ALL Homes, Businesses, and other regularly occupied areas, to have their street address numbers be posted near the front entrance of each building and be visible from the road. If your entrance cannot be seen from the road, an additional posting is needed, near the road and visible at all times. Numbers are to be 4 inch white or silver reflective, block style, on a green or black background.

Please contact me with any questions regarding addressing or if you need a new address.

Respectfully submitted  
Thomas Kilpeck, E911 Coordinator



## Police Department Report cont.

As of the writing of this report, as we come into the month of December, the Brandon Police Department has so far responded to 2915 total calls for service in 2022. We have already surpassed our call volume for the same time of year back in 2021 and we are anticipating having a final call total for 2022 of between 3500 and 4000 calls for service by years end. It should be noted that our total call volume for the previous year (2021) was 3274. We stopped a total of 575 vehicles in the Town of Brandon issuing 288 warnings and 287 traffic tickets. We also wrote \$47,469 worth of traffic tickets in the Town of Brandon so far this year due to increased traffic enforcement efforts by our officers and the new H.E.A.T. Unit. In addition to civil violations, Brandon Police Officers also made 68 arrests for various misdemeanor and felony crimes in the Town of Brandon. The residents of Brandon have made it clear that traffic safety and drug enforcement are two priorities and as such, the Brandon Police Department will continue to focus on these two areas of concern. Generally, crime and disorder are remaining consistent in the Town of Brandon for 2021/2022.

We can be found on the web at <https://www.townofbrandon.com/departments/police/>

As always if you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Police Department, we are here to help you. We can be reached by phone at (802) 247-0222.

Respectfully, David Kachajian  
Chief of Police

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Salary / Wages.....	\$563,882	\$500,910	\$551,415
Benefits / Taxes .....	139,107	202,310	216,900
Travel & Expenses .....	133	500	2,750
Clothing Allowance.....	7,859	4,000	7,000
Dues & Subscriptions .....	1,441	2,000	2,000
Professional Development..	2,892	2,000	5,800
Radio Maintenance .....	1,699	1,500	1,700
MDT/Aircards .....	2,881	3,000	3,000
Office Supplies .....	2,731	2,500	2,500
Professional Supplies .....	4,214	5,000	8,200
Service Contracts .....	5,739	6,000	6,000
Postage Expenses PD .....	130	200	200
Office Equipment .....	3,585	3,000	3,000
Community Police .....	71	250	2,000
Police Dog Expenses .....	8,018	-	2,000
New Equipment - Vehicles .	4,684	3,000	5,000
Fuel - Vehicles .....	17,744	14,000	25,200
PD Maint. Supplies-Vehicl..	66	250	250
PD Vehicle Maintenance ...	12,707	10,000	15,000
PD Telephone Service .....	5,862	5,000	5,000
Capital Improvements .....	17,000	-	-
<b>Total Police Department.....</b>	<b>\$802,446</b>	<b>\$765,420</b>	<b>\$864,915</b>

## Assessor's Report

The Grand List is statutorily set as of April 1st of each year. The Assessor's office is responsible for tracking all changes in Ownership, exemptions and Real Property Value. The Town of Brandon had a growth of approximately \$1,000,000. 91 Change of Assessment notices were sent to property owners. There were 6 approved grievances. Please contact the Assessors' office if you have any questions or need any other information.

The annual Equalization Study (using the past 3 years of sales 4/2019 thru 3/2022) was completed by the State of Vermont, Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review. The CLA (common level of assessment) was calculated at 84.15 for January of 2023, which will be used for the 2023 Grand List. The Real Estate Market continues to be increasing in Vermont. During the period of 4/1/2021 thru 3/31/2022 there were 66 Fair Market Sales in Brandon with an average CLA of 89.91 (assessed value/sale price).

The Department of Taxes, Property Valuation and Review has been aware of the increasing market across Vermont. During this Equalization cycle, approximately 2/3 of Vermont Municipalities are now under orders to Reappraise. Given the volatile Real Estate Market, Equalization requirements and lack of vendors to manage the Reappraisal project throughout Vermont it remains unclear what the next steps will be across Vermont. If a Town's CLA improves and the market supports the improving CLA, there is discussion at the State level to rescind a Towns Reappraisal Order.

The regular hours for the Assessor's office are Tuesdays from 9am to 3pm. Karen Folger is the Assistant Assessor and can also be reached by email at [assessor@townofbrandon.com](mailto:assessor@townofbrandon.com).

Respectfully submitted,

**Assessor/NEMRC**

Lisa Truchon, VMPA

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>ASSESSOR</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Salary / Wages.....	\$7,519	\$9,000	\$9,000
Benefits / Taxes .....	575	695	695
Travel & Expenses .....	-	100	100
Dues & Subscriptions .....	50	100	50
Continuing Education .....	-	150	100
Mapping.....	-	8,800	5,800
Legal Fees Assessor .....	-	500	-
Property Assessor .....	17,103	20,000	20,000
Professional Supplies .....	-	250	250
Office Equipment .....	215	300	200
Reapp Acct.-Transfer out ...	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>Total Assessor .....</b>	<b>\$30,462</b>	<b>\$44,895</b>	<b>\$41,195</b>

## Rutland County Solid Waste District Collection Schedule

**April 15, 2023**

BRANDON 8am-10am

**May 20, 2023**

BRANDON 8am-10am

**September 30, 2023**

BRANDON 8am-10am

**Questions?**

Call 802-775-7209

or visit [www.RCSWD.com](http://www.RCSWD.com)





## Health Officer Report

The Town Health Officer helps handle public health matters for the Town of Brandon. I file reports on animal bites, give public health notices on unsafe practices for the community, and inspect rental housing for violations of the Vermont Rental Housing Health Code. A major challenge is education of what the role can actually do. My enforcement abilities are limited, but I am always here to help in any way I can.

Respectfully submitted  
**Town Health Officer**  
 Abby Spiegelman

## Rental Housing Report

There are currently 479 Rental Housing units in the Town of Brandon. Rental Housing consists of any Non-Owner-Occupied dwellings, such as single-family homes, apartments, duplexes, and owner-occupied homes with two or more rooms rented. These rental units are all subject to regulations under the State of Vermont and the Town of Brandon Rental Housing Codes.

A new Certificate of Occupancy is required every time there is a change of tenant at a Rental Unit.

Prior to a new tenant moving in, an inspection is performed and a new C/O is issued. Additionally, an Annual a Statement of Compliance is sent to the owners of all rental housing in Brandon. This is a self-assessment performed by the owners/managers of the property, to ensure that each Rental Unit is up to code. The specifics of the Rental Housing Code can be found on the town's website at [www.townofbrandon.com](http://www.townofbrandon.com), or by contacting me at the office.

Respectfully submitted  
**Rental Housing Officer**

## Economic Development Report

In 2023, I will continue working with Otter Valley to help create more localized solutions to workforce development. Area employers working with educators to introduce middle and high school students to careers and job paths that keep them in Vermont and, ideally Brandon will help to fill the burgeoning staffing needs as more people age out of the local job market. To this purpose, I have chosen to serve on the business advisory council for Otter Valley's tech ed program. The school has responded to the communities' needs by investing more resources in expanding their outreach. Their tech ed teacher, Devon Karpak, is on a sabbatical year using funding from his Rowland fellowship to further develop these programs. The school has also hired a "Work-Based Learning Coordinator" in the person of Laura O'Brien to create more opportunities for early workforce intervention and exposure.

Housing continues to be a challenge and hinderance to economic growth in Brandon. We are certainly not alone in Vermont with the lack of housing available for middle income families. New programs and funding that is available to landowners and developers will be released over the next 18-24 months. A great example of such a program that is open for enrollment is the Vermont Housing Improvement Program. Current Brandon building owners would need work with Neighborworks of Western Vermont to apply for this state grant program. Visit : <https://www.nwwvt.org/vhip-rental-repair/> to learn about how to apply. The Town is a motivated partner in applying for and partnering with landowners and developers for these and other types of private development projects.

I am always available to assist perspective entrepreneurs to get started and existing business owners to expand. Our unique local resources like Tax Stabilization & The Brandon Revolving Loan fund can be used to help leverage county and state grant and loan programs for any business development project located with our town.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any help you may need for your existing business or with any leads and ideas you might have for potential new development.

(802) 247-3635 X213  
 Bmoore@townofbrandon.com  
<http://townofbrandon.com/departments/economic-development/>

Respectfully submitted, Bill Moore  
**Economic Development Officer**

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOP.</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Salary .....	\$18,582	\$18,970	\$19,910
Benefits / Taxes .....	11,000	11,220	12,720
Travel & Expenses .....	329	250	250
Economic Development.....	9,402	14,000	14,000
Killington Valley .....	-	1,400	1,400
Hist. Preservation Comm. ..	-	-	5,000
<b>Total Economic Development</b>	<b>\$39,313</b>	<b>\$45,840</b>	<b>\$53,280</b>

## Recreation Department Report

### Events & Initiatives

- ❖ Ice Skating Rink @ The Neshobe Golf Course - January-February
- ❖ Jon Gailmor Concert w/Brandon Children's Music Fund/Neshobe School @ Town Hall- March
- ❖ Rusty DeWees Show – @ Town Hall - April
- ❖ Mom Prom – @ Town Hall - April
- ❖ Wildlife Encounters w/The Brandon Area Toy Project @ Town Hall- April
- ❖ Safety & Kindness Day w/Neshobe PTO, Brandon Fire/Rescue/Police, Omya– @ Neshobe School - May
- ❖ Family Games with Neshobe PTO at the Brandon Independence Day Celebration – July
- ❖ Davenport Electric Fest w/ the Brandon Energy Committee- @ Estabrook Park - July
- ❖ Brandon Carnival Days – with the Brandon Area Toy Project and sponsors @ Estabrook Park – July
- ❖ Slide Out of Summer w/ The Brandon Area Toy Project @ Estabrook Park – August
- ❖ Harvest Fest w/Neshobe PTO, Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, Brandon Area Toy Project @ Estabrook Park – October
- ❖ Jack McKernon Drive-in w/The Paramount Theatre @ Estabrook Park – October
- ❖ Spooksville with Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Brandon Police Department & Brandon Fire Department @ Estabrook Park– October
- ❖ Galactic Toy Drop Cosplay Event w/Brandon Area Toy Project - @ Town Hall - November
- ❖ "Get Lit, Brandon" Decorating Competition w/The Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce & The Reporter – December
- ❖ Winter Pagent w/ Brandon Area Toy Project - @ Town Hall - December
- ❖ Brandon's Winter Wonderland @ Kennedy Park- December
- ❖ "Reverse Parade" w/ Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Free Public Library & Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce – December
- ❖ OMYA Safety Programs – Reflective Walking Helmets and Hats, Bicycle Helmets – Year Round

### A slow march to the new normalcy

The pinch of health concerns continued to impact our recreation offerings into the beginning of 2022. Case in point; no fans were allowed to attend games held at The Neshobe School. Our winter programming at the Town hall was able to resume and we saw a modest rebound with March and April concerts/show attendance numbers. While youth sports numbers continue to inch their way back to 2019 levels, other types of programs are providing enrichment opportunities for a variety of youth that may find the traditional sports are not their cup of tea. **Miss Michaela** dance classes have progressed from a eight week session based structure to a six month weekly class commitment; be sure to catch the final concert in May!

The inaugural **Davenport Electric Fest** was a tremendous success that performed doing double duty as a showcase of emerging electric motor technology and the celebration of the inventor **Thomas Davenport** in July of 2022. The seeds for this event were planted in 2019 and the reschedule from the original 2020 date was timely, as we were able to hold the event on his 220th birthday. Davenport

# B•REC

What YOU want to DO!

**Bill Moore, Director**

Extension 213

bmoore@townofbrandon.com

**Colleen Wright,  
Assistant to the Director**

Extension 211

cwright@townofbrandon.com

brandonvt.myrec.com

### 2022 Recreation Participant Numbers

2022-23 Celtics Bus Trip.....	50
Adult Basketball.....	27
Aikido w/Sensei Wade (Youth & Adult Classes) .....	11
Archery at Estabrook! .....	29
Brandon Rec-RNESU	
Summer Support .....	33
Brazilian Jiu Jitsu .....	8
Crafty Ceramics – Halloween .....	8
Fall Baseball.....	31
Fall Cheerleading.....	13
Fall Dance Classes -	
Miss Michaela Motion .....	38
Fall Soccer .....	146
Flag Football .....	62
Food Boxes! (biweekly) .....	24
Get-in Line! - Reaching your money goals! .....	6
Indoor Soccer Otters.....	13
Intro to Disc Golf with Marty Fjeld	12
Little Otters Youth Wrestling .....	21
Makeup Maven .....	4
Neshobe Pie Gobbler Fun Run....	70
2022 NYC Bus Trip.....	50
Otter Bots First Lego League	
Robotics.....	3
Otter Community Pre-Season	
Basketball Clinics .....	31
Pee Wee Cheer! .....	12
Pre-Season Football Camp .....	17
Pre-Season Soccer Camp .....	38
Quiz Night with BFPL (Nov-Dec)	62
Spring Baseball/Softball .....	157
Spring Dance Classes –	
Miss Michaela Motion .....	31
Summer Baseball/Softball .....	29
Swimming Lessons w Jake Jacobs	66
Table Tennis @ The Town Hall .....	8
Winter Cheer .....	13
Winter Cornhole .....	16
Youth Basketball - Open Gym .....	10
Youth Basketball .....	140



## Energy Committee Report

Our mission is to help Brandon meet its state-mandated energy goals; increase the percentage of energy derived from renewable sources to 90% by 2050; reduce VT's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 50% in 2028.

2022's accomplishments included: persuading SolarFest to make Brandon its permanent home; participating in the July 4th parade; publishing a series of educational articles in The Reporter; partnering with the town to launch the 1st annual Davenport Festival celebrating Thomas Davenport's invention of the electric motor.

In July, the Select Board increased the number of appointed members from 5 to 7. An additional 7 volunteers have signed up and are participating on 4 working groups.

**The Transportation Group** is focused on ways to reduce GHG emissions caused by diesel and gas-powered vehicles.

- The Select Board requested our help in evaluating electric vehicles for purchase by the Brandon Police Department. Chief Kachajian indicated that he was committed to going green and will commit to purchase an EV cruiser if it suits the Department's needs for its next purchase.

- Researched use of biodiesel by the town public works department in line with the town's Green Fleet policy advocating use of alternative fuels. Current pricing does not support switching to a 20% mixture of biodiesel at this time.

- FEMA offered a grant program for funding 100% of the cost of an electric school bus and information was provided to RNESU. The school system chose to wait and see how electric buses perform in VT's cold weather and hilly terrain.

- Applied for and received grant funding to purchase 2 electric bikes. The bikes will be available to town residents through the public library.

**The Generation Group's** mandate is to research alternative energy sources:

- SolarFest's first event in September was a success and plans are underway for next year's festival to be held July 15-16.

## Recreation Department Report cont.

descendants were on hand to witness Brandon's recognition of the first US patent holder of the electric motor whose work was performed in Forest Dale.

The end of July will be officially designated time of the Brandon Carnival Days. With necessity being the mother of invention, the 2021 pandemic delay proved to be great change as these past 2 years have seen growth in our attendance numbers. The rec profit from this partnership allowed us to purchase a light tower to save us from the future rentals for our nighttime events!

With the continued support of our amazing community organizations and volunteers, we are constantly looking to the future. The reinvigoration of our existing (and new) committees can be transformative. If you have any interest in volunteering, planning or otherwise just helping us to realize critical recreation missions, please reach out! And as we have constantly preached; if you have an idea about a program, we are here to make it a reality. Case in point: **Marty Fjeld** inquired about starting a disc golf program. Six weeks later, Coach Marty had 12 youth learning a new and very accessible sport. This has, in turn, progressed into an adult disc golf putting league starting in February of 2023. If you have the passion, we can connect you with the resources to share it with the community and connect you with like-minded individuals.

Even if it is just feedback (negative or positive), it is all critical for the development of a rec department that best reflects our communities' values.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Recreation Director-Not Dictator**

Bill Moore

**Member**

Colleen Wright

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>RECREATION DEPT.</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Salary / Wages.....	\$ 64,394	\$ 65,885	\$ 68,090
Benefits / Taxes .....	26,710	27,815	31,295
Travel & Expenses .....	20	250	250
Dues & Subscriptions .....	960	600	600
Advertising/Recruitment....	5,855	7,000	6,000
Fuel .....	284	500	-
Vehicle Maint. ....	3	1,000	-
Registration Software.....	2,995	3,000	2,995
Storage Unit Supply/Maint	1,388	-	-
Equipment /Supplies .....	1,175	2,000	-
Recreation Programming...	70,435	31,050	61,350
Recreation Telephone.....	1,629	500	1,700
EV Festival Expenses.....	2,691	2,500	2,500
Brandon Carnival.....	10,363	5,000	3,000
DOG PARK EXPENDITURES	1,096	300	-
<b>Total Recreation .....</b>	<b>\$189,998</b>	<b>\$147,400</b>	<b>\$177,780</b>

## Highway Department Report

The Brandon Highway Department is responsible for approximately 70 miles of town highway over 800 culverts to maintain and several bridges. 10+ miles of sidewalks and several Parks. Also assisting other departments as needed. We have a fleet of trucks and highway equipment to help us with this task, that we also must keep maintained.

It was a good year. River St. replaced DI and culvert to improve drainage. Town Farm Road Reconstructed 1600 feet of roadbed and paved. On the gravel portion of Town Farm, we cut shoulders, ditched, and replaced culverts. Kennedy Road, Reconstructed 350 feet of roadbed and paved. We cut shoulders and prepared for paving on Pearl St. also paved Paint Works Road. Replaced several other culverts around town also did some shoulder and ditch work and applied gravel.

This coming season we are planning on paving Arnold District Road from Hollow Road to the town line. There are a couple of areas on Arnold District to dig out and put in a new gravel base before paving, culvert replacement and cutting brush back.

Would like to put up a new Salt shed this year.

Soon would like to have a new Town Garage that has more usable space and more heat efficient.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to another good year.

### Highway Foreman

Shawn Erickson

<b>EXPENDITURES HIGHWAY DEPT.</b>	<b>FY-21/22 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY-22/23 APPROVED</b>	<b>FY-23/24 PROPOSED</b>
Salary / Wages.....	\$ 235,167	\$ 244,150	\$ 274,015
Benefits / Taxes .....	88,000	117,400	133,305
Travel & Expenses .....	177	200	200
Clothing Allowance.....	1,789	2,500	2,500
Dues & Subscriptions.....	45	100	100
Continuing Education .....	60	200	200
Contractors .....	1,137	5,000	4,000
Equipment Rental .....	2,150	8,000	8,000
State Permits.....	1,350	2,000	2,000
New Equipment-Misc. Tools	10,294	10,000	10,000
Safety Equipment .....	1,366	1,500	1,500
Fuel - Vehicles HW .....	48,159	30,000	45,000
Oil - Vehicles .....	-	2,200	2,200
HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl	20,859	20,000	20,000
HW Tires - Vehicles .....	6,776	7,000	7,000
HW Outside Maint. - Vehic	23,931	25,000	25,000
HW Telephone.....	1,665	2,100	2,000
Ditching .....	2,671	-	-
Roadside Mower- Maint....	1,591	1,500	1,500
Tree Removal/Planting.....	1,095	10,000	15,000
Guardrails.....	-	6,000	10,000
Signs & Posts .....	18,155	6,000	7,000
Line Painting.....	3,842	2,000	3,000
Paving Roads .....	132,809	100,000	-
Cold Patching.....	1,606	2,500	2,000
Culverts .....	8,482	8,000	10,000
Gravel .....	40,952	55,000	65,000

### Energy Committee cont.

- Using the questionnaire in the Town Plan, we evaluated a 2.2 MW solar project proposed by MHG Solar and recommended the Select Board support the project.

- Additional locations are being sought for a future solar array site to support a community solar program offering residents lower cost electricity.

**The Conservation Group** is assisting residents with "buttoning up" their homes to reduce fuel costs and improve indoor comfort.

- On November 12th, 50 residents attended a weatherization workshop in Town Hall with partners Heat Squad, Efficiency VT and SolarFest. A weatherization event for landlords is planned for early 2023.

- The Conservation Group has been asked by the Town Manager to make recommendations as to how to incorporate energy efficiency as a priority in the preliminary town garage planning stage.

**The Education Group** is working to educate town folks on all energy-related matters.

- The Energy Committee set up a booth at the Davenport Festival (July), SolarFest (September) and HarvestFest (October).

- The group is working with the town to establish benchmarks on municipal government energy usage to track progress towards the state goals.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on building a more energy-efficient Brandon. If you would like to volunteer for one of the working committees, please contact us at [brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com). Thank you.

### Energy Committee Members

Jim Emerson, Chair  
 Jeff Haylon, Vice Chair  
 Erin Ballantine  
 Eve Beglarian  
 Robert Black  
 Jeff Cohen  
 Jack Schneider

## Planning Commission Report

In 2022, the Planning Commission continued the important and time-consuming project of updating the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO). The Planning Commission's primary areas of focus has been improving or creating definitions of terms used in the BLUO to provide greater clarity, and thus avoid unnecessary and expensive litigation over ambiguous terms.

Other areas of focus for the Planning Commission 2022 have been

- updating the BLUO to facilitate the location and construction of affordable housing, including the use of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to increase housing stock
- assessing the need for new or improved ordinances related to the keeping of farm animals in residential areas and the treatment of nuisance animals; and
- the regulation of commercial signage, both permanent and temporary.

In November 2022, the Town submitted an application on behalf of the Planning Commission for a bylaws modernization grant from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The grant, if awarded, would provide funds for the Planning Commission to obtain professional advice, recommendations, and review of BLUO revisions.

Moving forward, in 2023 the Planning Commission will continue its work on the BLUO but will also begin the required periodic update of the Town Plan.

The Planning Commission lost several members in 2022 and is actively seeking new members. Criteria for membership is the desire to volunteer about 3 hours a month and the ability to apply common sense towards resolving Zoning and Planning related issues.

## Highway Department Report cont.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>HIGHWAY DEPT.</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Chloride .....	27,060	25,000	26,000
Road Salt .....	69,492	85,000	90,000
Winter Sand .....	19,824	25,000	25,000
New Equip. Purchase .....	123,900	-	-
Sidewalks .....	-	15,000	-
Leased Equipment .....	77,486	78,000	33,000
<b>Total Highway Department.</b>	<b>\$971,891</b>	<b>\$896,350</b>	<b>\$824,520</b>



<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>BLDGs. &amp; GROUNDS</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Salary / Wages .....	\$ 44,708	\$ 57,395	\$ 57,180
Benefits / Taxes .....	16,673	20,600	21,510
Testing/Monitor Fee .....	2,225	-	6,000
Heating - Propane .....	8,313	9,000	9,500
Heating Fuel .....	12,590	10,000	15,000
Bldgs & Grounds Water Fee .....	1,305	1,700	1,500
Bldgs & Grounds Electric .....	76,199	70,000	77,000
Electric EV Car Stations .....	2,066	1,000	1,200
Highway Bldg Maint .....	1,787	10,000	5,000
PD Bldg Maint. ....	1,255	2,000	2,000
Town Office .....	20,390	5,000	5,000
Cemeteries .....	-	500	500
Municipal Mowing-maint ..	2,693	2,500	2,500
Recreation Field Maint. ....	-	500	5,000
Town Clock Maint. ....	4	1,000	400
Town Hall Repair/Maint .....	8,440	10,000	10,000
Parks Maint. ....	3,276	6,000	4,000
Trash costs-Transfer Stat ....	590	500	500
Maint. Supplies Bldgs. ....	2,239	1,000	1,000
Generator Maint .....	333	2,200	1,000
<b>Total Bldgs. &amp; Grounds .....</b>	<b>\$205,085</b>	<b>\$210,895</b>	<b>\$225,790</b>



# Planning & Zoning Administrator Report

## ZONING PERMIT ACTIVITY:

The last Fiscal Year saw the ZA review 60 zoning permit applications, a number of these involving multiple project requests. This reflects an increase of 20% over F.Y. ending in 2021. New single family home construction, as well as commercial and related Changes in Use activities increased by 60%.

### Summary of permits reviewed

Project	# Applications
Residential (attached to housing): additions, decks, porches.....	18
Accessory (detached) Structures: garages, sheds, pools, fences.....	14
Single Family Residences (stick-built, modular, panel, log, mobile homes); new or replaced .....	8
Commercial & Municipal Projects, Changes of Use, & Miscellaneous applications .....	8
Home Occupations .....	1
Signs (business) .....	4
Demolitions (Note that a VT Asbestos Certification may also be required) ...	3
Subdivisions, Boundary Line Adjustments .....	3
Barns, Agricultural Structures (to qualified farmers).....	1
Denied, incomplete, withdrawn Applications.....	0
<b>Total #applications reviewed:..... 60</b>	

## Related Development Activity Updates:

- More notable permit approvals include:
  - Conversion of a 10 unit office building to three condominium dwelling units.
  - Town approval (still in Act 250 review) for a three-building (totaling 11,000 sq. ft.) retail storage rental facility on Rt. 7.
  - A five-lot subdivision for residential house construction in Forestdale. This is the largest subdivision approved in the last five years.
  - Improvements to the Town waste-water treatment facility.
  - Purchase of 73 acres between Steinberg Rd. and Champlain St. to be developed into a 2.2 Mw solar facility and permanent home for Solar Fest events. This is due to a unique real estate arrangement with the solar developer, the not-for-profit Solar Fest organization, and many hours of effort donated by members of the Energy Committee.
  - With the formation of a Town Cannabis Control Commission, zoning permits issued are limited to approval for supporting structures (Home Occupations, fences, storage structures, signs, etc.).

**APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL PANEL ACTIVITY** (see other Sections in this report for details)

The DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD held seven Public Hearings, as required by rules, to decide on variance/waivers and conditional use permit applications. All were approved.

The PLANNING COMMISSION has been in transition this year, but continues efforts to improve sections of the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO).

## MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES to Note:

- Signage: With the completion of Downtown's renovations, past construction & pandemic exemptions to Sign permits are now expired, and existing signs installed under those exemptions are to be removed or a permit applied for.
- Animal Control: The current Zoning regulations require a Town permit for any Farm Animals that are not part of an approved Farm operation. An effort to re-

## Planning Commission cont.

The Planning Commission meets regularly the first Monday of every month at 6:00 PM, in the Brandon Town Hall. Remote participation is also available through Zoom. All Planning Commission meetings are public, and citizen participation is always welcome.

### 2023 Planning Commission Members

Cecil Reniche-Smith, Chair  
Robert Foley, Vice-Chair  
William Mills  
Jack Schneider



## Animal Control Officer Report

Calls for service were up from last year, 35 in total.

9 calls for barking/disruptive dogs

8 calls for off leash/wandering dogs

6 calls for aggressive behavior dogs

1 call for lost/missing dog

5 dogs found and reunited with owners

1 cat rescue from building rooftop

5 calls for humane society shelter information.

I would like to thank Brandon Police Dept., Dunmore Hose Co. and many residents for support on calls.

Please register dogs at the town clerks office yearly. Have tags, phone numbers visible on collars, it makes for easy, safe return of pets.

Respectfully,  
Tim Kingston  
Brandon ACO



## Planning & Zoning Adm. Report cont.

write existing dog and farm animal rules into one comprehensive and separate Ordinance is planned for 2023.

FINALLY, be certain to ASK the ZONING ADMINISTRATOR (not your neighbor, container/shed sales person or contractor) on what rules need to be followed anytime you plan to add or expand a structure, a change of use, or commercial activity! I am here to assist in the process; Jeff Biasuzzi 247-3635 X202 Office Hours on Tue.(until 4 pm) & Wed. morn.

### Zoning Administrator

Jeffrey M. Biasuzzi

EXPENDITURES	FY-21/22	FY-22/23	FY-23/24
PLANNING & ZONING	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary / Wages.....	\$ 26,961	\$ 31,775	\$ 31,275
Benefits / Taxes .....	2,062	4,340	4,300
Travel & Expenses .....	2	200	300
Continuing Education .....	-	150	500
Legal Services - zoning .....	1,025	2,000	2,000
Professional Supplies .....	59	100	100
Planning/Zoning Postage..	76	250	150
Legal Advertising .....	439	500	500
Energy Cm Public Outreach	-	3,200	4,500
<b>Total Zoning .....</b>	<b>\$ 30,625</b>	<b>\$ 42,515</b>	<b>\$ 43,625</b>



## Dog Licenses 2021-2022

TYPE	# SOLD	FEE	TOTAL
Neutered .....	264	\$ 4.00	\$1,036.00
Un-Neutered.....	40	\$ 8.00	224.00
Neutered After 10/1 .....	2	\$ 2.00	4.00
Un-Neutered After 10/1 .....	2	\$ 4.00	8.00
Kennel/Special.....	0		
Late Fees.....			122.00
<b>Total Paid to Town.....</b>			<b>\$1,510.00</b>



## ***Rutland Regional Planning Commission Report***

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is a resource for towns, a platform for ideas and inspires a vision for our future. We balance local desires, best practices, and regional planning for communities that are vibrant today and strong for years to come.

The RRPC and Town of Brandon continued working together in 2022 on many community development and planning initiatives. Some highlights include:

- Worked with town to review Section 248 applications to Public Utilities Commission for solar electric generation facilities.
- Assisted Planning Commission with Bylaw Modernization application.
- Worked with economic development coordinator on Municipal Planning Grant for Phase 2 of the Rutland Regional Asset Mapping Project (RAMP).
- Conducted a full culvert inventory update for the Town and provided VTCulverts technical training to Road Crew.
- Updated new downtown stormwater mapping of inlets for the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) road erosion inventory.
- Worked with the town Energy Committee to continue its Button Up workshops and possibly becoming a Window Dressers community and to provide it with the latest list of resources for weatherization and related funds and grants in the State.
- Worked with the town on its well-attended Davenport Electric Fest on July 9.
- Assisted Town officials, New England Woodcraft, and Otter Creek NRCD on funding opportunities for a pilot 3-Acre Stormwater Permit project.
- Worked with Town Manager/EMD to update 2022 Local Emergency Management Plan and adopt Rutland Region Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement
- Worked with Town Manager/EMD, who served as Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee Chair, to host four quarterly meetings of this new committee and appoint REMC voting members for 2022-2023 fiscal year
- Worked with Town Planning Team to update Brandon Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Worked with Road Foreman to complete FY22 Grants in Aid construction project (12 segments improved) and apply for FY23 GIA construction program funding
- Worked with Road Foreman on MRGP and erosion inventory trainings to ensure permit compliance and meet 2022 15% milestone – achieved 15% target!
- Provided GIS and mapping support.

If you feel inspired to participate in local or regional planning, want to be paired with opportunities to grow your community, or just want to learn more, please visit or give us a call - we'd love to hear from you! Because together, we grow strong communities!

## ***Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders (BRAVO)***

Welcome to BRAVO. We are the Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders Committee. BRAVO serves the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, and Sudbury. We are a dedicated group of volunteers who believe in the power of restorative justice. The philosophy and practice of Restorative Justice is as old as indigenous societies; for Vermont's law enforcement system, it has been an alternative to criminal court for decades and can be seen in action throughout the state.

### **How BRAVO works**

When an arrest is made, the case is evaluated by a State's Attorney and the Chief of Police to determine if it should be forwarded to the court system or to BRAVO. When cases are deemed appropriate for BRAVO, we receive a copy of the charges and the general information that is within the report. We reach out to those involved and set up a meeting time to begin the process with the offender, the person harmed, and three committee members who are referred to as a panel and who stay with the case until it is completed.

Our jobs/responsibilities are varied:

- We serve as panelists to review cases brought to us by the Chief of Police, after an arrest.
- We offer the offended and the offender an alternative forum for making amends.
- We work to spread the word about the opportunity for restorative justice. This is challenging because our work is confidential – we do not publicize which BRAVO members are on a panel or any details of the cases we are involved in.

Training is a vital component of our work. Volunteers submit an application to serve on BRAVO, which includes a

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Report**

The members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee met a few times during the year and soon realized that it would make sense to immerse ourselves in a longer-term study. We recognized that changing our structures and policies required a deeper look into our systems, norms, and deep-rooted beliefs. This task is a marathon not a sprint.

Bill Moore and Sue Gage became part of a consortium of towns in Vermont working with a facilitator, Dr. Jude Rachele and her organization Abundant Sun, which is funded by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort meets monthly or bimonthly and we have completed a survey of employees and appointed officials within the town to gain a better understanding of our current culture and norms. This data will help us to understand the challenges we face and the tools we are getting from the consortium will help us to better meet those challenges.

We recognize that Brandon is made up of many individuals who are diverse in their experiences, socio-economic status, gender identity, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and national origin. And to embrace this diversity in a meaningful way requires all of us to pause and consider as we interact with each other daily.

Dave Atherton  
Bill Moore  
Sue Gage



## **BRAVO cont.**

background check and fingerprinting. We undergo eight hours of training by the Department of Corrections (DOC) in the principles, ideas, attitudes, and insights necessary for this path of justice.

Restorative Justice doesn't seek to punish offenders. The hope is to provide a means for the offender and victim to communicate with each other safely about what happened and to provide a way for those harmed to have a voice and better understand why this action occurred. For the process of reconciliation to work, BRAVO expects that offenders take responsibility for their actions, that they listen to the harm that they did to other(s) (including self-harm), and that they make amends – often in the form of community service. Taking responsibility is key to this process. Without a willingness to meet these expectations, reconciliation cannot occur. Our goals are for all parties to be able to safely express themselves and feel respected and heard, and for the outcomes to be amenable to those involved. At any time, the case can be returned to the police for a court date if the offender is not willing to participate. Victims do not always wish to step forward, and we are open to whatever they may wish to share. These are the basics of restorative justice and the work of the BRAVO committee.

### **BRAVO in 2022**

Because of COVID and because the work we do is inherently confidential, there haven't been many opportunities to tell people about the BRAVO mission and the work we do. So, this year, BRAVO proudly took ourselves to the Brandon Carnival, which was an amazing amount of fun! The positive energy at the carnival was a wonderful atmosphere for sharing the story of our work and how it can transform lives. We handed out business cards and BRAVO bracelets to everyone who visited our booth, to spread the word about Brandon's Restorative Justice program. We held a bean-counting contest at our carnival tent, which meant we counted 8,821 dried beans by hand! Out of 100 people who entered, the winner was an Otter Valley student who received two large pizzas donated by Brandon Discount Beverage & Deli. (We thank them, and our certificate of appreciation hangs inside on their wall.) More somberly, we used this public opportunity to educate youth and families about the deadly drug fentanyl, which has taken countless lives, and is often found laced in marijuana. Drug testing kits and Narcan - a reversing agent for opioid overdoses - are essential for saving lives. These kits are free at our town office, and we appreciate the efforts of our Town Clerk for making these lifesaving resources available.

As of May 2022, BRAVO requested that all cases from Otter Valley Union Middle & High School be heard at the school. It makes sense that young people work through their cases in the community where the harm happened and where there is support. Some youths have been as young as 12. We have asked the school to provide, whenever possible, someone to represent the harm done: if it was not another student, staff can sit in to represent harm to the school. The school, police, and our committee have found this to be most practical and supportive of the students. Several families who have had their cases held at OVUHS this year, have provided us with very positive feedback. They say they felt comfortable, respected, heard and, in the end, felt the process was positive and helpful for their child. Staff at the school have been exceedingly supportive and kind. We want to thank the new school administration as well as the restorative staff and the counseling staff for helping to build a positive community. Our collaboration with the school helps to teach students about responsibility, problem-solving, and reconciliation. Student offenders learn that they can make a mistake and not feel like the mistake defines them.

## ***BRAVO cont.***

In June 2022 we were invited to participate in a state-wide Restorative Justice conference, sponsored by DOC and State's Attorney's Office. Hundreds of people from around the state attended and shared stories, acknowledged how challenging and rewarding our work is, explored ideas for broadening diversity on RJ panels, and celebrated the end to our two-year pandemic isolation. This meeting filled a need to seek out information about other programs and open up dialogue and share experiences.

After being unable to schedule training for two years due to COVID, in September 2022 we welcomed Chris Barton ( Restorative Systems Administrator), to town to train new members.

We can report that we have served zero clients referred to us since the opening of our new fiscal year, July 1, 2022. This means there were no arrests brought forth to BRAVO. For us, it is the best news.

### **Benefits of BRAVO & Going Forward**

We are working to get the word out about what a great opportunity it is to have an alternative to going to court after an arrest. Restorative Justice is a process of learning, accepting responsibility, making amends, sharing feelings and insights, building positive relationships, and working toward alternative behaviors in the future. It provides a safe forum for those who have been harmed, allows them to safely share feelings, and to express how they might like things to be going forward.

Restorative Justice is a way to seek truth, to heal, and to care for our community. Small miracles happen and people transform when they become involved with a process of being heard without judgements, and when they are able to make amends and have an opportunity for a second chance.

Often, going to jail creates more damage than it repairs. Research on recidivism shows that there is a much lower return to crime when a restorative process has been followed. Not only does Restorative Justice save taxpayers the high cost of incarceration, it helps build a stronger community, by showing support to all its members, especially through bad times. Whether one has created harm or received harm, everyone needs to feel a sense of worth. This is especially true for our young people, who represent a growing number of our cases.

If you find yourself wanting more information about volunteering, please drop an email to [castonevt@gmail.com](mailto:castonevt@gmail.com). We meet monthly at the Brandon Museum, and we thank the Museum for the use of their terrific conference space.

Our current BRAVO committee is indebted to those who came before us who began this program, in particular Debbie Boyce, and - *in memoriam* - Lance Mead and Art Doty. We are honored to continue this work and their legacy. Our gratitude to our Town Manager, Dave Atherton, and Chief of Police, David Kachajian, for their support, kindness, wisdom, and necessary sense of humor. It is incredibly meaningful to chat with our local police officers about the case process and to see how this program brings the community together in a real way. And we appreciate the residents of our town, for trusting this process and this crew of trained volunteers to carry out this restorative work.

My gratitude as chair goes out to all who have stepped forward to serve:

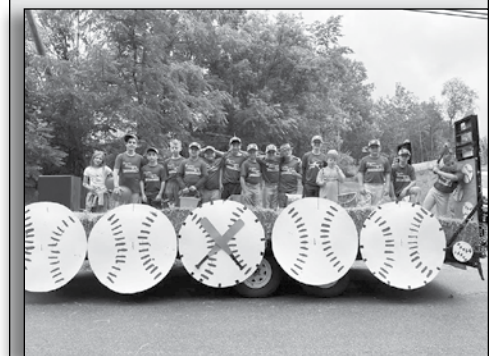
Thank you to the community for hearing more about us.

With Respect,

Claire Astone

BRAVO Chair

BRAVO supports Inclusivity, Equity and Diversity







## Intergovernmental / Partner Agencies

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>PARTNER AGENCIES</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
VLCT Insurance .....	\$ 81,785	\$ 90,225	\$ 91,500
Unemployment Insurance ..	5,577	5,650	6,275
Worker's Comp Insurance .	41,017	46,075	64,550
Insurance Deductible .....	1,000	1,000	1,000
County Tax .....	23,807	30,000	30,000
Rut. Regional Commission .	975	1,000	1,000
Green-Up Day .....	863	300	300
Public Transit .....	3,500	3,500	3,500
REDC .....	500	500	500
Rut Nat Resources Conserv	-	250	250
Mosquito Control .....	40,491	40,500	41,710
Reserve Fund transfer .....	10,000	-	-
<b>Total Partner Agencies .....</b>	<b>\$ 209,515</b>	<b>\$ 219,000</b>	<b>\$ 240,585</b>

## Debt Service

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
RT 7 Town Share -2006 ....	\$163,308	\$158,000	\$151,500
Interest Exp.- Short Term ....	-	5,000	-
PD Bond Payment .....	27,240	26,650	26,000
2016 Segment 6 Bond .....	63,492	62,600	61,750
<b>Total Debt Service .....</b>	<b>\$254,040</b>	<b>\$252,250</b>	<b>\$239,250</b>

## Tax Expenditures

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY-21/22</b>	<b>FY-22/23</b>	<b>FY-23/24</b>
<b>Tax Expenditures</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Tax Sale .....	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Tax Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>

## Vital Statistics Report

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Births	57	29	39	30
Deaths	37	48	69	44
Civil Marriages	38	26	24	37

Due to the town's liability exposure and the possible use of information fraudulently, the Vermont Department of Health has recommended against printing names in the Vital Statistics section of the Town Report. The Brandon Town Clerk's office concurs with this policy.



# Town Officials

## \*\*\* ELECTED OFFICIALS \*\*\*

### Justices of the Peace

Doug Bailey	2025
Bob Clark	2025
Kathy Clark	2025
Bud Coolidge	2025
Wendy Feldman	2025
Seth Hopkins	2025
Hillary Knapp	2025
Bill Moore	2025
John Peterson	2025
Laura Peterson	2025
Jeff Stewart	2025
Linda Stewart	2025

### Library Trustees

Carol Fjeld	2023
David Roberts	2024

### Moderator

Bill Moore	2023
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### Select Board

Brian Coolidge	2023
Ralph Ethier	2023
Tim Guiles	2025
Seth Hopkins	2023
Tracy Wyman	2024

### Town Clerk

Sue Gage	2023
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### Town Treasurer

Sue Gage	2023
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### Trustees of Public Funds

Courtney Satz	2025
Laura Miner	2024
Tanner Romano	2023

## \*\*\* APPOINTED OFFICIALS \*\*\*

### Animal Control Officer

Tim Kingston	
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### Budget Committee

Doug Bailey	2022
Janet Coolidge	2022
Neil Silins	2022
Barry Varian	2022
Peter Werner	2022

### Constable

### Development Review Board

Robert Clark	2024
Jim Des Marais	2023
John Peterson	2025
Jack Schneider	2025
Samantha Stone	2023

### E-911 Coordinator

Thomas Kilpeck	
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### Emergency Management Director

David Atherton	
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### Energy Committee

Erin Ballantine	
Eve Beglarian	
Robert Black	
Jeffrey Cohen	
Jim Emerson	
Jeff Haylon	
Jack Schneider	

### Fence Viewers

Todd Nielsen	2023
John Reynolds	2023

### Fire Warden

Linwood Bovey	2024
Mike Markowski (Deputy)	2024

### Green-up Day Coordinator

James Leary	2023
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### Health Officer

Abby Spiegelman	2025
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### Deputy Health Officer

David Atherton	2024
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### Historic Preservation Commission

Frank Bump	
Bob Clark	
Roy Murdock	
John Peterson	
Dennis Reisenweaver	
Jeff Stewart	

### Inspector of Lumber

Bob Kilpeck	2023
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### Otter Creek Communications

Union District Representative	
Bill Moore	2023

### Otter Creek Watershed Insect

Control District Representatives	
Richard Russ	2023
Doug Bailey, alt.	2023

### Planning Commission

Bob Foley	2024
William Mills	2023
Cecil Reniche-Smith	2024
Jack Schneider	2025
Sue Gage, alt.	2023

### Revolving Loan Fund Committee

Wendy Bizzarro	2023
Stephanie Jerome	2025
Karen Lynch	2025
Frank Spezzano	2024
Catherine Wall	2023
Tom Whittaker	2024
Jack Schneider, alt.	2024

### Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative

Gabe McGuigan	2023
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### Rutland Emergency Management Committee Representatives

David Atherton	2023
Thomas Kilpeck	2023

### Rutland Region Transportation Council Representative

David Atherton	2023
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### Rutland Regional Planning Commission Representative

Jack Schneider	2023
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### Tree Warden

Neil Silins	2023
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### Weighers of Coal

Lou Faivre	2023
Olya Hopkins	2023

### Zoning Administrator

Jeffrey M. Biasuzzi	2024
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## \*\*\*\*\* EMPLOYEES \*\*\*\*\*

### Economic Development Officer

Bill Moore	
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### Police Department

Aidan Alnwick	
Linda Graziano	
David Kachajian	
Ethan Kelleher	
Joseph Mannino	
Adam Murach	
Nicholas Stendardo	
Michael Vonschleusingen	

### Public Works Department

Stephen Cijka	
Jeremy Disorda	
Shawn Erickson	
Brian Kilpeck	
Tim Kingston	
Nathan McKeighan	
Dan Snow	

### Recording Secretaries

Charlene Bryant	
Hillary Knapp	

### Buildings & Grounds

Paula Butterfield	
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### Recreation

Bill Moore - Director	
Colleen Wright	

### Rental Housing Officer

Auggie Norris	
Abby Spiegelman	

### Town Manager

David Atherton	
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### Town Office Staff

Karen Folger	
Luanne Merkert	
Jacelyn Savela	
Elaine S. Smith	

# Reports

## *from Intergovernmental Appropriations and Public Agencies*

### OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

This spring and summer the level of biting insect activity within the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) was well above average. The number of adult mosquitoes captured in light traps and net sweeps far exceeded treatment thresholds in all member towns and in Proctor throughout most of the summer. Numbers declined significantly in early September.

The OCW staff did weekly surveillance of historical mosquito breeding wetlands starting in May. While an aerial larvicide application early in the spring might have reduced the numbers of adults that subsequently hatched, the OCW Board of Trustees judged the cost of an aerial treatment (\$37/acre this year) to be more than the budget could stand. That judgement proved accurate, as the OCW came close to a negative checkbook balance in July because of intense efforts to control mosquito populations coupled with steep price inflation for larvicide, adulticide, and other supplies.

With pesticide prices not expected to decline next year, the OCW budget will be increased by 5% for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2023 (FY 24). The algorithm that is used to equitably apportion OCW expenses among member towns was updated with 2020 census data this year. Reviewing the updated algorithm output, the Board became concerned that the relationship between town assessments and mosquito control operations in each town was substantially out of alignment, i.e., would no longer be equitable. An ad hoc committee was formed to review that issue. That committee consisted of one representative from each member town plus one representative from Proctor (who contracts for insect control services with the OCW). The committee developed a new algorithm, which uses the following factors and weights for determining each town's assessment: equalized education grand list (33.3%), acres of Class 2 wetlands (10.3%), number of dwelling units (28.2%), and adulticide spray routes road miles (28.2%). The Board voted to use the new algorithm for determining town assessments for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2024 (FY 25). The apportionments used in 2022 (i.e., without updated census data) were used to determine town assessments for next year (FY 24).

Continuing a pattern begun last year, the OCW staff applied adulticide once a week along all seventeen of our published spray routes when light trap counts and other surveillance justified the treatment. Based on considerable Select Board and citizen feedback, that weekly program seemed to keep the nuisance level under control.

The Vermont Pesticide General Permit (PGP) is renewed by the US Environmental Protection Agency every 5 years... and 2022 was a renewal year. For the OCW to continue pesticide operations under the new PGP, a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pesticide Management Discharge Plan (PDMP) were submitted to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on August 1st. Those documents were approved by the DEC on October 11th. In conjunction with preparing the PDMP, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and the Rutland County Regional Planning Commission (RCRPC) were asked to determine, using the DEC database, the acreage of wetlands in the six towns that the OCW serves. Previously, 6,000 acres was believed to be the approximate number. Turns out that there are somewhat over 16,000 acres of Class 2 wetlands in the district suitable for mosquito breeding, with Brandon having 5,491, Leicester having 3,517, Salisbury having 3,278, Goshen having 731, Pittsford having 2,923, and Proctor having 407.

On Town Meeting Day in March Salisbury community members voted to fully fund their portion of the OCW budget for the fiscal year that started July 1, 2022. However, the consequence of their March 2021 vote was that only larvicide treatment would have been done in the town between April (the start of the "season") and June 30th of this year. Recognizing that the lack of adult control efforts would negatively impact their members, the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association donated money to the OCW to cover the April thru June adulticide spraying costs for roads in Salisbury immediately adjacent to Lake Dunmore.

The OCW received 406 calls from district residents requesting nuisance mosquito control: 92 from Brandon, 125 from Leicester, 80 from Salisbury, 9 from Goshen, 84 from Pittsford, and 16 from Proctor. That number of service requests represents a 43% decrease from last year. Eighty-seven owners opted out of adulticide spraying adjacent to their property: 15 from Brandon, 10 from Leicester, 36 from Salisbury, 10 from Goshen, 7 from Pittsford, and 9 from Proctor. That number of no spray requests represents a 36% increase from last year.

A reminder: No Spray requests must be renewed annually and should be submitted to the OCW no later than April 15th. Requests received after April 15th will be honored, but there could be a delay between receipt of the request and marking the property, which could result in the property being sprayed. If a No Spray Zone request was submitted for the preceding year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email sent to the OCW containing the 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again for the current year will suffice. The OCW email address is: ocwicd@gmail.com. If a No Spray Zone request was NOT submitted for the preceding year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, a letter must be submitted listing the name(s) of the

## OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT **cont.**

property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone number(s), the 911 address of the property, and include a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public or private road(s). The OCW mailing address is: PO Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733. For additional details please visit: <https://ocwicd.com/adulticide-program>.

Kudos again to Will Mathis, the OCW Operations Coordinator, and to Jeremy New and Kerry White for their long hours this season keeping nuisance mosquito populations at tolerable levels. All three employees have day jobs but often were driving double spray routes until 2 o'clock in the morning. As mentioned in last year's report, additional part-time staff would be most welcome. For job particulars please contact Will, who can be reached via the OCW call center (802-247-6779) or the email address above.

At the Annual Meeting on 18 November, Doug Perkins (Leicester) was re-elected as Chair, Jeff Schumann (Salisbury) was re-elected as Vice-Chair, Brad Lawes (Leicester) was re-elected as Treasurer, and Steve Belcher (Pittsford) was re-elected as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. The Board is composed of two representatives and one alternate from each member town, appointed by each town's Select Board. Currently, there are openings on the OCW Board for the towns of Brandon and Salisbury. Anyone interested in serving as an OCW representative should contact their Select Board.

Thank you for your continued support of biting insect control in the Otter Creek watershed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Perkins  
**Chair, OCW Board of Trustees**

**District Representatives:**  
Richard Russ  
Doug Bailey, alt.

## GREEN UP VERMONT

[www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)

Green Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding again for Green Up Day 2023.

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

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

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

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

***Green Up Day, May 6, 2023***

**Green Up Day Coordinator, James Leary**

## DOWNTOWN BRANDON ALLIANCE

In 2022 the Downtown Brandon Alliance has continued to keep up with the requirements set forth by the state of Vermont to keep Brandon's Designated Downtown status. But we could still use more help from the citizens of Brandon. Our board could use new members to help in directing the energy of our efforts, and the efforts of the volunteers that work with us. The importance of the Designated Downtown is that it helps Brandon and its downtown businesses and property owners to achieve success in the wonderful town of Brandon. The DBA will continue to collaborate with all organizations that are willing to do the work to make Brandon an inviting place to work, visit, play and live. Please consider joining us. If you'd like to get involved, you can contact us at [brandondba@yahoo.com](mailto:brandondba@yahoo.com) or through Bill Moore at the town office.

Respectfully  
Devon D. Fuller  
**President DBA**



## BRANDON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Brandon Historic Preservation Commission has been reorganized and revitalized under the leadership of Dennis Reisenweaver, the new chairman. With the death of two key members of the commission – Lance Mead and Richard Baker – plus the impact of Covid, the activities of the commission had ground to a halt, but now regular meetings have been reestablished and some of the earlier tasks resumed – the inventory of the downtown barns, the consideration of historic signs, the exploration of historic quarries, and physical problems concerning the Methodist Church..

At the same time, the commission is refocusing its attention on its key tasks—issues associated with preserving the heritage and history of Brandon. This includes participation in the identification, registration and preservation of historic properties within Brandon, particularly as that includes being an advocate for historic preservation, expanding public outreach and information, collaborating and cultivating pride of place and stewardship. These objectives can be accomplished by providing education on historical issues and facilities and assisting property owners in registering properties in the National or State Register of Historic Places

To accomplish these activities, the State of Vermont and the federal government have made available grants that can be used in the following areas:

- . Performing a historical resource survey
- . Assisting with National register nominations
- . Performing preservation planning
- . Performing predevelopment projects such as engineering studies and
- . Implementing development projects

The Brandon Commission has decided that for us a preservation planning survey should be a prudent first step. Such a grant would encompass obtaining an expert to evaluate what has been performed in the past, provide an overview historic importance of Brandon facilities and activities, and provide a prioritized list of areas and issues that should be pursued. To that end, working with the cooperation and encouragement of State Architectural Historian Devin Colman, the Commission is requesting such a grant and requests that the town's match of \$5,000 be included in the next budget.

Jeff Stewart,  
**Temporary Chair**



## MARBLE VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT – “THE BUS”

Lee Bizon, Community Outreach

Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD), known as “The Bus” is in its forty sixth year of providing service to the residents of the greater Rutland area. The Bus is the largest, non-urban, public transportation system in the State of Vermont and provides transportation to the general public throughout Rutland County, as well as to social and human service agencies, the resort communities and area businesses. MVRTD provides an enhanced level of self-sufficiency for the elderly, disabled and transportation disadvantaged who rely on public transportation. System ridership was over 485,900 rides this past year. MVRTD provides 65 jobs year round, with upwards of 80 during the winter peak season.

MVRTD provided over 1,700 rides to Brandon on the Middlebury Route, a commuter service with stops at the American Legion, Brandon Center Gazebo, Brandon Post Office, Estabrook Field and Park Village. Other highly successful commuter routes operated by MVRTD both within Rutland County and beyond provide connections to three adjoining counties thus serving the growing population committed to the environmental benefits of public transit use as well as the savings realized in the cost of fuel.

MVRTD has provided service under the Elderly and Disabled Program to Brandon for many years in partnership with Bridges and Beyond.

For more information about schedules and services please call 773-3244 x112 or visit MVRTD’s web site at [www.thebus.com](http://www.thebus.com).

MVRTD thanks the residents of Brandon for their continued support of public transit.

*Live Green – Ride the Bus*

## VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM “VSNIP”

### TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law at six months of age. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be confiscated. Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

**Licensing a dog:** 1) helps identify your dog if lost, 2) Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal (but would still need immediate medical attention), 3) Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}., and 4) Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT

For a VSNIP Application and a List of Participating Offices, send a 10” SASE: Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if your request is for a cat, dog or both. Once fully completed, please mail it back. If approved, you will receive a Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pays the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog licensing. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit, or you will be charged for treatment. Pain medication is highly recommended **after** the surgery, but would be your responsibility. It is also wise to buy an “E” collar to avoid having sutures pulled out. These are the right choices!

Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. **These altruistic veterinarians are the backbone of the program!** If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they have made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the routine means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let’s keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator 1-800-HI VSNIP (1-844-448-7647)

# Accounts

## EXPENDITURES

### TOWN CLERK/TREASURER

	FY-21/22 ACTUAL	FY-22/23 APPROVED	FY-23/24 PROPOSED
Salary / Wages.....	\$115,038	\$122,500	\$130,240
Benefits / Taxes .....	57,893	64,400	65,120
Travel & Expenses .....	21	-	150
Dues & Subscriptions .....	230	250	250
Professional Development.....	449	750	500
Elections .....	6,474	8,300	6,500
Dog License Expense .....	139	150	150
Office Supplies .....	610	500	650
Records Preservation .....	8,596	14,040	14,055
Office Equipment .....	-	1,200	1,000
<b>Total Town Clerk/Treasurer .....</b>	<b>\$189,448</b>	<b>\$212,090</b>	<b>\$218,615</b>

## State Payments to the Town of Brandon

Dept. of Finance and Management – July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

AOT - Grants/Other HW projects .....	\$ 318,989.44
AOT - Class 1, 2, 3 Roads .....	175,557.55
Dept. of Public Service/Grant Funds.....	45,564.87
Dept. of Administration/ Grant Funds.....	558,244.38
Dept. of Children & Families/ Grant Funds.....	2,283.94
Dept. of Housing & Comm. Dev/ Grant Funds.....	30,838.00
Dept. of Public Safety/Grant Funds .....	123,299.44
Judicial & Civil Fines/Document Reimbursement.....	4,432.50
Annual Ticket refund .....	2,260.68
DCF Fingerprinting reimbursement.....	345.00
Recording Fees .....	540.00
Assessor Reappraisal.....	16,957.50
Assessor Revenue .....	1,995.00
Local Option Tax.....	272,326.00
Municipal Property Tax Adjustment.....	177,657.02
PILOT/Current Use/Hold Harmless/RR Tax.....	52,258.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,783,550.25</b>

## Debt and Loan Balances

PERIOD ENDING 6/30/2022					
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>					
<b>BONDS</b>					
\$	346,942.40	Waste Water, System Improvements	ANNUAL PMT 22/23	ANNUAL PMT 23/24	ANNUAL PMT 24/25
\$	17,236.11	Waste Water, Carver Street Extension of System	\$ 30,907	\$ 30,895	\$ 30,882
\$	449,980.36	Waste Water, Champlain St Pump Station	\$ 4,635	\$ 4,631	\$ 4,628
\$	675,000.00	General Fund, Infrastructure Bond 2006	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964
\$	217,250.00	General Fund, PD Building Rehab	\$ 157,498	\$ 151,315	\$ 145,458
\$	668,160.00	General Fund, Overflow Culver, Rte 7, Bridge 114	\$ 26,589	\$ 25,937	\$ 25,286
\$			\$ 62,557	\$ 61,561	\$ 60,502
<b>STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS</b>					
\$	497,246.69	* CWSRF -RF1-214-3.0 Park St - \$12,982 forgiven, \$32231.91/yr beg 5/1/21	\$ 32,232	\$ 32,232	\$ 32,232
\$	408,900.00	WW - RF1-223-2.0 Sewer - \$151,450 forgiven, \$25745/yr, beg 12/1/26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$	4,317.00	Waste Water Engineering/Flow Analysis - \$2,200/yr, 5/1/2020	\$ 2,158	\$ 2,158	\$ -
\$	<b>3,285,032.56</b>				
<b>CAPITAL LEASES</b>					
\$	91,878.39	General Fund - Grader Lease, 2.75% interest	\$ 32,408	\$ 32,408	\$ 32,408
\$	66,188.27	General Fund - Sidewalk Plow, 4.39% interest	\$ 24,028	\$ 24,028	\$ 24,028
\$	39,834.59	General Fund - 2019 Ford Truck Lease, 3.77% interest	\$ 21,051	\$ 21,051	\$ -
\$	<b>197,901.25</b>		<b>\$ 417,026.69</b>	<b>\$ 409,179.98</b>	<b>\$ 378,387.68</b>
<b>SHORT-TERM DEBT</b>		<b>DESCRIPTION</b>			
\$	-	Bond Anticipation Loan for Waste Water Project			

## ***Treasurer's Tax Report (aka Tax Reconciliation)***

### **TREASURERS TAX REPORT TAX YEAR ENDING 5/15/2022**

<b>TAXES BILLED 2021-2022</b>	<b>TAX RATE</b>	<b>X GRAND LIST =</b>	<b>TOTAL RAISED</b>
Non-Residential Education.....	1.6356	\$1,441,124	\$2,357,102.05
Homestead Education.....	1.3862	2,004,276	\$2,778,326.70
Municipal			
Town	0.7945	\$3,450,513	2,741,432.58
Fire District #1	0.0859	3,450,513	296,399.07
Local Agreement Rate	0.0062	3,450,513	21,393.18
Appropriations	0.0857	3,450,513	295,708.96
Misc Taxes			1,625.37
Total Taxes Billed.....			\$8,491,987.91
Late Homestead Penalties.....			-
Total Taxes Collectible.....			\$8,491,987.91
Taxes Paid by 5/15/22 .....		\$8,219,852	
Abatements .....		251	
Delinquent Taxes .....		271,885	
Total Taxes Accounted for .....			8,491,987.91
<b>TAXES PAID TO:</b>			
Otter Valley Unified Union School District (OVUUSD).....		4,296,071	
Brandon Fire District #1 .....		296,550	
Total .....			4,592,620.63
<b>EDUCATION TAX CASH FLOW FINAL</b>			
State Payments.....		1,028,469	
State Payments to Municipality.....		177,657	
Non-Residential Education Tax Billed .....		2,336,620	
Homestead Education Tax Billed .....		2,790,387	
Payments to OVUUSD.....		(4,296,071)	
		860,936	
State Payments.....		(1,028,469)	
State Payments to Municipality.....		177,657	
Late Fees Retained.....		(435)	
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Homestead.....		(4,364)	
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Non-Residential.....		(5,325)	
Variance .....		0	

NOTE: FOR PURPOSES OF RECONCILING THE EDUCATION TAX BILLING, FINAL GRAND LIST AMOUNTS ARE USED IN THE TAX CALCULATION AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE. THESE FIGURES VARY SLIGHTLY FROM THE BILLED TAXES WHICH ARE BASED ON THE GRAND LIST IN JULY.

Respectfully Submitted  
Susan Gage, Treasurer

## Tax Rates / Grand List / Town Budget Over Time

	6/30/19	6/30/20	6/30/21	6/30/22	6/30/23
<b>GRAND LIST</b>					
Grand List .....	\$336,433,400	\$330,490,800	\$344,129,900	\$345,374,100	\$3,458,240
<b>TAX RATES</b>					
Town Budget.....	0.7856	0.8026	0.7899	0.7945	0.7843
Voted Appropriations.....	0.0792	0.0660	0.0788	0.0857	0.0628
Fire District .....	0.0871	0.0867	0.0834	0.0859	0.0938
Local Agreement Rates.....	0.0105	0.0077	0.0064	0.0062	0.0061
<b>Total Local Tax Rates .....</b>	<b>0.9624</b>	<b>0.9630</b>	<b>0.9585</b>	<b>0.9723</b>	<b>0.9470</b>
<b>Education Rates</b>					
Non Residential Education .....	1.5189	1.5516	1.5763	1.6356	1.5758
Homestead Education .....	1.3277	1.3343	1.3479	1.3862	1.3735
<b>Total Tax Rate, Homestead .....</b>	<b>2.2901</b>	<b>2.2973</b>	<b>2.3064</b>	<b>2.3585</b>	<b>2.3205</b>
<b>Total Tax Rate, Non Residential.....</b>	<b>2.4813</b>	<b>2.5146</b>	<b>2.5348</b>	<b>2.6079</b>	<b>2.5228</b>
<b>APPROVED BUDGETS</b>					
Budget to be Raised by Taxes .....	\$2,578,045	\$2,652,555	\$2,718,353	\$2,744,135	\$2,712,274
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>					
ARC of Rutland .....	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	-
Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Brandon Area Rescue Squad .....	20,735	28,000	28,000	28,000	82,580
Brandon Free Public Library.....	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
Brandon Independence Day Committee	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	7,000
Brandon Senior Citizens Center .....	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Charter House Coalition .....	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Foxcroft Farm .....	-	-	-	-	-
Open Door Clinic,					
Community Health Services .....	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
RSVP .....	550	550	550	550	550
Rutland Area Visiting Nurses .....	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
Rutland County Humane Society .....	750	750	750	750	1,500
Rutland Mental Health .....	6,624	6,624	6,624	6,624	-
Southwest Council on Aging.....	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	-
Stephen Douglas House .....	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	5,000
Infrastructure / Paving .....	100,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	-
Brandon American Legion Post #55 ...	-	-	-	25,000	-
	<b>\$259,759</b>	<b>\$218,024</b>	<b>\$271,024</b>	<b>\$296,024</b>	<b>\$217,330</b>

## Properties Votes Exempt & Properties with Tax Stabilization

<b>PROPERTIES VOTED EXEMPT</b>				
DATE VOTED	NAME	BEGINNING DATE	END DATE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION
3/4/19	BARS Building & Land	7/1/19	6/30/24	584,200
3/3/15	Brandon Senior Citizens	7/1/20	6/30/25	257,800
3/4/19	Brandon Masonic Assn	7/1/19	6/30/24	264,100
<b>PROPERTIES WITH TAX STABILIZATION</b>				
DATE STABILIZED	NAME	STABILIZATION END DATE	STABILIZED VALUE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION
7/1/18	C&D Realty Holdings LLC	6/30/23	223,600	526,400
7/1/17	Olivia's Holdings LLC	6/30/25	885,000	887,200
7/1/19	Smith Block LLC	6/30/28	366,900	1,787,300
7/1/19	Briggs Lane Brandon LLC	6/30/23	62,200	302,200



## General Fund Balance Sheet

### Balance Sheet Previous Year - Period 12 June General Fund

#### ASSETS

Checking #176452010 .....	\$2,100,763
Petty Cash - Town Office .....	150
Petty Cash - Police Dept .....	50
Petty Cash - Recreation .....	75
Cash in MM #177607060 .....	2,944
Delinquent Tax Receivable .....	272,322
Int. & Pen. Receivables .....	72,928
Accounts Receivable .....	312
Middlebury Acct. 10047019 .....	46,473
Prepaid Expenses .....	4,350
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$2,500,367</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Due From/To Other Funds .....	\$1,080,004
Accounts Payable .....	48,389
Dog Lic. Fees to State .....	80
Marriage Lic. Fees to Sta .....	550
Anticipated Tax Credits .....	11,942
Deposits Payable .....	2,400
Deferred Tax Revenue .....	318,635
Tax Posting Variance .....	33
Accts Receivable Posting .....	(3)
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$1,462,031</b>

#### FUND BALANCE

Fund Balance .....	\$ 621,510
Restricted Highway Funds .....	152,100
Fund Balance-Recreation .....	24,735
Reserved by Selectboard .....	40,16
Nonspendable Fund Balance .....	4,350
Reserved - Records Pres. ....	32,832
Fund Balance Current Year .....	162,647
<b>Total Fund Balance .....</b>	<b>\$1,038,336</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance .....</b>	<b>\$2,500,367</b>

## **General Fund Balance Over Time**

<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>6/30/18</b>	<b>6/30/19</b>	<b>6/30/20</b>	<b>6/30/21</b>	<b>6/30/22</b>
<b>ENDING FUND BALANCE.....</b>	<b>\$604,545</b>	<b>\$616,970</b>	<b>\$670,586</b>	<b>\$875,689</b>	<b>\$1,038,336</b>
Unrestricted & Unassigned Fund Balance	563,426	473,056	519,340	689,14	784,157
Restricted Highway, statutory .....	(2,725)	12,489	36,451	93,479	152,100
Reserved Fund Balance.....	30,914	28,092	39,679	56,132	57,567
Assigned Fund Balance.....	-	85,000	40,000	30,433	40,162
Nonspendable Fund Balance.....	12,931	18,333	35,116	6,500	4,350
<b>Total Fund Balance.....</b>	<b>\$604,545</b>	<b>\$616,970</b>	<b>\$670,586</b>	<b>\$875,689</b>	<b>\$1,038,336</b>

### **Fund Balance Policy in Effect 6/30/2017**

Budget for Next Year .....	\$3,138,185	\$3,190,885	\$3,408,909	\$3,540,044	\$3,447,730
% of Unrestricted & Unassigned FB relative to Next Year Budget .....	17.95%	14.83%	15.23%	19.47%	22.47%

### **TOWN OF BRANDON FUND BALANCE POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to set parameters on the town's unrestricted reserve fund balance. Responsible stewardship of the taxpayers' money, and adequate provision for future needs of the town, both foreseen and unforeseen, require the town to maintain a positive fund balance. The fund balance may be used by the selectboard for any purpose not in conflict with Vermont or Federal statute.

The selectboard finds that a desirable amount for the town's unrestricted reserve fund balance is not less than 15% nor more than 30% of the town's then-current annual operating budget.

## **Local Options Tax Fund Over Time**

	<b>6/30/18</b>	<b>6/30/19</b>	<b>6/30/20</b>	<b>6/30/21</b>	<b>6/30/22</b>	<b>Totals to Date</b>
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE.....</b>	<b>\$ 73,081</b>	<b>\$262,131</b>	<b>\$437,279</b>	<b>\$483,164</b>	<b>\$374,146</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Local Option Tax Revenue .....	\$187,495	\$169,636	\$192,319	\$210,667	\$272,326	\$1,105,286
Bank Interest.....	1,555	5,513	3,566	950	609	12,432
Other .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$189,050</b>	<b>\$175,148</b>	<b>\$195,885</b>	<b>\$211,617</b>	<b>\$272,935</b>	<b>\$1,117,717</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Infrastructure Projects .....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$113,754	113,754
Infrastructure Projects Matching Funds....	-	-	150,000	320,636	-	470,636
Infrastructure Debt / Capital.....	-	-	-	-	123,900	123,900
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$320,636</b>	<b>\$237,654</b>	<b>\$708,291</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance .....</b>	<b>\$189,050</b>	<b>\$175,148</b>	<b>\$45,885</b>	<b>(109,019)</b>	<b>\$409,427</b>	<b>\$409,427</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Due To/From Other Funds .....	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$262,131</b>	<b>\$437,279</b>	<b>\$483,164</b>	<b>\$374,146</b>	<b>\$409,427</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Liabilities.....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>						
Prior Year Fund Balance.....	\$73,081	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,165	\$374,146	
Current Year .....	189,050	175,148	45,885	(109,019)	35,381	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE .</b>	<b>\$262,131</b>	<b>\$437,279</b>	<b>\$483,164</b>	<b>\$374,146</b>	<b>\$409,427</b>	

## ***Trustees of Public Funds***

The Trustees of Public Funds (TOPF) was established to manage the trust of the late Shirley Farr, based on her last will and testament after her death in 1955. As a Brandon resident and philanthropist, Miss Farr was concerned with environmental conditions and general improvements of the town and local society. Although several of her original bequests have since been ruled quite outdated, the board (along with legal counsel) updated the guidelines in 2020 to reflect present-day standards in order to continue to serve improvement of the town and village in ways not sufficiently provided by taxation.

We are looking forward to receiving application submissions in 2023! Look for the new Brandon VT Trustees of Public Funds on Facebook for public meeting notices and updates on ongoing community projects!

-Tanner Romano, Courtney Satz, and Laura Miner

The Trustees of Public Funds (TOPF) received three funding requests for the reporting year.

### **Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) 10/14/2021**

**Amount Requested: \$50,000**

**Status of Request: \$30,000 (Approved--\$10,000 per year for (3) consecutive years)**

The first request was on behalf of the Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) for a renovation project to improve accessibility and overdue upgrades to the building. The overall project included an addition containing a floor lift and stairway, a handicap accessible bathroom and vestibule, upgrades to electric, plumbing and heating, ventilation, and window restoration.

### **Brandon Museum 01/07/2022**

**Amount Requested: \$9,000**

**Status of Request: (Approved)**

The second request submitted by the Brandon Museum was to offset costs for technology upgrades including a new computer set up with scanning and printing functionalities, a new software program, and a website design.

### **Town of Brandon 05/27/2022**

**Amount Requested: \$11,300**

**Status of Request: Returned for resubmission with additional information requested.**

The final request submitted by the Town of Brandon was to offset expenditures of \$40,491.25 in mosquito control.

### **Expenditures:**

Brandon Free Pubic Library (10/14/2021).....	\$ 10,000.00
Brandon Museum (01/07/2022) .....	9,000.00

<b>Total Expenditures: .....</b>	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>
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<b>Ending Balance Bar Harbor Bank &amp; Trust Account as of 6/30/2022 .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,478.89</b>
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### **Composition of Fund as of June 30, 2022**

Morgan Stanley Investment Account	
Cash Balance .....	\$ 60,117.10
Equities.....	\$442,960.09
Fixed Income .....	\$267,232.24

<b>Total Fund Value on June 30, 2022 .....</b>	<b>\$770,309.43</b>
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### **Five Year Historical Record of Fund Value**

Year end June 30, 2018 .....	\$727,073.27
Year end June 30, 2019 .....	\$739,651.89
Year end June 30, 2020 .....	\$770,304.35
Year end June 30, 2021 .....	\$939,476.23
Year end June 30, 2022 .....	\$770,309.43

<b>Outstanding fund commitments as of June 30, 2022.....</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
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(Remaining \$20,000 pledge to Brandon Free Public Library in 2022 & 2023)

Trustees of Public Funds

Tanner Romano (2023) Laura Miner (2024) Courtney Satz (2025)

## RUTLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT (RNRCD)

### A sample of the activities the District was involved in during 2021/2022:

#### Organization:

**Local Work Group** - District Supervisors participate in Local Work Group meetings to assist USDA in setting local priorities for Cost Share Programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

#### Programs:

**Agricultural Outreach Specialist** – The District in cooperation with the Poultney Mettowee and Bennington County NRCD's share staff who work with landowners to find solutions to water quality issues, assist with nutrient management planning and oversee shared equipment used by farmers to implement environmentally friendly field practices.

**Conservation Planner** – The District works with a Conservation Planner providing technical assistance to farmers for the development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, natural resource assessment, and conservation contract development and management.

**Portable Skidder Bridges** – The District has a portable skidder bridge available for rent to loggers and foresters. Skidder bridges reduce stream disturbance, minimizing the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

#### Outreach:

**Website** – Please visit our website: <https://www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/rutland> for more information about District projects and programs.

Search for us on Facebook

#### Watershed Planning for the Otter Creek and its Tributaries:

With funding through grant sources, the District:

- Coordinated the removal of a berm in the Cold River Watershed in the Town of Clarendon, to restore floodplain function. The berm was created after the floods of the 1970's. Removal of this berm will address sediment and nutrient loading in the Cold River by allowing it to access the floodplain, thus reducing flood heights and slowing velocities which reduces erosion and provides ample storage of sediment within the river corridor.
- Received a final design for a Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) located within the parcel boundaries of the Wallingford Elementary School. The design was completed by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC.
- Provided the City of Rutland with a Phosphorus Control Plan (PCP). The plan was completed by Fitzgerald Environmental Associates and will help the City to achieve the percent phosphorus (P) reduction target for the Otter Creek segment of Lake Champlain.
- Is working with the Town of Proctor to develop a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP). The overall objective is to provide the Town of Proctor with a strategic approach for meeting stormwater management needs in the Otter Creek watershed, to address pressing water resource concerns in an efficient and targeted manner.

The District will continue to work with the City of Rutland, Towns, and landowners to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation. These projects have been identified in Stormwater Master Plans or other assessment/plans.

For further information or to be added to our mailing list or list of volunteers, please contact Nanci McGuire at [nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net)





## **Wastewater Balance - FY 21/22**

**Balance Sheet Previous Year - Period 12 Jun**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Last Yr Pd 12 Jun</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Sewer Fees Receivable .....	\$ 222,519
Unbilled Receivables .....	142,500
Accounts Receivable .....	61,013
Due/To Other Funds .....	623,431
Sewer Plant .....	1,521,825
Acc. Depreciation-Bldgs .....	(1,170,302)
SEWER PLANT UPGRADE .....	599,674
Accum. Dep. Sewer Lines .....	(275,931)
Sewer lines .....	2,834,600
Sewer Equipment .....	1,608,365
Acc. Depreciation-Equip .....	(905,564)
Construction in Progress .....	539,126
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,740,245</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable .....	\$ 25,561
Sewer Fee Credits .....	3,901
Accrued Vacation/Comp .....	2,697
USDA Bond - Pump Station .....	449,980
2012 WW CWSRF RF1-159 .....	6,475
SEWER IMPROV SERIES 4 .....	346,942
CARVER REFI 2012 SERIES 5 .....	17,236
CWSRF Park Street .....	497,247
Interest Payable - Bond .....	2,663
Sewer Posting Variance .....	389
CWSRF-Coll Sys Loan Payab .....	423,576
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,713,495</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	
Reserved Fund Balance .....	\$ 10,000
Retained Earnings .....	747,871
Contributed Capital .....	2,097,299
Contributed Capital .....	254,284
Contributed Capital .....	954,635
Fund Balance Current Year .....	(37,339)
<b>Total Fund Balance .....</b>	<b>\$ 4,026,750</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,740,245</b>

## **Wastewater Budget / Actual - FY 21/22**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Wastewater Revenues</b>			
Sewer Fees - Revenues .....	\$473,000	\$394,606	83.43%
Sewer Base Fees .....	309,400	307,431	99.36%
Misc. Revenues .....	-	2,763	100.00 %
Sewer Permit Revenue.....	250	200	80.00%
Interest Revenue .....	15,000	31,221	208.14%
Transfers .....	-	59,742	100.00 %
<b>Total Wastewater Revenues .....</b>	<b>\$ 797,650</b>	<b>\$795,963</b>	<b>99.79%</b>
<b>Wastewater Expenses</b>			
Wages-Permanent Full Time .....	\$107,250	\$108,724	101.37%
Overtime.....	5,000	2,885	57.69%
On Call hours.....	5,200	5,200	100.00%
Fica.....	7,550	6,913	91.56%
Medicare .....	1,775	1,617	91.08%
Health Insurance .....	41,400	38,455	92.89 %
Life & Disability Ins. ....	1,700	1,381	81.21%
DENTAL .....	3,540	3,138	88.65%
HRA WW .....	5,000	3,893	77.87 %
VMER .....	11,600	11,703	100.89%
Travel & Expenses .....	300	-	-
Clothing Allowance.....	1,200	100	8.33%
Dues & Subscriptions .....	600	485	80.83%
Continuing Education .....	500	204	40.80%
Professional Services .....	650	691	106.32 %
Contractors .....	-	33,169	100.00%
Licenses & Fees.....	2,500	2,340	93.60%
Legal Services.....	5,000	2,140	42.81%
Auditors.....	2,500	2,500	100.00%
Testing .....	4,000	4,913	122.83%
Office Supplies .....	300	117	39.11%
Professional Supplies .....	2,200	2,629	119.52%
New Equipment-Misc Tools.....	8,000	4,464	55.80%
Safety Equipment .....	500	316	63.13%
Fuel - Vehicles .....	1,600	2,351	146.94%
Maintenance-Vehicles .....	1,500	8,012	534.14 %
Wastewater Telephone.....	3,000	3,021	100.70%
LP Gas - Bldgs.....	9,500	10,912	114.86 %
Water .....	5,000	5,349	106.98 %
Electric.....	45,000	50,318	111.82 %
Maint. Supplies - Bldgs .....	2,500	-	-
Outside Maint. - Bldgs .....	10,000	190	1.90%
Maint. Supplies - General .....	10,000	8,816	88.16%

## **Wastewater Budget / Actual cont.**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Wastewater Expenses cont.</b>			
Sodium Hypochlorite .....	15,000	14,295	95.30 %
Root-X .....	20,000	11,162	55.81%
Sodium Bisulfite .....	15,000	13,710	91.40%
Sodium Aluminate .....	20,000	25,181	125.91%
Sludge Disposal .....	55,000	65,900	119.82%
Trucking .....	19,000	21,807	114.77%
Outside Equip. - Pump St. ....	-	1,508	100.00%
Collection Systems .....	-	9,082	100.00%
Interest Exp - Short Term .....	-	(2,848)	100.00%
Administration Expense .....	30,000	30,000	100.00%
USDA Bond Champlain PS in .....	10,350	10,338	99.88%
USDA Bond-Champ. PS-Prin .....	12,630	-	-
USDA Bond Loan #8 Interes .....	725	701	96.68%
USDA Bond Loan#8 Prin .....	3,950	-	-
USDA Bond Loan #9 Interes .....	13,000	12,991	99.93%
USDA Bond Loan #9 Prin .....	17,950	-	-
2012 WW CWSRF RF1-159 .....	2,200	-	-
Park CWSRF RF1-214- Prin .....	21,695	-	-
Park CWSRF RF1-214 -Int .....	10,545	10,541	99.96%
Insurance Expenses .....	17,000	14,765	86.85%
Insurance Claim Ded .....	1,000	-	-
WW Unemployment .....	550	461	83.82%
WW Workers Comp. ....	8,500	5,649	66.45%
Seg 6 Match .....	-	6,474	100.00%
USDA Short Lived Asset .....	90,000	90,000	100.00%
Depreciation .....	163,200	164,639	100.88%
<b>Total Wastewater Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$ 853,660</b>	<b>\$ 833,302</b>	<b>97.62%</b>
<b>Total 20 Sewer Fund .....</b>	<b>\$ ( 56,010)</b>	<b>\$ ( 37,339)</b>	

## **Wastewater Cash Flow**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 6/30/2022**

	<b>Wastewater Fund</b>	<b>Sewer Capital AC</b>	<b>COMBINED</b>
Beginning Cash Equivalent.....	\$ 553,376	\$ 210,779	\$ 764,155
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS</b>			
Operating Income (Loss) net of Interfund Transfers...	\$ 52,661	\$ (53,504)	\$ (842)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by Operation			
Depreciation.....	\$ 164,639	\$ -	\$ 164,639
Receivables .....	98,016	-	98,016
Accrued Expenses .....	(1,600)	-	(1,600)
Payables .....	(11,871)	-	(11,871)
Sewer Credits .....	727	-	727
Accrued Expenses .....		-	-
<b>Net Cash or Cash Equivalents Provided by</b>			
<b>(Used in ) Operations .....</b>	<b>\$ 302,573</b>	<b>\$ (53,504)</b>	<b>\$ 249,069</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM NON CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Grant / Loan Revenue / Bond Payments .....	\$ 231,293	\$ -	\$ 231,293
Interfund Transfers .....	(90,000)	90,000	-
Fund Balance Adjustments .....	-	-	-
<b>Net Cash Flow from</b>			
<b>Non Capital Financing Activities.....</b>	<b>\$ 141,293</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>	<b>\$ 231,293</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL &amp; RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Capital Contributions.....	\$ 107,879	\$ -	\$ 107,879
Principal Payments on Debt .....	(58,340)	-	(58,340)
Acquisition of Capital Assets / Sale of Capital Assets	(423,348)	-	(423,348)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Capital &amp;</b>			
<b>Related Financing Activities.....</b>	<b>\$ (373,810)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (373,810)</b>
Net Increase (Decrease) in			
Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ 70,056	\$ 36,497	\$ 106,552
Cash Equivalents beginning .....	\$ 553,376	\$ 210,779	\$ 764,155
Cash Equivalents ending .....	\$ 623,431	\$ 247,275	\$ 870,707



# Town of Brandon – Activity in Special Funds ~ 06/30/2022

	FUND 25	FUND 37	FUND 38	FUND 43	FUND 46	FUND 47	FUND 51	FUND 53	FUND 56	FUND 61	FUND 63	FUND 64	FUND 70	FUND 90
<b>REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES</b>	ARPA Grant Funds	Revolving Loan Fund	Rutland County Land Trust Loan Fund	Trustees of Public Funds	AOT Grants / Route 7	Reappraisal Fund	GF Capital Reserve Fund	Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	Infrastructure Fund	Hildreth Landon Fund	Town Farm Fund	Town Service Officer	Local Options Tax Fund	BFD Water Fund
Bank Interest/ Investment Revenue	1,889	75		44,697	-	164	64	375		0	85	0	609	
Local Options Tax Revenue													272,326	
Revolving Loan Repayments / Rev		62,279				16,958								
Per Parcel Payment / State of Vermont								5,864						
Capacity Fees														
Unrealized Gains (Losses)					47,446				195,237					
Fed/State Grant Revenue	558,244													
Local Grants														
Local Reimbursements					12,413									
Interfund Transfers						5,000	27,000	90,000	114,254					618,663
TOTAL REVENUES	560,133	62,354	-	44,697	59,859	22,121	27,064	96,239	309,492	0	85	0	272,935	618,663
Program / Direct Expenses	111,914	10,080		33,433				59,742						
Investment Expenses/ Bank Charges				179,897									237,654	
New Equipment							-							
Route 7, Segment 6					49,449									
Park & Ride									62,770					
Champlain St Pump Station														
Newton Road					21,625				166,810					
Union Street Sidewalk														
Library/CDBG Grant									29,810					
Culverts / Infrastructure									33,638					
Interfund Transfers								59,742	293,028	-	-	-	237,654	595,531
TOTAL EXPENSES	111,914	10,080	-	213,330	71,074	-	-	-	293,028	-	-	-	237,654	595,531
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE	448,219	52,274	-	(168,634)	(11,215)	22,121	27,064	36,497	16,464	0	85	0	35,281	23,132
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>														
<b>ASSETS</b>														
Cash/Investments/CDs	560,133			773,788	-						267,909			
Due From/To(Cash Equivalent)	(111,914)	79,042			(58,719)	128,835	54,828	247,275	(107,269)	202	(250,902)	211	409,427	72,769
Loans / Grants Receivable		281,860	391,000		58,007				1,132					
Prepaid Expenses														
Receivables														175,996
TOTAL ASSETS	448,219	360,901	391,000	773,788	(711)	128,835	54,828	247,275	(106,137)	202	17,007	211	409,427	248,765
<b>LIABILITIES</b>														
Deferred Revenue		281,860	391,000											
Accounts Payable					6,499									
Grant Anticipation Notes														316
Water Credits														
FUND BALANCE														
Fund Balance		26,768	-	942,422	4,005	106,713	27,763	210,779	(122,601)	202	16,922	211	374,146	225,317
Current Year Fund Balance	448,219	52,274	-	(168,634)	(11,215)	22,121	27,064	36,497	16,464	0	85	0	35,281	23,132
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	448,219	360,901	391,000	773,788	(711)	128,835	54,828	247,275	(106,137)	202	17,007	211	409,427	248,765

## ***Federal Grants Status Report***

### **Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards June 30, 2022**

<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Federal Expenditures</b>	<b>Expenditures to Subrecipients</b>
ARPA Grant.....	\$111,913.76	
Library Grant.....	15,391.00	\$ 15,391.00
Newton Rd Buyout .....	124,634.07	
Police DUI/OP Grant.....	978.81	
Segment 6 .....	34,766.93	
Union Sidewalk .....	17,299.92	
WW Collection System SRF.....	293,724.44	
	<b>\$598,708.93</b>	<b>\$ 15,391.00</b>



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# Appropriations

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## AMERICAN LEGION POST #55 - BRANDON

The mission of Brandon's American Legion Post #55 is to serve the people of Brandon and surrounding communities. The Legion reaches out to all ages through our programs:

- providing mentorship for local youth through Girls and Boys State, law cadets, baseball, and scholarships;
- offering a low-cost or no-cost, fully accessible hall for community events including helping other organizations and families by hosting basket raffles, benefit dinners, baby showers, holiday parties, and Red Cross blood drives;
- an ongoing commitment to assist veterans and their families. The Post provides social support and builds positive relationships among veterans; honor guards to honor our fallen heroes at veterans' funerals; and plays a lead role in the Town's parades and observances on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans' Day;
- advocacy for patriotism and honor, civic instruction and pride, and strong national security.

Brandon Post #55's success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the community of Brandon in which we thrive. Brandon has been home to an American Legion post since September 12, 1919. Brandon's Post has been located at its current building, 550

Franklin Street, since the 1970s. We maintain our Post as a certified emergency shelter for Brandon area residents in times of natural disaster, and it has been used as such. y

We are asking for community support to assist us in our mission. It is vital for the Post to continue offering the services and facilities our community has come to rely on from the American Legion. A "Yes" vote on our appropriation request will demonstrate your desire to partner with us to keep our Post viable into the future.

Respectfully,  
Aaron Tucker, Commander

## BRANDON INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (BIDCC)

The BIDCC is a small group of volunteers responsible for organizing and fundraising for Brandon's Independence Day Celebration. For more than 45 years, this annual tradition has attracted thousands of out-of-town visitors and stimulated business in our commercial center. More importantly, it is the event that brings together the entire Brandon Community. This past summer we once again staged an enormously successful event, right in the middle of our beautifully remodeled downtown, and we are expecting the 2023 Celebration to be even bigger and better!

- There will be a full day of planned activities, from parade to fireworks, all taking place downtown on July 1, 2023 (as usual, the first Saturday in July).
- The parade begins at 10:00 and follows the Park Street/Route 7 route.
- Vendors and live music will continue throughout the day at multiple locations, with a concentration around Central Park.
- Family games and activities will take place behind the Brandon Inn.
- The Silent Auction will run throughout the day at Fellowship Hall.
- The annual Street Dance, with Jam Man Entertainment, will take place in the parking lot between Central Park and Park Street businesses.
- The Fireworks at dusk will be set off from Mill Lane, viewable from nearly everywhere within a mile of downtown!

However, we are facing a new challenge this year with the soaring cost of the fireworks, which have more than doubled in the last five years, reaching \$12,500 for 2023. We are exploring new funding avenues to offset this unexpected expense.

We want to express our gratitude to the entire Brandon community for their continued support. The yearly appropriation we receive is crucial to allowing us to provide the fireworks, parade bands, prizes, games, publicity and the other myriad activities involved with a community-wide all-day event. We look forward to continuing the tradition of the Brandon Independence Day Celebration.

Bill Moore, Chairperson  
Susan Stone, Treasurer



## BRANDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization dedicated to the improvement and advancement of a positive and dynamic economic, industrial, professional and business climate, and community enhancement in the Brandon area." We strive to make the Brandon area a better place to live, work, and play.

The Chamber of Commerce puts on many community events throughout the year including the free Summer Concert Series, the Great Brandon Auction, Yard Sale Day, Small Business Saturday, Moonlight Madness, Holiday Decorating contest and Reverse Holiday Parade and of course the meaningful Memory Tree lighting ceremony. We gave a prize award to an outstanding OVUHS student, helped beautify the town and continue to support the parade and downtown fireworks display supplied by the Independence Day committee!

We continue to partner in activities and operations of our wonderful museum, visitors center, and community meeting space. We also partner with the Downtown Brandon Alliance, the rec department and the Town Hall group.

We have an active and busy website full of information for the traveling public and the community. Our popular electronic newsletter is sent to more than 1500 email addresses on a regular basis and is an effective communication vehicle.

The Chamber continues to be heavily involved with town economic development, striving to bring new residents and businesses to expand our tax base and working closely with the town's economic development officer. We send out informational packets requested by visitors and those interested in starting a business in town or becoming a resident.

We thank the Brandon voters and taxpayers for past support and look to them for help with future expenses. We're proud to be part of Brandon and hope to continue to effect change in a positive and dynamic way.

Please contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org) with any questions or look us up on-line at [www.brandon.org](http://www.brandon.org). If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, click on the "Join Our Newsletter" link on our website.

Businesses of every size and many valuable "individual" members contribute greatly to making Brandon the place we all love. So call or email today and join in the journey

Pat Wood, President

Bernie Carr, Executive Director



## BRANDON AREA RESCUE

I am writing this letter to request that Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Inc be included on the 2023 Town Meeting Ballot for an appropriation of \$82,580. This is the same appropriation requested last year and is an essential part of our yearly budget.

Brandon Rescue responded to 675 calls in 2021/2022. We strive to remain a mainly volunteer run organization saving the towns people in the neighborhood of \$300,000 per year. As the world changes, we've been forced to add additional paid staff to our roster to supplement our volunteer staff at a cost. We remain committed to keeping our allocation requests as low as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and if there are any questions please let me know.

Sincerely,

Andrew Jackson

Chief of Operations, Brandon Area Rescue Squad

802-247-3231

[andy@brandonrescue.org](mailto:andy@brandonrescue.org)



## BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

*The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide a friendly and safe environment in which patrons of all ages may enrich their lives through the benefit and pleasure of learning and discovery. The BFPL pledges quality service, demonstrating respect for all individuals and our community.*

**A little under half of the BFPL's annual operating budget is from voter-approved appropriations from the towns of Brandon (including Forest Dale), Goshen, Leicester, and Sudbury, our service towns.** Each year we must meet the remaining budgetary needs through several fundraisers, donations from the non-profit Friends of the Library, direct donations from our patrons, grants, apartment rents, and, when needed, distribution from an endowment.

**At the 2023 Town Meetings, our towns' voters will be asked to approve their town's appropriation for the Library.** Appropriations are critical, and without them the BFPL would not be able to operate anywhere near the level it presently does.

After very difficult challenges during Covid, and a local security threat last summer that disrupted services, we are back at full operations, serving our community. The BFPL is a busy place, with an average door count of 200 people/day; here are some things that our friendly and helpful Librarians do for you:

### General Services

- Books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, audio CDs, interlibrary loan, myriad programming, Grief Group, Meditation Circle, Junior Librarian Program, monthly book discussions

### Children's/Teen's Services

- Books, teen area, DVDs, audio CDs, magazines, summer program every July/August, story hour on Thursdays, Crazy8s Afterschool Club, monthly Game Night, Teen Advisory Group, and a safe space for kids after school

### Outreach Services

- Tables at local events (Harvest Fest, Spooksville)
- Personalized visits to homebound patrons
- Everybody Wins! participation at local elementary school

### Building as a Resource

- The Library building is used by a wide variety of community groups including the Brandon Planning Commission, DBA, school tutors, Farmer's Market, Republican/Democratic caucuses, Estabrook Award, Child Care Providers, French club, PTO, homeschoolers, Pins & Needles, Brandon Publishing Club, Forget Me-Not grief group, and more
- Local artists – "pop-up gallery" monthly

### Computer/Digital Services

- We offer 8 public computers and laptops, 3 iPads, 4 preloaded Kindles, 3 preloaded kids' tablets, 3 programmable robots, 1 Android tablet. Librarians assist patrons and offer tech help/solutions and assistance with job applications, unemployment, insurance applications, and other critical needs
- The Brandon Library pays membership fees for patrons to access Vermont Online Library, Listen-Up Vermont e-lending, and Universal Class, all free to our patrons
- Print, air-print, copy, scan, fax for public use
- 3-D printer
- Personalized computer help: free sessions by appointment and scheduled digital literacy workshops
- Free Wi-Fi in and out of the building

### Non-traditional Services

- The BFPL Seed Library offers free seeds and sustainability education
- The Library is an outlet for community service and volunteer opportunities
- Free/reduced-price passes available for Vermont museums and parks
- Weekly free bread distribution site
- Mitten tree provides free mittens and hats
- Free COVID tests

### Library of Things

- Snowshoes, moisture meter, projector, backup power supply, sewing machine, serger, Cricut, games, ukuleles, microphone

### Elderly Services

- Extensive Large Print selection
- Home delivery for housebound patrons. The Library is often one of the few links someone might have to our community
- Various programming for older populations
- Free rides to the polls
- Digital Literacy classes

***continued.....***

## BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY cont.

### Community Partnerships

- Recreation Department – Quiz night, Trivia Championship, Spooksville, Harvest Fest, Spring Swing
- Neshobe PTO -Crazy 8s
- Neshobe School- Resource sharing, 2nd grade visit
- Brandon Town Hall- Masquerade Ball, Summer Reading Finale
- Brandon Area Toy Project- Pete the Cat Story Time

As you can see, the BFPL is about *much* more than books, and really is a Community Center for all! Appropriations from Brandon, Sudbury, Leicester, and Goshen that YOU approve will allow all of these valuable services to continue.

**It is critical for citizens to vote “Yes” for Library appropriations, and we thank you in advance for supporting one of Brandon’s gems- your local Library.** Check us out at the corner of Franklin and Park Streets. 802-247-8230 or [brandonpubliclibrary.org](http://brandonpubliclibrary.org)  
Thank you!!

BFPL Board of Trustees: David Roberts, President; Cristy Harding, Treasurer; Carol Fjeld, Recording Secretary; Jeff Haylon; Nancy Iwanicki; Beate Jensen; Harry McEnerny; Gary Meffe; Bruce Ness; John Peterson; and Cecil Reniche- Smith

## BRANDON SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, INC.

1591 Forestdale Road ~ 247-3121

Another year has zoomed by.

We have been opened for Meals on Wheels, Bone Builders and the various clubs. We have fully also opened for the meals; lunch, brunch and the dinners.

We still serve the free lunches which had begun with the pandemic. Although we started out with 200 hot lunches, we slowly dropped down to 160. At the present time, we are serving 120, both curbside and 35 in-house. We will continue this program, but have cut it back to every other Friday, as we have continued with our monthly dinner program and are now back serving the brunch program on the third Thursday, per SW Vermont Council on Aging’s strict guidelines. We continue to use our bus to pick up folks for the various meals. All seem to enjoy this free ride and act as if they are back in school!

In November, someone vandalized the bus by sawing off the two catalytic converters. With the age of the bus, the rust on the undercarriage and the cost of replacing the two catalytic converters the garage said it wasn’t worth fixing. So, now we have been busy trying to find another used bus. Even though the bus sounds like a Mack truck, we are still driving it in order to complete our mission.

Socialization, at this point, is of utmost importance to us at the Senior Center. We try to encourage people to just stop in for a cup of coffee and a chat. We are now offering stained glass classes on Monday and Wednesday, to anyone who wants to try their hand at it. In October we added Tai Chi classes, which is popular and we had to turn people away because too many had signed up. The teacher wanted to limit the class to 16.

The Board of Directors continues to improve the building and gardens. With a matching grant, we have installed solar panels to help defray the expenses.

The new raised gardens were put to good use this year for growing vegetables, not only for the meals, but also as a giveaway to those in need of fresh produce. We had a spectacular garden this year.

The Toe Nail Clinic continues and the nurses changed their visits to every month, instead of every other month, as there was such a high need. Reservations are spaced apart at 10 minute intervals, with vaccinations and mask wearing in place. Records are kept by both the Visiting Nurses and the Senior Center for contact tracing purposes.

The Center continues to be “green” by gardening, recycling and composting. We also collect clean returnable bottles to help defray operating expenses. We thank everyone who contributes in any way, thereby helping us to help others. As we are all in this together, we encourage folks to keep safe, help each other and be kind. Thank you, Brandon!

## **SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING**

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Brandon during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/1/2021 through 9/30/2022.

### ***Nutrition Support***

The Council helped provide 9,687 meals that were delivered to the homes of 63 elders in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 56 Brandon elders came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 844 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 26.25 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 34 residents of Brandon.

### ***Case Management Assistance:***

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 58 elders in your community for a total of 522 hours. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They will work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail elders facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

### ***Other Services and Support:***

1) "Senior Helpline" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior Helpline staff provide telephone support to elders and others who need information on available programs and community resources; 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program; 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Information about elder issues and opportunities via various agency articles and publications 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician; 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound elders; 7) Outreach services to elders dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland Mental Health; 8) Transportation assistance; 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to elders in need of assistance; 10) Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to elders and younger disabled individuals.



## OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$1,000 from the Town of Brandon for the fiscal year 2023-2024 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. The allocation will be used to provide free health care to the uninsured and under-insured residents of Brandon and Addison County in general. We would be grateful for your continued support of our incredibly nimble and responsive clinic.

**Our Mission:** The Open Door Clinic provides access to free, quality health care services to those who are uninsured or under-insured in a compassionate, respectful, and culturally sensitive manner until a permanent healthcare provider can be established.

**YTD Report:** Between 1/1/22-12/1/22, the clinic has provided 1,719 medical and dental visits to 1,068 distinct patients, including 273 new patients! We have served 21 Brandon residents, providing 14 medical visits, one dental visit and 4 case management services. In addition, 11 Brandon residents received help from our health insurance navigator, learning about options available to them through Vermont Health Connect.

**Outreach and Services:** So far this year, our time in the field providing outreach services has resulted in Covid and flu vaccines being offered to 37 farms and orchards throughout the county. In addition, we continue to offer 8-10 in-person medical and dental clinics each month through which patients receive comprehensive chronic and acute care and referrals to a variety of specialists when needed. New this year, we piloted a 9-week women's support group in Spanish and expanded our mental health services with a second Spanish-speaking therapist.

**Volunteer Based:** As a free clinic, we cannot charge for any of our services and rely entirely on the expertise and efforts of many volunteers to care for our patients. Our volunteers include our medical director, dental director, nurse practitioners and physicians, nurses, EMTs, PTs, nutritionists, pharmacists, medical interpreters, and others who provide general support.

**Help with Health Insurance:** Through mid-November of 2022, our incredibly knowledgeable insurance navigator has helped more than 241 individuals learn about health insurance plans and has enrolled 121 individuals in Vermont Health Connect. She is the only navigator remaining in Addison County, is available to meet with any member of our community and her services are free!

### Budget for last completed fiscal year, 12.31.2021

**Total Income: \$533,620**

Federal Taxes/Grants: .....	14.90%
State Taxes/Grants: .....	31.18%
Municipal Taxes: .....	2.70%
Patient Donations: .....	0.17%
Fundraising: .....	27.97%
Grants/Foundations/UWAC .....	22.57%
Other .....	0.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Total Operating Expense: \$454,236**

Fundraising/Marketing: .....	1.8%
Facilities: .....	3.6%
Salaries: .....	86.1% *
Office/Admin: .....	1.8%
Programs/Clinic: .....	5.5%
Professional Fees/Other: .....	1.2%

**Total 100%**

\*76% of the Salaries line item directly support our clinical programs including: two registered nurses, a dental hygienist and dental assistant, our insurance navigator, a trilingual administrative assistant, and a bilingual care coordinator all of whom are integral to making our programs function smoothly

Heidi R. Sulis, MPH, Executive Director

## RSVP & THE VOLUNTEER CENTER

### Brief Description of RSVP & The Volunteer Center

RSVP and The Volunteer Center is a volunteer management program for people of all ages who want to meet community needs through volunteer service. RSVP/VC considers volunteering to be a key solution in responding to Rutland County's most pressing challenges. Needs are met in critical areas such as human services, elder care, health care, education, and the arts. RSVP/VC involves individuals in service that matches their personal interests and makes use of their varied life and professional experiences. RSVP/VC enables people to contribute to their communities while enjoying the personally satisfying and rewarding experience that community engagement offers.

RSVP/VC also offers several free "Signature Programs" that benefit residents. These include RSVP Bone Builders, an osteoporosis prevention program which provides strength and balance exercise classes offered at many locations in Rutland County; RSVP Rutland Reads a children's literacy and mentoring program; and RSVP Operation Dolls & More, which distributes over 15,000 new and restored items to children. Last year approximately 30,552 items were distributed through RSVP Operation Dolls & More to 38 partner agencies and an estimated 1,800 children. We also partner with MRP to help provide free income tax return services to low-income residents of Rutland County.



## **RSVP & THE VOLUNTEER CENTER cont.**

Locally, RSVP & The Volunteer Center is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland and Addison Counties with 607 volunteers. From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, RSVP/VC volunteers provided 101,761 hours of community service. Based on the Independent Sector National Value of a volunteer hour, this equates to \$3,047,741 in service to the community.

### **Services Provided to Brandon Residents**

In FY'22, Brandon residents took advantage of RSVP/VC programs such as free income tax return preparation, and our free Bone Builders exercise classes. Brandon RSVP/VC volunteers donated their services to the following non-profit organizations: Community Cupboard, Bridges & Beyond, Paramount Theater, One-2-One, the Godnick Center, RSVP Bone Builders, and RSVP Operation Dolls and More. Some of the services they provide include knitting mittens and clothing for needy children, driving seniors to medical appointments, assisting at local food banks, assisting with theater shows, providing free tax assistance, restoring dolls and toys for the RSVP Operation Dolls & More program, and leading RSVP Bone Builders Classes in Brandon. In total, Brandon RSVP Volunteers donated 5,399 hours of service to the community in FY'22.

The monies we are requesting this year will be used to help continue to defray the financial impact of COVID-19 on our organization along with the cost of providing volunteer placement, support, transportation, and recognition. With your help, RSVP & The Volunteer Center will continue to respond to the increasing needs of our local communities.

On behalf of RSVP & The Volunteer Center and our non-profit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Brandon for their continued support of our organization. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs, please feel free to call us at 775-8220.

Sincerely,

Maryesa White  
Interim Director

## **RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY**

The Rutland County Humane Society is dedicated to advocating for and working towards a responsible and humane community. We provide shelter and adoption opportunities for pets that are homeless and promote animal welfare through community programs that benefit both animals and people.

We also serve our community by providing information and referral services to people dealing with animal issues.

The RCHS shelter is the largest program of the agency, taking in more than 1,000 animals in 2021.

Our agency is funded through fees for service, town funding, membership, donations and special events. No funding comes from the state or federal government or national organizations. We sincerely thank those who support our operations. We can only save lives with your help.

The Rutland County Humane Society took in 74 animals from the Town of Brandon from December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022.

Please call us at 483.9171 or visit our website at RCHSVT.org if you would like more information about the Rutland County Humane Society.

## **VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION**

In 2021, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region provided Brandon residents with exceptional home care, hospice, and community health services. From medically fragile infants with hi-tech needs to seniors who wish to remain independent at home, and those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring medically necessary health care wherever it is needed, regardless of the location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking government and state reimbursements and rising healthcare costs, VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services Brandon's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 116,571 to 3,900 patients. *In the Brandon, we provided 7,779 visits to 167 individuals.*

Thank you for your continued support. With your vote of confidence, we will continue to fulfill our promise to your community to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

Sara C. King, CEO  
VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region

Dan DiBattista, President  
Board of Directors

## THE BRANDON MUSEUM

The Brandon Museum was founded in 2010 and occupies the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace (built circa 1800) next to the Baptist Church in Brandon village. The Museum educates the public about the long and rich history of Brandon and Forestdale. We are open to the public free of charge Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., from May to October. We are operated by an unpaid nine-person Board of Directors, a paid part-time Steward, and a group of 10 to 20 unpaid volunteers. The volunteers greet visitors and guide them through our displays and exhibits, always ready to answer any questions. The Museum also houses the Brandon Welcome Center, in conjunction with the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. The Welcome Center provides information about local attractions and businesses. The Museum offers a conference room that can be reserved for meetings free of charge. We also maintain one of the few public restrooms in Brandon.

This past year, the Museum created a full website (soon to be made public!), upgraded our computer equipment to provide visitors and researchers better access to our collections, made needed repairs to our historic building (cracked plaster, water damage, rotted wood, etc), participated in town events (July 4th, Davenport Electric Festival, etc), offered guided tours to school children and visiting groups, answered research queries from people interested in Brandon history, helped local businesses create historical displays, assisted the RNESU School Board with historical research, wrote articles on local history for The Reporter, held a mixer for the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, and expanded our collection of Brandon-related artifacts (through donations of objects).

In the coming year, we plan to open an exhibit on Thomas Davenport, who invented the electric motor in Forestdale in the 1830s. The exhibit is long overdue for such a major figure and will be the first new exhibit at the Museum since our inception in 2010. We have received money for this project from the Vermont Humanities Council, the Walter Cerf Foundation, and private donations. We have also received generous assistance from faculty at UVM.

Though we have worked hard this past year to raise funds from other sources, we still need the support of the Brandon community through our appropriations request. Our neighbors have been extremely generous to us in the past and we hope for their continued support. Last year we asked for an increased appropriation of \$5000 (up from \$2500) and were fortunate to have that request granted. Because we were able to raise other funds in 2022, we are reducing the size of our request in 2023 to its previous level of \$2500.

Please feel free to contact us at (802) 247-6401 or at [info@brandonmuseum.com](mailto:info@brandonmuseum.com) if you have any questions. Your generous support helps us protect and share Brandon's history.

Sincerely,

Steven Jupiter, President

Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace Community Center, Inc.

## CHARTER HOUSE COALITION PROGRAM

Charter House Coalition has provided a consistent resource for neighbors in need since 2005. Our emergency shelter is open 24 hours to persons experiencing homelessness. We offer free, nutritious meals each day of the year to anyone in the community. Our social services meet the needs of individuals and families throughout Addison County as we help to identify and overcome barriers to end homelessness. Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, staff and volunteers, provided more than 40,000 meals through our community meal program. Our community outreach programs provided essential support including referrals, assistance with emergency rental assistance and quality case management to approximately 560 adults and children temporarily housed in area hotels and at our emergency shelter. Due to the lack of hotels that continued to participate in temporary housing after the state of emergency, Charter House has been called to work with Addison County residents that have been placed in both Rutland and Chittenden Counties as they continue to search for affordable housing in Addison County.

Charter House programs are supported by many individual donations, service organizations and local churches. Financial grants from United Way of Addison County, Vermont Community Foundation, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Rotary, Lions, International Paper, Tarrant Foundation, the State of Vermont, the Houle Family Foundation, Vermont Food Bank, TJX Foundation and Ben and Jerry's Foundation. Student-initiated fundraising, Middlebury College faculty, and community volunteers make our programs possible.

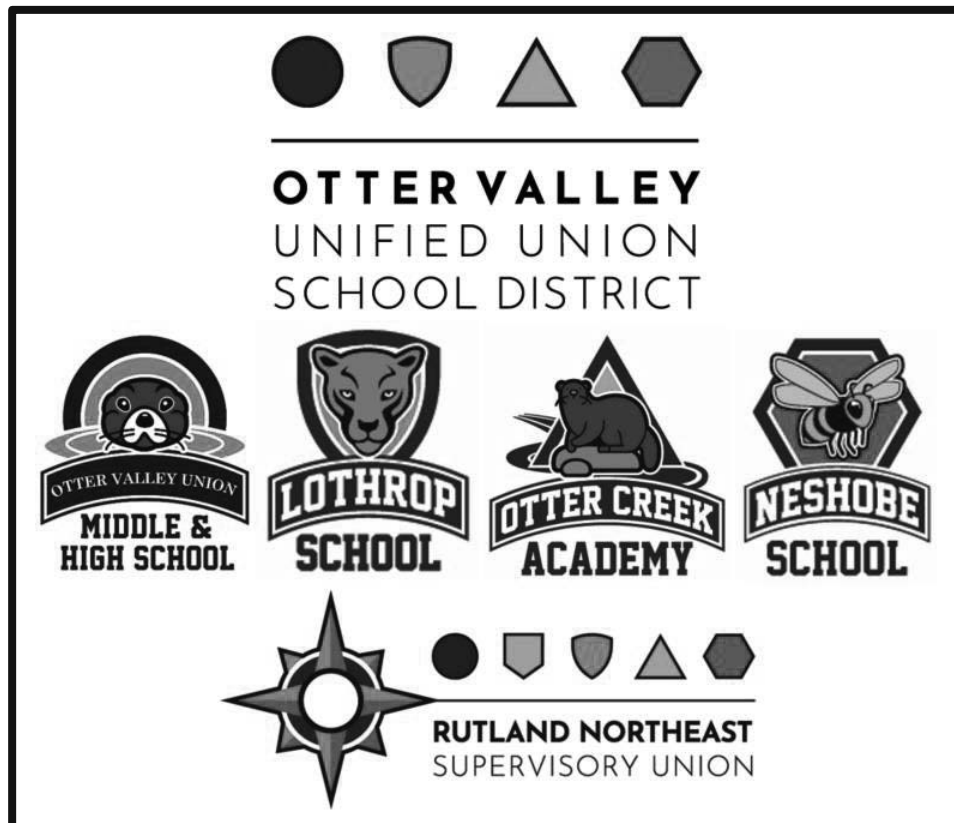
We are proud to partner with the following agencies and businesses; United Way of Addison County, Turning Point of Addison County, Women Safe, John Graham Shelter, ACCT, CVOEO, HOPE, Middlebury Police and Fire Departments, MREMS, Porter Hospital, Vermont State Housing Authority, Agency of Human Services, Vermont Dept of Health, Parent Child Center, CSAC and Middlebury College.

With gratitude, Heidi Lacey  
Executive Director

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

BRANDON • GOSHEN • LEICESTER  
PITTSFORD • SUDBURY • WHITING

VERMONT



## Otter Valley Unified Union School District Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM  
Auditorium at Otter Valley Union High School

*Virtual option available for passive participation with no authority to vote from the floor.*

*Meeting link and dial in information can be found  
on the calendar on the RNESU website: <http://www.rnesu.org>.*

## OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The legal voters of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District (Unified Union District) comprising the voters of the Towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Otter Valley Union High School in the auditorium (*virtual option available to listen and watch only, with no authority to vote from the floor*) on March 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to conduct the following business:

Article 1: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until the next Annual District Meeting following the election and qualification of their successors:

- A. Moderator
- B. Clerk
- C. Treasurer

Article 2: To approve the minutes from the Unified Union District meetings held on February 23, 2022 and April 25, 2022.

Article 3: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

Article 4: To approve the following compensation to Unified Union District Officers:

- A. School Directors - \$1,500 per member per year and an additional \$750 for the member serving as the School Board Chair
- B. Moderator - \$150 per meeting
- C. Clerk - \$150 per meeting
- D. Treasurer - \$6,000 per year

Article 5: To authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax Funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.

Article 6: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, March 7, 2023 for the purpose of voting the following articles at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to the Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Brandon American Legion Post #55
Town of Goshen	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Goshen Town Hall
Town of Leicester	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Leicester Town Office
Town of Pittsford	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Pittsford Town Office
Town of Sudbury	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Whiting Town Hall

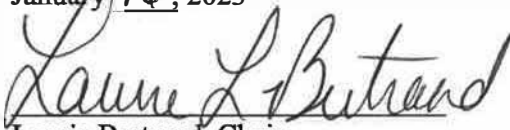


Article 7: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:

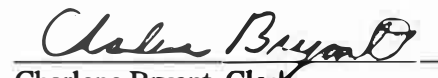
- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years
- B. School Director, Goshen for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
- C. School Director, Leicester for a term of three (3) years
- D. School Director, Pittsford for a term of two (2) years remaining of a three (3) year term
- E. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years
- F. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years

Article 8: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-four Million One Hundred Seventy-four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-five Dollars (\$24,174,395) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,629 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.5% higher-than spending for the current year.

Dated at Brandon, Vermont  
January 16, 2023

  
Laurie Bertrand, Chair  
Otter Valley Unified Union School  
District No. U053

Received and Recorded  
January 16, 2023

  
Charlene Bryant, Clerk  
Otter Valley Unified Union School  
District No. U053

**Virtual Option for Observing Annual District Meeting:**

*Remote attendees can listen and watch, but are not able to speak or vote on the articles from the floor.*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83973761064?pwd=bnNSMk1YcFJwTjByMHFMVlhvNzdpdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 7376 1064

Passcode: 199348

**One tap mobile**

+13017158592,,83973761064#,,, \*199348# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,83973761064#,,, \*199348# US

**Dial by your location**

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

*Meeting link and dial in information can also be found on the calendar on the RNESU website:*

<http://www.rnesu.org>.

**OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Date: February 23, 2022**

**Time: 6:30PM**

**Place: OVUHS Auditorium**

**Board Members Present:** Laurie Bertrand, Chair; Barbara Ebling, Clerk; Becky Bertrand; Bill Mathis; Derek Larsen; Bonnie Chmielewski; Kevin Thornton; Natalie Steen; Mike Lufkin

**Others Present:** Jeanne Collins, Superintendent; Brenda Fleming, Director of Business & Finance; Bill Moore; Bill Dick; Frances Farnsworth; Charlene Bryant

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Bill Moore - Moderator.

Bill Moore read the warning.

**Article I: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until the next Annual District Meeting following the election and qualification of their successors:**

- 1. Moderator**
- 2. Clerk**
- 3. Treasurer**

Jeanné Collins was appointed the temporary Moderator.

**Election of Moderator:**

Jeanné Collins called for nominations for Moderator of the District. Bill Moore was nominated. No other nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

Frances Farnsworth motioned and Mike Lufkin seconded the election of Bill Moore as Moderator of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

**Election of Clerk:**

Bill Moore called for nominations for Clerk of the District. Charlene Bryant was nominated. No other nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

Laurie Bertrand motioned and Barbara Ebling seconded the election of Charlene Bryant as Clerk of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

**Treasurer:**

Bill Moore called for nominations for Treasurer. William Dick was nominated. No other nominations were presented and the nominations were closed.

Kevin Thornton motioned and Mike Lufkin seconded the election of William Dick as the Treasurer of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

**Article II: To approve the minutes from the Unified Union District meeting held on February 26, 2020, and the District Informational Meeting held virtually on February 24, 2021.**

Kevin Thornton motioned and Mike Lufkin seconded to approve the minutes from the Unified Union District meeting held on February 26, 2020, and the District Informational Meeting held virtually on February 24, 2021. **The motion passed.**

**Article III: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.**

Bill Moore motioned and Kevin Thornton seconded to forgo the presentation. **The motion passed.**

**Article IV: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to Unified Union District Officers.**

Francine Farnsworth motioned and Derek Larsen seconded to set the compensation at the same amount as last year with exception of the Chair; with the Chair position to be 50% higher. **The motion passed with 3 “no” votes.**

**Article V: To authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax Funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date provided, however, that the Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.**

Frances Farnsworth motioned and Barbara Ebling seconded to authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date provided, however, that the Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations. **The motion passed.**

**Article VI: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.**

There was no other business transacted

Kevin Thornton motioned and Natalie Steen seconded to recess the meeting at 6:45 PM. **The motion passed.**

Bill Moore advised the meeting shall be recessed to Tuesday, March 1, 2022, for the purpose of voting the following articles at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Brandon American Legion Post #55
Town of Goshen	9:00AM to 7:00PM	Goshen Town Hall
Town of Leicester	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Leicester Town Office
Town of Pittsford	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Pittsford Fire House
Town of Sudbury	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Whiting Fire Station

**Article VII: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:**

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years
- B. School Director, Leicester for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
- C. School Director, Pittsford for a term of three (3) years
- D. School Director, Sudbury for a term of three (3) years
- E. School Directors, At-Large for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
- F. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years

**Article VIII: Shall the voters of the school district approve the conveyance of +/-1.98 acres of land and permanent drainage and temporary construction, slope, drive and related easements and rights of way to the State of Vermont in connection with its U.S. Route 7 widening project to be located along the easterly boundary of the Otter Valley Union High School property with all construction activity to be located southerly of the school's access driveways, in exchange for Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$6,750) in accordance with an Option Agreement, dated September 1, 2021?**

**Article IX: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-Two Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars (\$22,710,955) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,048 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.72% higher than spending for the current year.**

**The meeting recessed at 6:38PM.**

**RESULTS:**

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years – Derek Larsen
- B. School Director, Leicester for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term – None
- C. School Director, Pittsford for a term of three (3) years – None
- D. School Director, Sudbury for a term of three (3) years – Laurie Bertrand
- E. School Directors, At-Large for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term – None
- F. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years – Barbara Ebling

Article VIII – Conveyance:

Town # of ballots (voters) - 1027

Results

Blank - 48

Yes - 767

No - 212

OVUU District Budget Vote:

Town # of ballots (voters) - 1027

Results

Blank - 43

Yes - 462

No - 522

**THE BUDGET FAILED**

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Bryant, OVUU District Clerk





**OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING  
Budget Revote Informational Meeting  
April 25, 2022**

**All Attendees via Zoom.**

**Board Members Present:** Laurie Bertrand, Chair; Kevin Thornton; Greg Bernhardt; Bill Mathis; Natalie Steen

**Staff Members Present:** Jeanné Collins, Superintendent; Brenda Fleming, Director of Business & Finance; Kristen Hubert, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Debbie Alexander, Lothrop Principal

**Others Present:** Bill Moore, District Moderator; Carol Bertrand

**I. Calling the Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Laurie Bertrand at 6:35 PM.

Bill Moore requested action to open Article 1 of the OVUU warning.

A motion was made by Kevin Thornton and seconded by Natalie Steen to open Article 1. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Article 1: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.**

Laurie Bertrand advised the Board was present to discuss the proposed OVUU budget that will be up for a revote tomorrow with a reduction of \$5,000 from the health benefits.

Jeanné Collins and Brenda Fleming provided a brief overview of the proposed budget. Ms. Collins advised the development of the proposed budget began with the Administration bringing budget recommendations based on the district's Ends policy, goals, mission and vision of the district, equity of opportunity for student achievement and efficiency of delivery. She noted this presentation is available on the RNESU website. The Board held a hearing on the budget on April 6<sup>th</sup> and additional information was gathered through a Thought Exchange and Let's Talk. A new warning was passed that includes a \$5,000 reduction in the budget and a revote scheduled for April 26. The budget takes into account the classroom configurations with the lower elementary grades having smaller class sizes than the upper grades. The presentation provided information on census and academic data by school, afterschool and summer programs, and the proposed budget changes to meet the supervisory union goals. Ms. Collins noted the voters have approved the district to place surplus funds in a given year into reserve funds that include afterschool or facility reserves. Currently there is about \$516,000 for afterschool and summer school programs. The proposed budget includes 11 PreK tuitions, increased para educators to support students at Neshobe and OCA, a reallocation of a cleaning contract to a custodial position, reallocation of an SRO position, addition of one vocational education teacher to

support student job placements, the addition of one para educator at OV to meet students' needs and the elimination of one out-of-district tuition. There are no significant programmatic changes due to the district already being "right sized." The \$5,000 reduction in health insurance is based upon predicted costs. The budget continues to maintain smaller primary class sizes to continue focus on primary literacy instruction and includes adjustments to salaries and benefits based on Board approval and estimated adjustments to non-program costs based on prior spending and estimated increases.

Brenda Fleming provided a breakdown of the budget based on function noting that each of the departments relate to instruction and include salaries, learning resources and benefits packages. The largest increase was in instructional services. Bill Moore asked about the line for Transfers and Ms. Fleming explained the column with the figure in question was for 2021 actual figures whereas the 2022 column is the current fiscal year and the 2023 column is the proposed fiscal year. Ms. Fleming advised that the voters had authorized the Board to move money into reserve funds for any surpluses at the end of the fiscal year and this is the amount for FY2021. This amount was added to the After School/Summer Reserve Fund and the Facilities Reserve Fund. The intention of the budget is to support student achievement and instructional services is about 83% of the budget. Ms. Fleming provided an explanation of the proposed Homestead tax rate. It was noted the State education fund has a \$90 million surplus that the Legislature has not decided what it will do with it at this point in time. The Tax Commissioner announced two different yield rates, one based on the statutory definition in applying the \$90 million surplus at the State level and also a yield without the \$90 million surplus. Each district had the ability to choose which yield to use in their tax calculation and the OVUU district chose the most conservative yield without the \$90 million which equated to a yield of \$12,937. Ms. Fleming noted this becomes important in calculating the tax rate and provided an explanation of the calculation for determining the unified tax rate before the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) is adjusted by town. Ms. Fleming advised the education spending per equalized pupil for OVUU will be \$17,044, which is about \$1,000 less than the State average of \$18,023. Ms. Fleming explained for the first \$12,037 of education spending there is a dollar tax rate and any amount over that figure adds to the tax rate proportionately. This equates to a proposed tax rate of \$1.317 that is a reduction of 5%. It was noted the proposed tax rate is 8 or 9 cents lower than what the State estimated the tax rate to be. Ms. Fleming provided an explanation of how the CLA is determined and reviewed the proposed tax rates by town after the CLA is applied: Brandon - \$1.416, Goshen - \$1.424, Leicester - \$1.412, Pittsford - \$1.438, Sudbury - \$1.273 and Whiting - \$1.389.

Bill Moore opened the floor for questions regarding the budget. There were no questions from the public.

Bill Moore advised the meeting shall be recessed to Tuesday, April 26, 2022, for the purpose of voting the following article at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to the Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	10:00AM to 7:00PM
Town of Goshen	9:00AM to 7:00PM

Brandon American Legion Post #55
Goshen Town Hall

Town of Leicester	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Leicester Town Office
Town of Pittsford	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Pittsford Fire House
Town of Sudbury	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Whiting Fire Station

The meeting was recessed at 6:51 PM.

**Article 2: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-Two Million Seven Hundred Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars (\$22,705,955) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,044 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.71% higher than spending for the current year.**

**OVUU District Budget Vote:**

Town # of ballots (voters) - 780

**Results**

Blank - 1

Yes - 420

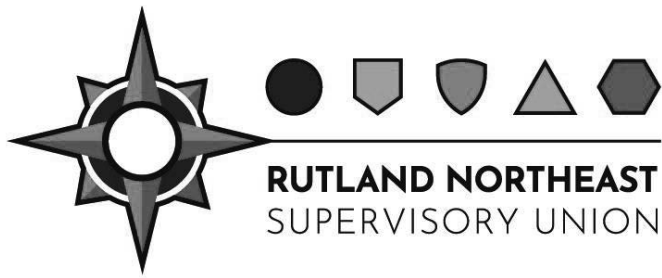
No - 359

**THE BUDGET PASSED**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant,  
OVUU District Clerk





<b>OUR MISSION</b> Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union August 2018	
By way of the <b>resources invested</b> by our <b>communities</b> , Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union students will have the <b>knowledge, skills and tools</b> to be <b>prepared</b> for the <b>next stage</b> of their lives.	
When we say this...	It means <i>THIS</i> for us...
<b>resources invested</b>	Funding, staffing, supplies and tools
<b>communities</b>	Towns that support our schools
<b>knowledge</b>	What students know and understand when they graduate
<b>skills</b>	What can students do with what they know and understand
<b>tools</b>	What our students use to learn or perform
<b>prepared</b>	Students are ready for life choices after graduation
<b>next stage</b>	The life choices of our students after graduation

<b>OUR VISION</b> Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union August 2018	
The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union <b>empowers all</b> students with the <b>knowledge, skills and attributes</b> needed to be <b>successful and contributing members</b> of a <b>global society</b> through the development of <b>character, competence, creativity and community</b> .	
When we say this...	It means <i>THIS</i> for us...
<b>empowers</b>	All students have a voice in what they learn and how they learn
<b>all</b>	All students means everyone regardless of ability, background or other characteristics
<b>knowledge, skills and attributes</b>	All students prepared for life after high school
<b>successful and contributing members</b>	All students make the world a better place for themselves and others
<b>global society</b>	All students are culturally knowledgeable and connected
<b>character</b>	All students care about themselves and others
<b>competence</b>	All students are able to perform in their life choices
<b>creativity</b>	All students appreciate creativity and use what they learn in new ways
<b>community</b>	All students connect with each other, their towns, and communities

## OVUUSD - Global Ends

1.0 The Otter Valley UU school district exists so that all enrolled students are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to be successful and contributing citizens of a global society by way of the resources invested by the communities. We accomplish this by empowering students in the following ends, as reported out in grades 2, 6, 8, and 12.

### 1.1 Academic Proficiency

- Students understand essential concepts in academic domains and apply this knowledge in authentic situations.
- Students ask questions effectively to acquire knowledge.
- Students acknowledge their growth and identify possibilities for continued learning.

### 1.2 Communication

- Students communicate effectively using oral, written and nonverbal (body language) strategies.
- Students communicate through a variety of media and create a positive digital footprint.
- Students take into consideration multiple points of view.



### 1.3 Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

- a. Students use inquiry to solve real-world problems with innovation, creativity and curiosity.
- b. Students participate in a collaborative problem-solving and decision-making process.
- c. Students evaluate information critically.

### 1.4 Global Citizenship

- a. Students recognize that our world is increasingly complex and interdependent.
- b. Students understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities within a democratic society.
- c. Students study a non-native language and understand the importance of learning about other cultures.

### 1.5 Learner Agency

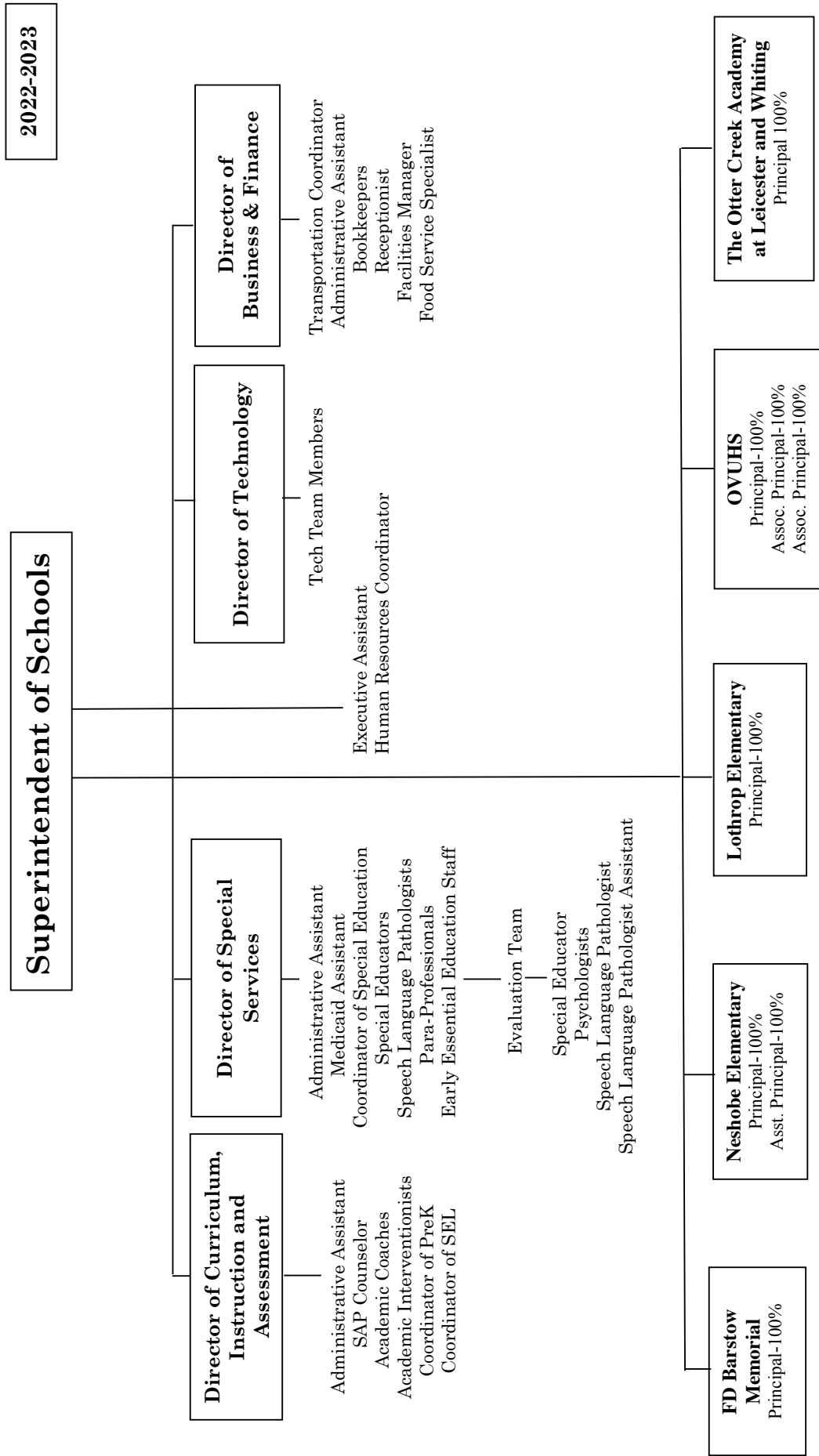
- a. Students take ownership of their own learning.
- b. Students develop their own voice and the ability to use it in a variety of settings.
- c. Students have high expectations for themselves and see themselves as lifelong learners.

### 1.6 Well-Being

- a. Students develop strategies and interpersonal skills to manage stress, promote mental health and cultivate positive relationships.
- b. Students recognize the value of healthy behaviors and physical activity in promoting health, enjoyment, self-expression and social interaction.
- c. Students have the knowledge necessary to make financially responsible decisions that are integral to their everyday lives.



# RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**2022-2023**  
**RNESU Administrators**

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<b>Alexis Blake</b> Director of Technology	<b>Kristin Hubert</b> Superintendent of Schools	<b>Brenda Fleming</b> Director of Business & Finance
<b>Marsha Bruce</b> Director of Special Services		<b>Tyler Weideman</b> Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

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**School and Program Principals**

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<b>David St. Germain</b> FD Barstow Memorial School Principal	<b>Vicki Wells</b> Neshobe Elementary School Principal	<b>Michael Ruppel</b> Otter Valley Union School Principal
<b>Brian Crane</b> Otter Creek Academy Principal	<b>Dan Raabe</b> Neshobe Elementary School Assistant Principal	<b>Patrick Binder</b> Otter Valley Union School Associate Principal
<b>Deborah Alexander</b> Lothrop Elementary School Principal		<b>Kristine Evarts</b> Otter Valley Union School Associate Principal

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**Central Office Personnel**

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<b>Beth Cole</b> Admin. Asst. to Facilities & Transportation	<b><u>IT Personnel</u></b> <b>Colby Case</b> Network Administrator	<b>Susannah White</b> Equity Engagement Coach
<b>Brooke Dahlin</b> Human Resources Coordinator	<b>Whitney Christie</b> Systems Administrator	<b>Joanie Wisdahl</b> MTSS Coach
<b>Jess Morse-Davis</b> Admin. Asst. to Curriculum Director	<b>Leah Gannon</b> Network Administrator	<b><u>Special Services Personnel</u></b> <b>Alisa Breau</b> Speech Language Pathologist
<b>Pam Parker</b> Bookkeeper/ Special Services Admin. Asst.	<b>Dan Schmitz</b> Technology Specialist	<b>Levi de Castro</b> School Psychologist
<b>Barbara Phillips</b> Payroll & Finance Admin. Asst.	<b><u>Academic Coaches</u></b> <b>Frank Bonavita</b> Coordinator of SEL	<b>Katherine Milliman</b> School Psychologist
<b>Melinda Piper</b> Exec. Asst. to Superintendent	<b>Max Burman</b> Technology Integration Coach	<b>Emme O'Rourke</b> Early Essential Education Speech Language Pathologist
<b>Pam Reed</b> Receptionist/Bookkeeper	<b>Sarah Crossmon</b> Coordinator of PreK	<b>Susan Smiel</b> Early Essential Education Teacher
<b>Beth Ripley</b> Special Services Admin. Asst./ Medicaid Clerk	<b>Susan Hennessey</b> Technology Integration Coach	<b>Nathan Traynor</b> Teacher – Special Services
<b>Rich Vigue</b> Transportation & Facilities Coordinator	<b>James Kalb</b> Data Literacy Coach	<b>Michael Wood</b> School Psychologist
	<b>Laura King</b> Instructional Coach	

2022-2023

## **School Board Members**

*All school board of director seats are three year terms.*

### **Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union**

*Reps to the RNESU Board are elected by the District Boards*

#### **BUUSD – 3 Reps**

Robin Crossman (2025)  
Jacob Powsner (2023)  
Jessica Quesnel (2025)

#### **OVUUSD – 3 Reps**

Laurie Bertrand (2025) – Chair  
Barbara Ebling (2025) – Clerk  
Rebecca Watters (2024)

*\*Board Meetings: third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 PM  
(location rotates throughout the district and are determined  
by OVUU Board meeting schedule).*

### **Barstow Unified Union School District**

#### **Chittenden – 2 Reps**

Ethan Bodin (2024)  
Robin Crossman (2025)

#### **Mendon – 1 Rep**

Jessica Quesnel (2025) – Chair

#### **At – Large Member – 2 Rep**

Jacob Powsner (Chittenden) (2023) – Clerk  
Susannah Loffredo (Mendon) (2024)

*\*Board Meetings: third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM  
at the Barstow Memorial School Library*

*^ Appointed to the Seat in 2022*

### **Otter Valley Unified Union School District**

#### **Brandon – 3 Reps**

Derek Larsen (2025) – Vice Chair  
Natalie Steen (2024)  
Kevin Thornton (2023)

#### **Goshen – 1 Rep**

M.Fernanda Canales^ (2024)

#### **Leicester – 1 Rep**

Jennifer Mallory^ (2023)

#### **Pittsford – 2 Reps**

Erik Pearsons (2024)  
Brett Mullin^ (2025)

#### **Sudbury – 1 Rep**

Laurie Bertrand (2025) – Chair

#### **Whiting – 1 Rep**

Rebecca Watters (2024)

#### **At – Large Members – 4 Reps**

Greg Bernhardt (Leicester) (2024)  
Barbara Ebling (Brandon) (2025) – Clerk  
Devon Fuller (Brandon)^ (2023)  
Jeremy Gildrien (Leicester)^ (2023)

*\*Board Meetings: first and third Wednesday of the month  
at 6:00 PM (location rotates throughout the district)*

*School board meetings are open to the public and meeting information,  
including a link to participate remotely, can be found online at  
<https://www.rnesu.org/page/district-information-school-boards>.*



# RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

## ANNUAL BOARD REPORT

### January 2023

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) Board has been busy this year making sure that our two school districts (Barstow and Otter Valley) have the resources they need to continue to educate our children. The most important work we did this year was to hire our next Superintendent upon the retirement of Jeanne Collins in June 2022. After two rounds of advertising and interviews, we were successful in hiring our very own Curriculum Director, Kristin Hubert. We are super excited to have her with us, as she already knows our district and what our goals are. She will lead us well into the future! Kristin was successful in hiring Tyler Weideman as our new Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Director. Welcome Kristin and Tyler!



The Board has been managing the use of over \$10 million in ESSER and COVID monies over the last three years. We have used this money to provide more support staff in our schools to help our students get back on track with their learning. We have also used some of those funds to buy three modular units to alleviate space issues at OCA-Leicester, Neshobe and Otter Valley. We have the use of these funds for one more year and are already looking at how we will continue to educate our children once these funds are no longer available. We are calling this the ESSER Cliff, and will need to make some hard decisions about what is most beneficial to our kids and how to fund those needs going forward.

We were able to complete successful Negotiations for new three-year contracts with our Teacher and Para/Bus Driver Unions. This will allow for stability of staff and hopefully allow us to attract new staff to our ranks. We are currently hiring for bus drivers and paraprofessionals, so if you or someone you know is looking for a rewarding position, check us out!

The other important work of our board was creating the budget for Special Education, Technology, Central Office, and Transportation. We are committed to a 1:1 device initiative for our students. This means that all students will have a chromebook to help with learning. This year our budget reflects a 10.41% increase in spending. We are changing our Curriculum, Instructions & Assessment Director to an Assistant Superintendent. Essentially this means that we are not hiring new staff, but giving Tyler more responsibilities and will allow him to do his job more effectively. We have made no significant changes in programming.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jacob Powsner for his tireless work on behalf of the RNESU Board, as he is not seeking re-election. Thank you for your support of our schools, staff and students! We look forward to continuing our mission of educating life-long learners. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member or use the Let's Talk button on any school website.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Laurie Bertrand**  
RNESU Board Chair



**OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT  
JANUARY 2023**



Hello!

Another year has come and gone. I wish that I could finally say that COVID-19 is in our rearview window. Unfortunately, that isn't the case. We are still seeing the impact of the pandemic in many ways. Our administration, teachers and staff are doing their very best to keep the learning going in our classrooms and schools. We have been dealing with a staffing shortage which has hampered our ability to provide the very best to our students. However, I am happy to report that we were able to complete successful Negotiations with our Teachers and our Para/Bus Drivers. We are hopeful that this new three-year deal will provide stability in our staffing and attract additional staff to our district. To that end, if you or someone you know are thinking about a career change, we are currently hiring bus drivers and paraprofessionals. Come join the team!

The OVUU Board has taken this year to further define what our End Goals are for our students. What does this mean? We determined that we want Otter Valley Graduates to have Academic Proficiency, Communication Skills, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving skills, be Global Citizens, be Lifelong Learners, and have Mental Well-Being by the time they leave our halls. Our hope is that these skills will allow our students to be successful as they move on to the next phase of their lives.



With the help of the RNESU School Board ESSER Funds (Federal Grant Funds), the OVUU district has been able to obtain three new modular units to help with space issues at Otter Creek Academy at Leicester, Neshobe School and Otter Valley Middle/High School. At the time of this writing, the modular units at Otter Creek and Neshobe have been placed and are almost ready for use! The Otter Valley Unit is currently under order and should be ready for use by the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

We are also excited to notify everyone that we have reopened the Sudbury School! It is being used for elementary students who need a quieter, less stimulating environment to access their learning. Students receive intensive wrap around services that teach self-regulation skills to allow them to return to one of our larger school settings.



The Board would like to welcome our new School Administrators, Michael Ruppel, High School Principal and Patrick Binder, Associate Principal at Otter Valley. We would also like to welcome our new Otter Creek Academy Principal, Brian Crane.

Thank you for your support of our kids, staff and schools! As always, feel free to contact a Board Member with any questions you might have, or use the Let's Talk App on any school website. We look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully Submitted,

**Laurie Bertrand**  
OVUU Board Chair



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. 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.

In my first year as the RNEU Superintendent, I feel a deep sense of pride in this great district and what we have collectively accomplished in providing an excellent education experience for each and every learner at all grade levels. Although we were all hopeful that COVID was behind us, the 2021-2022 school year was one that challenged all of us with unknowns and transitions back to the school buildings. In and out of masks and with evolving guidance from state and national leaders, students continually acknowledged the circumstances put in front of them by the ongoing pandemic... and yet they persisted. As we worked together as a community and state to make sense of the world around us, we also explored opportunities to innovate and maintain a sense of purpose amidst the challenges. We are grateful for our staff, students, families and community partners – all of whom stood up to the challenges and engaged in the hard work of becoming comfortable with discomfort and figuring it out together. Some of the lessons we learned were not easy, and others were not flattering, but I deeply believe that this is a community that is committed to doing what is best for our students and our schools.

Despite staffing shortages, rising costs, and the looming threat of a pandemic turned endemic, RNEU continues to thrive in many ways. From new bleachers at OV, to modular units to support space needs, our facilities are in good shape and under the direction of a new Coordinator, Rich Vigue. Veteran Superintendent of Schools, Jeanne Collins, departed the District and we welcomed a new Curriculum Director, Tyler Weideman to the team. We said goodbye to long-time Principal Jim Avery and AP Geoffrey Lawrence and welcomed a new Principal, Michael Ruppel and a new Assistant Principal, Patrick Binder. Otter Creek Academy's Principal Thom Fleury retired, and we welcomed a former instructional coach, Brian Crane into the role. Although change is hard in many ways, it also presents us with new opportunities to create strong schools and build connections with the community. In addition to changes in leadership, we saw many instructional and support staff changes as well. Without these individuals, our buildings could not operate. Thank you to everyone who has continued



to step up and step forward to keep our schools open and thriving, prioritizing student learning and well-being.

Finally, I want to thank this outstanding community for such strong and consistent support, which has enabled us to be the district we've been throughout the pandemic and beyond. The last several years haven't been easy. When together we support the work, we're able to keep moving through hard times. Together, let's continue to re-imagine the possibilities and commit to what we want RNESU schools to look like, for students, staff and families. Thank You.



Respectfully,  
**Kristin Hubert, Superintendent**  
 RNESU



*Brandon Chittenden Goshen Leicester Mendon Pittsford Sudbury Whiting*





3447 US Route 7  
Pittsford, Vermont 05763  
Phone: 802.483.6361

<https://lothrop.rnesu.org/o/les>

### **Community/History:**

Lothrop School, is a PK-6 school which consists of the Main School Building, built in 1911, which houses grades K-6, the Town Hall Building that serves as the gym and cafeteria and the Caverly Preschool Building near the Municipal Offices.

### **Looking Back and Forward**

The announcement of the pandemic being classified as an endemic was welcomed by Lothrop this past year. Post-pandemic planning took place this past spring as our leadership team made thoughtful decisions about what we would look like post-pandemic. They identified important community connections and school traditions that had been impacted by the pandemic and we made plans to bring them back “better than ever.”

In the spring we also identified high-leverage instructional practices that we agreed would take place daily across the school as we shifted a 7+ year focus of social and emotional learning to refining our instructional practices. Social emotional learning will continue to be a large focal point and work of our school and our solid learner Support Leadership Team, PBIS Team and solid structures and systems will continue this important work.

More daily read alouds, independent reading with accountability have shifted the feel of ELA in our classrooms and we are sure to see a grand impact on math as more learners become fluent with their math facts and math problem solving skills increase.



Our Lifetime Activities program was impacted by limited availability of partners and snow days last school year. This year we are offering cooking at the Furnace Brook Church kitchen with support from the Vermont Food Bank, skating at Giorgetti Rink in Rutland and hiking our beautiful Pittsford trails, hoping to also have a bit of snow in order to break out the snowshoes. We have had two wonderful weeks so far and looking forward to four more for our children in grades 3-6.

Last year the learners in grades 3-4 successfully performed the musical “Jungle Book”. This was a year long project that was embedded into our Integrated Arts program. This is the 3rd such musical for Lothrop and it was held at the Brandon Town Hall. Our Integrated Arts Team and Stage Manager, Kelly Connaughton will begin planning next year’s production this spring.

We returned to the gym for graduation this past year and our 6th grade learners walked the halls one more time on their last day. It is great when we can get a glimpse of our Lothrop Alumni when they catch OV

buses from our campus, around town or at sporting events. We continue to have a strong connection with the Pittsford Recreation and hosted their summer program in our cafeteria, which supported learners attending our Summer Academy and follow-on care and activities from the Rec.

### **Demographics:**

Lothrop continues to serve about 190 learners in PK-6. About 12% of our learners are eligible for special education services, our free and reduced population hovers around 40% and about 25% of our learners receive academic intervention support, an increase from past years, which can be attributed to the learning loss due to the pandemic.



### **Facilities Update:**

Our facilities team and outside contractors continue to do necessary repairs to the school, scheduled painting and remodeling of older areas. This past calendar year, Caverly and the Blue House received much needed new furnaces, and the 1-2 wing received tiling for its last two classrooms with rugs. Construction for the outdoor classroom began in the spring and it will be finished in the spring through grant funding, the PTO and local business contributors and volunteers.

### **After School Programming Activities:**

Lothrop Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP) remains strong, serving 30 learners most days Mon-Fri from dismissal from school until 5:30 PM.

### **School Specific Initiatives:**

- Strong Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) - Teams collaborate to create and organize support for identified learners in need of explicit targeted and intensive intervention, while strengthening first instruction. MTSS also supports learners in need of social and emotional support. Data guides our decisions and flexible schedules and groupings allow us to create opportunities for learners to receive all that they need.
- Tier III PBIS School
- Middle School Model for grades 5-6
- Superkids Program for Primary ELA
- Integrated Units for 3-6 ELA
- Bridges program for mathematics K-4
- Illustrative Math for grades 5-6
- Inquiry-based science
- 1:1 Device Initiative
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports-Fully Implemented
  - Teaching and acknowledging school wide expectations
  - Discouraging problem behaviors
- Restorative Practices
- Trauma Sensitive School
- Strong Integrated Arts Program



It continues to be a privilege and joy to serve as the leader of the talented staff members and wonderful learners of Lothrop. The Pittsford Community continues to support us extremely well and it is evident in our outcomes.

With gratitude and respect,

**Debbie Alexander**  
**Lothrop Principal**



17 Neshobe Circle  
 Brandon, Vermont 05733  
 Phone: 802.247.3721

<https://neshobe.rnesu.org/o/ns>

### **Community/History**

Neshobe is a PK-6 school located in rural Forest Dale, Vermont, on the original Forest Dale School site built-in 1926. In 1982, the three school sites (Seminary Hill, Ayrshire Building, and Forest Dale) opened on this campus as the Neshobe School, educating the communities of Brandon, Forest Dale, and Goshen. We believe in the potential of every student. We believe each student has unique needs

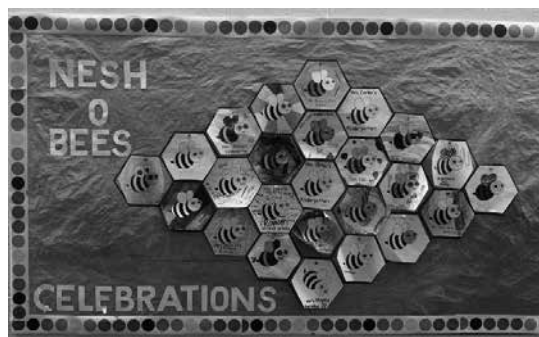


and that we can provide a safe, supportive, yet challenging learning environment to meet those needs and foster growth. We believe all students learn better if there are strong connections with their teachers and other school staff based on positive, respectful interactions. We believe family involvement is essential to the success of our students. We encourage families to take an active role in the social and academic lives of our students. We believe it is our

responsibility to provide opportunities for families to contribute to the school community. We believe connections that are personal, educational, and family and community-oriented support the whole child. These strong connections help students feel safe, both physically and emotionally, in their school setting.

### **Demographics**

We have 435 students PK through sixth grade, with approximately 14% of our students eligible for special education services and 54.3% of our students eligible for free/reduced meals.



### **After School and Summer Programming Activities**

This past summer, the S.O.A.R. Program continued its work with the Lothrop L.E.A.P. program and Otter Creek Academy (OCA) Kids Club under Nancy Bird's leadership to provide equity and consistency in all RNEU after school and summer programs. You can find more information on the Neshobe website or by contacting Nancy Bird.

In addition to S.O.A.R., this past summer we hosted students from OCA and Neshobe in our Summer Learning Program. This, combined with offerings through the Brandon Recreation Department, served well over 100 students.



### **Facilities Update**

- Driveway patching at the side of the brick building.
- A small round-about in the back area for afterschool pick up.
- A new modular unit has been installed. The unit will be used for Spanish, Intervention, Special Education and meetings.

### School Specific Initiatives

- Kindness Matters at Neshobe School is the framework for our expectations of We are Kind, We are Respectful, and We are Safe.
- We continue the implementation of a more comprehensive Multi-Tier System of Support for academics and social-emotional learning.
- We are focusing heavily on the implementation of a strong Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) system.
- Implementation of a social-emotional curriculum including morning meetings each day
- Our guidance counselor and student support counselor work together to provide individual and small group support to students. They teach classes in social-emotional development and health classes in collaboration with the school nurse.
- School-based Rutland Mental Health (RMH) case managers support students and families open to Rutland Mental Health Services.
- Bridges Math program for grades K-5 and Illustrative Math for sixth grade
- Superkids Reading Program for primary classes
- Choice-Based Art Program in Fourth through Sixth Grades.
- Four Winds Program for third and fourth grades.
- Team Discovery Middle Level for our fifth and sixth graders
- VT Everybody Wins Reading Program with community mentors.
- Neshobe Chicken Project
- Spanish for third through sixth graders twice weekly
- Strong vocal and instrumental music program K-6 with a chorus, band, advanced band, and jazz band composed of our upper-grade students.
- Cross country skiing, skateboarding, and biking as part of our Physical Education program.
- In the Spring of 2022, several teachers came together to design a Celebration of Learning Carnival for the students. It was a huge success for ALL.
- Outdoor school-wide concert in Spring of 2022.
- Each 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduate was able to ring the bell in the Art building as part of a new tradition upon graduation.
- A very dedicated PTO who works hard to bring opportunities to students and their families. This year, they are holding a few Movie Nights in the school cafeteria!
- Working collaboratively with Bill Moore, Brandon Recreation Director, which enables additional learning opportunities for our students and the Brandon Community through physical activities, seasonal events, and adult programs. It also ensures that Neshobe School remains a resource that benefits the community outside of school hours.



It is a pleasure to be part of the Neshobe Elementary School community. The staff, students and families are incredible and the spirit of kindness here truly shines.



Respectfully,

**Vicki Wells**  
Neshobe Principal



**Dan Raabe**  
Neshobe Asst. Principal





OCA at Leicester  
68 Schoolhouse Road  
Leicester, Vermont 05733  
Phone: 802.247.8825



**At Leicester & Whiting**  
<https://rnesu.org/o/oca>



OCA at Whiting  
87 South Main Street  
Whiting, Vermont 05778  
Phone: 802.623.7991

### **Community/History**

The Otter Creek Academy is a preschool – grade 6 school at two campuses for the residents of the towns of Leicester, Sudbury, and Whiting. We see ourselves as three towns yet one community. The Whiting school is home to a wonderful childcare and pre-school collaboration for children from infancy through age 4. The Leicester campus is for students in Kindergarten through grade 6. In addition to addressing the supervisory union goals of providing academic and emotional supports to improve student achievement, continuously implementing instructional practices to meet all students' needs, and teaching literacy across the curriculum with the expectation that all students will read on grade level by the end of grade 2, our two campuses strive to create a joyous yet rigorous learning environment for all students, so they can develop their character, competence, creativity, and sense of community.



### **Demographics**

There are 30 children presently enrolled in the pre-school program at Whiting, and at Leicester, 13 in Kindergarten, 11 in grade 1, 7 in grade 2, 13 in grade 3, 11 in grade 4, 8 in grade 5, and 16 in grade 6, for a total of 79 students. Approximately one-quarter of our students receive specialized services through the special education process. About two out of three students qualify for the free/reduced priced meal program sponsored by the federal government.

### **Facilities Update**

Our facilities and space issue are improving this year. With the hard work of our central office partners we were able to purchase and install a modular classroom. This modular unit will provide additional confidential office space, a superb space for our nurse, our library, and one additional small classroom. This space has been a great boost to morale and our efficiency. Additionally, our water testing has led to huge improvements. Our extensive tests have cleared all fountains and sinks for drinking except for one. There is a sink in first grade that has not passed and is clearly marked. In conclusion, while there are still some facilities challenges with an aging building, there have been impressive improvements this year.





### **Afterschool and Summer Programming Activities**

The Kids' Club Afterschool Program continues to thrive under the leadership of Mrs. Kim Hescocock and Ms. Cassandra Hayes and their staff. The program provides a safe, supportive, (and fun!) environment for children during the late afternoon hours. Games, crafts, wellness activities, homework support, fieldtrips, and other activities enrich young learners during this special time together. The very successful summer program was temporarily relocated to the Neshobe School and we hope that in the future we can restart our OCA program at the Leicester campus.

### **School-Specific Initiatives**

Expeditionary (or project-based) Learning continues to be a cornerstone of Otter Creek Academy. Units are interdisciplinary in nature, bringing together new learning in the areas of reading, math, science, social science, physical education, and the fine arts. A great example of this is our school-wide Trout in the Classroom project. January through May we will be raising brook trout and have a school-wide release in May.



### **What Does the Future Hold?**

We are excited about what the future holds. Our Leicester campus is seeing an increase in enrollment. We are strengthening our “safety net” of support for students by implementing instruction to enhance their social and emotional wellness. We are also refining our educational support system to ensure that our Educational Support Team (E.S.T.) process more efficiently identifies and responds to students’ academic and behavioral needs using up-to-date assessment data to guide our work. Our goal at all times is to make our buildings as safe, respectful, and welcoming as they can be. To help us with this effort we are working hard on our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) practices. PBIS is helping us respond to behavior in a positive and trauma-informed way.



Respectfully,

**Brian Crane**

Otter Creek Academy Principal





2997 Franklin Street  
Brandon, Vermont 05733  
Phone: 802.247.6833  
<https://ovus.rnesu.org/o/ovumshs>

### **Community/History:**

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School is located in central Vermont in the town of Brandon. The school is the high school for students in the Otter Valley Unified Union School District, serving students from the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting. Additionally, students from surrounding towns can attend Otter Valley through tuition or school choice.

The two largest towns are Brandon and Pittsford, both located on US Route 7, north of Rutland. The area is rural, with major industries being education, tourism, light manufacturing, agriculture, and a growing arts community.

### **Demographics:**

OVUMS/HS is a public high school serving students in grades 7-12 from the communities of Brandon, Florence, Forestdale, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting. As of January 1, 2023, the student population is 531 with 14% of our students eligible for special education services and 46% eligible for free/reduced lunch.



### **Teaching and Learning:**

Otter Valley has several efforts underway to improve the teaching and learning environment for students and staff.

#### *Proficiency-based Learning*

Our high school is focused on developing a proficiency-based learning system that helps to ensure that all of our graduates are able to meet the skills and goals outlined in the Portrait of a Graduate and state standards. This year, we are working to make sure that our learning targets are developed to drive teaching and learning in each

course and that our assessments line up with those learning targets. We are also working to determine how habits of work are taught and assessed in all classrooms.



### *Middle School Model*

Our middle school team is working to develop a coherent and positive vision for the focus of our middle school to make sure that it is developmentally-appropriate, engaging, and focuses on the development of community. This year, our teachers are working on building thematic, interdisciplinary units, and developing activities that build community through our early release days.

### *Multi-tiered System of Supports*

With several new folks in key roles, we are working to redefine and improve our academic and behavioral supports for students. In an effective multi-tiered system of supports, teachers work to make sure that the vast majority of students are successful in initial instruction, while teams of professionals work together to determine appropriate supports for those students that do not have initial success. Our efforts this year have focused on identifying appropriate teams and processes to support this important work.

### *Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) and Restorative Practices*

Another significant change effort underway is improvement of our PBIS system paired with implementation of restorative practices. PBIS focuses on making sure that teachers work proactively to educate students on what our behavioral expectations are, couched in the PRIDE values of positive attitude, respect, integrity, determination, and empathy. We also have added a restorative practices specialist to the team at Otter Valley who works to help students repair relationships with teachers and fellow students



### **Other Efforts Underway:**

- This year, Otter Valley Tech Ed teacher Devon Karpak is working as a Rowland Fellow. In that work, he is working to build the Career Pathways Program, which will in time deliver programming that helps students in Grades 7-12 learn about, explore, and have meaningful experiences in high-paying careers driven by the needs of the local economy. Our work-based learning coordinator, Laura O'Brien, is partnering with Devon on this effort.
- The OV Theater and Music programs continue to be successful programs that many of our students participate in during the school day or after school. This year, we were able to hold fully in-person concerts for middle and high school music in December, and put on our annual musical in November.
- OV Athletics remains an important part of our student life here at OV. We have several programs under the direction of Activities Director Steven Keith that have achieved athletic success, including a state championship in Boys' Golf this year. More importantly, we work hard to keep our program focused on shaping our young people into hard-working and dedicated adults.

Regards,



**Michael Ruppel,**  
Principal



**Patrick Binder,**  
Associate  
Principal



**Kristine Evarts,**  
Associate  
Principal/  
Special Ed  
Coordinator at OV

## OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL NOTICES

**OVUU School Board** - The school board welcomes your input on all issues. The school board meetings are held on first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM and take place on a rotating schedule at the schools throughout the OVUU School District. A virtual participation option is also available until further notice and dial in information can be found on the calendar at [www.rnesu.org](http://www.rnesu.org). Please call the RNESU central office in advance (802-247-5757) in order to request an item on the agenda and to see if there have been any meeting changes, postponements or cancellations. This information along with all meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) website at [www.rnesu.org](http://www.rnesu.org).

**Anti-Discrimination** - The RNESU ensures equal employment and educational opportunities regardless of race, color, religion (creed), ancestry, national origin, place of birth, HIV status, sex or gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, gender identity, or marital status.

**Students with Disabilities** - The RNESU is required by federal laws IDEA-B (formerly EHA-B) and Section 504 and state regulations to identify and locate all persons with disabilities between the ages of birth and 21 who may be in need of regular education, special education services or accommodations in accessing public education. If you know of any individual residing in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury or Whiting who you suspect of having such needs, but who is not currently receiving them, please contact the Director of Special Services, Marsha Bruce, at (802) 247-5757 or the school principal for your town.

**Records Review** - As provided under federal and state laws and regulations, all parents and legal guardians are hereby notified that they have a number of rights under FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). You may inspect the educational record, request an amendment or file a complaint. If you find this necessary, please contact your school principal. You may also contact your school for a copy of the RNESU Records Policy, which outlines your rights under this law.

**Asbestos** - The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act [40 CFR 763.93 (g) (4)] requires that written notice be given that the following schools have Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos-containing materials found in their buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public at the administrative offices of each facility listed below. Please contact the building Principal or designated person identified below if you wish to read this plan.

<i>Site Address</i>	<i>Designated Person</i>	<i>Telephone Number</i>
Lothrop Elementary School 3447 US Rt. 7 Pittsford, VT 05763	Fred LaPlant	(802) 483-6361
Neshobe Elementary School 17 Neshobe Circle Brandon, VT 05733	Michael Davis	(802) 247-3721
Otter Creek Academy Leicester Central School 68 Schoolhouse Road Leicester, VT 05733 Whiting Elementary School 87 South Main Street Whiting, VT 05778	Rich Vigue	(802) 247-5757



Otter Valley Union Middle/High School 2997 Franklin Street Brandon, VT 05733	Jordan Tolar	(802) 247-6833
Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union 49 Court Drive Brandon, VT 05733	Rich Vigue	(802) 247-5757
Sudbury Country School 31 Schoolhouse Road Sudbury, VT 05733	Rich Vigue	(802) 247-5757

**Audit Reports** - Certified Public Accountants audit reports are available for public inspection. These may be found on the RNESU website at [www.rnesu.org](http://www.rnesu.org) or by calling the business office at (802) 247-5757.

**Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Notification (PPRA)** - PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys. These include the right to:

- *Inspect*, upon request and before administration or use –
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

**Educator Quality** - Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher. This information includes: whether the teacher has met the state requirements for the grade level(s) and subject area(s) they are teaching; whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency license; the college major and/or graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher; and whether their child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so, their qualifications. During the 2021-2022 school year the following percentage of the teachers were on emergency licenses:

<i>School</i>	<i>% of Teachers on emergency license</i>
Lothrop Elementary School	0%
Neshobe Elementary School	0%
Otter Creek Academy	11%
Otter Valley Union Middle/High School	0%

**State Assessment Results** - Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, students in grades 3 – 9 are assessed annually in reading, writing and math. Science is assessed in grades 5, 8 and 11. School wide test results may be found on the State Agency of Education website at [www.education.vermont.gov/data-and-reporting/educational-performance](http://www.education.vermont.gov/data-and-reporting/educational-performance).

### SBAC 2021-2012 Results

#### ELA

#### Math

#### Percent of students who scored proficient or above

Grade	#Tested	OVUU	VT		Grade	#Tested	OVUU	VT
3rd	74	33%	41%		3rd	74	32%	43%
4th	89	31%	44%		4th	88	24%	38%
5th	73	34%	46%		5th	72	26%	32%

6th	89	13%	43%		6th	88	6%	30%
7th	67	22%	45%		7th	68	12%	31%
8th	82	17%	42%		8th	85	7%	28%
9th	85	15%	45%		9th	85	8%	26%

### Science

Grade	#Tested	OVUU	VT
5th	73	23%	35%
8th	77	8%	30%
11th	61	21%	40%



**2022-2023**

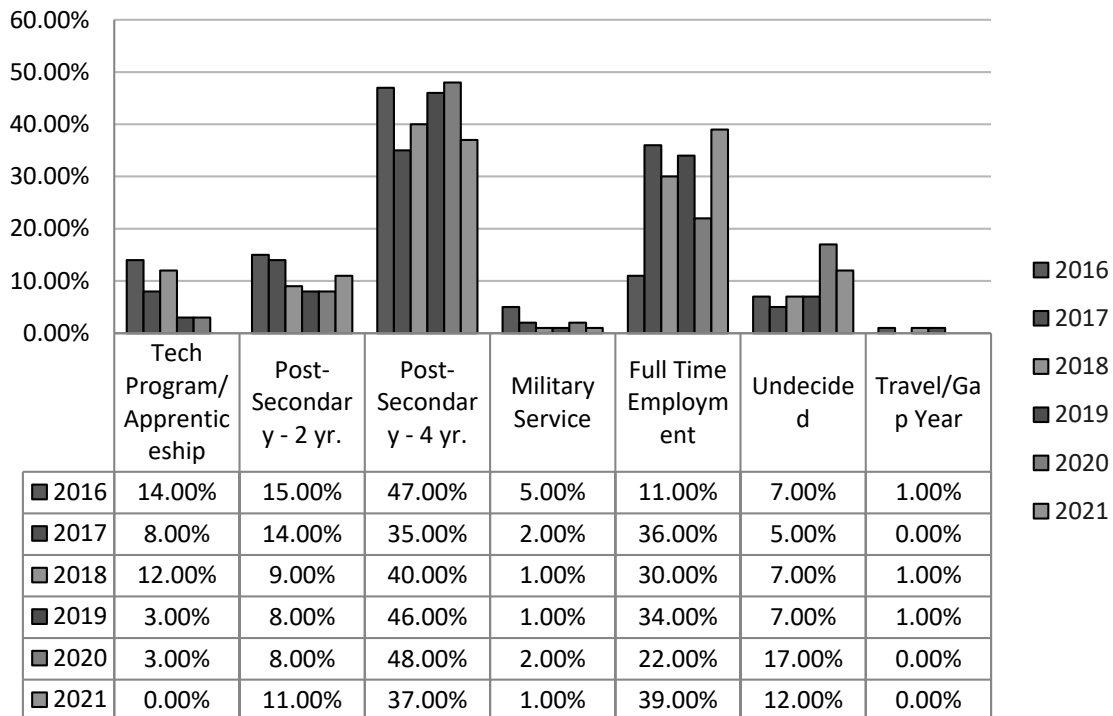
### R NESU Administrative Council

*Top Row:* **Michael Ruppel**, OVUMS/HS Principal; **Patrick Binder**, OVUMS/HS Associate Principal; **Deborah Alexander**, Lothrop Principal; **Tyler Weideman**, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; **Vicki Wells**, Neshobe Principal;

*Middle Row:* **David St. Germain**, Barstow Principal; **Dan Raabe**, Neshobe Assistant Principal; **Kristin Hubert**, Superintendent; **Brian Crane**, Otter Creek Academy at Principal; **Alexis Blake**, Director of Technology;

*Bottom Row:* **Brenda Fleming**, Director of Business & Finance; **Kristine Evarts**, OV Associate Principal/Special Ed Coordinator at OV; **Marsha Bruce**, Director of Special Services.

# Otter Valley Union High School



## Otter Valley Union High School Graduation Rates

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
91%	85%	80%	74%	81%	95%



# Otter Valley Unified Union School District

## FY2024 Proposed Budgets

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**FY2024 Budget Goal:** Maintain and improve comprehensive equitable educational opportunities.

### Budget Facts:

The board approved a budget with the following:

- Lothrop reduces 1.0 Classroom Teacher based on enrollment
- Neshobe increases 1.0 FTE paraeducator based on student need
- Neshobe adds 10hour/week library assistant support services
- OVUMHS increases 1.0 FTE for English Language Arts/Social Students position
- OVUMHS adds a afterschool run 4 days/week leaving at 3:30
- Cost Shift to RNESU Special Services Budget
  - OVUMHS tuition for extraordinary costs student
  - OCA tuition for an extraordinary costs student
- Includes \$100,000 for OVU Wide school year safety liaison position
- No other programmatic changes as we have already right-sized the district

**The Following tables present the FY24 proposed budget in multiple formats to provide a full understanding of the budget**

- By Function or department: direct instruction/facilities/debt
- By Object: salaries/benefits/supplies
- By Site: by school with a district wide services not allocated to schools

### OVUUSD Function Budget:

**FY22 Actual, FY23 Budget, FY24 Proposed: \$24,174,395**

	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY24 Proposed	Difference
Direct Instruction	\$12,585,581	\$14,293,976	\$15,004,251	\$710,275
Student Support	\$1,405,344	\$1,528,355	\$1,762,378	\$234,023
Inst. Staff Support	\$456,674	\$556,388	\$576,329	\$19,941
General & Admin	\$105,187	\$142,229	\$149,329	\$7,100
School Admin	\$1,241,606	\$1,230,438	\$1,207,570	-( \$22,868)
Fiscal & Technology	\$1,714,489	\$1,783,416	\$1,964,241	\$180,825
Facilities	\$1,974,649	\$1,990,048	\$2,216,373	\$226,325
Transportation	\$716,234	\$607,069	\$727,536	\$120,467
Debt Service	\$558,768	\$574,536	\$566,388	-( \$8,148)
Transfer to Reserve Funds	\$309,612	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,068,145</b>	<b>\$22,706,455</b>	<b>\$24,174,395</b>	<b>\$1,467,940</b>

**OVUUSD by Site and Object Budget:**  
**FY22 Actual, FY23 Budget, FY24 Proposed: \$24,174,395**

<b>Description</b>	<b>FY22 Actual</b>	<b>FY23 Budget</b>	<b>FY24 Proposed</b>
Salaries	\$ 1,578,137	\$ 1,638,071	\$ 1,704,261
Benefits	\$ 632,822	\$ 740,802	\$ 672,798
Purchased Service	\$ 2,551	\$ 21,000	\$ 11,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 128,402	\$ 115,500	\$ 136,500
Tuition Travel Communications	\$ 126,519	\$ 152,531	\$ 146,554
Supplies & Materials	\$ 168,088	\$ 160,910	\$ 152,275
Miscellaneous	\$ 91,127	\$ 89,385	\$ 87,498
<b>Lothrop Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,727,646</b>	<b>\$ 2,918,199</b>	<b>\$ 2,910,886</b>
Salaries	\$ 2,489,161	\$ 2,625,717	\$ 2,831,912
Benefits	\$ 1,087,197	\$ 1,325,270	\$ 1,293,194
Purchased Service	\$ 3,660	\$ 12,550	\$ 14,050
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 81,204	\$ 85,150	\$ 87,150
Tuition Travel Communications	\$ 318,867	\$ 292,967	\$ 306,247
Supplies & Materials	\$ 198,152	\$ 180,350	\$ 236,900
Miscellaneous	\$ 121,835	\$ 119,464	\$ 118,657
<b>Neshobe Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,300,076</b>	<b>\$ 4,641,468</b>	<b>\$ 4,888,110</b>
Salaries	\$ 4,371,187	\$ 4,672,977	\$ 5,100,598
Benefits	\$ 1,465,867	\$ 1,968,699	\$ 1,890,031
Purchased Service	\$ 280,171	\$ 261,640	\$ 261,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 100,595	\$ 127,650	\$ 86,000
Tuition Travel Communications	\$ 1,137,230	\$ 1,288,124	\$ 1,435,196
Supplies & Materials	\$ 464,922	\$ 406,170	\$ 476,205
Asset Purchase	\$ 353	\$ 17,291	\$ 6,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 344,522	\$ 365,766	\$ 361,523
<b>OVUMHS Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,164,847</b>	<b>\$ 9,108,317</b>	<b>\$ 9,616,553</b>
Salaries	\$ 799,012	\$ 781,875	\$ 825,456
Benefits	\$ 181,898	\$ 284,224	\$ 261,111
Purchased Service	\$ 19,989	\$ 16,700	\$ 31,260
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 53,201	\$ 60,061	\$ 51,400
Tuition Travel Communications	\$ 190,694	\$ 149,345	\$ 179,505
Supplies & Materials	\$ 70,289	\$ 79,640	\$ 77,000
Asset Purchase	\$ 4,467	\$ -	\$ -
<b>OCA Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,319,550</b>	<b>\$ 1,371,845</b>	<b>\$ 1,425,732</b>
Miscellaneous	\$ 6,317	\$ 6,121	\$ 5,909
Salaries	\$ 26,850	\$ 25,800	\$ 26,400
Benefits	\$ 7,553	\$ 28,049	\$ 28,049
Purchased Service	\$ 29,483	\$ 33,800	\$ 133,800
Assessments/Tuition Travel Communications	\$ 4,162,892	\$ 4,544,493	\$ 5,108,255
Supplies & Materials	\$ 990	\$ 850	\$ 850
Miscellaneous	\$ 12,327	\$ 29,850	\$ 29,850
Debt Service	\$ 309,612	\$ -	\$ -
<b>District Wide Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,549,707</b>	<b>\$ 4,662,842</b>	<b>\$ 5,327,204</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,068,143</b>	<b>\$ 22,708,792</b>	<b>\$ 24,174,394</b>



## OVUUSD Anticipated FY24 School Enrollments

Lothrop School		
Grade	Enrollment	Projected FY24 Classroom Ratio
K	23	2 Teachers 1:12
1	17	1 Teachers 1:17
2	29	2 Teachers 1:14
3	22	2 Teachers 1:11
4	28	2 Teachers 1:14
5	22	1 Teacher 1:22
6	24	1 Teacher 1:24
Total	165	Overall 1:15

Neshobe School		
Grade	Enrollment	Projected FY24 Classroom Ratio
K	50 - 53	3 Teachers 1:18
1	56	3 Teachers 1:18
2	56	3 Teachers 1:18
3	60	3 Teachers 1:20
4	57	3 Teachers 1:19
5	42	3 Teachers 1:14
6	60	3 Teachers 1:20
Total	381 - 384	Overall 1:18

Otter Creek Academy		
Grade	Enrollment	Projected FY24 Classroom Ratio
K	10-13	1 Teachers 1:13
1	13	1 Teachers 1:13
2	11	1 Teachers 1:18
3	7	
4	14	2 Teachers 1:14
5	11	1 Teacher 1:19
6	8	
Total	74-77	Overall 1:15

Otter Valley Union Middle/High		
Grade	Current Enrollment	Projected FY23 Enrollment
7	72	93
8	95	72
9	125	95
10	90	125
11	90	90
12	70	90
Total	542	565

## Considerations of the Budget Proposal:

- The budget proposal is \$24,174,395 which is up \$1,467,940 or 6.46% from the current year budget of \$22,706,455
- Net Education Spending –our taxable budget, is up by \$1,747,786 or 8.06%
- Estimated Equalized pupils are down by (16.82) students or (1.32%)
- Result: Education Spending per Equalized pupil is \$18,629 up \$1,616 or 9.50%
  - *VT Tax Commissioner estimated the average education spending per equalized pupil to be \$20,155. OVUUSD proposed budget is BELOW the average by 8% or \$1,526 per pupil*

## State Impact on Budget Proposal:

- Announced State Tax Yield is \$15,479 up \$2,165 or 16.26% per equalized pupil
- Result: Anticipated Homestead Tax Rate BEFORE applying Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is \$1.20 down (\$0.07) or (5.81%).
  - *VT Tax Commissioner estimated the average homestead tax rate to be \$1.57. OVUUSD proposed budget is BELOW the average by \$0.37*

## Tax Calculation

The table below converts the proposed budget into an estimated homestead tax rate, including the effects of our towns' different Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) rates, which range from 77.89% to 93.49%.

	<b>Tax Commissioner's Dec 1st announced yield \$15,479 (FY23 \$13,314)</b>	<b>Budget FY23</b>	<b>Proposed FY24</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	Total Budget	\$ 22,706,455	\$ 24,174,395	\$ 1,467,940	6.46%
	Less Local Revenue	\$ (1,014,045)	\$ (734,198)	\$ 279,847	-27.60%
	Net Education Spending	\$ 21,692,410	\$ 23,440,196	\$ 1,747,786	8.06%
	Equalized Pupils	1,275.06	1,258.24	(16.82)	-1.32%
	Education Spending Per Equalized Pupils	\$ 17,013	\$ 18,629	\$ 1,616	9.50%
\$ 15,479	Yield - Announced by VT Tax Department (prior yr \$13,314)				
	<b>Unified Tax Rate Before CLA</b>	<b>\$ 1.278</b>	<b>\$ 1.204</b>	<b>\$ (0.074)</b>	<b>-5.81%</b>
<b>CLA</b>	<b>Homestead Tax Rate (Prior Yr CLA)</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Rate</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
84.15%	Brandon (93.03)	\$ 1.374	\$ 1.430	\$ 0.06	4.13%
85.86%	Goshen (92.53)	\$ 1.381	\$ 1.402	\$ 0.02	1.50%
78.97%	Leicester (93.28)	\$ 1.370	\$ 1.524	\$ 0.15	11.25%
77.89%	Pittsford (91.64)	\$ 1.394	\$ 1.545 *	\$ 0.15	10.81%
93.49%	Sudbury (103.53)	\$ 1.234	\$ 1.287	\$ 0.05	4.30%
84.97%	Whiting (94.85)	\$ 1.347	\$ 1.416	\$ 0.07	5.14%
* Pittsford Town has appealed the CLA, which is subject to re-evaluation and may change.					
<b>CLA: Common Level of Appraisal</b>					

## What is Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)? How can my property taxes be changing by more than the school budget?

The CLA is used to ensure property owners are paying equitable taxes. If the properties in a town were undervalued, without a CLA correction, the residents would pay a lower tax compared to a neighboring town with more accurate assessed values.

The Tax Department determines the CLA by looking at recent sale prices and comparing these prices to the town's appraised values. If the appraised values are lower than the sale prices the town's grand list is considered undervalued and the CLA will be a percentage under 100%. Likewise, if the appraised values are higher than sale prices are above the town's grand list and is considered overvalued and the CLA will be over 100%.

**Impact of CLA:** To assure all property owners are paying equitable taxes, the state adjusts the individual towns' school tax rates by the CLA. If the school tax rate was determined to be \$1.44 CLA of 90% would mean a tax "correction" to \$1.60 ( $\$1.44/90\%$ )  
CLA of 110% would mean a tax "correction" of \$1.31 ( $\$1.44/110\%$ )

**Local Community Impact from Budget Proposal after State Impact and Common Level of Appraisal:**  
Anticipated individual Town Homestead Tax Rates, AFTER CLA

Please note CLA's vary by town resulting in different Homestead Tax Rates by town.

Brandon: +0.06 or \$60 per \$100,000 home site value	Pittsford: +0.15 or \$150 per \$100,000 home site value
Goshen: +0.02 or \$20 per \$100,000 home site value	Sudbury: +0.05 or \$50 per \$100,000 home site value
Leicester: +0.15 or \$150 per \$100,000 home site value	Whiting: +0.07 or \$70 per \$100,000 home site value

### Otter Valley Unified Union SD Reserve Balances: July 1, 2022

Facility and Grounds Reserve Funds	
Leicester PFAS Water – Deficit	(\$124,129)
Goshen School District	\$8,000
Otter Valley UUSD Fund	\$2,521,153
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,341,460</b>

After School Reserve Funds	
After School CRSSA Grant	\$0
OCA CERF Grant	\$0
Otter Valley UUSD Fund	\$492,845
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$492,845</b>

FY2022 Treasurer's Report General Fund Balance:	
Beginning Fund Balance, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$920,000
Plus: Revenues	\$20,808,145
Subtotal Resources	\$21,728,145
Less: Expenditures	(\$21,068,145)
Ending Fund Balance, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	\$660,000

For a Glossary of Terms and FAQ related to budgets, please visit [www.rnesu.org](http://www.rnesu.org).

District: <b>Otter Valley USD</b> SU: <b>Rutland Northeast</b>		U053 Rutland County		Property dollar equivalent yield	<--See bottom note	Homestead tax rate per \$15,479 of spending per equalized pupil
				15,479		1.00
				17,600		Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	
1.	<b>Adopted or warned union district budget</b> (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	\$20,377,427	\$21,039,635	\$22,705,955	\$24,174,395	1.
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
3.	<b>Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles</b>	\$20,377,427	\$21,039,635	\$22,705,955	\$24,174,395	3.
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	4.
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	5.
6.	<b>Total Union Expenditures</b>	\$20,377,427	\$21,039,635	\$22,705,955	\$24,174,395	6.
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	7.
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (if included in union expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.
Revenues						
9.	Union revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, federal, etc.)	\$566,320	\$993,549	\$1,014,045	\$734,198	9.
10.	<b>Total offsetting union revenues</b>	\$566,320	\$993,549	\$1,014,045	\$734,198	10.
11.	<b>Education Spending</b>	\$19,811,107	\$20,046,086	\$21,691,910	\$23,440,197	11.
12.	Otter Valley USD equalized pupils	1,293.96	1,296.56	1,275.06	1,258.67	12.
13.	<b>Education Spending per Equalized Pupil</b>	\$15,310.45	\$15,460.98	\$17,012.46	\$18,622.99	13.
14.	minus Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	\$429.46	\$429.42	\$450.60	\$450	14.
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$60,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$11.12	-	-	\$3	15.
16.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	16.
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	18.
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	minus Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$18,756 \$18,756.00	threshold = \$18,789 \$18,789.00	threshold = \$19,997 \$19,997.00	threshold = \$22,204 \$22,204.00	23.
24.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	2 year suspension	2 year suspension	suspended thru FY29	24.
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$15,310	\$15,461	\$17,012	\$18,622.99	25.
26.	<b>Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)</b>	139.211% based on yield \$10,998	136.617% based on yield \$11,317	127.779% based on \$13,314	120.311% based on \$15,479	26.
27.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated [\$18,622.99 ÷ (\$15,479 / \$1.00)]	\$1.3921 based on \$1.00	\$1.3662 based on \$1.00	\$1.2778 based on \$1.00	\$1.2031 based on \$1.00	27.
<b>Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Otter Valley USD</b>		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY22 Pe
T026	Brandon	1.3921	1.3662	1.2778	1.2031	100.00%
T081	Goshen	1.3921	1.3662	1.2778	1.2031	100.00%
T110	Leicester	1.3921	1.3662	1.2778	1.2031	100.00%
T154	Pittsford	1.3921	1.3662	1.2778	1.2031	100.00%
T201	Sudbury	1.3921	1.3662	1.2778	1.2031	100.00%
T241	Whiting	1.3921	1.3662	1.2778	1.2031	100.00%
		-	-	-	301.9781	25100.00%
		-	-	-	301.9781	25100.00%
		-	-	-	301.9781	25100.00%
		-	-	-	301.9781	25100.00%
		-	-	-	301.9781	25100.00%
28.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Otter Valley USD [(18,622.99 ÷ 17,600) x 2.00%]	2.26% based on 2.00%	2.25% based on 2.00%	2.13% based on 2.00%	2.12% based on 2.00%	28.
<b>Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Otter Valley USD</b>		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY23 Pe
T026	Brandon	2.26%	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	100.00%
T081	Goshen	2.26%	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	100.00%
T110	Leicester	2.26%	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	100.00%
T154	Pittsford	2.26%	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	100.00%
T201	Sudbury	2.26%	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	100.00%
T241	Whiting	2.26%	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	100.00%
		-	-	-	532.12%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	532.12%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	532.12%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	532.12%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	532.12%	25100.00%

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$15,479 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$17,600 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of 1.386. These figures use the estimated \$64,000,000 surplus from the Education Fund. New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.  
- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

# RNESU FY2024 Proposed Budgets

Special Education, Transportation, Central Office & Technology:  
*Assessments are included in member district budgets*

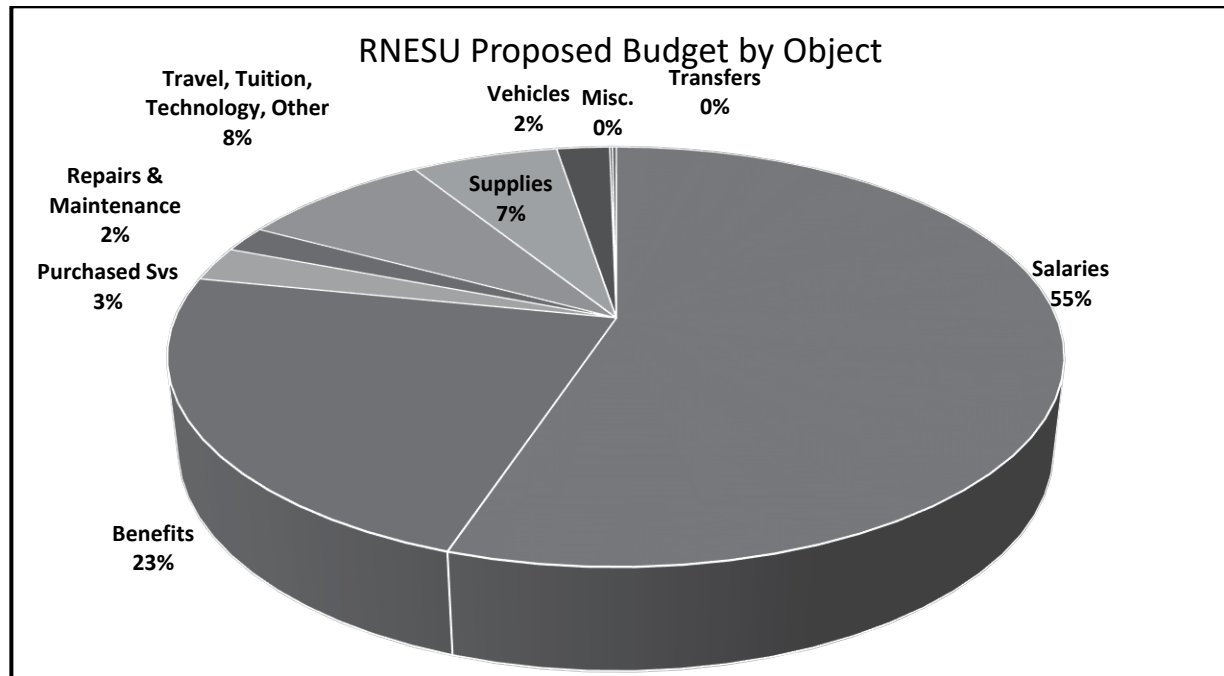
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**Proposed Budget \$11,951,036: expenditures, revenues and member assessments**

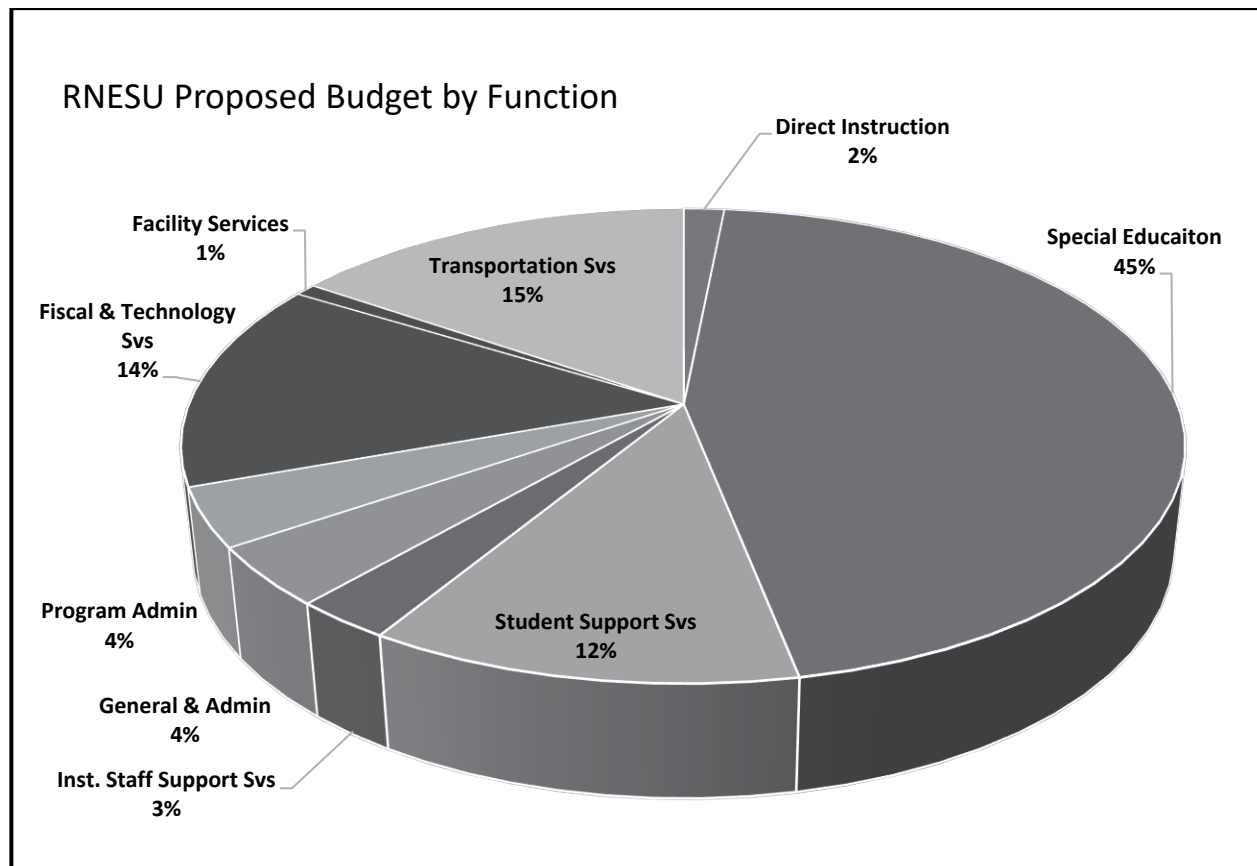
	<b>FY22 Actual Prior Year</b>	<b>FY23 Current Year Budget</b>	<b>FY24 Proposed Budget</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Direct Instruction	0	0	183,800
Special Ed Instruction	4,242,229	5,041,228	5,421,691
Student Support	1,165,274	1,362,931	1,413,465
Instructional Staff Support	228,436	304,309	326,001
General Admin	433,973	446,192	482,405
School/Program Admin	305,777	427,136	477,504
Fiscal & Technology Services	1,444,662	1,435,952	1,706,236
Facility Services	51,910	83,565	97,735
Transportation	1,562,802	1,632,054	1,842,199
Forest Receipts & Security Grant	56,401	0	0
<b><u>Grand Total Expenditures</u></b>	<b><u>9,491,464</u></b>	<b><u>10,733,367</u></b>	<b><u>11,951,036</u></b>
<b>Less Revenues</b>			
Local Revenue	571,676	908,868	1,147,192
State Special Ed & Transportation Reimbursements	3,738,490	3,793,812	4,104,299
Federal Grants	590,175	590,909	602,726
Other Revenue	10,984	0	0
<b><u>Subtotal Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>4,911,325</u></b>	<b><u>5,293,589</u></b>	<b><u>5,854,217</u></b>
<b><i>Net Assessments</i></b>		<b><i>5,439,778</i></b>	<b><i>6,096,819</i></b>
<i>Barstow UUSD</i>		<i>910,064</i>	<i>1,005,673</i>
<i>Otter Valley UUSD</i>		<u><i>4,529,714</i></u>	<u><i>5,091,146</i></u>
<b><i>Total Assessments</i></b>		<b><i>5,439,778</i></b>	<b><i>6,906,819</i></b>



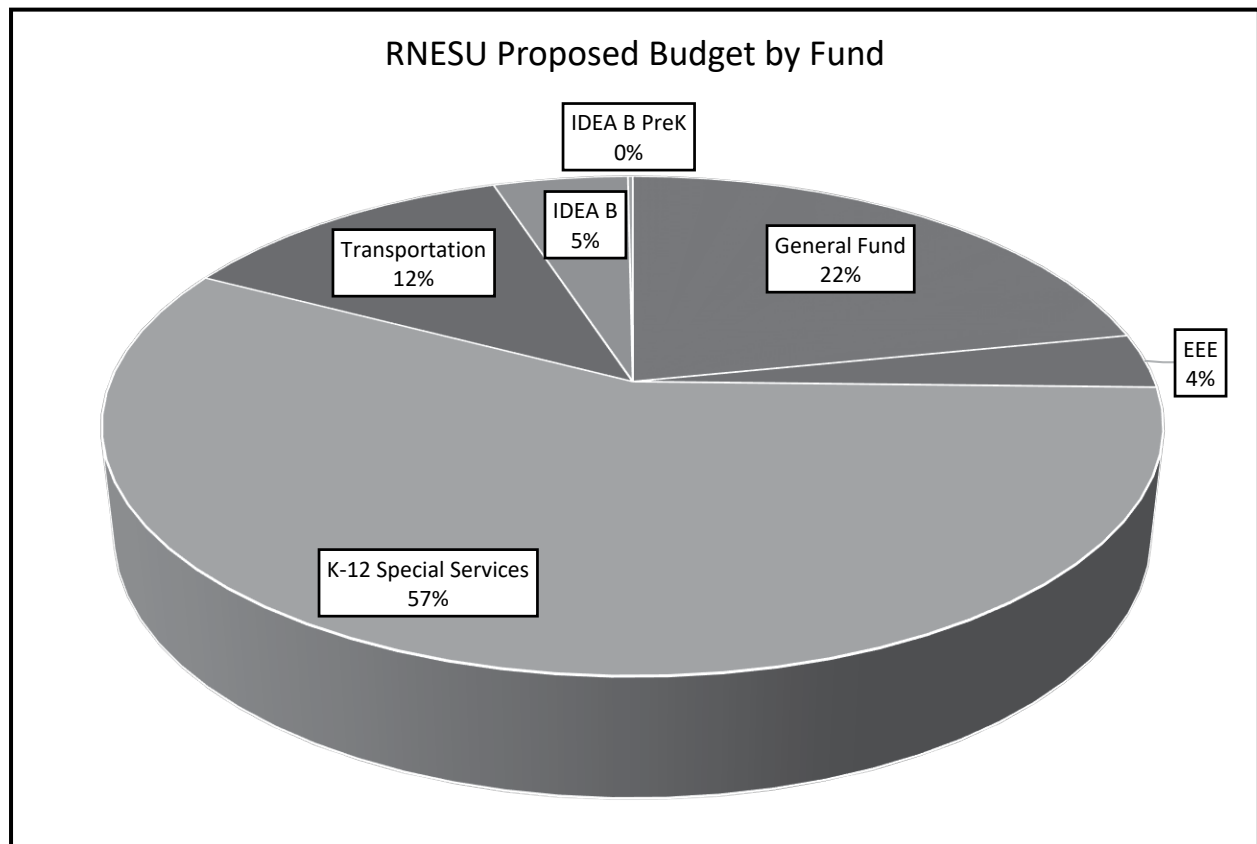
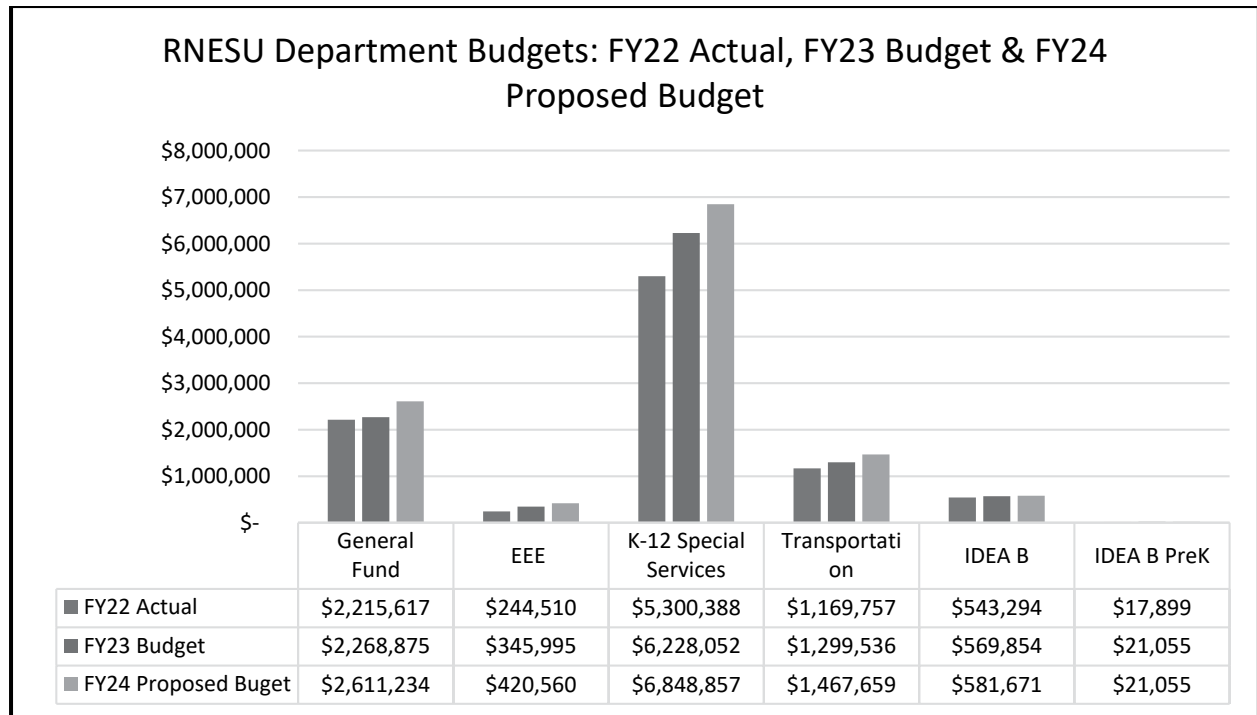
**Proposed Budget: \$11,951,036 by Object – 78% of the budget is personnel**



**Proposed Budget: \$11,951,036 by Function**



## Proposed Budget: \$11,951,036 History & Proposed Budget by Fund



**Budget Goal:** Maintain and improve comprehensive equitable education opportunities within a reasonable cost.

**Budget Facts: Proposed Budget increases \$1,217,669: costs shift from local budget of \$183,800 or 2.39% and \$1,033,869 budget increases or 9.63%**

*Salary and Benefits – across all units*

- Salaries adjusted for retirement notifications and cost of living increases
- Health Insurance budgeted per state arbitration including 12.7% premium increase

*Special Education & Special Service*

- Shifts extraordinary costs for regular education students in out of district placements for collaborative support and oversight.
- No significant special education program changes, adjusts for graduating and incoming students, salary & benefit as per above.
- Updates out of district tuition placement costs based on current placements plus 5% anticipated cost increase

*Transportation:*

- Replacing 3 buses to maintain a 10-year replacement schedule
- Fuel prices budget based on current rate at \$4.00/gallon

*Curriculum Instruction and Assessment*

- Change Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment to Assistant Superintendent of CIA

*Technology*

- Technology budget includes year 1 of the replacements cycle for 1:1 chrome books/laptops/desktops initiative started in 2020.

*Board & Superintendent*

- Includes board professional development resources of \$5,000
- No proposed staffing changes

*Business Office*

- Includes adding an Assistant Business Manager Position

**FY2022 - Treasurer's Report General Fund & All Assessment Funds**

	General Fund	All Assessment Funds Combined (including General Fund)
Fund Balance, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$ (8,862)	\$892,249
Add: Revenues	\$2,432,217	\$9,911,044
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>\$2,423,355</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,803,293</u></b>
Less: Expenditures	(\$2,215,617)	(\$9,491,464)
<b>Fund Balance, June 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>207,738</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,311,8292</u></b>

*For a Glossary of Terms and FAQ related to budgets, please visit [www.rnesu.org](http://www.rnesu.org).*

## Consolidated Federal Grant Program

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union was awarded \$1,286,643.27 in Consolidated Federal Grant funds for the 2022-2023 school year. This includes a carry forward amount of \$334,738.27 from prior years. The Consolidated Federal Grant Program includes the following areas:

- Title I, Part A - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Title II, Part A - Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals
- Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment

This year three of our district's schools have a poverty level of 40% or higher and are eligible to operate as School-wide Programs. By utilizing School-wide Programs we are allowed flexibility, with minor funding restrictions, to spend federal resources according to each school's Action Plan. Below is a list of CFP grant funded strategies. Funds are distributed based on child count.

### SCHOOL-WIDE PROGRAMS:

Otter Creek Academy at Leicester  
Two Interventionists (one part time)  
Instructional Coach\*

Lothrop  
Two Interventionists  
Instructional Coach\*

Neshobe  
Six Interventionists  
Instructional Coach\*

### STRATEGIES FUNDED WITHIN SPECIFIC FEDERAL TITLES:

Title I:  
Parent Involvement Program  
Homeless Program  
Equitable Services\*\*  
Indirect Administration Fees

Title IV:  
Equity and Engagement Coach  
MTSS Coach  
Tech Related Professional Development

Title II:  
Brain Based Best Practices and MTSS Implementation  
Instructional Coach\*  
Indirect Administration

*\*Instructional Coach – shared position who works with teachers in all buildings*

*\*\* Equitable Services - for students who live in-district and are attending out of district private schools*











## **PHONE DIRECTORY**

### **General Information:**

247-3635 ext. 201

### **Accounting:**

247-3635 ext. 205

### **Assessor:**

247-3635 ext. 214

### **E-911 Coordinator:**

247-3635 ext. 217

### **Economic Development:**

247-3635 ext. 213

### **Health Officer:**

247-3635 ext. 217

### **Police Department:**

Non-Emergency:

247-5723

### **Office:**

247-0222

### **Public Works Department:**

#### **Director:**

247-3635 ext. 210

#### **Highway Garage:**

247-3600

#### **Sewer Plant:**

247-6730

#### **Transfer Station:**

772-5224

### **Recreation Department:**

247-3635 ext. 213

### **Rental Housing Officer:**

247-3635 ext. 217

### **Town Clerk & Treasurer:**

247-3635 ext. 203 & 204

### **Town Manager:**

247-3635 ext. 210

### **Zoning Administrator**

247-3635 ext. 202

### **Brandon Fire District #1**

Water Department: 247-3311

### **Brandon Fire District #2**

Forrestbrook: 247-4193

### **Brandon Area Chamber**

of Commerce: 247-6401

### **Brandon Library: 247-8230**

### **Neshobe School: 247-3721**

### **Otter Valley UHS: 247-6833**

### **RNESU: 247-5757**

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

## **MEETING SCHEDULES**

*Dates and locations may change. Some Boards and Committees are currently meeting by Zoom. It is a good idea to contact coordinator or check website to confirm.*

### **SELECT BOARD**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7:00 PM at the Brandon Town Hall

### **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

Public Hearings are scheduled as applications are received. Check the website for time and location.

### **ENERGY COMMITTEE**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 5:00 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Hall

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 6:00 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Office

### **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BRAVO)**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 6:00 PM at the Stephen Douglas House

### **OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION BOARD**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 6:00 PM with alternating locations of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at the OVUU Schools and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the Otter Valley UHS Library

### **RNESU SCHOOL BOARD**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 5:15 PM at the OVUHS Library

## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

### **BRANDON TRANSFER STATION HOURS**

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATION**

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **TOWN CLERK'S**

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
\*Appointments required for researchers

The Town Office will be **closed** for the following holidays:

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King Day  
Presidents' Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Indigenous Peoples Day  
Veterans' Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Friday after Thanksgiving  
Christmas Day

### **BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Tuesday and Wednesday:

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday and Friday:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## **PERMITS**

### **BURN PERMIT**

A permit is required for any outside burning. Only untreated wood products such as unpainted lumber, brush and leaves can be burned. To obtain a burn permit, please call Linwood Bovey at 236-4914 or Michael Markowski at 353-3227.

### **BUILDING & LAND USE**

Please contact the Zoning Office to determine if a permit is required before you start any type of land use development on your property.

### **RENTAL HOUSING**

Before a tenant moves into any rented unit, a landlord **must** obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. Owners of rental property must complete a compliance form for each unit every January. A \$25 per unit fee is due annually by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

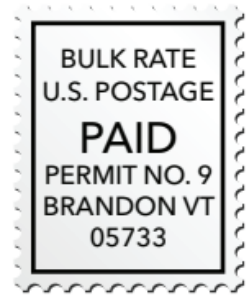
If you are interested in joining the Fire Department, applications are available at the Fire Station and can be picked up on Wednesdays between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

### **RESCUE SQUAD (BARS)**

To volunteer please contact us at 247-3231.

# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF  
*Brandon*  
VERMONT  
49 Center Street  
Brandon, VT 05733



**5**  
ways to  
stay safe

-  Cover your face in public
-  Practice good hygiene
-  Monitor your health
-  Keep your distance
-  Stay informed

STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY, AND LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

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