



2023

161ST ANNUAL REPORT

Including the Otter Valley
Unified School Report



~ DEDICATION ~

Dennis Marden

This year's town report dedication is much more than a "lifetime achievement award" for the honoree. It also must signal the community's acceptance of the burdens and joys of stewardship of our center of civic life. First associated with Brandon more than forty years ago when he became an art teacher at Neshobe School, Dennis Marden has made a life's work out of creating opportunities for our people, creating excitement about our town, and, most visibly, creating a vibrant performing arts venue and community center the envy of any community in Vermont in our monumental 1861 Town Hall.

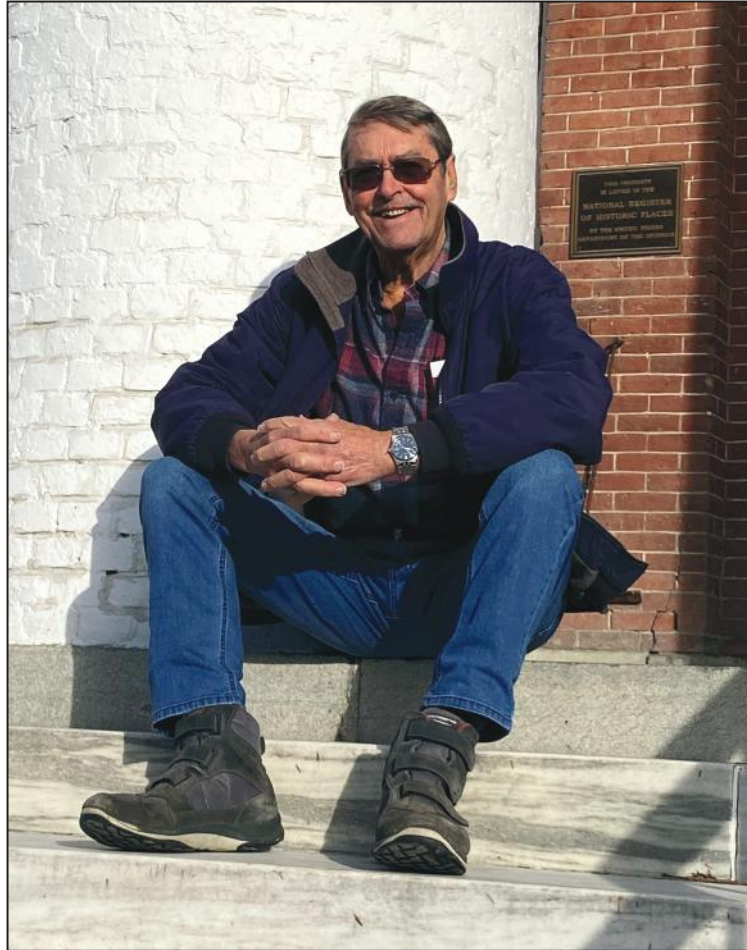
A resident of Brandon for 33 years, Dennis hit the ground running here, beginning a drama club at the Neshobe School and co-founding the Brandon Town Players. He was also active with the Marble Valley Players. In between all those rehearsals and curtain calls, he excelled at his profession and was named Teacher of the Year in 1998 by the Vermont Alliance of Art Education, and in 1992 was honored with the Outstanding Vermont Teacher Award. Since 2006, he has been instrumental in the Friends of the Town Hall, of which he is retiring as President. Dennis and the Friends

have completed more than \$1.6M in upgrades to bring life back to this once-derelict and underappreciated resource. In 2017 the Town Hall was able to return to its central role in civic life by hosting its first Brandon Town meeting since a hiatus that began in 1979. The year-round events

calendar speaks to the success of Dennis and his team in realizing the potential of this amazing community asset.

Dennis has made it known that 2024 will be his final year as program director for the Town Hall and as president of the Friends of the Town Hall. The Boy Scouts of America have a famous rule: Scouts always leave the campground cleaner than they found it. Dennis Marden, Eagle Scout, US Army veteran, public school teacher, and spearhead of so many individual initiatives to bring our Town Hall back to life, has surely left our Town Hall — and our community — better than he found it. For this reason and others too numerous to recount, the Town of Brandon dedicates this year's book of town

reports to our good friend and model citizen Dennis W. Marden, and wishes him many years to enjoy this mark of his community's esteem.



Front cover photo credit: Andy Jackson



~ In Memoriam ~

Brian Rivers
(1948 - 2023)
Selectman

Rev. Richard White
(1948 - 2024)
Justice of the Peace
& Board of Civil Authority member

Town Meeting Procedures 2024

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 6/30/2023 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.

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Town Officers

SELECT BOARD (5)

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

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

Heather Nelson
hnelson@townofbrandon.com
91 Prospect Street; Call or text (802) 922-4427

Cecil Reniche-Smith
creniche@townofbrandon.com
28 Pearl Street; Call or text (802) 234-1863

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

ANNIE DELYTH STRATTON (D)
802-353-5112; anniestratton@proton.me

LAURA PETERSON (D)
802-247-3280; laura@redmudboots.com

JOHN PETERSON (D)
802-247-3280; John.peterson@ottertin.com

TRICIA WELCH (R)
413-320-8918; pwelchfl@gmail.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

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 REPRESENTATIVE (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 5, 2024

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by February 4, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. SAMPLE BALLOTS will be posted by February 24, 2024.

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 5, between 9 am and 7 pm.

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

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOTS ARE NOT MAILED TO VOTERS AND 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 mvp.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.vermont.gov. The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on Monday, March 4, 2024. (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 request ballot(s) at 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 5, 2024

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 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.



2024 Warning

WARNING FOR EVENING MEETING - MARCH 4, 2024

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 4, 2024 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 2024-2025. This budget and appropriations will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2024 at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT, between the hours of 9 am and 7 pm.

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon exempt the buildings and property belonging to Brandon Area Rescue Squad located at 1338 Franklin Street (parcel ID 0086-1338) from municipal property tax and education property tax for a period of five (5) years in accordance with the exemption clause for charitable and fraternal organizations as set forth in 32 V.S.A § 3840?

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon exempt the buildings and property belonging to the Brandon Masonic Association located at 1046 Park Street (parcel ID 0030-1066) from

municipal property tax and education property tax for a period of five (5) years in accordance with the exemption clause for charitable and fraternal organizations as set forth in 32 V.S.A § 3840?

4. To hear a presentation by the Select Board for the purpose of constructing a 150 kW net metered solar array on land leased from the Brandon Industrial Corporation on Robert Wood Drive in Brandon. This bond will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2024 at Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT.

5. To transact any other business proper to be done when met.

6. Adjourn.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - MARCH 5, 2024

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 5, 2024 between the hours of 9:00 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
Selectboard One for three-year term
Selectboard Two for one-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, Seven Hundred Ninety-six Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Dollars (\$3,796,180) for the FY 2024-2025 budget year, of which the sum of Five Hundred Twenty-four Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$524,670) is to be raised by non-tax revenues and Three Million Two Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Five Hundred and Ten (\$3,271,510) is to be raised by property taxes?

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$4,000 for ARC-Rutland to support community and social opportunities for local citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities, to be raised by property taxes?

4. 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?

5. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$25,000

for the Brandon American Legion Post #55, to be raised by property taxes?

6. 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?

7. 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?

8. 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?

9. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$5,000 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?

10. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$15,500 for Brandon Senior Citizens Center, Inc, to support free community lunches, and activities and programs at the center, to be raised by property taxes?

WARNING - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

11. 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?

12. 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?

13. 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?

14. 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?

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

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

17. Shall the Town of Brandon vote to assess an 8% penalty on late payment of taxes on 6/15 of each fiscal tax year, 30 days

after the final tax installment due date of 5/15, thereby giving taxpayers a 30-day notice of penalty assessment?

18. ADVISORY/INFORMATION QUESTION FOR SELECT BOARD GUIDANCE: The town of Brandon's police force is currently able to provide 24-hour coverage through reliance on overtime and an on-call system. In order to provide full 24-hour coverage, the town would incur additional expense in hiring officer(s) to fill that schedule. Should the Select Board consider adding an additional police officer(s) to increase coverage to 24-hour on-duty coverage?

BOND ARTICLE I

1. Shall general obligation bonds, notes, other forms of indebtedness or other financing obligations or arrangements of the Town of Brandon in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of constructing a 150 kW net metered solar array on land leased from the Brandon Industrial Corporation on Robert Wood Drive in Brandon, the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000)?

Select Board Signed and Certified January 22, 2024

Tracy Wyman, Cecil Reniche-Smith

Timothy Guiles, Heather Nelson

Adopted and approved at a duly warned meeting of the Select Board of the Town of Brandon called, noticed, and held on January 22, 2024. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Brandon on January 23, 2024.

Brandon 2023 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023, 7 PM

Moderator Karen Rhodes called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending the meeting were Select Board Members Seth Hopkins, Tracy Wyman, Brian Coolidge, Tim Guiles and Ralph Ethier, Interim Town Manager Bill Moore, Clerk Sue Gage and 46 registered voters.

Scout Troops BSA 2019 and 110 including members Clara Hopkins, Addison Boynton, Jeff Carrara, and Jon Carrara led the attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

Moderator Rhodes then turned the meeting over to Chair, Seth Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins addressed the dedication of the annual report to Nifty Thrifty, and invited any of the team from Nifty Thrifty to come forward. Lynn Wilson and Kathy Rausenberger accepted the accolades. Lynn Wilson said that their good work is possible because of this great community.

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.

Seth Hopkins stated that he would lead the presentation of the fiscal year 2024 budget and then provide time after for questions and answers. A slide show with charts was then displayed. Mr. Hopkins explained how the tax rate is relatively consistent over time. He then addressed the delinquent taxes and wastewater balances. Mr. Hopkins explained that delinquencies were higher during and since the Covid pandemic, although some of that has since been addressed through state and federal programs.

(Continued on page 14)

Selectboard Report

The voters of Brandon entrust to the Selectboard the general supervision of the affairs of the Town, while the day-to-day management of the Town's business is conducted by a professional town manager and full- and part-time staff. This past year, much of the Select Board's time was devoted to hearing and considering requests for allocation of portions of the \$1.16M federal grant awarded to the town through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). As of this writing, all of the ARPA funds have been spent or allocated. The following is a list of the projects to which the Select Board has allocated funds:

\$4,035 toward computer upgrades for the Town Offices;
\$18,000 toward new flooring for Brandon's historic Town Hall (Grant Match);
\$30,000 toward the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Estabrook Park to allow for multiple uses;
\$50,000 toward the construction of the Conant Square Park & Ride lot (Grant Match);
\$60,000 to be used toward preliminary design and engineering studies for proposed town solar array;
\$83,854 toward the replacement of the Arnold District Road culvert (Grant Match);
\$100,000 toward the renovation and expansion of the Brandon Free Public Library (Grant Match);
\$125,000 toward the connection of Fire Districts #1 and #2;
\$175,000 toward repair of sidewalks;
\$226,538 toward replacement of failed mechanicals at the Newton Road Pump Station; and
Remaining funds allocated to replace the roof of the Brandon Town Hall (Grant application pending for gap funding).

By leveraging the ARPA funds to match grants, the Select Board has been able to stretch spending power beyond the base amount awarded, allowing the Town to spend those funds in ways that ensure the greatest possible benefit to the broadest population of our community to endure for the longest time.

As in previous years, Brandon remains in an enviable economic position. In addition to the ARPA grants, the Town continues to see substantial returns from the 1% Local Option sales tax, the growth rate of which has been steadily positive since its inception. Some of that increase in the LOT can be attributed to several new businesses opening in the past year, adding to the town's tax base and making Brandon an inviting place to visit, dine and shop.

In the annual budget workshop series, the Select Board and the Budget Advisory Committee took a comprehensive look at the Town's revenue sources in conjunction with the Town's goals and priorities. The object was to determine not only what it would cost taxpayers to maintain Brandon's current baseline without expansion of any services, but also to determine the cost to taxpayers of expanding certain services identified as economic and cultural drivers. In the end, the Select Board adopted a budget that reflected both its desire not to place too great a financial burden on taxpayers and the town's need to realistically and adequately fund those services that make Brandon the wonderful town that it is.

A significant concern addressed by the Select Board was the previous practice of using appropriations to fund items that would normally be contained in a municipal budget, such as the cost of paving the Town's roads. That past practice resulted in the voters being asked not only to approve a budget that would affect their annual taxes, but also to approve a significant separate financial outlay for road paving, also to be funded by taxes. Separating the spending on paving from the primary budget may have created a false impression as to the ultimate effect of the town's spending decisions on the taxpayers.

After a thorough review of the town's needs and previous expenditures, the Select Board approved a budget for FY 2024-2025 of \$3,796,180, of which \$3,271,510 is to be raised by taxes. This budget reflects a 13.44% increase in budgeted spending for the fiscal year starting on July 1, 2024, and a 9.7% increase in the amount of that budget to be raised by taxes. A significant portion of that amount, however, is the \$300,000 allocated for paving - almost 8% of the total outlay - which also would have been raised by

(Continued on page 15)



TOWN OF BRANDON

2024-2025 Budget - Summary

	FY23 ADOPTED	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 ADOPTED	FY25 PROPOSED
To be Raised by Taxes	\$2,712,274	\$2,727,362	\$2,737,260	\$3,271,510
Tax Revenue	45,000	(70,343)	45,000	45,000
Town Administration Revenue	250	24,531	1,750	1,750
Assessor Revenue	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Code Enforcement Revenue	14,000	8,454	15,700	15,500
Clerk/Treasurer Revenue	160,556	179,529	191,690	181,170
Police Dept. Revenue	61,500	19,255	10,600	9,500
Highway Dept Revenue	159,450	610,464	161,400	181,450
Intergovernmental Revenue	14,000	-	-	-
Recreation Revenue	51,100	88,535	69,750	76,500
Bldg. & Grounds Revenue	10,000	24,832	11,000	11,800
TOTAL REVENUE:	3,230,130	3,614,619	3,246,150	3,796,180
Tax Expenditures	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Town Administration	388,475	374,906	411,595	419,925
Assessor	44,895	37,555	41,195	41,240
Code Enforcement	42,515	33,620	43,625	53,065
Town Clerk	212,090	192,815	218,615	230,030
Police Dept	765,420	794,285	864,915	900,000
Highway	896,350	1,452,171	824,520	1,168,500
Intergovernmental	219,000	215,926	240,585	255,235
Recreation	147,400	192,794	177,780	182,730
Debt Service	252,250	244,947	239,250	231,350
Economic Develop.	45,840	45,857	53,280	49,440
Bldgs. & Grounds	210,895	269,903	225,790	259,665
TOTAL EXPENSES:	3,230,130	3,854,779	3,346,150	3,796,180
Net Change				
to General Fund Balance	-	(240,161)		-
Use of Fund Balance				
to Offset Taxes			100,000	
% increase from prior year				13.45%
NET MUNICIPAL BUDGET				
TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$2,712,274	\$2,727,362	\$2,737,260	\$3,271,510
% increase from prior year				19.52%
\$ increase from prior year				534,250

APPROPRIATIONS -

Final requests				
Included on ballot	217,330	217,330	242,730	251,230

The components that make up the tax rate are in constant flux, and increases in the expenses and amounts to be raised by taxes do not translate directly to the increase or decrease in the tax bill. Before applying education taxes this increase will likely translate to an increase of 6-7%.

Please Note: Non-union employee wage increase for FY25 is 4% across the staff; health insurance premium increase is 16%. Individual department spending lines and notes for significant changes appear with the corresponding department's report.

Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee is comprised of six 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 few different styles in the process. In general, we feel the budget process needs to better contemplate capital expenditures and long-range planning.

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. For, example, capturing the data on age of vehicles etc. could help spread out the cost of replacing a vehicle over several years instead of needing to purchase two at same time.

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

(Continued on page 15)

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

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

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

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.

- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.

- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united

TOWN OF BRANDON

2024-2025 Budget - Revenues

	FY23 ADOPTED	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 ADOPTED	FY25 PROPOSED
To be Raised by Taxes	\$2,712,274	\$2,727,362	\$2,737,260	\$3,271,510
Abatements	-	(7,631)	-	-
Delinquent Taxes	-	(101,201)	-	-
Penalty & Interest	45,000	38,489	45,000	45,000
Duplication	-	5	-	-
Vendor Permit	250	300	250	250
Misc.	-	23,526	1,500	1,500
Cannabis Rev	-	700	-	-
Misc./Revenues Assessor	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Misc Zoning	-	-	200	-
Land Use Permit	5,000	6,929	6,500	6,500
Rental Code Compliance	9,000	1,525	9,000	9,000
Pilot/CU	51,211	52,409	52,500	52,400
Wastewater Administration	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Liquor License	2,195	1,965	2,000	2,000
Land Records	37,960	26,386	38,000	27,000
Vault Time	5,500	4,516	5,500	5,000
Misc. Clerk	500	370	500	400
Marriage Licenses	300	370	300	400
Hunting/Fishing Licenses	50	42	35	50
Vital Statistics	5,800	6,095	5,800	6,100
Dog License	1,500	1,472	1,500	1,500
Records Preservation	14,040	9,549	14,055	9,820
Interest	1,500	8,571	2,500	8,500
Penalty & Int.	10,000	37,784	39,000	38,000
State Traffic Ticket	4,000	5,062	4,000	4,500
Misc. Police	-	6,364	-	-
Bravo Fees	-	25	-	-
Police Grants	-	-	1,600	-
SRO Officer	53,500	-	-	-
Click it or Ticket Camp	-	979	-	-
Police Dog Rev./Donation	-	100	-	-
DOCUMENT REIM. REQ. PD	4,000	6,725	5,000	5,000
Misc./Extraor..	500	1,321	500	500
Access Permit	250	500	200	200
Excavation Permit	50	-	50	50
Reimb-Work WW/BFD	-	2,737	-	-
State Highway	158,000	162,339	160,000	180,000
Grant	-	17,500	-	-
Over Weight Permits	650	770	650	700
Transfer In-other funds	-	425,297	-	-
Mosquitos-Trustees Reim.	14,000	-	-	-
Recreation Department	51,100	88,535	69,750	76,500
Solar Lease Payments	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Solar True-up	-	13,508	-	-
Town Hall Rent	-	375	-	-
EV Charging Station	-	949	1,000	1,800
TOTAL REVENUES	\$3,230,130	\$3,614,619	\$3,246,150	\$3,796,180

Town Manager's Report

Brandon Town Meeting first voted to adopt the town manager form of government in 1947, and after an early period of reconsideration, the selectboard has retained a town manager continuously since 1959. In 2023, the fresh approach of a town management team both reflects historic local preference for collective and collaborative leadership in local government and lays the groundwork for Brandon to build upon its recent successes as it cements its status as a leading community in its tier. This staffing approach has also realized a modest cost savings for Brandon taxpayers.

Both of us have been Brandon homeowners for about twenty years. We bring together two different public service histories to the town management team: Bill is marking twelve years on Brandon's professional town staff this year (as recreation director and economic development officer, and as interim town manager during the twelve-week search process) and Seth comes to the staff after being elected eight times to the selectboard and chairing it for the past six years. We are gratified to be leading a dedicated staff with varying levels of experience and career objectives. During 2023, all authorized positions have been staffed (a single authorized position has a candidate designated upon completion of required certification); the Town of Brandon continues to be an employer of choice for area residents possessing the skills our community relies upon.

Brandon continues to enjoy a healthy financial condition as a result of years of spending cautiously while expanding the range of revenue streams available to pay for operations. This year the budget workshop series proposes a substantial change to how we fund paving of roads going forward. Rather

than the appropriations articles requested (and approved by voters) in past years, an amount sufficient to fund paving without an appropriation article has been incorporated into the highway department of the general operating budget. Keeping up with regular road paving is our best way to stave off more expensive road rebuilding ... down the road.

Flooding in the summer of 2023 has reactivated the Town's relationship with FEMA. Brandon had significant costs to repair several of our dirt roads, Kennedy Park, Newton Road (twice), the flood bench in the Neshobe River, and respond to inundation of our wastewater treatment facility. We are working to meet extensive documentation requirements to support our public assistance request. This has led to fruitful discussion about how best to implement systems and technologies to enable existing staff to track and retrieve this type of information readily rather than reconstruct it after-the-fact. This level of tracking is the expectation from our grant-making partner agencies as well as FEMA, so it will serve us well on "blue sky days" as well as in emergencies.

Going forward, the Town's management believes in creating spaces where all community members belong, will be heard, and can contribute. Brandon is an exceptional place to live because of the many people who have made the choice and the effort to make it so. Segment Six held the promise of building a better Brandon. With that promise realized in recent years, we now move forward as a community in the equally important work of being a better Brandon.

Respectfully submitted,
Seth Hopkins & Bill Moore
Town management team

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
TOWN ADMIN.	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages* / Benefits	\$291,875	289,013	324,045	320,075
Travel & Expenses.....	500	1,674	3,200	500
Dues & Subscriptions.....	6,750	6,945	6,700	7,000
Professional Dev.	100	480	500	600
Legal Services	20,000	3,037	10,000	10,000
Auditors	14,000	14,000	14,000	16,000
Office Supplies	3,000	3,833	3,000	3,500
Service Contracts**	12,000	11,339	12,000	17,000
Postage Expenses	8,250	8,177	8,250	8,400
Technical Support	15,000	17,117	15,000	18,000
Emergency Management.	-	-	-	500
Office Equipment	2,000	3,724	1,000	2,000
Legal Advertising	1,000	1,558	400	750
Town Report***	5,000	4,871	5,000	6,000
Telephone Exp. Admin. ...	8,000	8,801	7,500	8,600
Bank Service Charge.....	-	5	-	-
Animal Control Expenses.	1,000	331	1,000	1,000
Total Town Administration .	388,475	\$374,906	\$411,595	\$419,925

*Staff change results in \$17,260 savings versus prior budgeted salary **Add two modules from GovPilot for grant tracking and capital planning ***Cost of combined report shared with school district

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

continued ...

voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.

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

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

Tree Warden Report

As Tree Warden, I have been actively involved in setting the groundwork to establish a long-term program to maintain the wonderful tree canopy. This is in addition to the statutory requirements for a tree warden. Planning for the future of the trees we see every day is getting more complicated and more important.

Like it or not, the Brandon street trees that you have come to appreciate might not be here in 10 years. Our current tree stock is in danger. Most residents have heard of emerald ash borer (EAB), with an area of infestation in Vermont that has been expanding closer to Brandon. Some nearby towns (Rutland, for example) have decided to get ahead of the problem by removing all of their ash trees, leaving large gaps in the canopy.

To EAB, we can add beech leaf disease (BLD): Caused by an invasive nematode, BLD negatively affects all native and ornamental beech species by causing leaf deformation, dieback, and mortality of infested hosts. Note that this is not the same as beech bark disease, which has been causing cankers (sores) on beech trees for a while. There's also elm zigzag sawfly: This insect is native to east Asia, and feeds on multiple elm species in a zigzag pattern on leaves. When present in high numbers, full defoliation of elm trees can occur, and repeated years of defoliation could lead to crown dieback and/or tree mortality. Other tree species facing native or invasive diseases are hemlock, chestnut and butternut. Some or all of these species are present in Brandon.

There is also the constant
(Continued on page 13)

Police Department Report

With 2023 coming to a close, the Brandon Police Department has had a lot of exciting changes and challenges that were faced in the past year. As always, I could not be any prouder of our staff here at the police department, who maintain a high level of professionalism, compassion, and caring towards the community that we are all entrusted to protect and serve. They all give 110% towards whatever challenge they face and continue to make me proud to be the Chief of Police of the Brandon Police Department and for this community.

This year we saw the promotion of two of our officers after several years of dedicated service. Officer Michael VonSchleusingen was promoted to the rank of Corporal and K-9 Officer Aidan Alnwick was the first officer in the history of the Brandon Police Department to receive the newly created promotional rank of Patrol Officer First Class. Patrolman First Class Alnwick also had a busy year with his K-9 partner "Guinness". Both Patrolman First Class Alnwick and his K-9 Guinness graduated from the Orange County Sheriff's Department's K-9 Training School in New York State and are now fully certified in tracking, evidence recovery, and narcotics detection. It took a lot of time and dedication on the part of Patrolman First Class Alnwick and Guinness to complete this training, so we are exceptionally proud of his accomplishments.

In addition to promotions, we all saw a few additions to the police department's ranks. The Brandon Police Department has long suffered from not being able to fill our open positions, a problem which is not inclusive to Brandon nor Vermont, but a nation-wide issue. This staffing shortage has stressed our staff with the increased work load we have been enduring over the past several years, but with the addition of one full-time officer and two part-time officers, the work load has been easier to handle. The Brandon Police Department would like to welcome Officer Kevin Rimmer as our newest full-time certified police officer. Officer Rimmer came to us from Pennsylvania, where he worked as a deputy sheriff for the Dauphin County Sheriff's Department in Pennsylvania. He attended the full-time Level III academy in Pittsford (VT) this past year and graduated in June. We also saw the addition of two new part time officers here at the department, Officer Ethan Kelleher, and Officer Ana Burtch-MacLeod. Officer Kelleher will be attending the full-time Level III academy in February of 2024 and upon completion of the basic training class, he will fill our final open officer position, bringing us up to 6 full-time patrol officers. Officer Burtch-MacLeod is currently going through field training and upon completion of the program and some additional training, we hope to see her out on patrol in a solo capacity in the near future.

Over the past year, we have also strived to bolster our officer's training by sending several members of our department to instructor level classes to include Firearms Instructor, Taser instructor, and Defensive Tactics/Use of Force Instructor level courses. Many of our officers have also attended training classes in a variety of subjects to include Investigative Interviewing and Positive Persuasion, Fair and Impartial Policing, Advanced DUI Detection Training (A.R.I.D.E.), Officer Wellness, and Supervisory Development. We have also been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be able to have another one of our officers certified as a Death investigator, with our goal to have each of our full-time officers certified in that specialty area of investigations. Having well trained and well-rounded officers helps us maintain a high level of professionalism and competency in the services we provide to the residents of Brandon.

The Brandon Police Department has seen an increase in serious calls for service this past year with a visible increase in domestic violence incidents, mental health issues, and motor vehicle related problems, to include an uptick in DUI incidents. Brandon also saw two back-to-back fatal motor vehicle crashes this past year, in less than a 24-hour period. These two incidents were very hard on not only the police officers that investigated the crashes, but also our public safety partners at the Brandon Fire Department and Brandon Area Rescue. As always, the professionalism from all of those involved shined through in their response to both of these calls. I was personally

Police Department Report cont.

at the scene of the first fatal crash and I was amazed at how well all of our public safety partners worked together to deal with such a high stress and tragic incident.

In response to these two fatal crashes and due to increases in complaints about traffic issues around the Town of Brandon, our officers have stepped up their traffic enforcement efforts, along with our H.E.A.T. Unit (Highway Enforcement Aggressive Traffic) leading the way on targeting chronic areas for offenses like speeding, cell phone violations, distracted driving, and aggressive drivers. Our proactive efforts have located, arrested, and removed an increased number of drunk drivers off of our roadways in town. Even though we had a very wet Spring and Summer this year, we were also able to field our new electric police motorcycle for some localized traffic enforcement efforts as well. The weather hampered our efforts to get the motorcycle unit officer out on the streets to do more traffic enforcement and downtown patrol, but our hope is to get it out there as much as possible this coming Spring and Summer and to also add more certified officers to be able to utilize the electric motorcycle for traffic duties and patrol.

We also continue to be proactive with night time foot patrols in the down town area of Brandon Village and as well as checking local businesses to make sure that they are secure and to deter burglaries.

In conclusion, as always, we will continue to strive towards making the Brandon Police Department one of, if not the 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.

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
POLICE DEPT.	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages* / Benefits	\$703,220	\$666,979	\$768,315	\$770,780
Travel & Expenses.....	500	552	2,750	2,750
Clothing Allowance.....	4,000	5,332	7,000	7,000
Dues & Subscriptions.....	2,000	1,870	2,000	2,000
Professional Dev.	2,000	2,035	5,800	5,800
Radio Maintenance.....	1,500	312	1,700	1,700
MDT/Aircards.....	3,000	2,989	3,000	4,500
Office Supplies	2,500	1,770	2,500	2,220
Professional Supplies.....	5,000	12,884	8,200	8,200
Service Contracts.....	6,000	4,435	6,000	6,000
Postage Expenses PD	200	192	200	200
Office Equipment	3,000	2,327	3,000	3,000
Community Police.....	250	1,679	2,000	-
Police Dog Expenses**	-	1,997	2,000	2,000
New Equipment - Vehicles.	3,000	6,879	5,000	5,000
Fuel - Vehicles	14,000	22,194	25,200	12,500
Electric Charger-PD vehic..	-	-	-	2,500
PD Maint. Supplies-Vehicle	250	285	250	250
PD Vehicle Maintenance...	10,000	16,958	15,000	10,000
PD Telephone Service.....	5,000	6,690	5,000	5,000
Capital Improvements*** .	-	35,926	-	48,600
Total Police Department.....	765,420	\$794,285	\$864,915	\$900,000

*Contract in negotiation with labor union at time of printing
 **Program retained by vote of selectboard 1/22/2024
 ***Lease-purchase for 2 cruisers to replace 4 oldest cruisers

Tree Warden Report continued...

climate pressure on our current trees. As the climate warms (not a theory, but confirmed) the species that have done well in a colder climate may not do so well in a slightly warmer climate. You can check this out by looking at the changes in the Plant Hardiness Zones assigned by the USDA, and can be supported by our many gardeners.

It becomes more and more important to be planful in selecting the trees that will form our canopy in 20 or 30 years. The tree warden and Town Manager have been meeting with members of the Select Board to fashion a Shade Tree Preservation Plan that actually represents the needs of the Town of Brandon. It will not take the place of state ordinance, which provides protections for all shade trees in Brandon, but will focus most of its energy on the areas of Town that are most visible to the larger section of residents and visitors. This is currently a work in progress.

We have also helped initiate a tree committee, known as the Brandon Tree Group, which is ramping up to put volunteer effort behind a lot of our tree planning and implementation. Thanks to Laura Peterson for taking the lead on this.

Finally, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation makes grants available every year. We are making the effort to apply for a grant which covers most of the areas which need monetary support and which we'd like financial help for.

As always, I am available to hear your concerns and comments.

Neil Silins
 Brandontreewarden@gmail.com

Rutland County Solid Waste District Collection Schedule

April 20, 2024

BRANDON 8am-10am

May 25, 2024

BRANDON 8am-10am

September 28, 2024

BRANDON 8am-10am

Questions?

Call 802-775-7209

or visit www.RCSWD.com

E911 Coordinator Report

Emergency Services, Fire, Police, and EMS, 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 main 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. Locatable addresses are based on your properties access point (driveway). 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

Brandon 2024 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 7)

He then addressed the makeup of the tax bill; School, Town, Fire District, Appropriations, and Exempt Properties each have a piece of the overall tax bill. Addressing the Town municipal budget specifically, Mr. Hopkins noted that the spending is up 3.5% yet the amount raised by taxes is up less than a percent. Mr. Hopkins then broke down the taxes by department. Mr. Hopkins also mentioned that the Common Level of Appraisal is below 85%, which generally indicates that the town must conduct a reappraisal. Because of the strange housing environment at the moment, many towns are finding themselves in the same situation and it is doubtful that all can be reappraised at the same time. Mr. Hopkins deferred to Representative Jerome who confirmed that the Legislature is aware of this issue and is not requiring towns to conduct reappraisals at this time.

Mr. Hopkins then addressed the revenue sources that are not property taxes. He explained that the town has received Local

Options Tax Revenue (LOT), Grants, ARPA funds (Covid Pandemic federal funding), and Unrestricted General Fund

Reserves. Mr. Hopkins then explained how the ARPA funds were awarded to Brandon and how they have been spent to date. He stated that the Select Board is trying to use the ARPA funds in a way that benefits the most people in the community, and lasts the longest. Mr. Hopkins spoke about the Fund Balance policy in place for the Town of Brandon which guides how much money can be rolled over in the Fund Balance, and when it needs to be returned to the taxpayers. The purpose of the policy is to provide fiscal security and responsibility, ensuring we don't have to borrow in an emergency while also dictating when we need to return those funds to the taxpayers. Mr. Hopkins then

explained the LOT funding source which provides consistent revenue for the town. The Select Board designated the LOT funds for capital funding needs.

Mr. Hopkins thanked the budget committee for their work helping the management, staff and board finalize a budget.

Members of the committee are Doug Bailey, Peter Werner, Jan Coolidge, Barry Varian, and Neil Silins. Mr. Hopkins stated that the board, management and budget committee recommended that the General Fund Reserves be used to offset the taxes in an amount of \$100,000 and that LOT funds be used to payoff some of the outstanding debt in the amount of \$100,000.

This helped keep the tax rate lower. Mr. Hopkins cautioned that we will not be doing this on a regular basis. He also stated that we will be using the highway reserves, which were freed up by legislative action last year, to pay for paving expenses.

Mr. Hopkins addressed some labor issues and the decision to increase wages during the 2022 tax year. It was necessary to make pay increases during the fiscal year in order to retain employees. Mr. Hopkins stated that keeping skilled employees was vital to continuing our municipal work, and that hiring and training new employees would have been costly.

Mr. Hopkins closed his presentation by letting everyone know that the Select Board meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, and they will be meeting in the lobby downstairs in the Town Hall, as the library will be temporarily housed in the meeting room while they are under construction.

Moderator Rhodes asked for question from the audience. Judy Bunde complimented the management of the town for enacting the 1% LOT. She

(Continued on page 20)

Selectboard Report

(Continued from page 8)

taxes if voted in an appropriation article. Lastly, the grand list has grown thanks in significant part to the maturation of two tax stabilization agreements designed to spur economic development. A larger grand list lowers the tax rate to raise an equivalent amount of taxes. Thus, the actual increase in the amount taxpayers will be asked to contribute to cover municipal expenses, although somewhat more than in past years in which the budget remained flat or only slightly increased, is not as significant as a first glance at the numbers would suggest.

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 FY 2022-2023 in many areas.

Selectboard Members

Tracy Wyman, Chair 2024
 Cecil Reniche-Smith, Vice-Chair ... 2024
 Heather Nelson..... 2024
 Tim Guiles 2025
 Brian Coolidge..... 2026

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 \$1,500,000. 95 Change of Assessment notices were sent to property owners. There were 8 grievances, 5 were approved and 3 were denied. Please contact the Assessor's office if you have any questions or need any other information.

The Real Estate Market continues to be increasing in Vermont. During the period of 4/1/2021 to 3/31/2022 there were 66 Fair Market Sales with an average CLA (assessed value/sale price) of 89.9 and for 4/1/2022 to 3/31/2023 there were 100 Fair Market Sales with an average CLA of 79.2 The CLA is

the statistical measure of how close the Assessed Value is to Fair Market Value. The Department of Taxes calculates and monitors a 3-year CLA for each town and makes the determination as to when a Town will be required to do a Town Wide Reappraisal. It remains unclear what the Dept of Taxes will do regarding Orders to Reappraise given the volatile Real Estate Market and rapidly changing sales statistics.

The regular hours for the Assessor's office are Tuesday form 9am to 3pm. Karen Folger is the Assistant Assessor and can also be reached by email at Assessor@townofbrandon.com.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Truchon, VMPPA
 Assessor/NEMRC

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
ASSESSOR	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages & Benefits.....	\$9,695	7,712	9,695	9,740
Travel & Expenses.....	100	-	100	100
Dues & Subscriptions..	100	50	50	50
Continuing Education .	150	-	100	100
Mapping	8,800	10,425	5,800	5,800
Legal Fees Assessor ...	500	-	-	-
Property Assessor	20,000	14,154	20,000	20,000
Professional Supplies..	250	-	250	250
Office Equipment	300	215	200	200
Reapp Acct.-Transfer out	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Assessor.....	\$44,895	\$37,555	\$41,195	\$41,240

Budget Committee Report Continued

(from page 9)

allowed the Select Board to make budgetary decisions by acknowledging the requests and making the responsible decisions.

It is proving to be challenging for smaller towns everywhere to compete regarding personnel and this was discussed. The challenge is retaining employees while trying to stay competitive in this job market while keeping in mind what the taxpayers can afford.

The Budget Committee acknowledges the efforts put into compiling and presenting the data. With this information, the committee gained a comprehensive view of what is required to support the Town going forward on a yearly basis. A diversity of viewpoints is represented, and while not every Budget Committee or Select Board member agrees with every item, the Select Board did reach a consensus on the final budget.

The town should be commended for their ongoing work protecting our town and keeping our roads safe while obtaining grants, collecting past due taxes, water, and sewer fees. We appreciate all the work the town employees do. Brandon has done well retaining good employees, and we are grateful for their continued service.

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

Health Officer Report

On the health side there have been a few issues with garbage and a few other minor health concerns, some of which turned out to not be a public health issue. A quick reminder that even though we are in the colder months of the year those of us who are active outdoor people, we still need to be concerned with ticks on warmer days. It is also the time of year for colds and flu and we all need to take precautions to help avoid the spread. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at (802) 247-3635 x 217 or at rental@townofbrandon.com

-Larry Stevens

Rental Housing Report

Rental Inspections have gone well through the year. This year I have performed over 30 inspections. I would like to thank all of the landlords that work hard to keep their rentals in compliance with the Brandon Rental Housing Code, with only minimal violations the inspections have gone smoothly and efficiently. Just a reminder that all rentals must be inspected any time a tenant moves out prior to a new tenant moving in, this applies to renting to family members as well. Again I want to thank all landlords and property managers for your hard work in helping to maintain our rental housing standards. Copies of the Brandon Rental Housing Code can be found on the town website at www.townofbrandon.com

-Larry Stevens

Economic Development Report

In 2024, 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.nwvvt.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

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
ECONOMIC DEV.....	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages & Benefits.....	30,190	\$30,020	\$32,630	\$33,790
Travel & Expenses.....	250	243	250	250
Economic Dev.....	14,000	14,345	14,000	6,000
Designated Downtown*	-	-	-	8,000
Killington Valley.....	1,400	1,250	1,400	1,400
Hist. Preservation Comm.	-	-	5,000	-
Total Economic Dev.	\$45,840	\$45,857	\$49,440	\$49,440

*Reallocation from line above. Town obligation to fund this provides access to \$25,000 funding from the State

Recreation Department Report

2023 Events & Initiatives

- ❖ **Ice Skating Rink @ The Neshobe Golf Course**- January-February
- ❖ **Quiz Night w/Brandon Free Public Library** – January, February, October
- ❖ **Loud and Proud – Teen Rock Band Open Mic @ Town Hall**– January – April
- ❖ **Spoon Circle with Neil Silins @ Town Hall** – January - March
- ❖ **Wildlife Encounters w/The Brandon Area Toy Project @ Town Hall**- April
- ❖ **Safety Day w/Neshobe PTO, Brandon Fire/Rescue/Police, Omya** – May
- ❖ **Brandon Extravaganza w/ Brandon Fire @ Estabrook Park** - June
- ❖ **Cruise Nights w/Ripton Mountain Distillery @ Central Park Lot** – June - September
- ❖ **Family Games with Neshobe PTO at the Brandon Independence Day Celebration** – July
- ❖ **Davenport Electric Fest w/ the Brandon Energy Committee, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, Otter Valley-** @ Otter Valley Union High School - July
- ❖ **Brandon Carnival Days** – w/**Brandon Area Toy Project** and sponsors @ Estabrook Park – July
- ❖ **For the Luv of Dogs Car Show @ Estabrook Park** - August
- ❖ **Slide Out of Summer w/ The Brandon Area Toy Project @ Estabrook Park** – August
- ❖ **Fjeld Playgroup @ Town Hall** – October - November
- ❖ **Harvest Fest w/Neshobe PTO, Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, Brandon Area Toy Project @ Estabrook Park** – October

(Continued on page 24)

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
RECREATION DEPT.	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages / Benefits	\$93,700	\$96,517	\$99,385	\$103,685
Travel & Expenses.....	250	-	250	250
Dues & Subscriptions.....	600	-	600	600
Advertising/Recruitment ..	7,000	5,827	6,000	6,000
Fuel.....	500	297	-	-
Vehicle Maint.	1,000	-	-	-
Registration Software	3,000	3,295	2,995	3,295
Storage Unit Supply/Maint	-	600	-	-
Equipment /Supplies	2,000	2,111	-	2,000
Office/Equip.. Supplies ...	200	-	200	-
Recreation Telephone	500	1,609	1,700	1,600
Rec Program Exp total.....	29,350	69,129	61,150	57,300
Parks Maintenance.....	-	3,304	-	-
Estabrook.....	-	2,216	-	-
Town Hall.....	-	1,140	-	1,000
Estabrook Fundraising	500	427	-	-0
Seminary Hill.....	1,000	1,725	-	1,000
EV Festival Expenses	2,500	1,577	2,500	1,000
Brandon Carnival.....	5,000	2,983	3,000	3,000
Dog Park Expenditures....	300	40	-	-
Total Recreation	\$147,400	\$192,794	\$177,780	\$182,730

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

www.brandonrec.com

2023 Recreation Participant Numbers

Aikido with Wade-sensei	29
Archery at Estabrook!	20
B-Rec Dance Classes - Miss Michaela Motion	75
B-Rec Pick-up Basketball	
Adults	26
*Bootified Brandon!.....	10
Brandon Idol - Auditions	10
*Brandon Putting League.....	6
Celtics Bus Trip.....	47
Christmas in NYC!.....	106
*CPR Training with BARS	8
Flag Football.....	55
Fall Baseball	13
*Into the Woods!.....	10
*Kick T2 the Curb!	6
Little Otters Youth Wrestling .	22
Otter Community Baseball & Softball Clinic	60
Otter Community	
Sports Clinics	24
Otter Field Hockey	
Summer Clinic.....	6
OtterBots First Lego	
League Robotics	11
Pick-up Volley Ball.....	8
Pickleball @ OV North Campus Gym	27
Pre-Season Football Camp... ..	14
Pre-Season Soccer Camp.....	31
*Salisbury Swim	
with Jake Jacobs 2023!.....	7
Spring Baseball/Softball ...	160
Summer Dance Intensives	
with Miss Michaela.....	9
*Sunday Soccer Skills	31
Swimming Lessons w Jake Jacobs Summer 2023!	60
*Under the Circus Tent!	7
Table Tennis	
@ OV North Campus	12
Youth Basketball	157
Youth Basketball -	
Skills and Drills.....	26
Youth Cheer Grades 3-6.....	12
*Youth Robotics Camp!	12
Youth Soccer	121

*Denotes New Program

Energy Committee Report

The Brandon Energy Committee has accomplished a number of projects this year and is considered to be the most active town energy committee in Rutland County. Of note, we have 7 committee members and about 8 to 11 volunteers engaged with our work as the Brandon Energy Community.

Most recently we completed the required update to the energy portion of the Town Plan with the great support from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC). The RRPC indicates that our plan will serve as a model for other towns to draw from. The final version of the plan is available for your perusal at the town web page.

Starting at the beginning of the calendar year we hosted a Button Up Brandon Renters event. This group that faces unique challenges with reducing energy costs. Our efforts to support Brandon renters was helpful to those attending, though we need to work on finding more effective ways to reach this group.

We worked for two years on a variety of ways to develop a solar project that would serve the town and other municipal entities in town, (the Fire District and Schools). We spent the year searching for suitable locations for a solar system, analyzing actual GMP charges that are offset-able by solar credits on the towns 16 different GMP accounts, and exploring different ways to most cost effectively meet the needs of the town. Recently we secured quotes from three reputable solar contractors for a 150kW system that will meet the needs of the town, with a modest portion of the solar credits being transferred to the Fire District at a discount until such time the town needs them. The select board approved using up to \$60,000 of the ARPA funds to support this project and more recently approved taking the steps required to put the additional cost of the project up for a bond vote.

Members of this Brandon Energy Community in conjunction with SolarFest are working on developing a hands on solar project with students from Otter Valley Union School District.

The Community supported the second Davenport Festival that more than doubled attendance from its first year, offering displays and presentations about electric cars, buses and heavy equipment, airplanes, bikes, and more, including a movie about Thomas Davenport.

Our Community members assisted with the first "Imagine Zero Music Festival" held at the SolarFest property in town that drew over 600 attendees.

A group of our Community put together yet another inventive July parade entry that focused on encouraging the use of electric bikes.

We utilized a grant we secured last year to purchase two electric bikes that were given to the library for lending. According to the library, these e-bikes have been used a lot by

Brandon residents.

Four of our Community members attended the state wide VECAN Conference (Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network) held in Middlebury. They learned about energy projects in the State of Vermont, what other town energy committees are doing, and received a lot of valuable information.

We submitted articles for the Reporter on close to a monthly basis and intend to continue to do so to support inspiring our town to take ongoing steps to save money on energy.

We secured a grant that allowed us to purchase and upgrade bike racks throughout the town. An ambitious group of us installed and painted these racks with signs to encourage more active use of bikes in town.

We supported the Otter Valley School District in signing up for a grant to acquire an electric bus and charging station at close to no cost for the school district.

We purchased \$1,200 of books for an "Energy Library" on the topics as to how individuals can save energy, develop renewable energy resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and relate to climate change resiliently. These books

are available to lend from the Brandon Energy Library bookshelf just outside the current library and will be given to the library when it moves back to its rejuvenated home quarters.

We supported the town and fire district in submitting grant applications for free comprehensive energy audits funded by a state program to benefit several key municipal buildings in town.

We held an event focused on businesses in October to encourage them to Button Up, Save Up, and Green Up that was well attended. The evening had presentations on weatherizing, heat pumps, solar systems and the new Inflation Reduction Act tax incentives.

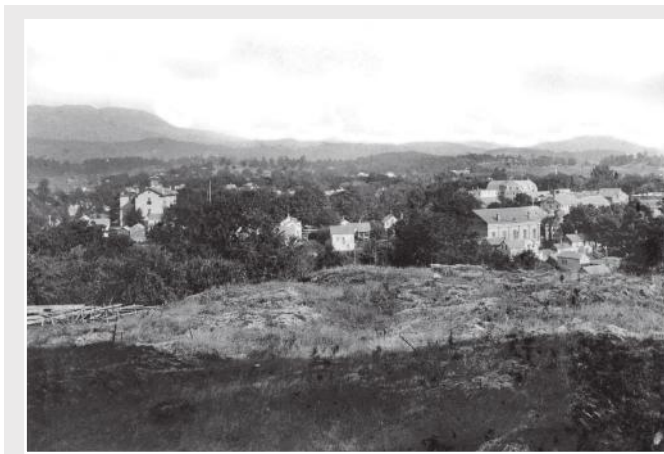
We held a similar event focused on homeowners in November to encourage them to Button Up, Save Up, and Green Up that was particularly well attended. The evening had presentations on weatherizing, heat pumps, solar systems and the new Inflation Reduction Act tax incentives.

A group of us visited the town sewer facilities and town garage buildings and we are developing some modest, practical ways to save money through some weatherization steps, thermostat controls, and other steps to help save wasted energy.

In late November we got word of approval of a grant application for \$4,000 from the Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund that we filed in collaboration with SolarFest. This grant will support the electric/battery powered equipment lending library mentioned in the third item below.

We adopted a set of 15 goals for the year at our reorganization meeting at the start of the fiscal year. As of now we

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Highway Department Report

The time has come for me to end my career as Highway Forman. I am retiring February 1, 2024, I will continue to work part time as needed. I have really enjoyed working for the Town of Brandon. The office staff and present and past Town Managers have been great to work with, very knowledgeable and helpful. The Highway Crew is a great team with a lot of experience and dedication. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them. Jeremy Disorda is taking over my position, and I have confidence he will do a great job.

As we all know it was a very wet summer, we had areas that flooded more than once, this made it very challenging to get everything done. But even though we had a lot of extra things to do we still had a pretty productive year. We reconstructed two sections of Arnold District Road, cut brush and ditched the entire length from Hollow Rd. to Leicester town line. Also replaced three culverts and some drainage pipe and

paved. Wagner Road, we replaced two culverts, tree cutting and some ditching and graveled.

We also cut brush on the paved portion of Wheeler Road and ditched. Continued regular maintenance Roadside mowing, Grading, ditching, cleaning culverts, sweeping roads and sidewalks, Sign replacement and helping with parks and recreation. We were planning to work on Wheeler and Richmond Road this year, but we ran out of time. They gave an extension on the grants this year because of all the flooding around the state. So, we will be working on those Roads next year, we have some culverts to replace, cutting shoulders ditching and cutting brush.

Thank you all for making my last five years a rewarding and enjoyable experience serving your community.

Sincerely
Highway Forman Shawn Erickson

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
HIGHWAY DEPT.	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages / Benefits	\$361,550	\$353,163	\$407,320	\$422,450
Travel & Expenses.....	200	1062	200	200
Clothing Allowance.....	2,500	2,270	2,500	2,500
Dues & Subscriptions*	100	350	100	2,350
Continuing Education	200	60	200	200
Contractors**	5,000	9,265	4,000	15,000
Equipment Rental	8,000	10,080	8,000	8,000
State Permits***	2,000	5,655	2,000	5,000
New Equip-Misc. Tools	10,000	3,543	10,000	10,000
Safety Equipment.....	1,500	119	1,500	1,500
Fuel - Vehicles HW	30,000	59,709	45,000	45,000
Oil - Vehicles	2,200	-	2,200	2,200
HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicle	20,000	17,983	20,000	20,000
HW Tires - Vehicles	7,000	10,722	7,000	8,000
HW Outside Maint. - Vehic	25,000	28,508	25,000	25,000
HW Telephone.....	2,100	2,048	2,000	2,100
Ditching.....	-	2,112	-	1,000
Roadside Mower- Maint ..	1,500	1,234	1,500	1,500
Tree Removal/Planting	10,000	13,080	15,000	15,000
Guardrails.....	6,000	-	10,000	15,000
Signs & Posts	6,000	10,274	7,000	8,000
Line Painting	2,000	3,373	3,000	3,500
Paving Roads****	100,000	96,457	-	300,000
Cold Patching	2,500	1,296	2,000	2,000
Culverts.....	8,000	10,056	10,000	10,000
Gravel	55,000	57,067	65,000	65,000
Chloride	25,000	37,679	26,000	30,000
Road Salt	85,000	72,102	90,000	90,000
Winter Sand	25,000	30,207	25,000	25,000
New Equip. Purchase	-	309,178	-	-
Sidewalks (\$175K ARPA)	15,000	875	-	-
Leased Equipment.....	78,000	145,622	33,000	33,000
Town Farm Rd-Reconstruct	-	157,023	-	-
Total Highway Department.	\$896,350	\$1,452,171	\$824,520	\$1,168,500

*GovPilot module: Report a Concern **Preventative maintenance required on new stormwater system ***New annual requirement for stormwater and highway ****Pave portions of Union St, North St, High Pond Rd; No appropriation article requested; All paving now in operating budget

Energy Committee Report cont.

have accomplished nine. In the coming six months highlights of what we will be working to accomplish include:

1). An E lawn mower and battery powered accessory lawn and garden tools hands on workshop this spring.

2). A bike rejuvenation project to train young and old to fix (and use) bikes and to provide some free restored bikes to community members.

3). The acquisition of battery powered equipment for a lending library via a grant we secured that will be implemented when the library returns to its home.

4). The development of an Energy Report Card for the Town of Brandon that can be updated at least every two years to help us understand where we are with meeting our goals and what we need to do to meet our mandated goals.

5). We are working on a solar project to benefit the 'missing middle' by benefitting from solar credits, the savings of which can be used for weatherization and heat pump upgrades. This is a group not able to benefit from free weatherization services and heat pump acquisition support from BROCC and does not have the resources to support these upgrades on their own.

We appreciate the support from the Brandon Select Board, the Town management team, and the whole Brandon Community. We intend to succeed in accomplishing our mission to support the town in moving to 90% renewable energy by 2050 and 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. We have a long way to go and you are welcome to call on us for support or better yet, join our Brandon Energy Community in taking on meaningful, engaging projects to better our town.

Jim Emerson
for the Brandon
Energy Committee

Planning Commission Report

The Brandon Planning Commission spent most of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 working on the Town Plan. Last updated in 2016 and required by state law to be updated and readopted every eight years, the town plan is the primary statement of the town's values, especially regarding how future growth and development should proceed in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. The goals, policies and action steps found in the town plan are meant to preserve and protect the town's assets while providing for improvements and growth that support the community. The findings and action steps contained in the plan influence the town's budget and capital expenditures, community development, historic preservation, economic development, and wise use of resources. The plan is the basis for Brandon's zoning ordinances and other policies and regulations relating to development, the local economy, and quality of life.

As part of the update process, the commission sought out public input on community values and goals in regard to town development and priorities. Articles were placed in the Brandon Reporter, and, in May 2023, the commission hosted a community forum with dozens of participants from all parts of Brandon. At the forum, focus groups brainstormed ideas and philosophies, all of which the commission considered when

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Development Review Board Report

The Brandon Development Review Board (DRB) is a five-member, quasi-judicial volunteer board whose members are appointed by the Brandon Select Board. Additionally, the DRB currently has one alternate member, also appointed by the Brandon Select Board. The DRB hears appeals and grants variances, conditional uses and setback waivers in accordance with the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO). The DRB is also charged with reviewing sections 6 (municipal impacts), 7 (school impacts), and 10 (compatibility with the Town Plan) of the Act 250 review process.

All DRB hearings are publicly warned 15 days in advance in "The Reporter" and posted on the town bulletin boards. The DRB usually meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, as needed. Location varies so check the town website for official hearing and meeting notices.

In FY '23, the DRB received 11 application referrals.

Development Review Board Members are: Samantha Stone, Chair; John Peterson, Vice Chair; Robert Clark; Jack Schneider; and Jim DesMarais. Ralph Ethier is the Alternate. Our Secretary is Hillary Knapp.

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appreciates the revenues that the town receives for infrastructure work. She asked how much money they have received in LOT funds at this point. Mr. Hopkins pointed to the presentation in the annual report provided by the Town Treasurer. This report shows the amount of funds received and where those funds have been spent.

Brent Buehler would like to see the town report presented in the manner that it used to be. He would like to see a comparison year to year, comparing budgets to actuals, with footnotes describing changes in the budget. He likes the figures how they were once prepared. He would like to see how each department performs compared to budget. Mr. Hopkins stated that they reformatted the book to make it more readable and that they try to get footnotes in the annual report, but they don't seem to make it in. Mr. Buehler feels that there is no accountability in the current town report presentation and that there are too many words.

Sharon Stearns thanked the Select Board and Town Clerk and all others for their service. She is also happy that we receive our annual reports in the mail. Many towns are not sending these out. She would also like to see more detail in the budget as well. Sharon is thankful for Brandon's

infrastructure improvements and the fact that we are not overspending keeping our roads drivable. She is also thankful for the many recreation activities. Ms. Stearns would like the Town Clerk's office open on Fridays. She contends that it is a real disservice to have the town clerk's office closed on Friday.

Mr. Hopkins went back to Brent Buehler's comments and stated that there is detail in the annual report by department but it is broken out differently. Each department's budget is broken out in detail on each department's corresponding page.

Jan Coolidge is happy to see so many people at the town meeting. She reminded everyone that the budget committee is an open meeting and the public are welcome to attend. Mr. Hopkins chimed in that the budget workshop meetings are informative. He also noted that if folks want to deliberate on the budget that coming to the budget meetings is the best way to do that, as everything is finalized by Town Meeting Day.

Cecile Reniche-Smith asked whether Clerk, Sue Gage would like to address Sharon Stearns's concerns. Ms. Gage explained that she chose to keep the offices closed on Friday because they found that a day without interruptions

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Planning & Zoning Administrator Report

ZONING PERMIT ACTIVITY:

The last Fiscal Year saw the ZA review 56 zoning permit applications. This is a six percent reduction in total applications compared with previous fiscal year. However, the nature of these applications were more complex, many involving more than one objective per permit, and/or involving more Development Review Board hearings. New single family home construction was down by one house, but commercial and related Changes in Use activities increased slightly. Two (conditional use) applications were denied. In both cases the Applicants revised the project to be (rule) conforming, reapplied to the Development Review Board, and were granted a permit.

Summary of permits reviewed

Project	# Applications
Residential (attached to residence): additions, decks, porches.....	6
Accessory (detached) Structures: garages, sheds, pools, fences	22
Single Family Residences (stick-built, modular, panel, log, mobile homes); new or replaced.....	7
Commercial & Municipal Projects, Changes of Use, & Miscellaneous applications	9
Home Occupations.....	3
Signs (business).....	3
Demolitions (No demo only applications, but demo & reconstruct permits counted as access structure).....	0
Subdivisions, Boundary Line Adjustments	4
Barns, Agricultural Structures (to qualified farmers).....	0
Denied, incomplete, withdrawn Applications.....	2

Total #applications reviewed:..... 56

Development & Permitting Updates:

The VT Legislature, in its efforts to encourage the development of many more Housing Units statewide, passed ACT 47, a.k.a. the Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone (HOME) Act. This law makes unprecedented reforms of state laws that have regulated development for over 50 years (i.e. VT Municipal & Regional Planning & Development Act (24 VSA Chapter 117) of 1968; and the Land Use & Development Law (10 VSA Chapter 151) of 1970, a.k.a. ACT 250).

The HOME Act overrides many Local regulations that have restricted the number of Dwelling Units allowed on a parcel, especially if served by municipal sewer and water systems. It also overrides Act 250 jurisdiction in certain circumstances, providing for larger housing projects with less state review.

Planning Commissions throughout VT now have to revise local rules to comply with this new VT statute.

APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL PANEL ACTIVITY Kindly refer to other Sections in this Annual Report to learn of the significant efforts by the volunteer members of the Planning Commission (who create Town rules and policies) & Development Review Board (who administer the rules).

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES to Note:

1. Signage: There has been a proliferation of fabric signs, of a variety of shapes & sizes. Note that these signs are Not exempt from a Town permit.
2. Animal Control: The current Zoning regulations require a Town permit for any Farm Animals that are not part of an approved Farm operation.
3. Small Storage Structures: Any "assembly of materials for Occupancy or Use" larger than 80 sq. ft. in floor area may require a permit and setbacks from property lines. This includes fabric & frame, skid mounted, and shipping container storage, unless on site for less than one year (temporary use).

PLEASE ASK the ZONING ADMINISTRATOR (Not your neighbor, swim pool/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. Usual Office Hours on Tue. (until 4 pm); Wed. mornings; and by special appointment.

Planning Commission cont.

working on the plan update. Further opportunities were provided at the July 4th festival and at Planning Commission meetings throughout the year.

Work on the town plan will continue in the 2023-24 fiscal year with a series of public update meetings by the commission and a public hearing on the draft update in December 2023, with adoption of the update plan by the Select Board scheduled for late February 2024.

In last year's town report, the Planning Commission noted that the town had applied for a bylaws modernization grant from the state to assist with the update of the Brandon Land Use Ordinances (BLUO). Since that time, the town has been awarded the grant and, once the town plan has been completed and updated, the Planning Commission will begin working on updating the land use ordinances with the assistance of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

The Brandon Planning Commission meets the first Monday of every month at 6:00 PM in the Brandon Town Hall, and the public is always welcome to attend and comment on agenda items or other issues related to the commission's remit.

2023 Planning Commission Members

Cecil Reniche-Smith, Chair
Robert Foley, Vice-Chair
Jack Schneider
Natalie Steen
Sara Stevens
Neil Silins (Alternate)

Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders (BRAVO)

Restorative Justice is a growing movement which offers offenders and the community an alternative (and sometimes a complementary path) to the criminal justice system.

Appropriate cases are referred by Brandon Chief of Police, David Kachajian, before formal charges are filed in court. Three BRAVO panel members then meet with offenders, harmed parties, representatives of the community, and with parents or guardians of juvenile offenders. Together, they create a plan to address

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Animal Control Officer Report

Residents of Brandon and Forest Dale,

The Animal Control Office answered 29 calls for service.

11 calls for loose/roaming at large dogs

8 calls for lost/missing pets

1 call to assist town police dept.

9 calls for information on rehoming, care, licensing etc.

Please licence your dogs by April 1st, and have your dogs under control at all times.

Respectfully,
Tim Kingston,
Brandon ACO

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was very helpful in getting work done. She asserted that they are in the office and answering phones and available if necessary.

Brent Buehler explained that he did attend a budget meeting and expressed his concerns there, but did not find that anything changed.

Doug Bailey thanked the Select Board for their work. He noted that we have had paving appropriations each year for a number of years, and we are not requesting an appropriation in this year's budget articles. It is significant that the budget is up less than a percent and we do not have a paving appropriation.

Judy Bunde again remarked on the LOT and what a great windfall it is for the

town. She appreciates it personally, even though she had to bill it to her inn customers. Budgets have been very reasonable as far as increases over the past few year.

She felt the board should pat themselves on the back more. Ms. Bunde asked how the town has been able to control the budget increases when other towns are seeing double digit increases. Mr. Hopkins stated that the hard work is shared by the Town Manager and department heads. He also stated that our debt load is fairly low compared to other towns. He stated that we are all taxpayers and like to see the services provided at the best cost. He assured that will continue to improve our overall financial condition.

Wayne Rausenberger has a question

(Continued on page 25)

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Report

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

Community and Economic Development

In the pursuit of fostering vibrant communities, we are actively engaged in community and economic development initiatives, such as Brownfields Redevelopment. Through strategic partnerships and public investment,

we've worked to transform underutilized areas, like Pittsford Village Farm, into valuable community assets.

Town Planning and Zoning

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

Water Quality and Natural Resources

Preserving our region's water quality and natural resources is a shared responsibility. Through collaborative

(Continued on page 23)

Dog Licenses 2022-2023

TYPE	# SOLD	FEE	TOTAL
Neutered	258	\$ 4.00	\$1,032.00
Un-Neutered.....	36	\$ 8.00	288.00
Neutered After 10/1	4	\$ 2.00	8.00
Un-Neutered After 10/1	1	\$ 4.00	4.00
Kennel/Special.....	0		
Late Fees.....			104.00
Total Paid to Town.....			\$1,436.00

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Continued.

efforts with local governments and organizations, our work as the South Lake Champlain Clean Water Service Provider identifies and develops projects that safeguard our water sources and protect the richness of our natural landscapes.

Emergency Preparedness and Climate Resilience

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

Multimodal Transportation

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

Energy Conservation and Efficiency

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

Affordable Housing

Recognizing the need for diverse and affordable housing options, the RRPC

has actively supported initiatives to address housing challenges. We worked closely with Vermont Finance Housing Agency (VFHA) to complete the 2023 Rutland Region Housing Needs Assessment and created a new planning program to help towns navigate housing challenges and opportunities.

Equity

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

Regional Planning

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

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

Devon Neary, Executive Director

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
PLANNING&ZONING	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages* / Benefits	\$36,115	\$29,710	\$35,575	\$44,015
Travel & Expenses.....	200	281	300	300
Dues & Subscriptions**	-	-	-	4,000
Continuing Education	150	84	500	500
Legal Services - zoning.....	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Professional Supplies.....	100	34	100	100
Planning/Zoning Postage .	250	77	150	150
Legal Advertising	500	642	500	500
Energy Cm Public Outreach***	3,200	2,794	4,500	1,500
Total Zoning	42,515	\$33,620	\$43,625	\$ 53,065

*Increase to three days per week for sufficient service to public

**Add two GovPilot modules for land use permitting and rental apartment inspection

***Remove townwide mailing

(BRAVO) (Continued from previous page)

the harm done, the needs of parties harmed, and the needs of the community at large. The offender's participation is entirely voluntary; indeed, to participate the offender must accept responsibility for his or her actions. Restorative Justice plans often involve restitution, letters of apology, and community service. The process itself can be healing for the people involved.

The number of cases appropriate for referral to BRAVO—and in which the offender chooses to participate—can vary widely from year to year. In 2023 BRAVO handled a small number of cases. Panel members kept busy attending training approved by the Vermont Department of Corrections and making connections with other Restorative Justice organizations in the state. BRAVO is now collaborating with Rutland's Restorative Justice panel in cases involving folks from Brandon.

BRAVO was founded by a number of years ago by Art Doty, Lance Mead, and Debbie Boyce. Currently BRAVO consists of a small group of volunteers trained to participate in a Restorative Justice panel. The Coordinator receives referrals from the Chief of Police, and the Advisory Board meets monthly, on the first Monday of the month to handle necessary business.

The BRAVO volunteers believe that they help to support a safe community by listening to and addressing the needs of victims, offenders, and the community at the earliest possible time. If you are interested in participating in BRAVO's work, please consider joining. For more info, please see www.townofbrandon.com/town-committees/bravo/

Mitch Pearl, Chair
Paula Ashley, Coordinator

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Report

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, including the recent addition of member Ben Wimett, has entered a new phase of its journey, continuing to collaborate with the Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort, which now encompasses eight additional towns in Vermont.

The committee is actively engaged in collaborative initiatives with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Abundant Sun to create a more welcoming and engaging community. By participating in the Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort, we are not only contributing to the growth of our town but also influencing positive change across multiple communities in Vermont.

Our community is rich in diversity, encompassing individuals with varied experiences in terms of age, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disabilities, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and national origin. Recognizing the uniqueness of each community member, the committee emphasizes the importance of embracing this diversity throughout the town. This inclusivity is seen as integral to providing services that respect and dignify individuals, fostering a culture of inclusion.

Acknowledging the complexity of our work, the committee

(Continued on page 26)

Rec. Dept. Report (continued from page 17)

- ❖ **Bootified Brandon Halloween Decorating Competition** - October
- ❖ **Spooksville** with **Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Brandon Police Department & Brandon Fire Department** @ Estabrook Park- October
- ❖ **“Get Lit, Brandon” Decorating Competition w/The Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce & The Reporter** – December
- ❖ **“Winter Wonderland Light Display” w/ Brandon Area Toy Project, The Brandon Inn** – December
- ❖ **OMYA Safety Programs** – Bicycle Helmets – Year Round

Building to the Future

2024 will see more volunteers stepping up to help make some big ideas come to fruition through. The creation of the **Brandon Area Trails Committee** will be a transformative step in making more accessible outdoor activities available to residents. Partnering with private landowners while leveraging municipal owned parcels will allow for the development of multi-use trail networks in and around Brandon. This infrastructure will be augmented through volunteer hours/private donations/grants. Along with improvements at Seminary Hill and Estabrook Parks, this work will extend to the creation of a disc golf course on town land behind the **Brandon American Legion Post #55**.

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 is how the real work is performed. If you have any interest in volunteering, planning or otherwise just helping us to realize critical recreation missions, please reach out! And as we

EXPENDITURES	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
BLDGS & GROUNDS	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Wages & Benefits	\$77,995	\$71,530	78,690	86,465
Testing/Monitor Fee*	-	5,810	6,000	13,250
Heating - Propane	9,000	7,439	9,500	9,500
Heating Fuel	10,000	14,211	15,000	15,000
Bldgs & Grounds Water Fee	1,700	1,297	1,500	1,500
Bldgs & Grounds Electric	70,000	83,049	77,000	87,000
Electric EV Car Stations	1,000	838	1,200	1,200
Highway Bldg Maint	10,000	5,621	5,000	5,000
PD Bldg Maint.	2,000	3,884	2,000	3,000
Town Office	5,000	5,785	5,000	6,000
Cemeteries	500	-	500	500
Municipal Mowing-maint	2,500	2,110	2,500	2,500
Rec Sports Field Maint.	500	234	5,000	4,000
Town Clock Maint.	1,000	1,426	400	1,000
Town Hall Repair/Maint.	10,000	4,368	10,000	10,000
Parks Maint.	6,000	4,794	4,000	5,000
Trash costs-Supplies	500	545	500	550
Maint. Supplies Bldgs.	1,000	1,258	1,000	1,200
Generator Maint	2,200	3,446	1,000	2,500
Estabrook Bldg Maint	-	2,816	-	1,500
Tree Maint.	-	-	-	3,000
Capital Outlay B & G	-	49,442	-	-
Total Bldgs. & Grounds	210,895.00	269,903.43	225,790	259,665

*New requirement to test for PFAS (“forever chemicals”)

Recreation Department Report continued.

have constantly preached; if you have an idea about a program, we are here to make it a reality. Case in point: **Neil Silins** inquired about starting a spoon carving circle. He spent the winter in the lobby of the town hall, leading this effort to whittle away the winter with others in the community who find this activity to be enjoyable. 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,
Bill Moore – Rec Director

Colleen Wright – Assistant to the Rec Director

Brandon 2024 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 22)

about the Trustees of Public Funds. Town requested \$11,000 but the request was denied.

Mr. Rausenberger wondered why we are not getting funds. Treasurer, Sue Gage explained that the Trustees of Public Funds did not approve our request and will likely not approve it, so we did not include it in the current budget. Ms. Gage indicated that the current Trustees will not approve funding for mosquito control.

Bernie Carr asked about sidewalk work on Union Street and other streets. Sidewalks are a mess in some places around town.

Bill Moore, interim Town Manager stated that this is going forward, but there is no timeline yet. Seth Hopkins stated that there are some issues that need to be ironed out. The previous Town Manager recommended that the town do some sidewalk work on its own to decrease the engineering costs that are driven up by grants and federal funding.

2. To transact any other business proper to be done when met. Moderator Rhodes introduced Representative Stephanie Jerome and asked her to address the meeting.

Representative Stephanie Jerome took the podium and explained that she is now the single representative for Brandon since redistricting after the 2020 census, and that this is her third term. She mentioned that the Town of Brandon is often mentioned at the State House as a shining star for both its fiscal responsibility and its infrastructure upgrades. Rep. Jerome serves as

Vice-chair of the Commerce and Economic Development committee and is focused on workforce development. She also serves on the University of Vermont board and New England board of Higher Education, which she feels complements her workforce development work.

Rep. Jerome presented a Vermont Public Service award to Dave Atherton for his work in Brandon. The State of Vermont recognizes his good work as we all do in town. Mr. Atherton arrived a few minutes later to a standing ovation and graciously accepted his award.

Rep. Jerome brought a number of copies of "Freedom and Unity", a graphic novel about Vermont's unique Town Meeting written by Frank Bryan, that she wanted to share. She also encouraged everyone to check the unclaimed property listings at the Vermont State Treasurer.

Rep. Jerome then addressed the Legislative priorities this year, which are affordable housing, childcare, climate and workforce. We need housing and childcare in order to grow our communities. There have been a number of climate related proposals that have been in the news. Workforce development is Rep. Jerome's focus, along with economic development.

Rep. Jerome states that we need to boost up our workforce, both because of the pandemic and because of our aging demographic. Rep. Jerome also left a legislative report at the front table for folks to pick up. Rep. Jerome also reminded everyone that she holds monthly constituents meetings at the library on Saturdays. These will be now be held at the Town Hall with the library move and the next one will be on March 25th. She encouraged people to reach out to her if they have concerns or needs.

Moderator Rhodes reminded everyone that the polls will open at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, March 7 at the Brandon American Legion, on Franklin Street.

3. Adjourn.

Bill Moore/ George Fjeld moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm by unanimous consent.



Susan Gage, Clerk



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

understands that cultivating an inclusive community is a long-term endeavor. It has taken years to reach our current state, and we recognize that dismantling existing norms and fostering inclusive practices will require continued effort and dedication. The committee remains committed to the process, understanding that meaningful change takes time.

In conclusion, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering an inclusive environment in Brandon. By recognizing and celebrating the diversity within our community, we aim to create a welcoming space where every individual feels valued and respected. The journey is ongoing, and with the support of our members, partners, and the community, we are confident in our ability to bring about positive, lasting change.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Gage, Ben Wimett
and Bill Moore

Intergovernmental / Partner Agencies

EXPENDITURES PARTNER AGENCIES	FY23 ADOPTED	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 ADOPTED	FY25 PROPOSED
VLCT Insurance	90,225	73,413	91,500	93,000
Unemployment Insurance .	5,650	5,665	6,275	7,000
Worker's Comp Insurance.	46,075	62,522	64,550	66,000
Insurance Deductible	1,000	297	1,000	1,000
County Tax	30,000	27,718	30,000	31,000
Rut. Regional Commission.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Green-Up Day	300	819	300	750
Public Transit.....	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
REDC/CEDRR	500	500	500	500
Rut Nat Resources Conserv	250	-	250	250
Mosquito Control*	40,500	40,491	41,710	51,235
Total Partner Agencies	219,000	215,926	240,585	255,235

*Revised assessment of budget among member Towns

Debt Service

EXPENDITURES DEBT SERVICE	FY23 ADOPTED	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 ADOPTED	FY25 PROPOSED
RT 7 Town Share -2006	\$158,000	\$157,498	\$151,500	\$145,500
Interest Exp.- Short Term...	5,000	-	-	-
PD Bond Payment	26,650	24,893	26,000	25,300
2016 Segment 6 Bond.....	62,600	62,557	61,750	60,550
Total Debt Service	\$252,250	\$244,947	\$239,250	\$231,350

Tax Expenditures

EXPENDITURES Tax Expenditures	FY23 ADOPTED	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 ADOPTED	FY25 PROPOSED
Tax Sale	\$5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Total Tax Expenditures	5,000	-	5,000	5,000

Vital Statistics Report

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Births	28	57	29	39
Deaths	39	37	48	69
Civil Marriages	33	38	26	24

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
Annie Delyth Stratton	2025
Hillary Knapp	2025
John Peterson	2025
Laura Peterson	2025
Jeff Stewart	2025
Linda Stewart	2025
Tricia Welch	2025

Library Trustees

Jeff Haylon	2025
David Roberts	2024

Moderator

Bill Moore	2024
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Select Board

Brian Coolidge	2026
Tim Guiles	2025
Heather Nelson	2024
Cecil Reniche-Smith	2024
Tracy Wyman	2024

Town Clerk

Sue Gage	2026
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Town Treasurer

Sue Gage	2026
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Trustees of Public Funds

Courtney Satz	2025
Laura Miner	2024
Tanner Romano	2026

*** APPOINTED OFFICIALS ***

Animal Control Officer

Tim Kingston	
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Budget Committee

Doug Bailey	
Janet Coolidge	
Neil Silins	
Barry Varian	
Tricia Welch	
Peter Werner	

Development Review Board

Robert Clark	2024
Jim Des Marais	2026
John Peterson	2025
Jack Schneider	2025
Samantha Stone	2026
Ralph Either, alt.	2026

E-911 Coordinator

Thomas Kilpeck	
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Emergency Management Director

Seth Hopkins	
Tim Guiles, Alt.	

Energy Committee

Clare Babyak-Schick	
Erin Ballantine	
Eve Beglarian	
Robert Black	
Jim Emerson	
Jeff Haylon	
Jack Schneider	

Fence Viewers

John Reynolds	2024
Jon Wyman	2024

Fire Warden

Linwood Bovey	2024
Mike Markowski (Deputy)	2024

Green-up Day Coordinator

James Leary	2024
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Health Officer

Larry Stevens	2026
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Deputy Health Officer

vacant

Historic Preservation Commission

Frank Bump	
Roy Murdock	
John Peterson	
Dennis Reisenweaver	
Jeff Stewart	

Inspector of Lumber

Bob Kilpeck	2024
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Otter Creek Communications

Union District Representative

Peter Werner	2024
Bill Moore, alt.	2024

Otter Creek Watershed Insect

Control District Representatives

Tim Kingston	2024
Sharon Stearns	2024
Kyle Bearor, alt.	2024

Planning Commission

Bob Foley	2024
Cecil Reniche-Smith	2024
Jack Schneider	2025
Natalie Steen	2025
Sara Stevens	2026
Neil Silins, alt.	2024

Revolving Loan Fund Committee

Wendy Bizzarro	2026
Stephanie Jerome	2025
Karen Lynch	2025
Frank Spezzano	2024
Catherine Wall	2026
Tom Whittaker	2024
Judy Bunde, alt.	2024
Jack Schneider, alt.	2024

Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative

Gabe McGuigan	2024
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Rutland Emergency Management Committee Representatives

Seth Hopkins	2024
Thomas Kilpeck	2024

Rutland Region Transportation Council Representative

Tracy Wyman	2024
Dan Snow, alt.	2024

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Representative

Jack Schneider	2024
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Tree Warden

Neil Silins	2024
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Weighers of Coal

Lou Faivre	2024
Olya Hopkins	2024

Zoning Administrator

Jeffrey M. Biasuzzi	2024
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***** EMPLOYEES *****

Economic Development Officer

Bill Moore	
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Police Department

Aidan Alnwick	
Ana Burtch-MacLeod	
Linda Graziano	
David Kachajian	
Ethan Kelleher	
Joseph Mannino	
Kevin Rimmer	
Nicholas Stendardo	
Michael Von Schleusingen	

Public Works Department

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

Recording Secretaries

Charlene Bryant	
Hillary Knapp	

Recreation

Bill Moore, Director	
Colleen Wright	

Rental Housing Officer

Larry Stevens	
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Town Management Team

Seth Hopkins, Town Manager	
Bill Moore, Deputy Town Manager	

Town Office Staff

Karen Folger	
Luanne Merkert	
Jacelyn Savella	
Elaine S. Smith	

Reports

from Intergovernmental Appropriations and Public Agencies

OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

After a Town Meeting Day vote and other required approvals, the Town of Proctor became the 6th member town of the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) on 12 May 2023. Congratulations and welcome!

In mid-February the OCW found out via a Vermont Public Radio news item that a new Rule for the Control of Pesticides was being promulgated by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAF). That new rule went into effect on 24 February 2023 and required the OCW to submit, no later than 1 February, a comprehensive permit application to conduct mosquito adulticide applications. The 50+ page application package was submitted to VAAF on 24 March. The OCW was issued an interim (6 month) permit for adulticiding on 16 May. At that point you'll recall that the mosquitoes were awful bad... the OCW call center phone was ringing off the hook with requests for service. You'll also recall that the very next night the entire district experienced a hard freeze, almost wiping the slate clean. Then it rained... and rained some more, which both provided ideal conditions for mosquito hatching and precluded treatment on far too many nights. Consequently, this spring and summer the nuisance level of biting insect activity in OCW member towns was way above average. The situation improved significantly in early September.

The OCW received 845 calls from district residents requesting nuisance mosquito control: 171 from Brandon, 16 from Goshen, 364 from Leicester, 206 from Pittsford, 19 from Proctor, and 69 from Salisbury. That number of service requests represents a 208% increase from last year. One hundred four owners opted out of adulticide spraying adjacent to their property: 23 from Brandon, 9 from Goshen, 16 from Leicester, 13 from Pittsford, 15 from Proctor, and 28 from Salisbury. That number of no spray requests represents a 20% increase from last year. For reference, 2020 census data showed just over 4,500 households in the district.

On Town Meeting Day in March Salisbury community members voted not to pay for adult mosquito control for the fiscal year that started July 1, 2023. Consequently, as also happened in 2022, only larviciding service is being provided for the Town of Salisbury. In March 2024, Salisbury residents will consider returning to full service. Recognizing that the lack of adult control efforts would negatively impact their members, in July the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association raised money via private donations to pay the OCW for adulticide spraying along the private roads in Salisbury immediately adjacent to Lake Dunmore. Sufficient money was collected to provide that service through 30 June 2024.

One of the conditions appended to the adulticide permit was that the OCW could only use PermaSease® (a synthetic pyrethroid pesticide) to control adult mosquitoes; use of Fyfanon® (an organophosphate pesticide in the malathion family) was not allowed. Heretofore the OCW has interjected malathion applications into the spraying schedule to prevent building resistance to permethrin in the mosquito population. In September the OCW submitted mosquito egg samples for resistance testing by an approved laboratory. Results showed no resistance to permethrin. However, only having one pesticide approved for adult control will be a continuing concern.

In November 2022 the OCW Board of Trustees approved a new assessment algorithm, to go into effect in 2024, for apportioning district expenses among the six member towns. That algorithm uses the following factors and weights for determining each town's assessment: equalized education grand list (25.9%), acres of Class 2 wetlands (21.6%), number of dwelling units (26.3%), and adulticide spray route(s) road miles in the town (26.3%). Those factor weights will vary slightly year-to-year based on the ratios of overhead, to larvicide operations, to adulticide operations expenses in the OCW budget. The prices of the two PermaSease adulticides we use went up by 34% and 55% this year and the OCW really needs to start replacing our ancient truck fleet (one truck died this year and the other five trucks all have been driven more than 99,000 miles... with two approaching 200,000 miles). Consequently, the 2024 OCW budget will increase by 5% (\$11,816).

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 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: ocwcd@gmail.com. If a No Spray Zone request was NOT submitted for the preceding year and/or

OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT cont.

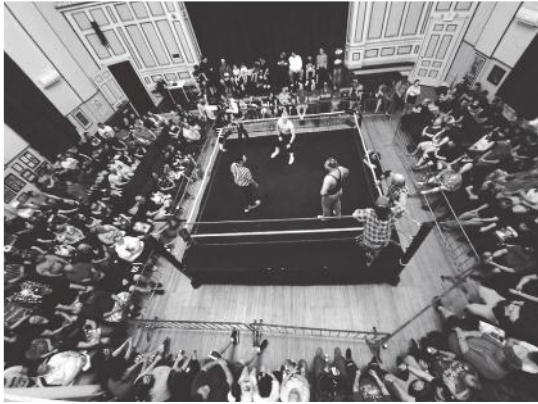
there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, a letter must be submitted listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone number(s), the 911 address of the property, and include a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries 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>. If you would like to receive email notifications about adulticide spraying planned for your location, please send an email to ocwicd@gmail.com with your name, E-911 physical address, and town.

Kudos again to Will Mathis, the OCW Operations Coordinator, and to Jeremy New and Kerry White for their long hours this season attempting to keep nuisance mosquito populations at tolerable levels. 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 OCW Board of Trustees Annual Meeting on 8 November 2023, Jeff Schumann (Salisbury) was elected Chair, Doug Perkins (Leicester) was elected Vice-Chair, Lynne Peck (Leicester) was elected Treasurer, Steve Belcher (Pittsford) was re-elected Secretary, and Jeff Whiting (Goshen) was elected Auditor. 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 Pittsford and Salisbury. Anyone interested in serving as an OCW representative should contact their Select Board.

Thank you for your continued support for mosquito control in the Otter Creek watershed.

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



GREEN UP VERMONT

Dear Brandon Community Members,

I have some good news and some bad news about the results of Brandon's Green Up day efforts on May 6. First, the good news . . . our valiant Green Up volunteers removed over two thousand pounds of garbage and 74 tires from our roadsides this year! Correspondingly, the bad news is that thousands of pounds of garbage and scores of tires accumulated on our roadsides and landscape since Green Up Day in 2022.

While I applaud the efforts of those who make Green Up Day a success year after year, I nevertheless am eagerly awaiting the day when we no longer need a Green Up Day! Until then, I thank our volunteers and the crew at the transfer station for their help on Green Up Day and beyond. Special recognition goes out to folks who clean up our roadsides throughout the year to keep our roadsides unspoiled, and to those who properly dispose of their tires and trash.

Thank you,
Jim Leary
Brandon Green Up Day Coordinator

DOWNTOWN BRANDON ALLIANCE

2023 was a very big year for the Downtown Brandon Alliance. Working with the town Economic Development Director, Bill Moore and the Vermont state coordinator, Gary Halloway we were able to reinvent the DBA with a generous grant from the state. Through the Downtown Vibrancy Fund grant the DBA will be able to fund a parttime employee starting in 2024. Since the DBA was founded in 2000 it has been an all-volunteer organization which has worked well but with an employee, we are excited to be able provide even more for the downtown. Through many meetings, emails, and applications we worked through the process to be eligible for the Downtown Vibrancy Fund grant. This work was done in collaboration with the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce. The DBA will merge with the BACC as a subcommittee and with this merger we will continue as we always have to keep downtown Brandon buzzy and businesses in the town core as vibrant as possible. With this merger the BACC will be freed-up to focus elsewhere in our community making Brandon an even stronger economic piece of Vermont.

We will continue with our downtown programs of decorating for the holidays and providing the gorgeous

flowerpots that make the summer in downtown Brandon that quintessential New England town that we all love. The DBA also took on the responsibility of managing (including manning one booth) the Brandon Christmas Market this year. We intend to work on increasing the size and scope of the Christmas Market with the goal of making downtown Brandon a festive place for the holidays, so stay tune. We always have current and new projects which gives anyone that is interested in joining us an opportunity to keep Brandon the fantastic town we call home.

In closing I would like to thank all the folks that helped us in 2023 with our projects, you know who you are, and we hope you enjoy working with us as much as we do working with you. It's the people that are willing to give of their time to help make Brandon the best place to live in Vermont that make our town so wonderful.

Sincerely

Devon Fuller

President Downtown Brandon Alliance



BRANDON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

During the past calendar year, the Town of Brandon Historic Preservation Commission received a 2023 Certified Local Government grant to perform an overall scoping survey of the important historic areas, industries and people associated with the Brandon area. The study focuses on areas outside the existing historic districts and integrate current information into a more cohesive historical perspective.

The funding is provided through the State of Vermont from the US Department of Interior, National Park Services for

the Certified Local Government Program. Brandon has a historical importance with the early days of Vermont through its industrial, educational and residents' activities. This study will assist the Brandon Historic Preservation Commission to focus and prioritize its future activities. The Commission has been looking at a number of new initiatives such as preparing year built date plaques for residential properties and identifying past industries within Brandon.

Anyone interested in serving on the Historic Preservation Commission, please contact the Town Manager.

MARBLE VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT – “THE BUS”

Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD), known as “The Bus” is in its forty seventh 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 616,730 rides this year. MVRTD provides 65 jobs year-round, with upwards of 80 during the winter peak season.

MVRTD provided over 1,600 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 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.

For more information about schedules and services please call (802)773-3244x112 or visit MVRTD’s web site at www.thebus.com.

MVRTD thanks the residents of Brandon for their support of public transportation.

Kris Bascue, Community Outreach Coordinator

VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM “VSNIP”

TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS and LICENSE!

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

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

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

a difference in your community. They are very needed.

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

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard “Snook” Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! Together We Truly Do Make a Difference! 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw,
Administrator: VSNIP
Executive Director: VVSA

Accounts

EXPENDITURES	FY23 ADOPTED	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 ADOPTED	FY25 PROPOSED
TOWN CLERK/TREASURER				
Wages & Benefits.....	\$186,900	\$177,739	\$195,360	\$209,560
Travel & Expenses.....	-	-	150	150
Dues & Subscriptions.....	250	55	250	250
Professional Development.....	750	652	500	750
Elections*	8,300	7,441	6,500	7,500
Dog License Expense.....	150	136	150	150
Office Supplies	500	632	650	650
Records Preservation.....	14,040	4,140	14,055	9,820
Office Equipment	1,200	2,020	1,000	1,200
Total Town Clerk/Treasurer.....	\$212,090	\$192,815	\$218,615	\$230,030

*Add State Primary (Aug); General Election (Nov)

State Payments to the Town of Brandon

AOT - Grants/Other HW projects.....	\$82,583.96
AOT - Class 1, 2, 3 Roads.....	\$162,339.46
Dept. of Public Service/Grant Funds.....	\$210,479.77
Dept. of Administration/ Grant Funds.....	\$558,507.60
Dept. of Agency of Natural Resources/ PILOT payment.....	\$473.95
Dept. of Children & Families/ Grant Funds/ Recording	\$2,933.11
Dept. of Fish & Wildlife/ Tax payment.....	\$946.45
Dept. of Housing & Comm. Dev/ Grant Funds.....	\$24,343.00
Dept. of Public Safety/Grant Funds	\$99,122.25
Secretary of State/ Election Postage	\$40.32
Judicial & Civil Fines/Document Reimbursement	\$2,277.00
Annual Ticket refund	\$2,785.08
DCF Fingerprinting reimbursement	\$510.00
Crime Victims' Service Center / Recording Fees	\$15.00
Recording Fees	\$585.00
Cannabis Control Board	\$700.00
Assessor Reappraisal	\$17,000.00
Assessor Revenue.....	\$2,000.00
Local Option Tax	\$266,946.30
Municipal Property Tax Adjustment	\$184,468.15
PILOT/Current Use/Hold Harmless/RR Tax	\$51,658.13
Total:	\$1,670,714.53

Debt and Loan Balances

PERIOD ENDING 6/30/2023					
LONG-TERM DEBT					
BONDS					
		ANNUAL PMT 23/24	ANNUAL PMT 24/25	ANNUAL PMT 25/26	DATE COMPLETED
\$	328,359.51	\$ 30,895	\$ 30,882	\$ 30,869	December-36
\$	13,155.96	\$ 4,632	\$ 4,639	\$ 4,626	December-25
\$	437,068.70	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	February-48
\$	540,000.00	\$ 151,315	\$ 145,458	\$ 136,805	December-26
\$	197,500.00	\$ 25,937	\$ 25,286	\$ 24,635	December-32
\$	626,400.00	\$ 61,561	\$ 60,502	\$ 59,381	November-37
\$	-	\$ 81,270	\$ 162,540	\$ 162,540	November-54
STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS					
\$	463,680.95	\$ 30,928	\$ 30,928	\$ 30,928	May-40
\$	398,026.27	\$ -	\$ 31,939	\$ 31,910	September-43
\$	2,158.32	\$ 2,158	\$ -	\$ -	May-24
\$	3,006,349.71				
CAPITAL LEASES					
\$	62,261.36	\$ 32,408	\$ 32,408	\$ -	February-25
\$	62,261.36	\$ 444,068.32	\$ 547,546.00	\$ 504,658.00	
SHORT-TERM DEBT					
	DESCRIPTION				
\$	3,293,938.12				
\$	3,293,938.12				

Treasurer's Tax Report (aka Tax Reconciliation)

TREASURERS TAX REPORT TAX YEAR ENDING 5/15/2023

TAXES BILLED 2021-2022	TAX RATE	X GRAND LIST =	TOTAL RAISED
Non-Residential Education	1.5758	\$1,413,039	\$2,226,666.07
Homestead Education	1.3735	2,041,639	\$2,804,190.48
Municipal			
Town	0.7843	\$3,460,338	2,713,943.09
Fire District #1	0.0938	3,460,338	324,579.70
Local Agreement Rate	0.0061	3,460,338	21,108.06
Appropriations	0.0628	3,460,338	217,309.23
Misc Taxes			1,843.55
Total Taxes Billed			<u>\$8,309,640</u>
Total Taxes Collectible			<u>\$8,309,640</u>
Taxes Paid by 5/15/23		\$8,055,460	
Abatements		5,414	
Delinquent Taxes.....		248,767	
Total Taxes Accounted for		<u> </u>	<u>8,309,640</u>
Variance			
 TAXES PAID TO:			
Otter Valley Unified Union School District (OVUUSD)		4,204,007	
Brandon Fire District #1		324,550	
Total		<u> </u>	<u>4,528,557</u>
 EDUCATION TAX CASH FLOW FINAL			
State Payments		<u>1,021,641</u>	
State Payments to Municipality		<u>184,468</u>	
Non-Residential Education Tax Billed.....		2,234,890	
Homestead Education Tax Billed		2,816,552	
Payments to OVUUSD		<u>(4,204,007)</u>	
		<u>847,435</u>	
State Payments		(1,021,641)	
State Payments to Municipality		184,468	
Late Fees Retained		(780)	
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Homestead.....		(4,454)	
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Non-Residential		<u>(5,029)</u>	
Variance		<u>0</u>	

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

Town-Owned Properties For Sale

The Town currently holds no real estate it wishes to sell.

Tax Rates / Grand List / Town Budget Over Time

	6/30/20	6/30/21	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/24
GRAND LIST					
Grand List.....	\$330,490,800	\$344,129,900	\$345,374,100	\$345,824,000	\$348,059,100
TAX RATES					
Town Budget.....	0.8026	0.7899	0.7945	0.7843	0.7864
Voted Appropriations.....	0.0660	0.0788	0.0857	0.0628	0.0697
Fire District	0.0867	0.0834	0.0859	0.0938	0.0946
Local Agreement Rates.....	0.0077	0.0064	0.0062	0.0061	0.0059
Total Local Tax Rates	0.9630	0.9585	0.9723	0.9470	0.9566
<i>increase over prior year.....</i>	<i>0.0623%</i>	<i>-0.4673%</i>	<i>1.4397%</i>	<i>-2.6021%</i>	<i>1.0137%</i>
Education Rates					
Non Residential Education.....	1.5516	1.5763	1.6356	1.5758	1.6530
Homestead Education	1.3343	1.3479	1.3862	1.3735	1.4330
Total Tax Rate, Homestead	2.2973	2.3064	2.3585	2.3205	2.3896
<i>increase over prior year.....</i>	<i>0.3144%</i>	<i>0.3961%</i>	<i>2.2589%</i>	<i>-1.6112%</i>	<i>2.9778%</i>
Total Tax Rate, Non Residential.....	2.5146	2.5348	2.6079	2.5228	2.6096
<i>increase over prior year.....</i>	<i>1.3420%</i>	<i>0.8033%</i>	<i>2.8839%</i>	<i>-3.2632%</i>	<i>3.4406%</i>
APPROVED BUDGETS					
Budget to be Raised by Taxes	\$2,652,555	\$2,718,353	\$2,744,135	\$2,712,274	2,737,260
<i>increase over prior year</i>	<i>2.8902%</i>	<i>2.4806%</i>	<i>0.9484%</i>	<i>-1.1611%</i>	<i>0.9212%</i>
APPROPRIATIONS					
ARC of Rutland	\$ 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.....	28,000	28,000	28,000	82,580	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	7,000	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	3,000
Foxcroft Farm	-	-	-	-	-
Open Door Clinic, Community Health Services	1,000	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	1,500	1,500
Rutland Mental Health.....	6,624	6,624	6,624	-	-
Southwest Council on Aging	2,400	2,400	2,400	-	2,900
Stephen Douglas House	2,500	2,500	2,500	5,000	2,500
Infrastructure / Paving.....	50,000	100,000	100,000	-	-
Brandon American Legion Post #55 .	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
	\$218,024	\$271,024	\$296,024	\$217,330	\$242,730

Properties Votes Exempt & Properties with Tax Stabilization

PROPERTIES VOTED EXEMPT				
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
PROPERTIES WITH TAX STABILIZATION				
DATE STABILIZED	NAME	STABILIZATION END DATE	STABILIZED VALUE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION
7/1/23	MT Associates LLC	6/30/33	280,000	404,700
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

General Fund Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet Previous Year - Period 12 June
General Fund

ASSETS

Checking #176452010	\$1,201,250.31
Petty Cash - Town Office	150
Petty Cash - Police Dept.....	50
Petty Cash - Recreation	75
Cash in MM #177607060	5,685
Delinquent Tax Receivable.....	345,830
Int. & Pen. Receivables	107,078
Accounts Receivable	2,296
Middlebury Acct. 10047019	77,768
Middlebury CD 120417	112,112
Due From/To Other Funds	(\$582,173)
Prepaid Expenses.....	6,725
Total Assets	\$1,276,847

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable.....	42,846
Dog Lic. Fees to State.....	191
Marriage Lic. Fees to Sta	50
Anticipated Tax Credits	13,162
Deposits Payable	2,400
Deferred Tax Revenue	419,836
Tax Posting Variance	188
Accts Receivable Posting.....	(3)
Total Liabilities	\$478,672

FUND BALANCE

Fund Balance.....	\$ 959,027
Fund Balance-Reserved.....	2,162
Fund Balance-Recreation	32,182
Non-spendable Fund Balance	6,725
Reserved - Records Pres.....	38,240
Prior Years Fund Balance.....	1,038,339
Fund Balance Current Year	(240,161)
Total Fund Balance.....	\$798,175
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$1,276,847

General Fund Balance Over Time

Fund Balance	6/30/19	6/30/20	6/30/21	6/30/22	6/30/23
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$616,970	\$670,586	\$875,689	\$1,038,336	\$798,175
Unrestricted & Unassigned Fund Balance	473,056	519,340	689,14	784,157	723,085
Restricted Highway, statutory.....	12,489	36,451	93,479	152,100	—
Reserved Fund Balance	28,092	39,679	56,132	57,567	66,203
Assigned Fund Balance	85,000	40,000	30,433	40,162	2,162
Nonspendable Fund Balance.....	18,333	35,116	6,500	4,350	6,725
Total Fund Balance	\$616,970	\$670,586	\$875,689	\$1,038,336	\$798,175

Fund Balance Policy in Effect 6/30/2017

Budget for Next Year	\$3,190,885	\$3,408,909	\$3,540,044	\$3,447,730	\$3,346,150
% of Unrestricted & Unassigned FB relative to Next Year Budget.....	14.83%	15.23%	19.47%	22.47%	21.61%

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 Option Tax Fund Over Time

	to 6/30/19	6/30/20	6/30/21	6/30/22	6/30/23	Totals to Date
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$ -
REVENUES						
Local Option Tax Revenue	\$169,636	\$192,319	\$210,667	\$272,326	\$266,946	\$1,372,232
Bank Interest.....	5,513	3,566	950	609	1,309	13,741
Other.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$175,148	\$195,885	\$211,617	\$272,935	\$286,255	\$1,385,972
EXPENDITURES						
Infrastructure Projects - Park St.....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$113,754	\$ -	\$113,754
Infrastructure Projects Rte 7 Seg. 6.....	-	\$150,000	\$320,636	-	\$ -	\$470,636
Infrastructure Projects - Town Farm Rd .	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$157,023	\$157,023
Infrastructure Projects - North Bridge R	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$25,000	\$25,000
Infrastructure Projects - Forest Dale Co	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000	\$10,000
Infrastructure Projects - McConnell Cul.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$50,000	\$50,000
Infrastructure Projects -Arnold Dist. Rd.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$123,935	\$123,935
Equipment Purchase-Backhoe.....	-	-	-	\$123,900	\$268,255	\$392,174
Total Expenditures	\$ -	\$150,000	\$320,636	\$237,654	\$634,232	1,342,523
Change in Fund Balance	\$175,148	\$45,885	(109,019)	\$409,427	43,450	\$783,573
ASSETS						
Due To/From Other Funds	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$43,450	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$43,450	
LIABILITIES						
Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
FUND BALANCE						
Prior Year Fund Balance	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,165	\$374,146	\$409,427	
Current Year	175,148	45,885	(109,019)	35,381	(365,977)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE .	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$43,450	

Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds (TOPF) is an independent fund 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, Ms. Farr was concerned with environmental conditions and general improvements of the town and local society. The board continues to serve improvements of the town and village through Trust awards for projects not sufficiently provided by taxation.

-Tanner Romano, Courtney Satz, and Laura Miner

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

Bernie Carr 10/31/2022

Amount Requested: \$300 • Status of Request: (Unapproved)

The first request submitted by Bernie Carr, for \$300, was to offset costs of a Thomas Davenport portrait in the Brandon Town Hall. While the group was in support of the painting, the board's understanding was that the town accepted the painting as a donation and therefore, funding from the trust could not be dispersed retroactively.

Neshobe Elementary School 10/31/2022

Amount Requested: \$10,000 • Status of Request: (Returned for resubmission with additional information requested)

The second request submitted by Michelle Fitzsimmons on behalf of Neshobe Elementary School for replacement pre-school playground equipment. The group reviewed the application and discussed two previous funding requests made to the Neshobe PTO Playground Committee in 2018 and 2019 for the k-6 replacement playground structure. The TOPF funded prior requests to the PTO, as the PTO does not rely on taxpayer dollars, one of the primary stipulations of the fund. Additionally,

Expenditures:

Otter Valley Activities Association (OVAA) (Pledge #1 of #2)	\$ 10,000.00
Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) (Pledge #2 of #3)	10,000.00
Total Expenditures:	\$ 20,000.00
Ending Balance Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Account as of 6/30/2023	\$ 18,478.89

Composition of Fund as of June 30, 2022

Morgan Stanley Investment Account

Cash Balance	\$ 46,665.93
Equities	\$526,884.77
Fixed Income	\$258,571.75
Total Fund Value on June 30, 2023	\$832,122.45

Five Year Historical Record of Fund Value

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
Year end June 30, 2023.....	\$832,122.45

Approved Pledges as of June 30, 2023

Otter Valley Activities Association (OVAA) (Pledge #2 of #2).....	\$10,000.00
Neshobe PTO	\$10,000.00
Brandon Area Rescue Squad.....	\$5,000.00
Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) (Pledge #3 of #3)	\$10,000.00

Trustees of Public Funds

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

at the time of both donations, there was a separate group within the PTO dedicated to the planning and construction of the new playground. The board tentatively approved the application and pledged up to \$10,000 for playground equipment under the caveat, the request be resubmitted under the PTO along with a detailed plan and estimates from the vendors.

Brandon Area Rescue Squad 02/10/2023

Amount Requested: \$39,030.84 • Status of Request: \$5,000 Approved

The third request submitted by Andy Jackson on behalf of the Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) for the purchase of (two) chest compression systems. The board unanimously voted to contribute \$5,000 toward fundraising efforts.

Otter Valley Activities Association 03/03/2023

Amount Requested: \$20,000 • Status of Request: \$20,000 Approved (to be paid out incrementally over two years)

The final request submitted by Mike Howe on behalf of the Otter Valley Activities Association for \$20,000 to offset costs of a feasibility study for a new Community Recreation Center. The board unanimously voted to contribute \$20,000 toward the cause.

Town of Brandon 05/15/2023

Amount Requested: \$14,000 • Status of Request: (Returned for resubmission with additional information requested)

The final request submitted by the Town of Brandon for \$14,000 to offset expenditures of \$40,491 for mosquito control. Without appropriate cost justification as documented in the TOPF award criteria requirements, the board voted to return the application requesting additional financial information.

RUTLAND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT (RNRCD) REPORT

A sample of the activities the RNRCD was involved in during 2022/2023:

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 Poulney 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 cost effectively 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 Upper Otter Creek and its Tributaries:

With funding through grant sources, the District:

- Received a final design for a Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) at West Seminary Street Public Park in the Town of Brandon. This park includes a basketball court, playing field and dog park. The design was completed by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC.
- Hired an Engineering Consultant to develop a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) for the Town of West Rutland. The overall objective is to provide the Town with a strategic approach for meeting stormwater management needs in the Clarendon River watershed, to address pressing water resource concerns in a cost-efficient and targeted manner.
- Is continuing to work with the Town of Proctor to develop a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP). The overall objective is to provide the Town with a strategic approach for meeting stormwater management needs in the Otter Creek watershed, to address pressing water resource concerns in a cost-efficient and targeted manner.
- Worked to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation throughout the District. These projects have been identified in Stormwater Master Plans or other assessments/reports.

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



Wastewater Balance - 6/30/23

Account

ASSETS

Sewer Fees Receivable	\$ 425,177
Unbilled Receivables	179,367
Accounts Receivable	5,550
Due/To Other Funds.....	535,686
Prepaid Expenses.....	6,300
Sewer Plant	1,521,825
Acc. Depreciation-Bldgs.....	(1,215,860)
SEWER PLANT UPGRADE	599,674
Accum. Dep. Sewer Lines	(335,660)
Sewer lines	2,834,600
Sewer Equipment	1,911,998
Acc. Depreciation-Equip	(954,174)
Construction in Progress	3,647,614
Total Assets	\$ 9,158,098

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable.....	\$ 12,516
Sewer Fee Credits	1,778
Accrued Vacation/Comp	7,461
USDA Bond - Pump Station	437,069
Bar Harbor Ban USDA BOND	3,293,938
2012 WW CWSRF RF1-159	2,158
SEWER IMPROV SERIES 4.....	328,359
CARVER REFI 2012 SERIES 5.....	13,156
CWSRF Park Street	476,016
Interest Payable - Bond.....	5,136
Sewer Posting Variance	340
CWSRF-Coll Sys Loan Payab	398,026
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,975,953

FUND BALANCE

Reserved Fund Balance	\$ 10,000
Retained Earnings	710,532
Contributed Capital.....	2,019,725
Contributed Capital.....	254,283
Contributed Capital.....	1,073,294
Fund Balance Current Year	114,311
Total Fund Balance.....	\$ 4,182,145
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 9,158,098

Wastewater Budget / Actual - FYE 6/30/23

Account	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Wastewater Revenues			
Sewer Fees - Revenues.....	\$391,000	\$412,711	105.55%
Sewer Base Fees	476,000	455,800	95.76%
Misc. Revenues	-	3,834	100.00 %
Sewer Permit Revenue	250	350	140.00%
Interest Revenue.....	25,000	24,661	98.64%
Transfers.....	-	162,368	100.00 %
Total Wastewater Revenues	\$ 892,250	\$1,059,723	
Wastewater Expenses			
Wages-Permanent Full Time	\$127,250	\$133,5894	104.98%
Overtime	5,000	2,716	54.32%
On Call hours	5,200	5,400	103.85%
Fica.....	8,775	8,026	91.46%
Medicare	2060	1,877	91.12%
Health Insurance	40,000	41,195	102.99 %
Life & Disability Ins.....	1,700	1,509	88.76%
DENTAL	3,540	3,016	85.20%
HRA WW	5,000	5,460	109.20 %
VMER	13,500	13,897	102.94%
Travel & Expenses.....	300	-	-
Clothing Allowance	1,000	689	67.88%
Dues & Subscriptions.....	600	545	90.83%
Continuing Education	500	160	32.00%
Professional Services.....	700	1,424	203.41%
Contractors.....	-	26,205	100.00%
Equipment Rental	-	600	100.00%
Licenses & Fees.....	2,500	2,250	90.00%
Legal Services	5,000	-	-
Auditors	2,500	2,000	80.00%
Testing.....	17,630	9,174	52.04%
Office Supplies	300	2,087	695.79%
Professional Supplies.....	2,500	3,089	123.57%
New Equipment-Misc Tools	5,000	11,180	223.59%
Safety Equipment.....	500	35	7.07%
Fuel - Vehicles	2,500	2,810	112.40%
Maintenance-Vehicles.....	3,000	1811	60.37 %
Wastewater Telephone	3,000	3,088	102.92%
LP Gas - Bldgs.....	15,000	11,503	76.69 %
Water	5,500	5,818	105.78 %
Electric	55,000	47,752	86.82 %
Maint. Supplies - Bldgs	1,000	36	3.60%
Outside Maint. - Bldgs.....	1,000	2,830	283.04%

Wastewater Budget / Actual cont.

Account	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Wastewater Expenses cont.			
Maint. Supplies - General	8,000	14,762	184.53%
Sodium Hypochlorite	24,515	19,714	80.42 %
Root-X	20,000	23,547	117.74%
Sodium Bisulfite.....	25,200	15,473	61.40%
Sodium Aluminate.....	36,960	18,650	50.46%
Sludge Disposal	75,600	78,750	104.17%
Trucking	19,000	23,496	123.66%
Outside Equip. - Pump St.	-	8,516	100.00%
Collection Systems	-	2,396	100.00%
Interest Exp - Short Term.....	-	39,413	100.00%
Administration Expense	30,000	30,000	100.00%
USDA Bond Champlain PS in.....	10,055	10,052	99.97%
USDA Bond-Champ. PS-Prin.....	12,915	-	-
USDA Bond Loan #8 Interes	560	389	69.48%
USDA Bond Loan#8 Prin	4085	-	-
USDA Bond Loan #9 Interes	12,330	9,738	78.98%
USDA Bond Loan #9 Prin	18,585	-	-
2012 WW CWSRF RF1-159	2,200	-	-
Park CWSRF RF1-214- Prin.....	21,125	-	-
Park CWSRF RF1-214 -Int.....	10,110	9,698	95.93%
Insurance Expenses	17,000	12,686	74.62%
Insurance Claim Ded.....	1,000	-	-
WW Unemployment.....	550	462	83.91%
WW Workers Comp.....	8,500	8,196	136.60%
USDA Short Lived Asset	90,000	90,000	100.00%
Depreciation.....	170,000	176,692	103.94%
Sewer Mapping	-	1020	100.00%
Total Wastewater Expenses	\$953,845	\$945,412	
Total 20 Sewer Fund	\$(61,595)	\$114,311	

New pump controller for influent pumps installed.

New control board and one new pump installed at Country Club Townhouses and Carver Street Pump Stations. Mission SCADA(SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION) installed at Brookdale, Carver, Country Club Townhouses, and Champlain Street and Industrial Park Pump Stations.

New hatch doors installed at Country Club Townhouses Pump Station.

Assistant Chief Operator assisted highway division in trucking, lawnmowing, water fountains, and storm drain treatment tanks inspection and cleaning.

- Stephen Cijka

As a friendly reminder the building owner is responsible for their sewer line from the cellar wall all the way and including the attachment to the town sewer line.

Wastewater Cash Flow

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 6/30/2023

	Wastewater Fund	Sewer Capital AC	COMBINED
Beginning Cash Equivalent.....	\$ 623,431	\$ 247,275	\$ 870,707
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS			
Operating Income (Loss) net of Interfund Transfers	\$ 41,943	\$ 7,468	\$ 49,411
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by Operation			
Depreciation.....	\$ 176,692	\$ -	\$ 176,692
Receivables	(241,075)	-	(241,075)
Prepaid Expenses.....	(6,300)	-	(6,300)
Payables	(13,094)	-	(13,094)
Sewer Credits	(2,123)	-	(2,123)
Accrued Expenses.....	4,764	-	4,764
Net Cash or Cash Equivalents Provided by			
(Used in) Operations	\$ (39,194)	\$ 7,468	\$ (31,726)
CASH FLOWS FROM NON CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Grant / Loan / Bond Revenue.....	\$3,341,875	\$ -	\$3,341,875
Interfund Transfers	72,368	(72,368)	-
Fund Balance Adjustments	-	-	-
Net Cash Flow from			
Non Capital Financing Activities.....	\$ 3,414,242	\$ (72,368)	\$3,341,875
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL & RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from Capital Debt.....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Contributions.....	-	-	-
Principal Payments on Debt	(58,963)	-	(58,963)
Acquisition of Capital Assets / Sale of Capital Assets	(3,403,830)	-	(3,403,830)
Related Financing Activities	(3,462,794)	-	(3,462,794)
Net Increase (Decrease) in			
Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ (87,745)	\$ (64,900)	\$ (152,645)
Cash Equivalents beginning	\$ 623,431	\$ 247,275	\$ 870,707
Cash Equivalents ending.....	\$ 535,686	\$ 182,375	\$ 718,062

Town of Brandon - Activity in Special Funds ~ 06/30/2023

	FUND 25	FUND 37	FUND 38	FUND 40	FUND 43	FUND 46	FUND 47	FUND 51	FUND 53	FUND 56	FUND 61	FUND 63	FUND 64	FUND 70	FUND 90
	ARPA Grant Funds	Revolving Loan Fund	Rutland County Land Trust Loan Fund	Sewer Projects	Trustees of Public Funds	AOT Grants / Route 7	Reappraisal Fund	GF Capital Reserve Fund	Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	Infrastructure Fund	Hilbreth Landon Fund	Town Farm Fund	Public Health and Opioid Funds	Local Options Tax Fund	BFD Water Fund
Bank Interest / Investment Revenue	8,410	286		585	(12,871)	-	397	52	823		0	1,684	23	1,309	
Local Options Tax Revenue		44,097					17,000							266,946	
Revolving Loan Repayments / Rev Per Parcel Payment / State of Vermont									6,645						
Capacity Fees					96,748										
Unrealized Gains (Losses)										465,293			10,393		
Fed/State Grant Revenue	558,508					27,068									
Opioid Settlement															
Local Grants															
Local Reimbursements															
Interfund Transfers	566,918	44,383	-	3,293,938	84,077	27,068	5,000	90,000	292,789						624,744
TOTAL REVENUES				3,294,524	84,077	27,068	22,397	97,488	758,082		0	1,684	10,416	268,255	624,744
Program / Direct Expenses		40,035						182,368		3,254					
Newton Rd Pump Station	118,650														
Merger of FD #1 and FD #2	125,000														
Arnold District Rd Culvert	83,854				7,264			48,592		370,116				634,232	
Investment Expenses/ Bank Charges															
New Equipment / Infrastructure															
Route 7 Segment 6						17,449									
Churchill Rd Bridge						8,910									
Park & Ride										11,932					
Champlain St Pump Station															
Newton Road										438,969					
Union Street Sidewalk						35,230									
Library CDBG Grant										24,343					
Culverts / Infrastructure										57,911					
Interfund Transfers	327,513	40,035	-	3,216,364	7,264	61,589	-	48,592	182,368	906,525	-	-	-	634,232	572,124
TOTAL EXPENSES															572,124
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE	239,406	4,348	-	78,159	76,813	(34,531)	22,397	(48,540)	(64,900)	(148,443)	0	1,684	10,416	(365,976)	52,620
BALANCE SHEET															
ASSETS															
Cash/Investments/CDs	896,162				850,601										
Due From/To(Cash Equivalent)	(208,538)	83,425		228,616		(41,741)	151,232	6,287	182,375	(280,567)	202	271,174	10,627	43,450	148,500
Loans / Grants Receivable		244,838	391,000							31,242					
Prepaid Expenses															
Receivables	687,625	328,263	391,000	228,616	850,601	(41,741)	151,232	6,287	182,375	1,132	202	18,690	10,627	43,450	301,811
TOTAL ASSETS															450,312
LIABILITIES															
Deferred Revenue		244,838	391,000												
Accounts Payable		35		150,457						6,388					148,501
Grant Anticipation Notes															
Water Credits															742
FUND BALANCE															
Fund Balance	448,219	79,042	-	76,159	773,788	(7,210)	128,835	54,828	247,275	(106,137)	202	17,007	211	409,426	248,449
Current Year Fund Balance	239,406	4,348	-		76,813	(34,531)	22,397	(48,540)	(64,900)	(148,443)	0	1,684	10,416	(365,976)	52,620
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE															450,312

Federal Grants Status Report

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards June 30, 2023

Grant Name	Federal Expenditures	Expenditures to Subrecipients
ARPA Grant.....	327,513	
Library Grant.....	24,342	24,342
Newton Rd Buyout.....	438,969	-
Churchill Rd Improvements.....	8,910	
Segment 6.....	6,040	
Union Sidewalk.....	28,184	
North St Bridge- BRIC.....	16,826	
NE Woodcraft Stormwater.....	17,421	
Local Hazard MP Grant.....	5,793	
WW Collection System SRF.....	3,216,364	
TOTAL.....	\$4,090,362	24,342



Appropriations

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, Brandon Toy Project;
- 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.

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$25,000

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. But even more important, it is the event that brings together our entire Brandon Community. This past summer we once again staged an enormously successful event, right in the middle of our beautiful downtown, and we are expecting the 2024 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 6, 2024 (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!
- With the soaring cost of fireworks, which have almost doubled since 2020, we are constantly exploring new funding avenues to offset this unexpected expense. The Duck Race has been very popular the last two years, and our first 50/50 raffle last year was a huge success. We plan to expand these even further in the future.

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$7,000

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 organizes and supports other entities with 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 give a \$500 prize award to an outstanding OVUHS student, help beautify the town and continue to support the parade and downtown fireworks display organized and staged by the Independence Day committee!

We continue to partner in the activities and operations of our wonderful museum, visitors center, and community meeting space. We also work on many tasks with the Brandon Rec department and the Town Hall group. This year we are happy to welcome the Downtown Brandon Alliance under the umbrella of the Chamber. The state of Vermont required these "downtown" organizations to do this to facilitate grant funding to the DBA and maintain compliance in regards to: 1) priority on grants 2) tax credits for our businesses. We look forward to continuing our great working relationship with the DBA folks.

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 with any questions or look us up on-line at 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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,000

BRANDON AREA RESCUE

I am writing this letter to request that Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Inc be included on the 2024 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 857 calls in 2022/2023. 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.

Anyone interested in volunteering to drive and/or provide patient care, we are in need more now than ever with the increased call volume. Do not hesitate to reach out. The more volunteers to cover calls, the less money we will need to request from the people of Brandon.

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$82,580

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.

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 Friends of the Library, donations from our patrons, grants, and apartment rents.

At the 2024 Town Meetings, our towns' voters will be asked to approve their town's appropriation for the Library. Without these essential appropriations, the BFPL could not sustain the volume of services that it currently offers.

After moving the entire library in April to a temporary space in the lower level of the Town Hall to accommodate ADA renovations at our 1830s building, we are 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, monthly book discussions, digital literacy classes taught by Librarian Carey Bunker, TCG programming run by Librarian Eric Drzewianowski (Pokémon, Magic the Gathering, D&D)

Children's/Teen's Services

- Books, dedicated teen area, DVDs, audio CDs, magazines, summer program every July/August, story hour on Thursdays, Teen Advisory Group, board games, and a safe space for kids after school

Outreach Services

- Tables at local events (Harvest Fest, Spooksville, Fairy Tale Festival)
- Personalized visits to homebound patrons

Building as a Resource

- The Library building (existing and temporary space) is used by a wide variety of community groups including school tutors, Farmer's Market, Republican/Democratic caucuses, Child Care Providers, homeschoolers, Pins & Needles crafting group, Brandon Publishing Club, Forget-Me-Not grief group, and more

Computer/Digital Services

- We offer 5 public laptop computers, 1 Chromebook, iPads, 3 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, Udemy, 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
- Free COVID tests

continued on page 48

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY cont.

Library of Things

- Snowshoes, moisture meter, projectors, backup power supply, sewing machine, serger, Cricut, board games, ukuleles, microphone, green screen set-up, lawn games

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

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 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. (Temporarily at 1 Conant Square) call or text. 802-247-8230 or brandonpubliclibrary.org

Thank you!!

Librarians: Molly Kennedy, Joni Osterhaut, Eric Drzewianowski, Eva Fillion, Carey Bunker

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$92,000

BRANDON SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, INC.

Another year zoomed by. Where does the time go?

We are fully opened for the meals; brunch, lunches and dinner. We are trying to function as a Senior Center prior to COVID, with folks coming inside instead of having curbside takeout.

Socialization, at this point, is of utmost importance to us. We try to encourage people to just stop in for a free cup of coffee and chat. Game days will begin the first of January with cards, board games, bingo, darts, jigsaw puzzles, or just reading a magazine in the corner with a beverage. We have added a free bookshelf outside the front door for everyone to come by and take a look. Once you take the book, we don’t want it back.

The Board of Directors continues to improve the building and gardens.

We have installed solar panels and continue to be “green” with recycling, composting and gardening. Our gardens produce the veggies used for our meals and we would welcome any help to maintain them.

The Toe Nail Clinic continues to be held the first Tuesday of every month and we have between ten and fifteen clients benefitting from this program. We continue with Bone Builders every Monday and Wednesday and have added Tai Chi every Thursday. All are welcome to these free classes. The Sick Lame and Lazy club (men’s coffee club) continued to meet every Thursday afternoon.

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 and help each other.

Thank you, Brandon

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$15,500

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 9/30/2022 through 10/1/2023.

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide 7,244 meals that were delivered to the homes of 52 older Brandon residents in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 52 older Brandon residents came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 670 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 39.75 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals to 30 residents of Brandon.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 49 older residents in your community for a total of 580 hours. Case managers meet with an older Brandon resident privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assess the resident's individual situation. They worked with the resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the resident desired, the case manager linked the client to appropriate services, coordinated and monitored services as necessary, and provided information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older Vermonters connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to older Brandon residents facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$2,900

ARC • ADVOCACY, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY

ARC Rutland Area (Advocacy, Resources and Community) Executive Director, Staff and Board of Directors appeal to the Town of Brandon to be placed on your March 2024 ballot for funding.

ARC Rutland Area's primary mission is to support community inclusion and social opportunities for local citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities. This mission is supported by facilitating two internal local clubs, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE-R) and the Aktion Clubs; by holding social events including five themed dances; the Great Outdoor Initiative providing outdoor activities with local partners; Representative Payee Services (for those who cannot manage their own funds); attending state and local meetings to keep informed of issues that affect the population we serve. With a generous grant from Marble Valley Regional Transportation, ARC is able to provide transportation for our members to attend these events, as well as the educational and recreational activities.

ARC employs one full-time and one part-time staff member. The office and programming are supported by volunteers and guided by a volunteer Board of Directors. We do not receive State or Federal funding to accomplish our programming. We rely on the support of Rutland County, along with grants and fundraisers to support our services.

Our mission statement continues as strongly now as it has for past 65 Years. Typically, over 1,000 individuals in Rutland County take advantage of our services annually.

ARC Rutland Area is submitting its annual request to the Town of Brandon for \$4,000.00. Thank you for your continued support. If you or anyone has questions or comments, please call us at 802-775-1370.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Drake
Executive Director

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$4,000

OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$1,000 from the Town of Brandon for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2024 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 1/1/23-12/1/23, the clinic has provided 1,626 medical and dental visits to 1,162 distinct patients, including 360 new patients! We have served 18 Brandon residents, providing 11 medical visits, 5 dental visits and 7 case management services. In addition, 12 Brandon residents received help from our health insurance navigator, learning about options available to them through Vermont Health Connect.

Outreach and Services: To date, our time in the field providing outreach services has resulted in health screenings, medical visits and vaccines being offered to 38 farms and orchards throughout the county. In addition, we continue to offer 7-10 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. We have also launched an innovative wellness program and provide limited mental counseling through bilingual providers.

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: To date, our incredibly knowledgeable insurance navigator has helped more than 241 individuals learn about health insurance plans and has enrolled 181 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, 12.31.2022

Total Income: \$749,816

Federal Taxes/Grants:	16.40%
State Taxes/Grants:	26.00%
Municipal Taxes:	2.08%
Patient Donations:	0.08%
Fundraising:	26.90%
Grants/Foundations/UWAC	26.80%
Other	1.70%
Total	99.96%

Total Operating Expense: \$528,420

Fundraising/Marketing:	0.6%
Facilities:	2.5%
Salaries:	* 82.1%
Office/Admin:	2.6%
Programs/Clinic:	10.5%
Professional Fees/Other:	1.7%
Total	100%

*72% 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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,000

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 15,188 items were distributed through RSVP Operation Dolls & More to 37 partner agencies and an estimated 1,200 children. We also partner with AARP to help provide free in-

RSVP & THE VOLUNTEER CENTER continued.

come tax return services to low-income residents of Rutland County.

Locally, RSVP & The Volunteer Center is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland and Addison Counties with 557 volunteers. From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, RSVP/VC volunteers provided 92,293 hours of community service. Based on the Independent Sector National Value of a volunteer hour, this equates to \$2,934,917 in service to the community.

Services Provided to Brandon Residents

In FY'23, 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 6309.5 hours of service to the community in FY'23.

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 802-468-7056.

Sincerely,
Maryesa White
RSVP Director

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$550

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 2022.

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 61 animals from the Town of Brandon from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023.

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.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,500

VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION

To the Officers and Citizens of Brandon:

In 2022, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Brandon residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From children with more intensive medical needs to seniors who wish to remain independent at home and those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring quality health care wherever it is needed, regardless of the location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking federal and state reimbursements, along with rising healthcare costs, the VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services to Brandon's most vulnerable individuals. Last year VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 127,393

home visits to 3,043 patients. In Brandon, we provided 7,477 visits to 165 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.

Sincerely,
Sara C. King, CEO
VNA & Hospice of the
Southwest Region
Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$10,200

THE BRANDON MUSEUM

Now in its thirteenth year, the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace continues to provide an array of offerings and services to town citizens, as well as to a wider visiting and/or inquiring public. Experiencing the museum's exhibits and displays first hand offers an excellent introduction to Brandon's remarkable history. Museum guests can continue to learn about Stephen A. Douglas, while also being introduced to the role Brandon citizens played in the abolition movement and the Civil War, as well as our crucially important industrial history...to name but several of the subjects covered.

The museum's eight-member board is exceptionally proud of our new Thomas Davenport exhibit consisting of a series of large, information-packed, color panels honoring his significant contributions to the invention of the electric motor. Joining these panels are objects such as an exact replica of the Davenport electric motor. As noted in a previous report, we received vital assistance in developing the Davenport exhibit from the Vermont Humanities Council and the Walter Cerf Foundation, as well as from UVM faculty and private donations. Our newly upgraded computer equipment has allowed us to better respond to assistance requests from near and far.

Powered by a team of dedicated volunteers and a part-time steward, the museum is open May through October, Thursday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Along with drop-in visitors, we also warmly welcome school classes. Moreover, we recently presented members of the Vermont Model T Club and the Sierra Club (to name just two examples) special talks about the area's natural history, Stephen Douglas, and Thomas Davenport. We also played an important role in this year's Davenport Electric Festival, showcasing the new Thomas Davenport exhibit, a team from the museum proudly marched in the Independence Day

parade, and the museum joined forces with faculty and students from Castleton University to present a highly successful "Artifacts Roadshow."

The Douglas House also houses the Brandon Welcome Center in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. The Welcome Center provides guests with a full body of information on local and area attractions and businesses. As well, the museum has a large conference room available free of charge by reservation, along with one of the few public restrooms in Brandon.

As noted, a variety of grants have been greatly helpful in exhibit development and crucial technology improvements. Yet, our basic operating costs such as heating and cooling, electric, telecommunications, security, etc. are always pressing, as are the continuing needs of a building over two centuries old. The need for repairs to our slate roof, for example, is ongoing.

In addition, the museum board is exploring programs, activities, and exhibits such as a Crown Point Road weekend event, a second "Artifacts Roadshow," and a town cemetery 3D archive project conducted jointly with Castleton University faculty and students. We are also discussing displays on the Ayrshire Breeders Association and the lime kilns of Brandon. Ways in which we hope to serve the broader community include creating improved educational space in the conference room, designing several summer youth day programs, and setting up archival display windows.

Thus, for 2024 we request that the Town of Brandon allocate \$5,000 to the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace. Your generous support is key to our mission of protecting and sharing Brandon's history. If there are any questions please contact us at (802) 247-2844 or email info@brandonmuseum.org.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$5,000

CHARTER HOUSE COALITION PROGRAM

Charter House Coalition (CHC) has provided a consistent resource for neighbors in need since 2005. Our emergency shelter is open year-round with onsite staff 24/day. In addition to our 25-cot temporary shelter, we offer a nightly warming shelter serving 5-7 individuals, night by night, first come first served basis. CHC provided more than 8,200 bed nights to persons in need between 7/1/22 through 6/30/23. We expect this number to continue to increase as we build capacity and provide a safe haven between homelessness and affordable, stable housing.

More than 23,000 meals are provided annually through our meal program. Two meals per day are available to all community members. Our social services meet the needs of individuals and families throughout Addison County as we help to identify and overcome barriers that may secure affordable housing and other services that better lives. Our community outreach program includes street outreach that covers all of Addison County. Outreach staff work 1:1, providing supplemental provisions such as food, warming kits, medical referrals, financial aid to those at risk of losing their housing and help with housing search for those living unsheltered or in their vehicles. Each interaction is a genuine

human connection that encourages people to advocate for their needs and to feel confident in asking for assistance. We have provided case management and referral services to approximately 590 adults and children in Addison County. More than 530 of these individuals were or are residents of Addison County.

Charter House programs and operations are supported by private community donations, service organizations, local churches, financial grants from philanthropic organizations and through the Housing Opportunity Grant administered by State of Vermont's Office of Economic Opportunity. Middlebury College students, faculty, and community volunteers make our programs possible.

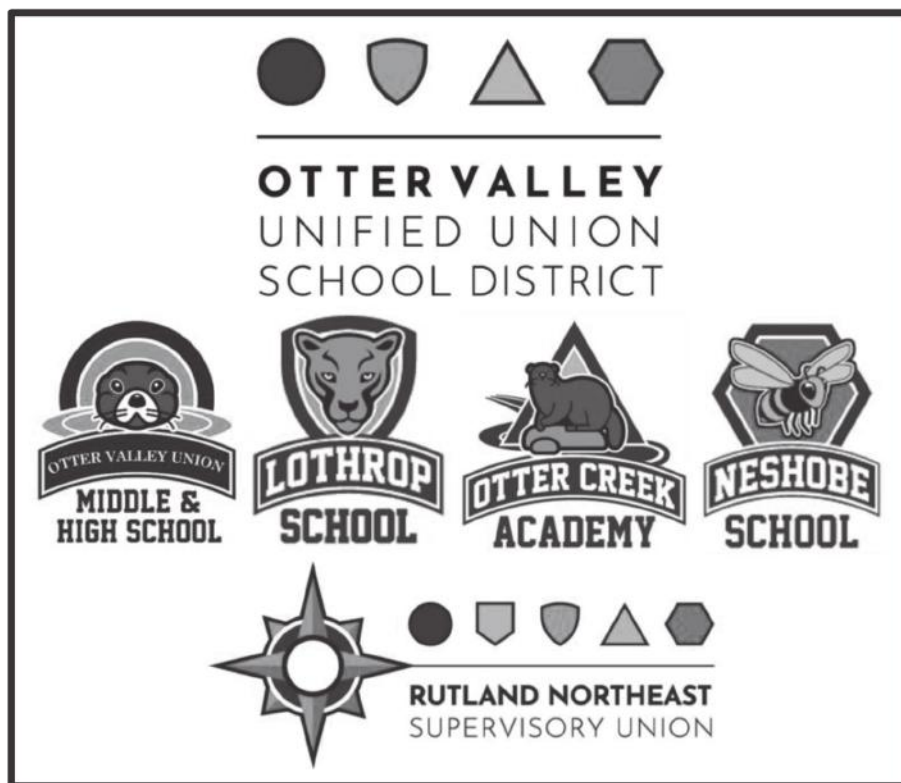
We are proud to partner with the following agencies and businesses; Addison County Housing Works, Addison County Restorative Justice, Atria Collective, CSAC, CVOEO, HOPE, John Graham Housing Services, Middlebury College, Middlebury Police and Fire Departments, MREMS, Open Door Clinic, Parent Child Center of Addison County, Porter Hospital, Turning Point of Addison County, United Way of Addison County, VT Agency of Human Services and VT Dept of Health and Vermont Food Bank.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$3,000

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, February 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Auditorium at Otter Valley Union High School



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

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

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

1.2 Communication

- a. Students communicate effectively using oral, written and nonverbal (body language) strategies.
- b. Students communicate through a variety of media and create a positive digital footprint.
- c. 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
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT
January 2024

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

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



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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
RNESU Board Chair



OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT
JANUARY 2024



Happy New Year!

COVID still haunts us. We are still seeing the impact of the pandemic on our kids' academics and their social and emotional well-being. Our administration, teachers and staff are doing everything possible to keep the learning going in our classrooms and schools. Now we find ourselves on the edge of the ESSER Cliff that is making for some hard decisions. As many of you know, ESSER were funds from the Federal Government to help us work thru the pandemic by allowing us to hire more staff to help our students who had fallen behind academically and to help with their social and emotional health as we navigated a return to our new “normal”. These positions were temporary as the funding only lasted for three years. We are currently in that final year. We have had to make decisions about which positions we felt were necessary to keep in our local budgets that had previously been paid with federal funding (ESSER).



Not only did we have to make those hard decisions, but new legislation from the State of Vermont in the form of Act 127 also challenged those decisions. Starting with the 2024-2025 budget, Act 127 states that if we kept our per pupil spending below a 10% increase, (what they are calling guardrails), then our communities would only see an increase of 5% on our tax rate. Also, if we stayed within the guardrails this year, we could continue to use this method for the next 4 years. This all sounds like great news right? However, there is one piece of the puzzle that is out of our control. That is the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) in each of our towns. Home sales have been much higher in all of our towns than what is reflected in the grand lists. Therefore, the CLA in all of our towns has dropped significantly this year. This means that although we are capped at a 5% increase in the school tax rate, the CLA will adjust that tax rate for each town. Unfortunately, the School Board does not have any control over the CLA. However, due to the drops in each of our member towns, each town will be seeing a significant jump in their tax bill.



The Board has been looking down the road 5 to 10 years and have renewed their vision of the possibility of a middle school model and how that might look in our schools. Currently, a middle school model encompasses grades 6 thru 8. To have the most effect, all 3 of those grades should be in the same spot. The Board will be looking at how we might add on to Otter Valley to accommodate that vision. We are just starting this endeavor, so feel free to let us know what you think.





While I am on that topic, the Board has been discussing ways to engage the community. We realize that we need to start coming to the people and wonder how we might be able to do that. If you have any suggestions, we would love to hear them. We want to work together for the success of all of our students.

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 last thing I would like to do is say thank you to Rebecca Watters and Greg Bernhardt who have been outstanding board members, as they will not be seeking re-election this year. They will certainly be missed.

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 Reach Out! button on any school website. We look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
OVUU Board Chair



School District Structure

Barstow Unified Union School District and Otter Valley Unified Union School District operate in a side by side unified system under the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union. RNEsu is the umbrella providing common services for both Districts including PreK-8 curriculum, assessments, special education, transportation, food service, after school programs and contract negotiations.

All three school boards operate under Policy Governance®, a governing model based on a board approved set of policies providing role clarity between board governance and administrative management, accountability, oversight and strategic planning. To learn more, visit *School Boards* on the RNEsu website at <https://www.rnesu.org>.

2023-2024 **School Boards**

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union
Reps to the RNEsu Board are elected by the District Boards

BUUSD – 3 Reps Ethan Bodin (2024) Susannah Loffredo (2024) Jessica Quesnel (2025)	OVUUSD – 3 Reps Laurie Bertrand (2025) – Chair Barbara Ebling (2025) – Clerk Rebecca Watters (2024)
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Board Meetings: Third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM at the OVUHS Library.

<p><u>Barstow Unified Union School District</u></p> <p>District Moderator – Deborah Singiser (2023) District Clerk – Jessica Norton (2023) District Treasurer – Sara Tully (2023) <i>(Elected at the Annual Meeting.)</i></p> <p><u>School Board of Directors</u></p> <p>Chittenden – 2 Reps Ethan Bodin (2024) – Clerk Robin Crossman (2025)</p> <p>Mendon – 1 Rep Jessica Quesnel (2025) – Chair</p> <p>At – Large Member – 2 Rep Susannah Loffredo (Mendon) (2024) Tony Roberts (Chittenden)^ (2026)</p> <p><i>Board Meetings: Third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Barstow Memorial School Library</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"><p style="text-align: center;"><i>School board meetings are open to the public. Meeting information, including a link to participate remotely, can be found online at https://www.rnesu.org/page/district-information-school-boards</i></p></div>	<p><u>Otter Valley Unified Union School District</u></p> <p>District Moderator – Doug Bailey (2023) District Clerk – Charlene Bryant (2023) District Treasurer – William Dick (2023) <i>(Elected at the Annual Meeting.)</i></p> <p><u>School Board of Directors</u></p> <p>Brandon – 3 Reps Pajua Gamba^ (2025) Natalie Steen (2024) Kevin Thornton (2026)</p> <p>Goshen – 1 Rep M.Fernanda Canales (2024)</p> <p>Leicester – 1 Rep Jeremy Gildrien^ (2026)</p> <p>Pittsford – 2 Reps Brooklyn Markowski^ (2024) Brett Mullin (2025)</p> <p>Sudbury – 1 Rep Laurie Bertrand (2025) – Chair</p> <p>Whiting – 1 Rep Rebecca Watters (2024)</p> <p>At – Large Members – 4 Reps Greg Bernhardt (Leicester) (2024) Barbara Ebling (Brandon) (2025) – Clerk Paul Lathrop (Pittsford) (2026) Brent Scarborough (Brandon) (2026)</p> <p><i>Board Meetings: First and third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the OVUHS Library.</i></p>
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All school board of director seats are three year terms.

^ Appointed in 2023. Appointed board members will need to run and be elected to complete the term.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alexis Blake
Director of Technology
ablake@rnesu.org

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

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

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



**RUTLAND NORTHEAST
SUPERVISORY UNION**

49 Court Drive, Brandon, Vermont 05733
802.247.5757
www.mesu.org

Kristin Hubert, EdD
Superintendent of Schools
khubert@mesu.org

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

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



In partnership,
Kristin Hubert, Superintendent
RNEsu



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



Alexis Blake
Director of Technology
ablake@mesu.org

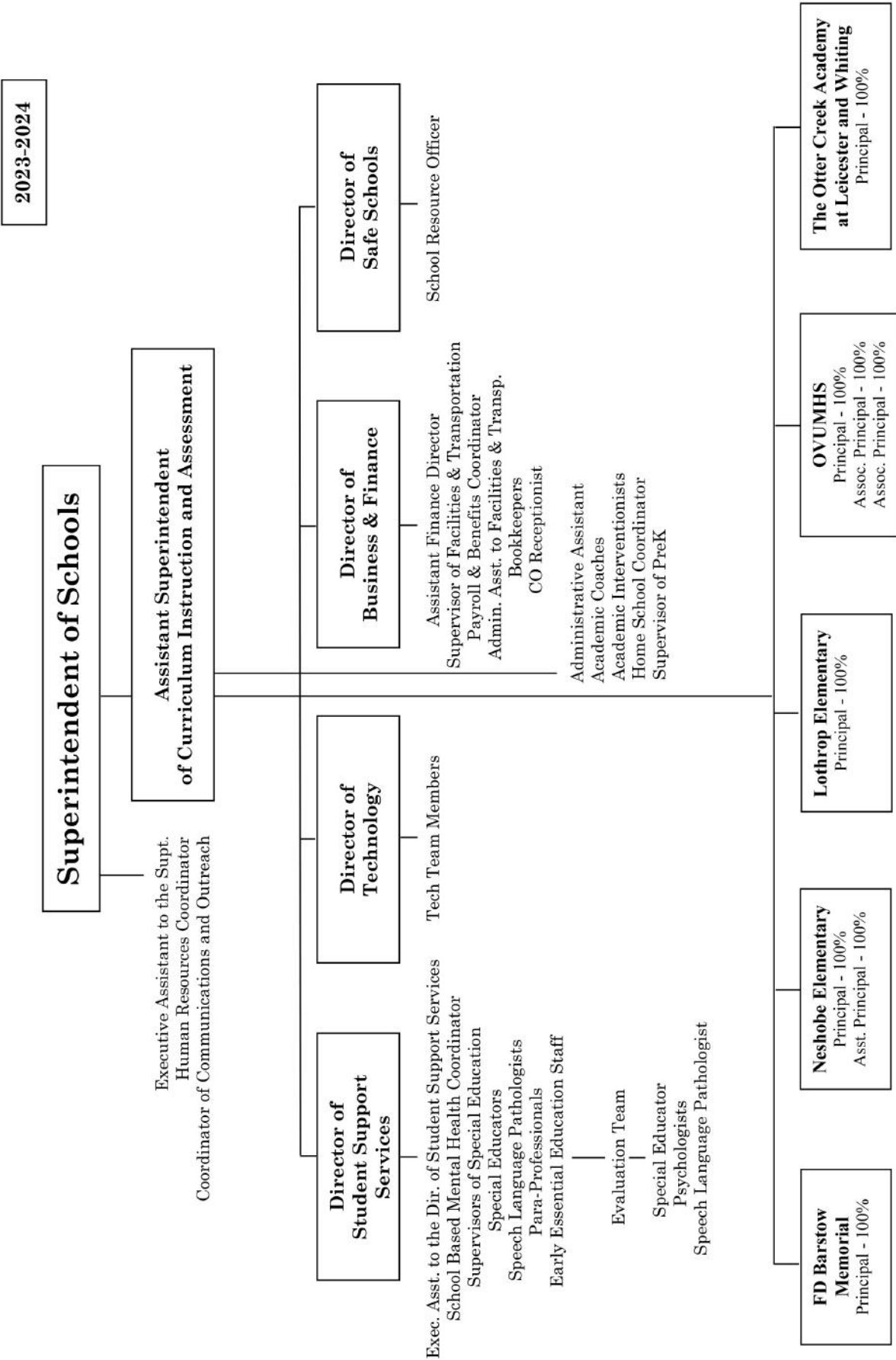


Marsha F. Bruce
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Brenda L. Fleming
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Tyler Weideman
Dir. of Safe Schools
tweideman@mesu.org

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2023-2024
RNESU Administrators

Kristin Hubert
Superintendent of Schools

Debbie Alexander
Asst. Supt. of Curriculum,
Instruction and Assessment

Marsha Bruce
Dir. of Student Support Services

Alexis Blake
Dir. of Technology

Brenda Fleming
Dir. of Business & Finance

Tyler Weideman
Dir. of Safe Schools

School and Program Principals

Bob Myers
FD Barstow Memorial School
Principal

Vicki Wells
Neshobe Elementary School
Principal

Michael Ruppel
Otter Valley Union
Middle/High School
Principal

Brian Crane
Otter Creek Academy
Principal

Jacqueline Pike
Neshobe Elementary School
Assistant Principal

Patrick Binder
Otter Valley Union
Middle/High School
Associate Principal

Stacey Farrington
Lothrop Elementary School
Interim Principal

Joel Jones
Otter Valley Union
Middle/High School
Associate Principal

Central Office Personnel

Yvonne Booska
Medicaid Clerk

Pam Reed
Bookkeeper/Admin. Asst. to
Facilities and Transportation

Joanie Wisdahl
MTSS Coach

Max Burman
Coordinator of Communications
& Outreach

Beth Ripley
Exec. Asst. to Dir. of Student
Support Services

Special Services Personnel
Alisa Breau
Speech Language Pathologist

Sarah Crossmon
Supervisor of PreK

Rich Vigue
Transportation & Facilities
Coordinator

Levi de Castro
School Psychologist

Brooke Dahlin
Human Resources Coordinator

IT Personnel
Colby Case
Network Administrator

Kristine Evarts
Supervisor of Secondary Special Edu.

Kayla Emerson
Receptionist/Secretary/
Bookkeeper

Whitney Christie
Systems Administrator

Sara Gregory
Supervisor of Elem. Special Edu.

Laura Jakubowski
Asst. Finance Director

Leah Gannon
Network Administrator

Aili Jones
School Psychologist

Taylor Lanpher
School Based Mental Health Coord.

Dan Schmitz
Technology Specialist

Katherine Milliman
School Psychologist

Jess Morse-Davis
Admin. Asst. to Asst. Supt.

Academic Coaches
Susan Hennessey
Instructional Coach

Emme O'Rourke
Early Essential Education
Speech Language Pathologist

Pam Parker
Bookkeeper & Payroll Clerk

Laura King
Instructional Coach

Susan Smiel
Early Essential Edu. Teacher

Barbara Phillips
Payroll & Benefits Coordinator

Susannah White
Equity Engagement Coach

Nathan Traynor
Teacher – Special Services

Melinda Piper
Exec. Asst. to Superintendent

Michael Wood
School Psychologist



3447 US Rt. 7
 Pittsford, Vermont 05733
 Phone: 802.483.2242
<https://lothrop.rnesu.org/o/les>

School Climate:

At Lothrop, we are safe, kind, responsible, and ready to learn. Lothrop’s Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are fully implemented. The students fill our Paw Bank by being safe, kind, responsible, and ready to learn. When the Paw Bank is full, we have a school-wide celebration. At Lothrop we teach



and acknowledge school-wide expectations. Lothrop continues to use Restorative Practices and is a Trauma Sensitive School.

Student Enrollment	
<i>K – 6th Grade</i>	
2023-2024	167
2022-2023	160
2021-2022	165
<i>PreK</i>	
2023-2024	22
Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility	
Qualifying	41%

Fun Fact!

29% of Lothrop’s faculty and staff are alumni!

Lothrop Learning:

- At Caverly Pre-K, the dramatic play space is currently the ‘Caverly Bear Cave’ and students have had loads of fun dressing up as bears and getting cozy in the cave for a “long winter’s nap”. Students have touched briefly on the topic of hibernation, adaptation, and migration, and will continue to explore Animals in Winter.
- Kindergarten is reading about Frits’ fishing adventures with worms and fishing poles and waiting (sometimes for a long time!) to get a bite. We also read an informational story about animals that live in ponds.
- First grade invites Mystery Readers into the classroom. A Mystery Reader is a family member who is scheduled as a surprise reader for our class. Readers are asked to bring 1-3 favorite books to read aloud to the class. Mystery Readers visit us on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. each week for twenty minutes.



- Second grade goes on hikes every other week on Friday afternoons. In the classroom, students will be writing fictional stories including adding detail and developing the characters in their stories.
- Third grade is learning about the lives of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. In addition, students will be reading from the biographies they have chosen for their first book report of third grade.



- Fourth grade is working on division, remainders, and fractions. In Science/ Social Studies, they are studying animal adaptations and classification.
- 5th grade built a circuit that transfers the energy stored in the battery to power a light bulb and will be modeling wave properties. Students have been presenting book reports which has been a good opportunity to practice public speaking.

- 6th grade is gathering background information on the Great Depression to better understand the setting and problems that faced the Okies in the Book Children of the Dust Bowl by Jerry Stanley. Sixth graders also interviewed fifth graders to learn a little more about someone new and to find commonalities and appreciate differences.

Fun Fact!
Lothrop classes have walked 190.75 miles so far this year.

Community Partnerships/Celebrations



Lothrop Video

- Lothrop is extremely fortunate to have an outstanding Parent-Teacher Organization.
- Vermont State University Hockey Team visited in December.
- Pittsford Reads created by Maclure Library and funded by Omya, in which a community member reads to students at Lothrop
- Pet Partners in the Library
- School-wide assemblies on Fridays
- Lothrop is a current recipient of a CLiF Grant, which provides free books to the library



- PBIS School-wide Celebrations & Panther Palooza
- Singing at Town of Pittsford Veterans Day Ceremony, Village Farm Sap Bucket Lighting, and Vermont Holiday Festival in Killington
- Singing the National Anthem at the Spartan Arena



Exciting Upcoming Community Events

- The First Annual Talent Show sponsored by PTO on January 26, 2024
- 1st & 2nd Grade Concert on February 8, 2024
- 6th Grade Transition Day with all RNESU 6th grade classes on February 9, 2024
- 3rd & 4th graders will be presenting, *James and the Giant Peach*, on April 4, 2024 at the Brandon Town Hall
- Golden Dome Book Award Author visit at OV on April 25, 2024
- Band & Chorus Concert on May 2, 2024
- Kindergarten Concert on May 16, 2024
- 5th & 6th Grade Trip to Boston on May 31, 2024



Buildings & Grounds

Our facilities team and outside contractors continue to do necessary repairs to the school, scheduled painting and remodeling of older areas. Carpets have been removed throughout the school and replaced with hardwood and tile flooring. The outdoor classroom was completed, and the 1st and 2nd grade concert was held there in the spring. The PTO has purchased two picnic tables for Lothrop that will be utilized this spring.



It is my privilege to serve as Lothrop's Interim Principal.

With gratitude and respect,
Stacey Farrington

Lothrop Interim Principal





17 Neshobe Circle
 Brandon, Vermont 05733
 Phone: 802.247.6833
<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.



Student Enrollment	
<i>K – 6th Grade</i>	
2023-2024	369
2022-2023	377
2021-2022	362
<i>PreK</i>	
2023-2024	60
Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility	
Qualifying	52%

Facilities Update

- The Modular unit installed last school year is up and running! The unit is being used for Spanish, Intervention, Special Education and meetings.
- Cameras have been installed on the exterior of our buildings along with many on the interior as well.
- The outside door and door frame located in the primary wing of the main building has been replaced.
- In process of replacing a circulator pump for our heating system.
- Masonry work on the front of the brick building to repair fallen bricks.

School Specific Initiatives/Events

- Kindness Matters at Neshobe School is the framework for our expectations of We are Kind, We are Safe, and We Are Responsible.
- Development of a Student Council with classroom representatives from grades 4 – 6.
 - Members of the student council have worked collaboratively to teach about and embody each monthly characteristic (kindness, compassion, resilience, etc.).



- Members of the Student Council help organize monthly all-school meetings and are key presenters at those meetings.
- The student council presented to the school board in early December.
- As part of Kindness month, all families were invited to spend some time in their student's classroom working on a Kindness activity.
- Neshobe now has a large Calm Space available for students when they need to take a break, calm their bodies, or just a quiet space to work for a short period of time.
- 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.
- We have moved to a more proactive response system where members of our behavior team are assigned to different grade levels, spend preventative time in classrooms, and problem solve with students and staff.
- Increased behavioral data collection which provides information
- This year we have been able to increase the use of Restorative Practices
- Implementation of a social-emotional curriculum including morning meetings each day
- Our guidance counselor provides individual and small group support to students and teaches social-emotional development in each classroom.
- School-based Rutland Mental Health (RMH) case manager supports students and families open to Rutland Mental Health Services.

Fun Fact!
We have chickens!
Visit the Neshobe website to learn more about our Chicken Project.



- 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.
- 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.
- Each 6th 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 and held their first very successful Bingo afternoon in the fall.
- 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 remains a pleasure to be part of the Neshobe Elementary School community. The staff, students and families have are welcoming and the spirit of kindness here truly shines.

Respectfully,

Vicki Wells, Neshobe Principal



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



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



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



Community/History:

The Otter Creek Academy is a preschool-to-grade-6 school with two campuses serving the residents of the towns of Leicester, Sudbury, and Whiting. We consider ourselves as three towns forming one community. The Whiting school houses a crucial childcare partner and preschool collaboration for children from infancy through age 4. The Leicester campus caters to students from Kindergarten through grade 6.

Student Enrollment	
K – 6 th Grade	
2023-2024	78
2022-2023	80
2021-2022	82
PreK	
2023-2024	24

Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility	
Qualifying	62%

Fun Fact!

Eight new students have joined OCA since the Oct. 1st Enrollment count noted to the right.

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union goals encompass providing academic and emotional support to enhance student achievement, consistently implementing instructional practices to meet the needs of all

students, and teaching literacy across the curriculum with the expectation that all students will read on grade level by the end of grade 2.

While our two campuses are driven by these goals, our commitment extends beyond. We also strive to create a joyful yet rigorous learning environment for all students. This environment aims to foster the development of their character, competence, creativity, and sense of community.

Facilities Update:

Our facilities continue to improve as we work on organizing our space and make necessary enhancements. For example, we were able to pave the back parking lot, repair stucco, and reestablish the appropriate depth of wood chips on our playground.

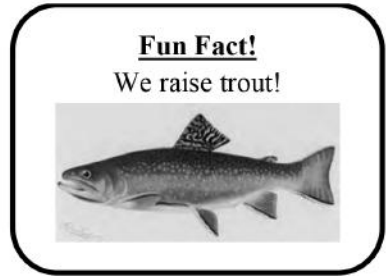


Additionally, we resolved our water problem that occurred over the summer, and the boil water notice was lifted. We persist in enhancing our outdoor spaces in line with our nature-based theme. An indicator of our success has been the increase in enrollment. While this is good news, it has presented us with some challenges regarding space. The modular solution helped, but it did not address all the issues. We are diligently working to brainstorm solutions and plan for the future.



School-Specific Initiatives:

Expeditionary Learning, or project-based learning, remains a fundamental aspect of Otter Creek Academy. Our units are interdisciplinary, seamlessly integrating new knowledge across reading, math, science, social science, physical education, and the fine arts. A notable example is our school-wide 'Trout in the Classroom' project, where from January through May, we nurture brook trout, culminating in a school-wide release in May.



In furtherance of our nature-based programming, we've initiated the Four Winds nature program—a volunteer initiative bringing diverse nature lessons to the classroom. Additionally, we've expanded our offerings with the inclusion of Lego robotics at OCA. Students can now engage in building and programming using WEDO Lego kits to tackle various tasks and challenges. It proves to be both captivating and enriching!



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>

School Climate:



Otter Valley Union Middle and High School serves just over 500 students in Grades 7-12. Students at OV come from the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting, with several students joining from other towns through Vermont’s school choice programs. OV is known across the region for several outstanding co-curricular programs that promote a positive climate, especially our Walking Stick Theater Program, our Moosalamoo Outdoor Education

Program, and our music program. Students at Otter Valley also participate in a

variety of athletics programs, competing as a

member of the Vermont Principals’ Association. In

addition to common athletics programs, Otters can participate in lacrosse, rock climbing, nordic skiing, and wrestling. Finally, all students at Otter Valley have access to an advisory teacher and “crew” that supports them through their time at Otter Valley.

Student Enrollment

7th – 12th Grade

2023-2024	501
2022-2023	534
2021-2022	542

Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility

Qualifying 52%

Fun Fact!

Otter Valley is one of three schools in the country with “Otters” as a mascot.

Student Learning and Celebration:

Otter Valley provides a combination of a high-quality college preparatory curriculum



pathways that help all learners prepare for life after high school. In the middle school, core instruction in English Language Arts (ELA), Social Studies, Science, and Math is enhanced with access to courses in business & computing, Spanish, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), art, music, and design & technology. High school learners receive instruction in ELA, Social Studies, Science, and Math, with the ability to take college-level courses in the areas of Biology, Literature, Calculus, and World History within the walls of Otter Valley. OV students are also encouraged to take dual enrollment courses in-person or online through the Community College of Vermont (CCV) and Vermont State University (VSU).



 OV Videos

OV continues to be a regional innovator in flexible pathways programs. Students are able to enroll in a training program at both Stafford (Rutland) and Hannaford (Middlebury) Career Centers. As noted, we also have our unique Moosalamoo Outdoor Education Program, which provides students with opportunities to learn outdoor survival skills, build community, and better understand the biology, sociology, and culture of the Vermont Valley. Other flexible pathways include our Foothills alternative program, work-based learning, and elective coursework in a variety of learning areas. Finally, we are excited to launch the Career Preparation Pathway, which will engage students in a cohort model exploring and preparing for high-paying jobs in Vermont.



Community Engagement:

Otter Valley is fortunate to have partnerships with several businesses and organizations in the surrounding towns. Students in our work-based learning programs are employed at several area businesses that support our students in growing our skills. We also have active community groups that support our students, including Friends of Otter Valley Music, the Otter Valley Athletic Association, and the Otter Valley Football Club. We work with HireAbility to help our students transition from high school to employment. Additionally, we welcome guests in from the community from time to time to enhance our learning process. This year, we were fortunate to have Judy Dow, Abenaki artist and educator, partner with two of our eighth grade teachers to support a unit on identity and heritage.

Fun Fact!

The central part of the Otter Valley building is a square that runs along cardinal directions (in other words, it runs perfectly along latitude and longitude lines).

Buildings and Grounds:

The Otter Valley campus is one that supports academic learning, extracurricular activities, and a vibrant local ecosystem. Our campus includes all of our athletic fields, including Markowski Field behind the Otter Valley building. Our building hosts the “House of Noise,” our one-of-a-kind gymnasium that creates one of the best environments in the state for high school basketball and wrestling.

We are most proud of our Hawk Hill property to the immediate west of the main campus, which includes several acres of public access trails, wetlands, rolling hills, and an outdoor learning space. This property is used for recreation and study for several Otter Valley programs.

Regards,



Michael Ruppel,
Principal



Patrick Binde
Associate
Principal



Joel Jones,
Associate
Principal

**OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEGAL NOTICES**

OVUU and RNESU School Boards - The school boards welcome your input on all issues. The OVUU school board meetings are held on first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The RNESU School Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM prior to the OVUU meetings. All meetings take place at the OV Library, with a virtual participation option available, unless otherwise noted. Log in/ dial in information can be found on the calendar at 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.

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.

Services for Children with Disabilities

RNESU is required by federal laws IDEA-B (formerly EHA-B), 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.

ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS

If you know of any individual residing in the towns of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury or Whiting who you suspect of having such needs, but who is not currently receiving them, please contact the Director of Student Support Services, Marsha Bruce, at (802) 247-5757 or the school principal for your town.

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 or by calling the business office at (802) 247-5757.

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 2022-2023 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	0%
Otter Valley Union Middle/High School	0%
Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union	0%

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.

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.

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.

VTCAP 2022-2023 Results

ELA

Math

Percent of students who scored proficient or above

Grade	#Tested	OVUU	VT	Grade	#Tested	OVUU	VT
3rd	102	35%	49%	3rd	102	26%	37%

4th	70	50%	57%		4th	70	26%	35%
5th	85	49%	50%		5th	85	45%	38%
6th	79	41%	55%		6th	80	38%	53%
7th	78	37%	57%		7th	79	18%	47%
8th	67	36%	56%		8th	65	6%	35%
9th	85	29%	43%		9th	79	11%	33%

Science

Grade	#Tested	OVUU	VT
5th	85	34%	45%
8th	64	19%	40%
11th	55	29%	45%



**OVUHS
Graduation Requirements**

In order to graduate, students must earn a minimum of the following:

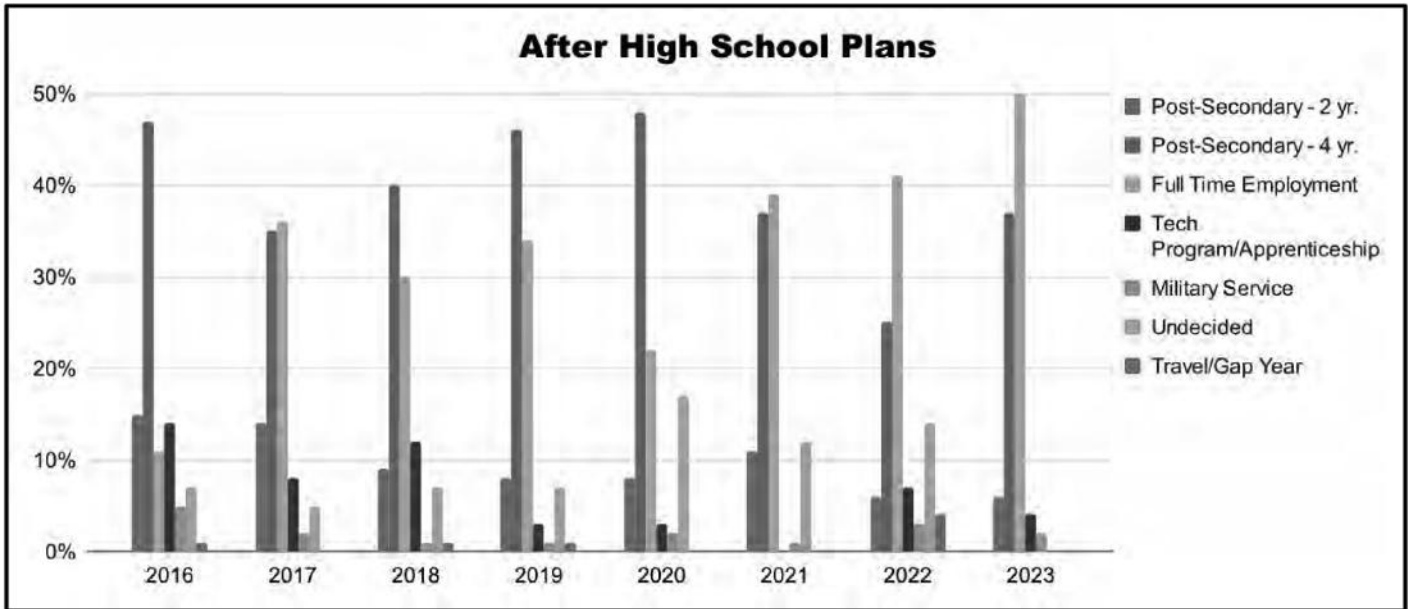
- English 5.0
- Social Studies 4.0
- Math 3.0
- Science 3.0
- Physical Education 1.5
- FACS/Health 1.0
- Fine Arts 2.0
- Personal Finance 0.5
- Electives 7.0
- TOTAL 27.0**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Dual Enrollment
- Early College Through Vermont State University
- Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative
- Edmentum Credit Recovery
- Stafford Technical Center
- Hannaford Career Center
- Moosalamoo Wilderness Education Program

Otter Valley Union High School Graduation Rates							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
91%	85%	80%	83%	69%	78%	72%	93%





2023-2024

R NESU Administrative Compass Team

Top Row: **Marsha Bruce**, Director of Student Support Services; **Brenda Fleming**, Director of Business & Finance; **Kristin Hubert**, Superintendent; **Deborah Alexander**, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; **Alexis Blake**, Director of Technology; **Tyler Weideman**, Director of Safe Schools

Bottom Row: **Michael Ruppel**, OVUMS/HS Principal; **Stacey Farrington**, Lothrop Interim Principal; **Brian Crane**, Otter Creek Academy at Principal; **Vicki Wells**, Neshobe Principal; **Bob Myers**, Barstow Principal

RNESU Pre-Kindergarten Programs:



RNESU has an established Pre-K Region that is approved by the Agency of Education and defined by the supervisory union’s geographical boundaries. RNESU offers universal Pre-K in our elementary schools and Pre-K choice is available throughout the district, allowing families to access any approved program within RNESU boundaries. In addition to RNESU Pre-K school based offerings, our Pre-K

region is designed to support a partnership between the school district and eligible private prekindergarten education programs. RNESU has contracted with Rutland Parent Child Center in Brandon and the Fox Hollow Forest School in Chittenden, as well as established a partnership with a private child care provider to offer an integrated child care/Pre-K program at Otter Creek Academy at Whiting school to offer our families a Pre-K education paired with all day child care.

For the 2023-2024 school year, RNESU expanded the program to increased preschool student hours beyond the 10 hours a week of the previous year. At Caverly (Lothrop), Neshobe, and OCA Whiting, younger preschoolers attend 12 hours a week and older preschoolers attend 18 hours a week. Our Barstow program is a mixed age group and students attend 18 hours a week. Our classrooms offer a play based learning environment using the Vermont Early Learning Standards to guide lesson planning. In addition to the partnerships with two universal preschools within the RNESU boundaries which help support RNESU preschool students needing full time care, we also partner with other area universal preschools that support our students attending programs through a voucher lottery system.

2023-2024	
Pre-K Enrollment	
Barstow	13
Lothrop	22
Neshobe	60
OCA	24
Total Pre-K	119

OVUUSD After-School and Summer Programs:

This past summer, the S.O.A.R. (Success through Opportunities, Academics and Recreation) Program at Neshobe continued its work with the Lothrop L.E.A.P. (Lothrop Enrichment and After-School Program) program and Otter Creek Academy (OCA) Kids Club to provide equity and consistency in all RNESU after-school and summer programs. While the summer program was jointly held at Neshobe, each site

offers an after-school program during the school year. These programs combine fun and enriching activities in a safe, supervised and supportive, environment for children during the late afternoon hours. RNESU after-school programs encourage physical, intellectual, social and emotional growth and development through games, crafts, wellness activities, homework support, fieldtrips, and more. During this special time together, children will learn to practice social skills of cooperation,

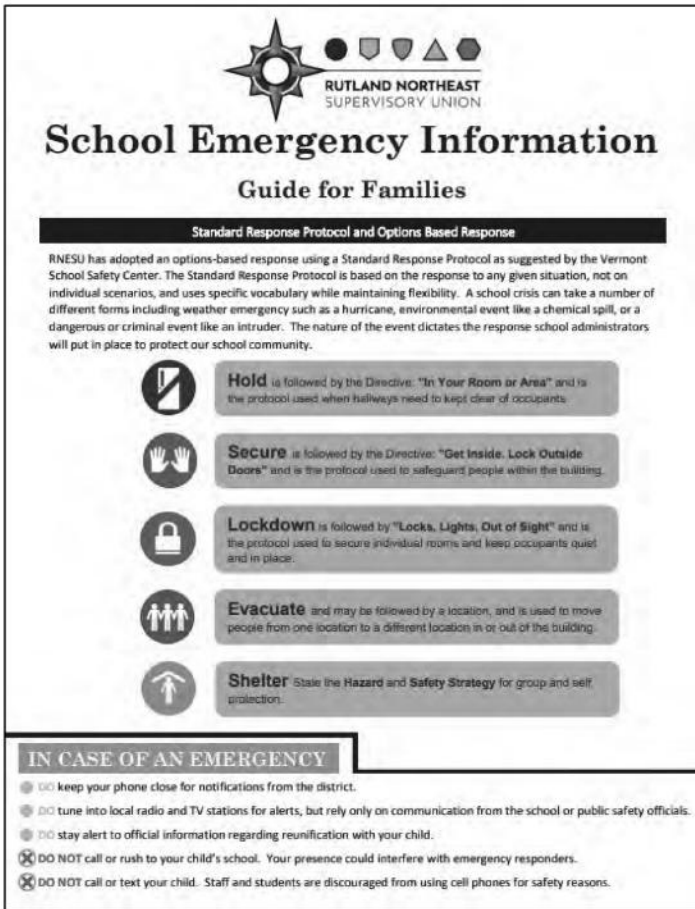


assertion, responsibility, empathy and self-control as these young learners become kind, respectful, caring and responsible students and citizens. You can find more information on the school websites.

School Safety:

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is committed to providing the safest environment possible for our students, staff, and community members. In support of that commitment, at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, RNEsu implemented a new visitor management system at all schools and offices. All building access is limited to a single point of entry and requires visitors and guests to present valid state or federal photo identification to be scanned through your screening database at the time of their first visit. Visitors will be required to check-in at the front office for all future entry into the building(s), but their information will remain on file.

In addition to the visitor management system, RNEsu continues to update and implement safety protocols, procedures and Emergency Operations Plans for all buildings throughout the supervisory union.



School Emergency Information
Guide for Families

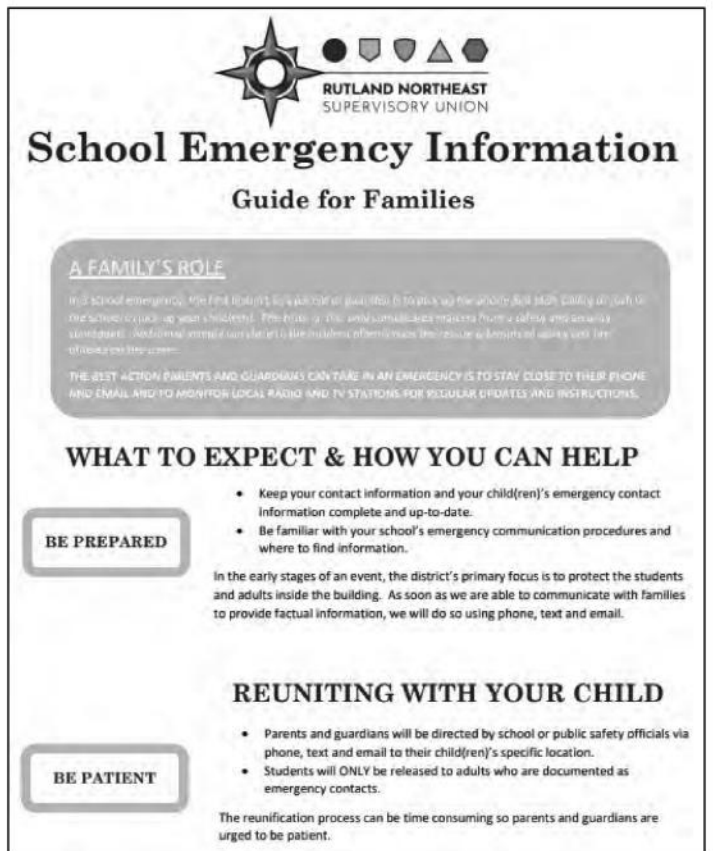
Standard Response Protocol and Options Based Response

RNEsu has adopted an options-based response using a Standard Response Protocol as suggested by the Vermont School Safety Center. The Standard Response Protocol is based on the response to any given situation, not on individual scenarios, and uses specific vocabulary while maintaining flexibility. A school crisis can take a number of different forms including weather emergency such as a hurricane, environmental event like a chemical spill, or a dangerous or criminal event like an intruder. The nature of the event dictates the response school administrators will put in place to protect our school community.

- Hold** is followed by the Directive: "In Your Room or Area" and is the protocol used when hallways need to be kept clear of occupants.
- Secure** is followed by the Directive: "Get Inside, Lock Outside Doors" and is the protocol used to safeguard people within the building.
- Lockdown** is followed by "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight" and is the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep occupants quiet and in place.
- Evacuate** and may be followed by a location, and is used to move people from one location to a different location in or out of the building.
- Shelter** State the Hazard and Safety Strategy for group and self protection.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

- DO keep your phone close for notifications from the district.
- DO tune into local radio and TV stations for alerts, but rely only on communication from the school or public safety officials.
- DO stay alert to official information regarding reunification with your child.
- DO NOT call or rush to your child's school. Your presence could interfere with emergency responders.
- DO NOT call or text your child. Staff and students are discouraged from using cell phones for safety reasons.



School Emergency Information
Guide for Families

A FAMILY'S ROLE

In a school emergency, the first priority is always to guarantee the safety of the students and staff. Parents and guardians are encouraged to stay close to their children and follow the instructions of school officials. Additional information about the incident often comes from the school website or social media.

THE BEST ACTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS CAN TAKE IN AN EMERGENCY IS TO STAY CLOSE TO THEIR PHONE AND EMAIL AND TO MONITOR LOCAL RADIO AND TV STATIONS FOR REGULAR UPDATES AND INSTRUCTIONS.

WHAT TO EXPECT & HOW YOU CAN HELP

BE PREPARED

- Keep your contact information and your child(ren)'s emergency contact information complete and up-to-date.
- Be familiar with your school's emergency communication procedures and where to find information.

In the early stages of an event, the district's primary focus is to protect the students and adults inside the building. As soon as we are able to communicate with families to provide factual information, we will do so using phone, text and email.

REUNITING WITH YOUR CHILD

BE PATIENT

- Parents and guardians will be directed by school or public safety officials via phone, text and email to their child(ren)'s specific location.
- Students will ONLY be released to adults who are documented as emergency contacts.

The reunification process can be time consuming so parents and guardians are urged to be patient.

IT Department Updates:

Technology is essential to facilitating smooth daily operations in our school systems. Many of the tasks undertaken by this department are behind the scenes and often go unnoticed. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few of the many tasks the technology team has overseen this year:

- Implemented updates, upgrades and third party modules to PowerSchool Student Information System.
- Implemented system wide drive encryption for all Chromebooks and staff machines.

- Performed external vulnerability scan through national third party security company.
- Moved Facilities issue reporting into ticketing system for unified reporting.
- Implemented campus grade cell reception boosters at all schools.
- Implemented improved offsite backup system.

Fun Fact!
98% satisfaction rating
on 5,622 IT Tickets
in last calendar year!



Food for All

Local Resources:

- **Rutland County Parent Child Center – Brandon**
The food pantry is open to all households with minor children.
Contact: Joleen Durfee (802) 775-9711 joleen.durfee@rcpcc.org
- **Brandon Free Public Library**
Bakery items from local Hannaford available on Tuesdays.
Temporary Location: Brandon Town Hall, lower level
1 Conant Square
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-8230
- **Brandon Food Shelf and Friend Zone at Brandon United Methodist Church**
1 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT 05733
Contact: Kathy Mathis (802-247-3121) or Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman (802-282-7532)
- **Pittsford Food Shelf** (covers Pittsford, Proctor, Chittenden and Florence)
4181 US Route 7 South
Pittsford, VT 05763
www.pittsfordfoodshelf.org (802) 725-0220 director@pittsfordfoodshelf.org

Additional Resources:

- Vermont [3Squares program](#), or 1-800-479-6151 (previously known as food stamps)
- For Rutland County residents:
[BRQC Community Action](#)
- For Addison County residents:
[HOPE](#)
[CVEOE – Addison County](#)
- Map of food resources across Vermont: <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/agency-locator>.



INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH



IF YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- In a shelter
- ◆
- In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- ◆
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- ◆
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Eligible students have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is their preference.
 - * If the school district believes that the school selected is not in his/her best interest, then the district must provide the student with a written explanation of its position and inform the student of his/her right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the students' needs.

If you believe you may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available.



Local Liaison	State Coordinator
RNESU (802) 247-5757	Katy Preston (802) 828-1468

If you need further assistance with your educational needs, contact the National Center for Homeless Education:
1-800-308-2145 • homeless@serve.org • <http://nche.ed.gov>



2022-2023

Employees of the Year

Distinguished Licensed Professional



Christine Roberts
Community Based
Learning Teacher



Sarah Gallagher
Middle School
Math Teacher



Jed Pauls
School Guidance
Counselor



Christine Landon
PE Teacher



Sue Dier
Kindergarten
Teacher



Laura King
Instructional
Coach



Outstanding Support Staff



Char Wessing
MS/HS Registrar



Joe Boucher
Head Custodian



Emilee Sweatt
Student Support
Professional



Jill Doody
Paraprofessional



Jaime DesForges
Student Support
Professional



Nate Traynor
Special Services
Teacher

UVM Outstanding Educators for RNESU



Sarah Gallagher
Barstow

2023



Jed Pauls
Lothrop

Community Profile:

Population by Town: Estimates for 2012-2022													
YEAR:		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
RNESU	OVUUSD	Brandon	3919	3899	3860	3828	3804	3790	3768	3735	4129	4106	4115
		Goshen	163	163	163	164	164	160	162	163	172	178	180
		Leicester	1109	1109	1119	1114	1100	1080	1085	1086	990	996	1003
		Pittsford	2943	2930	2898	2879	2848	2828	2807	2787	2862	2868	2883
		Sudbury	553	551	548	549	543	543	543	540	545	543	547
		Whiting	420	421	424	420	414	420	416	411	405	402	404
	BUUSD	Chittenden	1241	1236	1237	1231	1219	1201	1190	1181	1237	1228	1227
	Mendon	1051	1050	1038	1033	1022	1013	1011	1011	1149	1158	1169	

Source: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records-population-data/vermont-population-estimates>

PROJECTIONS - VT 2010 & 2020 Census Counts by Town and 2030 Projections								
Scenario A:								
YEAR:	2010	PROJECTED 2020	ACTUAL 2020	% Change from 2010 to Actual 2020	PROJECTED 2030	% Change from 2010 to 2030		
RNESU	OVUUSD	Brandon	3966	3883	4129	4.1%	3720	-6.2%
		Goshen	164	138	172	4.9%	120	-26.8%
		Leicester	1100	1171	990	-10.0%	1200	9.1%
		Pittsford	2991	2950	2862	-4.3%	2829	-5.4%
		Sudbury	560	562	545	-2.7%	545	-2.7%
		Whiting	419	422	405	-3.3%	417	-0.5%
	BUUSD	Chittenden	1258	1310	1237	-1.7%	1306	3.8%
		Mendon	1059	1060	1149	8.5%	1030	-2.7%

PROJECTIONS - VT 2010 & 2020 Census Counts by Town and 2030 Projections								
Scenario B:								
YEAR:	2010	PROJECTED 2020	ACTUAL 2020	% Change from 2010 to Actual 2020	PROJECTED 2030	% Change from 2010 to 2030		
RNESU	OVUUSD	Brandon	3966	3737	4129	4.1%	3448	-13.1%
		Goshen	164	132	172	4.9%	111	-32.3%
		Leicester	1100	1128	990	-10.0%	1116	1.5%
		Pittsford	2991	2838	2862	-4.3%	2623	-12.3%
		Sudbury	560	541	545	-2.7%	505	-9.8%
		Whiting	419	406	405	-3.3%	387	-7.6%
	BUUSD	Chittenden	1258	1261	1237	-1.7%	1212	-3.7%
		Mendon	1059	1020	1149	8.5%	955	-9.8%

Source: <https://vcgi.vermont.gov/data-release/2020-census-data>

Source: <https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files/documents/vt-population-projections-2010-2030.pdf>

***Please note, these are projections, not predictions. Projections are based on assumptions about future demographic trends. Projections illustrate possible population changes based on assumptions about future birth rates, mortality rates, internal and domestic migration. Multiple series of projections are produced based on alternative assumptions

SCHOOL BUDGET

• EARLY • BY ABSENTEE BALLOT • AT THE POLLS

For more information and FAQs, visit WWW.RNESU.ORG.



ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

**OVUUSD Annual Meeting
& Budget Presentation**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024
6:30 PM – OVUHS Auditorium**

Town Meeting Day – Elections – VOTE
Polling Locations & Times

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Town of Brandon	9:00 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

How you can vote:

- By Mail – with an Absentee Ballot – contact your Town Clerk
- Early Voting – in-person at your Town Clerk’s Office during regular business hours
- In-Person Voting – March 5, 2024 at your town’s polling location listed above

Brandon Voters – Municipal ballots are being mailed to you. We are not allowed to mail your school ballot, you must take one of the actions above to vote on the school budget.

If you wish to vote by mail, you may request an OVUUSD Absentee Ballot by:

- Going to ‘My Voter Page’, mvp.vermont.gov and requesting your ballot online.
- Calling your Town Clerk’s Office

Town Clerk’s Office Info:

Leicester – 44 School House Road, Leicester – (802) 247-5961 M,T,TH 9AM – 2PM

Pittsford – 429 Plains Road, Pittsford – (802) 483-6500 M-W 8AM – 4:30PM TH 8AM – 6PM F 8AM – 3PM

Brandon – 49 Center Street, Brandon – (802) 247-3635 M-F 9AM – 4PM

Goshen – 50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen – (802) 247-6455 T 9AM – 1PM

Sudbury – 36 Blacksmith Lane, Sudbury – (802) 623-7296 M 9AM – 4PM W 7PM-9PM F 9AM – 3PM

Whiting – 29 South Main Street, Whiting – (802) 623-7813 M 7:30AM – 11AM & 3PM-5PM W 7:30AM – 11AM

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
February 28, 2024 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 on February 28, 2024 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 all minutes from the last Unified Union District annual meeting to date.

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 5, 2024 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	9:00 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, Brandon for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
- C. School Director, Goshen for a term of three (3) years
- D. School Director, Leicester for a term of two (2) years remaining of a three (3) year term
- E. School Director, Pittsford for a term of three (3) years
- F. School Director, Whiting for a term of three (3) years
- G. 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-seven Million Two Hundred Forty-seven Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-three Dollars (\$27,247,823) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

Dated at Brandon, Vermont
January 9, 2024



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



**OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Date: March 1, 2023
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: OVUHS Auditorium**

Board Members Present: Laurie Bertrand, Chair; Derek Larsen, Vice Chair; Barbara Ebling, Clerk; Natalie Steen; Brett Mullins; Erik Pearsons; Fernanda Canales.

Others Present: Kristin Hubert, Superintendent; Brenda Fleming, Director of Busines & Finance; Vicki Wells, Neshobe Principal; Dan Raabe, Neshobe Assistant Principal; Debbie Alexander, Lothrop Principal; Michael Ruppel, OVUMHS Principal; Doug Bailey; Sue Gage; Brent Scarborough; Kevin Booth

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM by Kristin Hubert - Superintendent.

Kristin Hubert 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**

Election of Moderator:

Kristin Hubert called for nominations for Moderator of the District. Doug Bailey was nominated. No other nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

Sue Gage motioned and Laurie Bertrand seconded the election of Doug Bailey as Moderator of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

Election of Clerk:

Doug Bailey 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 Sue Gage seconded the election of Charlene Bryant as Clerk of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer:

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

Laurie Bertrand motioned and Sue Gage 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 23, 2022, and April 25, 2022.

Sue Gage motioned and Derek Larsen seconded to approve the minutes from the Unified Union District meetings held on February 23, 2022, and April 25, 2022. **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.

Laurie Bertrand noted that Brenda Fleming, the District's Business Manager, would provide a presentation of the budget. (See *OVUUSD FY24 Budget Presentation* available online.)

Ms. Fleming stated the district considers its Mission and Vision, Ends Policy, goals, equity of opportunity for student achievement and efficiency of delivery when developing the budget. The timeline for creating the budget from October through mid-January was reviewed. Ms. Fleming noted some years an additional special meeting is required depending upon when the district receives the State's information. Ms. Fleming provided an overview of the class size ratios by school, noting there is a policy that outlines the minimum/optimal/maximum class size. Lothrop will be reducing one classroom teacher due to enrollment projections and will continue to monitor the 3rd grade class with a teacher possibly being used as an academic interventionist. Neshobe is seeing a rise in enrollment and will be adding 10 hours of library services and one para educator. OCA's enrollment is level and there will be no changes in staff. OV had seen a decline in enrollment but is expecting an increase of about six students next year. There will be a change in the Dean of Students position to a licensed position and an addition of one English Language-Arts/Social Studies teacher and one intervention specialist paraeducator. Ms. Fleming advised the district funds After-school programs in the elementary schools through an After-school Reserve Fund that will have a balance at the end of the fiscal year of around \$385,000.

Ms. Fleming reported the proposed budget is \$24,174,395 that is an increase of \$1,457,940 or 6.46% over last year. Ms. Fleming reviewed the proposed budget changes as noted above for each school. In addition, at the district level, Ms. Fleming advised there will be a cost shift in moving extraordinary 504 out of district placement students and their transportation from OCA and OV to the RNESU centralized Special Services budget. There will also be \$100,000 added to support OVU-wide truancy, social work and school safety. An additional late run bus from OV will also be added. The RNESU budget assessments includes the cost shift of the extraordinary 504 students which accounts for 2.39% of the 12.08% increase of this budget. The budget continues to maintain smaller class sizes to focus on primary literacy instruction and includes salaries and benefits as approved by the Board, and adjustments for utilities, supplies and other non-program costs based on prior spending and estimated increases. Ms. Fleming advised that about 84% of the budget directly impacts students which includes instruction, student support, instructional staff support, facilities, and transportation to bring students to and from school. Ms. Fleming noted that of the 6.46% increase in the budget, the largest increase is 3.13% in direct instruction. Ms. Fleming provided an overview of expenditures for FY22, the current budget and the proposed FY 24 budget, noting the largest amount is spent on employees. Supplies and debt service are fairly flat. Ms. Fleming also provided a budget breakdown by site with OCA being 6% of the budget, Lothrop 12%, Neshobe 20% and the high school the other 40% of the budget. The district wide costs equally affects all sites that include transportation, special services and the central office cost.

Ms. Fleming advised with regard to the tax rate, the premise of Act 60 is that towns do not fund just its spending and is calculated according to a state-wide yield. The Tax Commissioner announced a tax yield for FY24 to be \$15,479. Ms. Fleming provided an explanation of the calculation for determining the unified tax rate before CLA (Common Level of Appraisal). The first \$15, 479 per pupil will be a dollar tax rate. The total budget is then taken, less the local revenues to determine a net education spending. The local revenues include money from the surplus fund balance, tuition money, Burditt Fund, Ely Fund, and reimbursement for transportation.

This figure is then divided by the equalized pupil rate that is provided by the State to determine an education spending by equalized pupil of \$18,629. Ms. Fleming provided an explanation of the weighted figure determined by the State for equalized pupils and noted that the number has decreased by 28 due to the drop out rate at OV. This figure is then used with the yield to determine the homestead tax rate. Ms. Fleming reported the proposed FY24 tax rate will be \$1.20, noting last year's rate was \$1.27 and will be equal throughout the district until the CLA is applied. Ms. Fleming stated when the Tax Commissioner announced the yield, they projected the education spending to be \$20,155 on average throughout the State, however, this district's spending is \$18,629 which is significantly less than the State average. The unified tax rate is going down 5.81%. The yield will be finalized by the Legislature with this data being the most up to date information. There has not been discussion where the yield will land and is one of the last acts of the Legislature before adjourning. Ms. Fleming provided an explanation of the CLA noting that it takes into consideration what houses are selling for versus what they are listed for in each town, meaning the Grand List cannot keep up with the changes. Ms. Fleming provided the following example of Brandon's CLA. The CLA is at 84% which means that a house that would be selling for \$84,000 is selling for \$100,000. Last year Brandon's CLA was 93% so that means the unified tax rate has to be increased according, with the proposed tax rate to be \$1.43 compared to the current \$1.374. The district is seeing increases between two cents and fifteen cents. Leicester and Pittsford have requested an appeal of their CLA to the State.

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

Sue Gage motioned and Fernanda Canales seconded to approve the compensation as outlined. **The motion passed.**

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

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.

Sue Gage motioned and Brent Mullins 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.

Sue Gage thanked all of the Board members and noted she appreciates their service.

Doug Bailey advised the meeting shall 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 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
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Town of Leicester	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Leicester Town Office
Town of Pittsford	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Pittsford Town Office
Town of Sudbury	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Whiting Town Hall

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, 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 VIII: 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.

The Moderator recessed the meeting at 7:08 PM.

RESULTS:

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years - **Kevin Thornton**
- B. School Director, Goshen for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term – **M. Fernanda Canales**
- C. School Director, Leicester for a term of three (3) years – **Not Enough Write-Ins for One Individual**
- D. School Director, Pittsford for a term of two (2) years remaining of a three (3) year term - **Brett Mullin**
- E. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years – **Paul Lathrop**
- F. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years – **Brent Scarborough**

OVUU District Budget Vote:

Town # of ballots (voters) - 1491

Results
 Blank - 35
 Yes - 755
 No - 701

The OVUU budget passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
 OVUU District Clerk



Otter Valley Unified Union School District FY2025 Proposed Budgets

FY2025 Budget Goal: Maintain and improve comprehensive equitable educational opportunities.

Budget Facts:

The board approved a budget with the following:

- Reduces Elementary World Language to grades 5/6 programming
- Lothrop no programmatic changes
- Neshobe adds 1 Assistant Principal, 1 Dean of Students, and reduces 1 Paraeducator & 30% physical educator
- OCA adds .60 Nurse and 1 Classroom Teacher based on class sizes
- OVUMHS adds 1 Academic Coach, 1 Social & Emotional Professional, and 1 Assistant Principal and reduces 1 Dean of Students, 1.45 Paraeducators
- Salary & Benefits per contract, negotiations, and statewide health commission
- Supplies, utilities, and professional services adjusted to actual contracts plus cost of living estimate

The Following tables present the FY25 proposed budget in multiple formats to provide a full understanding of the budget

- By Function or department: direct instruction/facilities/debt
- By Site and by Object: district wide services are not allocated to schools
 - District wide services include Board of Education, Central Office, Special Education & Transportation.

OVUUSD Function Budget:

FY23 Actual, FY24 Budget, FY25 Proposed: \$27,247,823

	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Budget Difference
Direct Instruction	\$ 10,245,596	\$ 11,073,894	\$ 12,011,976	\$ 938,082
Special Education	\$ 2,344,078	\$ 2,610,832	\$ 3,000,683	\$ 389,851
Vocational Education	\$ 805,920	\$ 879,338	\$ 978,314	\$ 98,976
Athletics & CoCurricular	\$ 412,414	\$ 440,187	\$ 447,824	\$ 7,637
Student Support	\$ 1,611,814	\$ 1,762,378	\$ 1,994,191	\$ 189,418
Instructional Staff Support	\$ 507,804	\$ 576,329	\$ 683,039	\$ 106,710
General & Admin	\$ 108,907	\$ 149,329	\$ 159,199	\$ 9,870
School Admin	\$ 1,184,249	\$ 1,207,570	\$ 1,571,695	\$ 364,125
Fiscal Services & Technology	\$ 1,783,416	\$ 1,964,241	\$ 2,630,506	\$ 666,265
Facilities & Grounds	\$ 2,062,054	\$ 2,216,373	\$ 2,287,681	\$ 71,308
Transportation	\$ 650,451	\$ 727,536	\$ 914,199	\$ 186,663
Debt Service	\$ 562,477	\$ 566,388	\$ 610,911	\$ 44,523
Transfers	\$ 585,862	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 22,865,041	\$ 24,174,395	\$ 27,247,823	\$ 3,073,429

Description	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed Budget
Salaries	\$ 1,670,894	\$ 1,704,261	\$ 1,790,225
Benefits	\$ 623,638	\$ 672,798	\$ 736,361
Purchased Service	\$ 5,591	\$ 11,000	\$ 8,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 119,705	\$ 136,500	\$ 114,600
Assessments, Tuition, & Communications	\$ 154,189	\$ 146,554	\$ 200,651
Supplies & Materials	\$ 150,533	\$ 152,275	\$ 170,635
Miscellaneous	\$ 89,609	\$ 87,498	\$ 85,452
Lothrop	\$ 2,814,160	\$ 2,910,886	\$ 3,105,923
Salaries	\$ 2,660,098	\$ 2,831,912	\$ 3,097,831
Benefits	\$ 1,061,318	\$ 1,293,194	\$ 1,535,309
Purchased Service	\$ 3,542	\$ 14,050	\$ 55,500
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 56,946	\$ 87,150	\$ 98,000
Assessments, Tuition, & Communications	\$ 311,790	\$ 306,247	\$ 317,961
Supplies & Materials	\$ 199,666	\$ 236,900	\$ 258,600
Asset Purchase	\$ 2,374	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 120,576	\$ 118,657	\$ 117,957
Neshobe	\$ 4,416,310	\$ 4,888,110	\$ 5,481,157
Salaries	\$ 4,649,436	\$ 5,100,598	\$ 5,532,059
Benefits	\$ 1,545,217	\$ 1,890,031	\$ 2,162,469
Purchased Service	\$ 327,497	\$ 261,000	\$ 274,850
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 201,170	\$ 86,000	\$ 110,000
Assessments, Tuition, & Communications	\$ 1,279,699	\$ 1,435,196	\$ 1,428,881
Supplies & Materials	\$ 463,251	\$ 476,205	\$ 497,669
Asset Purchase	\$ 42,695	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 352,942	\$ 361,523	\$ 410,206
OVUMHS	\$ 8,861,907	\$ 9,616,553	\$ 10,422,133
Salaries	\$ 789,246	\$ 825,456	\$ 1,039,170
Benefits	\$ 220,848	\$ 261,111	\$ 367,724
Purchased Service	\$ 102,193	\$ 31,260	\$ 34,430
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 47,826	\$ 51,400	\$ 57,700
Assessments, Tuition, & Communications	\$ 307,467	\$ 179,505	\$ 200,565
Supplies & Materials	\$ 78,745	\$ 77,000	\$ 94,350
Asset Purchase	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 6,775	\$ 5,909	\$ 5,696
OCA	\$ 1,553,101	\$ 1,431,641	\$ 1,799,635
Salaries	\$ 23,900	\$ 26,400	\$ 26,400
Benefits	\$ 6,645	\$ 28,049	\$ 28,049
Purchased Service	\$ 46,008	\$ 133,800	\$ 33,800
Assessments, Tuition, & Communications	\$ 4,547,215	\$ 5,108,255	\$ 6,314,376
Supplies & Materials	\$ 2,439	\$ 850	\$ 3,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,495	\$ 29,850	\$ 33,350
Debt Service	\$ 585,862	\$ -	\$ -
OVU Wide	\$ 5,219,563	\$ 5,327,203	\$ 6,438,975
Grand Total	\$ 22,865,041	\$ 24,174,395	\$ 27,247,823

OVUUSD Anticipated FY25 School Enrollments

Lothrop School		
Grade	Projected Enrollment	Projected FY25 Classroom Ratio
K	20	1 Teachers 1:20
1	21	2 Teachers 1:11
2	19	1 Teachers 1:19
3	29	2 Teachers 1:14
4	22	2 Teachers 1:11
5	31	2 Teacher 1:16
6	23	1 Teacher 1:23
Total	165	Overall 1:15

Neshobe School		
Grade	Projected Enrollment	Projected FY25 Classroom Ratio
K	45	3 Teachers 1:15
1	45	3 Teachers 1:15
2	57	3 Teachers 1:19
3	58	3 Teachers 1:19
4	59	3 Teachers 1:20
5	55	3 Teachers 1:18
6	40	3 Teachers 1:13
Total	359	Overall 1:17

Otter Creek Academy		
Grade	Projected Enrollment	Projected FY25 Classroom Ratio
K	14	1 Teachers 1:14
1	14	1 Teachers 1:14
2	14	1 Teachers 1:14
3	9	1 Teachers 1:14
4	5	
5	16	1 Teacher 1:16
6	13	1 Teacher 1:13
Total	85	Overall 1:14

Otter Valley Union Middle/High		
Grade	Current FY24 Enrollment	Projected FY25 Enrollment
7	83	84
8	85	83
9	91	85
10	85	91
11	91	85
12	66	91
Total	501	519

Considerations of the Budget Proposal:

- The budget proposal is \$27,247,823 which is up \$3,073,428, or 12.71% from the current year budget of \$24,174,395
- NEW Act 127 Long Term Weighed Average Daily Membership (LTWADM) are up 4.17% from re-calculated FY24 Act 127 LTWADM
 - *New FY25 Act 127 implements a new weighted student count system based on empirical cost data for educating students from poverty, English Language Learners, small school, and small towns/sparsity: Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTWADM). We have 2123.13 PreK-12 LDWADM count and 1221 PreK-12 students enrolled on October 1, 2023.*
- Result: Education Spending per LTWADM is \$12,562 up \$1,062 or 9.23% per FY24 comparable spending
 - Act 127 includes a hold harmless homestead tax protection limiting a district’s homestead tax increase to 5% if the district’s comparable Education Spending per LTWADM is less than 10% of the prior year spending; this budget is under 10% increase therefore our proposed homestead tax increase is limited to 5% or \$0.06

State Impact on Budget Proposal:

- Announced State Tax Yield is \$9,452 per LTWADM
 - 1 cent of the homestead tax rate is \$200,678 based on 2123.13 LTWADM and December 1st Yield of \$9,452
- Result: Anticipated Homestead Tax Rate BEFORE applying Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is the lesser of the calculated rate or Act 127 hold harmless rate of 5%.
 - This budget is within Act 127 spending limits for a proposed homestead tax of \$1.26 up \$0.06 or 5.00%

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 69.17% – 78.71%

Equalized House site tax rate		\$ 1.2040	\$ 1.2640		Annual Increase per 100,000 Housesite value		
CLA	Homestead Tax Rate (Prior Yr CLA)	Current Rate FY2024 AFTER CLA	Proposed FY25 Rate AFTER CLA	Tax Increase	CLA Decline - Tax	Budget Costs 5% Tax Increase	Total
0.7469	Brandon (84.15%)	\$ 1.43	\$ 1.69	\$ 0.26	\$ 202.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 262.00
0.7021	Goshen (85.86%)	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.80	\$ 0.40	\$ 339.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 399.00
0.6917	Leicester (78.97%)	\$ 1.52	\$ 1.83	\$ 0.30	\$ 243.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 303.00
0.7263	Pittsford (84.96%)	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.74	\$ 0.32	\$ 261.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 321.00
0.7871	Sudbury (93.49%)	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.61	\$ 0.32	\$ 258.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 318.00
0.7625	Whiting (84.97%)	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.66	\$ 0.24	\$ 181.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 241.00
CLA: Common Level of Appraisal							

	Tax Commissioner's Dec 1st announced yield \$9,452 (FY24 recalculated yield \$9,687)	Budget FY24 - Recalculated under Act 127 LTMWADM	Proposed FY25	Difference	Percent
	Total Budget	\$ 24,174,395	\$ 27,247,823	\$ 3,073,428	12.71%
	Less Local Revenue	\$ (734,198)	\$ (576,843)	\$ 157,355	-21.43%
	Net Education Spending	\$ 23,440,197	\$ 26,670,980	\$ 3,230,783	13.78%
	Act 127 - Long Term Membership Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTMWADM)	2,038.22	2,123.13	84.91	4.17%
	Education Spending Per LTWADM	\$ 11,500	\$ 12,562	\$ 1,062	9.23%
	Yield - <i>Announced by VT Tax Department (prior year \$9,687)</i>				
\$ 9,452					
	Calculated Rate FY2025 based on 12/1 Yield	\$ 1.204	\$ 1.329	\$ 0.125	10.39%
	Unified Tax Rate Before CLA - limited to 5% per Act 127	\$ 1.204	\$ 1.264	\$ 0.060	5.00%
CLA	Homestead Tax Rate (Prior Yr CLA)	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Difference	Percent Change
74.69%	Brandon (84.15%)	\$ 1.431	\$ 1.693	\$ 0.26	18.30%
70.21%	Goshen (85.86%)	\$ 1.402	\$ 1.801	\$ 0.40	28.40%
69.17%	Leicester (78.97%)	\$ 1.525	\$ 1.828	\$ 0.30	19.88%
72.63%	Pittsford (84.96%)	\$ 1.417	\$ 1.741	\$ 0.32	22.83%
78.71%	Sudbury (93.49%)	\$ 1.288	\$ 1.606	\$ 0.32	24.72%
76.25%	Whiting (84.97%)	\$ 1.417	\$ 1.658	\$ 0.24	17.01%
CLA: Common Level of Appraisal					

Property Tax Credit and Income Sensitivity: Homeowners with household income up to \$128,000 may be eligible for property tax credit applied to the above rates – for more information visit VT Dept. of Taxes calculator for estimating property tax credits applied to individual annual property tax bills: <https://tax.vermont.gov/document/2023-property-tax-credit-calculator>.

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 grand list 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 town appraised values are higher than sale prices 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 \$1.20
 CLA of 90% would mean a tax “correction” to \$1.33 (\$1.20/90%)
 CLA of 110% would mean a tax “correction” of \$1.09 (\$1.20/110%)

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.

Otter Valley Unified Union SD Reserve Balances: July 1, 2023

Facility and Grounds Reserve Funds	
Goshen School District	\$ 8,000
Otter Valley UUSD Fund	\$ 2,265,140
Total	\$ 2,273,140

Grants & After School Reserve Funds	
Partner for Prevention Grant Receivable	\$ (1,097)
Rowland Grant	\$ 57,155
Otter Valley UUSD Fund	\$ 644,588
Total	\$ 700,646

FY2023 Treasurer’s Report General Fund Balance:

Beginning Fund Balance, July 1 st	\$ 660,000
Plus: Revenues	\$ 22,205,041
Subtotal Resources	\$ 22,865,041
Less: Expenditures	\$ (22,865,041)
Ending Fund Balance, June 30 th	\$ 0

District: Otter Valley USD		U053			Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$9,452 of spending per pupil
SU: Rutland Northeast		Rutland County			9,452	1.00
FY25 is the first year of Act 127 Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership for pupil counts. Equalized pupils are shown for FY22 - FY24. LTWADM is required to be used for FY25					10,300	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	
1.	Adopted or warned union district budget (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	\$21,039,635	\$22,705,955	\$24,174,395	\$27,247,823	1.
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
3.	Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles	\$21,039,635	\$22,705,955	\$24,174,395	\$27,247,823	3.
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	4.
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	5.
6.	Total Union Expenditures	\$21,039,635	\$22,705,955	\$24,174,395	\$27,247,823	6.
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data	\$4,143,852	\$4,529,713	\$5,093,475	\$6,284,377	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.)	\$993,549	\$1,014,045	\$734,198	\$576,843	9.
10.	Total offsetting union revenues	\$993,549	\$1,014,045	\$734,198	\$576,843	10.
11.	Education Spending	\$20,046,086	\$21,691,910	\$23,440,197	\$26,670,980	11.
12.	Otter Valley USD pupils	1,296.56	1,275.06	1,258.67	2,123.13	12.
13.	Education Spending per Pupil	\$15,460.98	\$17,012.46	\$18,622.99	\$12,562.10	13.
14.	minus Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per pupil	\$429.42	\$450.60	-	\$288	14.
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$66,446 for an individual (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	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 pupil)	-	-	-	-	16.
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	18.
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per pupil)	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	minus Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$18,789	threshold = \$19,997	threshold = \$22,204	threshold = \$23,193	23.
24.	plus Excess Spending per Pupil over threshold (if any)	\$18,789.00	\$19,997.00	\$22,204.00	\$23,193.00	24.
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$15,461	\$17,012	\$18,623	\$12,562.10	25.
26.	Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	136.617%	127.779%	120.592%	132.904%	26.
27.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated [\$12,562.10 ÷ (\$9,452 / \$1.00)]	\$1.3662	\$1.2778	\$1.2059	\$1.3290	27.
28.	Act 127 tax cap (FY25 - FY29 eligible)				\$1.2662	28.
Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Otter Valley USD		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY23 Pe
T026	Brandon	1.3662	1.2778	1.2059	1.2662	100.00%
T081	Goshen	1.3662	1.2778	1.2059	1.2662	100.00%
T110	Leicester	1.3662	1.2778	1.2059	1.2662	100.00%
T154	Pittsford	1.3662	1.2778	1.2059	1.2662	100.00%
T201	Sudbury	1.3662	1.2778	1.2059	1.2662	100.00%
T241	Whiting	1.3662	1.2778	1.2059	1.2662	100.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
28.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Otter Valley USD [(12,562.10 ÷ 10,300) x 2.00%]	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	2.44%	28.
Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Otter Valley USD		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY23 Pe
T026	Brandon	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	2.44%	100.00%
T081	Goshen	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	2.44%	100.00%
T110	Leicester	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	2.44%	100.00%
T154	Pittsford	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	2.44%	100.00%
T201	Sudbury	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	2.44%	100.00%
T241	Whiting	2.25%	2.13%	2.12%	2.44%	100.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%

- Using the revised January 9th, 2024 Education Fund Outlook FY25 forecast, the FY25 education fund need results in a property yield of \$9,171 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$10,227 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.452. These figures use the estimated \$13,000,000 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%.

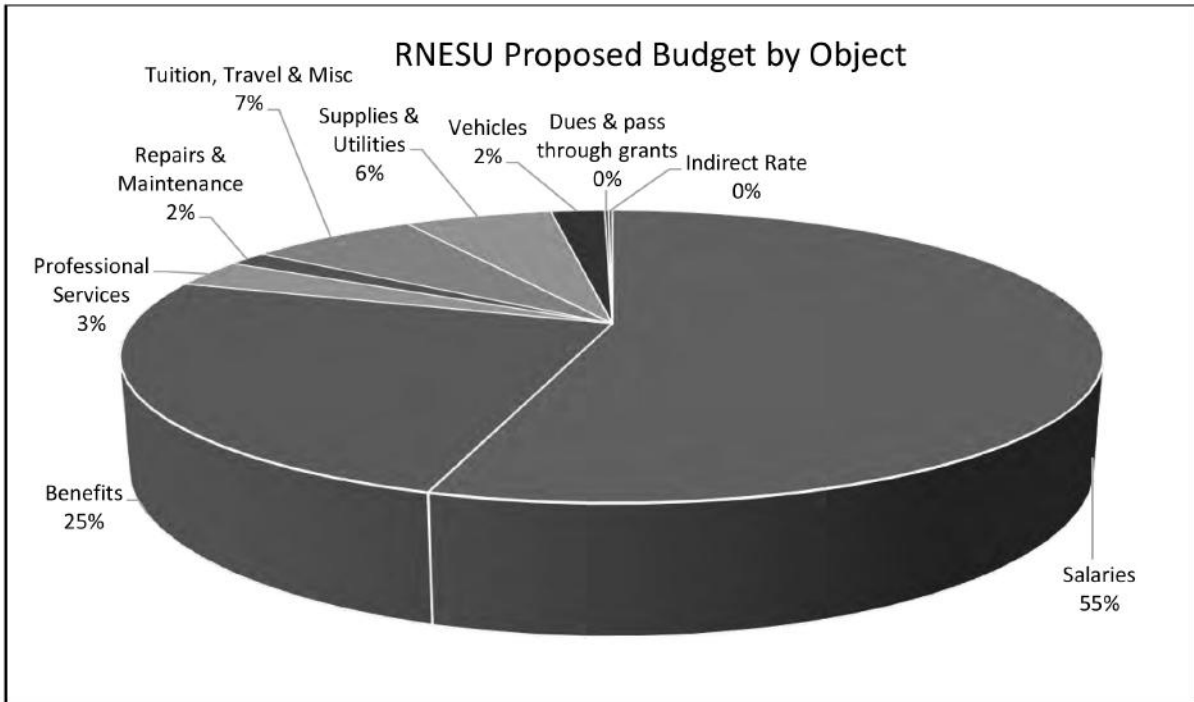
RNESU FY2025 Proposed Budgets

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

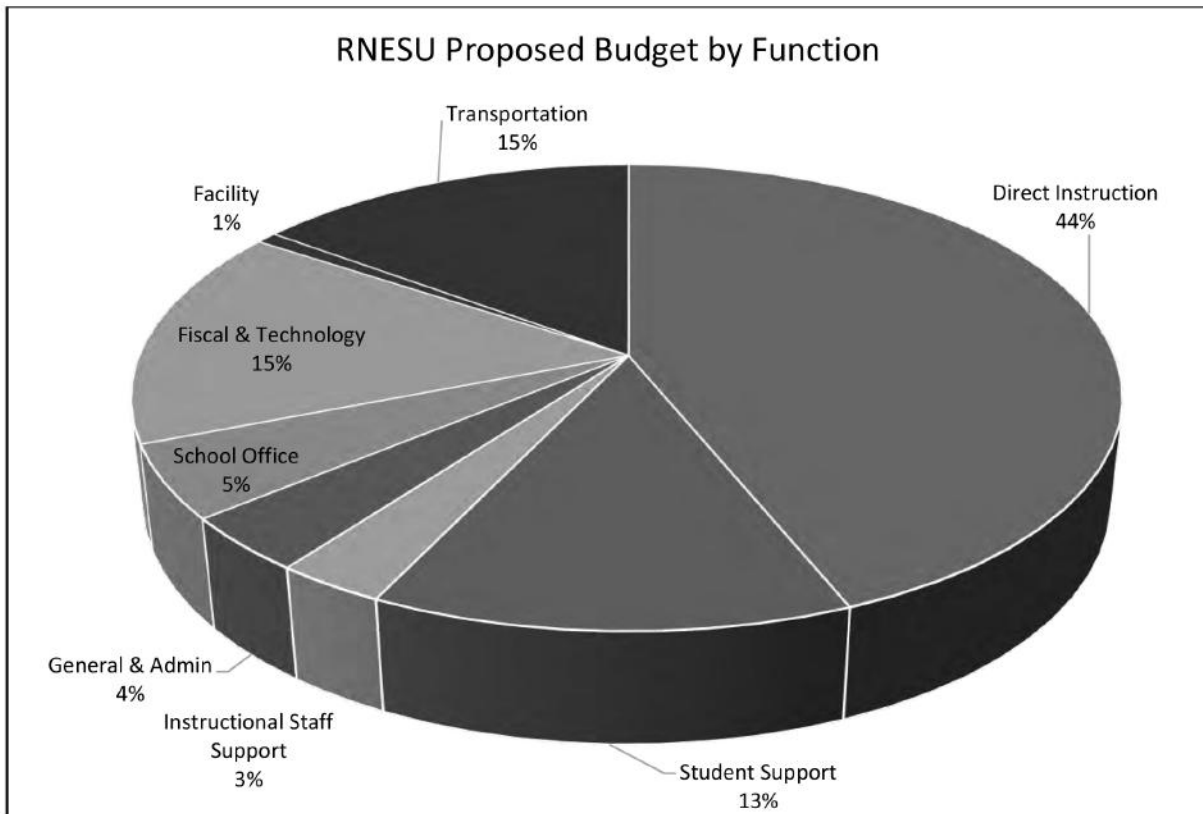
Proposed Budget \$13,366,712: Expenditures, Revenues and Member Assessments

	FY23 Actual Prior Year	FY24 Current Year Budget	FY25 Proposed Budget
Expenditures			
Direct Instruction	2,641	183,800	226,380
Special Ed Instruction	4,816,318	5,421,691	5,637,180
Student Support	1,226,831	1,413,465	1,768,816
Instructional Staff Support	275,440	326,001	408,810
General Admin	472,499	482,405	507,112
School/Program Admin	402,407	477,504	676,779
Fiscal & Technology Services	1,328,601	1,706,236	2,053,471
Facility Services	91,226	97,735	106,530
Transportation	1,647,808	1,842,199	1,981,634
Forest Receipts & Security Grant	29,993	0	0
Total Expenditures	10,293,764	11,951,036	13,366,712
Less Revenues			
Local Revenue	218,357	1,016,615	507,543
State Special Ed & Transportation Reimbursements	3,816,046	4,104,299	4,730,294
Federal Grants	631,331	602,726	658,939
Other Revenue	67,133	130,577	48,081
Total Revenue	4,732,867	5,854,217	5,944,857
Net Member Assessments		6,096,819	7,421,855
<i>Barstow UUSD</i>		1,005,673	1,127,477
<i>Otter Valley UUSD</i>		5,091,146	6,294,378
Total Assessments		6,906,819	7,421,855

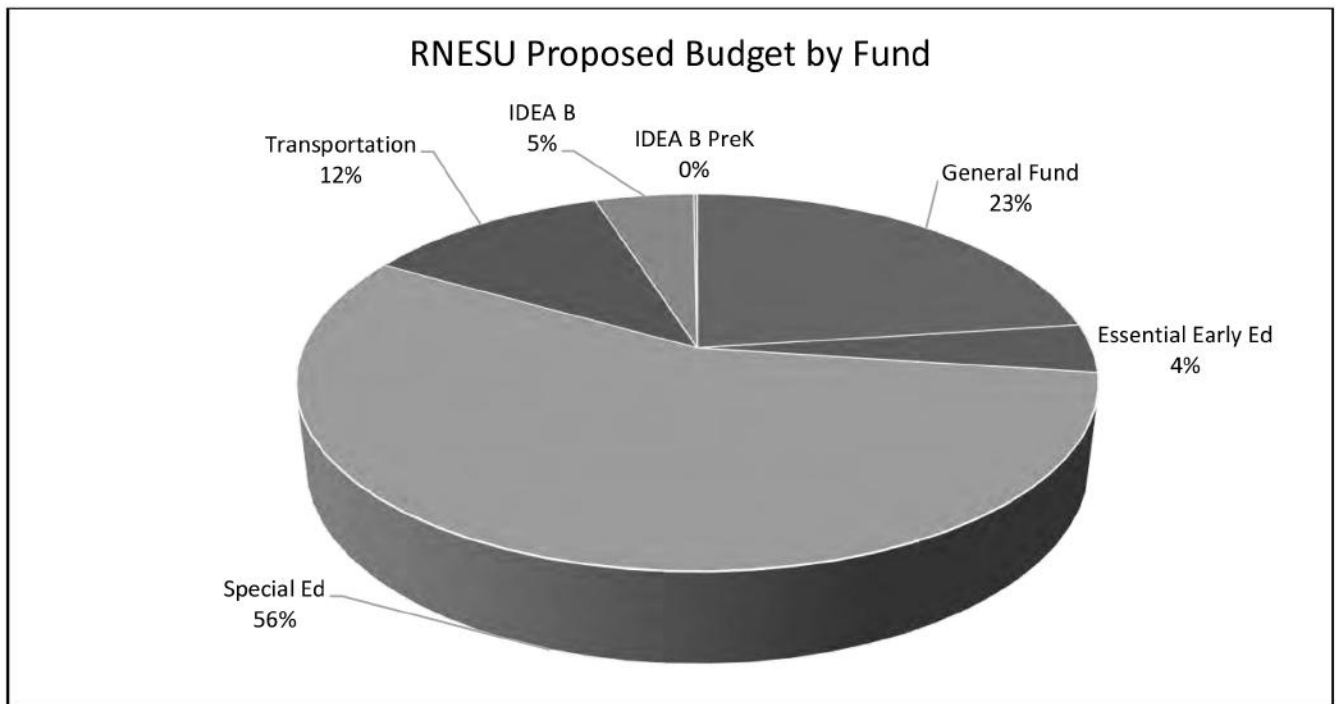
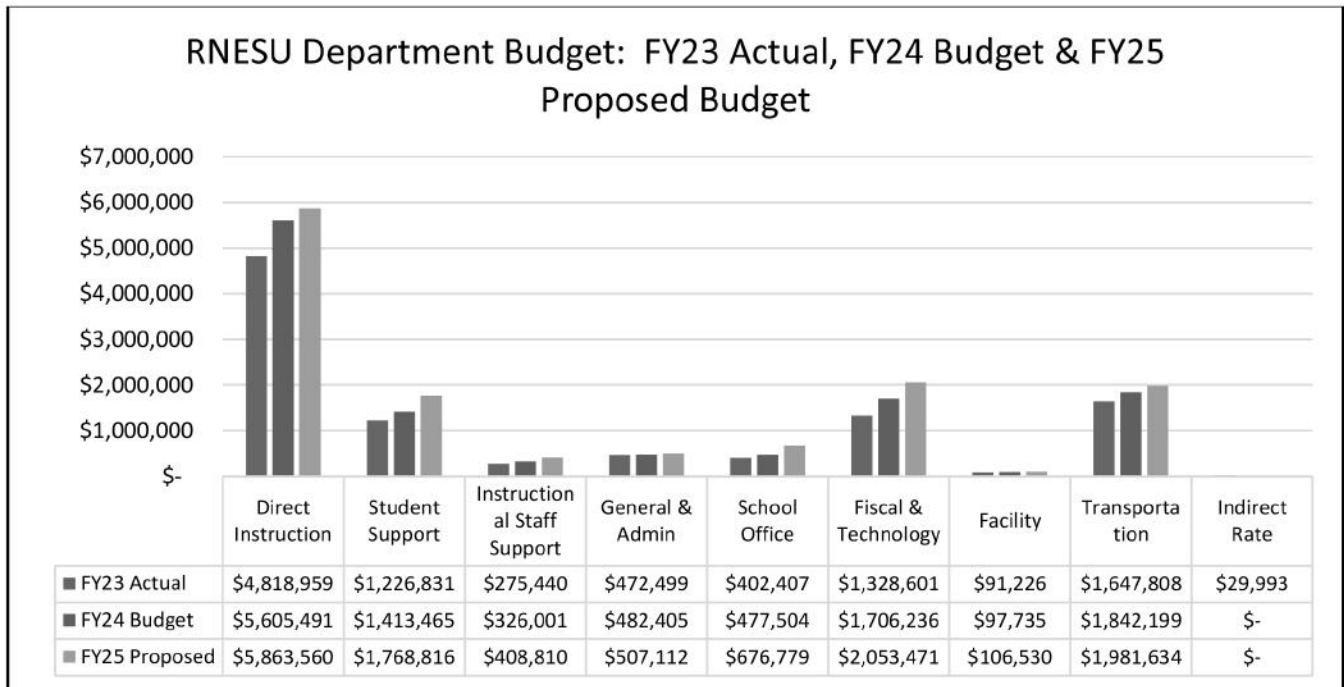
Proposed Budget: \$13,366,712 by Object – 80% of the budget is personnel



Proposed Budget: \$13,366,712 by Function



Proposed Budget: \$13,366,712 History & Proposed Budget by Fund



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

Budget Facts: Proposed Budget \$13,366,712 an increases of \$1,477,653 or 12.36%

Salary and Benefits – across all units:

- Salaries adjusted for retirement notifications and cost of living increases per contract
- Health Insurance budgeted per state arbitration including 16.4% premium increase
- Add New Payroll tax for Act 76 Childcare

Special Education, Early Essential Education & Special Service:

- Essential Early Education (EEE)
 - Add .40 FTE Teacher & .20 Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) for expanded programming
- Special Education
 - Add 2 Special Education Teachers: Otter Creek Academy & Barstow Memorial School
 - Add .80 SLP (previously split funded with EEE)
 - Add 1 School Psychologist
 - Add 1 Elementary Sped Coordinator & Out of District ELA (ESSER Shift)
 - Add 1 School Based Mental Health Coordinator (ESSER Shift)
- Out of District (OOD)
 - Create new In-house program for students to return from out of district placements: 1 Teacher, 1 Intervention Specialist Paraeducator & Clinical mental health contract –*savings anticipated \$35,700*
 - Adjust remaining OOD placements (Extraordinary, costs exceed \$70,000 for sped & 504 students) for anticipated tuition increase

Transportation:

- Add part time Head Driver – 3hrs/day during the school year
- Replacing 2 buses to maintain a 10-year replacement schedule
- Fuel prices budget based on current rate at \$4.00/gallon
- Reduced bus repairs & maintenance costs based on actual usage & replacement schedule

Curriculum Instruction and Assessment:

- Add \$50,000 for district wide teaching & learning professional development (Federal Grant shift)

Technology:

- Add entry level Technician/Help Desk position – eliminating intern positions
- Add \$42,000 for software previously funded with ESSER
- Add 10% increase in operational software costs based on history & market
- Continue year 2 of 4-year replacements cycle for 1:1 chrome books/laptops/desktops initiative started in 2020.

Board & Superintendent:

- Add 1.0 Communication Coordinator (ESSER Shift)
- Includes board professional development resources of \$5,000

Business Office:

- No proposed staffing changes

FY2023 - Treasurer's Report General Fund & All Assessment Funds (General, Transportation, EEE & Special Services)

	General Fund	All Assessment Funds Combined (including General Fund)
Fund Balance, July 1 st	\$207,739	\$1,311,829
Add: Revenues	\$2,194,628	\$9,570,449
Subtotal	\$2,402,367	\$10,882,279
Less: Expenditures	(\$2,199,258)	(\$9,691,570)
Fund Balance, June 30th	203,109	\$1,190,708

For a Glossary of Terms and FAQ related to budgets, please visit www.rnesu.org.



Consolidated Federal Grant Program

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union was awarded \$1,159,995.48 in Consolidated Federal Grant funds for the 2023-2024 school year. This includes a carry forward amount of \$202,410.48 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 two of our district's elementary schools have a poverty level of 40% or higher and are eligible to operate as School-wide Programs. Our third elementary school fell below the 40% poverty level, but is able to remain served by School-wide programs with a waiver from the Agency of Education. 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
Instructional Coach*

Lothrop

Two Interventionists
Instructional Coach*

Neshobe

Four Interventionists
Instructional Coach*

STRATEGIES FUNDED WITHIN SPECIFIC FEDERAL TITLES:

Title I:

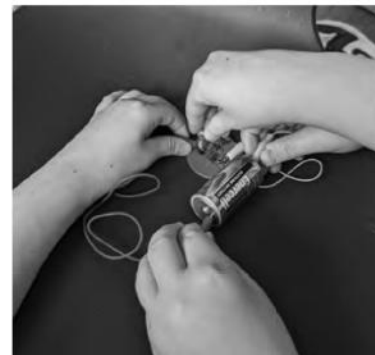
Parent Involvement Program
Homeless Program
Equitable Services**
Indirect Administration Fees

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

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

2nd and 4th 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

1st Monday at 5:00 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Hall

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Monday at 6:00 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Office

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BRAVO)

1st Monday at 6:00 PM at the Stephen Douglas House

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION BOARD

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

RNESU SCHOOL BOARD

3rd 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 31st.

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.

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF
Brandon
VERMONT
49 Center Street
Brandon, VT 05733



IMPORTANT DATES:

- Presidential Primary & Town Meeting Voting
March 5
- Solar Eclipse Festivities
April 6 - 8
- Independence Day Celebration in Brandon
July 6
- State Primary Election
August 13
- General Election
November 5



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