

Dorset Town Report 2023

TOWN REPORT DEDICATION

MIKE CASEY

Communities are fortunate when they have citizens who dutifully serve us with quality and consistency over many years. No one exemplifies this more than Mike Casey. He has served Dorset residents in need for over 3 decades.

On December 8, 2023, Northshire Rescue's Chief Operations Officer, Michael Casey retired after a 35-year-long career in EMS.

Mike began his career as a volunteer with the Manchester Rescue Squad in 1988. He took an Advanced First-aid class given by Manchester Rescue just so he could have an intelligent conversation with his wife who was already a member of MRS. After the class, he was asked to join. As a volunteer of MRS for 10 years, Mike held multiple titles within the organization including EMS District Representative, Captain and President for 5 years.

Mike was ultimately hired as a full-time provider in 1997. Through the years he worked his way through the ranks, from an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), to Nationally Registered Paramedic which he has held for the last 23 years, all the way to Critical Care Paramedic, which he held until being promoted to Chief Operations Officer in 2005. Mike was an integral part of establishing paramedic protocols for Vermont EMS District 12 and the Manchester Rescue Squad. He also served on the committee that formed the Board of Trustees.

"As I look back at the past 35 years, I am most proud of all the different people who have come and gone through this organization, and their commitment to provide the highest level of care to our community. I'm also thankful for the support from our community, making sure we're able to provide this level of service", Mike said. "I have strived to build a department with the highest level of professionalism, dedication, and service possible. This could only have been accomplished by a diverse group of career and volunteer men and women that serve this community every day."



The Town of Dorset wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to Chief Michael Casey for his exemplary service and wishes him a fulfilling and joyous retirement.

Thank you Mike and the NRS family for your many years of service to Dorset!

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TOWN OFFICE CALENDAR & MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Town Manager's Office Monday to Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Town Clerk's Office Monday to Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Zoning Administrator Tuesday to Thursday ~ 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Assessor's Office Monday to Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Select Board Meetings Third Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. ~ Town Office
 Planning Commission Meetings First Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. ~ Town Office
 Zoning Board Meetings Third Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. ~ Town Office
 Design Review Board Third Monday each month at 5:30 p.m. ~ Town Office

Bennington County Sheriff	Corporal Jason Thomas	(802) 442-4900	www.benningtonsheriff.org
Town Office		(802) 362-4571	www.dorsetvt.org
Town Manager	Rob Gaiotti	x3	townmanager@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper	Nancy Aversano	x4	dorsetadmin@comcast.net
Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerks	Sandra Pinsonault Judy Collins/Jennifer Comar	x2	dorsetclerk@gmail.com dorsetasstclerk@gmail.com
Zoning Administrator	Tyler Yandow	x5	dorsetza@gmail.com
Assessors	Margot Schoffstall	x6	dorsetlister@gmail.com
Town Office Fax		(802) 362-5156	
Town Garage		(802) 362-5244	
Town Road Foreman	Jim Hewes	(802) 362-5244	
Animal Control Officer Vermont Game Warden	Town Manager Kyle Isherwood	(802) 362-4571 (802) 442-5421	
Health Officer	Dolores Marcotte	(802) 362-4571	
Town Constable	Ryan Matteson	(802) 430-8407	
Dorset Chamber of Commerce	dorsetvtchamber@gmail.com	(802) 440-0455	www.dorsetvt.com
Schools	Dorset School	(802) 362-2606	sites.google.com/brsu.org/ thedorsetschool/home
	Burr & Burton Academy	(802) 362-1775	www.burrburton.org
	Long Trail School	(802) 867-5717	www.longtrailschool.org
Taconic & Green Regional School District Board		(802) 362-2452	sites.google.com/brsu/home
Post Offices	Dorset	(802) 867-5501	
	East Dorset	(802) 362-3233	
East Dorset Fire Warden Dorset Fire Warden	Doug Beebe Shawn Hazelton	(802) 362-4601 (802)-867-5311	www.dorsetfiredistrict.org/
Dorset Library	Erica Shott	(802) 867-5774	dorsetvillialibrary.org
VNA & Hospice	800-244-0568	(802) 775-0568	802-362-1200
State Representative	Mike Rice	(802) 828-2228	mrice@leg.state.vt.us
State Senator	Brian Champion	(802) 753-7705	bcampion@leg.state.vt.us
State Senator	Richard Sears	(802) 828-2228	rsears@leg.state.vt.us

2023 Appointed Town Officers

Town Manager.....	Rob Gaiotti
Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper.....	Nancy Aversano
Zoning Administrator	Tyler Yandow, AIA
Assessor.....	Margot Schoffstall
Health Officer.....	Dolores Marcotte
Animal Control Officer.....	Town Manager
Fence Viewers	Henry Chandler
.....	Megan Thörn
Tree Warden.....	Hal Coolidge
Town Service Officer.....	Ellen Maloney
Energy Coordinator	Jim Hand

Planning Commission

Gay Squire, Chairperson.....	2027	Scott Ross.....	2024
Scott Thompson, Vice Chair.....	2027	Dave Berard.....	2026
Kit Wallace.....	2027	Conor Welch	2024
Natalie Quigley.....	2026	David McAneny	2025
Scott Durgin	2024		

All four (4) year terms expire April 30th of the year indicated

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Kevin O'Toole, Chairman	2026	Ed Tanenhaus.....	2025
David Wilson, Vice Chairman...	2025	Bruce Ketcham	2025
Martha Merwin	2025	Chad Smith.....	2025
Ruth Stewart	2026		

All three (3) year terms to expire April 30th of the year indicated

Conservation Commission

Malcolm Cooper, Jr.....	2025	Kevin O'Toole	2024
Tim Duclos	2025	Chip Ams	2024
Lee Romano	2027	Marilyn Kinney.....	2026
Sig Buchmayr	2026		

All four (4) year terms expire May 31st of the year indicated

Design Review Board

Kit Wallace, Chairperson	2026	Michele Pagan.....	2024
Arnie Gottlieb.....	2026	James Clubb.....	2024
Lindy Bowden	2026	Ruth Tanenhaus (Alternate)	2025

All three (3) year terms expire April 30th of the year indicated

Bennington County Regional Commission

Liz Ruffa	2024	Nancy Faesy.....	2025
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All two (2) year terms expire on April 30th of the year indicated

Elected Town Officers

Moderator, TownKevin O'Toole 1 Year Term Expires 2024

Moderator, SchoolKevin O'Toole 1 Year Term Expires 2024

Town ClerkSandra Pinsonault..... 3 Year Term Expires 2026

Town TreasurerSandra Pinsonault..... 3 Year Term Expires 2026

Select BoardHenry Chandler 1 Year Term Expires 2024

.....James Salsgiver 3 Year Term Expires 2025

.....Frank Parent..... 3 Year Term Expires 2026

.....Liz Ruffa..... 1 Year Term Expires 2024

.....Megan Thörn..... 3 Year Term Expires 2024

First ConstableRyan Matteson..... 1 Year Term Expires 2024

Town AgentKevin O'Toole 1 Year Term Expires 2024

Justices of the PeaceHoward Coolidge.....Michele Pagan

.....Russell AppelmanJennifer Rich

.....Sandra Pinsonault.....Roger Squires

.....Bo Thörn.....Lee Fox

2 Year Terms for all Justices Expire November 2025

Taconic & Green School District Representatives: David Chandler & James Salsgiver

DORSET'S 2024 INFORMATIONAL TOWN MEETING

will be held *in person* at Dorset Elementary School located at

130 School Drive

Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Please bring this Town Report with you.

Australian Ballot Voting will take place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, VT

Select Board & Town Manager

Town Office Update:

We are happy to report that the new Town Office should begin construction in early summer of 2024. The project was delayed after pricing estimates increased beyond our bond approval. The Town slightly reduced the size of the building to save costs and so far, things are on track. We look forward to keeping you informed about the progress of this new community space!



Dorset Village Water System:

Construction began on Phase 1 of the improvements to the Dorset Village Water System. The project is large with almost 75% of service lines getting replaced as well as some small diameter mains. We are happy to report that our consulting engineers are projecting the work to come in under budget by at least \$500,000. We have completed Phase 2 design and are hopeful to include mainline work on Church Street or Route 30 in 2024-25. This will allow us to maximize grants drawing down as much as \$250,000 in additional grants to offset our costs. When complete we expect 65-70% of the project to be funded by outside funds.

Zoning Bylaw Update Completed:

Many thanks to our dedicated team on the Planning Commission: Gay Squire, Scott Thompson, Kit Wallace, Scott Durgin, Natalie Quigley, Dave Berard, Conor Welch, Scott Ross, David McAneny. They helped to complete a modernization of our zoning bylaw which will benefit Dorset by protecting its character while allowing opportunity for property owners. We appreciate the input from all community members during this process. It's clear that Dorset is fortunate to have many engaged, insightful, and like-minded residents that deeply care about our Town!

Housing Committee:

We are very pleased to report that our Housing Committee that was approved by voters last year has been working diligently on the issue. They have outlined four key areas of work: 1. Create an RFP for housing work at Raptor Lane, 2. Pursue regulatory changes (Short term rental ordinance), 3. Develop a Housing Trust, 4. Update infrastructure. We look forward to reporting on the progress that is made in 2024 on this important issue.

Flooding:

The Town has continued to work with property owners in East Dorset to seek improvements to flooding problems. In the FY25 budget we have allocated a small amount of funding to continue to monitor and take preventive measures (re-build berms, remove sediment) in key areas in Town.

Dorset – Manchester Pathway:

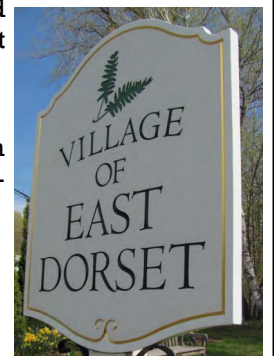
In February/March 2024 the final scoping study for the Route 30 Shared Use Path will be presented to the Select-board. We are excited about the study becoming a starting point for this important discussion about a project that would be such an asset to our community and the region. Be sure to stay engaged on this topic.

Reappraisal:

New England Municipal Consultants, will begin the reappraisal of all property in Dorset in April of 2024. The market has continued to be very strong with many properties selling well above assessed values. NEMC will complete new values by March 2025. Informational letters about what property owners can expect will go out soon.

Many thanks to all our Town employees who help to keep services in Dorset running in good order. We also extend our thanks to all the volunteer board and commission members who play a role in making Dorset a great place to live!

Respectfully Submitted, Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager



Town Clerk Report

I have had the pleasure of serving the Town of Dorset since March, 2005. While I am completing my nineteenth year in office, I am still amazed at how each day is different and the love for my job never fades. Our office continues to maintain and preserve the land and vital records for our town. This past year, our office welcomed Jennifer Comar as Assistant Town Clerk. Jennifer is a great addition to our office. We continue to be extremely busy with land record restorations. Home sales have continued to slow down.

2024 will be a busy year involving elections! We will not only have the Annual Town Meeting in March, we will also have the Presidential Primary. On August 13th, we will have the Vermont Primary and close out the year on November 5th with the General Election. This year we will be holding our informational meeting at the Dorset School on Monday, March 4th at 7 pm. and Australian voting on Tuesday, March 5th from 7 am to 7 pm., as well as the August Primary and November General Election. If you wish to have a ballot mailed to you, please contact our office and we will send one to you.

Please remember to license your dog on or before April 1st of each year. A spay/neutered dog is \$11 and \$15 for one that is not. Large penalties will be assessed after April 1. This is state law for the protection of your dogs and our citizens.

I want to thank my Assistants Judy Collins and Jennifer Comar for their support and service to the Town.

Sandra "Sandy" Pinsonault, MMC/CVC

Town of Dorset Liquor Licenses: 2023

First Class License

Barrows House.....	\$115
Chantecleer Restaurant.....	\$115
Dorset Field Club	\$115
Dorset Inn.....	\$115
Dorset Playhouse	\$115
Dorset Bakery	\$115
HITS.....	\$115
Dorset Union.....	\$115

Total First Class\$920

2023 Animal License Report

163 Spayed Female @ \$6.....	\$978
113 Neutered Male @ \$6.....	\$678
16 Males @ \$10.....	\$160
15 Females @ \$10.....	\$150

307 Total Dogs

Total Town Revenue\$1,966

Second Class License

Dorset Union Store	\$70
Global Montello Group.....	\$70
HN Williams Store.....	\$70
Hasgas General Store	\$70
Mettowee Mint	\$70

Total Second Class\$.....\$350

Total All Licenses\$1,270

2023 Vitals

Births

Males.....	11
Female.....	1

Deaths

Males.....	11
Females	7

Marriages

Resident	3
Non-Resident.....	29

Treasurer Report

I am currently finishing my first year of my second three-year elected term as Treasurer for the Town of Dorset. As Treasurer, my duties include the review and approval of accounts payable, payroll checks and delinquent tax warrants for the Town of Dorset.

In addition to an annual external audit (currently conducted by Mudgett, Jennett, & Krough –Wisner, PC) the Town of Dorset has in place internal controls into the municipal finance system; this includes periodic testing of accounts by a retired finance person and monthly review of balanced bank statements by the Treasurer.

Previous fiscal year audits can be found on the Town website at: www.dorsetvt.org

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Pinsonault, Clerk/Treasurer

Health Officer Report

In 2023 the Health Officer received 15 phone calls with regard to health questions. No on-site inspections were required. The health officer responds to health & safety complaints and helps residents get in touch with the proper resources to remedy the situation. Residential rental properties in Vermont are regulated by the Vermont Rental Code Handbook. This regulation is drafted by the Vermont Department of Health and is available online.

The Vermont Department of Health provides support to the Health Officer and is a good resource for residents:
<http://healthvermont.gov>

Starting in 2024 enforcement and inspection of rental housing units will be done by the Vermont Division of Fire Safety. To learn more visit: www.firesafety.vermont.gov

Respectfully Submitted,
Dolores K. Marcotte

Animal Control Officer Report

In 2023 the Animal Control Officer received 26 calls about animal related issues. Common issues were dogs running at large, unlicensed dogs and dogs barking and disturbing neighbors. For Animal Control calls contact the Town Manager at 417-7814.

If you have a problem with a wild animal, please call VT Game Warden Kyle Isherwood at 442-5421. If the Game Warden cannot be reached, the ACO should be contacted in case of an emergency. Due to the fact that we live in a rural area with wildlife, rabies and distemper can be a concern, so be sure to get your pets vaccinated.

Please remember to license your dog, it's required by Vermont Law. Dog licenses are due April 1st, all dogs over the age of 6 months are required to be licensed and have proof of vaccination with the Town Clerk's Office.

During the year we always have dogs that get loose from a property. PLEASE buy a collar with your name, address, and phone number for your dogs. This will help us return your dogs to you safely and quickly. PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager

Assessor Report

For the twelve months ending December 31, 2023, the Assessor's Office processed 51 valid "arms-length" sales. These sales ranged from \$130,000 to \$2,700,000 for residential property, \$60,000 to \$400,000 for land, and one commercial property at \$ \$2,500,000. In addition, there was other routine maintenance done on the working Grand List such as property transfers into trusts, transfers between family members, or abutters sales and foreclosures.

Dorset's new 2023 CLA (common level of appraisal) – a three-year average of total town sales divided by the total assessment, is now established by the State at 70.96%. The State rate for the education tax is factored by the CLA for each Vermont Town in order to arrive at the "equalized tax rate" for that Town. Further our new COD (coefficient of dispersal) -- that measured equity across types of property is now at 24.37%.

2016-2023	Education Equalize Value		% Change	CLA
2016	\$665,605,197		.30%	105.94
2017	\$651,285,470		-2.2%	108.00
2018	\$645,580,592		-1.8%	108.18
2019	\$640,220,999		-.80%	108.49
2020	\$681,775,466		6.1%	103.02
2021	\$761,562,729		11.24%	91.78%
2022	\$866,038,307		12.1%	81.14%
2023	\$991,317,616		14.5%	70.96%

We are concerned with the fairness of your assessed value. Every year a property owner has the right to appeal their property value. This should be done before the start of the Town's spring grievance period. We encourage you to contact us with any questions or comments on your property assessment. Office hours Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone 802-362-4571 x 6 or E-Mail: dorsetlister@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Margot Schoffstall--Assessor



Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, and Design Review Board Report

A summary of permits and board referrals is shown in the table below.

Zoning Administrator:

<u>Permit Type</u>	# of Permits		Referred to Plan- ning Commission		Referred to Zon- ing Board of Adjustment		Referred to De- sign Review Board		Referred to Se- lectboard	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Building	58	58	4	8	2	4	10	9	---	---
Demolition	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	---	---
Change of Use	0	1	0	1	0	1	---	---	---	---
Boundary Line Adjustment	5	10	0	0	0	---	---	---	---	---
Sign	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	---	---
Subdivision	1	3	1	3	0	---	---	---	---	---
Driveway Access	2	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	2
Totals	72	75	5	12	2	5	10	9	2	2

Much time was spent addressing questions from potential real estate purchasers and real estate agents. The Administrative Officer continued to work with the Planning Commission and the town's planning consultant, *Placesence*, on amendments to the zoning bylaw, subdivision regulations, and town plan. All three documents were amended and approved by the Planning Commission and Selectboard prior to being adopted by the town. The annual E911 report was completed for the State Enhanced 911 Board.

Planning Commission:

The Planning Commission spent 2023 continuing its work revising the town's zoning and subdivision bylaws, and town plan, with the guidance of Brandy Saxton of *Placesence*. Public hearings were held by the board prior to being approved by the Selectboard. The amended documents can be found on the town's website, www.dorsetvt.org.

One of our members, Scott Ross, resigned from the PC. We thank him for his time and positive contributions. If interested in this position, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Tyler Yandow. The board meets monthly, typically on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM at the town office and via *Zoom*.

Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, and Design Review Board Report

(continued)

In addition to its regular monthly meetings, the Planning Commission held two public information meetings, in June and July, to provide Dorset residents a chance to give their input regarding the proposed revision of the bylaws. These meetings were very valuable to the Commission and we made several modifications to the bylaws based on the comments received. In addition, Brandy Saxton provided a "Comment Box" on the town web site where residents could ask questions and make comments on any aspect of the zoning proposals. These were always forwarded to the full PC and to the Zoning Administrator. Also, in addition to our regular meetings, we held four work sessions, in June, July, August and September, which were devoted entirely to bylaw discussion and revision.

The new set of bylaws, whose final draft should be ready for public hearings in the early spring of 2023, is more detailed and comprehensive than anything the town has had to work with in the past, and will greatly facilitate all aspects of zoning compliance and subdivision proposals.

On a personal note, I would like to thank each member of the Planning Commission for their steadfast commitment to attend every meeting, regular and otherwise, and for the constructive way in which we all have worked together on this massive undertaking over the past two plus years. I am proud and grateful to be a part of this remarkable team.

Design Review Board:

The Design Review Board is tasked with reviewing exterior alterations or additions in the Dorset Village Design Overlay District for conformity with certain design guidelines. In this area of historic significance, many of the decisions contribute to the preservation of the iconic historic character of the village.

During 2022 the DRB had fewer applications than usual. Several meetings were taken up with reviewing relevant sections of the new by-laws being proposed by the Planning Commission.

Jim Clubb resigned after many years of dedicated service on the DRB. We will be looking for a replacement in 2023.

With thanks to Tyler Yandow for administrative support and zoning advice, Becky Nawrath for careful work on the meeting minutes, and to the Design Review Board members for their hard work, commitment and caring: Jim Clubb, Lindy Bowden, Arnie Gottlieb, Michelle Pagan, and Ruth Tanenhaus.

The town continues to be grateful for the time and energy donated by members of each board.

Respectfully submitted,

Gay Squire, PC Chair

Kit Wallace, DRB Chair

Tyler Yandow AIA, Zoning Administrator



Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission spent the first half of 2023 continuing its work of revising the town bylaws and zoning regulations. We held two public hearings in February, one to hear the public's input on minor amendments to the Dorset Town Plan, the other to hear further testimony on the proposed changes to the bylaws and zoning regulations.

In May, we voted to send the completed amended by-laws and zoning regulations to the Select Board so they could schedule their public hearing. At our November meeting we approved the amended Zoning District Map and forwarded it to the Select Board for their approval and public hearing.

Also at our May meeting, Janet Hurley of BCRC, came to make the required (every four years) assessment of our town plan goals and policies. No changes were needed in either. Hurley also said she would help the PC in writing its formal decisions for applications requiring a public hearing. She suggested that the Planning Commission consider changing from a Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals format to a Planning Commission/Development Review Board format, something that many towns in Vermont have done. We will discuss this proposal in 2024.

In November, the Planning Commission received the first draft of the Dorset-Manchester Path Scoping Study prepared by DuBois & King. We will begin to discuss the many aspects of this project in 2024.

Scott Ross stepped down after serving on the PC for 3 years. We thank him for his contributions to this board and to the town.

Respectfully submitted,
Gay Squire, PC Chair

Zoning Board of Adjustment

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) is a quasi-judicial body now comprised of seven individuals appointed by the Select Board. At present, the ZBA has a full complement of seven members, namely the Chair, Kevin O'Toole, and Vice-Chair, Ed Tanenhaus, as well as members at large David Wilson, Ruth Stewart, Martha Merwin, Chad Smith and Bruce Ketcham. The Chair wishes to thank everyone on the Board for their commitment to volunteer their time and talents during the past year.

The ZBA meets on an as-needed basis on the third Monday of the month, and hears applications for conditional use permits, variances, expansions of non-conforming buildings and/or uses, as well as appeals from decisions of the Zoning Administrator.

During 2023, the ZBA considered and granted or approved five applications.

In April, the ZBA granted a conditional use permit to the Town of Dorset to remove sediment from the Battenkill River in and around 10 Tennis Way. In June, the ZBA approved the expansion of a pre-existing non-conforming use (addition to existing building, demolition of outbuilding and construction of new, larger outbuilding and rerouting of Awesome View Lane on or around the H.N. Williams Store site). In July, the ZBA granted a conditional use permit for the construction of an accessory dwelling unit at 3486 Dorset Hill Road. In September, the ZBA granted a conditional use permit for firewood processing of more than 20 cords per year at the existing site at 190 Havoc Hill. In October, the ZBA granted a conditional use permit for a composting business at 4343 Route 30 (the Flett farm).

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin M. O'Toole, Chair

Dorset Design Review Board

The Design Review Board is tasked with reviewing exterior alterations or additions in the Dorset Village Design Overlay District for conformity with certain design guidelines. In this area of historic significance, many of the decisions contribute to the preservation of the iconic historic character of the village.

During 2023 the DRB received an average number of applications. The following projects were approved:

- At the Dorset Church – covers and screening of heat pumps and also replacement windows at their manse (minister's residence next door)
- Several replacement windows at 3191 Rt 30 and 3390 Rt 30
- Heat pumps and whole house generator at 59 Church St and 330 Church St
- Fencing to screen home from view of Field Club parking (108 Church St)
- Kitchen addition, replacement windows, revised side entry at 281 Church St
- The largest project by far was work by Jane Kennedy at 3155 Rt 30. Improvements included replacing aluminum siding with wood; asphalt roof with slate; non historic garage with carriage house; and adding a sun-room on rear

With thanks to Tyler Yandow for administrative support and zoning advice, Becky Nawrath for careful work on the meeting minutes, and to the Design Review Board members for their hard work, commitment and caring: Lindy Bowden, Arnie Gottlieb, Michele Pagan, and Ruth Tanenhaus.

Kit Wallace, Chair



Recreation

The Outdoor Recreation Department was very busy in 2023, from the construction of a new mountain bike trail to an invigorating 7-part mushroom foraging program at Owls Head Town Forest. The mountain bike trail was built by Sinuosity, a trail building organization that has been responsible for a large portion of the existing bike network in Owls Head. The RTP grant award allowed for the new downhill trail to be built as an addition to the growing number of bike trails now winding through the Town Forest. Through partnership with NATS, the local mountain bike group, a seasonal trail maintenance employee was hired to work on the bike trails in 2023.



The mushroom programs were led by Ian Vair, a local mushroom expert and owner of Green Mountain Fungi in Rutland. Ian has taught with Green Mountain College and many other organizations and brought his wealth of mycology knowledge to Dorset from June to October. The programs were the first Hike Dorset hosted that required registration due to the high interest and budget. All classes were 3-4 hours long and were conducted in the field to optimize experiential learning. In addition, the Outdoor Recreation Director also hosted programs through the Dorset Library including Wild Edible Foraging, Invasive Species in Vermont, Fall Leaf ID, and the Pinnacle History walk. One of the Hike Dorset crew members led a wonderful Birding program hosted at the Dorset Library also. All programs are free and open to the public! Attendance to the 2023 programs was the highest since the department started in 2019.

Hike Dorset crew included 2 returning crew members and 2 new crew members: 3 teenagers and 1 adult. Due to the excessive rain, the crew goals had to pivot, and annual drainage work was prioritized before anything else, which ended up protecting Dorset's trails from the statewide damage seen from the July floods. Fortunately, the hard work and dedication from the small (but MIGHTY) Hike Dorset crew prevented water damage on the older, steeper trails. The crew also did the majority of trail construction on a new connection trail between the future Town Office site and Hawks Pass Trailhead. This trail will allow visitors to use the future office parking lot as a starting point for longer hikes or bike rides, which is optimal due to parking limitations at Raptor Lane at this point. The crew also pulled over 2,000 burning bush shrubs (as tall as 14 feet) out of Pinnacle Park with hand tools in order to help reduce the spread of invasive species. Invasive species management is one of the highest priority tasks for Hike Dorset because of the severe encroachment of invasive species in the area and across the state of Vermont. Continued efforts and energy will be dedicated to invasive control to help preserve our forests for future generations. Ongoing control includes manual removal done by seasonal crew and State-licensed chemical control by the Outdoor Recreation Director.

Dorset's parks and trails are being visited more than ever before, which aligns with our mission statement: *The Town of Dorset's Outdoor Recreation Department will provide services, resources, and programs necessary for the well-being of the community through the provision of green spaces, forests, trails, and a diverse range of recreational opportunities while working in cooperation with other service providers in the community.* To accommodate the increase in outdoor recreation in Dorset, the department created a Hike Dorset passport that allows visitors (and locals!) to explore the area in a unique way, much like a wine trail program! The town also joined Hike Dorset to the Manchester Visitor Center to increase information availability to tourists. That's Hike Dorset 2023 in a compact nutshell! See you on the trail!

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Batz

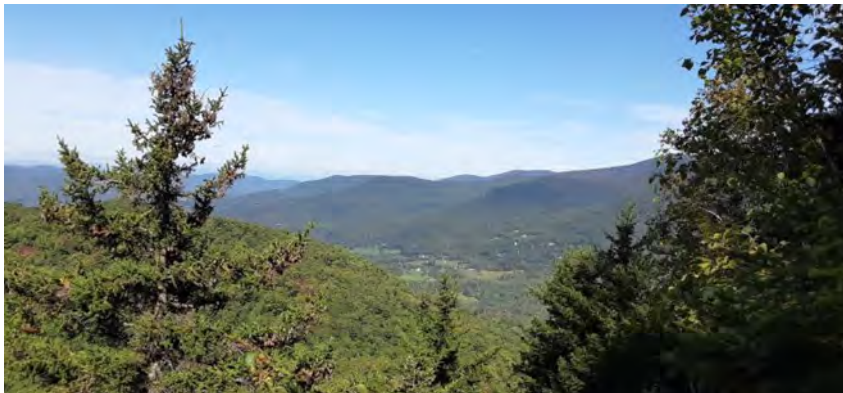


Conservation Commission



Over the last few years, the conservation commission has initiated a landscape-level conservation initiative focused upon strategizing and working towards identifying parcels of high conservation value within the township for outreach and conservation. The goal is to work with private landowners to elevate the understanding of the ecological value of their lands and those around them- and, in doing so, work to preserve the integrity of the currently forested and undeveloped landscape across the town of Dorset. In order to best serve and represent the community and Dorset landowners, the commission will be hosting an open meeting in April of 2024 for open discourse about the future of the Dorset landscape. The commission has taken more of a background role since the Outdoor Recreation Director position was filled in 2019, but the selected individuals on the commission provide invaluable advice, guidance, community insight, historical knowledge, and local understanding. The commission members also serve as volunteers for select projects such

as extending boardwalks at Cutler and clearing invasives and understory in historical quarries. The upcoming meeting in April will be open to ALL and will include refreshments for attendees.



Dorset Energy Committee

This year, the Dorset Energy Committee continued to respond to inquiries about household energy efficiency, visited the homes of Dorset residents, and participated in the work of the Regional Energy Committee.

In particular, we helped to once again lead the Window Dressers effort across the Northshire, working together with other area Energy Committees. Window Dressers is a program in which volunteers assemble very reasonably priced, custom fitted, internal storm-type windows for residences and businesses. These inserts are a simple and cost-efficient way to boost energy efficiency – particularly in old homes with leaky windows. Volunteers from all over the Northshire came together from September 29th to October 4th at the American Legion in Arlington to build inserts for themselves and their neighbors. We expect this Northshire effort to continue next year - you can learn more and sign up for next year at WindowDressers.org.



On the municipal front, the DEC applied for and received a \$4,000 Community Capacity Grant under the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) to support energy resilience community capacity building (for activities including: hiring a grant writer or consultant; hosting educational events; or for the purchase of promotional materials). The DEC also moved forward under MERP to get funding and support for Energy Assessments and Implementation Grants for energy-saving upgrades at our fire stations.

We also arranged and sponsored an event in January 2023 – “How Can the Inflation Reduction Act Work For You? – at the Manchester Community Library, where Bill Laberge presented the many ways that individuals and businesses might benefit from the IRA legislation.

The Committee met three times with our local Representative in the State Legislature, Mike Rice, to discuss energy issues of importance to Dorset residents.

At Town Meeting each year we deliver the latest information on incentives, rebates and other opportunities to save on energy. Last year's presentation ended in many successful referrals to NeighborWorks Heat Squad for reduced price audits and follow through.



Our most important functions are to help meet the energy needs of our town's residents and save taxpayers' money. Your questions and suggestions are what we look for. Please contact any of the members listed below. We also welcome new members!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Jim Hand, Town Energy Coordinator; and Ellen Maloney, Chair
Jim Salsgiver, Nancy Faesy, Bill Laberge, Bob Meszaros – Committee Members
Robert Gaiotti, Advisor



Currently the Bennington County Sheriff's Department provides Law Enforcement services to the town residence and guests in Dorset. Corporal Jason Thomas is currently assigned to the Town of Dorset. Services and investigations that have been rendered while performing his duties in Dorset are as follows.

01/01/2023-12/31/2023

911 calls
Accident investigation with personal injury
Accident investigation with property damage only
Alarms
Animal Problem calls
Building Checks (Random)
Burglary
Cruelty to Animals
Disorderly Conduct
Fire Assistance
Fraud
Larceny (Petit/Grand)
Medical Assistance
Noise Complaints
Retail Theft
Simple Assault
Theft of Services
Threatening
Traffic Stops
Trespass Order Service
Untimely Death
VIN Verifications



In addition to the services and investigations listed above, Corporal Thomas has taken an active role in visiting the schools and attending their safety meetings in order to provide a safe and secure learning environment for the youth.

If you have any questions or should a need arise, please contact Corporal Jason Thomas at:

Office ~ 802-442-4900
E-Mail ~ Jason.thomas@benningtonsheriff.org
<https://www.benningtonsheriff.org/index.php>



Bennington County Regional Commission

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) works with and on behalf of its member municipalities to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, to foster economic prosperity, and to promote a high quality of life for residents of the region. The BCRC plays an important role in coordinating work among local governments, state and federal agencies, regional public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private interests. The organization is governed by local appointees from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrcvt.org).

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials, the BCRC is a regional center for programs in community and economic development, transportation, energy, environmental conservation, water quality, public health, solid waste management, and emergency management. BCRC staff is available to provide direct assistance in these areas and to serve as a liaison with state and federal agencies.

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning at the BCRC is conducted by dedicated staff and supported by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation. The goal of this BCRC program is to support workforce development and business retention, growth, and recruitment. Related BCRC planning and community development initiatives support redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers, grant assistance for local businesses, and have produced reuse planning studies for key properties such as the former SVC campus and the recently idled Energizer complex. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property from damage. Other important activities have included: an assessment of land use regulations affecting housing in each town and village, expanded staff capacity to assist with implementation of local energy plans, village center and neighborhood development area designations, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan and the development of a new permanent hazardous waste facility in the region, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, and public transportation improvements.

In the coming year, the BCRC will continue to provide information and resources to assist business and local governments to take advantage of opportunities created through the federal American Rescue Plan and other programs. We expect to see continued focus on infrastructure (including broadband) improvement projects, housing creation, business support services, and measures to support implementation of the Vermont Climate Action Plan.

While our downtown Bennington offices, located at 210 South Street, have reopened, staff still work remotely at times, so it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at www.bcrcvt.org). Fortunately, technology has allowed us to continue work with little interruption in progress on any projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Colvin, Director



Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) represents a partnership of 13 towns working together to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills through recycling, reuse, repair, and through other means of resource conservation. Since 2015, BCSWA has followed a solid waste implementation plan to assist residents, schools, businesses, and other organizations meet the requirements of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law.

In July of 2023 BCSWA opened a new household hazardous waste collection facility at the Bennington Transfer Station. The facility was open one day per week throughout the fall and collected paint, pesticides, cleaning products, flammable liquids, and other landfill banned items from 225 families and small businesses in the area. The facility was built under budget at a cost of \$106,739.74. A grant from Vermont DEC financed 60% of the cost with the member towns of the Alliance funding the remainder. The Alliance projects that the facility will reduce annual operations costs when compared to the previous model of hosting disposal events, and that the savings will pay for construction costs in approximately 3 years.

The Alliance hosts a website at www.bcswa.org, and is present on social media at facebook.com/solidwastealliance, instagram.com/bcswa_vt, and youtube.com/@bcswa. Outreach on these channels provide resources and information to residents about:

- Scheduling a household hazardous waste drop off appointment
- Battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- Disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and select transfer stations
- Recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- Prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- Recycling of textiles by the Apparel Impact, Goodwill, and others
- Disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations and retail establishments
- Disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, Staples, and retail establishments
- Diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen container
- Reduced price composting equipment available at the BCSWA online store
- Waste reduction resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions and residents

During 2023 the Alliance assisted 41 businesses, held composting and Recycling events at local libraries, produced regular content for public access television stations, and hosted tables at several farmers markets.

Visit bcswa.org for updates and details. The Alliance is funded by the thirteen member towns of the alliance proportional to their population, along with grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.



TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event 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, Bridgwater, 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

Maple Hill Cemetery Association



MAPLE HILL CEMETERY, adjoining Route 30 just south of Dorset Village, is concluding its 251st year of serving the local community. 2023 was quite challenging but nonetheless “successful”: we sold 5 full Lots, performed 15 cremation burials, kept our 7.4 acres of grounds mown and picked up, and spent over \$10,000 in continuing efforts to restore older headstones while receiving unsolicited gifts of nearly that amount.

But the major unplanned challenge resulted from the tragic death of our longtime grounds-keeper in the spring, leaving us scrambling to find new persons to tend the property (a fussy mowing job around our ancient layout) and to dig and reclose graves as needed. A second difficulty arose when lightning shattered a tall pine tree leading to a messy & expensive cleanup though damaging few headstones. Thirdly, our volunteer Sexton (manager) is moving away and we’re trying to find another to fill the void.

For years Maple Hill Cemetery has operated as a private association receiving no public funds, but the board is choosing in 2024 to petition the town for financial assistance in replacing the old decrepit tool shed with a new one adequate to meet ongoing needs, especially keeping the squirrels out while housing and protecting equipment.

Andy Longacre, past Sexton

For the Board: Malcom Cooper Pres., Tom Cooper V.P., Tracie Salmon Treas., Jeff Lynch Sec., Keith Michl, Sean Osborne, and Ellen Maloney





Southern Vermont
Communications
Union District
www.sovtcud.net

Southern Vermont Communications Union District 2023: Our Fourth Year

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had a very busy, and successful fourth year.

In September 2022, SoVT CUD and its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) were awarded a \$9,009,085 Act 71 Construction Grant to fund Phase 2 of fiber network construction in SoVT CUD territory. After Phase 1 was completed at the end of 2022, construction of Phase 2 began in early 2023 and was consistently ahead of schedule. To date, the Construction Grant has funded the passing of over 6,000 homes with fiber, including 1,300 that were unserved. Dozens of fiber distribution hubs (FDH) across all 14 member towns have been released for customer sales.

Phase 2 remained on track to be completed before the end of 2023, providing over 95% of homes in Bennington County with access to fiber optic internet service. With the wrap up of Phase 2, SoVT CUD has focused its efforts on providing service to the hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3 of network construction.

In August 2023, SoVT CUD and CCI held a ribbon cutting event at Bromley Mountain in Peru to celebrate the near completion of the fiber network in Bennington County. The event was attended by Senator Peter Welch, and other local and state officials. There has been significant media coverage of SoVT CUD's success, including a segment from Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT) and NBC Channel 5.

SoVT CUD is now focused on the approximately 20 hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3. These addresses are primarily located in Arlington and Pownal and are unserved according to state data. The CUD has begun initial outreach to these property owners to assess the status of their internet service and build a finalized list of Phase 3 addresses to be covered under the CUD's universal service plan.

The CUD has greatly benefited from our partnership with the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). The administrative assistance and expertise in navigating the public funding arena provided by Community and Economic Development Specialist Jonathan Cooper and Regional Planner Callie Fishburn has been invaluable. The CUD is especially indebted to BCRC's ability to keep us grounded in the broad development efforts of the region.

More information can be found on the website: sovtcud.net

Delinquent Tax Report ~ December 31, 2023

Casey, Evelyn.....	\$1,405.32
Clark, Scott	\$7,727.88
3557 Route 7	\$10,232.23*
DeCastro, Christina	\$175.52*
Greene, Kristyn.....	\$2,504.07*
Lowberg, Matthew	\$1,942.72*
Mungi, Adam	\$92.90
Prouty, Gladys	\$2,666.42
Red Cupola, LLC	\$1,437.75
Sheldon, Shelly	\$2,129.17
Staunton, Sidney Jr	\$4,410.17*
Stimson, Ellen	\$63,155.13*
Total.....	\$97,879.28

* ***Paid or partially paid after December 31, 2023***

As a percentage the Delinquent amount is less than 1% of the annual property tax levy, which is over \$12,500,000 including local and State school, and Town funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Gaiotti - Town Manager/ Delinquent Tax Collector

VOTER APPROVED APPROPRIATIONS



Dorset Marble Preservation Association, Inc. (DMPA)





December 1, 2023

To the Citizens of the Town of Dorset,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low-income or living in poverty that we serve throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for supporting us over the years on Town Meeting Day. BROC Community Action assists families and individuals in crisis and help provide a sustainable path forward.

Over the past year, BROC Community Action assisted 21 residents of the Town of Dorset. Whether they need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, weatherization, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget and credit counseling and resources and referrals; we are here.

People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your town appropriation helps ease the struggle for nearly 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward whenever possible.

Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming fiscal year remains \$1,000.00.

We truly value our collaboration with Dorset as we assist those most in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Donahue", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp.

Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@broc.org

BROC Community Action
Revenues and Expenditures - Budget
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024

	Fiscal Year
	2024
Revenue & Expenses	
Total Revenue	
Federal Grants	4,956,476
State Grants	4,055,773
Foundation Grants	103,412
Contributions	219,498
Commodities	75,000
Rental	113,568
Town Funding	42,876
EVT	136,800
Other Income	105,598
Total Revenue	9,809,000
Operational Expenses	
Salaries	3,073,722
Fringe	979,304
Travel	64,839
Employee Development	68,259
Space	255,614
Telephone	29,874
Equipment	443,283
Supplies	135,264
Postage	7,499
Print & Copy	22,744
Insurance	90,850
Computer Services	48,794
Professional Services	13,493
Dues, License & Fees	20,230
Depreciation	190,965
Maintenance Tools/Vehicles	92,186
Other Expenditures	30,554
Indirect	905,145
Total Operational Expenses	6,472,619
Direct Service Expenses	
WX Materials Labor and Sub Labor	1,874,073
Direct Services - Housing	350,508
Direct Services - Fuel & Electric	517,200
Direct Services - Food	37,500
Direct Services Commodities	75,000
Direct Services - Providers (CACFP)	240,000
Direct Services - Other	212,100
Total Direct Service Expenses	3,306,381
Total Operational & Direct Expenses	9,779,000
Net	30,000

BROC Community Action Proprietary

Rutland Office
143 Maple St
Rutland VT, 05701
(802) 786-5990



Bennington Office
160 Benmont Ave, Suite #90
Bennington VT, 05201
(802) 442-5436

Report to the Citizens of Dorset

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older Vermonters in Dorset during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 09/30/2022 through 10/01/2023

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide 276 meals that were delivered to the homes of 6 older Vermonters in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 2 Dorset older Dorset residents came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 7 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 18.5 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 9 residents of Dorset.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 17 older Vermonters in your community for a total of 100.25 hours. Case managers met with Dorset residents privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assessed the resident's situation. They worked with the older 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 helped their clients connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to older Dorset 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 affecting the older population and opportunities 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 family members in need of assistance.
- Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to both older Vermonters and younger disabled individuals.

The Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) is Bennington's community justice agency helping both young people as well as adults to take an active role to repair the harm they caused, give back to their community and learn new ways to be a positive, contributing community member. With your town's support, this past year, over 1,400 individuals went through one of CRJ's many programs. A few specific examples include:



- 163 young people and adults participated in CRJ's Court Diversion Program and had their charges expunged after taking responsibility for their actions and repairing harms caused
- 91 individuals were assisted to get their driver's license reinstated and legally back on the road
- 379 youth were served through one of CRJ's Juvenile Restorative Programs such as our in-school Restorative Alternative Program, Pre-Charge Program, The Lounge (afterschool program), life skills groups, Summer Youth Empowerment Program and mentoring
- 62 individuals returning to the community from incarceration were served through one of CRJ's many Community Reentry Programs
- 36 individuals were assisted to file court petitions to get their records expunged
- 204 adults participated in CRJ's adult restorative programs and support services
- 416 teens accessed Threads, CRJs free clothing boutique exclusively for teens
- 56 individuals were supported in CRJ's Pretrial Services Program connecting them with substance use, mental health and other community support services while awaiting court case resolution

CRJ's programs are guided by the principles of restorative justice, a philosophy of justice that focuses on the people and communities harmed by crime; it emphasizes bringing together everyone affected by wrongdoing to address needs and responsibilities

Your support is greatly appreciated and is invaluable in helping CRJ continue to expand its programming and to reach as many people as possible. Your continued support has helped individuals to get their lives on the right track, helped empower victims to have a voice in the justice process, and helped restore and strengthen our communities.

Leitha Cipriano

Executive Director

Center for Restorative Justice

FY 2023 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT		
Revenue:	State Grants	541,058
	Other Grants	27,853
	School Funding	30,000
	Fees- Diversion/TASP	23,605
	Town Funding	5,240
	Contributions, Fundraising	3,184
	Total Revenue	630,940
Expenses	Personnel	529,188
	Facilities	36,910
	Operations	32,415
	Ins	9,208
	Training & Travel	6,475
	Prof Fees	8,838
Total Expenses	623,034	



**PROJECT AGAINST
VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS**

Mailing: P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201
Physical: 102 Dewey St, Bennington, VT 05201
Office: 802.442.2370 | Hotline: 802.442.2111
www.pavebennington.org

**We All Deserve Healthy
Love.**

PAVE believes that everyone deserves to experience healthy love. It is a core part of our mission to strive to promote a community and a world, where we all can experience the joy of healthy love.

With over 10 Million Americans affected by Domestic Violence a year, striving for a community where non-violent love is the norm, can be daunting. But we persist, because we believe our goal is not only possible but necessary.

Over the last year, PAVE has been able to help survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence reclaim their lives after fleeing abuse. We have been there at the moment of crisis; **fielding over 500 hotline calls** and **providing 4221 nights of emergency shelter**. We have been there as survivors start to stabilize and heal; helping to obtain **16 housing assistance vouchers**, and over **50 Protection Orders**.

PAVE also has been present before violence takes place, with the hope that through education we can promote healthy forms of love and stop the cycle of Domestic Violence before it even starts. PAVE has provided over **900 youth in Bennington County** with preventative education and helped train over **200 community partners on topics** related to Domestic & Sexual Violence. Our Advocates have dedicated themselves tirelessly to spreading the message of non-violent love at community events and in their day to day work with survivors.

We are requesting level funding for the coming year in the amount of \$500.00.

PAVE expresses their gratitude for the support and dedication the Town of Dorset has shown to survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence.

With appreciation,

Lindsay Brillon, M.Ed. LSW
Executive Director
Project Against Violent Encounters

PAVE is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and your donation is fully tax deductible, less the value of any goods or services received. PAVE does not appraise the value of gifts. Our tax ID number is 03-0285583.



PAVE

PAVE Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024							
Original Budget Total: June 30, 2023							
Revised Total:							
Board Approved:							
	Total Advocacy	FVPSA	FVPSA M23	FVPSA SA23	HJWT	VOCA	SASP
Notes		ED, FC, LA	ED,FC, LA	ED,FC, LA	LA	ED, LA	ED, VC
Income - Cash Reserves	0						
4015 - Contributions - Shelter							
4020 - Contrib - Indiv, Bus, Group	0						
4045 - Contributions - Towns	0						
4060 - Contrib - Program -Clients	0						
4200 - Contracts -State	0						
4120 - Grant Income Federal	176,028	55,089	27,758	18,196	1,728	35,009	38,248
4110 - Grant Income State	0						
4130 - Grant Income Other	0						
4135 - Grants - Restricted	0						
4500 - Deferred Grant Income	0						
11400 - Grant Receivable	0						
4550 - Interest Income	0						
Total Income	176,028	55,089	27,758	18,196	1,728	35,009	38,248
Expenses							
60001 - Salaries	123,780	35,163	18,878	14,715	1,728	20,696	32,800
Employee Benefits							
60003 - Payroll FICA Expense	9,734	1,610	1,042	797		2,816	3,469
60004 - Health/Dental Insurance	17,295	7,906	2,559	1,903		3,076	1,851
60005 - Reliance ST Disability Ins	1,551		347	265			939
60064 - SUTA	108	41	0	0		13	54
60066 - Worker's Comp Insurance	397		84	63		176	74
Program Services							
60006 - Monitor/Subcontractor Expense	0						
60007 - Education/Workshop Expense	0						
60012-1 - Training & Travel (THP & Rural Partner)	0						
60012-2 - THP Bus Vouchers	0						
60012 - Training & Travel	0						
60065 - Mileage - Outreach	0						
60045 - Client Subsidies	0					0	
60045 - Client Subsidies - 1 (Motels)	0						
60048 - Client Legal Fees	0						
60067 -Animal Emergency Subsidy	0						
60069 - Client Motel Kits	0						
Operations Expense							
60013 - Accounting Audit Fee & 990	0						
60016 - Payroll Service Fee	1,863	1,863					
60017 - Legal Fees-PAVE	0						
60018 - Bank Charges	0						
60034 - Postage	0						
60035 - Dues & Subscriptions	569					569	
60037-0 Materials & Supplies (Main Ofc)	748		748				
60037.1 Office Supplies (THP)	0						
60037.2 M&S - Shelter (VT Kids/Fundrais)	0						
60037.3 M&S (HOP)	0						
60038 - Telephone & Internet	7,490	2,737	4,300	453			
60044 - Hotline	7,480	3,740				3,740	
60040 - Website	0						
60056 - Misc Expense	0						
60061 - Fundraising Exp	0						
60080 - Subcontractor/Advertising	0						
Insurance Expense							
60020 - Liability & Flood Insurance	1,062	1,062					
60051 - D & O Insurance	1,941	967				974	
Facility Expense							
60022 - Building Rent-Family Time	0						
60019 - Rent - Gore Rd	0						
60068 - Rent - DB McKenna	0						
60025 - Utilities - Electric (Gore Rd)	0						
60026 - Utilities - Fuel (Gore Rd)	0						
60026-1 - Utilities - THP	0						
60021 - Repairs & Maintenance	0						
60028 - Trash	0						
60028 - 1 Snow	0						
60028 - 2 Pest	0						
60028 - 3 Cleaning	0						
60047-1 - THP Rent - 1 (750)	0						
60047-2 - THP Rent - 2 (850)	0						
60047-3 - THP Rent - 3 (950)	0						
60047-4 - Security Deposit- 1	0						
60047-5 - Security Deposit- 2	0						
60047-6 - Security Deposit- 3	0						
60047-7 - THP Flexible Funding	0						
60047 - THP Moving Cost	0						
60029 - Equipment Expense - All	2,010					2,010	
60063 - Unpaid Grant Obligation	0						
Total Expenses	176,028	55,089	27,758	18,196	1,728	35,009	38,248
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Complete Budget can be viewed at Town Office.



Thank You for Supporting GNAT-TV: Empowering and Connecting Our Community

Mission: To connect community and empower people through local media.
Vision: To engage, inform, and inspire the public, creating a vibrant community.
Purpose: To strengthen community ties through accessible and transparent local media.

GNAT-TV Service Territory:

Arlington
 Dorset
 Londonderry
 Manchester
 Peru
 Rupert
 Sandgate
 Stratton
 Sunnyside
 Weston
 White

WAYS TO WATCH COMCAST CABLE

CHANNELS:
 1074 (PUBLIC)
 1084 (GOVERNMENT)
 1094 (EDUCATION)
 GNAT-TV.ORG

YOUTUBE

ROKU & APPLE TV

LISTEN VIA PODCAST

Dear Community Members,

We extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support of GNAT-TV. Your contributions have been instrumental in our mission to connect the community and empower individuals through local media. As we continue to serve as a vital communication hub, your support has been the cornerstone of our success, especially notable during challenging times.

Our Impact: A Year in Review

GNAT-TV has made significant strides in 2023, underlining our commitment to engaging, informing, and inspiring the public. This year, we ran a total of 817 programs, reflecting our commitment to diverse and engaging community initiatives. Highlights of our efforts include:

- **Enhancing Local Government Transparency:** Committed to fostering civic engagement and promoting transparency, we successfully facilitated 214 local government meetings, 28 in Dorset specifically. This initiative strengthened community participation and broadened our reach. By integrating with modern streaming platforms like Roku, Fire TV, Apple TV, Youtube, and social media, we've made these essential civic meetings more accessible, inviting a broader audience to engage. This move to digital platforms demonstrates our ongoing effort to keep our community informed and actively involved in local governance.
- **Live Streaming Milestones:** Successfully broadcasted local school graduation ceremonies, ensuring these significant moments were shared with the entire community.
- **Technical Support and Training:** Provided essential technical assistance and training to the faith community for seamless online services.
- **Community Event Coverage:** Actively distributed and archived community events, preserving the vibrant spirit of your town.
- **Youth Engagement:** Launched the Youth Filmmaker's Club a platform celebrating and showcasing local children's talents and creativity.
- **Independent News Segments:** Produced 167 segments of local independent news, keeping the community informed and connected.

GNAT-TV Operating Revenue / Expense Summary Year Ending 9.30.2023

Operating Revenue	
Mandated Cable Funding	\$424,497
Municipal Contributions (7 Towns)	\$14,000
Program Services, Contributions, Grants	\$69,031
Investments / Other	\$15,422
Net Asset Release from Restrictions	\$73,229
Total Operating Revenue	\$596,179
Operating Expenses	
Program / Production	\$413,915
General / Management	\$96,503
Total Operating Expense	\$510,418

*\$85,761 operating balance will be transferred to the capital budget to support video equipment. Full financial reports are available at gnattv.org

2023 Usage Data

- 807 Local Public Programs Produced
- 214 Government Meetings
- 85 Community Video Announcements
- 139 Community Bulletin Announcements
- 204,332 Online Video Views
- 214 Equipment & Facility Reservations
- 138 Training Sessions
- 295 People Trained

Your Support: Fueling Our Mission

Your ongoing support is crucial for GNAT-TV to continue these impactful efforts. Local media is not just a platform; it is the lifeblood of a vibrant and informed community. Your financial contributions will empower us to further strengthen our communities, aligning with our purpose of providing transparent access to information and supporting local engagement.

Looking Forward: Together, We Can Achieve More

As we invite you to continue your support, remember that your contributions are not just donations; they are investments in the heart and soul of our community. Together, we can keep our community connected, informed, and inspired.

Thank you for considering your support for GNAT-TV. We are proud to be a part of this community, and with your help, we will continue to make a significant difference.

Greater Northshire Access Television is a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization
 Created by Community Members Like You in 1995



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Neighbor to Neighbor's mission is to assist our neighbors to live independently by providing no-cost, non-medical volunteer services that nurture relationships.

Since 2004, Neighbor to Neighbor and our dedicated team of volunteers has provided vital services to older, disabled and other housebound residents of the Northshire, including those in Manchester, Arlington, Sunderland, Dorset, Pawlet, Rupert, Wells, & Danby. Our services include transportation to appointments and errands, friendly visits and phone calls, friendly handwritten notes, help with home and yard projects, and monthly social events. We continue to promote our services to potential recipients and volunteers, as well as develop new programs and collaborations that will provide our elder community with more social opportunities.

Currently, there are 23 residents in Dorset (up from 14 last year) who are either Neighbor to Neighbor recipients or volunteers. This reflects a substantial increase in both caseload and demand for services that we are experiencing across all townships. To enable us to accomplish our mission more efficiently, we have hired an additional part time staffer. To be expected, helping more people to do more things naturally drives up administrative and programming costs. Thankfully, Neighbor to Neighbor receives funding through local towns as well as through private, corporate, and foundation donors.

If you haven't already, please visit our website <https://neighbortoneighborvt.org/> and watch our promotional video on the homepage. It is a great glimpse into the many ways that Neighbor to Neighbor helps this community, and features many current and former volunteers and care recipients!

On behalf of the Steering Committee, our amazing volunteers, and most importantly the neighbors we serve, Neighbor to Neighbor is most grateful for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzie Eisinger
Program Director

Revenue (Fiscal Yr Ending 6-30-23)		Expenses	
Grants	\$ 12,500	Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 26,909
Foundations/Corporations	\$ 46,661	Worker's Comp	\$ 605
Ind. Cont./Fundraising	\$ 29,218	Event Exps/Meals	\$ 3,745
Support from Towns	\$ 3,000	Phone/Internet	\$ 2,028
Houses of Worship	\$ 1,250	Office Supplies/Tech Support	\$ 2,716
Interest Income	\$ 968	Printing/Publicity/Advertising/ Newsletter	\$ 2,045
		Postage	\$ 1,496
		Fund Raising	\$ 20
		Bank/Credit Card Charges	\$ 84
		Insurance: Liability	\$ 2,401
		Food Cards/Volunteer Gifts	\$ 7,919
		Recruitment	\$ 704
		Donations to Church	\$ 1,200
TOTAL REVENUE	\$93,597	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 51,872



DORSET HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The year 2023 has been another busy year at the Dorset Historical Society. We continued to play a major role in the cultural calendar of the Dorset community and we continued to work closely with the Town Office, the Library and the local schools.

In addition to hosting our monthly lunchtime lecture series, as well as two open houses for new exhibits, and our always well-attended Ice Cream Social, we also unveiled new exhibits featuring the photography of Huntington Pratt Gilbert, Autograph Collecting, the History of Dorset, 1840-1870, the houses moved to Dorset by Charley Wade, and recently received paintings and photographs. For the latter, we cleaned and conserved a large oil painting by Wallace Fahnestock of a marble quarry. We received the painting from the Dorset School, where it was hung for sixty years. Our hardy volunteers continue to greet visitors, and care for the collections left in our trust. We are currently mapping out 2024, with a great variety of talks, social events, exhibits, and hikes to remote, abandoned quarries.



The Board of Directors of the Dorset Historical Society

	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Revenue</u>		
Membership Income	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Museum Proceeds	2,653.09	1,350.00
Special Gifts	1,010.62	1,000.00
Dorset Town Grant	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 52,163.71	\$ 49,850.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Programs and Exhibits	\$ 5,650.76	\$ 5,550.00
Newsletters	824.71	1,000.00
Administrative	45,544.23	45,500.00
Facilities	14,603.62	9,000.00
Utilities	<u>3,162.62</u>	<u>3,300.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 69,785.94	\$ 64,350.00
 Note - Dorset Town Support	 \$ 7,500.00	 \$ 7,500.00
	(provided)	(requested)

Dorset Village Public Library
 13 Church Street
 PO Box 38
 Dorset, VT 05251
dorsetvillagelibrary@gmail.com
Social Media: @dorsetvillagelibrary



The Dorset Village Public Library completed its first full year as a member of the Catamount Library Network. Our circulation has increased tremendously. The Consortium creates access to resources from all around the state for our patrons. We are happy to have you join the Library, or convert your old number to a new one so you can access Aspen, the interface that allows patrons to browse and request materials from the comfort of their home. Becoming a member also gives you access to our expanded digital offerings.

The Library has been a busy place this year. A plethora of new patrons was added and we had a record high visitor count this year, averaging 25-30 patrons daily. During our busiest days, we had 50+ people through the door! Programs were plenty and varied with a little something for everyone. Story time, Dungeons and Dragons, the Dorset Knitters and the Book Club continued on a regular schedule throughout 2023. We look forward to serving the community throughout 2024 with new and improved programming, new books and DVDs arriving monthly and soon we will have new and improved internet service, which means wireless printing!

Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 294 programs • 2520 attendees • 800+ in attendance at the Vermont Fairy Tale Festival 	Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6175 total circulation • 686 items sent to other libraries • 600 items borrowed from other libraries • 2068 electronic/audio books circulated
People: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 new patrons • 5497 visitors in 2023 • 63 computer sessions 	What do we do with our funds from the town? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay utility bills (oil, electricity, water) • Buy books, DVDs and electronic resources

<u>4000 - Revenue</u>		<u>Jan-Dec 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
	4100 · Investment Income	\$93,765.77	\$50,000
	4150 · Endowment Transfers	\$150,000.00	\$175,000.00
	4000 · Library Income	\$1,319.02	\$1,255.00
	4050 · Donations & Annual Fund	\$25,797.37	\$30,750.00
	4080 · Town Appropriations	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	Total Revenue	\$290,882.16	\$277,005.00
<u>6000 - Expenses</u>		<u>Jan-Dec 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
	6000 · Administration	\$23,317.36	\$28,900.00
	6500 · Personnel	\$142,673.55	\$168,492.57
	6600 · Library Materials	\$19,015.29	\$27,200.00
	6700 · Building & Grounds	\$28,687.09	\$32,025.00
	Total Expense	\$213,693.29	\$256,617.57
	Surplus/Deficit	\$77,188.87	\$20,387.43



ANNUAL REPORT- November 2023
Cindy Luce, Executive Director

Bennington County Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, which has helped more than 40 million people achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance through safe, decent, and affordable housing. Our local Habitat affiliate has had the honor of providing affordable homeownership opportunities for 34 families to date, with two more families currently in the homeownership program.

We work in partnership with Bennington County residents who cannot otherwise become homeowners or afford needed home repairs. Applicants must have a need for better housing, the ability to pay, and the willingness to partner with us as we build and work *with* individuals and families, not *for* them. Once accepted into the homeownership program, each adult family member must complete 200 hours of sweat equity, half of which must be completed on the construction site(s). Homebuyers who become homeowners pay an affordable mortgage through monthly payments that include escrow for property taxes, insurance, and Homeowner Association fees, where applicable. Homebuyers' monthly payments do not exceed more than 30% of their income.

Bennington County Habitat is locally run and funded. With the exception of some contract services such as roofing, electrical, and plumbing, volunteers build Habitat houses. Businesses, subcontractors, and individuals help build, donate materials, and provide financial support. Town appropriations purchase building supplies and materials for our construction programs. With the costs of building a home continuing to rise, support from local towns and governments is more important than ever.

In Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023), Bennington County Habitat welcomed home the Metcalf family in Pownal. So far this Fiscal Year, two more families have moved home. This is **12 more** individual people now in safe, adequate housing. Additionally, we absorbed another Habitat affiliate this fiscal year. 5 homeowner partner families from West River Habitat are now a part of our organization, and we will be servicing their mortgages.

After **135** homebuyer applications were sent out in March, two new families were accepted into our homebuyer program. In October of this year we broke ground on our **35th** home, which is in Bennington on Greenview Drive, and will be building our **36th** home on the same street this coming year as well.

In addition to our homeownership program, our home repair program has been growing as well. In Fiscal Year 2023 we completed three repair projects, while so far in Fiscal Year 2024 we completed one already, have two more starting soon, and plan to do even more before the end of June. Our home repair program continues to accept applications from local income-qualified homeowners who need minor home repairs, including ramps, to safely stay in or return to their homes from health care facilities.

Our Resale Store in Manchester has been rebranded as an official Habitat ReStore this year. Through this we sell, at reasonable prices, new and gently used furniture, building supplies, art, housewares, tools, and home improvement products that have been donated to us. Not only does the Store provide people with quality furnishings they can afford, it also keeps items out of the landfill. The proceeds from the Store provide direct financial support for our construction programs.

One Dorset resident serves on our Board of Directors and many Dorset residents have helped build our local Habitat homes. We encourage Dorset residents to apply for homes and home repair projects. Additionally we have a flourishing relationship with Long Trail School, engaging dozens of Dorset students. We are grateful for the Town of Dorset's continued support.

None of our projects would be possible without the support we receive from the local community. Together, we make a difference in the lives of hard working people in Bennington County. For more information please visit our website at www.BenningtonCountyHabitat.org

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Luce, Executive Director, Bennington County Habitat for Humanity



Town Reports
7/1/22 - 6/30/23
Cash Flows

	FY23 <u>Actual</u>	FY23 <u>Budget</u>
Contributions & Other Income	\$257,052	\$152,989
Restricted Contributions/Grants	\$ 9,300	\$20,000
Fundraising Events	\$ 25,100	\$10,000
ReStore Fundraising	\$155,565	\$125,000
Interest & Other Income	\$ 28,987	\$ 1,500
Mortgage/Loan Payments Received	<u>\$126,114</u>	<u>\$104,712</u>
 Total Cash In Flow	 \$602,118	 \$414,201
 Construction, Property Development & Program Operations	 \$398,732	 \$556,561
Fundraising & ReStore Operations	\$ 77,408	\$ 69,162
Administrative & Other	<u>\$232,977</u>	<u>\$224,204</u>
 Total Cash Out Flow	 <u>\$709,117</u>	 <u>\$849,927</u>
 Net Cash Flow (used of surplus)	 (\$106,999)	 (\$435,726)

VNA & HOSPICE

of the Southwest Region
Serving Bennington and Rutland Counties

To the Officers and Citizens of Dorset:

In 2022, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Dorset 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 Dorset's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 127,393 home visits to 3,043 patients. **In Dorset, we provided 1,378 visits to 50 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	Dan DiBattista, President
VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region	Board of Directors

VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, Inc.

Annual Budget

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

	<u>12/31/24 BUDGET</u>	<u>12/31/23 BUDGET</u>
REVENUE		
Home Care	\$ 12,174,870	\$ 12,000,674
Hospice	4,681,058	5,342,868
Pediatric Programs	1,240,864	1,548,096
Choices for Care	1,949,350	1,661,990
Private Duty	478,507	458,538
Community Services	2,000	2,000
	\$ 20,526,649	\$ 21,014,166
OTHER REVENUE		
Grant Revenue	1,443,695	1,358,072
Contract Services	175,000	204,945
Thrift Shop	170,000	150,000
Flu Clinics/Misc	150,648	149,598
	1,939,343	1,862,615
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	22,465,992	22,876,781
CONTRACTUAL ALLOWANCES	(1,741,529)	(1,911,295)
NET OPERATING REVENUE	20,724,463	20,965,486
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Wages and Benefits	\$ 15,994,625	\$ 15,740,088
Contract Services	1,914,650	2,030,730
Administrative Expenses	553,970	1,295,217
Program Expenses	3,984,792	3,605,560
Occupancy Costs	138,500	125,700
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	22,586,537	22,797,295
EXCESS OF OPERATING REVENUE OVER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ (1,862,074)	\$ (1,831,809)
NON OPERATING REVENUE		
United Way	-	10,000
Town Appropriations	225,200	225,200
Contributions	328,750	342,250
Investment Income	801,000	837,500
TOTAL NON-OPERATING REVENUE	1,354,950	1,414,950
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (507,124)	\$ (416,859)



The Dorset Players have had a presence in the Dorset Community since 1927. The Dorset Playhouse, built with proceeds from plays, and many generous gifts, was opened in 1929. In 1999, The Dorset Players and The Dorset Theatre Festival undertook a three million dollar restoration and the Playhouse reopened in 2001.

As owners of the Playhouse, the Players have done their best to maintain the 28,000 square foot building. Over the years the cost of repairs and upkeep have grown. In the past few years, with the help of grants, fundraising and donations, we have been able to install a new roof with gutters, paint the building, repair our marble patio, replace an HVAC unit, clean and fireproof all stage curtains, weatherization and sprinkler head replacement.

There is still work to be done - replacement of our boiler, installing new aisle lights for audience safety, replacement of carpeting throughout the building and repairs to our baseboard heating. A long term project is replacement of our auditorium seats which can no longer be repaired.

Our 2023-2024 season includes a diverse selection of productions with something for everyone. Including bringing more children’s theater programming to the Playhouse with *A Charlie Brown Christmas* by Charles M. Schulz, *Bill Melendez*, *Lee Mendelson & Eric Schaeffer*, and *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Missoula Children’s Theatre. The season includes: *The Cake* by Bekah Brunstetter, *The Games Afoot (or Holmes For The Holidays)* by Ken Ludwig, The 19th Annual One-Act Festival – Produced by Lynne Worth, *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay-Abaire, and *9 to 5 The Musical*, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick.

The Dorset Players are very grateful to the voters of the Town of Dorset for their continuing support.

The Dorset Players Inc.	Profit & Loss 8/1/2022 to 7/31/2023	Current Budget 8/1/2023 to 7/31/2024
Income		
Production	96,539.00	101,640.00
Fundraising/Donations	66,656.00	97,129.00
Membership	9,840.00	9,690.00
Program Advertising	8,925.00	22,075.00
Rental Income	17,010.00	17,010.00
Other Income	5,275.00	5,272.00
Total Income	204,245.00	252,816.00
Expenses		
Production Expense	39,291.00	46,733.00
General Theater Expenses	26,717.00	27,117.00
Administrative Expenses	56,522.00	87,241.00
Playbill Expenses	6,289.00	6,279.00
Membership Expenses	939.00	1,639.00
Building Expenses	43,051.00	63,051.00
Total Expenses	172,809.00	232,060.00

Dorset Marble Preservation Association

The mission of the Dorset Marble Preservation Association is to restore our town’s historic marble sidewalks. Over the last eight years, we have been able to restore about 4000 feet of sidewalk, making it possible for pedestrians to walk safely on sidewalks that are either the same as they were 100 years ago, or similar in look and feel.



The Select Board and the Town Manager have been enormously helpful to us and have given us town workers, equipment, transportation and crushed stone for this work. It’s hard to quantify how much money this has saved, but it is substantial.

Last summer we purchased \$34,800 worth of marble and used it to replace broken and unusable sections of the sidewalk on the north side of Mad Tom Road. Our goal in East Dorset is to restore a continuous length of sidewalk extending from Village Street to Leary Lane. To accomplish that goal, we need to purchase seven 4’ X 4’ slabs to replace existing concrete sections and thirteen 5’ X 4’ slabs. The total cost of this material is \$26,970. Fortunately, substantial amounts of old marble remain in good condition on this section of the sidewalk.

DMPA currently has about \$9000 in its bank account. Some of this comes from property owners who have agreed to share with us the cost of restoring their sidewalk. Some comes from grant funding. Retaining \$1000 for maintenance work, we can apply \$8000 to the cost of purchasing marble. Accordingly, we are requesting an appropriation of \$18,970.

DMPA appreciates the support the voters have given us over the years on behalf of Dorset’s sidewalks.

2023 Financial Report

Revenue

Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	\$41,236
Town Appropriation	\$15,000
Grants and contributions	\$ 4,000
Property owner reimbursements	<u>\$ 1,800</u>
Total	\$62,036

Expenses

Sidewalk restoration	\$15,690
Marble purchase	\$34,800
Maintenance and repair	<u>\$ 1,755</u>
Total	\$52,245

Bank balance 12/31/2023	\$ 9,991
-------------------------	----------





Empowering healthy youth, families, and communities

Board: Mark Weikert and Kathleen O'Reilly, Co-Chair • Ann Alford, Secretary • Martha Cowles, Treasurer • Meghan Ward, Director
www.thecollaborative.us

Your support for The Collaborative and the 2024-25 budget is appreciated. Since our beginnings in 1999 as a small after-school program, we evolved to an organization offering a diverse array of individual, youth, and family programs focused on preventing youth substance use, supporting working families, and creating a healthy community. With you on our team, we've been able to provide valuable opportunities for youth and young adults, strengthen community connections, and expand outreach in the Northshire and mountain communities. In the town budget, we are seeking funds to further The Collaborative's mission by supporting substance-free middle and high school youth and childcare programs for working families.

We are excited to share a significant shift in our mission, aligning with Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's warning about the serious consequences of isolation. Our new logo and mission, "Empowering Healthy Youth, Families, and Communities through Acceptance, Resilience, and Engagement," reflect our commitment to addressing the epidemic of isolation.

Acceptance: Through programs like Resilience Through Understanding (RTU) and student empowerment groups, we celebrate differences and create a safe space where every individual feels valued and understood.

Resilience: Mentoring and RTU initiatives equip youth with tools to navigate life's challenges, promoting healthy skills and instilling inner strength to resist the allure of substance misuse.

Engagement: Community events, afterschool and summer camp programs bring diverse groups together, fostering connections that serve to deter isolation and its harmful consequences.

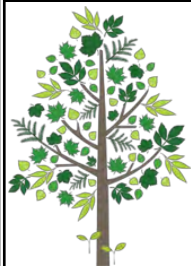
We are requesting your approval of \$1,250 in your town's budget to assist The Collaborative in continuing to provide services to our community. This is an increase of **\$500** to accommodate our increased direct service opportunities including vaping education and the RTU program which is now offered year-round. Your donations ground our success, enabling us to create a lasting impact.

Sincerely,

Maryann Morris

**Mountain Communities Supporting Education
dba The Collaborative
July 2022-June 2023**

	Camp & EDP	RTU	Towns
Contributed support	\$43,767	\$143,161	\$6,350
Program service fees	\$118,263	\$18,740	
Special events	\$640		
Total Income	\$162,670	\$161,901	\$6,350
Salaries & wages	\$96,588	\$81,242	\$3,872
Payroll taxes & Other Fringe	\$18,127	\$25,494	\$684
Professional fees	\$4,964	\$31,024	\$0
Supplies	\$701	\$3,482	\$326
Telephone & telecommunications	\$812	\$1,064	\$200
Postage, shipping, delivery	\$0	\$513	\$103
Printing & copying	\$0	\$1,411	
Marketing Materials	\$250	\$5,748	
Incentives	\$649	\$1,785	
Mileage	\$476	\$842	\$15
Community Transportation	\$2,999	\$0	
Food & Event Supplies	\$7,781	\$245	\$788
Bank Charges	\$370	\$419	
Insurance - non-employee	\$500	\$1,000	\$250
Education & training	\$1,554	\$1,472	\$113
Advertising expenses	\$144	\$2,116	
Scholarships		\$1,500	
Total Expense	\$135,913	\$159,357	\$6,351
Net	\$27,011	\$5,045	-\$1



NDS | Northshire Day School

Northshire Day School (NDS) wishes to express our thanks to Dorset residents and the Town of Dorset for appropriating \$13,000 to support our program during the 2023-2024 school year. Early childhood is the best opportunity to invest in a child, yielding the highest returns of any investment made in their lifetime.

Your appropriation provides a nurturing and inclusive place to access early childhood education while families serve our community as bakers, builders, landscapers, cleaners, lawyers, electricians, mechanics, teachers, volunteers, veterinarians, firefighters, doctors, and so much more. You are joined by the voters of Manchester and Sunderland who support NDS with appropriations proportionate to the number of children served from their municipalities.

2023-2024 is the first full school year with our Family Tree Program, which is built on the strengths-based philosophy of the Strengthening Families framework and protective factors. The Family Tree Program promotes strong families and healthy development for children prenatally through age five, provides resources, service coordination and support to help all families thrive during everyday circumstances as well as persevere during times of stress or crisis.

NDS earned 5 STARS in the Vermont Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS), the highest quality rating for early childhood education in Vermont. We hire talented educators and staff, offer affordable access to families from all backgrounds, and are committed to providing top-quality early learning experiences. We strengthen families and communities through early childhood education, family support, and community partnerships.

Town Appropriations help NDS fulfill our commitment to deliver top-quality early childhood education to as many children and families as possible.

To view our Annual Report, please visit: <https://www.northshiredayschool.org/support-nds/growthreport/>

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie A. Metcalfe
Executive Director

NDS Budget 2023-2024

Income	
Fundraising	\$ 230,000.00
Grants	\$ 116,500.00
Scholarships	\$50,000.00
Tuition	\$1,640,864.00
Total Income	\$2,037,364.00

Expenses	
Administrative	\$66,286.00
Classroom/ playground supplies	\$ 8,456.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 70,777.00
Facility	\$ 87,913.00
Utilities	\$ 40,612.00
Food Services	\$ (8,675.00)
Fundraising Expense	\$9,104.00
Payroll Compensation	\$ 1,847,330.00
Payroll Taxes	\$159,516.00
Professional Services	\$ 12,317.00
Programs & Enrichment	\$ 19,781.00
Staff Development	\$ 12,820.00
Total Expense	\$2,326,237



SHIRE KIDS

Shire Kids is an all-volunteer early childhood literacy nonprofit, founded in 2019. Shire Kids' mission is to increase literacy in Southern Vermont by ensuring all young children may participate in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a monthly book gifting program. Our objective is to create positive reading practices and engage families in reading on a regular basis. This year Shire Kids grew in many ways thanks to the support of our donors, including an appropriation from Dorset in 2023. Thank you Dorset voters! Presently, 1,125 children are actively enrolled and receive a new book from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library every month. They will continue to do so every month until their fifth birthday.

Of those, Shire Kids served 62 children who live in Dorset and East Dorset. Thirteen Dorset children graduated from the program on their fifth birthday and 49 are actively enrolled, receiving a high-quality, age-appropriate book every month in the mail. If you have a child under five and are not already registered for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, please visit shirekidsvt.org to enroll your child for a free book mailed each month!

In the spring of 2023, Shire Kids worked on an exciting project with The Dorset School Art teacher to create a free book shed. The book shed is stocked with books of all genres and age groups, and also includes some activity books and puzzles for younger children. It's located at the Dorset School, behind the school sign as you drive up the school entrance. Please utilize this wonderful resource that is available year round!

Thank you for supporting early childhood literacy.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nicole Campbell, Founder and Executive Director
Shire Kids
603.759.9415





Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) continues to operate 24/7, 365 days a year, to serve the needs of those in Bennington County experiencing homelessness. BCCH is grateful for the town of Shaftsbury’s support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The winter months are upon us and both locations are most often full, with a waiting list for families. In addition to providing shelter, we serve many others experiencing homelessness through drop-in services for those in need. Our services range from the use of our kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms to providing a safe, warm space for those in need during the day or providing someone in need with toiletries, blankets, clothing, and takeout meals. Those who come in to warm up are also given the opportunity to meet with a case manager, apply for services, and receive housing and employment assistance.

In 2023, we provided shelter and services to almost 250 people between our two locations. In addition, we have served well over 100 adults and children through our day services, donation rooms, and community outreach services.

In the past year we have further strengthened relationships with our community partners, including but not limited to: Shires Housing, Turning Point, Greater Bennington Community Services, Economic Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Sunrise, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Bennington Police Department, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and United Counseling Services. We were able to enhance safety measures at our congregate shelter location with additional support staff and have three full-time case managers assisting our individuals and families staying at our two locations. These positions are supported by an increased HOP grant through OEO. Furthermore, this grant has afforded us to hire an additional full-time Community Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager for those not sheltered by BCCH. These milestones enable us to increase the success rate of guests’ employment, housing, and so much more.

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Shires Housing. We began filling nine beautiful new family units at Norton House in January 2023. Together with other community partners we have found permanent housing for six of those families and three other families since then.

Revenue from Municipalities:

- Shaftsbury - \$5,000
- Bennington - \$25,000
- Arlington - \$500
- Peru - \$500
- Dorset - \$1,000
- Rupert - \$500

While so much good has been happening at BCCH, we need your continued support due to the many costs not covered under our HOP grant. While BCCH also pursues and obtains other grants and donations, they are just not enough to cover all BCCH’s expenses. Your ongoing support is necessary with all the continued rising costs of food, necessities.... everything!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide anything else.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Roxanne M Carelli
Interim Executive Director

Bennington Coalition for the Homeless			BCCH 2023/2024 Operating Budget					
Bennington, Vermont			966 Main	Norton House	General	G & A	Total 2024	Total 2023
a/c #	Grant	G/L Account	Main	House	Fund		Opr Budget	Opr Budget
Operating Income:								
35221		OEO G/A Grant			\$ 965,310		\$ 965,310	\$ 603,768.00
37203		ESFP formerly FEMA			\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,441.00
38101		Town Appropriation			\$ 35,500		\$ 35,500	\$ 35,500.00
38212		Donations-Monetary			\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000	\$ 40,000.00
38207		Fundraising			\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000.00
38511		Foundation Grants			\$ 45,000		\$ 45,000	\$ 70,000.00
		Total Income			\$ 1,145,810		\$ 1,145,810	\$ 789,709.00
Operating Expenses:								
61201	ad-na	Salaries-Regular	\$ 37,700	\$ 37,700			\$ 75,400	\$ 75,400.00
61202	gsf-so	Payroll-Shelter	\$ 307,840				\$ 307,840	\$ 185,120.00
	gsf-es/ce (50%)	Salaries-Associate Director	\$ 31,200	\$ 31,200			\$ 62,400	\$ 62,400.00
61204	gsf-ce/es 50/50	Payroll-Case Management	\$ 95,680	\$ 83,893			\$ 179,573	\$ 95,680.00
61205		Payroll-Lead Shelter Support Staff	\$ 47,840				\$ 47,840	\$ 47,840.00
	gsf-ce	Salaries - Outreach Case Management				\$ 47,840	\$ 47,840	\$ 47,840.00
62122		Contracted Services					\$ -	\$ -
63101		FICA Match	\$ 32,256	\$ 9,473	\$ -	\$ 2,966	\$ 44,695	\$ 31,885.00
63102		MEDI Match	\$ 7,544	\$ 2,215	\$ -	\$ 694	\$ 10,453	\$ 7,457.00
63511		State U/E	\$ 30,695	\$ 9,015	\$ -	\$ 2,823	\$ 42,533	\$ 30,343.00
		Remaining Fringe			\$ 8,907		\$ 8,907	
		Matched Remaining Fringe			\$ 452		\$ 452	
63521		Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 10,405	\$ 3,056	\$ -	\$ 957	\$ 14,418	\$ 5,143.00
64101	gsf-ad	Legal & Accounting				\$ 18,400	\$ 18,400	\$ 18,400.00
65110	gsf-so	Telephone/Internet	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,500			\$ 10,000	\$ 7,080.00
65120		Postage				\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 300.00
65415	gsf-ad	Staff Training				\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 250.00
65210	gsf-ad	Equipment Maint/Repairs	\$ 500			\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500.00
65220		Equipment Depreciation				\$ 430	\$ 430	\$ 430.00
65320	gsf-ad	Computer & /Software Expenses				\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,800.00
	gsf-ad	Software Maint & Contracts				\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 200.00
65420		Dues/Subscriptions				\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000.00
65441	gsf-ad	Insurance D&O (Board)				\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400.00
65442	gsf-ad	Insurance General Liability	\$ 422	\$ 2,428		\$ 7,650	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500.00
65450	gsf-ad	Office Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000			\$ 4,000	\$ 1,800.00
65456		Fundraising Expenses				\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000.00
65458		Public Relations/Marketing				\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000.00
66101	gsf-ad	Shelter Supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000			\$ 5,000	\$ 1,600.00
		Other Program Expense				\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 600.00
66105		Client Expense	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000			\$ 2,000	\$ 500.00
67212		Staff Mileage Reimbursement				\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500.00
68101	gsf-so	Building Rental		\$ 114,652			\$ 114,652	\$ 43,578.00
68310	gsf-so	Electricity	\$ 4,000	\$ 7,000			\$ 11,000	\$ 9,716.00
68320	gsf-so	Heat/Fuel	\$ 8,000	\$ 11,000			\$ 19,000	\$ 19,284.00
68331	gsf-so	Water/Sewer	\$ 3,700				\$ 3,700	\$ 4,200.00
68332	gsf-so	Trash Removal	\$ 1,900	\$ 3,780			\$ 5,680	\$ 2,420.00
		Other Town Loan	\$ 5,071				\$ 5,071	\$ 5,071.00
68410	gsf-so	Building Repairs/Maint	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,000			\$ 13,000	\$ 1,500.00
	gsf-ad	Pest Control	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500			\$ 3,500	\$ 3,000.00
	gsf-ad	Cleaning	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000			\$ 3,000	\$ 2,500.00
68510		Building Depreciation	\$ 23,439				\$ 23,439	\$ 23,439.00
68610	gsf-so	Building Insurance	\$ 3,516				\$ 3,516	\$ 3,312.00
	gsf-so	Mortgage Principle	\$ 1,540				\$ 1,540	\$ 1,540.00
68620	gsf-so	Mortgage Interest	\$ 7,425				\$ 7,425	\$ 7,425.00
		Total Operating Expenses	\$ 676,173	\$ 340,412		\$ 95,859	\$ 1,121,804	\$ 768,953.00
		Admin Allocation						
		Total Expenses	\$ 676,173	\$ 340,412		\$ 95,859	\$ 1,121,804	\$ 768,953.00
		Operating Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (676,173)	\$ (340,412)	\$ 1,145,810	\$ (95,859)	\$ 24,006	\$ 20,756.00

BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS





GREEN UP VERMONT

www.greenupvermont.org

**Green Up Day
May 6, 2023**



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

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

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

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

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

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

Green Up Day 2024—May 4th



Northshire Rescue Squad

PO Box 26

Manchester Center VT 05255

Business: (802) 362-1995 Fax (802) 362-8175

Email: northshirerescue@gmail.com

"Serving the community since 1964"

www.northshirerescue.com

On behalf of our dedicated and professional career employees and volunteers of the Northshire Rescue Squad, it is our pleasure to present our 2023 Annual Report.

Northshire Rescue Squad responded to a record number 1,617 calls for service in FY 2023—a 7.05 % increase from FY 2022. This number also represents a 25.72% net increase during the past ten years. This demonstrates society's increase and reliance on all our frontline first responders. In addition to responding to medical emergencies, NRS experienced quite a busy year by answering numerous requests for training, standbys, and assistance at community events.

As call volumes increase, we will continue to see new statistical milestones; but funding, widespread supply chain issues, increased costs for goods and services, and staffing shortages will continue to be major obstacles we encounter while trying to maintain a top-notch service. Northshire Rescue is committed to being fiscally responsible in its quest to provide the best possible care to our community.

2023 also brought about significant organizational changes. On December 8th we congratulated and bid farewell to Chief Operations Officer, Michael Casey after 35 years of dedicated service to NRS. With this retirement came opportunities for promotions. Katie Vandale was named Chief Operations Officer and Mark Luce was named Deputy Chief of Operations. These promotions all brought an abundance of fresh ideas and excitement to the organization.

In closing, 2023 was challenging, but thanks to the dedication and commitment of the people of NRS, we continued to fulfill our mission to the citizens and guests of the Northshire. My commitment in taking on the role of Chief Operations Officer is done so with great pride and humility, and I intend to do all I can to honor all members of our organization, our Board of Trustees, and the communities we are sworn to serve. We are excited about 2024 and the opportunities it will present. Our commitment to provide outstanding public safety remains steadfast and strong, and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve the citizens and guests of the Northshire.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Vandale, B.S., NRP

Chief Operations Officer



NRS Call Responses in FY23	
Manchester	1,125
Dorset	165
East Dorset	64
Danby	91
Mount Tabor	22
Winhall	16
Mutual Aid	134
Total Calls	1,617

Northshire Rescue Squad FY2024 Budget			
Income		Expenses	
Medical Revenues	\$750,000	Compensation	
(VT Medicaid Provider Tax)	(23,000)	Wages (Medical Staff)	\$694,000
Net Medical Revenues	727,000	Payroll Expenses and charges	59,200
Municipal support		Employee Medical Insurance	86,000
Manchester	195,293	Total Compensation	839,200
Dorset	60,365	Ambulance Lease Expense	64,231
Danby	26,729	Insurance (W/C, Property, Vehicle, etc.)	62,000
Mt Tabor	4,901	Professional Services (accounting, legal)	12,500
Winhall	3,710	Medical Billing Services	80,000
Municipal - Other	790	Rent & Dispatch paid to Manchester	120,440
Total Municipal Support	291,788	Capital expenditures - NRS rented space	25,000
Squad Fundraising		Other Occupancy - Utilities and Misc.	22,000
Annual Fund	135,000	Vehicles Fuel/Maintenance/Repairs	40,000
Subscriptions - Donations	25,000	Medical Equipment & Supplies *	85,500
Subscriptions	100,000	Communications/Repairs	4,500
Total Fundraising	260,000	Education Programs Expense	3,500
		Fundraising Expenses	7,500
Revenue from Education Programs	2,000	Other Expense	15,000
Revenue from Events	42,000	Total Expenses	\$1,381,371
Revenue from Estate bequest	17,500		
Investment income	20,000		
Total Income	\$1,360,288	Net Income/(Loss)	(\$21,083)

EAST DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

East Dorset Fire District Calls For The Year 2023

East Dorset 31	Dorset 57
Danby 10	Manchester 13
Arlington 3	Rupert 2
EMS Assist 2	

Types of Calls:

Alarms 14	MVA 5
Trees and Wires 2	Good Intent Calls 5
Illegal Burns 3	Water Emergency 2
Structure Fires 1	

We made a total of 118 calls for the year. In June 2023 we took possession of our new rescue truck, the Freightliner. I would like to thank all the members that helped work on getting our new truck up and running in service. I would also like to thank the members for all the hours they have put in for training and responding to calls via even if it's a holiday. The following are the officers of the East Dorset Fire Department:

Chief – John Niles

1st Assistant Chief – Randy Young

2nd Assistant Chief – Howard Towsley Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

John Niles, Chief



ACCT #	ACCT.	BUDGET 2023/2024	BUDGET 2024/2025
FIREHOUSE			
2000	MAINT/REPAIR	13,500	13,500
2100	UTILITIES	7,000	7,500
2200	SUPPLIES	1,200	1,200
2201	ALARM MAINT	1,200	1,200
APPARATUS			
3000	MAINT/REPAIR	10,000	10,000
3001	NEW EQUIP	10,000	10,000
3002	FUEL	5,000	5,000
3003	RADIOS	2,500	2,500
3005	TRK SINK FUND	7,500	7,500
3006	TRK PAYMENT	36,237.00	36,237.00
PERSONNEL			
4000	PROTEC GEAR	5,000	7,500
4002	DUES/SUB/ TRAINING	1,500	1,500
4004	MEALS	1,000	1,000
4200	FEC	12,000	12,000
4300	AIR PACK S.F.	5,000	5,000
ADMIN- ISTRATION			
5000	PRO FEES	3,550	3,550
5001	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	1,000
5005	ADS	100	100
5200	INSURANCE	25,000	25,000
5201	ADMIN/CHIEF	5,000	5,000
5202	FIRE PREVENTION	500	500
5203	AUDIT	250	250
		154,037	157,037

DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1



The Dorset Fire District #1 serves over 1000 property owners in the Town of Dorset and operates the Dorset Water Company, providing water to approximately 180 customers. Our next annual meeting will be held on May 13, 2024.

The fire department responded to 115 calls in 2023, with the following breakdown:

In 2023, the firemen of the Dorset Fire District #1 logged a total of 1300 hours of training.

Fire Chiefs

Chief: Jacob Gribble

1st Assistant Chief: Joe Clark

2nd Assistant Chief: Chris Dyer

Firefighters

Tyler King, Captain

Edan Ryan

Ayden Crispe

David Green

Oliver Dimeo, Jr.

Alex Mintz

August Stauffer

Randy Welp

Rusty Kelly

Shawn Hazelton

Cooper Greene, Jr.

Gregory Harrington

Kendra Beavin

Cole Edison, Jr.

George Thompson, Jr.

Prudential Committee

Ben Weiss: Chairman

Lee Fox: Treasurer

Roger Squire

Cindy Loudenslager

Jonathan Ams

Type of Call	Amount
Auto Accidents	6
Brush Fires	1
Chimney Fires	1
CO Alarms	1
Elevator Alarms	2
EMS Assists	3
Fire Alarms	41
Fireplace/Woodstove Malfunction	1
Furnace Malfunction	1
Mutual Aid:	
Arlington	2
East Dorset	34
Manchester	13
Rupert	1
Propane Leaks	2
Structure Fires	1
Trees and Power Lines Down	3
Vehicle Fires	1
Woods Rescues	1
TOTAL	115



DORSET FIRE DISTRICT # 1-FIRE DIVISION 2024/2025

		FY23 BUDGET	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 BUDGET	FY24 TO DATE	FY25 BUDGET
REVENUES						
DEL. FIRE TAX		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
INTEREST		\$0.00	\$48.00	\$0.00	\$14.00	\$0.00
TOWN APPRO.		\$188,000.00	\$188,000.00	\$193,000.00	\$96,500.00	\$198,790.00
DONATIONS		\$0.00	\$42,270.00	\$0.00	\$39,370.00	\$0.00
SALE OF EQUIP		\$0.00	\$11,500.00	\$0.00	\$315,000.00	\$0.00
INSURANCE REIMBURSED		\$0.00	\$5,890.00		\$29,621.00	
DISPATCH REIMBURSED		\$0.00	\$4,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$188,000.00	\$252,608.00	\$193,000.00	\$480,505.00	\$198,790.00
EXPENSES						
ADVERTISEMENTS		\$100.00	\$234.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
FIRE PREVENTION		\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
INSURANCE		\$ 19,000.00	\$ 16,567.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 18,081.00	\$ 19,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES		\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,272.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 1,100.00
POSTAGE & PRINTING		\$ 200.00	\$ 933.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,430.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,963.00	\$ 3,500.00
CLERK/MGR FEES		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,812.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
DAM FEE		\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -
DISPATCH CONTRACT		\$ -	\$ 4,900.00	\$ -	\$ 5,200.00	\$ -
FUEL		\$ 2,200.00	\$ 5,715.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 5,549.00	\$ 5,500.00
EQUIP - MAINT.		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 68,161.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 45,474.00	\$ 25,000.00
NEW EQUIPMENT		\$ 22,000.00	\$ 37,179.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 44,156.00	\$ 23,000.00
TRUCK PAYMENT		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TRUCK SINKING FUND		\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
FIRE HOUSE MAINT.		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 16,367.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 37,567.00	\$ 25,000.00
FIRE HOUSE SUPPLIES		\$ 300.00	\$ 798.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 673.00	\$ 300.00
UTILITIES		\$ 10,500.00	\$ 13,225.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 4,732.00	\$ 12,000.00
DUES/TRAINING		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,017.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 506.00	\$ 3,500.00
MEALS		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 408.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,376.00	\$ 3,500.00
FEC		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 22,489.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ 23,500.00
PAYROLL TAXES		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,831.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 2,960.00
MISC. EXPENSE		\$ -	\$ 258.00	\$ -	\$ 4,060.00	\$ -
TOTALS		\$ 188,000.00	\$ 248,146.00	\$ 193,000.00	\$ 214,437.00	\$ 198,760.00



Burr & Burton
Academy

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

December, 19, 2023

Dear Sending Towns:

The Board of Trustees of Burr and Burton Academy has approved sending town tuition at \$20,966 for the 2024–2025 school year, a 4.9% increase. Our tuition for private pay individuals (i.e., non-sending towns) will be \$23,589.

In reaching this figure, the board sought first and foremost to maintain affordability to our sending towns. The Vermont tax commissioner estimates that statewide education spending will increase 12% and overall taxes will increase 18%. We hope our tuition increase of 4.9% will help offset these onerous figures. Our tuition remains well below that of any of the other historic town academies as well as many public high schools.

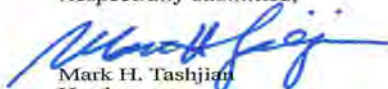
We also are deeply committed to the quality of education, and our costs will necessarily increase. We are supporting the faculty and staff in efforts to offset inflation not only in their lives, but in the face of skyrocketing healthcare costs, which are estimated to increase by 16% statewide this year. Our faculty and staff are the lifeblood of this school, and offering meaningful salaries and benefits allows us to attract and retain the absolute best teachers we can find.

We will also continue to keep a sharp eye on managing expenses so each dollar spent has maximum impact.

As always, our tuition does not cover the total cost of a BBA education. We supplement tuition revenues with private fundraising of \$1.5–\$2.0 million as well as an endowment draw of approximately \$1 million. In addition, we raise money privately for all capital projects so the beautiful facilities that serve all students come at no cost to taxpayers. No public debt, no public bonds.

Since 1829, Burr & Burton Academy has served the Northshire communities in partnership. We appreciate the support, and we do everything we can to continue to be a school that is a point of pride and worthy of support from all of you.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster



Charley Stevenson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

PO Box 498, Manchester, VT 05254 P: (802) 362-1775 F: (802) 362-0574

TACONIC AND GREEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Herbert G. Ogden, Board Chair

January 2024

Our full annual report is available at your Town Clerk's office or online at www.brsu.org/page/annual-and-town-reports. We hope you will read about the important issues facing our nine town district and give us your thoughts, especially regarding the possible regional middle school. When you get to the section on the budget, please note that Vermont has income sensitivity that reduces the property tax on primary residences for many people. Income sensitivity can also reduce renters' taxes.

We are trying something new for the Annual District Meeting, which will be held at Manchester Elementary Middle School on February 27th. From 6 to 6:30 p.m. we are hosting an informal get-acquainted time with board members and some of our Senators and Representatives. There will be refreshments. From 6:30 to 7, board members will be at several tables to discuss specific issues like the proposed district-wide middle school. At 7, the formal meeting begins, with floor votes including the election of the District Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

As always, voting on the budget, reserve funds, and high school tuition will be by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 5th. **You will not automatically receive an absentee ballot.** If you want to vote by mail, you must request a mail ballot from your Town Clerk. Please read the Annual Report for detailed information as you consider the budget and the other issues listed in the Warning.

Developing a budget was only one of our tasks. Last year, the legislature considered some bills that would have severely limited high school choice, in reaction to a U. S. Supreme Court decision that most of us think was wrong. District leaders appreciate the time our legislators spent conferring with us and avoiding a bad outcome. The issue will return this year. Other issues include the poor performance of the Agency of Education, including its delay in enforcing the antidiscrimination rules that took effect in 2022. Locally, a board committee is hard at work studying the possibility of a regional middle school and welcomes everyone's input.

If you want to know more about how we operate or comment on our work, please attend one of our meetings either remotely or in person. We also welcome comments and questions by letter or email. We meet at least monthly. We begin at 6:30 p.m. and aim to end by 8:30. There is a ten minute public comment period at the beginning. Agendas, minutes, and information on how to attend remotely are available on the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union website - www.brsu.org/page/meeting-calendar.



Town Warning & Budget





2024 Town of Dorset, Vermont Warning

Legal voters of the Town of Dorset, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at The Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, VT on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. to transact any business not involving a vote by Australian Ballot and on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. to transact voting by Australian Ballot as required by law. Australian ballot voting will take place at The Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Articles (2 & 4) will be voted by Australian Ballot;

Article 1. To hear and accept reports of Town Officers and take proper action on same.

Article 2. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year. To be voted by Australian Ballot. Officers to be elected as follows:

- Moderator, Town** 1 year term
- Select Board Member**3 year term
- Select Board Member**..... 1 year term
- Select Board Member**..... 1 year term
- First Constable**1 year term
- Town Agent** 1 year term

Article 3. Shall the voters authorize the collection of property taxes in two (2) installments on September 10, 2024 and March 11, 2025. Payments not received will be subject to 1% interest on September 13, 2024 and 1% interest and 8% penalty on March 14, 2025?

Article 4. Shall the voters approve total highway and general fund expenditures of \$3,035,557 of which \$2,614,824 shall be raised by taxes and \$420,732 by non-tax revenues?

Article 5. Shall the voters approve to dissolve the unemployment insurance fund and use the balance (\$50,882) to offset 2024-2025 property taxes? (the Town now has an unemployment insurance policy through the Vermont League of Cities & Towns).

Article 6. Shall the voters empower the Selectboard to enter into a mutually acceptable Joint Management Agreement with the Town of Rupert for the long-term care, maintenance, financial responsibility, and governance of the Mettowee Valley Community Park?

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region (formerly known as Dorset Nursing Association) for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?



2024 Town of Dorset, Vermont Warning

- Article 8.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Dorset Players Inc. to help sustain the playhouse preservation and maintenance fund for the ongoing repairs to the Dorset Playhouse?
- Article 9:** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Dorset Village Library for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?
- Article 10:** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$18,970 to the Dorset Marble Preservation Association for the purpose of restoring Dorset's marble sidewalks?
- Article 11.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$13,000 to the Northshire Day School to provide early childhood education services to the residents of the town?
- Article 12.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to the Maple Hill Cemetery to help in the build of a new equipment building on the grounds of the cemetery?
- Article 13.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to the Dorset Historical Society to support its activities and continued efforts to serve as a cultural resource to our community?
- Article 14.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for support and to provide services to the residents of the town?
- Article 15.** Shall the voters allow budgeted appropriation non-profit & community organizations give their annual report verbally to voters?
- Article 16:** To transact any other business, to properly come before this meeting.

So approved on this 16th day of January, 2024. By the Dorset Select Board:

Megan Thorn

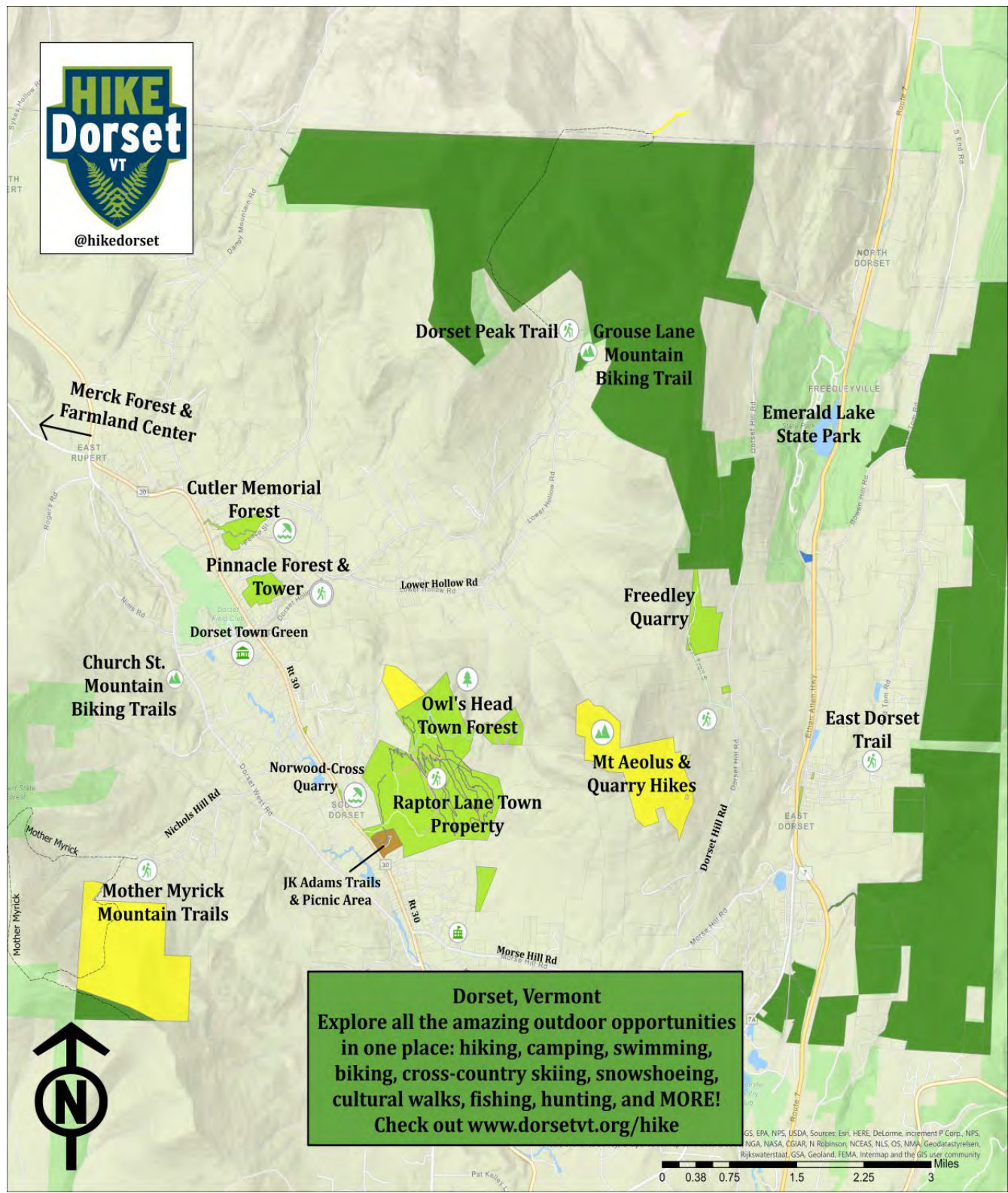
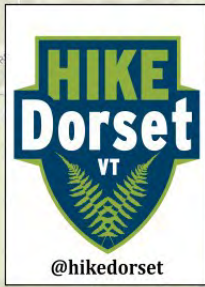
Henry Chandler

Liz Ruffa

Jim Salsgiver

Frank Parent





Dorset, Vermont
Explore all the amazing outdoor opportunities
in one place: hiking, camping, swimming,
biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing,
cultural walks, fishing, hunting, and MORE!
Check out www.dorsetvt.org/hike



GIS, EPA, NPS, USDA, Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, increment P Corp., NPS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NIMA, Geodatasystyreisen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

**2023 Town of Dorset, Vermont
Annual Town Meeting Minutes**

In accordance with the legally warned notice, the informational meeting of the Town of Dorset, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, was called to order at The Dorset School, 130 School Drive Dorset, VT on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:05 p.m. to transact any business not involving a vote by Australian Ballot.

Moderator Kevin O'Toole asked that the rules be suspended to allow our House Representative Mike Rice to speak. He currently serves on the Agriculture, Food Resiliency and Forestry Committee. The committee is currently working on ensuring that all children in elementary school receive a free breakfast and lunch. The other hot topic is the school choice bill. He is working diligently in making sure that the bill does not move forward and our schools are protected.

Article 1. To hear and accept reports of Town Officers and take proper action on same. A motion was made by Donald Hayward, seconded by Ruth Stewart. Motion carried.

Town Manager Rob Gaiotti, proceeded to discuss the town budget. There is a 4½ % increase. The large ticket items are road resurfacing and the new town office. There will be a 5% cost of living increase across the board for staff. We will be partnering with the Vermont Parks & Recreation at Emerald Lake to construct an ADA accessible fishing/boating dock in exchange for our residents to use the park for no charge.

Ruth Stewart asked about the flooding topic on page 7 of the town report. Rob explained that between FEMA and grants, the town will be taking over the property.

Articles (2 & 4) will be voted by Australian Ballot;

Article 2. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year. To be voted by Australian Ballot. Officers to be elected as follows:

Moderator, Town	1 year term	Kevin O'Toole	243
Select Board Member	3 year term	Frank Parent	236
Select Board Member	1 year term	Henry Chandler	232
Select Board Member	1 year term	Liz Ruffa	220
Town Clerk	3 year term	Sandra Pinsonault	244
Town Treasurer	3 year term	Sandra Pinsonault	238
First Constable	1 year term	Ryan Matteson	238
Town Agent	1 year term	Kevin O'Toole	238

Article 3. Shall the voters authorize the collection of property taxes in two (2) installments on September 12, 2023 and March 12, 2024. Payments not received will be subject to 1% interest on September 16, 2023 and 1% interest and 8% penalty on March 16, 2024?

A motion was made by Marilyn Kinney, seconded David McAneny. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Article 4. Shall the voters approve total highway and general fund expenditures of \$2,820,771 of which \$2,451,621 shall be raised by taxes and \$369,150 by non-tax revenues?

PASSED **YES** **213** **NO** **24**

Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the programs and services of BROOC (Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council)?

A motion was made by Skip Dickinson, seconded by Sheila Childs. Amy Scott, coordinator for BROOC read the letter by CEO Thomas L Donahue found on page 26 of the Town Report. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to Neighbor to Neighbor, a home-based care giving program?

A motion was made by Ruth Stewart and seconded by Donald Hayward. Nancy Ludlam spoke on behalf of Neighbor to Neighbor. The organization appreciates the support of Dorset and encourages those present to continue. With no further discussion. The motion carried.

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,600 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for support of its activities with Dorset Elders?

A motion by Ellen Maloney and seconded by Kit Wallace. Michele Pagan thanked the community for their continue support. She shared that Vermonters make up 2% of the national population, however 2% of Vermont's population is elderly. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 8. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 for the support of the Center for Restorative Justice Program?

A motion was made by Ellen Maloney, seconded by Merrick Counsell. Ellen Maloney then spoke on behalf of the Center. It is an organization that works with those in the defense system in making positive impact on those criminals and help them make better choices. She encouraged those present to support the program. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 9. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the operations of the Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

A motion was made by Sheila Childs and seconded by Skip Dickinson. No representative was present to speak on its behalf. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Article 10. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$500 for the support of Project Against Violent Encounters for its support of Dorset residents?

A motion was made by Justine Cook and seconded by Gay Squire. Michael Dreiblatt spoke on behalf of PAVE. 25% of the population experience domestic violence and only 2-3% report it. This past year they helped 365 citizens in our area. With no further discussion, motion carried.

Article 11. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to the Dorset Historical Society to support its activities and continued efforts to serve as a cultural resource to our community?

A motion was made by Marilyn Kinney and seconded by Penny Charbonneau. Nancy Ludlam spoke about the Historical Society. DHS will celebrate its 60th birthday this year. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

- Article 12.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$850 for the support of the Bennington Area Habitat for Humanity?
- A motion was made by Kit Wallace and seconded by Nancy Ludlam. Lisa Counsell spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors. With no further discussion, the motion carried.
- Article 13.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region (formerly known as Dorset Nursing Association) for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?
- A motion was made by David Sands and seconded by Jennifer Halligan. Sara King and Mike Deleahanty spoke on behalf of VNA & Hospice. With the ever rising cost of healthcare and the decreasing reimbursements of medicare, they struggle financially and appreciate the support of Dorset residents. They are currently working with local businesses and look forward to their future in Dorset. With no further discussion, the motion carried.
- Article 14.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to the East Dorset Cemetery Association for the care and maintenance of the cemetery?
- A motion was made by Penny Charbonneau, seconded by Tom Smith. With no further discussion, the motion carried.
- Article 15.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Dorset Village Library for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?
- A motion was made by Cindy Loudenslager, seconded by Lindy Bowden. Leigh Perham spoke about the Library and the programs that they offer to the community. They have ongoing programs for children and adults. The most important change was joining the Catamount Library Network. She thanked the community for its appropriation and its continued support. With no further discussion, the motion carried.
- Article 16.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT-TV) for support and defray of costs related to videotaping and television cable cast of the Select Board, School Board, and other municipal meetings?
- A motion was made by Justine Cook, seconded by Chip Watson. Bob Niles spoke for GNAT and noted that tonight's meeting was being live streamed and videotaped by Student and Dorset Resident Kate LeVine. GNAT covers a lot of community activities, both in the community and at the school. With no further discussion the motion carried.
- Article 17.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 to the Collaborative for support of its substance free events and educational programs to middle and high school youth?
- A motion was made by Chip Watson, seconded by Skip Dickinson. MaryAnn Lawrence spoke on behalf of the Collaborative. A program that supports substance free events for youth in our area. With no further discussion, motion carried.
- Article 18.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to the Dorset Marble Preservation Association for the purpose of restoring Dorset's marble sidewalks?
- A motion was made by Nancy Faesy, seconded by Michele Pagan. Roger Squire spoke on behalf of the sidewalk committee. The mission of the committee is to repair or replace the historic sidewalks in Dorset. This year's project will be to replace about 600ft. of sidewalk on the northside of Mad Tom Road. It will go from the church to Leary Lane. He encourages those present to support the historic sidewalks. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 19. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Dorset Players Inc. to help sustain the playhouse preservation and maintenance fund for the ongoing repairs to the Dorset Playhouse?

A motion was made by Donald Hayward and seconded by William Childs. Donald Hayward spoke on behalf of the Playhouse. It is a real asset to our community with lots of volunteers and asked for continued support. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 20: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to Shire Kids; a program of Dolly Parton's Imaginary Library to help defray the costs of production and mailing of books that are provided to Dorset children from birth to 5 years?

A motion was made by Ruth Steward, seconded by Penny Charbonneau. Nicole Campbell founder of the Dorset program spoke. The program started in 2019 with 1100 children in Bennington County receiving a book every month. The program currently serves 55-70 Dorset children. With no further discussion, the motion carried

Article 21: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$13,000 to the Northshire Day School to help defray the cost of early childhood education services in the region?

A motion was made by Chip Watson, seconded by Mark Phillips. Danny Sawtell spoke on behalf of the Day School. He stated that as most present are aware there is a housing crisis in Vermont as well as a shortage in childcare. Currently there are 81 children on waiting lists for childcare in Manchester, while there are 600 in Bennington County. Bo Thorn asked how many Dorset children are at the school. Danny replied 13. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 22: Advisory Article on Housing: Should the Town of Dorset consider forming a taskforce on housing to explore options for a housing effort located at Raptor Lane and other areas in the community?

Town Manager, Rob Gaiotti explained that currently 74% of homes in Dorset are occupied with 2 or less persons, 5.6 % of Dorset homes have been built since 2000, 11% of Dorset homes have children under the age of 6, the medium home price is \$461,000 with an annual income required of \$133,365 and a down payment of \$40,500 and 22% of Dorset households pay more than 50% of their income on housing with 42% of Dorset households paying 30% more.

Justine Cook expressed her concern about the water deficit in the village area, the zoning changes with limited lot size and encouraged the town to look at the water shortcomings before investing in more housing in the village area. Rob stated they were good ideas, and the Raptor Lane would be a benefit as the town owns it. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 23: To transact any other business, to properly come before this meeting.

Ruth Stewart then noted that of the 17 appropriations that were just voted, four did not submit a budget in the report. She also asked that someone from each organization be present, not a volunteer, but perhaps a board member, librarian, etc. Andy Longacre spoke about the Maple Hill Cemetery on Route 30 in Dorset. They have submitted a report in the annual town report however they are not asking for any monies. Ellen Maloney then spoke on behalf of the Dorset Energy Committee and asked those present to please sign up for an energy audit. Ruth Stewart then thanked the selectboard for its hard work on behalf of the town and commended the town for the cover of the town report.

A motion was made by Donald Hayward and seconded by Merrick Counsell to adjourn at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Pinsonault, MMC/CVC, Dorset Town Clerk



Town of Dorset
Town Budget FY2025

	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
DETAIL OF EXPENDITURES - BY DEPARTMENT				
Selectboard				
Selectboard Salaries	6,300.00	6,000.00	6,300.00	6,300.00
Misc Expense	400.00	126.00	400.00	400.00
Legal Expense	10,500.00	5,309.00	8,500.00	7,500.00
Tax Sale Expense	1,000.00	100.00	1,000.00	750.00
VLCT Dues	3,779.00	3,779.00	3,900.00	4,031.00
Total Selectboard:	21,979.00	15,314.00	20,100.00	18,981.00
Town Manager's Office				
Town Manager Salary	92,000.00	92,493.00	102,000.00	105,060.00
Administrative Assistant Salary	60,770.00	78,862.00	63,808.00	65,722.00
TM Clerk Expense	250.00	95.00	250.00	250.00
TM Office Expense	3,800.00	3,546.00	3,800.00	4,000.00
Vehicle Expense Reimbursement	7,200.00	10,240.00	7,200.00	10,000.00
TM Phone - Life Insurance	3,000.00	3,167.00	3,000.00	3,200.00
Training - Travel - Dues	2,500.00	1,138.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
Postage	3,000.00	3,320.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
TM Fund	2,000.00	2,050.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Town Manager's Office:	174,520.00	194,911.00	187,558.00	195,232.00
Town Clerk & Elections				
Town Clerk Salary	69,010.00	69,673.00	72,460.00	74,633.00
Assistant Town Clerk Salary	41,600.00	31,209.00	43,680.00	47,239.00
Office Expense	2,000.00	3,352.00	2,000.00	3,200.00
Record Preservation	3,000.00	1,593.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Postage	700.00	768.00	700.00	750.00
Training - Travel - Dues	3,000.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Vault Preservation Projects	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,000.00
BCA Worker Salary	600.00	53.00	600.00	500.00
BCA Expense	100.00	-	100.00	100.00
Town Meeting Expense	500.00	109.00	500.00	350.00
Ballot Printing	700.00	547.00	700.00	850.00
Tabulator Programming	3,100.00	525.00	1,600.00	3,000.00
Tabulator Maintenance	-	-	-	-
BCA Postage	500.00	-	500.00	500.00
BCA - State Abatements	1,000.00	4.69	750.00	750.00
Total Town Clerk & Elections:	127,310.00	110,333.69	131,090.00	137,872.00



Town of Dorset
Town Budget FY2025

	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
Town Treasurer & Outside Audit				
Treasurer Salary	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
Postage	500.00	498.00	500.00	500.00
Outside Audit	14,500.00	12,700.00	12,500.00	13,000.00
Town Report Printing - Mailing	1,800.00	1,108.00	1,800.00	1,500.00
Total Treasurer & Audit:	20,000.00	17,506.00	18,000.00	18,200.00
Assessors				
Assessors Salaries	65,000.00	54,585.00	67,500.00	67,500.00
Reappraisal Expense	-	-	-	-
Office Expense	1,800.00	2,530.00	1,800.00	2,200.00
Mileage	800.00	89.00	800.00	500.00
Training - Travel - Dues	600.00	240.00	600.00	500.00
Tax Mapping	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	1,200.00
Computer - Software Support	4,500.00	4,650.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Postage	350.00	-	350.00	250.00
Total Assessors:	74,250.00	62,094.00	76,750.00	76,650.00
Planning & Zoning				
Zoning Administrator Salary	23,000.00	28,424.00	24,150.00	28,500.00
ZBA Clerk	250.00	-	250.00	250.00
PC Clerk	250.00	-	250.00	250.00
DRB Clerk	500.00	150.00	500.00	500.00
Office Expense	1,500.00	5,820.00	1,500.00	3,500.00
Planning Consultant	10,500.00	15,203.00	7,500.00	3,500.00
Mileage	750.00	500.00	750.00	750.00
Training - Travel - Dues	250.00	147.00	250.00	250.00
Postage	300.00	1,069.00	300.00	300.00
Ads - Printing - Notices	1,500.00	6,093.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Regional Planning	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
DRB Expense	300.00	-	300.00	300.00
Board Education Expense	800.00	-	800.00	800.00
Total Planning & Zoning Office:	45,900.00	63,406.00	44,050.00	46,400.00



Town of Dorset
Town Budget FY2025

	FY23 Approved Budget	FY23 Actual Budget	FY24 Approved Budget	FY25 Proposed Budget
Town Office Building				
General Office Expense	4,000.00	6,309.00	4,000.00	8,500.00
Equipment	4,000.00	4,017.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Town Website	375.00	288.00	375.00	375.00
Heat	2,800.00	4,472.00	3,300.00	5,000.00
Electric	1,400.00	1,877.00	1,650.00	2,500.00
Phone	3,400.00	4,081.00	3,600.00	5,000.00
Water	800.00	546.00	910.00	750.00
Maintenance	6,500.00	5,865.00	6,500.00	8,500.00
Current Office Planning/Project	15,000.00	75,987.00	15,000.00	5,000.00
New Town Office Bond Payment	75,000.00	-	125,000.00	264,715.20
Total Town Office Building:	113,275.00	103,442.00	164,335.00	304,340.20
Public Safety				
Constable	200.00	-	200.00	200.00
Animal Control	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	2,000.00
Health Officer	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
ACO/ Constable Expense	400.00	71.00	400.00	400.00
Law Enforcement	110,000.00	105,333.00	110,000.00	145,000.00
Radar - Speed Signs	-	-	-	-
ACO/ Constable Mileage	200.00	-	200.00	200.00
Street Lighting	10,000.00	6,585.00	10,000.00	6,500.00
Animal Boarding Fees	600.00	-	600.00	300.00
East Dorset Fire District - Fire Contract	150,000.00	150,000.00	154,000.00	158,620.00
Dorset Fire District - Fire Contract	188,000.00	188,000.00	193,000.00	198,790.00
Fire Dispatch & Appropriations	11,500.00	9,800.00	12,000.00	12,500.00
Northshire Rescue Squad	51,000.00	52,038.00	60,365.00	59,766.00
Hazard Mitigation Grant Exp	-	289.50	-	-
Total Public Safety:	526,300.00	514,516.50	545,165.00	586,676.00
Insurance & Bonds				
Health Insurance - Current Employees	153,000.00	170,982.00	161,500.00	172,500.00
Health Insurance - Former Employees	17,500.00	22,408.00	18,500.00	20,000.00
Dental Insurance	8,000.00	6,931.00	7,500.00	7,250.00
Vision Insurance	-	-	-	-
PACIF Insurance	43,000.00	47,725.00	41,500.00	42,500.00
Unemployment Insurance	-	-	-	935.00
Total Insurance & Bonds:	221,500.00	248,046.00	229,000.00	243,185.00



Town of Dorset
Town Budget FY2025

	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
General Services				
Payroll Taxes	49,500.00	53,204.00	52,000.00	54,500.00
Employee Retirement - VMERS	35,000.00	31,936.00	35,000.00	32,000.00
Recreation - Staff & Events	58,000.00	79,775.00	60,000.00	65,000.00
Recreation - Programs	50,000.00	37,806.00	52,500.00	50,000.00
VYCC Internship	15,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
NATs Trails Support	40,000.00	40,000.00	-	-
East Dorset Village Improvements Expense	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	-
Green Space & Streets	4,000.00	4,430.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Marble Sidewalks Expense	-	39,070.00	-	-
Cemetery Maintenance Old & East Dorset	750.00	742.00	750.00	3,250.00
Solid Waste Expense	21,500.00	35,413.00	30,000.00	31,650.00
Interest Expense	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	1,500.00
County Tax	51,500.00	59,989.00	51,500.00	55,000.00
Employee Christmas	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Contingency	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	1,500.00
Bank Service Charge	200.00	180.00	200.00	200.00
Town Event - Picnics	2,000.00	318.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Town Forest Expense	-	-	-	-
Raptor Lane Expense	10,000.00	1,510.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total General Services:	352,950.00	397,373.00	320,950.00	306,600.00
Budgeted Appropriations				
Memorial Day	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Green Up Day	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Northern VT Conservation District	-	100.00	-	100.00
Dorset Economic Development	30,000.00	24,452.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Conservation Commission Association	100.00	-	100.00	100.00
Bennington County Industrial Corp.	2,133.00	-	2,133.00	2,133.00
GNAT TV Agreement	-	-	-	2,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00
The Collaborative	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
PAVE	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Neighbor to Neighbor	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Neighbor Works of Western VT	-	-	-	300.00
Center for Restorative Justice	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
BROC	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Homeless Coalition	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Shire Kids	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Budgeted Appropriations:	40,483.00	32,802.00	40,483.00	42,883.00



Town of Dorset
Town Budget FY2025

	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
Highway Department				
Road Crew Wages	230,586.00	228,290.00	242,115.00	249,378.00
Overtime Wages	24,500.00	19,309.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
DOT Testing	100.00	-	100.00	100.00
Equipment Replacement Fund	160,000.00	160,000.00	155,000.00	175,000.00
Town Garage Electric	2,500.00	6,865.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Town Garage Water	725.00	546.00	725.00	725.00
Town Garage Maintenance	3,000.00	14,177.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
Equipment Repairs - Supplies & Parts	40,500.00	72,057.00	45,000.00	50,000.00
Fuel - Gas - Diesel - Oils	45,000.00	56,833.00	50,000.00	55,000.00
Trees - Mowing	5,000.00	7,640.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Training - Safety	500.00	40.00	500.00	500.00
Highway phones	3,600.00	3,225.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Gravel Road Surfaces	30,000.00	56,527.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Highway Construction Reserves	155,000.00	155,000.00	185,000.00	155,000.00
Village Pedestrian Improvements	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
Cold Patch	100.00	-	100.00	100.00
Paved Roads - Striping - Cracksealing	8,500.00	4,667.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
Storm Emergencies - Misc.	5,000.00	246.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
Engineering Expense	12,500.00	48,660.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Road Salt	80,000.00	51,045.00	82,500.00	82,500.00
Winter Sand - Gravel	38,000.00	72,592.00	38,000.00	38,000.00
Chloride	15,000.00	15,103.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Culverts	1,200.00	2,230.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Equipment Rental	800.00	-	800.00	800.00
Road Signs - Guardrails	1,200.00	1,243.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Bridge Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
State - Road General Permit	1,800.00	1,965.00	1,800.00	1,965.00
Grant Expense		6,541.00		
Total Highway Department:	871,611.00	986,301.00	921,640.00	934,068.00
Voter Approved Appropriations				
Council on Aging	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	5,000.00
Dorset Historical Society	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Dorset Village Library	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
VNA & Hospice - Dorset Nursing	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	30,000.00
Dorset Marble Preservation Association	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	18,970.00
Dorset Playhouse	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Northshire Day School	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Maple Hill Cemetery	-	-	-	10,000.00
Total Voter Approved Appropriations:	117,100.00	117,100.00	117,100.00	124,470.00



Town of Dorset
Town Budget FY2025

	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY25
	Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
DETAIL OF REVENUES - By Source				
Assessors Income	250.00	-	250.00	250.00
Town Clerk Fees	35,000.00	36,567.00	35,000.00	35,500.00
Vital Records	-	1,440.00	-	-
Penalty on Taxes	28,000.00	30,536.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Town Forest Donations	-	-	-	-
Town Forest Grants	-	-	-	-
State Aid Highways	95,000.00	100,855.00	96,500.00	100,000.00
Liquor Licenses	1,000.00	1,270.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
Dog Licenses	2,000.00	1,870.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Animal Control Fines	-	-	-	-
Interest (Late Taxes)	30,000.00	44,955.00	30,000.00	40,000.00
Unanticipated Income	-	1,467.00	-	-
Mad Tom Garden Donations	-	-	-	-
Wilson House Donations	-	-	-	-
DMPA Donations	-	-	-	-
Zoning Income	11,000.00	15,300.00	13,500.00	15,000.00
State Owned Properties	23,000.00	23,482.00	23,000.00	23,000.00
Federal Owned Properties	15,000.00	17,943.00	15,000.00	17,500.00
State Land Use Tax	40,000.00	45,796.00	40,000.00	44,500.00
Current Use Tax	-	-	-	-
DFD No. 1 Agreement	15,000.00	15,774.00	15,000.00	17,500.00
Interest Revenue	2,500.00	6,098.00	2,500.00	5,000.00
Weight Permits	400.00	525.00	400.00	400.00
Solid Waste Revenue	-	15.00	-	-
Sale of Equipment	-	-	-	-
Traffic Fines	10,000.00	1,973.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Municipal Education Grant	800.00	-	-	-
AOT Grant	-	-	-	-
FEMA Grant	-	15,786.00	-	28,000.00
ARPA Funds	-	-	-	-
Reappraisal Fund Transfer	-	-	35,000.00	-
Other Operating Transfers (UI Fund)	-	-	-	50,882.56
Previous Year Surplus	5,000.00	-	55,000.00	-
Total Non - Property Tax Revenues	313,950.00	361,652.00	404,150.00	420,732.56
PROPERTY TAXES				
Town Budget Expense	2,707,178.00	2,863,145.19	2,816,221.00	3,035,557.20
Less Town Budget Revenues	313,950.00	361,652.00	404,150.00	420,732.56
Total Amount Taxed	2,393,228.00	2,501,493.19	2,412,071.00	2,614,824.64



Town of Dorset Reserves/Debt/Assets

Summary as of February 2024:

Reserve Fund & Debt/Asset Balances:

ARPA:	\$582,177	Reappraisal	\$195,044
Equipment	\$195,829	Highway Paving	\$203,388
Unemployment	\$50,882	Land Records	\$34,091
Town Buildings	\$11,383	Highway Bridges	\$10,141

Debt:

Equipment Loan: 0 2021 Town Office Bond: \$0 of \$3,6000,000

Assets:

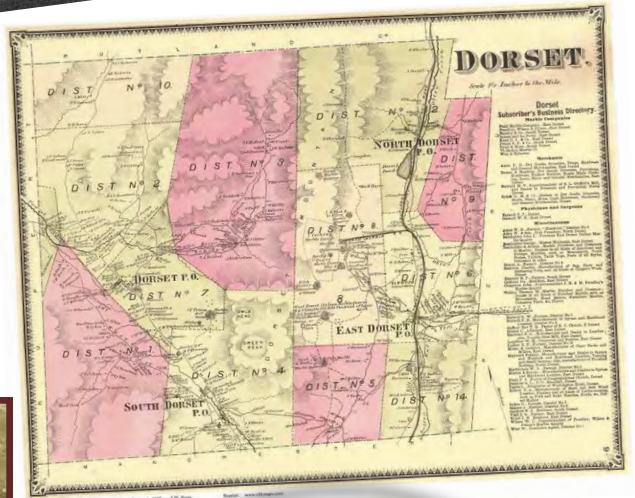
10 acres Lower Hollow Road

308 acres Raptor Lane





Notes





DORSET'S 2023 INFORMATIONAL TOWN MEETING
will be held in person at the Dorset Elementary School
located at 130 School Drive
Monday, March 4th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Australian Ballot Voting will take place on Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 from
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Dorset School