

TOWN OF WELLS, VERMONT



Annual Report
for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024



DATES TO REMEMBER

February 26, 2025	Annual School District Informational meeting at 7:00pm at Wells Elementary School
March 3, 2025	Voters expecting to be absent on Town Meeting Day must request an absentee ballot by 10:00am on March 3rd.
March 3, 2025	Town Office closed to Public.
March 3, 2025	Pre-Town Meeting/Business meeting at 7:00pm at Wells Village School.
March 4, 2025	Annual Town Meeting – Polls for Australian Ballot open 10:00am - 7:00pm in the Wells Town Office.
April 1, 2025	Dog Licenses Due
May 10, 2025	Property taxes must be paid in full to avoid 8% penalty
June 7, 2025	Toxic Waste Removal at the Transfer Station 12:00pm – 2:00pm
June 30, 2025	Fiscal year 2024-2025 ends
July 1, 2025	Fiscal year 2025-2026 begins
September 6, 2025	Toxic Waste Removal at the Transfer Station 12:00pm – 2:00pm
September 10, 2025	First Payment of Property Taxes Due
November 10, 2025	Second Payment of Property Taxes Due
February 10, 2026	Third Payment of Property Taxes Due
May 10, 2026	Fourth Payment of Property Taxes Due

On the Cover: Loon, photo provided by, Carol Higgins

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DATES TO REMEMBER.....INSIDE FRONT COVER

DEDICATION.....2

TOWN INFORMATION

General Information3
Town Officials.....4
Licenses & Permits5
Voter Information.....6-7
Health Officer Report.....8
Vital Statistics.....9
Assessor’s Report.....9
Select Board Report.....10
Town Clerk/Treasurer Report.....11
Budget 12-19
Appropriations.....20
Factors for Tax Rate Calculation21
Delinquent Tax Report.....22
Auditor's Letter & Financials..... 23-29
Town Inventory.....30
Highway Report.....31
Fire Department Report.....32
Fire Warden Report32
Historical Society Report.....33
Sheriff Department Report.....34
Library Report35
Library Treasurer's Report.....36
Cemetery Treasurer’s Report.....37
Delaney Committee Report.....38
Transfer Station Report.....39
Granville Rescue Squad.....40
Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund, Inc. Report & Cash Flow.....41-42
Lake St. Catherine Association Report.....43
Our Neighbors’ Table.....44

COMMUNITY AGENCY REPORTS.....45-68

TOWN MEETING INFORMATION

2024 Town Meeting Minutes.....69-70
2024 Town Meeting Election Results.....71-72
2025 Town of Wells Warning.....73-74
2025 Wells Springs Unified Union School District Warning.....75-76

COMMUNITY INFORMATION..... INSIDE BACK COVER

DEDICATION

Trish and Joe Capron



This year's Wells Town Report is being presented in honor of Trish and Joe Capron. Together they have proudly served our Wells Community for over 50 years.

Trish is a graduate of Castleton State College with a teaching degree. Trish was also a Girl Scout leader for many years. She then started the Wells School kindergarten and the Wells school library in the new school addition in 1987. She was also the Wells Village Library public librarian for 32 years.

Joe is a native of Wells and after graduating from Castleton State College he served in the military and is a Vietnam Veteran.

Joe and Trish settled in Wells in 1975 where Joe joined the Granville Rescue Squad and spent 24 years of service to our area as an EMT. Joe was a Justice of the Peace in Wells for 8 years and served on the Wells Building Committee for the new Town Offices.

Joe and Trish are both members of the Modern Woodmen of America in Wells. Joe has been an officer in the MWA for 30 of the 45 years he has served.

Together, Joe and Trish have spent 25 years as officers in the Wells Historical Society presenting and protecting the history of our amazing little town.

After retiring from 36 years of teaching art in the Whitehall School System and Trish leaving teaching after 32 years, they are still serving our town in many ways and will continue to serve for many more years. They are now running an art and gift shop in Wells.

Congratulations and thank you for your service to our beautiful little town.

TOWN INFORMATION

Town Clerk/Treasurer Hours:

Open to Public Mon & Wed 7:00am-4:00pm/Tues 7:00am -6:00pm
All others by appointment only

Transfer Station Hours:

SUMMER Memorial Day Weekend – Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Wednesday	10:00am - 2:00pm
Saturday	10:00am - 2:00pm
Sunday	10:00am - 2:00pm

WINTER Indigenous Peoples’ Day -Weekend before Memorial Day Weekend

Wednesday	10:00am - 2:00pm
Sunday	10:00am - 2:00pm

** Transfer Station will be closed on all Federal Holidays. Will be open on the Saturday prior if holiday falls on a Sunday.*

Library Hours:

Summer:

Monday & Tuesday 9:00am – 1:00pm
Thursday 3:00pm – 7:00pm
Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

Winter:

Monday & Tuesday 10:00am -1:00pm
Thursday 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

** We are always closed on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays*
phone: 802-645-0611
email: wellslibraryvt@gmail.com

Church Services:

St. Paul's Episcopal

PO Box 726
Wells, VT 05774
518-499-1850

Parish Mass Sunday 9:00am
Children’s Program Sunday 9:00am
William Davidson
therevwd@aol.com

United Methodist

PO Box 203
Poultney, VT 05771
802-884-8249

Sunday 8:15am
Pastor Susan Hardman-Zimmerman
shardman-zimmerman@susumc.org

St. Mary's Catholic

23 Bulkley Ave
Granville, NY

Sunday 12:30 pm
Wednesday 9:00am
518-642-126

TOWN OFFICIALS

Office	Name	Term	Exp. March
Town Moderator	Vacant	1	
Clerk/Treasurer	Nora Sargent	3	2025
Select Board	Don Preuss (chair)	3	2025
	Tammy Holcomb	3	2026
	Paul Woodruff	3	2027
Unified School District Directors	Sue Burke	3	2025
	Amanda Weeden	3	2026
	Eric Montbriand	3	2027
Library Trustees	Amanda Butler	5	2025
	MaryBeth Harrison	5	2026
	Michelle Bates	5	2027
	Michael Lindley	5	2028
	Annie Constantinos	5	2029
Planning Commission	Cherry Hopson	3	2025
	Cheryl Woodruff	3	2025
	Heather Thomas	1	2025
	Francis Gilman	1	2025
	Steve Miller	1	2025
	William Chmielewski	3	2026
	Sharon Corey	3	2027
Justices/Peace Expires January	Victoria Angis (D)	2	2027
	Cheryl Woodruff (D)	2	2027
	Jerry Stein (R)	2	2027
	Michelle Bates (R)	2	2027
	William Steinmetz (R)	2	2027

LICENSES & PERMITS

Dog Licenses

All dogs six (6) months of age or older shall annually, on or before April 1, be licensed. The price is \$12.00 for spayed/neutered dogs, \$16.00 for non-spayed/non-neutered dogs. Rabies certificates must be signed by a duly licensed veterinarian and delivered to the Town Clerk BEFORE any dog can be licensed. The full text of the Wells Dog Ordinance can be found in the Town Clerk's office and on the town website.

DOG TOTALS

Sex	#	Fees	State	Late	Total
Spayed	51	255.00	255.00	0	510.00
Neutered	31	185.00	185.00	5	375.00
Male	7	47.00	35.00	0	82.00
Female	1	10.00	5.00	0	15.00
Total	90	497.00	480.00	5	982.00

Marriage Licenses

Marriage Licenses can be obtained in the Town Clerk's office. The fee is \$90.00.

Fire Permits

Contact our Fire Warden, Todd Fenton at 802-772-5514 or our Deputy Fire Warden, Don Preuss, at 802-417-1058.

Transfer Station Permits

The transfer station is located on Bull Frog Hollow Road. The acquiring of a transfer station permit sticker can be done at the Town Office and is required prior to using the facility each year starting July 1. Only Wells taxpayers/residents will be able to obtain a transfer station access permit. **You must have a current permit with you when using the transfer station.** The prices as of July 1, 2025 are as follows,

Bag Fees

Permit only 50.00

Permit with 50 bags (same day purchase) 75.00

Additional bags in quantities of 25 50.00

ZERO SORT RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING IS MANDATORY & BOXES MUST BE BROKEN DOWN. All trash must be bagged. Food scraps with no bags only in compost.

The permit also allows for disposing of items on Hazardous Waste Day and access to the Rutland County Solid Waste District.

Title 19 Sec.43 VSA Access Permits

Road access permits must be filed with the Town and/or State before any new driveway or road is constructed. Changes to existing driveways and roads are also subject to Title 19, Sec 43, V.S.A.

DMV Renewals

You can renew your vehicle's registration in the Town Office by bringing in your renewal, a check payable to the Vermont DMV for the proper amount for a 1 year or 2-year renewal. There is a \$3.00 clerk fee to process your renewal.

VOTER INFORMATION

Annual Meetings – March 3 – Voting March 4, 2025 10:00am – 7:00pm

A voter who expects to be absent or who wishes to vote at home can apply for an absentee ballot up to the day before the election. The application form for the absentee ballot may be requested from the Town Clerk by mail, phone or in person. The request for the application may be made by the voter or anyone else as long as the request is in writing and proof is shown that he or she is authorized by the voter to do so.

*****IMPORTANT!*****

If, after receiving your mailed absentee ballot, you decide to vote in person, you may do so ONLY if you return the complete set of unmarked ballots, together with the envelopes intended for their return, to the Presiding Election Official at the time you appear at the polls to vote in person OR you will need to sign an affidavit in order to receive a new set of ballots. Failure to do so will result in your inability to vote.

VERMONT VOTER RIGHTS

- **YOU MAY SEE A BALLOT IN ADVANCE**

Your Town Clerk has sample ballots at least 10 days before election.

- **YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE**

Bring the person of YOUR CHOICE into the voting booth with you to help you vote (Not your employer or union representative).

- Ask an election official for assistance.
- Two election officials will help you. (NO ONE can tell you how to vote!)
- Bring a magnifying glass or other device to help you vote.
- If you are disabled or ill, ask the election officials to bring a ballot out to your car.
- Bring a list of candidates or articles into voting booth to help you vote. (You may NOT show your list to other voters or leave it in the booth).

- **YOU CAN VOTE EARLY OR VOTE FROM HOME**

You can vote in the Town Clerk's Office or take ballot home anytime 20 days before the election.

- ❖ Call the Town Clerk or sign a request form, the Town Clerk will send you a ballot by mail.

- **YOU CAN GET A NEW BALLOT IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE**

- If you give your first ballot to an election official, you can get another ballot to vote.
You can get up to three ballots.

YOUR BALLOT IS PRIVATE

No one has the right to see how you voted or to ask you how you voted.

PLEASE ASK QUESTIONS

Election officials are here to help you understand how to vote. They cannot help you decide who to vote for and may not tell you candidates' names.

MY VOTER PAGE & ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- * Check registration status;
 - * View information on upcoming elections;
 - * Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours;
 - * View a sample ballot;
 - * Request and track an absentee ballot;
 - * and much more.
-
- **General Election** For all State and Federal elections, the Secretary of State's Office is required to mail a ballot to all active registered voters for their use in early/absentee voting. The Town will only be responsible to accommodate requests for early ballots that come in after the state has performed the mailing.

Statute 17 V.S.A. § 2704 reads, "A person voting at the Primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter's choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the secretary of state, to indicate the voter's party choice. The names of all candidates on the ballot shall be listed in alphabetical order. Each voter may vote for one candidate for the presidential nomination of one party, either by placing a mark opposite the printed name of a candidate as in other primaries, or by writing in the name of the candidate of the voter's choice. (Added 1979, No. 199 (Adj. Sess.), § 1, eff. May 6, 1980; amended 1995, No. 38, § 4; 2003, No. 59, § 43.)"

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page to learn more.

Registered Voters can log in at: <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>

Online registration can be found at: <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Here are a few of the issues that came to my attention this year in my role as Town Health Officer:

1. Bears getting into garbage:

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department recommends taking the following proactive steps to prevent this issue from escalating into a dangerous situation for bears, property and people.

- Make your garbage inaccessible by storing garbage in a secure structure and a bear resistant container
- Dispose of trash frequently
- Request bear resistant dumpsters/trash receptacles from trash hauling services
- Avoid using bird feeders between mid-March and December. Consider planting bird-friendly native plants instead
- Follow steps for composting in bear country. Compost is recommended to be 3 parts brown materials to 1 part kitchen scraps and turned often-best to be kept in sturdy tumbler or bin
- Use electric fencing to keep chickens and bees safe-4,000-6,000 volts is recommended
- Clean your grill after each use
- Make bears feel uncomfortable in your yard by yelling, banging pots/pans or using other noise making devices. Never shoot a bear to scare it. Even BB's can seriously injure the bears.
- Report bear encounters to Vermont Fish & Wildlife at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx>

If you have questions or if you would like more information, please contact the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department at 802-828-1000 or fwinformation@vermont.gov

The information presented here is from "Bear PSA from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department"

2. Smell of burning trash:

-Open burning of household trash is never allowed in Vermont. It is illegal to burn paper/cardboard, tires/other rubber products, treated/painted/finished wood, tarpaper/asphalt shingles, plastic, garbage

Many recycling centers accept paper/cardboard/plastics.

-Allowable open burning includes campfires/outdoor barbecues, burning of leaves/brush/tree cuttings/deadwood/weeds from your property and natural wood bonfires on festive occasions

You may need a permit for burning of large quantities of allowable materials.

For information call Air Quality and Climate Division(State of Vermont) 802-828-1288 or visit at <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/air>

Information was obtained from BYBFactsheet

3. Dogs wandering on town roads, occasionally in packs and dogbites

-The Town of Wells, Vermont has an ordinance for the control of domestic animals. An uncontrolled dog shall not run at large or without restraint.

Please request a copy of the Ordinance from the Town of Wells for complete details.

-Owners are responsible for keeping Rabies Vaccine status up to date with their own Veterinarian or at a Rabies Clinic (for example: petvet.vippetcare.com)

Please feel free to contact me for any concerns regarding potential public health issues in Wells.

Valerie Vitale, MD

Town Health Officer, Wells

Contact info: Wells Town Office 802-645-0486 wellstownclerk@comcast.net

VITAL STATISTICS

July 1, 2023 to June 30,2024

Births	8
Marriages	7
Deaths	7

All records are available to view during regular business hours. Certified copies are available for a fee of \$10.00 per copy.

Report from Assessor's Office

2024

New England Municipal Resource Center is the Town's Assessor with the assistance of the Assessor Clerks and Town Clerk.

Even with the recent reappraisal completed last year sales continue to be higher than the new assessments

The Grand List value for 2023 was \$2,586,000. The value for 2024 tax year is \$2,603,000. The Grand List will go up again next year due to new parcels created, construction, improvements, etc. The higher the Grand List, the lower the tax rate, should town and school budgets remain relatively the same.

Report from the Wells Selectboard

After several years of environmental extremes like flooding, wild rain storms and the lingering effects of a Pandemic, things have more or less returned to normal circumstances and conditions. Our Spring grading was interrupted by the rain but once things calmed down, we were able to continue, however, the grader had a serious breakdown. Fortunately, we were able to get it repaired and our road crew finished up a number of projects pertaining to road drainage, new culverts, ditching and getting us in compliance within the state mandates.

We did not get another Class 2 Road Grant unfortunately but we used our paving fund to mill and repave a bad stretch of East Wells Road by the library and Saw Mill Road. Due to hard work and a little luck, we will receive a Class 2 Grant this year. All of our engineering and permits are complete for the upcoming big project on East Wells Road to prevent the slide from worsening. We hope to bid the project in the near future.

The Transfer Station has the bag system up and running, which allows us to keep better control over our trash. Committees and Commissions are almost to full capacity and if anyone would like to get involved, please check with any board member. As always, our Selectboard meetings are every other Tuesday at the Town Hall and the public is always welcome. Audio and minutes of our meeting are also available online.

Selectboard Members,
Don Preuss (Chair)
Paul Woodruff, Jr
Tammy Holcomb

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER REPORT 2023/2024

It has been another busy and different year here at the office. Many of the systems that we have used through the state and other agencies are continuing to switch to digital so it has become challenging to get used to. Many of our major portals that we use like the licensing departments, grand list, and many for our reporting have all gone to electronic only.

We have a drop slot in the front door to accommodate your tax payments if you do not wish to mail them. Taxes are due on the date indicated, unless the due date is on a date the office is closed (Thursday-Sunday), then the payment is due on the next business day. For example, your May 10 payment will be due on Monday, May 12, 2025 as May 10 is a Saturday. As always post marks are not considered on time. So please plan accordingly to have your payment into the office prior to May 12, 2025 if you are mailing them.

We have wrapped up indexing and scanning of our old records using the ARPA money we received. Having the ability to access records online has become a valuable resource for many. We are one of just a couple towns in the state that have all their land records available online. Below are the links to our online files.

www.axisgis.com/wellsvt or www.wells.lr-1.com .

We are now redoing all the Lister files from alphabetical to 911 addresses by road. As the state is preparing to do reappraisals every 6 years, this will make it much easier to set up for the reappraisals.

We are also working on going through all of the land records and adding parcel ID's into the records so it will make searching a particular property much easier.

The elections were very trying with new procedures and the redistricting of the town this year. Given we also have a new tabulator, we ask that you have patience and know that we are just doing our jobs as instructed.

Please remember that our Town is now two districts, Rutland and Rutland-Bennington. This is important to remember when we have state and federal elections. We will NOT be mailing LOCAL election ballots to everyone unless we are instructed to do so. As always you can go online, fill out a form, or email us to request that a ballot be mailed out to you. Please refer to the voter page to see complete details on this as it will be a busy year for elections. We have attended many trainings this year on elections aimed to help improve the flow of elections throughout the state. We will be closed to the public the day before all elections so that we can be better prepared to serve you the day of elections.

The transition of the transfer station to the bag system was a change for all but we have seen an improvement in out tracking as we approach our second year of the bag system.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their ongoing support and look forward to another great year. As I have said before, as long as we work as a team, we can achieve great things.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nora Sargent

TOWN OF WELLS BUDGET

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
	FY 23-24	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
REVENUE				
INTEREST ON CURRENT TAXES	\$4,500.00	\$3,860.38	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
TAX ADJUSTM FROM STATE	\$12,000.00	\$12,598.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
DELINQUENT TAX PRINCIPAL	\$70,000.00	\$189,848.03	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
INTEREST IN DEL TAXES	\$15,000.00	\$17,526.22	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	\$90,000.00	\$94,724.90	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$700.00	\$41,259.92	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
DOG LICENSES	\$300.00	\$332.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
LIQUOR LICENSES	\$280.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00
ATV STICKER REVENUE	\$400.00	\$420.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
COURT FINES	\$5,000.00	\$672.86	\$-	\$-
CEMETERY REIMBURSEMENT	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
OVERWEIGHT PERMITS	\$150.00	\$205.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
CURRENT USE	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$13,413.00</u>	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$9,500.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$212,830.00</u>	<u>\$377,500.31</u>	<u>\$213,390.00</u>	<u>\$211,790.00</u>

EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
	FY 23-24	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
ADMINISTRATION				
Selectmen's Salary	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Clerical for Selectmen	\$1,040.00	\$880.00	\$1,040.00	\$9,680.00
Admin Asst Health Insurance	\$21,482.36	\$23,192.91	\$25,076.00	\$25,200.00
Admin Asst Dental Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$812.76	\$1,000.00	\$850.00
FICA - Town Portion	\$19,000.00	\$17,967.21	\$23,761.00	\$25,365.00
Medicare	\$5,000.00	\$4,202.05	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Childcare Contribution Tax	\$-	\$-	\$1,366.00	\$1,095.00
Unemployment	\$1,500.00	\$91.50	\$750.00	\$750.00
Office Supplies	\$3,500.00	\$3,499.19	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Postage	\$2,900.00	\$3,019.97	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00
Copier Lease	\$3,300.00	\$2,576.48	\$3,300.00	\$2,700.00
Advertising & Legal Notices	\$500.00	\$260.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Health Officer Expense	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00	\$500.00
Officers Meetings & Schools	\$300.00	\$30.00	\$300.00	\$200.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$4,500.00	\$4,334.93	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Appropriations	\$85,868.00	\$85,868.00	\$90,868.00	\$92,118.00
Insurance	\$30,000.00	\$20,557.86	\$28,000.00	\$26,000.00
Legal Services	\$3,000.00	\$4,907.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Printing & Binding	\$2,500.00	\$2,118.24	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
Contracted Services	\$2,900.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00
Street Lights	\$4,300.00	\$3,959.41	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00
Office Equipment/Software	\$2,000.00	\$1,844.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
NEMRC/Microsolve	\$12,000.00	\$11,408.04	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00	\$2,943.26	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$214,090.36	\$228,742.81	\$229,261.00	\$237,758.00

	BUDGET FY 23-24	ACTUAL FY 23-24	BUDGET FY 24-25	BUDGET FY 25-26
TOWN CLERK				
Town Clerk Salary	\$31,495.00	\$32,009.15	\$32,440.00	\$32,440.00
Town Clerk Health Insurance	\$21,482.18	\$23,192.91	\$25,076.00	\$25,200.00
Town Clerk Dental Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$812.76	\$1,000.00	\$850.00
Town Clerk Mileage	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Town Treasurer Salary	\$20,134.00	\$20,601.98	\$20,738.00	\$20,738.00
Administrative Assistant	\$16,661.00	\$18,797.50	\$18,842.00	\$19,777.00
TOTAL TOWN CLERK	<u>\$90,872.18</u>	<u>\$95,514.30</u>	<u>\$98,196.00</u>	<u>\$99,105.00</u>
TOWN OFFICE				
Heat Town Office	\$2,500.00	\$1,234.49	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00
Town Office Phone	\$2,850.00	\$3,250.85	\$3,000.00	\$3,750.00
Maintenance Town Office	\$7,750.00	\$2,403.27	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00
Town Office Electric	\$2,700.00	\$1,880.06	\$2,300.00	\$2,000.00
Town Building Fund	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Security System	\$500.00	\$570.00	\$500.00	\$600.00
TOTAL TOWN OFFICE	<u>\$18,800.00</u>	<u>\$11,838.67</u>	<u>\$14,800.00</u>	<u>\$13,850.00</u>
ELECTIONS				
Elections	\$3,000.00	\$1,656.49	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00
TOTAL ELECTIONS	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,656.49</u>	<u>\$3,500.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>

	BUDGET FY 23-24	ACTUAL FY 23-24	BUDGET FY 24-25	BUDGET FY 25-26
AUDITORS				
Auditors	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$9,900.00</u>	<u>\$10,500.00</u>	<u>\$10,500.00</u>
TOTAL AUDIT EXPENSES	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$9,900.00</u>	<u>\$10,500.00</u>	<u>\$10,500.00</u>
LISTERS				
Assistant Assessor Salary	\$13,100.00	\$13,616.00	\$15,415.00	\$16,181.00
Professional Assessor Services	\$9,000.00	\$8,962.50	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00
Listers Mileage Reimb.	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Reappraisal	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
Dues subscriptions	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,019.30</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,100.00</u>
TOTAL LISTING EXPENSES	<u>\$33,300.00</u>	<u>\$35,797.80</u>	<u>\$42,015.00</u>	<u>\$49,881.00</u>
LIBRARY				
Library Salaries	\$17,831.00	\$16,017.82	\$21,658.00	\$22,525.00
Heat Library	\$1,500.00	\$353.81	\$1,500.00	\$500.00
Library Phone	\$650.00	\$733.15	\$800.00	\$1,130.00
Library Electric	<u>\$1,400.00</u>	<u>\$1,779.50</u>	<u>\$1,600.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
TOTAL LIBRARY	<u>\$21,381.00</u>	<u>\$18,884.28</u>	<u>\$25,558.00</u>	<u>\$26,155.00</u>

	BUDGET FY 23-24	ACTUAL FY 23-24	BUDGET FY 24-25	BUDGET FY 25-26
LAW ENFORCEMENT				
Law Enforcement Salary	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>
POUNDKEEPING				
Poundkeeping Labor	\$-	\$468.23	\$500.00	\$500.00
Poundkeeping Expenses	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$11.21</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
TOTAL POUNDKEEPING	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$479.44</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
FIRE				
Equipment for Fire Warden	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
TOTAL FOREST FIRE WARDEN	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
HIGHWAY				
SUMMER HIGHWAY				
Labor/Summer	\$75,219.00	\$76,757.76	\$78,228.00	\$78,743.00
Materials	\$60,000.00	\$66,711.89	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
Resurfacing	\$80,000.00	\$-	\$80,000.00	\$100,000.00
Culvert Purchases	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$4,310.40</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
TOTAL SUMMER HIGHWAY	<u>\$222,219.00</u>	<u>\$147,780.05</u>	<u>\$230,228.00</u>	<u>\$253,473.00</u>

	BUDGET FY 23-24	ACTUAL FY 23-24	BUDGET FY 24-25	BUDGET FY 25-26
WINTER HIGHWAY				
Labor/Winter	\$82,241.00	\$72,181.63	\$75,860.00	\$84,750.00
Materials	\$85,000.00	\$103,984.92	\$95,000.00	\$95,000.00
Independent Contracting	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,150.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
TOTAL WINTER HIGHWAY	<u>\$168,741.00</u>	<u>\$177,317.55</u>	<u>\$172,360.00</u>	<u>\$181,250.00</u>

HIGHWAY VEHICLES				
Repair & Maint. Vehicles	\$45,000.00	\$62,980.53	\$50,000.00	\$60,000.00
Fuel, Gas & Oil	\$45,000.00	\$34,937.60	\$45,000.00	\$42,000.00
Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
Vehicle Communications	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,073.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY VEHICLES	<u>\$142,000.00</u>	<u>\$149,991.13</u>	<u>\$147,000.00</u>	<u>\$204,000.00</u>

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT				
Small Tools for Highway	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Uniforms for Highway Employ.	\$4,500.00	\$4,258.83	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00
Equipment Rental	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,310.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	<u>\$7,500.00</u>	<u>\$10,568.83</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,500.00</u>

	BUDGET FY 23-24	ACTUAL FY 23-24	BUDGET FY 24-25	BUDGET FY 25-26
HIGHWAY STREET SIGNS				
Street Signs	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$7,092.03</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY STREET SIGNS	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$7,092.03</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
HIGHWAY INSURANCE BENEFITS				
Highway Workers Health Ins.	\$65,000.00	\$69,684.97	\$74,349.00	\$87,791.00
Highway Workers Dental his.	<u>\$3,300.00</u>	<u>\$2,438.28</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY INSURANCE BENEFITS	<u>\$68,300.00</u>	<u>\$72,123.25</u>	<u>\$77,349.00</u>	<u>\$90,791.00</u>
HIGHWAY BUILDINGS				
Highway Dept. Phone	\$1,700.00	\$1,876.95	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Maint. Highway Building	\$500.00	\$2,757.55	1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Electricity	\$2,200.00	\$2,401.99	2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,200.00	\$964.19	1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Highway Building Fund	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>30,000.00</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY BUILDINGS	<u>\$35,600.00</u>	<u>\$38,000.68</u>	<u>\$36,300.00</u>	<u>\$56,300.00</u>
SURPLUS TRANSFER				
Surplus Transfer	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>
TOTAL SURPLUS TRANSFER	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY	<u>\$645,360.00</u>	<u>\$602,873.52</u>	<u>\$670,737.00</u>	<u>\$56,300.00</u>

	BUDGET FY 23-24	ACTUAL FY 23-24	BUDGET FY 24-25	BUDGET FY 25-26
OTHER BUILDINGS				
Maint. Other Town Buildings	<u>\$19,500.00</u>	<u>\$21,924.42</u>	<u>\$21,000.00</u>	<u>\$21,000.00</u>
TOTAL OTHER TOWN BUILDINGS	<u>\$19,500.00</u>	<u>\$21,924.42</u>	<u>\$21,000.00</u>	<u>\$21,000.00</u>
TRANSFER STATION				
Labor/Transfer Station	\$14,000.00	\$8,446.86	\$8,385.00	\$9,500.00
Materials - Transfer Station	\$5,000.00	\$4,108.08	\$2,000.00	\$2,100.00
Phone - Transfer Station	\$-	\$824.17	\$700.00	\$900.00
Electricity - Transfer Station	\$600.00	\$496.16	\$500.00	\$500.00
Disposing of Waste	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$(680.00)</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>
TOTAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	<u>\$22,600.00</u>	<u>\$13,195.27</u>	<u>\$11,585.00</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>
RUTLAND COUNTY TAX				
Rutland County Tax	\$16,500.00	\$13,681.85	\$16,500.00	\$16,500.00
TOTAL RUTLAND COUNTY TAX	<u>\$16,500.00</u>	<u>\$13,681.85</u>	<u>\$16,500.00</u>	<u>\$16,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$1,124,703.54</u>	<u>\$1,082,788.85</u>	<u>\$1,172,952.00</u>	<u>\$1,312,863.00</u>
NET REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES	<u>\$(911,873.54)</u>	<u>\$(705,288.54)</u>	<u>\$(959,562.00)</u>	<u>\$1,101,073.00</u>

APPROPRIATIONS

<u>AGENCY NAME</u>		<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
BROC Community Action	\$	475	475
Child First Advocacy Center		800	800
Fire Department		15,000	15,000
Fire Department - Truck		20,000	20,000
Granville Rescue Squad		8,000	8,000
Green Up Vermont		100	100
Lake St. Catherine Association		12,000	12,000
Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund, Inc.		20,000	20,000
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont		200	200
NewStory Center		150	150
Our Neighbors' Table (Neighbors helping Neighbors)		2,000	3,000
Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District		500	500
Rutland County Humane Society		150	150
Rutland County Parent Child Center Inc.		300	300
Rutland County Restorative Justice Center		500	500
Rutland Mental Health Services		1,030	1,030
Senior Volunteer Program		0	150
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging		1,000	1,000
The Vermont Center for Independent Living		160	160
Vermont Adult Learning		400	400
Vermont Cares		200	200
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force		100	200
VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region		2,303	2,303
VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired		500	500
Wells Cemetery Assoc		<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$	90,868	92,118

FACTORS FOR TAX RATE CALCULATION

2024 - 2025

GRAND LIST:	\$ 2,603,113.00
HIGHWAY BUDGET:	\$ 670,737.00
LESS STATE AID:	\$ 90,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITY:	\$ 580,737.00
HIGHWAY TAX RATE:	0.2231
(Liability divided by Mun. Grand list)	

GENERAL BUDGET:	\$ 502,215.00
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY REVENUE:	\$ 123,390.00
TOTAL LIABILITY:	\$ 378,825.00
GENERAL TAX RATE:	.1456
LOCAL AGREEMENT:	$5600/2603113=.0002$
FINAL MUNICIPAL TAX RATE:	.3689
HOMESTEAD RATE:	1.1355
NON-RESIDENTIAL RATE:	1.2908
RESIDENTIAL:	1.5044
NON-RESIDENTIAL:	1.6597

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT AS OF JANUARY 2024

NAME	2022-2023	2023-2024
Angiolillo, Frank		3395.76
Ashley, Todd		255.18
Ax, Rachel K		1907.34
Baptie, Kathryn		1108.20
Bourn, Robert		1322.17
Coffinger, Paul		7081.16
Corrow, Martin		2986.73
Davis, Wayne		853.81
Fenton Estate	*	87.65
Ferguson, Neil F		459.08
Gould, Clarence III		2432.29
Gullo, Salvatore		1920.51
Hayward, Glen	*	4902.89
Kuhlmann, Elana		59.38
Lamparillo, Michael		308.24
Lynam, Michael		971.61
Mackey, Johnathan		1475.53
Martelle, Bruce		2452.99
Matteson, Kaleb		3581.87
Matteson, William		1537.34
Melendy, Melinda		1903.27
Mesiti, Jennifer		338.19
Noble, Andrea		356.55
Perkins, Anthony		1543.92
Perrillo, Joseph II		2969.91
Schubert, James		2892.57
Smith, Jessica		2184.21
Thomas, Keith J		34.76
Whitman, Josh	*	5118.36
Witherbee, Gary		458.13
TOTALS FOR ALL YEARS		\$56,899.60

* Multiple Years Owed. This is the total amount due for all years. Due to new public record privacy rules we can only show total amounts due for all years of delinquent taxes per property. All properties with unpaid taxes from 2024-2025 and prior will go up for tax sale after May 10, 2026 if a payment schedule has not been set up.



Proven Expertise & Integrity

January 9, 2025

Selectboard
Town of Wells
Wells, Vermont

We were engaged by the Town of Wells, Vermont and have audited the financial statements of the Town of Wells, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024. The following statements and schedules have been excerpted from the 2024 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office.

Included herein are:

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	Statement C
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	Statement E
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund	Schedule 1
Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund	Schedule A
Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule B
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule C

RHR Smith & Company
Certified Public Accountants

3 Old Orchard Road, Buxton, Maine 04093
Tel: (800) 300-7708 (207) 929-4606 Fax: (207) 929-4609
www.rhrsmith.com

STATEMENT C

TOWN OF WELLS, VERMONT

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Equipment Fund	Highway Surplus Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,677,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,677,348
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):					
Delinquent taxes receivable	200,969	-	-	-	200,969
Other	50	-	-	-	50
Prepaid items	39	-	-	-	39
Due from other funds	-	107,106	191,195	900,219	1,198,520
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,878,406	\$ 107,106	\$ 191,195	\$ 900,219	\$ 3,076,926
LIABILITIES					
Due to other governments	\$ 56,347	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,347
Due to other funds	1,198,520	-	-	-	1,198,520
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,254,867	-	-	-	1,254,867
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Prepaid taxes	9,555	-	-	-	9,555
Deferred revenue	-	-	-	73,258	73,258
Deferred property tax	148,078	-	-	-	148,078
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	157,633	-	-	73,258	230,891
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable	39	-	-	-	39
Restricted	-	-	191,195	442,926	634,121
Committed	-	107,106	-	384,035	491,141
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	465,867	-	-	-	465,867
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	465,906	107,106	191,195	826,961	1,591,168
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 1,878,406	\$ 107,106	\$ 191,195	\$ 900,219	\$ 3,076,926

STATEMENT E

TOWN OF WELLS, VERMONT

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Equipment Fund	Highway Surplus Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Taxes:					
Property	\$ 977,639	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 977,639
Intergovernmental	176,543	-	-	-	176,543
Permits and licenses	1,769	-	-	-	1,769
Charges for services	-	-	-	39,648	39,648
Investment income, net of unrealized gains/(losses)	41,260	-	-	-	41,260
Miscellaneous	24,989	-	-	66,824	90,913
TOTAL REVENUES	1,221,300	-	-	106,472	1,327,772
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	394,784	-	-	81,824	476,608
Public safety	28,779	-	-	-	28,779
Public works	35,119	-	-	27,803	62,922
Highway	517,573	102,214	30,150	-	649,937
Intergovernmental	13,862	-	-	-	13,862
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	989,937	102,214	30,150	109,627	1,231,928
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	231,363	(102,214)	(30,150)	(3,155)	95,844
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	50,000	-	37,500	87,500
Transfers (out)	(87,500)	-	-	-	(87,500)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(87,500)	50,000	-	37,500	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	143,863	(52,214)	(30,150)	34,345	95,844
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED	322,043	159,320	221,345	932,698	1,635,406
ERROR CORRECTION- ARPA	-	-	-	(140,082)	(140,082)
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS RESTATED	322,043	159,320	221,345	792,616	1,495,324
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	\$ 465,906	\$ 107,106	\$ 191,195	\$ 826,961	\$ 1,591,168

TOWN OF WELLS, VERMONT

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1	\$ 322,043	\$ 322,043	\$ 322,043	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Property taxes	1,013,374	1,013,374	977,639	(35,735)
Intergovernmental	104,500	104,500	176,543	72,043
Permits and licenses	6,130	6,130	1,769	(4,361)
Interest income	700	700	41,260	40,560
Other revenue		-	24,089	24,089
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>1,446,747</u>	<u>1,446,747</u>	<u>1,543,343</u>	<u>96,596</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	383,944	383,944	394,784	(10,840)
Public safety	29,300	29,300	28,779	521
Public works	42,100	42,100	35,119	6,981
Highway	565,360	565,360	517,573	47,787
Intergovernmental	16,500	16,500	13,682	2,818
Transfers to other funds	87,500	87,500	87,500	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>1,124,704</u>	<u>1,124,704</u>	<u>1,077,437</u>	<u>47,267</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 322,043</u>	<u>\$ 322,043</u>	<u>\$ 465,906</u>	<u>\$ 143,863</u>

SCHEDULE A

TOWN OF WELLS, VERMONT

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance Positive/ (Negative)
General government:					
Administration	\$ 214,091	\$ -	\$ 214,091	\$ 199,976	\$ 14,115
Town clerk	90,872	-	90,872	95,515	(4,643)
Town office	16,300	-	16,300	9,338	6,962
Elections	3,000	-	3,000	1,656	1,344
Auditors	10,000	-	10,000	9,900	100
Listers	28,300	-	28,300	30,798	(2,498)
Library	21,381	-	21,381	18,885	2,496
Loan payoff	-	-	-	28,716	(28,716)
Totals	383,944	-	383,944	394,784	(10,840)
Public safety:					
Law enforcement	28,000	-	28,000	28,000	-
Poundkeeping	1,000	-	1,000	479	521
Fire	300	-	300	300	-
Totals	29,300	-	29,300	28,779	521
Public works:					
Other town buildings	19,500	-	19,500	21,924	(2,424)
Transfer station	22,600	-	22,600	13,195	9,405
Totals	42,100	-	42,100	35,119	6,981
Highway	565,360	-	565,360	517,573	47,787
Intergovernmental:					
Rutland county tax	16,500	-	16,500	13,682	2,818
Totals	16,500	-	16,500	13,682	2,818
Transfers to other funds	87,500	-	87,500	87,500	-
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 1,124,704	\$ -	\$ 1,124,704	\$1,077,437	\$ 47,267

SCHEDULE B

TOWN OF WELLS, VERMONT

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Due from other funds	\$ 293,132	\$ 604,064	\$ 3,023	\$ 900,219
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 293,132	\$ 604,064	\$ 3,023	\$ 900,219
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Deferred revenue - ARPA	73,258	-	-	73,258
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCE	73,258	-	-	73,258
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-
Restricted	219,874	220,029	3,023	442,926
Committed	-	384,035	-	384,035
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	219,874	604,064	3,023	826,961
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 293,132	\$ 604,064	\$ 3,023	\$ 900,219

SCHEDULE C

TOWN OF WELLS, VERMONT

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
 FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 39,648	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,648
Other income	66,824	-	-	66,824
TOTAL REVENUES	106,472	-	-	106,472
EXPENDITURES				
General government	81,824	-	-	81,824
Public works	27,803	-	-	27,803
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	109,627	-	-	109,627
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(3,155)	-	-	(3,155)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	5,000	32,500	-	37,500
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	5,000	32,500	-	37,500
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	1,845	32,500	-	34,345
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED	358,111	571,564	3,023	932,698
ERROR CORRECTION - ARPA	(140,082)	-	-	(140,082)
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS RESTATED	218,029	571,564	3,023	792,616
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	\$ 219,874	\$ 604,064	\$ 3,023	\$ 826,961

TOWN INVENTORY 2024-2025

HIGHWAY INVENTORY:

2020 Dodge Ram 1 ton truck	1 Sander
2018 International 10-yard dump truck	3 Chainsaws
2015 International 14-yard dump truck	4 Wings
2008 International 14-yard dump truck	4 Snow Plows
2025 International 14-yard truck	1 Push Blade
2013 Cat 307 D excavator	1 York Rake
2013 Cam 10-ton equipment trailer	5 Mobile VHF radios
2016 John Deere 5100M tractor	3 Portable VHF radios
2016 21' Tiger boom mower	Assorted Hand Tools
1995 John Deere 310 back-hoe	Camera System
2002 Galion 850 motor grader	2 Portable water pumps
2 Stainless Steel Hydraulic Sanders	2 Weed eaters
Tow behind Road Roller	1 Weed eater w/ power broom
1 Trailer with 925 Gallon Poly Tank Spray Bar & Pump	
2019 Doosan 220 Loader	Detach bucket and forks
Ditch Blower	2 Digital Speed Signs
1-Apple iPad	

LAND AND BUILDINGS:

Town Office:	.92 acres of land- 1064 VT Route 30
Storage Shed:	1064 VT Route 30
Town Garage:	4.1 acres of land - 32 South Street
Woodland:	42.9 acres on Bull Frog Hollow Road
Transfer Station:	17.7 acres of land on Bull Frog Hollow Road
MWA:	11.8 acres on VT Route 30; leased to the MWA
Village Library:	.75 acres of land on the "Green" Route 30 & East Wells Rd
Delaney Property:	193 acres and Pavilion – 1268 North Street

EQUIPMENT

50 Conference chairs	2 Brother printers
3 Tables	tabulator
4 Computers	4 Laptops
1 Laminator	1 Safe
1 RICOH Copier/Scanner	7 Desks and Chairs
1 Canon large copier/scanner	1 Conference Table
4 Fireproof File cabinets	1 Back up hard drive
1 Digital camera	
1 Lenovo Server with keyboard & monitor	
1 Aluminum Dock & 12 Picnic Tables	
Outdoor Grills & Outdoor Patio Set (Telescope donation)	

LIBRARY INVENTORY

1 Epson ET-3710 Series Printer	3 10.2" Retina Display iPads
3 Logitech universal keyboards for iPad	1 Desktop HP computer
1 GROViewBL-43 Projector	1 Large Flat Screen TV
1 10'x13' Canopy Tent	1 10'x20' Canopy Tent
1 24"x36" Outdoor display sign with cover	1 Laminator
8 sets of snowshoes (4 adult & 4 children)	1 Pair headphones for desktop PC
1 pair Bluetooth headphones	1 cold/hot water cooler

2024 Wells Highway Report

This year has been a busy one for the Highway Department. Along with spring grading we completed a lift of the road surface on Ballard Farm Road, we hauled about 784 yards of tailing stone, about 756 yards of bank run gravel and 490 yards of crushed gravel. We completed the 2025 Better Roads Grant on Tunket Road consisting of ditching and stone lining the ditches with about 64 tons of 10-inch fractured stone and 42 yards of crushed gravel. We also completed the 2024 Grants and Aid project on Ballard Farm Road, with ditching, stone lining the ditches bringing six road segments into compliance with the MRGP storm water regulation. We also completed ditching on Lamb Hill Road and West Lake Road. We did not receive a Municipal Highway Grant for paving this year but were able to complete a small section of East Wells Road from VT Rte 30 to Sawmill Hill Road consisting with grinding the road, relaying the grindings and repaving the surface this summer. Along with general road maintenance we hauled 2000 yards of winter sand. We wish to thank everyone for their patience and please stay alert for changing road conditions.

Respectfully submitted
Wells Highway Crew
David Ricard Sr
Doug Haskins
John Bates



Wells Volunteer Fire Department

The Wells Volunteer Fire Department, Inc ended the year 2024 with an increase in calls with a total of 60, with 9 calls in the month of December, with 3 calls in one day for us. In the end of this year, we have gained some new members with a total firefighters of 18. We are in mid-process of up grading our ETA onto the newer chassis we have purchased replacing our old chassis. This new chassis and conversion will be a tremendous upgrade to the department. We have purchased SCBA seats for the truck and plan on putting on a swivel dump so we can off load our water to either side without having to back straight up to a portable tank. Once again, we greatly appreciate the strong support we get from the Town and townspeople. We are working on inspecting all of our dry hydrants in town and making upgrades if needed. We had a good year of training, with out members getting well over 42 hours of training. The Firefighter 1 course is offered free through the state of VT. Don't want to be a full trained firefighter? We will train you in what you are interested in. Please, if you are interested feel free to stop by on Tuesday nights which is out regular drill night, or stop a firefighter. Let's hope to have a very safe 2025. Thanks again for all your support.

Respectfully submitted

Chief Todd Fenton

Stay Safe

"IF YOU DON'T VOLUNTEER, WHO WILL?"

Fire Warden Report

A big thanks to everyone for their help in 2024 wit their calls for permits and heads up calls to let me know they were burning so that the fire dept. didn't have to respond. I personally gave out over 45 permits. We had a VERY dry November, fortunately we only had 2 brush fires during that terrible dry spell. The first was called in as a brush fire then upon responding it was reported that a structure was involved. Fortunately for us there was no structure involved just a brush fire that extended in to the woods, ¼ of an acre was burnt. This fire was caused by a flare up of a brush pile being burnt 5 days prior. The second was a small grass fire caused by a rodent, chewing on a power cord. Please be aware that your outside outlets should be GFI's, that way when a problem occurs the outlet breaker trips, in this case it did not, hence the fire.

A friendly reminder that ashes from your wood stove are hot, don't put them in plastic pails or discard them onto dry leaves. As always, burn barrels are illegal in the state of VT. Fire pits area allowed for the burning of wood. A clean wood burning brush pile burns with gray smoke, black smoke is a bad sign and will attract our attention. Also remember that your burn piles can not burn through the night. Please call for a permit, it is required to burn brush (ONLY BRUSH). There is to be **NO** burning of pressure treated lumber, painted wood, drywall, construction materials or other garbage **(NO GARBAGE!)** Burning in winter months is allowed without a permit, **BUT ONLY** if the ground is snow covered. Please remember that Spring is the worst season for brush fires in Vermont. Please do not use accelerants to start your fires, especially gasoline. A heads up call is always appreciated. Let's have a safe and incident free 2025.

BE SAFE/ BURN SAFE

Fire Warden

Todd Fenton

Wells Historical Society Wells Town Report 2024

The Wells Historical Society now has 58 members as of the close of 2024. Our mission continues to be the collection and preservation of information and artifacts related to the history of our wonderful community of Wells. We also continue to seek Wells' family histories.

Events this year include:

April's meeting was a feast of pancakes and fresh maple syrup! Our new book *Memories of Our Town Wells, Vermont* is still available for sale at our meetings as well as the Wells Village Library, the Wells Village Store and Earth and Time Gallery.

In June we continued our annual Essay contest for the Wells Village School's 6th graders. Winners were announced at the 6th Grade graduation in June. Our Program for April was presented by Lyndsey of Liebig's Riverside Farms.

Elections were held in August. President: Joe Capron / Vice President: Victoria Angis / Secretary: Trish Capron / Treasurer: Sharon Corey / three new trustees. We celebrated Winnie Oakman's 98th birthday with a cake and best wishes. Report by Joe and Trish Capron of Vermont Historical Society's display in Montpelier of Vermont Art from around the state. Trish compiled a list of Wells Soldiers in the American Revolution buried in the Wells cemetery. Graham Capron reported about his history trip to The Calvin Coolidge Homestead and burial site in Plymouth, VT.

October was a short meeting after an amazing Harvest Supper. A display of almost 30 old, favorite aprons was enjoyed during and after supper.

Meetings for 2025 are on the first Wednesdays four times a year: April 2nd, June 4th, August 6th (annual meeting with election and dues collected for '25), October 1st.

For more information contact: Joe Capron at 645 0200 or check out our website through the Town of Wells website. We are also on Facebook.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Capron, President



Town of Wells Sheriff's Report

This far in the 2023-2024 contract Rutland County Sheriffs have responded to 73 incidents, in the town of Wells, this number is up 10 incidents from 2022-2023, had 3 criminal arrest, performed 73 traffic stops issuing 50 tickets, as well as 31 warnings in the town of Wells. Deputies have mentioned positive feedback both from the board as well as citizens of Wells on the successful impact the patrols have had on speed and criminal activity in the town. The Rutland County Sheriffs pride ourselves on being adaptable to the needs of the town as they arise. I would like to say it is a privilege to work in the town of Wells and thank the citizens of Wells for their positive feedback and support for the Sheriff's patrols, we hope to continue serving the citizens of Wells for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted
Sheriff
David J Fox



Photo courtesy of Joe Capron

Wells Village Library 2024 by Librarian, Gina Ellis

October marked our 80th year since benefactor, Annie Huyck, dedicated our beloved library to Wells. Our trustees and I continue to be honored by our roles as stewards of this profound legacy. With each passing year, we revisit our vision and mission to ensure we meet our obligations and, hopefully, exceed your expectations.

Beginning in April, our trustees granted me a six-month sabbatical. During that time, interim librarian, Karen Huerta, kept the library in tip-top shape and took great care of our patrons. As per 2023 plans, we had our old, wide-plank floors refurbished, placed new donated rugs and replaced our circulation desk chair. Everything looks lovely and the energy within these old walls is happy!

As 2024 winds down, we are heavily weeding our collection and planning a winter book sale to garner ample revenue to replenish our shelves with new and sought-after releases. Watch for new life in every genre, particularly adult non-fiction. We're also planning in collaboration with the Lake St. Catherine Association to apply for another Lake Champlain Basin Education and Outreach grant to sustain our successful Libraries Love Lakes program. Last year's grant exceeded \$20,000. We have embarked upon initial talks with the Lake St. Catherine State Park to network and augment their nature center with related resources. Our summer LLL event at the state park was well-attended and we're excited to sustain that momentum.

We'd like to acknowledge our two vibrant book clubs. One meets the second Wednesday of each month while the other meets the third Tuesday. Each group has unique reading preferences and styles while both are comprised of attentive and enthusiastic members. It's wonderful that our little library – the most beautiful in the world – sustains two thriving clubs.

Next year promises more of our best on behalf of Wells. I along with our earnest trustees are eager to offer new programs and events along with community favorites like our New Year's Eve celebration and our always successful Halloween bash. Additionally, we'll do our best to have your most wished for titles on our shelves.

As always, we are grateful for your generous support, donations and patronage. Moving forward, we welcome your input and suggestions.

Here's to a wildly successful 2025!

**Wells Village Library Treasurer's Report
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

Beginning Balance Wells Village Library Fund.....\$ 16,853

Income:

Donations	\$ 12,411
Fund raising Events	\$ 2,005
Grants	\$ 0
Printing & Book Sales	\$ 508
Misc	\$ 169

Disbursements:

Programs	\$ 6,809
Books	\$ 3,139
Supplies	\$ 298
Postage	\$ 410
Technology Maintenance & Equipment	\$ 70
Annual Subscriptions & Memberships	\$ 472
Facility	\$ 0
Misc.	\$ 741

Ending Balance Wells Village Library Fund.....\$ 20,007

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J Lindley
Wells Village Library Treasurer

**Wells Cemetery Improvement Corporation
Treasurer's Report
March 10, 2023 to March 9, 2024**

**TD Money Market Account Balance
3/9/2023** **\$40,569.97**

Annual Income:

Dividends on stock:

AT&T	33.32
Comcast	222.72
Putnam	4.44
Verizon	1,291.16

Total of Dividends	1,551.64
Grave Opening Fee	120.00
Perpetual Care	3,500.00
Bank Interest	20.99
Plot East Wells Cemetery	00.00

Total Annual Income: **\$5,192.63**

Opening Balance + Total Annual Income **\$45,762.30**

Annual Outflows:

PO Box annual fee	82.00
Newspaper posting of annual meeting	40.85
Bank service charge	30.00
Cemetery maintenance to Town of Wells 2022-2023	2,500.00
CHB Services	208.75

Total annual outflow: **\$2,861.60**

TD North Money Market Account Balance 3/9/2024 **\$42,900.70**

Delaney Committee Report

The Lakeside Park and Delaney Woods continue to be used by residents and local visitors. The Delaney committee continues to improve the park and the woods. We are in the process of replacing the sign in the park and going to replace the sign on North St. We are also working with Slate Valley Trails and building a Kiosk at Delaney Woods. A special Thanks to SVT for maintaining the trails. It is very much appreciated as without their help the trails would not look the same.

To all of the visitors who use and enjoy the Lakeside Park PLEASE follow the rules that are posted at the park and on the website of the Town Of Wells. It is there for ALL to enjoy by using the walking trail around the field, fishing off the dock, launching canoes and kayaks or just having a picnic. When you leave, Please observe the bring in -take out policy. Please DO NOT put diapers or trash in the porta-potty!!!

If you wish to reserve the Pavilion for special functions contact Rich Young by phone or E-Mail. Rich has volunteered to take the lead on this. (802) 884-5624 Rich.Young@comcast.net

We are also looking for an outgoing and involved volunteer to join our committee. You can contact Fran Gilman for more information or interest (802) 645-9034.

We want to Thank the Selectboard for all of their help and support and being so gracious to give their time on projects.

We meet at the town office on the 2nd Monday of each month. The minutes can be seen at the town office and be heard on the town website.

Most importantly THANK YOU to the residents of the Town of Wells for supporting Lakeside Park and Delaney Woods for ALL to enjoy!

Respectfully submitted

Fran Gilman, Chairman/Treasurer, Grace Larson/Secretary, Frank Callahan, Rich Young



Transfer Station Report

The State of VT passed a Universal Recycling Act (148) during the 2014 legislative session which requires all municipalities to follow a “Pay as You Throw” or also referred to as “Unit Based Pricing”. The purpose of this law is to reduce the amount of garbage/trash going into landfills and to support overall recycling. In addition, as of July 1st, 2020, all food scraps were banned from the landfill per Act 148 requirements.

As of July 1, 2025, you will need to purchase a new permit to use the Town of Wells Transfer Station. Each resident in Wells using the transfer station will need to purchase a new Transfer Station permit sticker at a cost of \$50 as of 7/1/25 at the town office. With the same day purchase of the permit, you can receive 50 town issued bags to be used at the transfer station for an additional \$25. Additional bags after you buy your permit, can be purchased in quantities of 25 at a cost of \$50. If you have an abundance of bags from the prior year and wish to only purchase a sticker for the new fiscal year, then the cost of the permit will be \$50. **Personal bags are not accepted. You must have a current permit with you to use the transfer station.** The transfer station permit also allows you to dispose of items on Hazardous Waste Day and access the Rutland County Solid Waste District to dispose of electronics, paint cans, etc. that our transfer station can no longer accept.

The transfer station is only open on Saturdays beginning the weekend of Memorial Day through the weekend of Indigenous Peoples’ Day and open Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am -2pm year-round. **CLOSE ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS.** If the holiday falls on a Sunday, then we will be open on the Saturday before.

Remember that the more you recycle, the less trash bags you will need. Please feel free to visit our town website at wellsvt.com or ask for a list of what is recyclable and what can go into compost at the transfer station to save you money! As a reminder, **only food scraps** without bags are allowed in compost.

The Wells Selectboard



Granville Rescue Squad, Inc
East Potter Ave, P.O. Box 153
Granville, NY 12832
Telephone (518) 642-1830
www.granvillerescue.com
granvillerescue@yahoo.com

To the Citizens of Towns Served:

Thank you for the opportunity to have served you over the past year.

As of October 31, Granville Rescue has handled 1724 calls in 2024, traveling over 61,000 miles. Of these calls, 125 occurred in the Town of Wells.

We routinely respond to calls for mutual assistance outside of our area. Other neighboring ambulances also assist our agency when the system is overwhelmed with calls and our resources are depleted.

Our service is licensed in New York and Vermont as an advanced life support agency. Volunteer members are supplemented by employees to provide 24 hour a day, 7 days a week emergency medical coverage. Our roster has over 40 members and staff, ranging from drivers to paramedics. In 2024, members participated in over 15,000 hours of emergency call time and in excess of 2000 hours of training. We do offer community CPR and first aid training, depending on instructor availability, as well as the "Stop the Bleed" program. This year, our agency became an American Heart Association training site, allowing us to issue cards immediately, compared to waiting for the center to issue them at a later date.

The trend of EMS locally, statewide and nationally is increase in call volumes with fewer people entering or remaining in the field. Several ambulance services in the State of Vermont and New York have gone out of business in the last year, including one in Rutland County. We remain a strong agency, but continue to look for new people to assist in the mission of providing emergency medical care to the community. If you think you have an interest, please come and see us.

Our agency took delivery of a new to us ambulance in 2024. This gently used vehicle is in excellent condition and saved a considerable amount of money compared to purchasing a brand-new vehicle. Additional training devices and equipment have also been purchased from several grants received.

Granville Rescue would like to thank the citizens, businesses, local governments, fire, police, and neighboring EMS agencies, as well as highway departments for their continued support and assistance. Anyone with questions, concerns, or interest can stop by our building on Potter Avenue in Granville or visit our web.site at www.granvillerescue.com.

The members and staff of Granville Rescue wish everyone a healthy 2025!

Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund, Inc.

The Directors of the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund (LSCCF) are pleased to submit our 2024 annual report highlighting the progress we have made in Little Lake, Lower and Middle Channel and the Lakeside Town Park with emphasis on continuously improving the conditions of Lake Saint Catherine.

New officers were elected in during the annual membership meeting. Robin Barley remains for a third term as President, Tim Makepeace remains as Vice President for a second year, and Tina Peterson continues her 7th year as Secretary Treasurer. We also welcome a new board member Laurel Gilman.

In 2024 the harvesting program had its most productive season ever with 2,545 cubic yards of weed material removed! This equates to having removed 90 pounds of phosphorus which reduced the risk of feeding 92,000 pounds of Algae. In fact, over the last 6 years of the harvesting program we have removed approximately 900 pounds of Phosphorus from the water column! INCREDIBLE
The amount of phosphorus in one pound of milfoil is equal to ½ pound of liquid manure...imagine that!

This could not have been possible without the generosity of the people of the Town of Wells. A sincere thank you to the O'Brien's as well- without their continued support and the use of their farm for the composting of the material we harvested our costs and productivity would take a real hit. Our harvesting program is a critical component of improving the Little Lakes Condition. We plan to increase our production again in 2025 and to that end we have submitted a grant proposal to the Lake Champlain Basin Program again this year. We will learn if we are awarded this most critical funding in December. We keep trying!

LSCCF was successful in winning a grant in 2024, offered by the Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant in Aid Program as managed by the VTDEC Lakes and Ponds AIS Program. Many thanks to Joel Pliner who continues to work on this grant proposal for us and will be submitting the grant application again for 2025.

We have begun the Dissolved Oxygen monitoring program and have deployed 2 Mini Dot DO sensors and care collecting DO data 24 x 7. We will have some result to share soon.

The first Annual LSCCF Summer Weed Harvest Festival on June 15, 2024 was very successful! It was a spectacular day and everyone really enjoyed the event. We are planning for the second event for June 21, 2025 and we are adding Arts and Crafts vendors to the event. Please join us at the Lakeside Park to visit with local like-minded associations and provide information about the lake and surrounding area. Join us from 11 to 4. SAVE THE DATE!

The bottom line is that the fight to restore Little Lake to its former glory continues. We have more and more people on our side – scientists, politicians and most importantly, the people of Wells and friends who visit this beautiful spot. If we stay unified and committed, we will succeed.

The future of Little Lake and the economic health of the Town of Wells depend on it!
 Thank you again for your support.
 Sincerely,
 Lake Saint Catherine Conservation Fund

Fiscal Year CASH FLOW
 July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE 7/1/2023 \$ 39,346

INFLOWS

Dues and Donations	\$ 15,875
Town of Wells Grants from 2023 rec 2024	\$ 20,000
VT DEC Grant-in-Aid Program 2023	\$ 0
Net Amount from Fishing Tournament 2023	\$ 0
Gross amount from Monthly Lottery	\$ 18,720
Harvesting Kickoff Event Revenue & Sponsor Cont	\$ 650
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$ 94,591

OUTFLOW

Outreach and Harvesting Kickoff Event	\$ 1,935
Bank Fees & Charges	\$ 0
Dues, Subscriptions, Web Site Support	\$ 455
Insurance Policies	\$ 5,291
Trailer Registrations	\$ 175
PayPal Fees	\$ 76
Postage & USPS	\$ 240
Monthly Lottery Payout	\$ 12,840
Equipment Storage Fees	\$ 1,200
Water Sampling DFWI	\$ 1,072
Harvesting Program Expense	\$ 35,331
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$ 58,615

ENDING BALANCE 6/30/24 \$ 35,939



The Lake St. Catherine Association (LSCA) had another successful year in 2024, implementing our lake management programs for the benefit of Lake St. Catherine, with excellent support from the lake community! Here are some highlights:

Lake St. Catherine Watershed Action Plan (LWAP): In partnership with the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District

(PMNRCD), Castleton University, and Fitzgerald Environmental Associates (FEA), this 3 year project is close to being completed. The LWAP has brought our partners and lake experts to LSC to perform various in-lake and watershed based measurements, testing, and studies to identify current or potential future issues. Using the collected data and information, a comprehensive, long-term plan is being written to address identified issues to continue to improve water quality at LSC.

Lake St. Catherine Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP): Through extensive fieldwork in 2018 & 2019, PMNRCD and FEA created the LSC SWMP. This plan identified 50 projects in the LSC watershed to address runoff carrying pollutants into the lake. Six of these projects have been completed, and in September 2023, a lake community meeting was held in Wells, and 12 more projects were selected. These projects are currently being designed using a \$50k grant the LSCA earned from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). These designed projects will then be submitted for funding and implementation.

Lake Wise Program: Lake Wise is a program developed by Vermont's Lakes and Ponds to recognize outstanding efforts by homeowners who live along a lakeshore to protect the water quality and habitat along the shoreline and within the near-shore area of the lake. Using a grant received from the LCBP, PMNRCD assessed multiple properties, and implemented numerous projects along the shoreline to limit stormwater runoff reaching the lake. 26 properties on LSC have earned the Lake Wise Award since 2019, and we expect at least a few more will earn it in 2024 as the program finishes work for the season.

Greeter Program - Boat Launch Monitoring: Our Greeter Program is very important to the health of Lake St. Catherine. Our Greeters work to stop aquatic invasive species (AIS) from entering LSC at the boat launch in Wells by inspecting vessels and trailers before they enter the lake. They also educate boaters about the dangers of AIS for the lake.

Milfoil Control: Our Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting team (DASH) worked throughout the summer hand-pulling milfoil in 9 locations, covering 37.5 acres, and removing 269 17.5 gallon buckets of milfoil. Milfoil spot treatments occurred in 7 areas, covering 34.5 acres.

Libraries Love Lakes II: In partnership with the Wells Village Library, the LSCA earned a \$20k grant from the LCBP to continue the Libraries Love Lakes initiative. This funded four seasonally themed events in 2024, the creation of an LSC mascot, the creation of an interactive watershed model of LSC, and lake themed materials for the library.

Other Initiatives: Placement and maintenance of lake buoys and markers, working with Vermont Center for Ecostudies on loon initiatives, organization of volunteer opportunities, the LSCA Boat Parade, VIP paddles, securing funds for LSC via grant writing, and constant updates of LSC news via our website (www.lakestcatherine.org) and Facebook.

Thank you to the residents of Wells for your continued support of the LSCA!

Submitted by,

Jim Candlers, President, Lake St. Catherine Association



PO Box 912
Wells, VT 05774

Located at Modern Woodmen of America Annex Building.
Food distribution boxes can be found at the Wells Town Hall
and Wellsmere Farm.

Welcome from our busy food shelf. We have acquired some wonderful new volunteers along with all of us old standbys and are keeping our neighbors fed as best we can.

As you can imagine, our numbers have increased since COVID for various reasons with folks' income, health etc. Also, prices have soared in the grocery stores which is having a huge impact.

This year we are asking the townspeople for an appropriation of \$3000.00. It will be well spent and is desperately needed.

As always, we will continue to work with the Vermont Foodbank and the churches in our community to help our neighbors.

Email us at mmorey1025@yahoo.com or call 802-884-5431.

Hours: Every Wednesday 4-5pm
Open by appointment, for emergencies or deliveries.

Visit us on Facebook (Our Neighbors' Table)

As a 501c3 our financials are open to public viewing at any time.

Our Neighbors' Table is a network partner of



COMMUNITY AGENCY REPORTS



16 Evelyn Street, Suite 101 / Rutland, VT 05701 / Phone 775-0617

Rutland County Vermont Adult Learning Annual Report Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL), is a non-profit, seven-county organization providing individuals 16 years of age and older confidential education and literacy services with no cost to students. We provide basic instruction in reading, writing, math and technology. Vermont residents can access our services and earn a high school diploma from their town of residence, or a GED. We also offer citizenship classes for individuals wishing to become an American citizen as well as instruction in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). We are the only official GED testing site in Rutland County.

Our flexible pathways have provided students with the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma with many options and resources including dual enrollment at local colleges, technical classes at Stafford Tech, online classes, internships and other creative options.

In addition to our Adult Basic Education programming, Vermont Adult Learning operates Energy Works, a workforce training program for jobs in the weatherization and heat pump installation fields. Participants partake of technical training, job readiness training and coaching, and job shadowing opportunities. If you like working with your hands and want to get started in a growing field, this could be for you. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Vermont Adult Learning served 1388 students statewide in fiscal year 2024. 203 students were served in our Rutland Center where we provided approximately 5675 hours of education. This was a 17% increase in the number of students served here in Rutland County! We provided 143 hours of instructional service to three students from Wells, one of whom was between the ages of 16-21.

Classes are held five days a week, Monday - Friday, with evening classes available and a robust online learning center that was developed following the COVID 19 pandemic. This has lessened the transportation barriers many of our students faced but increased the need for technology supports. In response, we have been able to supply our students with Chromebooks so they may remain engaged in their educational pursuits.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of the voters of Wells.

Contact: Chris Ettori, Regional Director
Email: cettori@vtadultlearning.org
Or call 775-0617 ext. 5011



Rutland Office Bennington Office
143 Maple St 160 Benmont Ave, Suite#90
Rutland VT, 05701 Bennington VT, 05201
(802) 786-5990 (802) 442-5436

Report to the Citizens of Wells

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older residents in Wells during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/1/2023 through 9/30/2024.

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide 3,051 meals that were delivered to the homes of 18 older residents in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 12 older Wells residents came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 142 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 21.75 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 14 residents of Wells.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 14 older residents in your community for a total of 173.5 hours. Case managers meet with an older resident privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assess their individual situation. They will work with the older resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the resident desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older residents connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail older Vermonters facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

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



Report of Services for Town of Wells

During the 2024 Fiscal Year, The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired saw continued success in client services, innovative programs, and community outreach initiatives. Moving forward, it is exciting to imagine the strides we will make in enabling blind and visually impaired Vermonters to be more independent, develop adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

SMART Device Training Program: 584 Vermont residents received SMART training in FY24, the highest number in the program’s five-year history. In order to fully fund SMART, VABVI has launched the several-year Second Century Endowment Campaign.

PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning and Support) Group: PALS Groups, held throughout Vermont, are monthly meetings where members share coping strategies and discuss the practical, social and emotional challenges of vision loss. While many clients have been pleased with the reintroduction of in-person meetings in FY24, opportunities to join virtually remain available for maximum flexibility. 90 clients attended PALS meetings in FY24.

HAPI (Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence): The HAPI program enables Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists to work one-on-one with students to practice daily living skills.

IRLE Summer Camp (Intensive Residential Life Experience): IRLE camp helps VABVI students develop social skills, meet fellow visually impaired peers, learn independent living skills, and improve self-advocacy skills. This June, IRLE brought 10 visually impaired students to Jay Peak Resort. Activities included beep baseball, disc golf, and ice skating. Fun was had by all!

Community Outreach

VABVI continues to innovate new projects which will connect the local community to our services and cause. After more than two years of development, an accessible tactile sign was installed in Burlington’s Waterfront Park in June of 2024. Additionally, VABVI’s New Americans Project has offered free vision screenings for local refugee community members.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the agency provided services to a total of 1,048 Vermont residents. In Fiscal Year 2024, the agency provided services to a total of 1,048 Vermont residents. This total includes 110 adults and 23 students in Rutland County. While we did not serve any Wells residents this Fiscal Year, we have in the past and certainly will in the future.

For more information about VABVI’s services or volunteer opportunities, please contact Samantha Gougher, Development Associate, at sgougher@vabvi.org. Thank you very much for your support!

60 Kimball Avenue	13 Overlook Drive, Ste. 1	80 West Street, Ste. 202	130 Austine Drive, Ste. 280	So. Burl (800) 639-5861
So. Burlington, VT 05403	Berlin, VT 05641	Rutland, VT 05701	Brattleboro, VT 05301	Berlin (877) 350-8838
(802) 863-1358	(802) 505-4006	(802) 775-6452	(802) 254-8761	Rutland (877) 350-8839
(FAX) 863-1481	(FAX) 505-4039	(FAX) 775-4669	(FAX) 254-4802	Bratt (877) 350-8840

www.vabvi.org



To the Citizens of the Town of Wells,

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 **64** residents of the Town of Wells. 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 \$475.00. We truly value our collaboration with Wells as we assist those most in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@broc.org

BROC.ORG 45 Union Street Rutland, VT 05701
332 Orchard Road Bennington, VT 05201
802-775-0878

State of Vermont
Department of Health
Rutland Office of Local Health
88 Merchants Row, Suite 300 Rutland, VT 05701
[phone]802-786-5811 / AHS.VDHRutland@vermont.gov



Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The Rutland Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Rutland County. Some highlights of our work in 2024 are below. For more information on our work, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/rutland

Meeting Community Needs

Our team works hard to meet community health needs. In 2024, we held weekly vaccination clinics for our community members who experience barriers to accessing care. At these clinics, we provided Narcan kits, condoms, COVID test kits, and health education. Our Medical Reserve Corps partnered with the Rutland County Free Clinic, Turning Point, and Rutland Mental Health to support the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness. We also held a community baby shower to give out free baby supplies, supported healthcare coordination for kids in foster care, and provided food and nutrition services to over 1,200 people through our Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

Providing Data Support

We use data to drive our efforts to improve conditions for people experiencing the worst health outcomes. In 2024, we partnered with Rutland Regional Medical Center to assist in data collection, analysis, and drafting of the Community Health Needs Assessment. We also secured funding for and conducted an Emergency Preparedness Needs Assessment. These assessments are essential for prioritizing resources to address the most critical needs in our community.

Delivering Education and Funding

We work across sectors to provide education on a variety of public health topics aimed at improving health outcomes. Training like “Askable Adult” supports school-aged youth, while sessions on vaccine hesitancy support our medical providers. We also work to sustain vital programs through grant consultation and review. In 2024, our office helped secure over \$300,000 of funding for programs that support the health of our community.



Green Up Day, saw a 30% growth in volunteers over 2023, picked up over four tons of litter and 15,813 tires. In flood clean-up projects we took care of an additional 10,000 tires. We also attempted a Guinness World Records® title and succeeded! The record is: “The Most Pledges Received to Pick Up Trash in 24 Hours.” Vermont is the only State in the nation that can boast this achievement and the only State that offers a program like Green Up Day. 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, and keep residents civically engaged.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives. We received a special flood recovery donation from Subaru of New England and have been able to rally volunteers and pay for many flood clean-up projects across the State.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2025.

Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of where we all get to live, work and play.

Be an Environmental Hero – Donate on **Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form** or at www.greenupvermont.org. Green Up Vermont is a 501c3 nonprofit.

2025 Green Up Day is May 3rd.



ANNUAL REPORT TO
The Town of Wells
2024

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

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

The RCHS shelter is the largest program of the agency, taking in more than 1,110 animals in 2023.

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

The Rutland County Humane Society took in 11 animals from the Town of Wells from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

Please call us at 483.6700 or visit our website at RCHSVT.org if you would like more information about the Rutland County Humane Society.



In the year 2024, 28 towns in Rutland County supported the work of Rutland Mental Health Services through town giving. Our agency is committed to providing quality services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The generous support of towns such as the Town of Wells assures that quality services are available for their families, friends and neighbors. Services provided to town residents include:

- Individual Counseling for Children, Adults and Families
- Substance Abuse Treatment Services
- Emergency/Crisis Services
- Developmental Disability Services

During fiscal year 2024, Rutland Mental Health Services provided 4,926 hours of services to 26 Wells residents. We value our partnership with the Town of Wells in providing these much-needed services and thank you for your continued support.

Dick Courcelle
Chief Executive Officer
Rutland Mental Health Services, Inc.

VNA & HOSPICE of the Southwest Region

Serving Bennington, Franklin, & Rutland Counties

To the Officers and Citizens of Wells:

In 2023, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Wells residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From children with intensive medical needs, to seniors who wish to remain independent at home, to 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 health care costs, VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services to Wells's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's skilled and dedicated staff made more than 119,829 home visits to 2,915 patients. **In Wells, we provided 1,188 visits to 37 individuals.**

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

Sincerely,



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



Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors



Vermont CARES has been providing support services to Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS and their family members for nearly thirty-six years thanks to ongoing support from the Town of Wells. Vermont CARES is a leader in our state's system of HIV care and prevention, and we think every Vermonter should take pride in knowing how our state leads as one of the healthiest in the nation for people with HIV. Funding from the Town of Wells would allow our staff to provide an array of HIV-related services to advance innovative rural HIV prevention and support.

This year we are requesting \$200 from the Town of Wells. Residents of Wells at risk of, or living with, HIV are chiefly served from our Rutland office, which is one of our busiest hubs, serving at least 40 community members weekly. During a time of high public health risk, we have been so proud of our community presence in Rutland County, made possible thanks to our ongoing support from the Town of Wells.

Detail for how we propose to spend such a contribution is as follows:

A town contribution of \$200 would allow Vermont CARES to pay for more than 10 hours of staff time (10.66 hours at roughly \$18.72 per hour), providing services including HIV testing, risk reduction counseling, and, for Wells residents who know they have HIV, resources such as housing support, HIV medication payment support, transportation to medical appointments, and wrap-around services.

Thank you for considering this request for support,

Chelsey Branham
Interim Executive Director

The Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) is a non-profit organization with a mission to develop programs to facilitate the conservation of healthy soil and clean water. PMNRCD has been providing environmental support, education, and outreach to the 14 towns in the District watersheds for over 70 years. In addition to a five-member board, six employees staff the District: District Manager, Hilary Solomon; Agricultural Outreach Specialist Jennifer Alexander; Native Plant Nursery Manager and Environmental Planner, Sadie Brown; Agricultural Outreach Specialist, Whitnee Burgess; Program Specialist Averie Noble, and Program Specialist Jayden Giel.

Stormwater Management The District is currently working with several towns on planning and implementing 'green stormwater' projects. We worked this past season in Castleton, Poultney, Fair Haven, Wells, and Pawlet to identify and design stormwater projects, develop scoping studies, and implement green stormwater infrastructure with grant funds, and are planning on continuing this work in other local towns.

This past year, we worked with lakes in the watershed and installed many small shoreline plantings through our Lake Education and Action Program (LEAP). In addition to implementing buffer plantings and small stormwater treatment practices, we completed LakeWise Assessments along Lake Bomoseen and Lake St. Catherine, resulting in recommendations for homeowners to implement lake friendly practices in their yards. We plan to continue both programs with shoreline homeowners in the coming year. The District is currently working on the Lake Watershed Action Plan for Lake St Catherine to identify stormwater runoff issues, assess natural resources, and propose high priority mitigation projects.

Waterways The District planted approximately 4,000 native trees and shrubs within the Poultney River and Mettowee River watersheds. Projects were focused along waterways within the riparian zone with the goal of stabilizing stream banks and reducing erosion, restoring native plant communities and habitat, improving water quality, and increasing flood resilience. Funded through DEC, PMNRCD led invasive water chestnut pulling in Southern Lake Champlain and its tributaries.

Agricultural Programs The District assists farmers applying manure and fertilizer to their fields through farm-specific, nutrient management plans via a statewide partnership program. The District provides agronomic and water quality guidance to local farms, writes grants to implement water quality improvement projects on farms, and assists in developing long-range plans to continue sustainable conservation practices. PMNRCD provides rental of a no-till seed planter and soil aerator to farmers, which help to improve soil health.

Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery PMNRCD collaborates with Poultney's Champlain Valley Nursery and area residents to make improvements to water quality. Many restoration plantings were completed in the District to create habitat and to control erosion. The Nursery also serves as an educational center, providing field trip opportunities for elementary students and internships for high school and college students. Plants are available to local landowners through our tree sale or on-site. Visit our website for more information.

Clean Water Service Provider PMNRCD has partnered with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to provide funding and technical assistance to local towns as the local CWSP. This Clean Water Funding through DEC supports non regulatory projects such as green infrastructure stormwater practices, natural resources restoration projects on farm and forestland, and stream restoration projects including conservation easements and floodplain reconnection.

The Poultney-Mettowee watershed consists of all the lands that drain to the Poultney or Mettowee Rivers and their tributaries.

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING #03-0271000
TOWN OF WELLS - SUMMARY REPORT

Request Amount: \$160.00

For over 45 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'24 (10/2023-9/2024) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to 293 individuals to help increase their independent living skills. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted 233 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 115 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided 149 individuals with information on assistive technology; 43 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 320 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served 38 people and provided 31 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During our FY'24, 1 resident of Wells received services from the following programs:

- Peer Advocate Counseling (PAC)
- Information, Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at: 1-800-639-1522 or visit our website at www.vcil.org



NewStory Center Annual Report 2024

For 45 years NewStory Center has been the single agency in Rutland County supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence by working to end the cycle of violence through support, education, prevention, and collaboration.

During FY24, NewStory Center served 789 survivors and their children through direct services such as emergency shelter, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, case management, clinical services, support groups, and the 24/7 crisis hotline. Additionally, we provide training and technical assistance to our community partners, including local law enforcement, to ensure a more effective community response to domestic and sexual violence.

The Board and Staff of NewStory Center thank the voters of Wells for their support of our organization. Your generosity allows us to not only provide survivors with necessities and ongoing advocacy, but also affords us the ability to grow and expand our services to better serve your community.

REQUEST

NewStory Center is requesting the sum of \$150, to be voted on at the town meeting in March 2025, to support survivors in Rutland County. We are very thankful for the help that the people of Wells have given us in the past and would be very grateful for your continued support of our mission. We provided services for at least **3 residents of Wells** this past year. As our services are confidential, in some cases we might not be informed as to where our clients live.

NewStory Center, Inc

P.O. Box 313, Rutland, VT 05702 / www.nscvt.org

Crisis: (802) 775-3232 / Office: (802) 775-6788 / Fax: (802) 747-0470



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rutland County Parent Child Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing accessible, educational, and dignified services to families throughout Rutland County. Our mission is to remove barriers that prevent families from reaching their goals by offering a range of services, including early childhood education, developmental intervention for young children, educational and enrichment programs for at-risk youth, family education, employment guidance, playgroups and a welcome baby program.

Additionally, our unique grocery store-style food pantry is an invaluable resource in the county. In the last fiscal year, we served approximately 2,000 families and 1,400 children through our 4 sites across the county. The ongoing housing crisis and the increasing demand for comprehensive, whole-family services highlight the critical need for our work.

In June, we opened our 2Gen Campus, expanding our reach and providing a one-stop shop for community services. This new campus strengthens our ability to serve families by offering a centralized location where they can access a variety of essential resources. At RCPCC, we follow a two-generation (2Gen) Whole Family Approach, ensuring that both children and parents receive the support necessary for lasting success. By focusing on the needs of the entire family, we aim to create sustainable outcomes that empower individuals and strengthen communities.

All our services are offered at no cost or with substantial financial assistance, guaranteeing that every family can access the resources they need to thrive.

We would like to continue to receive our request of **\$500.00**. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Corissa Burnell
Co-Executive Director

www.rcpcc.org

61 Pleasant Street, Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-9711



110 Marble Street, West Rutland, VT 05777
(802)438-2303 / nwwvt.org /
info@nwwvt.org

On behalf of our board of directors, staff and customers at NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, we want to sincerely thank you for your continued support! While it was once again a challenging year for so many, we are pleased to report that with continued generous funding from our incredible partners, the State of Vermont, and Wells, we were once again able to assist many Vermonters with affordable housing services including homebuyer education and counseling, downpayment assistance, home repair and energy loans and grants, home energy audits and energy efficiency projects. Below is a summary of the specific services we were able to provide throughout our service area.

In the last fiscal year (October 1, 2023 -September 30, 2024), our services compromised of:

- 137 Low-cost, Comprehensive HEAT Squad Energy Audits and 135 Home Energy Improvement Projects were completed for which homeowners received a rebate from Efficiency Vermont.
- 44 Energy Loans, totaling \$801,164 were made to help homeowners make energy improvements to their home.
- 59 rental units rehabilitated.
- 8 Down Payment Assistance Loans totaling \$287,175 were made to assist homebuyers make it over the 20% down payment barrier.
- 8 Home Repair Loans totaling \$80,154 and 26 Home Repair Grants totals \$119,961 were made to homeowners to make health and safety upgrades.
- 3 grants totally \$132,050 were made to homebuyers who utilized the state of Vermont's Share Equity Program.
- 71 families attended Homebuyer Education and of those 19 became homeowners.
- 82 households participated in homeownership or financial coaching.
-

Again, thank you for your support as we wouldn't otherwise be able to provide these services.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Paskevich, Chief Program Officer
mpaskevich@nwwvt.org | 802.797.8610



Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
170 Lower Sumner Hill Road, Sumner, ME 04292
(802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com | www.vacd.org

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, designs installations, and finds financial resources to support the costs of construction. During the 27+ years of the program, 1,224 grants totaling over \$2.9 million have been provided to Vermont towns for the installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs. The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservations Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

The Rural Fire Protection Grant Program offers State grant awards up to \$10,000 per project. Additional Federal funding can provide an additional \$5,000-\$10,000 per project for more expensive special case projects. New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, upgrades of existing systems, drafting site development, and bridge mounted dry hydrants are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2023 was \$227,662 of which \$105,483 was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of 13 rural fire protection projects throughout Vermont. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$200 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. In FY 2023, we received \$9,150 in town appropriations from 90 towns. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support. 235 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person for Town Appropriation business

Madelyn Gardner
Program Coordinator / Family Advocate
The Child First Advocacy Center
Mailing: PO Box 6822
Rutland, Vermont 05702
Phone: 802-747-0200 ext. 201
Website: www.childfirstvermont.org



Dear Citizens of Wells,

The Child First Advocacy Center (CFAC) serves as a central agency through which reports of suspected child abuse can be channeled for investigation and victim recovery. CFAC was established in 1995 and became a fully Accredited Member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA) in 2004. We share with NCA the passion to minimize the traumatic effect of child abuse upon the children and families of our community. CFAC is a non-profit organization serving Rutland County to assist families in the discovery, intervention, treatment and prevention of child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and children affected by violence. We provide a safe comfortable environment for the forensic quality and child appropriate interviews, training for professionals and collateral referral services for victims and their non-offending family members. Our agency serves families of all socio-economic levels and is committed to providing quality services regardless of the ability to pay.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Child First Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Team, we want to thank you for your continued support and dedication.

In calendar year 2024, The Child First Advocacy Center served 121 clients and 118 of their family members. **We were able to provide direct wrap around services and support to one (1) Wells families as they began their recovery from the effects of trauma.** In addition, we continue to provide community awareness and education at no cost, to provide adults with the ability to recognize, react and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse and increase each school district's ability to complete the legislatively mandated ACT 1 initiative to train Educators, Community Members and Student's grades K-12 in Child Sexual Abuse Awareness.

The Child First Advocacy Center is requesting funds in the amount of \$800 to continue our efforts in supporting families in your community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Mary Nichols Executive Director

802-747-0200 or Mary.Nichols@partner.vermont.gov

Rutland County Solid Waste District

Annual Report - Calendar Year 2024

The Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD) offers a variety of solid waste, recycling, waste education, household hazardous waste, composting and administrative support programs for our eighteen member municipalities, residents, and businesses. Some services are also available to non-district communities on a fee for service basis. In addition, the District operates a regional drop-off center and full-service transfer station at 14 Gleason Road in Rutland City. District information on programs, facility, operations, rates, obtaining an annual permit, and many other resources to assist you in your recycling and diversion requirements can be located at our web site, www.rcswd.com. You can also call us at (802) 775-7209.

This year, The District has had many new challenges amid the post global pandemic. Being deemed essential by Governor Scott we remained on the job in full force. Each of our employees continue to raise for the occasion in implementing the guidelines from the CDC, VOSHA, and VBOH. The District also has developed many efficiencies. RCSWD annual permits can be obtained from the convenience of your home or business via www.rcswd.com/permits in about 4 minutes. Debit and credit cards are accepted as an added means of payment accepted at our facilities. A small convenience fee will be charged.

The RCSWD did complete the Districts Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) for the 2020-2025. The State requires that all communities have a current SWIP in place that meets the requirements of the State's Material Management Plan and delineates how solid and hazardous waste will be managed in the District towns for a five-year period. Milestones will need to be reported back as required. The community's involvement in drafting and developing this document was encouraged. The District has also completed a major stormwater project required by Vermont's new 3-acre rules. Thus far this project has cost \$442,227.13

Our website has been updated! This is your virtual Solid Waste Administration Office. Appointments, permits, events, and so much information and detail at your fingertips 24 -hours a day. To keep up to date, do ensure you subscribe to our newsletter, and to your choice of e-mail events alerts. Please see our 2024 Annual Report Book which covers greater detail, and all our programs to include but not limited to:

Waste Disposal: During 2024, residents and businesses in our member municipalities disposed of approximately 37,970 tons of municipal solid waste which includes the construction and demolition activity along with a significant amount of bulky waste.

Recycling: The District owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), recycling center in Rutland City that is leased to Casella Waste Management for their operations. The MRF accepts Zero Sort recycling from transfer stations, commercial haulers and large generators for processing and sale for re-use. The facility currently receives approximately 265 tons of recyclables a year from a large geographical area. Since we began tracking material in 2013 the facility has processed over 260,108 tons of recyclables.

Household Hazardous Waste: Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents and small business generators. The program operates year-round from the Gleason Road facility by appointment. An additional 32 events are scheduled collections at twelve town transfer stations within eighteen member towns through the spring, summer, and fall. The HHW program collects and safely disposes of dozens of our most hazardous, flammable, and toxic materials. The RCSWD HHW also collects electronic waste and has collected over 51.96 tons of material.

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

Thank you,
Mark S. Shea, District Manager



Rutland County Restorative Justice Center
50 Center Street/Rutland, VT 05701
Telephone 802.775.2479/Fax 802.786.8890
rutlandrestorativejustice.org

The Rutland County Court Diversion and Restorative Justice Center (doing business as Rutland County Restorative Justice Center) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency (EIN 03-0279824) that is requesting to be included on the Wells town appropriation for \$500, we received \$500 in FY 23 and are seeking to become an item on your ballot once again. We greatly appreciate the past support of Wells and hope to continue our work in fiscal year 2024.

Our agency strives to make Rutland County a healthier and safer community for all residents. Our mission is to engage community members in responding to the needs of crime victims, the community, and those who violate the law, holding the latter accountable in a manner that promotes responsible and restorative behavior. Our programming is designed for a range of individuals, such as at-risk and truant youth and those with mental health and substance use treatment needs. We focus on fostering accountability, repairing the harm caused by crime, skills development, and connection to treatment and education.

In fiscal year 2024 the RCRJC's eight programs 683 participants who chose community support and accountability over the traditional criminal justice system. All our programs are voluntary and therefore this choice was made entirely based around people bettering themselves and their community. The RCRJC helped: 143 people connect with volunteers to address the harm they caused in the community through restorative panels; 95 adjudicated, at-risk, or truant youth work to improve school/appointment attendance, therapeutic treatment engagement, one-to-one support and community-based visits, case plan and court hearing support, coping skills, time management, and community and family connections; 95 victims of crime have connection to the crime on their own terms; 88 people work towards reduced fines, violation issues, and reinstatement of their driver's licenses; 97 youth aged 16-20 participate and complete the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program that identifies and educates youth about dangers of substances for which they received varying violations; 72 people seek substance misuse treatment and mental health care related to the "why" of their criminal behavior; 67 people who are incarcerated screen for services/programs that would aid them in not re-offending; 13 youth complete the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) to determine risks and needs; and 16 BIPOC adults find community through our adult affinity spaces.

Our proposed language for the ballot would be:

Article: Shall the Town of Wells vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$500.00 for the support of Rutland County Restorative Justice Center to provide services to residents of the Town.

Our agency has served Rutland County for decades, and we look forward to continuing to meet the needs of our community members for many more years to come. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Maggie Ganguly

Executive Director, Rutland County Restorative Justice Center
50 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 / (802) 775-2479 / info
@, rutlandrestorativejustice.org

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is deeply grateful for the continued partnership and collaboration with the towns in our region. Our top priority remains supporting and empowering our municipalities to foster community and economic development. With 12 program areas, ranging from emergency management and economic development to transportation and water quality, FY24 was our most productive year yet. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the future. For a detailed overview of our work in FY24, visit www.vapda.org. To learn more about our programs and services, visit www.rutlandrpc.org.

Planning and Technical Assistance:

With increasing demands on our towns, the RRPC is here to help lighten the load. As the go-to resource for all 27 municipalities in the Rutland Region, we are often the first call for regulatory, planning, and development questions. We help towns navigate state and federal regulations, share important updates on new rules and funding opportunities, and support the development and management of key projects. In addition, we assist in securing grant funding, creating town plans, zoning bylaws, feasibility studies, and designation areas. We also provide hands-on support and training to municipal officials and staff, helping ensure success across the region.

Economic Development:

The RRPC is committed to fostering strong local economies through initiatives like Brownfields Redevelopment. In 2024, we supported assessments and redevelopment planning for 10 projects across five towns, including the former Berwick Hotel and Lynda Lee Factory in Rutland City. These efforts are driving transformative housing, mixed-use, and manufacturing developments while enhancing regional collaboration through an expanded Brownfields Steering Committee.

Energy Efficiency:

The RRPC is working closely with towns across the region to implement the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP), which is designed to reduce energy costs and improve the efficiency of town-owned buildings. In FY24, the RRPC secured \$2.5 million in funding for nine municipalities, supporting a range of energy-saving upgrades, weatherization efforts, and other essential improvements. These investments are helping towns lower their energy costs, reduce burdens for local taxpayers, and enhance the sustainability of municipal operations. MERP plays a crucial role in strengthening energy resilience, advancing climate goals, and creating long-term savings for communities throughout the region.

Housing:

Recognizing the critical need for diverse and affordable housing options, the RRPC has been a driving force in addressing the Region's housing shortage. In 2024, the RRPC developed a comprehensive Housing Resource Guide featuring over 30 funding opportunities and 45 resources for developers. Widely regarded as a statewide model, this guide has played a pivotal role in helping local developers create new housing units and advance vital projects across the region.

Workforce Development:

Workforce development is vital for retaining youth and rebuilding the trades sector in the Rutland Region. In 2024, the RRPC revitalized the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board (RRWIB) to encourage regional collaboration. The RRPC also secured a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to create a bridge program for high schoolers in Rutland County, offering pathways to careers in the trades and addressing workforce needs in the region.

Regional Planning:

In 2024, the RRPC began a comprehensive update of the Rutland Regional Plan. Recognizing the importance of community input, the RRPC focused on expanding public engagement to ensure the plan reflects the priorities and needs of all towns in the region. This effort included town presentations, pop-up events, open houses, and a public survey, all aimed at gathering diverse perspectives. The feedback received has been instrumental in shaping the first draft of the updated plan, which will continue to guide local planning and investment decisions for a more equitable, healthy, and resilient Rutland Region. To learn more about the 2026 Regional Plan and upcoming events, check out www.rutlandrpc.org/plan2026.

In closing, we thank the dedicated volunteers and civil servants whose commitment drives progress in our region. Your involvement ensures that diverse perspectives continue to shape our future. As we look ahead to 2025, we encourage all to get involved and help contribute to the success and growth of our Region!



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Veteran,

The White River Junction Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center would like to connect with Veterans in Vermont and New Hampshire who have served in the military and who may not be utilizing the full comprehensive VA medical benefits package that is available. We are forever grateful for your service and wish to remind you that you may be eligible for important healthcare benefits and additional services. If you are not enrolled in VA healthcare or if you are enrolled but not currently utilizing services, we encourage you to consider how we may be able to support your healthcare needs and overall well-being!

The VA offers a wide variety of services ranging from assistance for Veterans seeking primary care services to various social support services. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support (Veterans helping Veterans), group sessions, telehealth and more. We are proud to offer designated treatment areas for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic in White River Junction.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community-based outpatient clinics located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. **If you would like to enroll in VA Healthcare, please call (802) 295-9363 at extension 5118 or 6281.** A single form - VA form 10-10EZ - and a copy of the DD214 is all that you need when applying. If you have any enrollment questions you can also send them directly to our enrollment email address: VHAWR|VeteranEligibility@va.gov

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Becky Rhoads, Au.D.
Associate Medical Center Director

DOG LICENSING & THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”!

Pursuant to: 20 V.S.A. §3581 of the Vermont Statutes Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet or Wolf-hybrid Control. Sub-chapter 002: Licenses: A dog must be licensed (registered) by six months of age at your town office to be legal. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year is required. Dogs not licensed can be seized and euthanized per state statute.

Registering identifies your dog. It's proof of protection against rabies in case an animal or person is bitten. Immediate medical attention is needed. Animals not vaccinated and registered could be quarantined or possibly seized and euthanized, enabling the brain to be tested. Rabies is deadly. PLEASE LICENSE NOW!

Vermont Statutes Title 20 - Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 193 - Domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid Control §3621. Issuance of warrant to impound; complaint.

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers, constables, pound keepers, or appointed animal control officers, directing them to promptly impound all dogs or wolf-hybrids within the town or city not licensed according to the provisions of this subchapter, except as exempted by section 3587 of this title, and to enter a complaint against the owners or keepers of the impounded dogs and wolf-hybrids.

A puppy (or kitten) can have their first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. Community Animal Aid hosts a Wellness Clinic, including rabies vaccinations, for those unhoused or those receiving state benefits usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month: East Barre Fire Station. Check for updates: AnimalAidVT@gmail.com or 802-734-0259. Tractor Supply Stores host a monthly rabies clinic, and some VT Humane Societies and veterinarians offer a rabies clinic in March.

THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”

VSNIP helps income eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them. Veterinary offices are throughout the state and we invite other veterinarians to join this altruistic effort to help continue eliminating routine euthanasia of mostly, an over population of cats and kittens. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**2025 REQUEST FOR TOWN FUNDING & Yearly Report for FY24 TOWN OF:
Wells • AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$150.00**

Brief Description of RSVP & The Volunteer Center

****Please note that this report is based off a 9-month period per a federal realignment.****

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

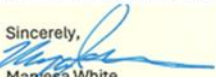
RSVP also offers several free "Signature Programs" that benefit residents. These include RSVP Bone Builders, an osteoporosis prevention program which provides free strength and balance exercise classes offered twice per week at many locations in Rutland County; RSVP Rutland Reads a children's literacy and mentoring program; RSVP Veterans Connections Program, a program designed to reduce social isolation in veterans; and RSVP Operation Dolls & More, which distributes over 15,000 new and restored items to children. Last year approximately 11,243 items were distributed through RSVP Operation Dolls & More to 31 partner agencies and an estimated 1,349 children. We also partner with AARP to provide free income tax return services to low-income residents of Rutland County. Locally, RSVPNC is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland County with 507 volunteers. From July 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, RSVPNC volunteers provided 66,488 hours of community service. The cost benefit to the communities of Rutland County in terms of cost of services provided equals \$2,226,683.12.

Services Provided to Wells Residents

In FY'24, Wells residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as free income tax return preparation, and our free Bone Builders osteoporosis prevention exercise classes. Wells RSVP volunteers donated their services to the following non-profit organizations: Wells Village School, Bridges & Beyond, Castleton Community Center, Young at Heart Senior Center, RSVP Bone Builders, and RSVP Operation Dolls & More.

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

On behalf of RSVP & The Volunteer Center and our non-profit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Wells for their continued support of RSVP. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs, please feel free to call us at 468-7056.

Sincerely,

Maryesa White
RSVP Director

16 North Street Ext., Rutland, VT 05701

Office: 802-468-7056

Website: volunteersixt.org Email: maryesaw@volunteercenter.org

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2024

Wells Elementary School

VOTERS & GUEST PRESENT: 22 plus the board- Don Preuss, Tammy Holcomb, Paul Woodruff Jr., Moderator Fran Gilman, and Clerk Nora Sargent

MODERATOR: Fran Gilman

The meeting was called to order by Town Moderator, Fran Gilman at 7:00PM.

Fran asked everyone to please turn off or silence their electronic devices.

Joe Capron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed.

Fran entertained a motion to allow nonvoters to speak. Joe Capron made a motion. Tim Makepeace seconded. Motion passed.

Fran read the town warning then went through each article one line at a time.

Article 1 - No discussion.

Article 2 -Cherry Hopson asked questions on the village center. She stated that when the planning commission looked into this years ago there was a section that stated no agriculture in village limits. Don stated that there is no qualification as to agriculture in the village center. Don then went on to explain the benefits of the village center.

Fran asked all in favor of accepting the Town Report, so moved.

Article 3-5 - No discussion

Article 6,7 - Todd explained the Fire Dept purchased another truck to put the tanker body on. He explained the advantages of this and some plans for the future.

Article 8 -Jeremy Jones made a short presentation and talked about the hatchery closing down. Tammy asked if there was a plan to accept donations to try and keep the hatchery open. Jeremy explained that he did not know what the fish and wildlife's plan was, but did say he was in talks with them to see what the plans were.

Tammy also asked if the two lake groups were still working together. Tim Makepeace stated that the two groups are separate but do attempt to work together for the better of the lake.

Article 9 - No discussion

Article 10 - Eric Montbriand explained why there was a need to expand the cemetery. Rich Holcomb asked if some of this money would go towards fixing some headstones. Eric explained that the money would go for maintenance and upkeep and yes headstones would be a part of that. Cherry Hopson pointed that the article did not say by petition, Tammy acknowledged that the by petition had inadvertently been left off the warning. Cherry asked why the board just did not put it on the warning without a petition. Tammy explained the cemetery and Town operate separately therefore a petition was needed.

Articles 11-28 - No discussion

Article 29 - Frank Callahan asked about the new transfer station bag system. The board explained the new system and how it would be working as of July 1. Jim Carrigan asked if the state was ok with the new system and it was explained that yes, they were and that several towns use the bag system.

Rich Holcomb asked what has changed at the transfer station as far as what is being accepted. Don explained that E-waste was the only thing that is not accepted anymore.

Gardner Smith asked if the entrance to the transfer station could be smoothed out and the section by the brush drop off area. Don explained that the road crew has been busy trying to keep up with the spring mud season. Gardner explained that it was inside the transfer station that was the issue, Don stated that the guys would get to the issue just as soon as they could.

Motion was made to recess at 7:50PM until tomorrow at 10:00AM by Joe Capron, 2nd by Tim Makepeace. Motion passed.



Fran Gilman, Moderator



Nora Sargent, Town Clerk/Treasurer

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WELLS, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2024**

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. **DO NOT USE PENCIL.**
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

TOWN MODERATOR (1 Yr Term) Vote for not more than ONE	LIBRARY TRUSTEE (5 Yr Term) Vote for not more than ONE	PLANNING COMMISSION (3 Yr Term) Vote for not more than THREE
(Write-in) <u>34</u> ○	ANNE CONSTANTINOS <u>241</u> ○	SHARON L COREY <u>214</u> ○
SELECT BOARD (3 Yr Term) Vote for not more than ONE	(Write-in) <u>2</u> ○	ELEANOR T JONES <u>182</u> ○
PAUL WOODRUFF JR <u>256</u> ○		(Write-in) <u>7</u> ○
(Write-in) <u>2</u> ○		(Write-in) ○
		(Write-in) ○
TOWN ARTICLES		
ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,172,952.00 to be used to defray the general expenses of the town and for maintaining highways?	ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$15,000.00 to the Wells Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to help defray operating and insurance expenses?	ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$2,303.00 to the Rutland Area VNA & Hospice?
<u>247</u> YES ○	<u>256</u> YES ○	<u>250</u> YES ○
<u>38</u> NO ○	<u>27</u> NO ○	<u>32</u> NO ○
ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to utilize non-tax revenue to reduce the fiscal year 2024 tax commitment? The amount approximates \$213,390.00	ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$12,000.00 to the Lake St. Catherine Association?	ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$2,000.00 to Our Neighbors' Table?
<u>249</u> YES ○	<u>162</u> YES ○	<u>225</u> YES ○
<u>29</u> NO ○	<u>113</u> NO ○	<u>52</u> NO ○
ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000.00 to the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund, Inc.?	ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$8,000.00 to the Granville Rescue Squad for their services to the Town of Wells?	ARTICLE 13: Shall the town vote to appropriate \$1,030.00 to the Rutland Mental Health Services, Inc.?
<u>176</u> YES ○	<u>254</u> YES ○	<u>220</u> YES ○
<u>97</u> NO ○	<u>25</u> NO ○	<u>52</u> NO ○
ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000.00 to the Wells Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for the purchase of a new fire truck?	ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Wells vote to appropriate \$5,000.00 to the Wells Cemetery Improvement Corporation for the use of improving the cemetery?	ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,000.00 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?
<u>226</u> YES ○	<u>228</u> YES ○	<u>208</u> YES ○
<u>54</u> NO ○	<u>50</u> NO ○	<u>48</u> NO ○
		ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$800.00 to the Child First Advocacy Center?
		<u>215</u> YES ○
		<u>65</u> NO ○

ARTICLES CONTINUED

<p align="center">ARTICLE 16:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Rutland County Restorative Justice Center?</p> <p align="center">152 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">101 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 21:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$300.00 to the Rutland County Parent Child Center?</p> <p align="center">192 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">63 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 25:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$150.00 to the Rutland County Humane Society?</p> <p align="center">215 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">42 NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center">ARTICLE 17:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?</p> <p align="center">212 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">45 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 22:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$200.00 to Vermont Cares?</p> <p align="center">173 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">80 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 26:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$150.00 to New Story Center (formerly Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter, Inc.)?</p> <p align="center">195 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">60 NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center">ARTICLE 18:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District?</p> <p align="center">186 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">70 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 23:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$200.00 to Neighbor Works of Western Vermont?</p> <p align="center">161 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">93 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 27:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$100.00 to Green Up Vermont?</p> <p align="center">213 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">40 NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center">ARTICLE 19:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$475.00 to BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?</p> <p align="center">176 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">78 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 24:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$160.00 to the Vermont Center for Independent Living?</p> <p align="center">193 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">62 NO <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE 28:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$100.00 to Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force?</p> <p align="center">262 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">53 NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center">ARTICLE 20:</p> <p>Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$400.00 to the Vermont Adult Learning Center?</p> <p align="center">182 YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">74 NO <input type="radio"/></p>		

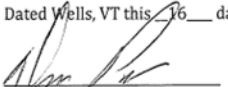
WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 3, 2025 and March 4, 2025

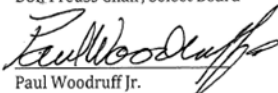
The legal voters of the Town of Wells, County of Rutland, State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at Wells Village School Multi-Purpose Room on Monday, March 3, 2025 at seven o'clock in the evening to transact any business not involving a vote by Australian ballot, and on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the Wells Town office meeting room at ten o'clock in the morning; on those days to consider and set upon the following propositions:

- * 1. To elect Town Officers as required by law for the ensuing year.
- * 2. To receive reports of the Town Officers for the past year.
- * 3. Shall the Town vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,312,863.00 to be used to defray the general expenses of the town and for maintaining highways?
- * 4. Shall the Town vote to utilize non-tax revenue to reduce the fiscal year 2025 tax commitment? The amount approximates \$211,790.00.
- * 5. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000.00 to the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund, Inc.?
- * 6. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000.00 to the Wells Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for the purchase of a new fire truck?
- * 7. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$15,000.00 to the Wells Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to help defray operating and insurance expenses?
- * 8. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$12,000.00 to the Lake St. Catherine Association?
- * 9. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$8,000.00 to the Granville Rescue Squad for their services to the Town of Wells?
- * 10. Shall the Town of Wells vote to appropriate \$5,000.00 to the Wells Cemetery Improvement Corporation for the use of improving the cemetery? (By petition)
- * 11. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$3,000.00 to Our Neighbors Table? (By Petition)
- * 12. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$2,303.00 to VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?
- * 13. Shall the town vote to appropriate \$1,030.00 to the Rutland Mental Health Services, Inc.?
- * 14. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,000.00 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?
- * 15. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$800.00 to the Child First Advocacy Center?
- * 16. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Rutland County Restorative Justice Center?
- * 17. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?
- * 18. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District?

- * 19. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$475.00 to BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?
 - * 20. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$400.00 to the Vermont Adult Learning Center?
 - * 21. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$300.00 to the Rutland County Parent Child Center?
 - * 22. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$200.00 to Vermont Cares?
 - * 23. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$200.00 to Neighbor Works of Western Vermont?
 - * 24. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$200.00 Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force?
 - * 25. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$160.00 to the Vermont Center for Independent living?
 - * 26. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$150.00 to New Story Center (formerly Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter, Inc.)?
 - * 27. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$150.00 to Rutland County Humane Society?
 - * 28. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$150.00 to Senior Volunteer Programs?
 - * 29. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$100.00 to Green Up Vermont?
 - * 30. Shall the Town Vote to allow the sale of spirituous liquor? (By Petition)
 - * 31. Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation, pursuant to Title 32 Section 3840, the real property owned by the Wells Volunteer Fire Department for a five-year period starting July 1, 2025 for so long as such real estate is used exclusively for Fire Dept purposes? (by Petition)
32. To transact any other lawful business to come before the meeting.
- * Means that these will be on Australian Ballot, March 4, 2025.
The business part of the meeting will be held on March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Polls for Australian Ballot will be open March 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.

Dated Wells, VT this 16 day of January, 2025


Don Preuss Chair, Select Board


Paul Woodruff Jr.


Tammy Holcomb

A true copy. Attested and duly recorded as required by law.


Attest: Nora Sargent
Nora Sargent, Wells Town Clerk

WELLS SPRINGS UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING
Annual School District Meeting February 26, 2025, and March 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Wells Springs Unified Union School District consisting of the towns of Middletown Springs and Wells, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Wells Village School in said Town or virtually at the following link: meet.google.com/vbp-ppmd-chc or Join by phone **1 321-209-7845 PIN: 143 477 023#** at seven o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, to transact any of the following business (Articles 1-6) not involving voting by Australian ballot. All virtual attendees will be considered passive participants that will be allowed to ask questions and comment during the meeting. **Virtual attendees will not be allowed to vote. Only in-person attendees will be able to vote.** Upon the conclusion of the business not involving Australian ballot, the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places hereinafter named on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Middletown Springs and from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Wells at which time the polls will close, to transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot (Articles 7-8).

February 26, 2025

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Article 1. | To elect a moderator for a term of one (1) year. |
| Article 2. | To elect a clerk for a term of one (1) year. |
| Article 3. | To elect a treasurer for a term of one (1) year. |
| Article 4. | To hear the reports of the School Board and other District officials and act thereon. |
| Article 5. | To hear a presentation from the School Board on the proposed 2025-2026 budget. |
| Article 6. | To transact any other lawful business that comes before the meeting. |

March 4, 2025

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Article 7. | A. To elect one school director from the Town of Middletown Springs for a term of three (3) years. |
| | B. To elect one school director from the Town of Wells for a term of three (3) years. |

- Article 8.
- "Shall the voters of the Wells Springs Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$6,390,446.61, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Wells Springs Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$12,819, which is 5.9% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year."

Said persons and voters are warned and notified that voter qualifications, registration, absentee voting, and voter procedures shall be in accordance with Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17 Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Said persons and voters are further warned and notified that pursuant to 17 V.S.A. Section 2680(h), Article 5 constitutes a Public Hearing on the proposed budget.

Polling Places and Times

Middletown Springs: Town Office 7:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.
Wells: Town Hall 10:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.

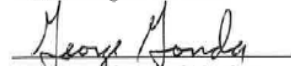
Approved by the Wells Springs Unified Union School District Board of Directors in a public meeting and Dated at Middletown Springs, Vermont, this 14th day of January 2025.


Eric Montbriand, Board Chair


Meredith Morgan, Board Vice-Chair


Matt Heering, Board Clerk

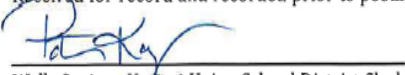
Sue Burke, Board Member


George Gonda, Board Member


Mary Plunkett, Board Member


Amanda Weeden, Board Member

Received for record and recorded prior to posting this 15th day of January 2025.


Wells Springs Unified Union School District Clerk

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Select Board at the Town Office every other Tuesday at 7:00pm

Planning Commission at the Town Office 4th Wednesday of the month

School Board at rotating locations 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm

Delaney Committee at the Town Office 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Wells Town Office

Physical Address: 1064 State Route 30, Wells, VT 05774

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 585, Wells, VT 05774 / www.wellsvt.com

Select Board:

wellsselectman@comcast.net

802-645-0486 ext. 12

Don Preuss

802-417-1058

Paul Woodruff Jr.

802-645-0033

Tammy Holcomb

802-366-0522

Town Clerk/Treasurer:

Nora Sargent

wellstownclerk@comcast.net

802-645-0486

Fax 802-645-0464

Listers (Hours by appointment only)

wellstownclerk@comcast.net

802-645-0486

Library www.wellslibrary.com

802-645-0611

Wells Village School

802-645-0386

Sheriff Department

802-775-8002

Fire and/or Rescue

911

Vermont State Police

911

Community Resource Helpline

211/vermont211.org

Fire Department (non-emergency)

802-645-0233

Rescue (non-emergency)

518-642-1830

Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis

988

Health Officer, Valerie Vitale, MD

802-645-0486

Fire Warden, Todd Fenton

802-772-5514

Deputy Fire Warden, Don Preuss

802-417-1058

Animal Control Officer, Dave Ricard

802-287-1152

Game Warden, Justin Turner

802-595-8754

Dispatcher

802-442-5421

Cemetery, Charlie Holcomb

802-325-3732

Post Office

802-645-0822

Rutland County State Legislators

District #1- Patricia McCoy pmccoy@leg.state.vt.us

802-236-0115

District Rutland-Bennington-Chris Pritchard

cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us

802-558-8918

**TOWN OF WELLS
PO BOX 585
WELLS, VT 05774**

**Presorted Standard
U.S POSTAGE PAID
Permit #165
Burlington, VT**