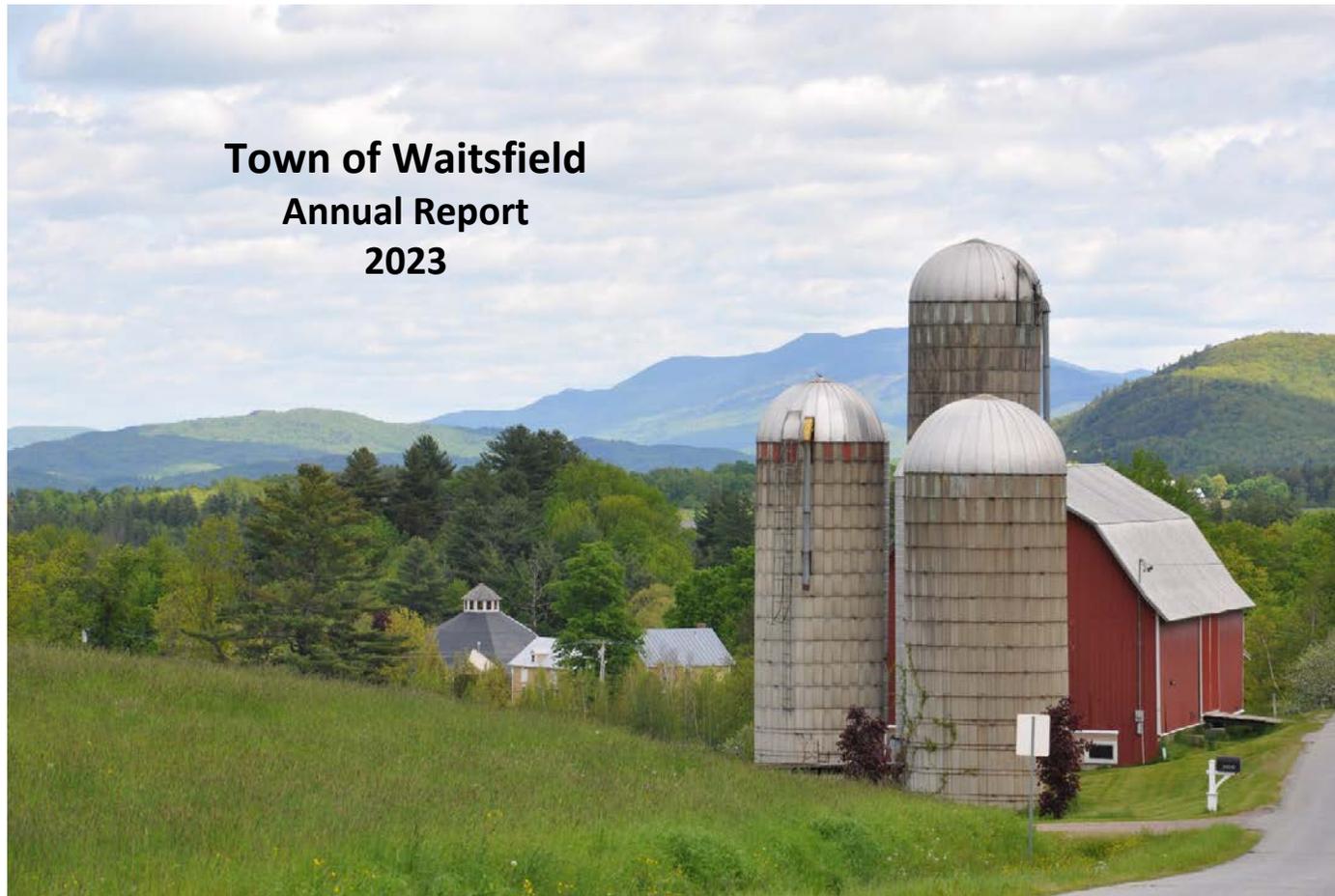
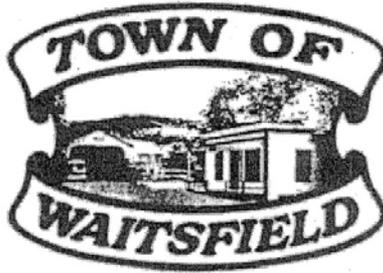


**Town of Waitsfield  
Annual Report  
2023**





**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT  
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Chartered on February 25, 1782  
2020 Population – 1,844  
Size: 17,222 acres (est.)

**TOWN OFFICE HOURS**

8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

*Monday through Thursday*

8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

*Friday*

4144 Main Street

Waitsfield, VT 05673

*Research appointments by reservation*

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF LOCAL BOARDS**

(all remote or at the Town Offices, unless otherwise warned)

Selectboard – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Development Review Board – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Water Commission – 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 8:00 a.m.

For meeting schedules, agendas, materials, and minutes, please visit the Town's  
website: [www.waitsfieldvt.us](http://www.waitsfieldvt.us)

*Cover photo provided by Kasara Gage*

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## **DEDICATION**

### **Waitsfield Road Department**

With great appreciation, we extend our deepest thanks to the dedicated individuals of the Waitsfield Road Department for their exceptional efforts in maintaining the extensive network of roads spanning 30 miles in our community. Their unwavering commitment, particularly during challenging weather conditions, has been instrumental in ensuring the safety and accessibility of our roads and sidewalks by diligently plowing snow and keeping them clear. The Road Crew, comprising a dedicated Road Foreman and three Road Maintainers (one also overseeing town properties), consistently go above and beyond, often sacrificing late nights, early mornings, and time with their families. Their meticulous work extends beyond snow removal, encompassing the upkeep of vital road infrastructure, including culverts, guardrails, and bridges. Their adept management of budgeted resources ensures effective maintenance and timely repairs. They navigate the complexities of their responsibilities with a keen focus on keeping roads clear and caring for the Town's capital investments in vehicles and heavy equipment. The commitment, especially demonstrated by the Road Foreman in managing projects and workloads, significantly contributes to the well-being of our town and its taxpayers. With immense gratitude, we commend the Waitsfield Road Department for their outstanding service, making a substantial and positive impact on our community.

## **With Appreciation**

The Waitsfield Selectboard wants to extend its profound gratitude to Annie Decker-Dell'Isola and Jordan Gonda for their service to the Town.

Annie was hired as Planning & Zoning Administrator in December, 2020, bringing tremendous talent and experience to the role. When the position of Town Administrator became vacant in April of 2021, the Town was fortunate that Annie was able to transition into that role seamlessly. She has performed those duties with skill, grace, and good humor as the Selectboard has undertaken a number of capital improvement and facility maintenance initiatives, as well as policy and operational goals. All the while, she has thoughtfully handled the myriad of questions and issues that the Town Administrator must deal with on a daily basis. While we are sorry to see Annie leave to pursue other personal and professional aspirations, we very much appreciate that she has agreed to stay on board on a limited basis to help manage the wastewater project that will be before the voters in June.

Jordan was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Selectboard created with Darryl Forrest's resignation in December, 2020. She was elected to a two-year term on the Board in March, 2021, and reelected in March of last year. Jordan has been an extremely thoughtful member of the board, and has applied her legal training to the Board's deliberations in a considerate and effective manner. While we are sorry that Jordan is leaving the board, we are pleased that she will remain in town and plans to return to community service in the future.

# TOWN OFFICERS 2023

*Elected by Australian Ballot*

## **Selectboard:**

Fred Messer (3) Mar. 2024  
Charles “Chach” Curtis (2) Mar. 2024  
*Vacant as of 1/29/24* (3) Mar. 2025  
Christine Sullivan (2) Mar. 2025  
Brian Shupe (3) Mar. 2026

## **Listers (3):**

Steve McKenzie Mar. 2024  
Ted Joslin Mar. 2025  
Charlie Goodman, III Mar. 2026

## **Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1):**

Jennifer Peterson Mar. 2023

## **Library Trustees (5):**

Carol Hosford Mar. 2024  
Jean Joslin Mar. 2025  
Sally Reisner Mar. 2026  
David Babic Mar. 2027  
Patricia Read Mar. 2028

## **Town Agent (1):**

Ted Joslin Mar. 2024

## **Harwood Unified Union School**

### **District Directors:**

Roberta “Bobbi” Rood (3) Mar. 2025  
J.B. Weir (3) Mar. 2026

## **Cemetery Commissioners (5):**

Mark Peal Mar. 2024  
Robin McDermott (appt.) Mar. 2024  
Robin Preuss (appt.) Mar. 2024  
Nancy Coombs Mar. 2025  
Laura Brines Mar. 2027

## **Trustees of Cemetery Funds (3):**

Gib Geiger, Jr. Mar. 2024  
Robert Cook Mar. 2025  
Andrew Baird, Jr. Mar. 2026

## **Justices of the Peace (2):**

Cecil “Zeke” Church Nov. 2024  
Andreas Lehner Nov. 2024  
Mary Lehner Nov. 2024  
Helen Myers Nov. 2024  
Jennifer Peterson Nov. 2024  
Roberta “Bobbi” Rood Nov. 2024  
Karen Rookwood Nov. 2024

*Elected from the Floor*

## **Moderator (1):**

Kari Dolan Mar. 2024

# TOWN OFFICERS 2023

*Appointed by the Selectboard*

## **Town Clerk (3):**

Jennifer Peterson Mar. 2024

## **Town Treasurer (3):**

Randy Brittingham Mar. 2024

## **M.R.V. Planning District Reps (1):**

Alice Peal Mar. 2024

Brian Shupe Mar. 2024

## **Constable (1):**

Jeff Campbell Mar. 2024

## **Second Constable (1):**

VACANT Mar. 2024

## **Planning Commission (4):**

Kevin Anderson Mar. 2024

AnnMarie Harmon, V.Ch Mar. 2024

Bob Cook Mar. 2025

Emma Hanson Mar. 2026

Alice Peal, Chair Mar. 2026

Jonathon Ursprung Mar. 2026

Beth Cook Mar. 2027

## **Central Vermont Regional**

### **Planning Commission (1):**

Don LaHaye Mar. 2024

Alice Peal Mar. 2024

## **Development Review Board (3):**

Gib Geiger, Jr. Mar. 2024

Rudy Polwin Mar. 2024

James Tabor Mar. 2024

Duncan Brines. Mar. 2025

John Donaldson, Chair. Mar. 2025

Steve McKenzie, V. Ch. Mar. 2025

Jonathon Ursprung Mar. 2025

## **Tree Warden (1):**

VACANT Mar. 2024

## **Tree Board (3):**

VACANT Mar. 2024

Charles Hosford Mar. 2025

Vince Gauthier Mar. 2026

## **Zoning Administrator (3):**

J.B. Weir Jan. 2024

## **Fire Warden (5):**

Jared Young Jun. 2026

## **Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Dept. (1):**

### Fire Chief:

Tripp Johnson Jan. 2024

### 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief:

Jared Young Jan. 2024

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief:

Craig Snell Jan. 2024

### Captain:

Ted Savage Jan. 2024

### Lieutenants:

Eli McCoy Jan. 2024

Daniel Beede Jan. 2024

### Moderator:

George Gabaree, Jr. Jan. 2024

### Treasurer:

Gordon Eurich Jan. 2024

### Secretary:

Shannon Young Jan. 2024

### Safety Officer:

Todd Farnham Jan. 2024

## **Road Commissioner (1):**

Charles Goodman, III Mar. 2024

## **Emergency Management (1):**

Frederick Messer, Dir. Mar. 2024

Clare Ireland, Coord. Mar. 2024

## TOWN OFFICERS 2023

*Appointed by the Selectboard*

### **Energy Coordinator (2):**

Christopher Badger      Nov. 2025

### **Health Officer (3):**

Fred Messer      Nov. 2026

### **Animal Control Officer (1):**

Fred Messer      Mar. 2024

### **Conservation Commission (2):**

Bruno Grimaldi      Mar. 2024

Ted Joslin      Mar. 2024

Leo Laferriere, V. Ch.      Mar. 2024

James Donaldson      Mar. 2024

Phill Huffman      Mar. 2025

Chris Loomis      Mar. 2025

Bob Cook      Mar. 2025

Curt Lindberg, Chair      Mar. 2025

Gail O'Keefe      Mar. 2025

### **Inspector of Lumber (1):**

Andrew Baird, Jr.      Mar. 2024

### **Fence Viewers (1):**

Allen Gaylord      Mar. 2024

Douglas Kenyon      Mar. 2024

Bryan Neill      Mar. 2024

### **Weigher of Coal (1):**

Charles Hosford      Mar. 2024

### **Green Up Coordinators (1):**

Bri Skoldberg      Mar. 2024

### **M.R. Solid Waste Alliance (1):**

Salvatore Spinosa      Mar. 2024

### **MRV Rec. District Reps. (3):**

Mary Simmons      Mar. 2024

Gina Gaidys      Mar. 2025

Luke Foley      Mar. 2026

### **Water Commission (2):**

William Parker      Mar. 2024

Brian Shupe      Mar. 2024

Peter Lazorchak      Mar. 2026

Robin Morris, Chair      Mar. 2026

Peter Reynells      Mar. 2026



**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD  
WARNING  
FOR ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 5, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Waitsfield, County of Washington, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Waitsfield Elementary School Auditorium on **Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 A.M.)** to transact the following business and to vote by Australian Ballot between the hours of seven o'clock in the morning (7 A.M.) when the polls will open, and continuing until seven o'clock in the afternoon (7 P.M.) for the various Town Officers and the Article so noted.

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect a Moderator for the Town.

**ARTICLE 2:** To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the voters approve a municipal budget of \$2,752,344 to pay the operating expenses and indebtedness of the Town, of which an estimated \$2,292,800 will be raised from property taxes?

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the voters authorize the Town to collect taxes on real property by four (4) equal payments made to the Treasurer as follows: one quarter (25%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Monday, September 16, 2024; the second quarter (25%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Friday, November 15, 2024; the third quarter (25%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Tuesday, February 18, 2025; with the remaining quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Thursday, May 15, 2025?

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the voters authorize the Town to establish a reserve fund for Road Department gravel crushing and to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to establish such a fund in Fiscal Year 2025?

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the voters authorize the Town to establish a reserve fund for Planning Commission long range planning and to appropriate the sum of \$12,000 to establish such a fund in Fiscal Year 2025?

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall voters authorize the Town to borrow money in anticipation of the receipt of taxes by issuing its notes or orders to meet current expenses and indebtedness of the Town of Waitsfield?

**ARTICLE 8:** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Dated at Waitsfield, Vermont, this 29th day of January 2024 by:

The Waitsfield Selectboard.

Christine Sullivan, Chair

Brian Shupe, Vice-Chair

Chach Curtis

Fred Messer

*vacant*

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

In the past year, the Waitsfield Selectboard has been actively involved in various initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of our community with a focus on public safety, infrastructure improvements, and implementing the Town Plan goals encouraging smart growth and addressing housing needs.

One notable accomplishment involved the allocation of \$150,000 from Waitsfield's municipal ARPA funds to twelve local organizations. These funds were distributed among entities such as Neck of the Woods, Spring Hill School, Waitsfield Children's Center, Free Wheelin', MRV Seniors, MRV TV, the Village Meeting House at WUCC, MRV Village, Mad Valley Sports, Waitsfield Elementary School, Valley Players, and Downstreet. This financial support was directed towards furthering crucial community goals related to housing, childcare, transportation, and other essential areas.

In line with maintaining public safety, the Selectboard successfully appointed a constable after following the required process for appointing law enforcement personnel including the adoption of a number of public safety related resolutions.

A strategic allocation of the Town's municipal ARPA funds was dedicated to the digitization of Waitsfield's land records. While this ongoing project is nearing completion, a majority of the town's land records are now accessible online through the designated website.

During the summer of 2023, the East Warren Road culvert replacement project was carried out, resulting in the successful installation of the new culvert. Grant funds were secured for this project in December 2023, contributing to the overall success of the endeavor.

In October, the updated Waitsfield Town Plan, which has been a primary focus of the Planning Commission for a number of years, was officially adopted by the Selectboard. This comprehensive update addressed various chapters, including policies and goals related to housing, energy, natural resource protection, land use, and implementation.

Recognizing the need for a strategic approach to managing the General Wait House, the Selectboard established the General Wait House Commission at the end of 2023. This commission is charged with providing both long and short-range management recommendations for the building and its potential uses.

In a significant development, the town received a generous donation of the old Fairgrounds parcel in December 2023. Located adjacent to Wu Ledges Town Forest, this donation presents a valuable opportunity for the expansion and preservation of this forested area. The Selectboard is also enthusiastic about exploring the best use of the old Fairgrounds site for the benefit of the community.

Additionally, the Waitsfield Planning Commission dedicated significant efforts to updating the Town's Zoning Bylaws through a bylaw modernization grant supported by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The proposed amendments, aimed at supporting infill development, were adopted by the Selectboard in January 2023, accompanied by an updated zone map.

Finally, the Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project team, comprising dedicated members such as Joshua Schwartz, Annie Decker-Dell'Isola, JB Weir, Chach Curtis, Robin Morris, and Bob Cook, worked diligently throughout the year to further understand the opportunities for developing a wastewater system to serve both Irasville and Waitsfield Village. This team, in collaboration with project engineer Dubois & King, successfully progressed through the Feasibility phase to Preliminary Engineering and early Design. An MOU with the Mad River Valley Planning District provided project coordination support, and the team secured a notable \$352,092 in state subsidy to date, marking a significant milestone for the project. Their efforts have been instrumental in advancing the wastewater planning initiative for the benefit of the entire community.

We are excited to proceed with the many ongoing projects and new opportunities that 2024 presents.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Sullivan, Chair  
Brian Shupe, Vice Chair

Chach Curtis  
Fred Messer

## **FY25 BUDGET AND FY25-FY29 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)**

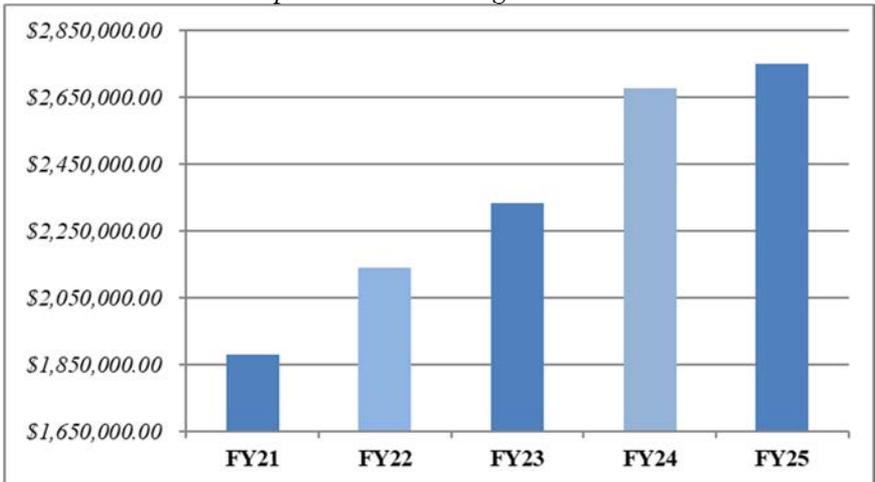
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The proposed FY25 Municipal Budget stands at \$2,752,344, marking a modest increase of 2.8% (+\$75,943) from the approved FY24 budget. Notably, this increase is substantially lower than in previous fiscal years, aligning closely with prevailing inflation rates, as indicated by the Consumer Price Index.

The anticipated municipal property tax rate for FY25 is projected to be (\$0.59), reflecting an increment of \$0.0113 per \$100 of assessed value. This translates to an estimated annual property tax increase ranging from \$22.62 to \$45.23 for homes valued between \$200,000 and \$400,000.

It is crucial to highlight that the FY25 Municipal Budget and the resulting property tax rates exclusively cover town operating expenses, excluding education expenses. The latter will be proposed by the Harwood Unified Union School District and subject to a separate vote by the six towns within the school district. This distinction ensures clarity in understanding the components of the budget and the subsequent tax rates under consideration.

*Graph: FY21-FY25 Budget Trendline.*



FY25 Budget Goals and Priorities.

The budget development process begins with the Selectboard’s establishment of goals and priorities in the fall. The goals and priorities for FY25 are:

- 1) Be mindful of the tax rate impact of the FY25 budget and FY25-FY29 capital improvement program. To the extent practicable, keep any general municipal tax rate impact consistent with recent fiscal years and/or close to generally accepted rates of inflation.
- 2) Continue support for the longer-term goals of financial sustainability and resiliency. This includes lowering the Town’s debt-to-expenditure ratio as prescribed in policy, avoiding new debt that is not necessary, and supporting the principles established in the unassigned fund balance policy.
- 3) Work to provide municipal services in a manner that is efficient, cost effective, responsive, and reliable. This includes looking for ways of investing in the personnel – employee or contracted – that can ensure a better level of service is provided, including in the town office and in the maintenance of town roads and parks.
- 4) Develop a short- and long-term plan to address the maintenance needs of Town owned buildings including the General Wait House, Town Garage, Town Office, and Fire Station.
- 5) Evaluate appropriate uses of the town’s American Rescue Plan Act allocation and consider ways to leverage these funds for the greatest impacts that are also in line with the Waitsfield Town Plan.
- 6) Review available state, federal, and other grant funding to evaluate how best to support the needs of the Town and provide adequate staff capacity to apply for and administer available grants funds.

Property Tax Impact.

The table shows the projected impact of the proposed tax rate for residential property owners with homes ranging in value from \$200,000 to \$400,000.

*Table: Property Tax – Average +/- “Impact” of the Proposed FY25 Budget.*

Impact for Residential Property Owners				
Assessed Value	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$400,000	
FY24 Taxes	\$ 1,172	\$ 1,758	\$ 2,344	
FY25 est. Taxes	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,792	\$ 2,389	
Annual Difference	\$ 22.61	\$ 33.92	\$ 45.23	
Monthly Difference	\$ 1.88	\$ 2.83	\$ 3.77	

### Proposed FY25 Expenditures.

The FY25 budget holds most expenses level with last year, with a few exceptions noted below. The FY25 budget incorporates a 3% salary increase for all staff, intended to serve as a basic cost-of-living adjustment. Additionally, the FY25 budget includes the addition of a new administrative support staff for the Town Office, serving as an Administrative and Board Assistant. This role will support administrative front desk tasks and provide assistance to the Town Administrator and Selectboard, so that they can increase their focus on planning efforts critical to the future of the town, such as the Irasville Master Planning and Wastewater projects. The position, as included in the budget, accounts for a 4-day work week (32 hours), budgeted at \$25 per hour with benefits, resulting in a total budget increase of \$62,000.

This budget also features an overall reduction in the Maintenance of Parks line. This line was partially reduced in FY24 with the addition of a 4th Road Crew member, who has since been hired as the Town's Road and Property Maintainer. The remaining portion of this line, which used to cover the cost of contracted town property lawn mowing, is now allocated for landscaping at the Town office as well as additional property and park maintenance tasks, such as removing dead trees on town-owned parcels.

The FY25 budget also includes a \$5,000 allocation for public outreach related to the Waitsfield wastewater project. A bond vote is planned for June 11, 2024. Assuming the bond vote passes, there will be additional need to educate the community on the project and remain in contact with the proposed users of the system within the service area. This line would help cover the cost of items such as mailers, community meetings, and even information videos. The remaining public outreach needs related to the wastewater project in FY24 will either be covered by grant funds or other potential sources of revenue, such as the Town's ARPA funding.

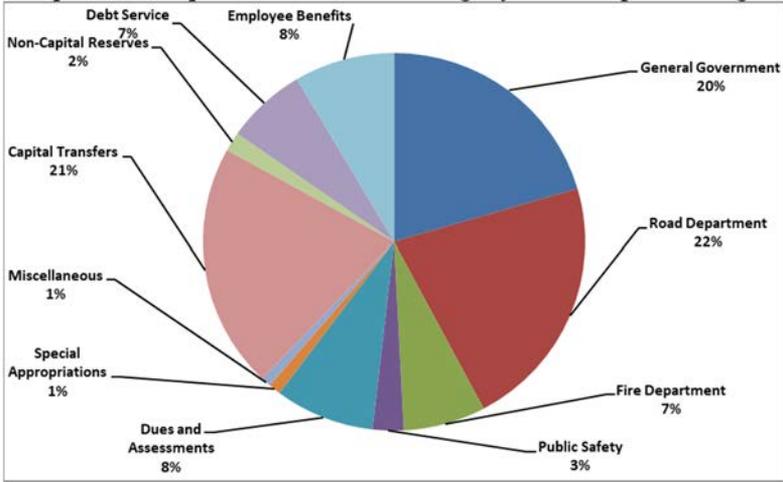
In the Road Department section of the budget, the most significant major increase is in the sand line. The sand budget includes both the price per cubic yard of sand and the cost of hauling. The primary pit that the Town has used for its sand needs is closing, and as a result, hauling costs are anticipated to increase. There is some uncertainty about the cost per cubic yard, but the FY25 estimate is informed by the increase seen in the FY24 sand hauling contract.

There are also notable increases in the Waitsfield Fayston Fire Department section of the budget. Firstly, the vehicle repair line has increased by \$11,000 to address the department's need for new tires on all vehicles. Additionally, the labor line has increased by about \$12,000. This does not reflect an increase in the hourly rate (currently \$17/hr) but is instead a more accurate account of the number of hours worked by WFFD volunteers. In the past, the estimated number of hours was about 1,600, but actual hours worked over the past few fiscal years is closer to 2,300 annually.

There are also increases in both the requested contribution to the MRV Seniors as part of the Special Appropriations section of the budget (a \$3,000 increase from last fiscal year). The MRV Seniors explained in their application that this increase is needed to continue supporting programs such as Meals on Wheels, Free Wheelin', and their regular Senior Wellness Services. They have not asked for a budget increase since 2010. Additionally, the Mad River Valley Planning District is asking each of the district towns for an increase of \$8,645 to their annual contribution to continue providing the valley-wide services they offer. The MRPVD Steering Committee adopted the organization's budget in January 2024, which included this increased funding request. Furthermore, the Waitsfield Cemetery Commission received a contribution of \$17,000 in the FY24 budget to address a concern over a potential income shortfall in the Cemetery Trust due to market conditions at that time. This has been removed from the FY25 budget.

The FY25 budget also removes two lines that have typically been included in the Town's operating budget: one for Planning Commission special projects and the other to fund the Road Department gravel crushing operation. Both have been added instead to the Town Meeting Warning for the voters to consider as new reserve funds, including requests for funding those reserves. The Planning Commission Special Project reserve, as proposed, would fund long-range planning efforts and support the Planning Commission in doing the big-picture planning work identified in the Town Plan. The commission has a strong record of securing grant funding to support several projects, but there are instances where grant match is needed or where additional consulting services may help support large projects. The Gravel Reserve is proposed to provide a way to annually contribute toward a project that only requires expenditures of funds every other year or every three years.

*Graph: FY25 Expenditures as a Percentage of Total Proposed Budget.*



Social service agency and organization funding is proposed at 1% of FY25 expenditures, which is the target in the Town's adopted funding policy.

*Debt Service.*

For the fourth consecutive year, the FY25 budget is at or below the debt service-to-expenditure ratio target (10%) as prescribed by Town policy. The focus on lowering debt service payments has allowed for increased funding of capital equipment reserves, so that the town can replace critical equipment like fire trucks without taking on more debt. Attaining the target ratio also opens up debt capacity for future fiscal years.

*FY25 Revenues.*

There are a few small changes in projected non-property tax revenue for FY25. The Town anticipates a slight decrease in Town Clerk Fees to better the actuals that have been collected in FY23 and FY24 to date.

There are also slight increases in estimated revenues for snow clearing for both the water system hydrants as well as at the elementary school. Additionally, there is an associated revenue increase that accounts for Fayston's 40% share of the increased Waitsfield Fayston Fire Department budget. Grand list growth has been budgeted based on the typical average of 0.3%.

*Table: Municipal Tax Rates and Annual % Increase or Decrease.*

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY 25 (estimated)
Town	0.4535	0.4545	0.5287	0.5824	0.5937
Local Agreement	0.0035	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL</b>	<b>0.457</b>	<b>0.4581</b>	<b>0.5323</b>	<b>0.5860</b>	<b>0.5973</b>
% Change (+/-)	5.3%	0.2%	16.2%	10.1%	1.9%
		<b>AVERAGE % +/-</b>		6.8%	

*FY25-FY29 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Reserves.*

*Table: FY25 CIP Summary Table.*

<u>Total to be raised by</u> <u>FY25 budget</u>	<u>Department/Area</u>
\$ 33,300	Road Department FY Appropriations
\$ 410,000	Road Department Reserve Transfers
\$ -	Fire Department FY Appropriations
\$ 107,025	Fire Department Reserve Transfers
\$ 14,500	General - Reserve Transfers
\$ 11,500	General - Project specific FY appropriations
\$ 576,325	<b>TOTAL</b>

The proposed FY25 capital budget, based on the five-year CIP updated annually, is \$696,849, with a General Fund transfer of \$531,525 (-\$47,975 from FY24). The FY25 CIP maintains funding for Road Department, Fire Department, and other small infrastructure reserve funds while reflecting a slight decrease in direct capital appropriations needed due to adequately funded reserves supporting planned capital projects.

The FY25-FY29 CIP layout includes an updated reserve balance schedule for each section, providing a clearer demonstration of funding levels for reserve contributions and planned capital projects over a five-year span.

**Town of Waitsfield, VT**  
**FY25 General Fund Budget – Expenditures Summary**

*For Town Meeting 2024*

Department/Section	% Total FY25 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	+/-	% Change
Town Meeting	0.2%	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,000	85.7%
Legal and Auditing	1.3%	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,500	\$ 500	1.4%
Town Office Operations	3.7%	\$ 97,320	\$ 102,489	\$ 5,169	5.3%
Town Clerk and Treasurer	6.9%	\$ 125,362	\$ 191,116	\$ 65,753	52.5%
Selectboard	3.5%	\$ 90,272	\$ 96,825	\$ 6,554	7.3%
Planning and Zoning	2.5%	\$ 75,619	\$ 69,620	\$ (5,999)	-7.9%
Board of Listers	1.1%	\$ 29,200	\$ 30,000	\$ 800	2.7%
Delinquent Tax Collector	0.5%	\$ 13,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,500	11.1%
Conservation Commission	0.2%	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
Road Department	21.8%	\$ 590,356	\$ 598,686	\$ 8,330	1.4%
Employee Benefits	8.5%	\$ 248,907	\$ 233,500	\$ (15,407)	-6.2%
Fire Department	7.0%	\$ 174,834	\$ 191,648	\$ 16,814	9.6%
Public Safety	2.6%	\$ 72,787	\$ 72,014	\$ (773)	-1.1%
Dues and Assessments	8.4%	\$ 222,042	\$ 232,241	\$ 10,199	4.6%
Special Appropriations	1.0%	\$ 25,470	\$ 28,220	\$ 2,750	10.8%
Miscellaneous	0.9%	\$ 42,100	\$ 23,500	\$ (18,600)	-44.2%
Capital Transfers - to GF and reserves	20.9%	\$ 579,500	\$ 576,325	\$ (3,175)	-0.5%
Contribution to Reserves (non-capital)	1.6%	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
Debt Service	6.8%	\$ 189,632	\$ 187,661	\$ (1,971)	-1.0%
Wait House	0.4%	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ -	0.0%
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 2,676,901</b>	<b>\$ 2,752,344</b>	<b>\$ 75,443</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VT**

**FY25 General Fund Budget -- Expenditure Detail**

*For Town Meeting 2024*

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)	% Change
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
1	<b>Elections &amp; Town Meeting</b>						
2	Election Expense	\$ 1,903	\$ 218.23	\$ 500	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,500	
3	Town Report	\$ 1,960	\$ 1,074.24	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	
4	Ballot Clerks [MOVED FY24]	\$ 1,000	\$ 822.39	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	
5	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 4,863	\$ 2,114.86	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,000	85.7%
6	<b>Legal and Auditing</b>						
7	Legal	\$ 12,277	\$ 9,366.29	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	
8	Auditing	\$ 17,200	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,500	\$ 500	
9	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 29,477	\$ 27,066.29	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,500	\$ 500	1.4%
10	<b>Town Office Operations</b>						
11	Insurance and Bonds	\$ 12,569	\$ 12,858.50	\$ 17,000	\$ 21,989	\$ 4,989	
12	Office Utilities	\$ 4,480	\$ 4,983.99	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
13	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 5,586	\$ 2,391.40	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
14	Postage	\$ 3,626	\$ 3,113.73	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,000	\$ (250)	
15	Supplies	\$ 6,705	\$ 8,019.07	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 500	
16	Computer Services	\$ 1,788	\$ 6,177.12	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 1,000	
17	Training	\$ 233	\$ 406.25	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	
18	Cleaning	\$ 7,950	\$ 9,054.96	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
19	Equip. Maint. & Contracts	\$ 18,620	\$ 14,997.14	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,500	\$ 500	
20	Telephone & Internet	\$ 4,810	\$ 4,487.92	\$ 5,320	\$ 5,250	\$ (70)	
21	Office Equipment	\$ 4,125	\$ 183.10	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	
22	Public Notice Expense	\$ 6,701	\$ 5,222.64	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	
23	Special Services	\$ 3,907	\$ -	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,000)	
24	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 81,101	\$ 71,895.82	\$ 97,320	\$ 102,489	\$ 5,169	5.3%
25	<b>Town Clerk and Treasurer</b>						
26	Salaries	\$ 94,441	\$ 101,388.34	\$ 125,112	\$ 128,866	\$ 3,753	
27	Admin & Board Assistant [NEW FY25]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,000	\$ 62,000	
28	Borrowing Interest	\$ -	\$ 38.11	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	
29	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 94,441	\$ 101,426.45	\$ 125,362	\$ 191,116	\$ 65,753	52.5%
30	<b>Selectboard</b>						
31	Selectboard Reimbursement	\$ 3,251	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,250	\$ -	
32	Town Website	\$ 823	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000	\$ (1,000)	
33	Town Admin. Salary	\$ 66,984	\$ 69,142.49	\$ 81,122	\$ 83,555	\$ 2,434	
34	Training	\$ 397	\$ 547.17	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	
35	Mileage Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ 44.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
36	SB Recording Secretary	\$ 1,134	\$ 1,418.00	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,520	\$ 120	
37	Communications	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
38	Wastewater Project [NEW FY25]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
39	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 72,589	\$ 74,402.07	\$ 90,272	\$ 96,825	\$ 6,554	7.3%

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)	% Change
40	<b>Planning &amp; Zoning</b>						
41	PC/DRB Recording Secretary	\$ 923	\$ 1,600.50	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,680	\$ 80	
42	Special Planning Projects	\$ -	\$ 22,933.10	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ (8,000)	
43	Town Plan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
44	Salaries	\$ 54,221	\$ 57,051.11	\$ 64,019	\$ 65,940	\$ 1,921	
45	Training	\$ 239	\$ 192.43	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	
46	Computer Equipment/Service	\$ 899	\$ 851.00	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ -	
47	Mileage Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	
48	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 56,282	\$ 82,628.14	\$ 75,619	\$ 69,620	\$ (5,999)	-7.9%
49	<b>Board of Listers</b>						
50	Assessor Services	\$ 22,569	\$ 22,463.25	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000	\$ -	
51	Computer Equipment/Service	\$ 2,877	\$ 2,806.57	\$ 3,250	\$ 4,000	\$ 750	
52	Property Map Maintenance	\$ 1,650	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,800	\$ 50	
53	Training and Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	
54	Professional Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	
55	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 27,096	\$ 26,919.82	\$ 29,200	\$ 30,000	\$ 800	2.7%
56	<b>Delinquent Tax Collector</b>						
57	Collector Fees	\$ 9,826	\$ 11,705.30	\$ 13,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,500	
58	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 9,826	\$ 11,705.30	\$ 13,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,500	11.1%
59	<b>Conservation Commission</b>						
60	Conservation Special Projects	\$ 1,970	\$ 4,999.60	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
61	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 1,970	\$ 4,999.60	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
62	<b>Road Department</b>						
63	<b>Labor</b>						
64	Salaries	\$ 178,139	\$ 176,770.00	\$ 231,257	\$ 245,858	\$ 14,601	
65	Overtime	\$ 22,013	\$ 23,831.25	\$ 22,984	\$ 30,732	\$ 7,748	
66	<b>Sub-total</b>	\$ 200,152	\$ 200,601.25	\$ 254,241	\$ 276,590	\$ 22,349	8.8%
67	<b>Equipment Operations/Repairs</b>						
68	Road Department Insurance	\$ 9,220	\$ 9,100.50	\$ 9,500	\$ 10,673	\$ 1,173	
69	Gas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
70	Oil, Grease, and Filters	\$ 10,107	\$ 11,281.98	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
71	Diesel	\$ 30,873	\$ 38,530.11	\$ 30,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 2,000	
72	2013 International Dump Truck	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
73	2020 International Dump Truck	\$ 4,520	\$ 1,674.66	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	
74	2016 GMC Pick-Up Truck	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
75	2021 GMC 3500 [NEW]	\$ 1,103	\$ 4,057.67	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	
76	2010 Low-Pro Truck	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
77	2018 HV Truck (Low-Pro)	\$ 1,915	\$ 1,290.89	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
78	1997 International Dump Truck	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
79	Ford Chloride Truck	\$ 1,472	\$ 489.10	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	
80	2009 John Deere Loader	\$ 1,566	\$ 4,866.14	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 500	
81	2015 Tandem (Dump Truck)	\$ 16,458	\$ 7,345.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
82	2021 Tandem (Dump Truck) [NEW]	\$ 160	\$ 628.55	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)	% Change
83	1998 Galion Grader	\$ 424	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
84	2021 John Deere Grader [NEW]	\$ -	\$ 420.73	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	-
85	2008 Cat Backhoe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
86	2021 Cat Backhoe [NEW]	\$ 103	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	500
87	Ventrac [NEW FY25]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	1,000
88	Roadside Mower	\$ 1,447	\$ 4,607.42	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	-
89	Steel Pole Saw/Chainsaw	\$ 20	\$ 102.15	\$ 300	\$ 1,200	\$ 900	900
90	Garage Repairs	\$ 1,644	\$ 3,090.58	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	-
91	Garage Trash Removal	\$ 1,913	\$ 2,071.00	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,244	\$ 204	204
92	Uniforms Services	\$ 5,490	\$ 6,812.20	\$ 5,400	\$ 3,500	\$ (1,900)	(1,900)
93	Uniforms Materials (NEW FY25)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	2,500
94	Heat	\$ 5,499	\$ 4,060.95	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	-
95	Telephone	\$ 2,476	\$ 2,217.74	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ -	-
96	Electricity	\$ 1,744	\$ 1,750.98	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,900	\$ -	-
97	Garage Supplies/Hardware	\$ 4,418	\$ 4,178.90	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -	-
98	Chipper/Rake	\$ 559	\$ 1,293.72	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500	1,500
99	Alarm System	\$ 961	\$ 377.00	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	-
100	Water Service	\$ 628	\$ 592.87	\$ 630	\$ 630	\$ -	-
101	Plow Blades and Shoes.	\$ 3,624	\$ 5,863.25	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500	\$ -	-
102	<b>Sub-total</b>	\$ 109,659	\$ 116,704.19	\$ 98,370	\$ 107,247	\$ 8,877	9.0%
103	<b>Hired Equipment and Labor</b>						
104	Sidewalk Mowing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
105	Sidewalk Plowing	\$ 29,070	\$ 29,651.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
106	Other Equipment Rental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
107	Contract Plowing	\$ 1,480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
108	Grading	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ -	-
109	Contract Services	\$ 11,083	\$ 150.00	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -	-
110	<b>Sub-total</b>	\$ 41,633	\$ 29,801.00	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ -	0.0%
111	<b>Materials</b>						
112	Salt	\$ 33,491	\$ 45,587.74	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	-
113	Sand	\$ 34,838	\$ 45,447.12	\$ 56,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 12,000	12,000
114	Chloride	\$ 12,035	\$ 14,791.08	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	-
115	Crushed Gravel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ (30,000)	(30,000)
116	Stone	\$ 10,518	\$ 8,043.70	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,000	2,000
117	Culverts	\$ 14,153	\$ 10,230.03	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	-
118	Guardrails	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	-
119	Tools	\$ 3,586	\$ 2,752.67	\$ 6,500	\$ 4,000	\$ (2,500)	(2,500)
120	Signs	\$ 1,991	\$ 644.50	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ (500)	(500)
121	Fabric	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	-
122	Cold Patch, Hay, and Seed	\$ 5,793	\$ 4,400.04	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	-
123	Waste Blocks	\$ 1,065	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	-
124	<b>Sub-total</b>	\$ 117,470	\$ 131,896.88	\$ 192,000	\$ 173,000	\$ (19,000)	-9.9%
125	<b>Miscellaneous</b>						
126	Fayston Winter Agreement	\$ 11,058	\$ 20,174.00	\$ 12,595	\$ 11,848	\$ (747)	(747)

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)	% Change
127	Sidewalk Maintenance/Repairs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
128	Tree Cutting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ (500)	
129	Bridge Repairs	\$ 27,900	\$ 206.22	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,000	\$ (3,000)	
130	Gravel Pit Management	\$ 160	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	
131	Pavement Sealing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
132	Culvert and Road Inventory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
133	Line Painting	\$ 950	\$ 3,323.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	
134	North Road Culvert	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
135	Street Lights	\$ 5,365	\$ 5,518.34	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,700	\$ 700	
136	Bridge Lights	\$ 378	\$ 189.14	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	
137	Radios	\$ 1,794	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 350	\$ (150)	
138	Training	\$ 39	\$ 30.01	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ (250)	
139	MRGP/State Roads Permit	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,765.00	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,850	\$ 50	
140	<i>Sub-total</i>	\$ <i>48,994</i>	\$ <i>22,365.71</i>	\$ <i>33,445</i>	\$ <i>29,548</i>	\$ <i>(3,897)</i>	<i>-11.7%</i>
141	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ <b>517,907</b>	\$ <b>501,369.03</b>	\$ <b>590,356</b>	\$ <b>598,686</b>	\$ <b>8,330</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
142	<b>Employee Benefits</b>						
143	FICA/Medicare	\$ 32,048	\$ 33,098.45	\$ 44,957	\$ 42,454	\$ (2,503)	
144	Medicare	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
145	Retirement (VMERS)	\$ 24,837	\$ 27,862.12	\$ 39,668	\$ 37,459	\$ (2,209)	
146	Act 76 Childcare Tax [NEW FY25]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,307	\$ 2,307	
147	Unemployment	\$ 547	\$ 749.00	\$ 800	\$ 700	\$ (100)	
148	Worker's Compensation	\$ 12,100	\$ 24,465.11	\$ 15,224	\$ 18,660	\$ 3,436	
149	Health Insurance	\$ 65,642	\$ 89,305.47	\$ 138,866	\$ 122,421	\$ (16,446)	
150	Life and Disability	\$ -	\$ 2,383.74	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	
151	Vision	\$ 2,047	\$ 358.68	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	
152	Dental [NEW]	\$ 438	\$ 1,258.98	\$ 3,891	\$ 4,000	\$ 109	
153	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ <b>137,659</b>	\$ <b>179,481.55</b>	\$ <b>248,907</b>	\$ <b>233,500</b>	\$ <b>(15,407)</b>	<b>-6.2%</b>
154	<b>Fire Department</b>						
155	Gas, Oil, and Grease	\$ 3,095	\$ 3,208.75	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ -	
156	Insurance	\$ 10,084	\$ 10,536.50	\$ 10,503	\$ 12,171	\$ 1,667.85	
157	Telephone and Dispatch	\$ 21,642	\$ 36,007.28	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ -	
158	Capital West Reserve Contribution [NEW FY23]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,525	\$ -	\$ (9,524.66)	
159	Radio and Radio Repairs	\$ 1,800	\$ 5,765.04	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
160	Electricity	\$ 6,060	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,575	\$ 2,575	\$ -	
161	Heat	\$ 630	\$ 5,424.29	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300	\$ -	
162	Water Service	\$ 6,042	\$ 592.21	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ -	
163	Building Repair and Supplies	\$ 145	\$ 4,660.58	\$ 11,300	\$ 11,300	\$ -	
164	Alarm	\$ 9,450	\$ 115.00	\$ 446	\$ 446	\$ -	
165	Truck Repairs	\$ 3,885	\$ 12,947.91	\$ 14,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 11,000.00	
166	Repair of Equipment [RENAMED]	\$ 2,632	\$ 3,243.85	\$ 7,875	\$ 7,875	\$ -	
167	Bottled Gas	\$ 37	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	
168	Training	\$ 4,522	\$ 6,396.21	\$ 9,450	\$ 9,450	\$ -	

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)	% Change
169	Hose and Equipment	\$ 5,142	\$ 5,776.83	\$ 6,489	\$ 6,489	\$ -	-
170	Gear	\$ 8,259	\$ 9,684.48	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ -	-
171	Fire Prevention	\$ 888	\$ 686.54	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ -	-
172	Miscellaneous	\$ 75	\$ 1,057.52	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	-
173	Dues	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	-
174	Physical Exams	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	-
175	Labor	\$ 25,681	\$ 34,995.00	\$ 27,461	\$ 39,865	\$ 12,404.30	
176	FICA	\$ 1,965	\$ 2,991.06	\$ 2,101	\$ 3,050	\$ 948.93	
177	Ladder/Hose Testing	\$ 3,246	\$ 3,499.05	\$ 3,360	\$ 3,360	\$ -	-
178	Administrative Time	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,290	\$ 5,607	\$ 317.40	
179	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 115,300</b>	<b>\$ 149,388.10</b>	<b>\$ 174,834</b>	<b>\$ 191,648</b>	<b>\$ 16,814</b>	<b>9.6%</b>
180	<b>Public Safety</b>						
181	Sheriff's Department Billing	\$ 14,809	\$ 25,778.92	\$ 31,200	\$ 31,824	\$ 624	
182	Dog Warden (Salary and Fees)	\$ 750	\$ 860.00	\$ 775	\$ 775	\$ -	-
183	Dog Pound Fees	\$ 155	\$ 364.75	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	-
184	Emergency Management	\$ 597	\$ 770.00	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	-
185	Fire Warden	\$ 250	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	-
186	Fire Hydrant Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
187	Fire Protection Contribution	\$ 27,632	\$ 25,960.00	\$ 25,960	\$ 25,960	\$ -	-
188	Generator Expense	\$ 302	\$ 281.59	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	-
189	Insurance	\$ -	\$ 556.75	\$ 2,227	\$ 2,772	\$ 545	
190	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 29.75	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	-
191	Training	\$ 30	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	-
192	Town Health Officer	\$ 750	\$ 750.00	\$ 775	\$ 775	\$ -	-
193	Constable [NEW]	\$ -	\$ 553.98	\$ 8,500	\$ 6,558	\$ (1,942)	
194	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 45,275</b>	<b>\$ 56,155.74</b>	<b>\$ 72,787</b>	<b>\$ 72,014</b>	<b>\$ (773)</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
195	<b>Dues and Assessments</b>						
196	Central VT Reg'l Planning	\$ 2,167	\$ 2,452.52	\$ 2,455	\$ 2,453	\$ (2)	
197	Joslin Memorial Library	\$ 64,486	\$ 64,782.25	\$ 68,193	\$ 69,149	\$ 956	
198	MR Resource Mgt. Alliance	\$ 12,471	\$ 12,908.00	\$ 12,766	\$ 12,908	\$ 142	
199	MRV Planning District	\$ 45,317	\$ 45,317.00	\$ 45,317	\$ 53,962	\$ 8,645	
200	MRV Recreation District	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	-
201	VLCT	\$ 3,209	\$ 3,412.00	\$ 3,529	\$ 3,638	\$ 109	
202	Washington County Tax	\$ 29,929	\$ 31,378.00	\$ 32,651	\$ 33,000	\$ 349	
203	Green Mtn. Transit	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,030.00	\$ 2,131	\$ 2,131	\$ -	-
204	MRVAS	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	-
205	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 204,609</b>	<b>\$ 217,279.77</b>	<b>\$ 222,042</b>	<b>\$ 232,241</b>	<b>\$ 10,199</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
206	<b>Special Appropriations</b>						
207	Circle	\$ 350	\$ 350.00	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ -	-
208	CVT Adult Basic Education	\$ 600	\$ 600.00	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -	-
209	Capstone (formerly CVTCA)	\$ 150	\$ 150.00	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	-
210	Downstreet (formerly CVCLT)	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -	-
211	CVT Council on Aging	\$ 900	\$ 900.00	\$ 900	\$ 1,050	\$ 150	

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)	% Change
212	CVT Economic Devel. Corp.	\$ 450	\$ 450.00	\$ 450	\$ 450	\$ -	-
213	CVT Home Health and Hospice	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -	-
214	Everybody Wins!	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	-
215	Family Center of Wash. Co.	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	-
216	Good Beginnings of CVT	\$ 300	\$ 300.00	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ -	-
217	Green Up Vermont	\$ 100	\$ 100.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	-
218	Home Share Now, Inc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
219	MRV Health Center	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
220	Mad River Valley Seniors	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,000	300%
221	Peoples Health and Wellness	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	-
222	Retired Senior Volunteer Program.	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
223	Mosaic (formerly SACT)	\$ 250	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	-
224	Center of Independent Living	\$ 650	\$ 620.00	\$ 620	\$ 620	\$ -	-
225	Washington Co. Mental Health	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ -	-
226	Washington Co. Youth Service	\$ 750	\$ 750.00	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	-
227	Community Harvest	\$ 300	\$ 300.00	\$ 300	\$ 400	\$ 100	100%
228	VT Family Network	\$ 250	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	-
229	VABVI	\$ 250	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	-
230	CVT DART	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
231	WNRCD	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
232	Prevent Child Abuse VT	\$ 200	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
233	Good Samaritan	\$ 500	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	-
234	VT Association of Conservation Districts - Rural Fire Protection	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	-
235	The Children's Room	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	-
236	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 21,950	\$ 22,470.00	\$ 24,970	\$ 28,220	\$ 3,250	13%
237	<b>Miscellaneous</b>						
238	Town Pond Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	2,000%
239	Admin. Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
240	Maintenance of Parks	\$ 14,160	\$ 13,155.00	\$ 9,500	\$ 6,000	\$ (3,500)	(3,500)%
241	Steward MRV	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -	-
242	Trail Maintenance	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 500	500%
243	Solar Array Maintenance	\$ 1,081	\$ 1,287.75	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	-
244	Generator Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
245	Memberships and Dues	\$ 80	\$ 80.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	-
246	WES Community Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
247	Cemetery Veteran's Flags	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ (100)	(100)%
248	MRVTV Meeting Coverage	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,400	\$ -	-
249	Energy Efficiency Improve.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
250	Tax Adjustments	\$ 2,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
251	Affordable Housing Initiatives	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
252	Other	\$ -	\$ 12.00	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)	(500)%

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)	% Change
253	Cemetery Commission Contribution [NEW FY24]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ (17,000)	
254	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 28,066	\$ 25,434.75	\$ 42,100	\$ 23,500	\$ (18,600)	-44.2%
255	<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>						
256	Road Department FY Appropriations	\$ 34,798	\$ 53,900.00	\$ 87,500	\$ 33,300	\$ (54,200)	
257	Road Department Reserve Transfers	\$ 341,000	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 380,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 30,000	
258	Fire Department FY Appropriations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
259	Fire Department Reserve Transfers	\$ 66,000	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 97,500	\$ 107,025	\$ 9,525	
260	General - Transfers to reserves	\$ 16,500	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ -	
261	General - Project specific	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	
262	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 458,298	\$ 491,900.00	\$ 579,500	\$ 576,325	\$ (3,175)	-0.5%
263	<b>Transfer to Non-Capital Reserves</b>						
264	Entrust Conservation Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
265	Restroom/Recreation/Conserve.	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	
266	Lareau Park Reserve [now part of CIP, Gen	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
267	Reappraisal Reserve	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
268	Town Forest Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
269	Energy Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
270	Budget Stabilization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
271	Street Trees	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
272	Agricultural Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
273	Church Clock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
274	Invasive Species Reserve	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
275	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 25,000	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
276	<b>Debt Service</b>						
277	Town Office Solar Array	\$ 46,831	\$ 45,944.50	\$ 44,988	\$ 43,984	\$ (1,004)	
278	Town Office	\$ 17,318	\$ 17,072.73	\$ 16,812	\$ 16,538	\$ (274)	
279	Storm Damage	\$ 26,550	\$ 25,749.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
280	Wastewater - "Big Pipe"	\$ 36,484	\$ 36,484.22	\$ 36,484	\$ 36,484	\$ (0)	
281	Decentralized Wastewater	\$ 26,681	\$ 25,281.64	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	\$ 0	
282	Fiscal Year Change	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
283	Water Main Break	\$ 15,877	\$ 15,378.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
284	Bridge Street Improvements	\$ 33,254	\$ 32,608.42	\$ 31,867	\$ 31,174	\$ (693)	
285	Grader [NEW]	\$ -	\$ 34,198.94	\$ 34,199	\$ 34,199	\$ -	
286	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 202,995	\$ 232,718.31	\$ 189,632	\$ 187,661	\$ (1,971)	-1.0%
287	<b>Wait House</b>						
288	Wait House Operations	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	
289	Wait House Capital (transfer)	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -	
290	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 4,500	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ -	0.0%
291							
292	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 2,139,206	\$ 2,333,355.60	\$ 2,676,401	\$ 2,752,344	\$ 75,943	2.8%

Proposed FY25 Notable Increases and Decreases  
**Amounts listed are all greater than \$2,500**

Increase	Amount Increase	Line #	Dept./Area	Detail
Election Expense	\$ 2,500	2	Elections & Town Meeting	This line is increased slightly to account for additional elections in FY25 compared to FY24, including the presidential election in November 2024
Insurance and Bonds	\$ 4,898	11	Town Office Operations	This is the General Fund's portion of the Town's property and casualty insurance which includes the Town Office, Joslin Memorial Library, and the General Wait House. The associated revenue lines have also been increased which will help balance the true impact of this line.
Salaries	\$ 30,456	26, 33, 44, 65, & 65	Town Clerk and Treasurer, Selectboard, Planning & Zoning, and Road Department	This account for a 3% cost of living wage increase for all staff in all departments.
Administrative & Board Assistant	\$ 62,000	27	Town Clerk & Treasurer	This role will support administrative front desk tasks and provide assistance to the Town Administrator and Selectboard. The position, as included in the budget, accounts for a 4-day work week (32 hours), budgeted at \$25 per hour with benefits
Wastewater Project	\$ 5,000	38	Selectboard	These funds have been added to support public outreach related to the proposed wastewater project.
Sand	\$ 12,000	113	Road Department (Materials)	The sand budget includes both the price per cubic yard of sand and the cost of hauling. The primary pit that the Town has used for its sand needs is closing, and as a result, hauling costs are anticipated to increase. There is some uncertainty about the cost per cubic yard, but the FY25 estimate is informed by the increase seen in the FY24 sand hauling contract.
Worker's Compensation	\$ 3,426	148	Employee Benefits	To cover the anticipated increase expected in 2024 based on current and estimated future rates.
Truck Repairs	\$ 11,000	165	Fire Department	The Fire Department has requested this increase to cover the cost of new tires needed for all vehicles.
Labor	\$ 12,404	175	Fire Department	This does not reflect an increase in the hourly rate (currently \$17/hr.) but is instead a more accurate account of the number of hours worked by WFFD volunteers. In the past, the estimated number of hours was about 1,600, but actual hours worked over the past few fiscal years is closer to 2,300 annually.
MRV Planning District	\$ 8,645	199	Dues and Assessments	The MRPVD Steering Committee adopted the organization's budget in January 2024, which included this increased funding request, sent to all three district towns.
Mad River Valley Seniors	\$ 3,000	220	Special Appropriations	The MRV Seniors explained in their application that this increase is needed to continue supporting programs such as Meals on Wheels, Free Wheelin', and their regular Senior Wellness Services. They have not asked for a budget increase since 2010.
Road Department Reserves	\$ 30,000	257	Capital Improvement Program	This is an effort to continue to better fund the Capital Reserves in an effort to both reduce the Town's need to take on debt and also reduce the need of significant capital appropriations in individual calendar years. The CIP summary table has been updated to show reserve balances over years included in the overall CIP.
General Project Specific Reserve	\$ 11,500	261	Capital Improvement Program	This increase reflects two capital expenditures proposed for FY25. The first is the Town's contribution of \$4,000 to Mad River Path for the Town's share of the Route 100 Scoping Study. The additional \$7,500 is allocated for a new Town Office printer.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 196,829</b>			

<u>Decrease</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>Line #</u>	<u>Detail</u>	
Special Planning Projects	\$ 8,000	42	Planning & Zoning	This line has been added to the Town Meeting Warning for the voter's consideration to create and fund a reserve fund for the purposes of supporting long range planning.
Crushed Gravel	\$ 30,000	115	Road Department (Materials)	The Selectboard is requesting that the voters also consider creating a reserve fund for this expense. Gravel crushing is only needed at the Town pit one every other or every three years. Fully funding this line only on years when crushing is needed resulting in budget fluctuations. The creation of a reserve fund that can be levelly funded over time is recommended.
Health Insurance	\$ 16,446	149	Employee Benefits	This reduction is a reflection of a change in employee enrollment.
Maintenance of Parks	\$ 3,500	240	Miscellaneous	This line was partially reduced in FY24 with the addition of a 4th Road Crew member. This line used to cover the cost of contracted town property lawn mowing, is now allocated for landscaping at the Town office as well as additional property and park maintenance tasks, such as removing dead trees on town-owned parcels.
Cemetery Commission Contributions	\$ 17,000	253	Miscellaneous	the Waitsfield Cemetery Commission received a contribution of \$17,000 in the FY24 budget to address a concern over a potential income shortfall in the Cemetery Trust due to market conditions at that time. This has been removed from the FY25 budget.
Road Department Capital Appropriations	\$ 54,200	256	Capital Improvement Program	There are not a significant number of capital projects proposed for FY25 and those that are will be primarily supported by the adequately funded reserve fund.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 129,146</b>			

## TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VT

### FY25 General Fund Budget -- Revenue Detail

Town Meeting 2024

	Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)
	<b>REVENUES</b>					
1	<u>Property Taxes</u>					
2	Municipal Property Taxes	\$ 1,609,089	\$ 2,029,667.00	\$ 2,245,576	\$ 2,292,800	\$ 47,224
3	Delinquent Penalty Fees	\$ 9,872.00	\$ 12,827.11	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000	
4	Delinquent Tax Interest	\$ 15,372.00	\$ 23,311.58	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 18,000	\$ 1,500
5	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 1,634,333	\$ 2,065,805.69	\$ 2,277,076	\$ 2,325,800	\$ 48,724
6	<u>Town Clerk and Treasurer</u>					
7	Town Clerk Fees	\$ 36,146	\$ 28,844.95	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,000	\$ (5,000)
8	Interest Income	\$ 2,692	\$ 18,534.97	\$ 10,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 7,500
9	Beverage Sale Permits	\$ 4,140	\$ 3,970.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
10	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 42,978	\$ 51,349.92	\$ 49,000	\$ 51,500	\$ 2,500
11	<u>Road Department</u>					
12	State Highway Aid	\$ 80,155	\$ 74,123.17	\$ 74,000	\$ 74,000	\$ -
13	Grants		\$ 9,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
14	Road Dept. Miscellaneous	\$ 2,307	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)
15	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 82,462	\$ 84,523.17	\$ 76,000	\$ 75,000	\$ (1,000)
16	<u>Public Safety</u>					
17	Fayston "Share" (40% of exp.)	\$ 59,869.00	\$ 54,882.88	\$ 68,185.38	\$ 76,659	\$ 8,474
18	Fire Admin Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,290.00	\$ 5,607	\$ 317
19	Miscellaneous Fire Income		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Fire Grants		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21	Traffic Control	\$ 3,495.00	\$ 5,095.67	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000	\$ -
22	Miscellaneous Police Income		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
23	Dog Impoundment Fees	\$ 205.00	\$ 721.55	\$ 150.00	\$ 150	\$ -
24	<b>Section TOTAL</b>	\$ 63,569	\$ 60,700.10	\$ 78,625	\$ 87,417	\$ 8,791
25	<u>General Government</u>					
26	Pilot Program	\$ 6,347.00	\$ 6,238.93	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ -
27	Current Use Reimbursement	\$ 105,048.00	\$ 110,612.00	\$ 106,500.00	\$ 110,000	\$ 3,500
28	Library Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 4,795.00	\$ 3,236.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,894	\$ 194
29	Wait House Insurance Reimburse.	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,117.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000	\$ 500
30	Water Admin. Reimbursement	\$ 3,263.00	\$ 3,575.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,150	\$ 150
31	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,207.00	\$ 1,215.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32	Act 60 Annual Support	\$ 10,745	\$ 10,830.00	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ -
33	Planning and Zoning Income	\$ 17,363	\$ 17,176.10	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -
34	Planning and Zoning Grants	\$ -	\$ 17,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Item	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Proposed	Change (FY24 to FY25)
Insurance Claims	\$ 30,420	\$ 524.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
"Other" Grant Proceeds	\$ 1,482.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Waitsfield Elem. School Solar	\$ 5,599.00	\$ 8,744.34	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Waitsfield Elem. School Snow Clearing [NEV]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500
Water System Hydrant Snow Clearing [New F	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
Solar Array Credit Proceeds	\$ 13,890.00	\$ 15,235.98	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 10,000	\$ 500
<b>Section TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 203,659</b>	<b>\$ 198,004.66</b>	<b>\$ 165,200</b>	<b>\$ 176,144</b>	<b>\$ 10,944</b>
<b>Decentralized Wastewater</b>					
WW Loan Re-Payments	\$ 129,960.00	\$ 34,023.86	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 36,484	\$ 5,484
<b>Section TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 129,960</b>	<b>\$ 34,023.86</b>	<b>\$ 31,000</b>	<b>\$ 36,484</b>	<b>\$ 5,484</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,156,961</b>	<b>\$ 2,494,407.40</b>	<b>\$ 2,676,901</b>	<b>\$ 2,752,344</b>	<b>\$ 75,443</b>

Municipal Property Tax "Calculator"			
	<i>FY25 Budget as Proposed</i>	\$	2,752,344
	<i>Non-property tax revenue</i>	\$	459,544
	<i>To Be Raised by Taxes (a)</i>	\$	2,292,800
	<i>Estimated Grand List (b)</i>	\$	3,861,840
	<i>Tax Rate "Formula"</i>	(a)/(b) = (c)	
	<i>FY25 Est. Municipal Property Tax Rate (c)</i>	\$	0.5937
	<i>FY25 Est. Local Agreement Rate* (d)</i>	\$	0.0036
	<b><i>FY25 Est. TOTAL Municipal Property Tax Rate (c+d)</i></b>	\$	<b>0.5973</b>
	<i>TOTAL +/- from FY24</i>	\$	0.0113
	<i>Percent Increase from FY24</i>		1.93%
<b>Impact for Residential Property Owners</b>			
Assessed Value	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
FY24 Taxes	\$ 1,172	\$ 1,758	\$ 2,344
FY25 est. Taxes	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,792	\$ 2,389
Annual Difference	\$ 22.61	\$ 33.92	\$ 45.23
Monthly Difference	\$ 1.88	\$ 2.83	\$ 3.77

*estimated 0.3% increase  
of FY24 grand list*

\*The local agreement rate is the amount needed to cover the education taxes lost from local property tax exemptions (the veteran's exemption, any non-residential exemptions, etc.). The rate is charged against the municipal grand list only. It was increased in 0.0036 in FY22 up from 0.0035 in FY21.

<b>Debt Service Schedule; General Fund Capacity and Debt Service Policy Goals</b>						
<i>Debt/Loan</i>	<i>FY24</i>	<i>FY25</i>	<i>FY26</i>	<i>FY27</i>	<i>FY28</i>	
Town Office/Solar Array	\$ 44,988	\$ 43,984	\$ 42,944	\$ 41,872	\$ 40,769	
Bridge Street Improvements	\$ 31,867	\$ 31,174	\$ 30,480	\$ 29,787	\$ 29,094	
Grader Replacement	\$ 34,199	\$ 34,199	\$ 34,199	\$ 34,199	\$ -	
Wastewater (Big Pipe)	\$ 36,484	\$ 36,484	\$ 36,484	\$ 36,484	\$ -	
Decentralized Wastewater	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	
Town Office	\$ 17,073	\$ 16,538	\$ 16,250	\$ 15,944	\$ 15,622	
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 189,892</b>	<b>\$ 187,661</b>	<b>\$ 185,639</b>	<b>\$ 183,568</b>	<b>\$ 110,767</b>	
<b>"New" GF Capacity Opened by Debt Service Retirement</b>						
	\$	2,232	\$ 2,022	\$ 2,071	\$ 72,801	
<b>Cumulative Capacity Opened - All Fiscal Years Shown</b>						<b>\$ 79,125</b>
<i>Water Debt</i>						
Water Bond	\$ 124,720	\$ 124,720	\$ 124,720	\$ 124,720	\$ 124,720	
Eagles Bond	\$ 8,276	\$ 8,276	\$ 8,276	\$ 8,276	\$ 8,276	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 132,996</b>					
<b>For planning/analysis purposes only</b>						
Gen'l Fund Budget (@ 2.9% inflation per FY)	\$ 2,673,901	\$ 2,745,829	\$ 2,819,692	\$ 2,895,541	\$ 2,973,432	
<b>Debt-to-expenditure ratio (estimated)*</b>	<b>7.10%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	

\*Debt-to-expenditure ratio based on General Fund debt service only; water debt is paid separately through user fees levied on customers.

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM  
FY25 - FY29**

**Town Meeting 2024**

Project/Item	Total cost (est.)	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
<b>ROADS, BRIDGES, CULVERTS</b>						
<b>Reserve Balances</b>						
<b>Paving Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance</b>		\$ 610,752.67	\$ 815,752.67	\$ 495,752.67	\$ 695,752.67	\$ 590,752.67
FY25 Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$ 205,000.00	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
<b>FY25 Payments out of Reserve</b>	Annual	\$ -	\$ 520,000.00	\$ -	\$ 305,000.00	\$ -
FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 815,752.67	\$ 495,752.67	\$ 695,752.67	\$ 590,752.67	\$ 790,752.67
<b>Bridge &amp; Culvert Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance</b>						
FY25 Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
<b>FY25 Payments out of Reserve</b>	Annual	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 308,627.46	\$ 283,627.46	\$ 358,627.46	\$ 433,627.46	\$ 508,627.46
<b>Paving Projects</b>						
East Warren Rd paving (FY26)	\$ 700,000					
<b>Paving Reserves</b>		\$ -	\$ 520,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Paving Grants		\$ -	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Future FY Paving Projects (Slow Road)	\$ 350,000					
<b>Paving Reserves</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 305,000	\$ -
Paving Grants		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000	\$ -
FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Culvert Projects</b>						
North Road Culvert (FY25)	\$ 65,000					
<b>Bridge and culvert reserves</b>		\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants / ARPA		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Common Road Culvert (FY26)	\$ 300,000.00					
<b>Bridge and culvert reserves</b>		\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Project/Item	Total cost (est.)	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
Structures Grants		\$ -	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Future FY Bridge Projects		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Bridge and culvert reserves</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Stormwater/MRGP projects</u>						
FY Appropriation	Annual	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 20,000
<b>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</b>		\$ 315,000	\$ 312,500	\$ 290,000	\$ 292,500	\$ 295,000
<b>HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES / BUILDINGS</b>						
<b>Reserve Balances</b>						
<b>Heavy Equipment Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance</b>		\$ 132,223.87	\$ 167,223.87	\$ 32,223.87	\$ 57,223.87	\$ 82,223.87
<i>FY25 Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
<b>FY25 Payments out of Reserve</b>	<b>Annual</b>	\$ -	\$ 160,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 167,223.87	\$ 32,223.87	\$ 57,223.87	\$ 82,223.87	\$ 107,223.87
<b>Road Dept. Vehicle Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance</b>		\$ 86,038.29	\$ 156,038.29	\$ 88,038.29	\$ 42,156.29	\$ 12,156.29
<i>FY25 Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
<b>FY25 Payments out of Reserve</b>	<b>Annual</b>	\$ -	\$ 218,000.00	\$ 195,882.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -
FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 156,038.29	\$ 88,038.29	\$ 42,156.29	\$ 12,156.29	\$ 162,156.29
<b>Heavy Equipment Purchases</b>						
Loader (FY26)	\$ 220,000					
<b>Heavy Equipment Reserves</b>		\$ -	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Backhoe (FY33)	\$ 160,000					
<b>Heavy Equipment Reserves</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>
64	<b>Vehicles Purchases</b>						
65	Pick-up Truck (FY27)	\$ 60,000					
66	<i>To replace 2021 GMC 3500 Pick Up</i>						
67	Truck Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -
68	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
69							
70	International Single Axle Dump Truck (FY27)	\$ 190,000					
71	<i>to replace 2020 International Dump Truck/Single</i>						
72	Truck Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,882	\$ -	\$ -
73	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
74							
75	2025 HV507 Dump Truck (FY26)	\$ 218,000					
76	<i>to replace 2018 HV Truck/Lo Pro</i>						
77	Truck Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 218,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
78	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
79							
80	Tandem Dump Truck (FY28)	\$ 200,000					
81	<i>to replace 2021 Tandem Dump Truck</i>						
82	Truck Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,000	\$ -
83	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
84							
85	Paved Road Plan Update (5-Year)	\$ 7,500					
86	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ -
87							
88	Highway Garage Design & Planning	\$ 15,000					
89	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
90							
91	Salt/sand shed	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
92							
93	Chipper (FY26)	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
94	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
95	Hydraulic Press (FY25)	\$ 8,300					
96	FY Appropriation	\$ -	\$ 8,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
97	<b>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</b>		\$ 128,300	\$ 277,500	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000

	Project/Item	Total cost (est.)	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
98	<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING</b>						
99	<b>Reserve Summary</b>						
100	WFFD Building Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance		\$ 34,962.84	\$ 21,857.74	\$ 42,317.54	\$ 47,777.34	\$ 68,237.14
101	FY25 Transfers to Reserve Annual		\$ 30,420	\$ 34,984	\$ 34,984	\$ 34,984	\$ 34,984
102	FY25 Payments out of Reserve Annual		\$ 43,524.66	\$ 14,524.66	\$ 29,524.66	\$ 14,524.66	\$ 14,524.66
103	FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 21,857.74	\$ 42,317.54	\$ 47,777.34	\$ 68,237.14	\$ 88,696.94
104							
105	<b>WFFD Building and Equipment Repairs</b>						
106	Capital West Reserve Allocation (through FY34)						
107	Building Reserves Annual		\$ 9,525	\$ 9,525	\$ 9,525	\$ 9,525	\$ 9,525
108	FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
109							
110							
111	Miscellaneous Needs						
112	Building Reserves Annual		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
113	FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
114							
115	Extractor	\$ 50,000.00					
116	Building/Equipment Reserves		\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
117	Grant Funding		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
118	FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
119							
120	Rolston Road Hydrant	\$ 10,000.00					
121	Building/Equipment Reserves		\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
122	Grant Funding		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
123	FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
124							
125	Building Needs Assessment	\$ 15,000.00					
126	Building/Equipment Reserves		\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
127	Grant Funding		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
128	FY Appropriation		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
129	<b>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</b>		\$ 30,420	\$ 34,984	\$ 34,984	\$ 34,984	\$ 34,984
130							
131							

Project/Item		Total cost (est.)	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
132	<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>						
133	<b>Reserve Summary</b>						
134	WFFD Vehicle Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance		\$ 172,085.13	\$ 242,690.23	\$ 323,860.23	\$ 189,294.83	\$ 270,464.83
135	FY25 Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$ 76,605	\$ 81,170	\$ 81,170	\$ 81,170	\$ 81,170
136	FY25 Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 215,735.40	\$ -	\$ -
137	FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 242,690.23	\$ 323,860.23	\$ 189,294.83	\$ 270,464.83	\$ 351,634.83
138							
139	<b>WFFD Vehicle Purchases</b>						
140	Pumper [Engine 6] (FY44)	\$ 777,150					
141	Vehicle Reserves		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
142	FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
143							
144	Utility Van (FY33)	\$ 100,000					
145	Vehicle Reserves		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
146	FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
147							
148	International 7400 Pumper/Tanker (FY40)	\$ 472,221					
149	Vehicle Reserves		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
150	FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
151							
152	International 4400 Pumper [Engine #5] (FY27)	\$ 334,559					
153	Vehicle Reserves		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,735	\$ -	\$ -
154	FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
155							
156	Pick-up Truck	\$ 25,000					
157							
158	Fire Equipment Replacement/ Repairs	Annual					
159	Miscellaneous Needs	\$ 10,000.00					
160	Vehicle/Equipment Reserves		\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -
161	FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
162							
163	<b>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</b>		\$ 76,605	\$ 81,170	\$ 81,170	\$ 81,170	\$ 81,170
164							
165							

Project/Item	Total cost (est.)	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>						
<b>Reserve Summary</b>						
Lareau Park Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance		\$ 18,751.59	\$ 20,751.59	\$ 7,751.59	\$ 9,751.59	\$ 11,751.59
FY25 Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
FY25 Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 20,751.59	\$ 7,751.59	\$ 9,751.59	\$ 11,751.59	\$ 13,751.59
Path & Sidewalk Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance		\$ 58,493.01	\$ 62,493.01	\$ 72,493.01	\$ 84,993.01	\$ 97,493.01
FY25 Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
FY25 Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 62,493.01	\$ 72,493.01	\$ 84,993.01	\$ 97,493.01	\$ 109,993.01
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Projects</b>						
Future Lareau Swim Hole Access/Water Quality Project	\$ 17,500					
Lareau Park Reserves		\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sidewalk Maintenance Plan	\$ 6,000					
Path Reserve		\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mad River Path Route 100 Scoping Study contribution	\$ 4,000					
Path Reserve		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY Appropriations		\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-total to be raised with FY budget		\$ 16,000	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500
<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>						
<b>Reserve Summary</b>						
Covered Bridge Reserve - FY25 Estimated Starting Balance		\$ 12,140.11	\$ 14,640.11	\$ 19,640.11	\$ 23,140.11	\$ 26,640.11
FY25 Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
FY25 Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY25 Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$ 14,640.11	\$ 19,640.11	\$ 23,140.11	\$ 26,640.11	\$ 30,140.11

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>
199	<b>Covered Bridge Projects</b>						
200	Future Covered Bridge repair project						
201	<b>Covered Bridge Reserve</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
202	FY Appropriations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
203	<b>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</b>		\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
204	<b>OTHER CAPITAL NEEDS</b>						
205	<b>Capital Purchases</b>						
206	New Town Office Printer	\$ 7,500					
207	FY Appropriations		\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
208	<b>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</b>		\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
209	<b>*Total to be raised with FY25 Budget</b>		\$ 576,325	\$ 725,654	\$ 599,154	\$ 601,654	\$ 604,154
210							
211	<b>FY25 CIP FUNDING SUMMARY</b>						
212	General Fund Transfers to Capital Reserves		\$ 531,525	\$ 608,154	\$ 584,154	\$ 584,154	\$ 584,154
213	Direct FY Appropriations		\$ 44,800	\$ 117,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 20,000
214	Capital Reserves (expenditures of; see FY summary for more detail)		\$ 120,525	\$ 1,052,525	\$ 441,142	\$ 499,525	\$ 14,525
215	Grant Funding		\$ -	\$ 355,000	\$ -	\$ 175,000	\$ -
216	<b>TOTAL CIP</b>		\$ 696,849	\$ 2,133,179	\$ 1,040,297	\$ 1,276,179	\$ 618,679
217							

**\*DETAIL BY DEPARTMENT**

	<u>Total to be raised by FY25 budget</u>	<u>Department/Area</u>
219		
220	\$ 33,300	Road Department FY Appropriations
221	\$ 410,000	Road Department Reserve Transfers
222	\$ -	Fire Department FY Appropriations
223	\$ 107,025	Fire Department Reserve Transfers
224	\$ 14,500	General - Reserve Transfers
225	\$ 11,500	General - Project specific FY appropriations
226		
227	\$ 576,325	<b>TOTAL</b>

For Town Meeting 2024 - Not all reserves are shown

	<u>Reserve<sup>[1]</sup></u>	<u>Department/Area</u>	<u>Balance as of</u> <u>12/1/2023</u>	<u>FY24 Projected</u> <u>Remaining Use</u>	<u>FY24 Approved</u> <u>Transfers</u>	<u>FY25 Starting</u> <u>Balance</u>
1	Equip. Reserve - Highway Trucks	Road	\$ 19,788.29	\$ -	\$ 66,250.00	\$ 86,038.29
2	Equip. Reserve - Heavy Hwy Equip.	Road	\$ 90,973.87	\$ -	\$ 41,250.00	\$ 132,223.87
3	Paving	Road	\$ 434,502.67	\$ -	\$ 176,250.00	\$ 610,752.67
4	Culvert/Bridge Replacement	Road	\$ 222,377.46	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 96,250.00	\$ 273,627.46
5	Covered Bridge	Road	\$ 9,640.11	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,140.11
6	Equip/Truck Reserve - Fire Dept.	Fire	\$ 102,480.13	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 76,605.00	\$ 172,085.13
7	Fire Dept. Building and Equip.	Fire	\$ 29,067.84	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 20,895.00	\$ 34,962.84
8	Transportation Path Reserve	General	\$ 48,493.01	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 58,493.01
9	Restroom/Recreation/Conservation	General	\$ 65,422.60	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 85,422.60
10	Lareau Park Reserv	General	\$ 16,751.59	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 18,751.59
11	Energy Projects	General	\$ 9,056.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,056.61
12	Church Clock	General	\$ 1,936.98	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,936.98
13	Street Tree	General	\$ 14,955.56	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 19,955.56
14	Invasive Species Reserve	General	\$ 2,485.88	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,485.88
15		<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 1,067,933	\$ 67,000	\$ 527,000	\$ 1,517,933

**STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED**  
**July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**

	<b>FY2023</b>
<b>Grand List</b>	
Municipal Grand List	3,838,068
State Education Grand List	3,841,313
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	
<b>Tax Rates</b>	
Homestead Municipal	0.5323
Homestead Education	1.7109
Total Homestead Tax Rate	<u>2.2432</u>
Non-Residential Municipal	0.5323
Non-Residential Education	1.6463
Total Non-Residential Tax Rate	<u>2.1786</u>
<b>Taxes Billed (Grand List Value)</b>	
Municipal	\$ 2,029,554.43
Homestead Education	\$ 3,051,470.65
Non-Residential Education	\$ 3,374,438.14
Local Agreement	\$ 13,563.00
Total Taxes Billed	\$ 8,469,026.22
Plus late filed Homestead Declaration fees	0
Plus/Less Corrections, Abatement, State Adjustments	
Net Taxes Due	<u>\$ 8,469,026.22</u>
Less tax collections through June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 8,419,905.49</u>
Total FY2023 taxes due on June 30, 2023	\$ 49,120.73
<b>Delinquent Tax Collections</b>	
Beginning Delinquent Taxes due (FY19 & earlier years on Jan 2023)	\$ 32,438.00
Delinquent Taxes for FY23	\$ 49,120.73
Delinquent Tax Collections since 06/30/23	\$ (62,142.91)
Abatements/Adjustments	0
Balance of Delinquent Taxes as of 02/08/2024	<u>\$ 19,415.82</u>

## LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS

### **Town Office/Solar Array Bond**

<i>Original Date of Borrowing - July, 2014 (\$635,000.00) - US Bank</i>	
Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$412,750
Principal Repayment FY23	-\$31,750
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$381,000</b>
(Next Payment Due 12/01/24, Interest Rate 3.40%)	
Loan Maturity - December 2034	

### **Bridge Street Improvement Bond**

<i>Original Date of Borrowing - September, 2015 (\$400,000.00) - M&amp;T Bank</i>	
Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$239,998
Principal Repayment	-\$26,667
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$213,331</b>
(Next Payment Due September 1, 2024, Interest Rate 2.6%)	
Loan Maturity - September 2030	

### **Town Office Bond**

<i>Original Date of Borrowing - July 1, 2016 - Vermont Municipal Bond Bank</i>	
Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$183,750
Principal Repayments	-\$12,250
Note Balance on June 30, 2023	<b>\$171,500</b>
(Next Payment Due November 1, 2024, Interest Rate 1.491%)	
Loan Maturity - November 2036	

### **Water Main Break Loan**

<i>Original Date of Borrowing - May 11, 2018 People's United Bank</i>	
Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$14,950
Principal Repayment	-\$14,950
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$0</b>
Loan Fully Paid May 2023	

### **Storm Damage**

<i>Original Date of Borrowing - May, 2018 M&amp;T Bank</i>	
Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$25,000
Principal Repayment	-\$25,000
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$0</b>
Loan Fully Paid May 2023	

## Municipal Water and Wastewater

### **Decentralized Wastewater State Revolving Fund - Loan RF1-208**

<i>Renewed Date of Borrowing - April 9, 2012 (\$210,203) - VT DEC</i>	
Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$237,513
Principal Repayment	-\$20,531
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$216,982</b>
(Next Payment Due May 2024, Interest Rate 0.0%)	
Loan Maturity - November 2037	

### **Centralized Wastewater (Big Pipe) - Loan RF1-058**

<i>Renewed Date of Borrowing - November 12, 2012 (\$672,770) - VT DEC</i>	
Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$182,422
Principal Repayment	-\$36,484
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$145,938</b>
(Next Payment Due April 2024, Interest Rate 0.0%)	
Loan Maturity - May 2027	

**Water Construction Bond***Original Date of Borrowing - September, 2012 (\$3,014,000) - Dept. of Agriculture*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$2,562,969
Principal Repayment	-\$54,612
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$2,508,357</b>
<i>(Next Payment Due September 2024, Interest Rate 2.75%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - September 2052	

**Eagle's Water Construction Bond***Original Date of Borrowing - August, 2013 (\$200,000) - Dept. of Agriculture*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$175,241
Principal Repayment	-\$3,481
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$171,760</b>
<i>(Next Payment Due November 2024, Interest Rate 2.75%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - May 2054	

**SHORT-TERM INDEBTEDNESS****Grader Financed Lease to Buy***Date of Borrowing -November 2022 (\$161,110) - John Deere Credit 2.95%*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2022	\$161,110
Principal Repayment	-\$30,947
Note Balance on June 30 , 2023	<b>\$130,163</b>
<i>(Next Payment Due November 2024, Interest Rate 2.0%)</i>	
Loan Maturity November 2026	

## TOWN RESERVE FUNDS

### ROAD DEPARTMENT-TRUCKS

Balance June 30, 2022	\$68,918
Deposits	\$70,000
Withdrawals	(\$119,335)
Interest Earned	\$21
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$19,604</u>

### ROAD DEPARTMENT HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Balance June 30, 2022	\$49,595
Deposits	\$40,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$429
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$90,024</u>

### FIRE DEPARTMENT-TRUCKS

Balance June 30, 2022	\$61,275
Deposits	\$85,841
Loan Proceeds	\$0
Withdrawals	(\$45,809)
Interest Earned	\$109
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$101,416</u>

### FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$22,086
Deposits	\$12,800
Withdrawals	(\$6,218)
Interest Earned	\$99
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$28,767</u>

### RECREATION & CONSERVATION RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$39,474
Deposits	\$20,400
Withdrawals	\$4,850
Interest Earned	\$39
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$64,763</u>

### ENTRUST CONSERVATION RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$14,240
Deposits	\$0

## TOWN RESERVE FUNDS

Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$30
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$14,270</u>

### TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$53,298
Deposits	\$10,060
Withdrawals	(\$3,705)
Transfer to Scrag Mtn CD	\$0
Interest Earned	\$114
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$59,767</u>

### TRANSPORTATION PATH RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$37,687
Deposits	\$10,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$300
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$47,987</u>

### LAREAU PARK IMPROVEMENT RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$10,491
Deposits	\$6,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$86
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$16,577</u>

### STREET TREES RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$9,775
Deposits	\$5,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$25
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$14,800</u>

### REAPPRAISAL RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$99,900
Deposits	\$10,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$788
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$110,688</u>

## TOWN RESERVE FUNDS

### ENERGY PROJECTS RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$8,894
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$69
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$8,963</u>

### BRIDGE & CULVERT RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$139,287
Deposits	\$80,000
Withdrawals	(\$59,530)
Interest Earned	\$774
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$160,531</u>

### SCRAG MTN FOREST RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$57,306
Transfer from Town Forest Reserve	
Withdrawals	(\$3,705)
Interest Earned	\$642
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$54,243</u>

### AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2022	\$10,090
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$78
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$10,168</u>

### PAVING

Balance June 30, 2022	\$350,022
Deposits	\$150,000
Withdrawals	(\$72,348)
Interest Earned	\$2,290
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$429,964</u>

## OTHER TOWN FUND

### GENERAL WAIT HOUSE MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

Balance June 30, 2022	\$3,113
Deposits (Rental Income)	\$10,481
General Fund Appropriation-Operations	\$4,000

## TOWN RESERVE FUNDS

General Fund Appropriation-Capital	\$5,000
Withdrawals	(\$27,973)
Interest Earned	\$39
Wait House Private Donation	<u>\$41,000</u>
Balance June 30, 2023	<b>\$35,660</b>

### RECORDS RESTORATION

Balance June 30, 2022	\$61,932
Deposits	\$7,896
Withdrawals	(\$10,839)
Interest Earned	\$0
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$58,989</u>

### BELDEN FUND (Town Clock Waitfield United Church of Christ)

Balance June 30, 2022	\$1,913
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$4
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$1,917</u>

### COVERED BRIDGE REPAIR

Balance June 30, 2022	\$7,523
Deposits	\$2,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$18
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$9,541</u>

### FARLEY RIVERSIDE PARK

Balance June 30, 2022	\$0
Deposits	\$48,782
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$0
Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$48,782</u>

### WATER FUND

Balance June 30, 2022	\$343,000
Revenue-Operations	\$177,244
Revenue-Interest	\$60
Withdrawals-Operations & Debt	<u>(\$137,568)</u>
Balance June 30, 2023	<b>\$382,736</b>

## **Fiscal Year 2023 -Audit Discussion and Financial Highlights**

### Independent Auditor's Report

This 2023 Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 includes an "Unqualified" Opinion (which is the best we can get). This is the fifth consecutive year that we have achieved this goal.

### Statement of Net Position

The Town's (government-wide) modified cash basis net position increased by \$604,485 during the fiscal year from \$2,619,418 to \$3,223,703 (Exhibit B, Page 5). This is the sum of the increase of \$532,063 for Governmental Activities and the increase of \$72,222 for Business-type Activities. The net position may serve over time to be a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the Town of Waitsfield, assets exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$2,805,307 at the close of fiscal year 2023 on the modified cash basis of accounting.

The Town's General Fund unassigned fund balance increased by \$37,467 during the fiscal year from \$436,166 to \$473,633. The Fund Balance Policy sets a goal of an unassigned fund balance equal to two month's expenditures (17% or \$454,563).

The Town's Business-type Activities are the Water Fund and the Wait House Fund. The Business-type Activities net position increased by \$72,222 during the fiscal year from \$346,174 to \$436,166 (Exhibit E). The Water Fund's net position increased to \$382,737 while the Wait House Fund increased to \$35,659.

In addition to the eight major governmental funds, the Town of Waitsfield maintains twenty-four (24) non-major governmental funds which is the same as last year's audit. Information on these government funds is presented in Exhibit C, Exhibit D and the Combining Schedules 2 through 7.

### General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The General Fund is used to record all resource inflows and outflows that are not associated with special-purpose funds. The activities being paid for through the general fund constitute the core administrative and operational tasks of the Town. The residents adopt an annual appropriated budget for its General Fund at the March Town Meeting. Capital/One-Time Expenditures are included in the General Fund financial reporting. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the General Fund in Schedule 1 beginning on page 32.

For fiscal year 2023 the General Fund had a \$204,708 Excess of Cash

Receipts over Cash Disbursements (surplus). Total receipts were \$99,352 more than budgeted. Revenues that were higher than anticipated were Zoning Fees, Road Department and Planning & Zoning Grants, Property Tax Receipts, and Interest Income revenue.

Total Disbursements were \$105,356 less than budgeted. Town Office Operations were \$23,414 less than anticipated, road department materials were \$25,003 less than expected, road department hired labor and miscellaneous lines were \$28,208 less than budgeted, and public safety was \$11,334 below expected.

#### Water Fund

The Water Fund ended the year with a Net Position of \$382,737 which was \$39,676 higher than the balance at June 30, 2022. Water User Fees were \$10,705 higher than budgeted. The Water Fund's disbursements were \$9,682 less than the budget. The Water Fund invested \$240,000 into two separate CD's utilizing existing reserve fund balances.

#### Debt

Total Debt, as of June 30, 2023 for Governmental Activities and the Water Fund is \$3,939,031 which is \$256,672 lower than June 30, 2022. Both the Water Main Break and Storm Damage Loans were paid off in FY2023. The Town didn't take on any new debt in FY2023.

Questions concerning any of the information provided in the audit report or requests for additional information should be addressed to Randy Brittingham, Town Treasurer/Grant Administrator, Town of Waitsfield.

**TOWN CLERK  
STATEMENT OF FEES COLLECTED  
JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023**

Recording fees:	\$ 29,740.00
Search fees:	\$ 1,031.00
Copies:	\$ 6,077.00
Permit fees:	\$ 189.00
(land posting, garage sales, Green Mountain Passports)	
Marriage Licenses, less state fees:	\$ 370.00
Dog Licenses, less state fees:	\$ 1,222.00
Miscellaneous fees:	<u>\$ 156.00</u>
(late dog fines, replacement dog tags, postage reim.)	
Total Fees Collected:	\$ 38,785.00

**Vital Statistics**

Births:	16
Deaths:	12
Marriage Licenses Issued:	36

**CURRENT DELINQUENT TAX LIST**  
**As of February 9, 2024**

NAME	2023	2022	2021	TOTAL
Eurich, Elaine	\$1,025.67			
Fasner, David C.	\$348.62			
Pierce, Larry H. (c/o Riley Lush)	\$183.85			
Smith, Jason	\$252.43			
Wilson, Joan F.	\$6,701.36	\$6,569.40	\$4,334.49	
<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>\$8,511.93</b>	<b>\$6,569.40</b>	<b>\$4,334.49</b>	<b><u><u>\$19,415.82</u></u></b>

**Waitsfield Cemetery Commission  
Fiscal Year Financial Report  
July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023**

**Northfield Bank**

**Balance: July 1, 2022: \$41,970.59**

**Income:**

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>\$8,580.00</b>
<b>Lot Sales</b>	<b>\$1,180.00</b>
<b>Burial Fees</b>	<b>\$2,700.00</b>
<b>Misc.</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,510.00</b>

**Expenses:**

<b>Sexton</b>	<b>\$26,600</b>
<b>Perpetual Care</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>
<b>Burials</b>	<b>\$1,825.00</b>
<b>Cornerstones</b>	<b>\$1,220.00</b>
<b>Misc.</b>	<b>\$3,363.19</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$33,658.19</b>

**Northfield Bank: Balance as of 6/30/23:  
\$21,800.40**

**Commissioners:**

Mark Peal, *President*  
*Sexton*

George Gabaree, Jr.,

Laura Brines, *Secretary*

Nancy Coombs, *Treasurer*

Robin McDermott

Robin Preuss

**WAITSFIELD CEMETERY TRUST**

**Fiscal Year 2023**

**INVESTMENTS**

Period Ending	6/24/2022	6/30/2023
	Cost Basis	Cost Basis
Common Stock	\$12,745.83	\$13,160.19
Mutual Funds	\$327,092.80	\$344,101.16
Money Market	\$29,054.36	\$1,535.88
Exchange Traded Funds	\$15,452.90	\$10,378.08
CDs		\$20,000.00
Corporate Bonds	\$9,094.86	\$10,000.00
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Total</i>	\$393,440.75	\$399,175.31
<i>Market Value</i>	\$396,834.94	\$422,124.54

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>FY 22</b>	<b>FY 23</b>
Investment Income	\$32,121.96	\$18,442.64
Lot Purchases	\$350.00	\$650.00
Interest		
Miscellaneous	\$35.53	
	\$32,507.49	\$19,092.64

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>FY 22</b>	<b>FY 23</b>
Perpetual Care	\$23,792.00	\$8,580.00
Investment Mgmt. Fees	\$3,265.26	\$2,823.16
Miscellaneous		
	\$27,057.26	\$11,403.16

**NOTES:**

1. Reduction in Perpetual Care contributions to Cemetery Commission operations due to Trust portfolio value being at or below cost basis of investments during depressed investment markets periods.
2. Investment markets have recovered since the period of this report.

Gilbert Geiger, Chairman

Robert L. Cook, Treasurer

Andrew Baird, Jr.

## Waitsfield Planning Commission 2023 Report

2023 was another busy year of hard work for your Planning Commission. Our Town Plan with revisions was approved by the Central Regional Vermont Planning Commission Municipal Plan Committee and the Board of Commissioners. Waitsfield also received a Certificate of Energy Compliance and Enhanced Energy Planning. The CVRPC committees commented on how well done our Town Plan is and how “every Town Plan should be like Waitsfield’s.”

The ByLaws Modernization Project was completed, refining ByLaws for Irasville and the Village Residential District. The new ByLaws are meant to address housing, promote walkable development and create a “vibrant village” with a neighborhood feel. The new byLaws are also consistent with S.100 the “Home Bill” passed by the State Legislature in 2023.

On to 2024. Our new project is the Municipal Planning Grant to create a “Master Plan” for Irasville and the Villages. This project will build on the new ByLaws to identify possibilities for development, improve walking and traffic patterns for the future. A wetlands study is included in this grant. We thank the Town of Fayston for agreeing to join us in the grant application to ACCD (Agency of Commerce and Community Development) so we could maximize the grant amount to \$45,000.

Also in progress is an application to ACCD to define a Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) for Irasville. This will make more benefits available to the area and will help with our Wastewater grant eligibility. In the Spring we will begin work on new River Corridor ByLaws.

Planning Commission members performed yeoman’s work for our Town in 2023. As Chair I thank them all for this work and for putting up with my coughing during a bout of pneumonia.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Anderson, ViceChair  
Beth Cook  
Robert Cook  
Emma Hanson  
AnnMarie Harmon  
Alice Peal, Chair  
Jonathan Ursprung

**WAITSFIELD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**  
**2023 Annual Report**

The Waitsfield Development Review Board (DRB) is comprised of seven members appointed by the Selectboard. Up to two alternate members can be appointed to serve in the absence of a quorum of regular members. The Board's function is to administer the Town's Zoning Bylaws and Subdivision Regulations in conjunction with the Zoning Administrator. Specifically, the Board reviews applications for conditional use approval, the subdivision of land, requests for variances, and it considers appeals of Zoning Administrator decisions. A permit is required for most development activity in the town. Landowners are encouraged to consult with the Zoning Administrator at the early stage of project planning, before starting any construction or site development.

Overall, 84 total permits were issued in 2023, compared to 85 permits in 2022 and 73 permits in 2021. The Board reviewed 6 subdivision applications. The DRB issued 15 conditional use approvals. The DRB did not issue any denials for conditional use applications. In addition to the projects approved by the DRB, the Planning & Zoning Administrator issued 63 zoning permits in 2022, including 8 for new single-family homes, 4 accessory dwelling units, and 2 apartments. The PZA also issued 15 Certificates of Occupancy.

The DRB meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. both in person at the Town Office and via Zoom. Notices of public hearings are published in The Valley Reporter and on-line on the Town Website.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Duncan Brines  
John Donaldson, Chair  
Gib Geiger  
Steve McKenzie, Vice Chair  
Rudy Polwin  
Jim Tabor  
Jonathon Ursprung

## Waitsfield Road Department review 2023

The Town of Waitsfield's Road Department has been around since the late 1970's. Prior to that, the roads were maintained by private contractor. Today, the department has grown to a four person crew, with up to date equipment and the knowledge that goes with.

That knowledge has been tested through many events as the years have gone by, and 2023 is no exception. Our winter started with a mixed bag of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and wind. Just the usual stuff a road department deals with every day.

It took a bit for winter to kick in, but when it did, oh how the snow fell! February and March left us in winter wonderland. Brief as it was, the spring thaw was slow and steady, helping our roads to not turn into jello.

The summer work season started off with a bang, grading, ditching and mowing the roads sides. All the things that we do each year were met with a potpourri of weather. The summer turned a tad damp. Not only damp, it was chilly too. It was a back and forth summer, with rain, then a couple of nice days, then cool, and showers. Of course, the crew kept things going,, despite wash outs and rough roads due to the weather. Then as we approached the fall season, it seems that all things somehow worked out and a good summer season of dirt work proved successful.

Well, the calendar never stops. Yep, fall is coming and that means we start the final touch up of our roads. Final grading, another quick pass of road side mowing, and getting plow equipment on the trucks. And now, there in an addition this year.

We have hired a fourth person. The Town crew is going to take control of the sidewalk, and, the Town owed parcels for summer mowing. This meant the purchase of a new machine that can blow snow and mow grass. With the help of our ARPA funds, we were able to purchase this machine without any major impact on our budget.

It did not take long for the new machine to be put to work, and it is living up to its expectations. The crew is starting winter maintenance of our roads, as well. It sure did start off snowy and cold, but before you knew it, December turned warmish and things got a little muddy. But hey, this is what we do, get out there and deal with Mommy Nature gives us.

Our crew is led by Josh Rogers, a 13-year veteran, Taylor Armstrong, 9 years, Jason Blake, 3 years, and our new employee, Steve Wilder. These folks are on call for the 6 months of winter, ready to take on whatever comes their way, keeping our roads safe. Then they spend the summer months at day in and day out parties. Just kidding.

Charlie Goodman, Waitsfield Road Commissioner

## Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department Report 2024

### 2024 Roster

#### Officers:

**Chief-** Tripp Johnson  
**1st Assistant Chief-**  
 Jared Young  
**2nd Assistant Chief-**  
 Craig Snell  
**Captain-** Daniel  
 Beede  
**Lieutenant-** Eli  
 McCoy  
**Lieutenant-** Evan  
 Dacosta  
**Safety Officer-** Kaylie  
 Viens  
**Treasurer-** Gordon  
 Eurich  
**Secretary-** Shannon  
 Young  
**Moderator-** George  
 Gabaree Jr.

#### Firefighters:

Paul Hartshorn  
 Josh Livingston  
 Eric Haskin  
 Kirsten Andreae  
 Tristan Weide  
 Karina Malkovsky  
 Bob Lockett  
 Ted Savage  
 Josh Noyes  
 Todd Farnham  
 Eli Viens  
 Cameron Mills  
 Evan Theurer  
 Allen Greenslit  
 Patrick Snell  
 Andy Johnson

### Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department: Chief's Report

2023 Has been another busy year for the WFFD. Our team has answered 126 calls for assistance this year. We have also had 23 training sessions and countless hours on maintenance of our equipment.

We had five members go to a weekend course at the Franklin Fire School and we had one member complete Firefighter One. Additionally, we have approximately six members VERY interested in taking Firefighter One. This is a 220-hour course that is pending Vermont Fire Academy approval and should be held in east Montpelier starting in the Fall of 2024. This is a long course and requires a lot of dedication from our members.

We look forward to serving our community in 2024. Our goal this year is working on our fire fighter safety as always, we want to take a closer look at 'after the call.' Gear & equipment cleanliness and completing the gear extractor installation are critical for us to make a decontamination space in the fire house. This is our main priority for this year. Heart attacks and cancer are the #1 & 2 killers in the firefighting world today.

With the help of the selectboard and the community I know that we can achieve these goals for our fire fighters. It has been an honor serving the community this year and we would like to thank you for your support. Without this extraordinary community we couldn't do what we do.

Sincerely  
 Tripp Johnson  
 Chief

**Calls by Type  
2023**

<b>Call Type</b>	<b>Waitsfield</b>	<b>Fayston</b>	<b>Moretown</b>	<b>Warren</b>	<b>Duxbury</b>	<b>Northfield</b>	<b>Total</b>
Structure Fire	1	1		2			4
Rekindle	1						1
Vehicle Fire	1	1	1				3
Contained Fire	1						1
Appliance Smoking/ On Fire	1	2					3
Smoke/Fire Alarm Activation- No Fire	23	21			1		45
CO Alarm Activation- No CO	1	3					4
CO in Building	3						3
Motor Vehicle Accident	16	4	2				22
Down Power lines/ Tree on Lines	4	1			1		6
Power Pole on Fire	1						1
Power Line Fuse or Transformer Malfunction		1					1
Chemical Smell/ Propane Smell	5	2					7
Wildland Fire		2				1	3
Mutual Aid Standby				1			1
Service Call	2	1					3
Unpermitted Burn	1	1					2
Extinguish Unattended Burn	1						1
Good Intent- Called in by passerby but not an emergency	6	3					9
Elevator Alarm- No Emergency		1					1
Medical Assist	5						5
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>126</b>

## Waitsfield Water Commission – 2023 Annual Report

Last year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town’s community water system coming on-line. During that time, the system has been funded entirely by its customers, with no support from Waitsfield property taxpayers other than to pay for water in public buildings and enhanced fire protection within the water service area.

Moving forward, the Waitsfield Water Commission’s work is focused on continuing to maintain a healthy water supply for residents and businesses. We are grateful to Simon Operation Service (SOS) for operating a safe and high-quality water system. SOS is under contract to continue operating the system through 2026.

We continue to operate a non-chlorinated system that is tested monthly and flushed annually in September. In addition, there are other tests run every 3 years. In 2023 the Water System was tested for polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which are harmful to humans and regulated by the State Drinking Water Division. Our PFSA test results passed with a “Non-Detect” in all categories.

PFAS have been detected in well water in other communities in Vermont, and many towns have adopted Ground Water and Well Source Protection Zoning Overlays to protect their water sources from PFAS and other contaminants. The Water Commission and Town staff have drafted such an overlay to protect the Town’s Water System. In 2024 the Water Commission will be reviewing the draft with the Planning Commission.

The Water System also has healthy financials, including a balanced budget that allowed us to maintain stable user rates for 2023/24 and create a 40-year asset replacement reserve fund.

The Water Commission consists of five-members appointed by the Selectboard. The Commissioners are Robin Morris (Chair), Pete Reynells (Vice Chair), Peter Lazorchak, Bill Parker, and Brian Shupe.

The Water Commission meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Town Office.

Robin Morris, Chair

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2023 Annual Report

We kept at Knotweed control on many sites and continued the floodplain restoration project downstream of Lareau swim hole. One hundred fifty native trees and shrubs were planted at (now officially named) Farley Riverside Park, Lareau Park and the Austin parcel, with the goal of changing these sites from Knotweed monocultures to healthy native habitat. Thanks to our Chair's work and help from others, the Valley towns received a two year Knotweed control grant of \$100,000 from the Lake Champlain Basin Program – a huge boost.

*The 2023 Knotweed Report can be found here:*

<https://waitsfieldvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/WCC-2023-Knotweed-Report.pdf>

But this control task is labor intensive. We'd like to find a biodegradable mat that would smother knotweed for about five years, which could act as a seedbed, the mat later to decompose in place. Everyone – is something like this out there in the marketplace?

We expanded the trail system at Scrag – the first built-for-hikers trail with more narrow and gentle profiles than earlier tractor-sized versions built for timber harvesting. News of trail completion was well-received, generating 100 requests for maps in a few days after notification! This accomplishes the first part of a planned expansion of the network into higher elevation territory near the summit.

Near year end, a strong spirit of understanding, shared compassion and trusting generosity came forth. Waitsfield was donated the old Fairgrounds property. This is a 110-acre tract located behind the Catholic church, abutting the south side of the Wu Ledges town forest with frontage on the east side of Mad River. It's the site of former outdoor fairs – tents, horses and wagons, a racetrack and all that – a natural and cultural resource the town has been interested in owning for 40 years. We'll study it from several perspectives, develop a management plan and seek your participation in the process.

Waitsfield now owns a little over 1,000 acres of primarily forest land. From the streambed of Mad River to summits on Northfield Ridge, the slopes and waters of Wu Ledges and Scrag forests contain a variety of habitats serving as homes for a great natural biodiversity of plant, animal and aquatic life.

Scrag is a working forest. With help from the state's Washington county forester, it produces income through periodic sales of standing timber. Also, in good Vermont tradition, we have a sugaring / maple tapping lease there and the town receives income each year from the lessee. Plus the big area is highly popular with hikers.

Wu Ledges forest is more oriented to recreation. With walking trails and now enlarged ownership of the Lareau swim hole, Wu gives us a popular place for water-based enjoyment plus a great site to overlook our Valley countryside.

Residents and visitors alike take notice of the deep and lasting values of our terrestrial environment. They get out there to experience relief from the burdens of everyday life; recharging the strengths of optimism and genuinely becoming more healthy while having a good time at the same time. Outdoor recreation is the driving economic force here in the Valley. Scrag and Wu are right in there as active participants in forming our identity and hosting and inspiring users.

Thanks to good helpers: To James Donaldson for outstanding work in managing the Scrag trail expansion project. To PJ Telep for service to our Conservation Commission. To Gail O'Keefe for joining this team. To *The Valley Reporter* for good coverage of major events. To the volunteers and kindred spirits who really cause things to happen. To Warren, Fayston and Moretown for sharing concerns and how to accomplish good works. To Friends of Mad River, Mad River Path and VT Land Trust for living the land ethic. And to you, reading this Report, for caring about this valley and its natural world.

The Commission typically meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and the public is always welcome. Comments about the Commission's work are always helpful. Contact Curt Lindberg at [wccLindberg@gmail.com](mailto:wccLindberg@gmail.com) or Leo Laferriere at [leol@gmavt.net](mailto:leol@gmavt.net).

Respectfully submitted,  
Curt Lindberg, Chair  
Leo Laferriere, Vice-Chair  
Gail O'Keefe, Secretary  
Bruno Grimaldi, Treasurer

Bob Cook  
James Donaldson  
Ted Joslin  
Phil Huffman  
Chris Loomis



**MAD RIVER VALLEY**  
PLANNING DISTRICT

**2023 Annual Report**

The Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD) was created in 1985 by the towns of Fayston, Warren, & Waitsfield to carry out a program of planning for the MRV directed toward its physical, social, economic, fiscal, environmental, cultural, and aesthetic wellbeing. To this end, MRVPD provides professional planning, leadership, coordination, awareness, execution, and grant support to the MRV and its member towns. MRVPD focused on a broad range of activities during the past year, including, but not limited to, project management for Waitsfield’s Wastewater Planning Project, publishing an overhauled *2023 Annual MRV Data Report*, supporting pedestrian safety measures, and implementing the *Boyce Hill Town Forest Education Project*. MRVPD brought \$1.394 million in grants to the MRV in 2023, either through direct pursuit or guidance and support to town officials or local entities, totaling \$5.6 million since 2009. Additional detail on the organization’s efforts can be found in *MRVPD’s 2023 Year in Review* at [mrvpd.org](http://mrvpd.org).

For FY25, MRVPD requests funding of \$53,962 from each of its four funders, Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren, and Sugarbush Resort.

MRVPD’s activities are overseen by a 7-voting member Steering Committee, consisting of a representative from each member town’s Selectboard and Planning Commission and a representative from the MRV Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, representatives from Sugarbush Resort and CVRPC serve as non-voting members. MRVPD Steering Committee meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the third Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the Waitsfield Town Office. Meeting details are at [mrvpd.org](http://mrvpd.org). Staffing consists of Joshua Schwartz, Executive Director, & Sam Robinson, Community Planner.

**Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee**

- Bob Ackland, Warren Selectboard (Chair)
- Dan Raddock, Warren Planning Commission (Vice Chair)
- Jared Cadwell, Fayston Selectboard (Secretary & Treasurer)
- Brian Shupe, Waitsfield Selectboard
- Alice Peal, Waitsfield Planning Commission
- Douglas Day, Fayston Planning Commission
- Margo Wade, Sugarbush Resort
- Eric Friedman, Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Christian Meyer, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

<p><b>Mad River Valley Recreation District Annual Report</b></p> <p>Mad River Valley Recreation District (MRVRD) is a Union Municipal District formed by the towns of Waitsfield, Warren and Fayston in 1994. The MRVRD seeks to facilitate, enhance and create recreational opportunities throughout the Mad River Valley that promote community vitality, physical fitness, appreciation for the outdoors and a high quality of life. The MRVRD owns and manages the Mad River Park Recreational Fields, operates a recreation grant program and supports diverse recreation opportunities important for community health and economic vitality in the Valley.</p> <p>In 2023, 13 non-profits requested \$50,954 in grants and the MRVRD awarded 13 grants providing \$45,400 in financial support to the organizations listed on the right. For 2024, the MRVRD considered 13 grant requests and allocated \$49,023 in grants to these non-profits. These investments will increase access to diverse recreational opportunities for all members of our community, as well as visitors.</p> <p>MRVRD accomplishments in 2023 included: launching our irrigation equipment at Mad River Park, an above ground system that can be used when the fields are dry; along with partners, opening MRV Dog Park, located at Brooks Field built with locally raised funds and a Better Places grant from the State; in-depth interviews with our grant partners and conducted in-person and online survey with approximately 250 responses from individuals; continued participation in stewardMRV; continued leadership in collaborating with six partners to get and implement a Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grant for 408K. Managing and administering that grant is our main focus for 2023 and 2024. We are helping to lead the Community Recreation Visioning (CRV) project, a sub-component of the VOREC grant.</p>	<b>Beginning Balance (Jan 1, 2023)</b>	<b>\$5,189</b>
	<b>Income</b>	
	Funding from Towns	\$120,000
	Moretown	\$3,000
	<b>Expenditures</b>	
	Bill Koch League	\$2,500
	Couples Club	\$6,000
	Harwood Youth Basketball	\$4,000
	Mad River Little League	\$5,000
	Mad River Park	\$9,000
	Mad River Path	\$2,000
	Mad River Ridge Runners	\$4,000
	Mad River CoEd Softball	\$3,500
	MRV Dog Park	\$1,137
Mad Valley Sports, Inc.	\$5,000	
Pickleball	\$1,400	

<p>The goal of CRV is to bring conservation and recreation experts together to develop a Valley-wide vision for forest-based recreation that optimizes outdoor recreation for all its benefits while sustaining and enhancing the ecological integrity of the Mad River Valley. Multiple events are in the works for 2024 to further engage the Mad River Valley community. The grant deliverables include maps and a set of shared goals and guiding principles that together will provide a route forward for our community to achieve this balance. For more information: <a href="https://www.mrvrd.org/about-crv">https://www.mrvrd.org/about-crv</a></p> <p>MRVRD is once again requesting \$40,000 from each member town in the fiscal year 2024 to continue the recreation grant program, provide for operations and improvements at Mad River Park and enable our Executive Director, Laura Arnesen, to advance the MRVRD's strategic organizational goals. The MRVRD Board encourages groups and individuals who are interested in creating recreational opportunities in the Mad River Valley to visit <a href="http://mrvrd.org">mrvrd.org</a> or contact any member of the Board. The board meets the third Tuesday of each month and seeks involvement and input from the community. The volunteer MRVRD board members have been appointed by the Select Boards of their respective towns and serve 1 or 3 year terms. Contact any of us if you are interested in joining the team.</p> <p><b>Executive Director:</b> Laura Arnesen, Warren</p> <p><b>Board:</b> Alice Rodgers(2024), Warren - Chair; Mary Simmons(2024), Waitsfield - MRP Field Manager; Doug Bergstein(2026), Warren - Treasurer; Molly Bagnato(2024), Fayston - coSecretary; Luke Foley(2025), Waitsfield; Peter Oliver(2025), Warren - coSecretary; John Stokes(2026), Fayston; Corey Ayotte(2025), Fayston, Gina Gaidys(2026), Waitsfield</p>	Skatium	\$3,000
	Warren SkatePark	\$4,000
	VOREC/CRV	\$13,702
	VOREC (reimbursable)	\$12,000
	Executive Director Salary/Benefits	\$41,831
	Memberships	\$1,195
	Website/Payroll	\$1,214
	Miscellaneous	\$1,616
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$89,961</b>
	<b>Ending Balance (Dec. 31, 2023)</b>	<b>\$752</b>
	<b>Trailhead Kiosk Project Balance</b>	<b>3,491</b>
	<b>Mad River Park Balance</b>	<b>\$11,834</b>
	<b>Projected Grants for 2024</b>	<b>\$49,502</b>

## **Mad River Resource Management Alliance**

The Mad River Resource Management Alliance (MRRMA) includes the Towns of Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren and Waterbury. The Alliance was formed through an Interlocal Agreement that began in 1994. We changed our name in 2008 to reflect the fact that we are managing resources not wastes.

The MRRMA held a Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day event at the Harwood Union High School in Duxbury on May 13, 2023. The Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection was held at the Crossett Brook Middle School in Duxbury on October 14, 2023. A total of 526 households participated in these events. We collected 13.17 tons of household hazardous waste at the events. Residents within the Alliance communities were able to bring all their architectural paints, waste pesticides, alkaline batteries and up to 10 additional gallons of hazardous waste to each event for disposal at no charge. The Alliance will swap your mercury fever thermometer for a digital thermometer at no charge at these events. Bring your mercury thermostats to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection and you will receive a coupon that can be redeemed for a \$5.00 rebate by the Thermostat Recycling Corporation which will process the thermostats. We are planning two collection day events in 2024 at Crossett Brook Middle School. They are scheduled for May 18, 2024 and October 12, 2024. We are continuing to work with Republic Services our hazardous waste contractor.

A total of 220 gallons of used crankcase oil was collected within the Alliance at our Used Oil Collection Tank during 2023. The tank is located in Waitsfield at the Earthwise Transfer Station.

In 2023 textiles were collected at Rodney's Rubbish Transfer Station and the Earthwise Transfer Station. The textiles are collected by Apparel Impact, a textile recycling company with facilities in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. They take clothing, footwear, linens, and accessories in any condition that are clean, dry and odorless at no charge. A total of 35.1 tons of textiles were collected in 2023 an increase of over 43% from 2022.

Casella/Grow Compost of Vermont collected food scraps and food processing residuals from the Washington West Supervisory Union waste streams and from other large generators in the MRRMA. A total of ~261 tons of food scraps were collected by Casella/Grow Compost of Vermont in 2023 in the MRRMA. Visit our web site at [madriverrma.org](http://madriverrma.org). You will find information on solid waste issues on this web site.

We continue to promote the sale of compost bins. This year we distributed 29 compost bins and 2 Green Cones. It is estimated that each compost bin can compost 650 pounds of garden and kitchen waste annually. This means rich soil to add to your garden and less waste to go to the landfill. We held two composting workshops for Alliance residents this year and expect to hold two more in 2024. The

Alliance held a car and pickup truck tire and metal collection event at the Earthwise Transfer Station with an additional collection at Rodney's Rubbish Transfer Station in conjunction with Green Up Day on May 6, 2023. A total of 9.49 tons of tires and ~1 ton of metal were collected during this event. We are planning to hold a spring tire and metal collection in conjunction with Green Up Day on May 4, 2024.

Alliance residents can bring their mixed paper, glass bottles and jars, metal cans and plastics #1 through #7, except for plastic film wrap, plastic bags, black plastic and beaded styrofoam for single stream recycling to the Earthwise Transfer Station and Rodney's Rubbish Transfer Station and Redemption Center. There are also local haulers and Saturday Fast Trash Collections available in the Mad River Resource Management Alliance. Currently the recyclables are taken to the Chittenden County Materials Recovery Facility for processing.

There is a charge for collecting and processing recyclables. Computers, printers, monitors and televisions can be recycled at no charge at the Earthwise Transfer Station or the State Surplus Property Office on Route 2 in Waterbury. Other e-waste can be brought to the State Surplus Property facility in Waterbury and recycled at a small per pound fee. During 2023, a total of 13.37 tons of e-waste was collected. Additional information on this program is found on our web site. The Alliance is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association which helps us market some recyclable commodities such as tires, propane cylinders other materials and assists with educational programs. The Alliance is also a member of the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI). As a stakeholder in the PSI we work with other entities to reduce the environmental and health impacts of a variety of consumer products. This is accomplished by looking at the life cycle impacts of products and their packaging. Things like energy and materials consumption, emissions during manufacturing, toxicity, worker safety and waste disposal are among the issues reviewed. The objective of product stewardship is to rethink the way things are created in order to have more sustainable products in the future. We are also a member of the Vermont Product Stewardship Council which provides a local focus on legislative initiatives and other stewardship issues.

Our Solid Waste Implementation Plan(SWIP) is updated every five years. The update is available for review at our website, [madriverrma.org](http://madriverrma.org).

Backyard burning of trash is illegal and causes air pollution problems. Be a good neighbor and don't burn trash. If you know of any illegal dumping sites within your town that would benefit from an Adopt a Site Program give John Malter, Alliance Administrator a call at 802-244-7373 and let's see what we can do to help eliminate these types of problems together. The FY24 assessment for the administration and programs remains at \$7.00 per capita.

The representatives of the Alliance include: Fayston, Chuck Martel; Moretown, Jonathan Siegel; Waitsfield, Sal Spinosa; Warren, Margo Wade; Waterbury, Alec Tuscany and John Malter from Waterbury is the Administrator for the Alliance.

## WAITSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

“Preserving the Past for the Future”

Our Society is entering its 54<sup>th</sup> year of existence with the gratitude going to past Board members for keeping our promise to “Preserve the Past”. This also takes the thoughtfulness of those considering to donate their former family items (as they clean out closets, drawers and boxes) to a place they will be cared for and made available to the future generations upon taking the interest of doing family research. Yes, research is done more than you would imagine and by people that live all across the United States, once they find their family ties are connected to Waitsfield, Vermont.

There is a file kept in our office of every contact we receive, by phone, email or in person of a research request. For this year we had 13 contacts and since 2021 we have had a total of 40.

Many times we can fill in the blanks for them as to the property or house where their ancestor lived. We have even driven some folks around town to show them places connected to their research. We may even have photos, much to their surprise, that they do not have in their collection. In the case they happen to be related to Gen. Benjamin Wait, and arrive in person, we don't have to go far since they are standing in his home of 1793, although in a slightly different spot. It was moved down from the meadow off Old County Road in the early 1830's. After Gen. Wait's death in 1822, his wife moved with a son, and the person who bought his property moved the house down to where it now stands.

If you have an interest in learning more about the town you live in, please read “History of Waitsfield, 1782-1908” by Matt Bushnell Jones. It is on our website “Waitsfield Historical Society” or the book can be purchased by contacting our office at “[stepback@gmavt.net](mailto:stepback@gmavt.net)” or 802-793-6037.

We are presently working on upgrading our website and hope to have that ready in the next few months.

We are always welcoming new members to our Historical Society, not to mention volunteers to help with any projects or programs we plan to present to the public. Our home is at the Gen. Benjamin Wait House on Main St.

We would love to hear from you whether you have any questions or have information for us. We do not have winter hours from October through April, but are happy to meet you on a day and time at your convenience.

From May through September our office is open on Wednesday from 2: - 5:pm. Hope to meet some new people this year.

Lois De Heer, President/Treasurer\*\*\*Bob Burley, Vice President  
(temp)\*\*\*Shirley Viens, Secretary (temp)  
Shirley Viens & Lois De Heer, Archivist

*Friends of the Mad River is a nonprofit organization dedicated to stewarding the Mad River watershed's healthy **land** and clean **water** for our **community** and for future generations. Together, we **learn** about the health of the land and water; **conserve** our natural resources; and **celebrate** this special place.*

In 2023, with the help of municipal, agency, and non-profit partners, Friends of the Mad River sustained our commitment to the Mad River Valley community by:

- Hiring Ira Shadis as our new Executive Director, Luke Foley as the new Climate & Engagement Manager, and bringing on Onome Ofoman as the Watershed Engagement AmeriCorps Member.
- Continuing the long-standing Mad River Watch program that saw 20+ volunteers record data at 21 field sites across the watershed.
- Providing leadership to the Conservation and Recreation Visioning project aimed at finding a balance between our love for playing in the nature with our responsibility as stewards for the ecological well-being of the Mad River Valley.
- Installing a new, open-bottomed culvert on Lockwood Brook in Fayston that allows species like brook trout to move more freely and access cold water habitat needed to thrive in a changing climate.
- Hosted climate & ecology book clubs in partnership with Mad River Libraries, an Expert Series that brought watershed learning to diverse audiences, and engaged dozens of Valley students in direct watershed education.
- Invested in flood resilience and water quality by planting 150 native trees and shrubs to restore riparian buffers at three sites along the Mad River in Waitsfield.

This work would not be possible without town leaders and staff dedicated to making thoughtful decisions, committed and hearty volunteers, donors who believe in the value of our work, and a community committed to one another. Thank you!

***Staff:*** *Ira Shadis, Executive Director; Lisa Koitzsch, Admin Manager; Luke Foley, Climate & Engagement Manager; Onome Ofoman, Watershed Engagement AmeriCorps Member, **Board of Directors:** Matt Williams, President • Katie Sullivan, Vice President • Sucosh Norton, Treasurer Kinny Perot, Secretary • Richard Czaplinski • Rebecca Diehl • Jeannie Nicklas • Grady O'Shaughnessy • Amy Polaczyk • Brian Shupe*

More information at: [FriendsoftheMadRiver.org](https://www.friendsofthemadriver.org)

## MAD RIVER PATH

At the beginning of 2023 the Mad River Path went through a successful hiring process, resulting in attracting and retaining a new Executive Director. Following the leadership transition, we began the future visioning process resulting in the VT-100 Multi-Use Path Vision. We've been articulating our vision and have applied for the VTrans Scoping Funding to study the proposed Path from Warren to Moretown.

Last spring, as part of a coalition with the town of Warren, Sugarbush, and the Planning District, we applied and received a grant to construct a Multi-Use Path that will extend from Sugarbush resort at Lincoln Peak to the Golf Course Road, providing, amongst many other benefits a safe route to work to the resort's seasonal workforce. We are currently hiring a Municipal Project Manager to begin the construction.

We continued to develop the Fiddlers Walk downtown connector, extending from the new Welcome Center and Rec Hub to the Irasville Center. This work required many landowner and state highway permissions and will be completed in the spring of 2024. In addition to the regular path maintenance and bridge repairs we also supported the completion of the Dog Park and helped to create a Bundy Road Connector for the newly opened Mad Bush Falls. Last year's floods have damaged several of the Path's bridges and eroded the trails. We are preparing to do the repairs as soon as the spring arrives!

Early on in 2023, we formed a partnership with other valley organizations to re-envision and bring back a Mad River Triathlon, now scheduled for April 14, 2024. We also created Mad River Path Adventures with a debut Hut-to-Hut Ski Trip in February, followed by six weeks of summer adventure camps for kids and teens.

By the end of 2023, the Path had completed a successful annual giving campaign and was able to add three part-time positions: a finance director, communications specialist, and data manager. We have created an advisory committee and attracted two new board members in their thirties. We have enjoyed rich collaborations and are starting a new year with a sense of gratitude to all of our non-profit, municipal, and business partners, the goodwill of the path landowners, and the generosity of the valley residents who support the Mad River Path.

## SKATIUM

SKATIUM is an outdoor community recreation facility located in Irasville Center. SKATIUM, INC. is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501.c.3of the Internal Revenue Service code, which allows donations to Skatium to be tax deductible.

The purpose of our organization is to promote, develop, construct, operate, manage and administer community recreation facilities and programs within the Mad River Valley. Skatium, Inc. wholly owns 5.4 acres of land and an open-air ice rink in the Irasville commercial district of Waitsfield. It has been open every winter season since 1993, offering public skating, stick time and group and party rentals, and donates ice time to people and organizations for people with physical and cognitive disabilities, such as Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports and the Vermont Pioneers Sled Hockey Team. Skatium offers ice time to elementary school recreation programs free of charge.

Over the years a variety of instructional and spectator programs have been offered, such as youth hockey programs, figure skating instruction by certified figure skating instructors, professional figure skating exhibitions, exhibition hockey games featuring NHL Alumni Players, and broomball tournaments, etc..

As a community resource we try to charge as little as possible just to cover our facility operation costs, such as town water, electricity, heat, insurance, property taxes and part time labor. The major portion of our labor requirements are satisfied by volunteers.

Due to the open nature of the current facility and the fact that we do not have a refrigerated ice surface, the facility is used primarily during the winter months. However our goal and long term plan is to construct a multi-functional year round recreational facility that will have a covered refrigerated concrete ice surface that will allow us to operate an ice skating facility uninterrupted from November to March, but will also provide a suitable covered surface for the remainder of the year for a variety of sports and community activities such as Harwood High School Spring and Fall sports training programs, concerts, shows, parties, etc.. Design plans for such a facility are in the making and will be available to view on our website in the near future.

SKATIUM typically operates with a \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00 annual budget. Approximately half of the budget expenses are for payroll. As mentioned, a very significant amount of the labor requirement is provided by volunteers at no charge. Major expenses in addition to payroll include electricity, propane, property taxes, insurance, municipal water, and snow removal. SKATIUM currently derives its income from revenues from ice use, skate rentals, board advertising and grants from the Mad River Valley Recreation District.. However, donations will likely be the major source of funding for its multi-million dollar plans for the future. Donations can be made by visiting our website: [skatiumvt.org](http://skatiumvt.org). and are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support.

Skatium Board of Directors

Jim Bellanca  
Jeff Brauer

Mike Eramo  
Alex Harvey

Andrew Merrill  
Bill Moore

Ben Service  
Don Swain

## Mad River Valley TV 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Post pandemic rebound continues as more meetings covered in person, while video meetings allow collection and archive of additional municipal activity.

Mad River Valley Television, the Valley's public access management organization (AMO), is charged with providing public, educational and governmental content (PEG) to the Mad River Valley. As a PEG channel, it receives support from Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom and is delivered on channels 44/244 and 45/245. Its mission is to keep the community informed about the actions by their towns, schools and elected officials, provide a connection to school and local activities and enable local producers to express themselves through informational and education content.

MRVTV's Channels 44/244 (Community) and 45/245 (Municipal) are included in Waitsfield Cable's basic tier of service. MRVTV also streams the channel in real-time from [MRVTV.COM](http://MRVTV.COM), enabling anyone with or without a cable subscription and anywhere in the world to watch the content as it appears on our cable channels. To stream, visit [MRVTV.com](http://MRVTV.com) and click the "watch live" link. This supports the station's goal of providing local programming to all the Mad River Valley, not only those who subscribe to cable television.

The station celebrated its 24rd year on the air during 2023 and covered nearly every meeting of the Waitsfield Select Board, the Planning Commission and Conservation Commission meetings. In addition, it covers valley wide meetings of the Mad River Valley Planning District, the Mad River Valley Recreation District and most meetings of the Harwood Unified Union School District board and subcommittees. Recently, the station began coverage of the Harwood High School project public meetings. In 2023, MRVTV completed the project to extend WIFI service at Harwood High School to reach the lower playing field. This enables the live streaming of sporting events on that field.

MRVTV is primarily funded by Waitsfield Cable as required by state and federal regulations with 5% of cable subscription fee collected to support local PEG stations. In addition, the towns of Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren and Moretown and the HUUSD provided MRVTV monetary support to help to defray the cost of municipal and school meetings, sporting events and activities.

In 2023, the station's leadership continued its work with the Vermont Access Network (VAN) to lobby the statehouse for a new funding model and to receive interim funding. MRVTV also raises funds through sponsorships, donations, production fees, duplication and fundraising.

MRVTV has equipment available to the community so the public can produce shows, capture events and get them on the broadcast. MRVTV also has a full studio available for taping shows and welcomes new users and producers for non-commercial community interest programs.

In 2023 MRVTV made use of many hours of statewide programming available on the Vermont Media Exchange (VMX). MRVTV showed hundreds of programs produced by other public access centers around the state such as GMALL lectures, Vermont Master Naturalist, Energy Week, candidate interviews and other programs highlight the vastness of Vermont in natural beauty and intellectual depth.

The Waitsfield Covered Bridge livecam has over 2 million views per year with viewers ranging from Vermont to Japan and beyond! Both flooding events drew new viewers and the video was used by local and major newscasts to show the flooding in Vermont.

Station personnel remained unchanged in 2023 with Rob Perry serving as Executive Director and Tony Italiano keeping the station's programming going as Program/Media Director. Eugene 'Skip' Whitman joined Lisa Loomis, Rob Williams, Liz Levey, Ilse Sigmund, Ian Sweet, Ned Farquhar, and Genevieve Knight on the board of directors. We meet three times a year and actively welcome public input to our meetings.

To learn more how you can be involved with MRVTV, please contact us at 583-4488 (44TV) or by email at [rob@mrvtv.com](mailto:rob@mrvtv.com). You also can just stop by our studio offices at the north end of the Village Square Shopping Center. And you can find us, all local programs, our schedules, and lots of affiliated information on the web at <https://mrvtv.com>.

***The Mission of the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service, Inc. is to provide the Mad River Valley towns of Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield and Warren the highest quality of Emergency Medical Services utilizing dedicated volunteers, technology and community support.***

The Mad River Valley Ambulance Service is an organization fully staffed by dedicated volunteers who train as dispatchers, drivers and highly trained medical personnel. We also have personnel trained in vehicle extrication, low-angle ropes rescue, slow water pond/lake rescue and backcountry search and/or rescue.

Drivers, medical and rescue personnel are called upon to leave their workplaces or homes in all kinds of weather and at all times of day and night to come to the aid of those in need. They are called away from family celebrations and events and they leave willingly to save lives. Their dedication cannot be overstated and we salute them. Medical personnel are also called upon to complete numerous additional off-duty hours on an annual basis in order to stay certified.

We are equipped with three ambulances and recent technology that enables us to provide the highest quality of emergency medical services. We strive to acquire and utilize the latest innovations as they become available in order to communicate well and increase our efficiency.

In 2023, we responded to the residents within our service area. We also responded to calls in Barre, Granville, Village of Morrisville and Waterbury when back-up support was needed. As we approach year end, we have responded to a total of 601 calls.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to become working members of MRVAS. We provide the training. If you feel that you would like to join our squad, please visit our website or contact us at (802) 496-8888 for further information. We also have an auxiliary organization for those who would like to offer their skills and services in other ways.

**Even if you are unable to volunteer your time, you can help us by clearly marking your location so that we can find you when responding to emergencies. Give us a call if you want help in marking your home properly.**

**We find that visitors are often unaware of their E-911 address so it is important for you to share that information when renting out your property.**

As always, we are grateful for the generous support we receive from the Valley community. It continues to be our honor to serve you.

Respectfully,  
Sheila M. Ware  
Dispatcher & Head of Service

## **MAD RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER**

The Mad River Valley Health Center (MRVHC) is a non-profit corporation managed by a Board of Directors for the purpose of insuring high quality, local health care services in the MRV. The Mad River Valley Health Center was incorporated in 1981. In 2004, with the support of many Valley residents, the Health Center moved into its current two story building at the intersection of VT Route 100 and Old County Road in Waitsfield.

In accordance with its mission, space in the Health Center is fully leased by a variety of health care related providers. The majority of the space is occupied by the Mad River Family Practice (CVMC). The remainder of the space is utilized by organizations and individuals providing individual and family mental health support and oriental medicine treatments. These include Hannah's House (mental health services), Three Moon's Wellness (alternative medicine), and Dr. Richard Davis (psychologist).

The Health Center is governed by an all-volunteer board of directors. The current board includes Don Murray, President, Polly Bednash, Vice President, Bill Zekas, Treasurer, Steve Fried, Secretary, Mike Kelley, Danielle Hampton, Judy Phelon, Mike Curtin, and Rosemarie White.

In the fall of 2023 the Mad River Valley Health Center worked with the Shaw's Pharmacy in Waterbury to run a vaccination clinic which was a big success. Well over 200 people signed up for the clinic where COVID, flu (including the quadrivalent for adults over age 64), and RSV vaccines were offered. The clinic was a success in large part due to the pharmacists and staff at the Waterbury Shaw's Osco Pharmacy who contributed their time and services by hosting this clinic and providing the vaccinations.

The Board in 2023 also continued with its scholarship awarded to a high school senior or current college student who is or will be enrolled in an accredited program leading to a degree in health care. Typical majors are nursing, physical therapy or occupational therapy. Other health related programs will be considered.

Normal maintenance activity has been undertaken during the year. Additionally, the replacement of the four existing HVAC condensers (which were nearing the end of their projected life expectancy) was begun and mostly completed by the end of the year.

Regrettably, in late December after significant rains in the Valley and a significant warm up in temperatures causing severe a snow melt, the

basement of the building was partially flooded. Multiple pumps were brought in to try and keep up with the flow of water coming into the building and ultimately pump trucks were called in to pump out the basement. Ultimately, a new pump was installed in a shaft dug outside the building (to complement the pump in the elevator shaft that had to be replaced) and the water has been drained away from the building. Luckily, the damage inside the building was kept to a minimum, but at this time the exact costs of the repairs and the cause of the water infiltration remain uncertain.

With the exception of the water damage issue, the facility remains in excellent condition. However given that the building is now 20 years old, we can expect increased maintenance in future years. Overall, the financial situation remains solid with few surprises. Barring unusual expenses from the water damage issue, sufficient reserves are available to fund most reasonably expected repairs.

Respectfully Submitted,  
MRVHC Board of Directors

## **FY23 ANNUAL REPORT – TOWN OF WAITSFIELD**

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provides planning, development, and project implementation services to its 23 municipalities in Washington and western Orange Counties. Municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by a locally appointed member to the governing Board of Commissioners. CVRPC has no regulatory or taxing authority; each year, we request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to help offset costs and provide local matching funds needed for state and federal funding. Your continued support for local and regional planning is appreciated! CVRPC is your resource – please contact us at 802-229-0389 or [cvrpc@cvregion.com](mailto:cvrpc@cvregion.com) for assistance.

### **Waitsfield Activities Through June 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023)**

- Prepared and submitted Emergency Relief Assistance Fund information to town to facilitate elevated disaster relief aid.
- Continued support and involvement during the development of the Route 100/17 intersection study.
- Participated in conversation on wastewater planning in Waitsfield.
- Provided administrative technical assistance on the Municipal Road Grants in Aid program.
- Provided information on municipal plan approval process to town staff and census data to use in updates.
- Provided technical analysis, coordinated with utility, industry, school and public on fuel-switching and on-site generation and storage project development.
- Supported efforts of Harwood Union High School Youth Group on their efforts to propose a Clean School Bus pilot.
- Facilitated development of public/private partnerships to help cover upfront costs of residential weatherization services for residents with low and moderate income.

**Regional Commissioner**  
Don La Haye  
**Transportation**  
**Advisory Committee**  
Don La Haye

- Supported application in progress for \$4000 MERP mini grant for energy resources community engagement/residential education.
- Supported WindowDressers campaign by facilitating connections with Capstone and other regional partners resulting in storm window inserts for 21 households.

*\*During and following the July Flood, CVRPC staff provided outreach and guidance on recovery efforts and tracking of damages to aid response and maximize FEMA reimbursements for town and individual damages (\*Fiscal Year 2024)*

### **CVRPC Projects & Programs**

- ❖ *Municipal Plan and Bylaw Updates that focus on predictable and effective local permitting*
- ❖ *Brownfields environmental site assessments to facilitate redevelopment and economic growth*
- ❖ *Transportation planning, studies, data collection, traffic counts, and coordination of local involvement through the regional Transportation Advisory Committee*
- ❖ *Emergency planning for natural disasters and coordination with local volunteers and the State*
- ❖ *Climate and energy planning to support projects to reduce municipal and residential energy burdens and build resilience*
- ❖ *Natural resource planning to protect water resources, preserve forest blocks, enhance recreational opportunities and support agricultural and forest industries*
- ❖ *Regional Planning to coordinate infrastructure, community development, and growth*
- ❖ *Geographic Information System Services to support to municipalities*
- ❖ *Clean Water Service Provider to identify and fund water quality projects to achieve phosphorous reduction targets*
- ❖ *Special Projects such as recreation paths, farmland preservation, and affordable housing*
- ❖ *Grant support through project identification, scoping, and applications*

*Mad River Valley Senior Citizens, Inc.*  
*5308 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT 05673*  
*860-480-3787*

## **2023 TOWN REPORT**

The Mad River Valley Senior Citizens Board of Directors sincerely appreciates the continued support of the Town of Waitsfield. With that support, we have been successful in our mission to provide nutritional meals, opportunities for social connections, and access to health and wellness resources for Seniors in our community for over 35 years. In addition to three part-time staff, we are fortunate to have so many caring volunteers who are central to this success.

In FY2023 we served over 13,000 meals at the senior center dining room in Evergreen Place in Waitsfield and to our Meals On Wheels (MOW) clients in the four towns within our Valley. We serve two community meals for seniors each week, and deliver daily dietician-approved lunches for MOW clients five days a week, plus two frozen meals for weekends. All meals are by donation except for our Monday breakfast, which is a fundraiser.

Our MOW program continues to be important to those seniors living alone. In addition to providing nutritious meals, our drivers check on client well-being and also often serve as a valuable social connection for their clients.

Our Wellness activities support seniors' health, fitness, creativity, emotional wellness, and lifelong learning. These activities include exercise and yoga classes, art workshops, technology trainings, trips, live musical performances, and guest speakers on topics of senior interest.

We also provide administrative and significant financial support to the Valley's Free Wheelin' program that provides free rides to medical and other essential appointments for those who do not have access to a car.

In addition to donations from patrons and clients, MRVSC receives financial support from the Central Vermont Council On Aging, the four Valley towns, the Vermont Center for Independent Living, the Mad River Valley Community Fund, the Warren United Church, the Mad River Valley Rotary, Mehuron's, Lawson's Finest Liquids, Green Rabbit Bakery, the Village Grocery, Northfield Savings Bank, Waitsfield Telecom, and other local businesses and individuals that provide us with generous donations, participation in our fundraisers, and coin collection cans at area retailers. We thank you all for your support.

Respectfully Submitted:

MRVSC Board of Directors

Gretchen Hernandez, President; Bill Zekas, Treasurer; Joanne Fitzgerald,  
Secretary;

Sue Stoehr, Lisa Jenisen, David Goldstein, Donna Mackie and Jennifer Grant,  
members-at-large.

## Joslin Memorial Library 2023 Report

2023 marked the 110th year of operation for the Joslin Memorial Library. And what a fantastic year it was! The big highlight was the 110th Birthday party we had here at the Library in June, featuring community members bringing back to life some of the folks who were instrumental in the Library's founding. We saw reenactments of the conversations that lead to the initial raising of funds, the design of the building, and even the hiring of the first Librarian! Special mention goes to Shevonne Travers, our Program Coordinator, for coming up with and planning the event. Thanks also to everybody who was involved in the project. It was a beautiful, well attended gathering, and will be remembered for a long time.

The Library is fortunate to host a series of ongoing programs. On Wednesday evenings, we have a board game group that meets downstairs from 5-8. On Thursday afternoons, a writers group gathers in our meeting room from 1-2. We collaborate with the Warren Public Library to offer monthly trivia nights held at Deco in Warren, which are always well attended (you should try it if you haven't!). We now also have a craft group that meets in the Library on Friday afternoons from 1-3. And of course we have our mainstay program: Story Hour on Monday mornings from 10-11 with our Children's Librarian Anna Church. Anna also hosted our 3rd annual Winter Solstice Tea on Friday December 22nd. This is one of our more treasured events, as it marks the Winter Solstice, but also allows children and families to enjoy a shadow puppet show, sing songs, sip on warm tea, and together, look forward to brighter days ahead.

In addition to these regular offerings, we had a Memoir Writing Workshop, a Playwriting Workshop, a Poetry Workshop, and a Conversational French Course (whose members now meet regularly on Tuesday evenings from 5-7). We are happy to offer these as creative outlets, and ways for people to connect, and enrich their lives. We have another round of the playwriting workshop on the books for February, and other fun and interesting programs in the works as well.

And now, fun with numbers: In total, 7,244 people of all ages paid a visit to the Library in 2023, many of whom checked out items, well over 9,000 in fact, including 1,621 fiction books, 2,187 books from our new materials area, and a whopping 2,214 books from our children's area. Additionally, nearly 500 people made use of our public computers, and nearly 400 people made use of our meeting room. As we move ahead in 2024, we look forward to continuing to offer our space for patrons and community members alike to gather and connect with their friends and neighbors.

So many amazing things have happened in this building over the past 110 years, too many to recount. But thanks to the continued support of the towns, their residents (and visitors), and our patrons, 2024 will see the Library continue its mission of 'connecting people, ideas, and information; enriching lives and strengthening community'. Respectfully submitted, Jason Butler.-

## Waitsfield Emergency Management Report

Waitsfield experienced three events during the past year that caused us to activate our Emergency Operations Center (EOC). They occurred on 14 February, 09 July and 07 December. The February storm caused scattered power outages throughout our town and a temporary closure of some roads. Power was mostly restored by that evening and completely restored by the next day. Roads were quickly repaired, and the network was fully functional by the end of the day on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Waitsfield EM assisted one resident with basement cleanup due to basement flooding caused by the storm.

The July storm devastated many parts of Vermont, specifically the Winooski and the Missisquoi River valleys. The Mad River was bank high, threatening to overflow, but did not. However, the December storm did cause the Mad River to leave its banks. The USGS River Gauge in Moretown reached 13.02 feet on 12/18/23. A major flood event is defined as 13 feet. A portion of Meadow Road was washed out, which was the only damage to our Town road network. Route 100 was closed in two places near the Warren town line. Electrical power was out to a portion of the town. Route 100B threatened to close for a long time and finally was closed in Moretown. Waitsfield EM worked with the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service (MRVAS), and Moretown EM constantly updated a route for the ambulances to be able to access I-89 and, thus, the hospitals. Because of the many closed roads and dangerous driving on dirt roads, Waitsfield EM requested Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) to issue a Vt Alert message requesting our residents to shelter in place. Bridge Street did not flood, but it was very close to doing so.

VtAlert allowed EM to send messages to our residents in real-time. Since the December flooding, we have completed the required training and can now issue emergency messages without VEM assistance. We will soon disseminate more information about VtAlert. Printed information is available at the Town Offices and at <https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert> The Waitsfield Select Board has designated VtAlert as the official emergency messaging system within our Town. We strongly urge Town residents to sign up with VtAlert, thus enabling them to receive real-time messaging from Waitsfield Emergency Management.

With a matching grant from VEM, EM has installed an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) at the Town Offices.

The Waitsfield Select Board passed the Emergency Management Ordinance reaffirming Waitsfield's Office of Emergency Management as the official agency for coordinating emergency efforts within Waitsfield and interacting with neighboring towns and VEM.

Presently, EM is working on the Local Hazard Management Plan (LHMP). The LHMP is one of four required FEMA items necessary to qualify Waitsfield for the FEMA reimbursement portion of damage caused by a declared emergency. Typically, FEMA pays 80%, with the State and Town splitting the remaining 20%. The other three items are adopting the National Flood Insurance Program, the Local Emergency Management Plan, and the Road and Bridge Standards.

The LHMP has been extensively redesigned. Through a 100% funded FEMA grant, Waitsfield has hired the Central Vermont Regional Planning Committee (CVRPC) to collect the required data, hold public comment meetings, and write the final report. If found acceptable, the Select Board will vote on its adoption, and the LHMP will be sent to VEM for review before forwarding to FEMA.

Your most obedient servants,  
Fred R. Messer, Emergency Management Director  
Clare Ireland, Emergency Management Coordinator  
*Waitsfield Office of Emergency Management*

## **Town Health Officer (THO) Report**

During 2023, Waitsfield's THO received seven (7) dogs, and one (1) cat "Animal Bite Reports" from local medical facilities. The Vermont Department of Health requires medical facilities to report animal bites that they treat to the THO of the town where the bite took place. The THO must notify the animal owner of the report, order confinement of their animal for ten (10) days and verify rabies vaccinations with the animal's veterinarian. During this interview, I ascertained if the dog has a current Waitsfield Dog License which is then verified with the Town Clerk.

The THO investigated a complaint alleging improper handicapped parking signage and affected voluntary compliance.

The THO received and investigated five (5) alleged Rental Housing violations. As a result of the passage of Act 188, as of January 01, 2024, the Department of Public Safety, Fire Marshal's office, is now assigned the responsibility of investigating Rental Housing violations.

As a result of recent legislation, the THO can no longer condemn buildings except for very specific and limited situations contained within an Emergency Declaration issued by the Governor.

Approximately 2,000 COVID-19 test kits were distributed from the Town Office Building during 2023. They were procured from the Vermont Department of Health (VDH). Presently, VDH no longer supplies test kits. Mad River Valley Ambulance Service has supplied a limited quantity of free test kits available on a first-come, first-served basis. The long-term availability of this source of test kits is uncertain. More information concerning covert testing is available at:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/covid-19/covid-19-testing>

Your most obedient servant,

Fred R. Messer  
Town Health Officer

**Animal Control Officer (ACO)**  
Report

Eleven dog complaints were received, one cat complaint and one complaint of loose cows were received in 2023. Additionally, many reports of dogs “Running at Large,” which violates our Town Dog Ordinance, and are often posted by concerned individuals on Front Porch Form.

As a result of a decision subsequent to a hearing before the Select Board in 2022, a dog was apprehended, turned over to the Washington County Humane Society, and the dog was re-homed outside the Mad River Valley.

On November 2, 2021, the Select Board held a Dog Hearing requested by the ACO on behalf of an individual who had been bitten by a dog while bicycling on a Town road. The Select Board heard complaints from neighbors of two very large dogs, “Running at Large,” one of which had bitten the bicyclist. Further charges of “Nuisance” and “Barking Dog” as defined in the Town Ordinance, were levied. The central charge was “Potentially vicious dog.” On December 01, 2023, the Select Board issued their Decision mandating the rehoming of the two dogs within six months of the date of the Decision to a location outside the Town of Waitsfield and barring the dogs' reentry to the Town. Failure to rehome would result in the two animals being humanely destroyed.

Copies of these decisions may be obtained by contacting the Town Administrator.

The ACO has submitted his resignation effective Town Meeting Day.

Your most obedient servant,

Fred R. Messer

## Washington County Sheriff's Department

In order for our department operations to be more transparent, we have upgraded our recording devices to Axon Body cameras combined with cloud storage. All of cameras, tasers, and cruisers are tied together so if any of these devices are activated the camera activates as well. This ensures we are able to record as much of our interactions as possible without deputy input under stressful conditions.

We received a grant to replace all our mobile UHF/VHF mobile and portable radios, as our fleet was over 10 years old and losing their reliability. Our new system integrates a mobile repeater in each cruiser allowing our portable radios (deputy worn) to feed their signal into the larger mobile radios in each cruiser for rebroadcast. This greatly increases our communication and safety in our rural areas where before we could not communicate. We have begun utilizing our department Facebook page (visit Washington County Sheriffs Dept Vermont) to see our latest goings on and updated information as we share.

Captain Meyer and Sergeant Bent have recently joined as members of the Central Vermont Treatment court team. Treatment Court is a voluntary, post-plea program for defendants over 18 years old. They offer participants who complete the program the chance to have criminal charges dismissed or reduced. The program tries to reduce drug-related crime, make communities safer, and help people recover from drug dependence. This is a collaborative effort between prosecutors, defense attorneys, mental health and substance abuse treatment professionals, law enforcement and other emergency service providers, and the person needing help themselves.

We have recently hired 1 new full-time deputy, Collin Morin, who came to us from another local agency. He is already Level III certified (the highest certification in VT) with almost 3 years of experience. We are in the hiring process for another new Deputy that will be assigned to our Supreme Court in Montpelier. As the next academy is scheduled in March this will be a slow process. We are continuing our hiring efforts for multiple positions to better serve the state and our local communities.

Our current primary patrol Deputy, Davis Hart, will be attending the Level III academy in Pittsford VT this coming fall. Upon his return, Deputy Hart will have the highest law enforcement certification to better serve our communities.

We have made tremendous efforts in our recruiting efforts without much success. Nationwide, law enforcement is struggling to recruit new hires based upon multiple issues. Vermont is no different. Our greatest challenge to employment is simply providing a competitive wage. A local police agency recently became the highest paid agency in the area, with a starting wage of \$34/hr. With our contract model, raising our rates to cover this kind of wage increase while continuing to fund department operations would be an impossible increase for our towns to afford. We are trying our best to find a balance in this effort.

Professionally,  
Marc Poulin, Washington County Sheriff

*\*Editor's note: The original report has been condensed to fit. The Sheriff's Department provided a breakdown of incidents for 2023. For the full list, please contact the Town Administrator's office.*

## WMRW (94.5 fm)

**WMRW-LP, (94.5 FM)** is a 100-watt (low power) all-volunteer, noncommercial, community-access radio station broadcasting 24 hours/day over the airwaves to the Mad River Valley, and to the outside world via the internet at [wmrw.org](http://wmrw.org). WMRW is a project of the 501c3 non-profit Rootswork Inc., 'Making Space for Community to Happen'. Check out all that Rootswork does in our community at [rootswork.org](http://rootswork.org)

As of 8 years ago (December 28th 2015) we have been transmitting on 94.5 fm from our 65 foot tower and transmitter at our new location 3 miles north of the East Warren Schoolhouse. We are eternally grateful to the many people and organizations whose donations of time and money made this huge improvement in reception throughout the Valley possible.

The support from the station's current underwriters is critical to the success of our radio station, and helps cover the ongoing costs of our operations. These underwriters have included **All Seasons Urethane Foam, Darrad Computers, Mad-Services, Mountain Side Ski Service, Katies Collars, Whippletree Designs, Souper Simple Soups**, and last but not least **Charlie (the dog)**.

In 2024 we will continue to support free speech, seek new local radio talent, and we are interested in working with local Valley schools to enhance their media / journalism/ theater curricula and sports coverage.

To learn more about WMRW-LP programming, or for anyone interested in getting involved and on-the-air, visit [www.wmrw.org](http://www.wmrw.org) or call 802-496-4951 and leave a message.

Presently we have around 37 local volunteer programmers ranging in age from 20 to 80 plus, offering a diverse mix of music, talk and local public service announcements. In addition, we air nationally syndicated alternative news and entertainment shows not available from most mainstream media sources. These shows include E-Town, Le Show, TUC Radio, and Letters and Politics. **For a current program schedule visit our website: WMRW.org.**

Our current \$13,750, 2024 annual base operating budget is funded entirely by contributions from our local listeners and local business underwriters. This frugal budget includes approximately \$2500 of operating and licensing expenses that enabled us to continue streaming over the internet. Our annual on-air fundraisers happen once or twice during each year and run until we have raised the funds to cover our annual operating expenses.

If you value this rare non-commercial public forum that provides opportunities for all citizens to freely communicate without censorship, please consider participating in, and/or, helping to fund WMRW's continuing operation. On-air acknowledgements (Underwriting) are available to businesses see ([wmrw.org](http://wmrw.org) for details).

**Tax-deductible donations can be made at WMRW.org through Paypal and via credit card, and checks can be sent to WMRW, PO. Box 95, Warren Vt. 05674**  
**On behalf of all our volunteers, thank you to everyone, whose contributions of time and money continue to make this community resource a reality!**

John Barkhausen, WMRW (volunteer) General Manager

# Rootswork

Rootswork is a 501c3 non-profit organization with over 480 current members, located in the historic East Warren Schoolhouse (EWS) right off the 4 corners on the East Warren Road at 42 Roxbury Mountain Road, in Warren VT.

Our mission is embodied in our slogan “Making Space for Community to Happen”.

Rootswork rents the EWS from the Town of Warren for a low fee, and in return the Rootswork Board volunteers to manage, maintain and raise funds to continue to renovate the EWS for the benefit of our community and the furtherance of our mission.

From this beautiful location we host five community projects: **The Bulk Fuel Buying Group; WMRW Community Radio (94.5 fm); The EWS Community Meeting Space; and our Electric Vehicle Charging Station.** Our fifth project is **The Rootswork Community Gardens**, which are organic gardening plots located immediately behind the EWS and available to rent at very reasonable rates.

Rootswork founder and longtime Warren resident Anne Burling passed away 2 years ago. Anne founded Rootswork with Mason Wade in the late 90s, and was the previous owner of the community garden plot and surrounding land behind the schoolhouse. In keeping with her lifelong concern for sustainable agriculture she recently transferred her land to organic farmer Zeb Swick. Zeb has generously agreed to continue Anne’s vision of nurturing future farmers by making the land behind the schoolhouse available to Rootswork for community garden use.

Additionally, we provide a viable home for our wonderful tenant the **East Warren Community Market**.

Progress on the **renovation of the historic East Warren Schoolhouse building and grounds continues**. This has included extensive rewiring, building wide insulating, new 2nd floor hardwood floor and new ceiling and lighting, new commercial kitchen expansion, new fire code hall doors and front door, new boiler, rebuilt boiler room floor, all new historically accurate thermopane window replacements for all windows, installation of a Warren Tiny Library on the front deck, a replacement septic system, installation of an emergency generator; entry deck renovation; and reconstruction of the storage wing of the building for use by the Market. Renovations included siding replacement and painting prep of the south exterior wall, entry deck repairs. During the past 10 years Rootswork has invested around \$61,000 in repairs and maintenance of the building. In 2024 we intend to do more clapboard repair in preparation for painting the entire outside of the building. We continue to maintain a Capital Reserve Building Fund of \$20,000.00 to finance any eventual major and/or emergency repairs.

Our annual fuel buying group and membership fee is \$45.00 and the term runs from July 1st to June 31st and coincides with the renewal of our participating Fuel Group contracts with our fuel suppliers. Suppliers of both propane and fuel oil include Suburban Propane, Irving Energy, Ward Energy and Bourne Energy. All our suppliers offer substantial savings through Rootswork’s program for your fuel buying needs.

If you are interested in learning more about Rootswork and our projects, the availability of the community meeting space and community garden plots, and why you might want to be involved, we invite you to visit the East Warren Schoolhouse and [rootswork.org](http://rootswork.org). Members and the general public are welcome to attend our annual Meeting, usually held in December.

We are very grateful to all our members for participating and helping Rootswork make our mission a reality.

Sincerely,

The 2024 Rootswork Board Directors  
Don Swain (co-Chair)  
John Barkhausen (co-Chair)  
Kelly O’Hearn  
Marco Propato

Eric Sigsbey (Sec.)  
Kirstin Reilly  
Quayle Rewinski  
Noah Riskin  
Dorothy Tod

## **Harwood Unified Union School District FY2025 Budget Information**

The HUUSD Annual Report, which includes the proposed 2024-2025 school budget, will be available [February 16](#), 2024.

The report will be available online at [HUUSD.org](http://HUUSD.org). You may also request a copy by calling [802-583-7953](tel:802-583-7953). The school district can mail the copy or you may arrange pickup at the HUUSD Central Office.

The board will hold an annual meeting and informational budget meeting at Harwood Union High School and via Zoom on **March 4, 2024 at 6PM**. See the HUUSD website for instructions on joining the meeting.



## WAITSFIELD INFORMATION DIRECTORY

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE	911
CONSTABLE	802- 793-6115
MAD RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER	496-3838

### OTHER NUMBERS

Ambulance Information	MRVAS	496-8888	
Animal Control Officer (Dog Warden)	Fred Messer	793-2238	
Education - Schools	Superintendent of Schools	496-2272	
	Elementary School	496-3643	
	Harwood Union High School	244-5186	
Evergreen Place		496-2020	
Fire Chief	Merrill "Tripp" Johnson	496-6956	
Fire Station (non-emergency)		496-2404	
Fire Warden	Jared Young	917-4856	
Game Warden (hunting/fishing)	c/o State Police Dispatch	496-2262	
Green Mountain Power Corp.		223-5235	
Highway/Roads	Town Garage	496-8897	
Hospital (Central Vermont Hospital (CVH) - Berlin)		229-9121	
Hospital (Fletcher Allen - Burlington)		658-3456	
Library		496-4205	
M.R.V. Senior Citizens		496-2543	
Planning & Zoning Administrator	JB Weir	496-2218	x 4
Poison Control (Burlington)		658-3456	
Selectboard	Town Administrator	496-2218	x 5
Sheriff	Washington County Sheriff	223-3001	
State Highway	District 6	828-2687	
State Highway	District 5	655-1580	
State Police	Dispatch	229-9191	
Town Administrator	Annie Decker-Dell'Isola	496-2218	x 5
Town Clerk	Jennifer Peterson	496-2218	x 3
Town Health Officer	Fred Messer	793-2238	
Town Treasurer	Randy Brittingham	496-2218	x 2
State Representative	Katherine "Kari" Dolan	828-2228	
	Dara Torre	828-2228	
Washington County Senators	Ann Cummings	828-2228	
	Andrew Perchlik	828-2228	
	Anne Watson	828-2228	

TOWN WEB SITE: [www.waitsfieldvt.us](http://www.waitsfieldvt.us)

**Please keep this page by your phone.**

