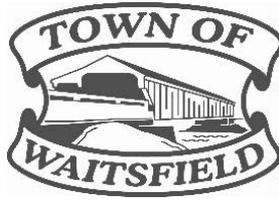


**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
VERMONT
2025 Annual Report**

**Annual Report of the Town Officers for the Year Ending June 30, 2025
A Comprehensive Look Ahead to the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027**



**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT
2025 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 – 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission – 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

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

General Wait House Commission – 1st Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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

Water Commission – 3rd Fridays at 8:00 a.m.

For meeting schedules, agendas, materials, and minutes, please visit the
Town's website: www.waitsfieldvt.gov

*Cover photo: Mad River Hub and Mill Brook Pedestrian Bridge grand opening 2024
Photo: Courtesy of Laura Arneson*

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DEDICATION



Mad River Valley Recreation Hub Welcome Sign, 2025 Photo: V. Capels

Conservation and Recreation Collaborative

A Conservation and Recreation Visioning (CRV 1.0) initiative that began in 2022, funded in part with a \$408,019 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grant, brought together a collaboration of local conservation, recreation, commercial, municipal, citizen, and other community partners with a goal of balancing a sustainable environment with excellent outdoor recreation opportunities now and into the future. This resulted in a new multi-use Recreation Hub at the MRV Chamber Office, a new pedestrian/bike bridge over the Mill Brook, improved trail segments, a riparian buffer, and a vision for continuing these efforts through CRV 2.0. Thanks to this ongoing effort, Waitsfield and the Mad River Valley continues to be destination for year-round recreation opportunities, environmental protection, and an exceptional place to live, visit, work, and play.

Waitsfield Selectboard

APPRECIATION

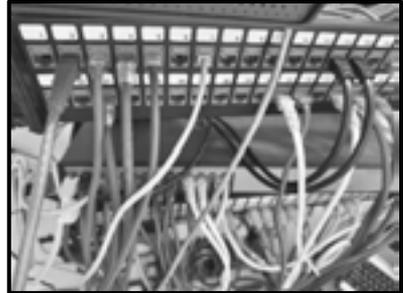
The Waitsfield Selectboard would like to express our sincere appreciation of two individuals for their dedication, service, and commitment to the community:

Nathaniel Fredericks has been Waitsfield's Water Operator since day one in 2012. His dedication, experience, attention to detail, and services he provides through Simon Operation Services (SOS) has contributed to our reputation as an exceptionally well-run water system. He manages the system's various mechanical operations; deals with emergencies on weekends, holidays, and bitter cold nights; looks for leaks in the wee hours; problem solves with customers; submits required reports to the State; and provides guidance to Town officials. Thank you, Nate.



Nate Fredericks at Bridge Street hydrant, c. 2016
Photo: V. Capels

Henry Robitaille has been providing valuable computer and overall technical support to the Waitsfield Town Office and staff for more than 20 years. He has escorted us through countless technological evolutions, computer installations, troubleshooting, and other technical support to help keep Town Office operations running day after day. He has done all this, including installation of the server and computer systems for the new Town Office, as a service to the community. Henry joined Universal Micro Systems (UMS) in 2020 as their Chief Software Engineer and now owns the company. Thank you, Henry.



Waitsfield's cable hub — running smoothly thanks to Henry Photo: York Haverkamp

TOWN OFFICERS 2025
Elected by Australian Ballot

Selectboard:

“Chach” Curtis (2)	Mar. 2026
Brian Shupe (3)	Mar. 2026
Fred Messer (3)	Mar. 2027
David Babbott-Klein (2)	Mar. 2027
Larissa Ursprung (3)	Mar. 2028

Cemetery Commissioners (5):

Mark Peal	Mar. 2026
Laura Brines	Mar. 2027
Robin Preuss	Mar. 2028
Robin McDermott	Mar. 2029
Nancy Coombs	Mar. 2030

Listers (3):

Charlie Goodman, III	Mar. 2026
Steve McKenzie	Mar. 2027
Ted Joslin	Mar. 2028

Trustees of Cemetery Funds (3):

VACANT	Mar. 2026
Gib Geiger, Jr.	Mar. 2027
Robert Cook	Mar. 2028

Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1):

Jennifer Peterson	Mar. 2026
-------------------	-----------

Justices of the Peace (2):

Cecil “Zeke” Church	Nov. 2026
Andreas Lehner	Nov. 2026
Mary Lehner	Nov. 2026
Helen Myers	Nov. 2026
Jennifer Peterson	Nov. 2026
“Bobbi” Rood	Nov. 2026
Karen Rookwood	Nov. 2026

Library Trustees (5):

Caitlin Ennis	Mar. 2026
David Babic	Mar. 2027
Patricia Read	Mar. 2028
Carol Hosford	Mar. 2029
Jean Joslin	Mar. 2030

Elected from the Floor

Harwood Unified Union School

District Directors:

J.B. Weir (3)	Mar. 2026
“Bobbi” Rood (3)	Mar. 2028

Moderator (1):

Kari Dolan	Mar. 2026
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TOWN OFFICERS 2025
Appointed by the Selectboard

Town Clerk (3):

Jennifer Peterson Mar. 2027

Town Treasurer (3):

Steve Lewis Mar. 2028

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

Dave Babbott-Klein Mar. 2026

Jonathan Ursprung Mar. 2026

Constable (1):

Jeff Campbell (Warren) Mar. 2026

Second Constable (1):

Jeff Campbell Mar. 2026

Planning Commission (4):

Becca Newhall Mar. 2026

Emma Hanson Mar. 2026

Alice Peal Mar. 2026

Jonathan Ursprung, ch. Mar. 2026

Beth Cook Mar. 2027

AnnMarie Harmon, v.c. Mar. 2028

Bob Cook Mar. 2029

Central Vermont Regional**Planning Commission (1):**

Don LaHaye (Alt.) Mar. 2026

Alice Peal (Rep.) Mar. 2026

CVRPC's Clean Water Advisory**Committee (1):**

Alice Peal Mar. 2026

Development Review Board (3):

Gib Geiger, Jr. Mar. 2027

Rudy Polwin Mar. 2027

James Tabor Mar. 2027

Duncan Brines Mar. 2028

DRB (continued):

John Donaldson, ch. Mar. 2028

Steve McKenzie, v.c.. Mar. 2028

Chris Cook Mar. 2028

Tree Warden (1):

VACANT Mar. 2026

Tree Board (3):

Vince Gauthier Mar. 2026

VACANT Mar. 2027

Charles Hosford Mar. 2028

Zoning Administrator (3):

J.B. Weir Jan. 2027

Fire Warden (5):

Jared Young Jun. 2026

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

Jared Young Dec. 2026

1st Assistant Chief:

Daniel Beede Dec. 2026

2nd Assistant Chief:

Evan Theurer Dec. 2026

Captain:

Evan Dacosta Dec. 2026

Lieutenants:

Josh Noyes Dec. 2026

Cameron Mills Dec. 2026

Moderator:

Kaylie Viens Dec. 2026

Treasurer:

Gordon Eurich Dec. 2026

Courtney Madore Dec. 2026

Secretary:

Shannon Noyes Dec. 2026

Safety Officer:

Kaylie Viens Dec. 2026

TOWN OFFICERS 2025
Appointed by the Selectboard

Energy Coordinator (2):

Christopher Badger Nov. 2026

Health Officer (3):

Fred Messer Nov. 2026

Animal Control Officer (1):

VACANT Mar. 2026

Conservation Commission (2):

Bruno Grimaldi Mar. 2026

Ted Joslin Mar. 2026

Leo Laferriere, V. Ch. Mar. 2026

James Donaldson Mar. 2026

Phill Huffman Mar. 2027

Chris Loomis Mar. 2027

Curt Lindberg, Chair Mar. 2027

Gail O'Keefe Mar. 2027

MRV Rec. District Reps. (3):

Mary Simmons Mar. 2026

Doug Bergstein Mar. 2026

Luke Foley (at large, 1 yr) Mar. 2026

Water Commission (2):

William Parker Mar. 2026

Brian Shupe Mar. 2026

Peter Lazorchak Mar. 2026

Robin Morris Mar. 2026

Peter Reynells Mar. 2026

Road Commissioner (1):

Charles Goodman, III Mar. 2026

Emergency Management (1):

Frederick Messer, Dir. Mar. 2026

Clare Ireland, Coord. Mar. 2026

Alice Peal Mar. 2026

Inspector of Lumber (1):

VACANT Mar. 2026

Fence Viewers (1):

Allen Gaylord Mar. 2026

Douglas Kenyon Mar. 2026

Bryan Neill Mar. 2026

Weigher of Coal (1):

Charles Hosford Mar. 2026

Green Up Coordinators (1):

Bri Skoldberg Mar. 2026

M.R. Solid Waste Alliance (1):

Salvatore Spinosa Mar. 2026

General Wait House Commission (1)

Gib Geiger Mar. 2026

AnnMarie Harmon Mar. 2026

Alice Peal Mar. 2026

Tenant (rotates) Mar. 2026

Richard Backus Mar. 2026

Fred Messer Mar. 2026

VACANT Mar. 2026



**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2026**

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, 3951 Main Street in said Town, on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026 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 (7:00 A.M.) when the polls will open, and continuing until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 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 increase the term for Collector of Delinquent Taxes from a one-year term to a three-year term, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2646(9), commencing after the 2027 Annual Town Meeting on March 2, 2027.

Article 4: Shall the voters approve a municipal budget of \$2,874,507 to pay the operating expenses and indebtedness of the Town, of which an estimated \$2,376,777 will be raised from property taxes?

Article 5: 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%) to be paid without discount not later than Tuesday September 15, 2026; the second quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday November 16, 2026; the third quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than

Tuesday, February 16, 2027; with the remaining quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday, May 17, 2027?

Article 6: In the event the voters approve Article I, authorizing the establishment of Local Option Taxes pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §138(b), to be voted by Australian Ballot, shall the voters authorize the transfer of fiscal year 2027 revenue from Local Option Taxes in accordance with the following allocation:

1. 35% to the Bridge & Culvert Reserve Fund;
2. 20% to the Paving Reserve Fund;
3. 15% to the All Hazards Recovery Reserve Fund;
4. 15% to the Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department Building Reserve Fund;
5. 15% to the Road Department Facilities Reserve Fund.

Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the creation of an All Hazards Recovery Reserve Fund to enable the Town to fund unanticipated expenses associated with damage to municipal infrastructure from future natural and man-made disasters and similar emergencies, and approve the transfer of \$10,000 to that fund from the general fund?

Article 8: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to enter into agricultural property tax stabilization agreements, for a period of one year, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2741, with property owners whose tax stabilization agreements expired when the Town failed to renew prior agreements in March 2025.

Article 9: Shall the voters approve the sum of \$4,000 to Hannah's House, which provides mental health and counseling services to Town residents, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Article 10: Shall the voters approve the sum of \$100 Our House of Central Vermont, which provides services to Town residents suffering from abuse, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Article 11: Shall the voters approve the sum of \$15,150 to the Mad River Path Association for the support of a temporary (one year) project manager/implementation position, pursuant to 24 V.S.A.

§2691, contingent on the Town of Warren, Vermont, also appropriating an equal amount for the same purpose?

Article 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

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, 3951 Main Street in said Town, on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026** between the hours of seven o'clock in the morning (7:00 A.M.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.), at which time the polls will close, to vote for the various Town Officers and the following Article of Business.

ARTICLE I

Shall the voters approve the Town of Waitsfield assessing a one percent (1%) Local Option Tax on sales, rooms, and meals and alcoholic beverages, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §138(b), for the purpose of funding capital investments, capital reserves, and debt service to finance municipal infrastructure and capital projects?

The legal voters of the Town of Waitsfield are further notified and warned that a public informational hearing to explain and discuss the Australian ballot Articles set forth above will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 4144 Main Street Waitsfield, Vermont 05673, in the Town, beginning at 6:30pm. The public may attend the informational hearing in person or on Zoom.

The legal voters of the Town of Waitsfield are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Waitsfield, Vermont, on this 28th day of January, 2026 by:
Waitsfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 4, 2025

Kari Dolan called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:03am.
Fred Messer led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town. Paul Hartshorn nominated Kari Dolan, and the nomination was seconded by Brian Shupe. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed, and Kari Dolan was elected by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Dolan explained general information about the conduct of the meeting and use of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

Article 2: Town Officers' Reports

The body reviewed the annual reports of Town Officers, Boards, and Commissions. After brief discussion, the reports were accepted.

Article 3: Shall the voters approve a municipal budget of \$2,795,116 to pay the operating expenses and indebtedness of the Town, of which an estimated \$2,309,789 will be raised from property taxes? Brian Shupe made a motion to adopt Article 3, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Goodman. Selectboard member Charles "Chach" Curtis provided a presentation on the Town's finances. Following discussion, the motion to adopt Article 3 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

State Representatives Dara Torre and Candice White offered legislative updates and answered questions from voters.

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%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday September 15, 2025; the second quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday November 17, 2025; the third quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Tuesday, February 17, 2026; with the remaining quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Friday, May 15, 2026? Roberta "Bobbi" Rood made a motion to adopt Article 4, and the motion was seconded by Paul

Hartshorn. There was no discussion, and the motions to adopt Article 4 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize the transfer of \$100,000 of the June 30, 2025 General Fund unassigned fund balance to the Paving Reserve Fund in Fiscal Year 2026? Charlie Goodman made a motion to adopt Article 5, and the motion was seconded by Beth Philips. Discussion ended, and the motion to adopt Article 5 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the Town to establish a reserve fund for improvements, expansion or replacement of the Town Garage and to authorize the transfer of \$100,000 of the June 30, 2025 General Fund unassigned fund balance to establish such a fund in Fiscal Year 2026? Bobbi Rood made a motion to adopt Article 6, and the motion was seconded by Paul Hartshorn. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 6 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the transfer of \$75,000 of the June 30, 2025 General Fund unassigned fund balance to the Wait House Capital Reserve Fund in Fiscal Year 2026? Beth Philips made a motion to adopt Article 7, and the motion was seconded by Fred Messer. AnnMarie Harmon made a motion to amend Article 7 by increasing the amount of the transfer from \$75,000 to \$100,000, and the motion to amend Article 7 was seconded by Fred Messer. Discussion ended, and the motion to amend Article 7 was approved by majority voice vote.

Article 8: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$1,000 to the Waitsfield Historical Society, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691? Leslie “Mac” Rood made a motion to adopt Article 8, and the motion was seconded by Karen Rookwood. Discussion ended, and the motion to adopt Article 8 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Article 9: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$2,500 to the Mad River Valley Arts' pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691, contingent upon the voters of the Towns of Warren, Vermont, and Fayston, Vermont, each also authorizing additional appropriations to

support the organization in a comparable amount? John Donaldson made a motion to adopt Article 9, and the motion was seconded by Freddie Mahlmann. The article went through multiple amendments. The original request of \$2,500 with contingency language was amended first to \$2,000 without contingencies. Chach Curtis subsequent amendment reduced the amount to **\$1,000**, and seconded by Pam Barnard.

Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$1,000 to the Mad River Valley Arts' pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 9, as amended a second time was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Article 10: Shall the 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? Brian Shupe made a motion to adopt Article 10, seconded by Paul Hartshorn. Article 10 was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 11: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Announcements were made regarding upcoming community events, including meetings related to the Mad River Valley Active Transportation Corridor, the Irasville Village Master Plan, an historic house tour, discussions about school district consolidation, and updates on the Conservation Commission's work at the Farley Riverside Park (formerly the Tardy parcel). Concerns were expressed about the local business climate relative to infrastructure spending.

Beth Philips made a motion to recess the meeting at 11:40 a.m. until the close of polls at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Paul Hartshorn. The motion to recess was passed unanimously. Attendance peaked at approximately 113 voters.

Australian Ballot Results

The following candidates were declared elected:



Larissa D. K. Ursprung
 Dave Babbott-Klein
 Ted Joslin
 Jennifer Peterson
 Jean Joslin
 Caitlin Ennis
 Bobbi Rood
 Nancy Coombs
 Robert L. Cook

Selectboard, 3 years
 Selectboard, 2 years
 Lister, 3 years
 Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year
 Library Trustee, 5 years
 Library Trustee, 1 year
 HUUSD Director, 3 years
 Cemetery Commission, 5 years
 Cemetery Trustee, 3 years



Barred Owl Photo: Courtesy of David Tanzer

A quiet symbol of the
 care and consideration
 at the heart of our community work

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Summary of 2025 Activities

After ten months without a Town Administrator, we were very fortunate that York Haverkamp stepped into this position shortly before last year's Town Meeting. York has demonstrated both an aptitude for the job and a strong commitment to the community, and the Selectboard has been pleased with what we have managed to accomplish over the past year with his support.

The Selectboard has remained focused on initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of our community, with a focus on public safety, environmental quality, infrastructure improvements, and implementing the Town Plan goals to encourage smart growth and address housing needs.

We continued to make progress toward the construction of a new wastewater collection and treatment facility to serve Waitsfield Village and Irasville. Backed by strong support of Town voters – as indicated by the 415-140 positive bond vote in June 2024 – we are wrapping up the final design of the project and have been working with landowners interested in connecting to the system. So far, interest has been strong, with 65 priority parcel landowners signing the connection agreement. Special thanks to Selectboard member Chach Curtis, Planning Commission member Bob Cook, Planning & Zoning Administrator J.B. Weir, Mad River Valley Planning District Executive Director Josh Schwartz and Town Administrator York Haverkamp for their work on the Wastewater Task Force to move this important project forward.

In anticipation of a wastewater facility coming on-line in the near future, the Selectboard was pleased to support the Waitsfield Planning Commission's development of a Master Plan for Irasville. That plan, approved by the Commission last October, envisions how a wastewater system can improve pedestrian connectivity and help address the affordable housing crisis that has made the Mad River Valley such a challenging place to live and work.

Much of the Selectboard's work over the past year focused on infrastructure needs, including repaving the East Warren Road and the Slow Road. The cost of those projects came in well under budget, with the Slow Road costing much less than projected. We want to thank Pike Industries for completing the project on time and under budget, as well as Road Commissioner Charlie Goodman and Road Foreman Josh Rogers and his crew for coordinating this work. Plans are underway to repave Joslin Hill Road and North Road later this year.

We continued to struggle with specific road and property maintenance issues, most importantly the badly deteriorated Meadow Road Bridge. The Town was aware that the bridge required attention, but the flooding in July 2023, and subsequent closure of Vermont Route's 100 and 100B north of Town, greatly exacerbated the deterioration when the bridge was used as a key detour for several weeks. We continue to seek FEMA funding to help with repairing or, most likely replacing, the bridge. In the interim, however, the Selectboard was forced to reduce the weight limit on the bridge to eight tons, which restricts access for most trucks. We are in the process of identifying next steps to improve this critical access to properties served by the Meadow Road and North Road.

Another large capital project that the Selectboard took steps to address is the need for a new Town Garage. The current garage, which has been cobbled together over the years, is woefully deficient in its size, configuration and physical condition. It presents a very challenging work environment for the Road Crew, and limits their ability to maintain equipment at the highest standards. After circulating a Request for Proposals (RFP) and receiving 10 responses, Bread Loaf Corporation was hired to develop a conceptual design and cost estimate for a new garage. We expect a proposal for a bond to construct a new garage will be placed before the voters as early as November of this year.

With the leadership of the General Wait House Commission, which was formed in 2024 to improve management and oversight of the historic property, we made significant progress on addressing years of deferred maintenance. The building's exterior was repainted, and a new roof installed this past summer. Other small improvements, including adding

an ADA accessible parking area and ramp, and improving fire safety, were also made. Thanks to Ann Marie Harmon, Gib Geiger, Fred Messer, Richard Backus, and the General Wait House tenants.

All of these large infrastructure projects, coupled with sharp reductions in the availability of federal grants that the Town has historically relied on to fund large projects, prompted the Board to seek out new sources of revenue. With assistance from the Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD), we examined the possibility of enacting a Local Option Tax (LOT) on sales, rooms, and meals and alcoholic beverages. Importantly, under Vermont law a LOT is the only option available to municipalities (besides property taxes) to raise significant revenue on their own.

According to the MRVPD's analysis, a LOT would generate approximately \$600,000 a year, of which an estimated 82% would be paid for by non-residents of the Town. LOTs have been adopted by Burlington, South Burlington, Colchester, Williston, Waterbury, Stowe, Montpelier, Barre City and Berlin, and 30 other Vermont municipalities. Waitsfield voters will be asked whether Waitsfield should follow suit and adopt a Local Option Tax at Town Meeting. Revenue generated from the LOT, if adopted, would be used to fund capital investments, reserves, and/or debt service on the Town Garage, the Meadow Road bridge, the Fire Station, wastewater project and other municipal infrastructure projects.

As was well-reported in the local press, we received some disturbing news when it was discovered the Town had fallen victim to a sophisticated cybercrime that redirected an \$81,000 payment to the Town's wastewater engineering contractor to an untraceable account. The M&T Bank was able to recover \$22,500 of the stolen funds several months after the crime occurred, and we only recently learned that the Town's insurance carrier – VLCT-PACIF – reimbursed the Town for the balance of the loss (less a \$1,000 deductible). This episode prompted the Town to take specific steps to improve cybersecurity, which will continue into the current year.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of a dedicated and talented Town staff. Thanks to the office staff: Town Administrator York Haverkamp, Town Clerk Jennifer

Peterson, Planning and Zoning Administrator J.B. Weir, Town Treasurer Steve Lewis, and assistant treasurer Sandy Gallup, for their hard work, as well as the Road and Public Works crew: Foreman Josh Rogers, Jason Blake, Taylor Armstrong, and Chad Guyette for all they do to keep the roads in good conditions and to help maintain the sidewalks and Town properties.

We are excited to proceed with the many ongoing projects and new opportunities that 2026 presents. The Selectboard generally meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 in the Town Office. Our agendas are posted on line and at three places in Town. Meetings are open to the public, and usually include an option to attend remotely through a zoom link that is included on the meeting agenda. The meetings are also often broadcast live on MRVTV. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings and share your opinions on matters of interest.

FY2027 Budget Summary

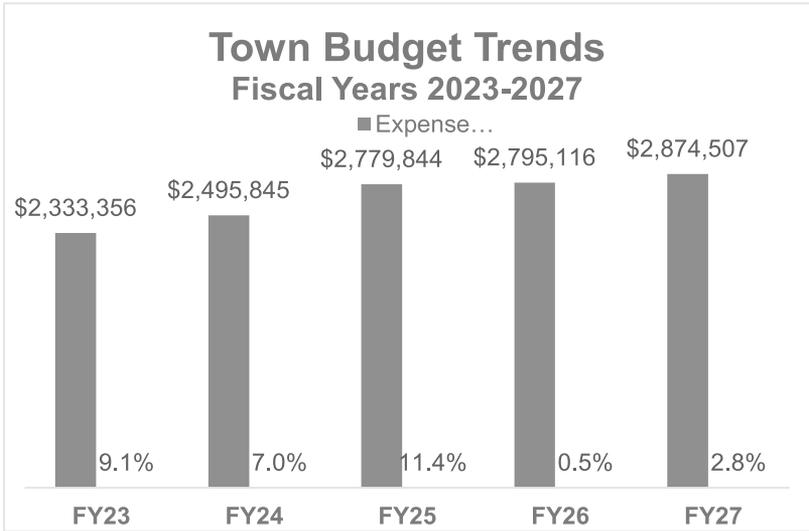
At last year's Town Meeting, the Selectboard was pleased to have submitted a budget that resulted in a slight reduction in the tax rate for the current fiscal year. While inflationary pressures and some unanticipated expenses prevented that from happening again, we are pleased the budget presented to the Town for fiscal year 2027 would, if approved by voters, result in an increase in the tax rate of 2.8%, below current levels of inflation.



A rainy wander down The Hosford Highway

Photo: Courtesy of Joshua Schwartz

The following chart shows recent budget trends.



Recent trends in the municipal tax rate are shown in the following table.

Town Of Waitsfield Municipal Tax Rate Trends					
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27 (budgeted)
Town	0.5287	0.5824	0.5825	0.5797	0.5958
Local Agreement	0.0036	0.0036	0.004	0.004	0.0040
TOTAL MUNICIPAL	0.5323	0.5860	0.5865	0.5837	0.5998
% Change (+/-)	16.2%	10.1%	0.1%	-0.48%	2.76%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: 5.7%					

Please note that the FY2027 Municipal Budget and resulting municipal property tax rates presented above cover town operating expenses only, not education expenses. The Harwood Unified Union School District will prepare and present a separate budget to fund our schools, and that budget will be voted on separately by Waitsfield and the five other towns in the school district.

It should also be noted that, like all municipalities, Waitsfield struggled with high inflation, wage pressures, and deferred maintenance after the pandemic. To address these issues, the Town required numerous budget corrections resulting in sharp increases in the tax rate in FY 2023 and 2024. Because of the hard work by prior Board members and administrators to tackle these issues, the current Board has been able to stabilize the expense budget and keep tax increases at or below the rate of inflation for the last three years.

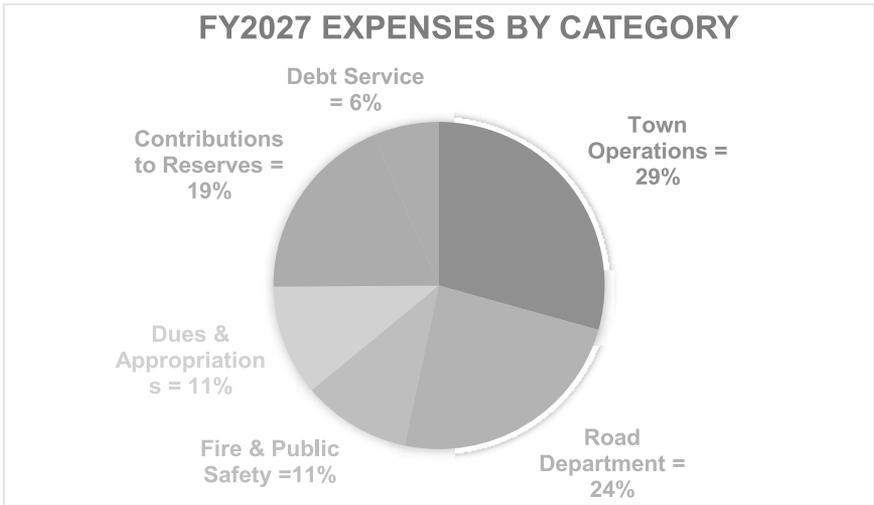
For the FY2027 Budget, wages and materials costs increased by just over 3%, in line with inflation and lower than in prior years. Wage increases were offset by a drop in health insurance premiums achieved by switching to a captive insurance program offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield. Over half of the \$77,000 budget increase comes from two new line items: 1) \$15,000 for Cyber Security, to protect the Town's digital infrastructure from cybercrime and theft, and 2) \$24,000 for a new dispatch service for the MRV Ambulance Service, after their prior provider abruptly discontinued their service.

Proposed FY2027 Expenses

The total proposed FY2026 expense budget is \$2,874,507, an increase of \$77,392 or 2.8% over last year's budget. The budget comprises six primary categories of expense, with more detail below on each:

Town Operations

This budget category includes all costs to manage town operations – office staff salaries, benefits, insurance, legal & auditing costs, all town boards, etc. The proposed FY2027 Town Operations budget is \$832,769, approximately 29% of the total expense budget. The Town Operations budget is down \$800 or -0.1% from last year. Increases in staff salaries and the new Cyber Security expense are offset by a decline in health insurance costs.



Road Department

This budget category includes all labor, materials and operating costs related to the Road Department. The proposed FY2027 budget for the Road Department is \$681,511 or 24% of the total expense budget. This is up \$17,000 or 2.5% from last year. The primary drivers of the increase are salaries for the full crew of four, and higher sand and other materials costs, each up a little under 4%. These increases are partially offset by a reduction in Equipment operating costs, resulting from the replacement of some older equipment that was expensive to maintain. Paving costs are funded through reserve accounts and are discussed below.

Fire & Public Safety

This budget category includes all labor, materials and operating costs related to the Fire Department, and other public safety expenses like the Washington County Sheriff's patrolling. The proposed FY2027 budget for Fire & Public Safety is \$305,485 or 11% of the total expense budget. This budget category is up \$11,000 or 3.7% from last year, in line with inflation.

Dues & Appropriations

This category includes contributions to local, regional and state organizations that serve our community, including among others Joslin

Memorial Library, the Wait House, the Mad River Valley Planning District, the Mad River Valley Recreational District, the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service, MRVTV, Steward MRV, and the Cemetery Commission. It also includes special appropriations to local non-profits like the Mad River Valley Seniors and the Mad River Valley Arts.

The proposed FY2027 budget for these essential services to our community is \$326,143, representing 11% of the total expense budget. This budget is up \$35,000 or 12% from last year. Most of the increase comes from a new dispatch service for the MRV Ambulance Service, after their prior provider abruptly discontinued service. The total cost of the new service will be shared by all valley towns that rely on MRVAS.

Contributions to Reserves

Each year, the Town sets aside money from the General Fund into dedicated reserve accounts to pay for large future expenses, like the purchase of a new fire truck or a road paving project. These are referred to as Capital Reserves, because the town is using them to make capital investments in critical town equipment and infrastructure. The Town also sets aside money from the General Fund into Non-Capital Reserve accounts, for items like land conservation, street tree maintenance and invasive species management.

The benefit of contributing annually to both types of reserve accounts is to level our budget from year to year, so that we don't have a big budget increase in the years when we need to make a big purchase. The reserves also help the Town make big investments without incurring costly debt, as interest rates have been relatively high over the last several years.

Proposed FY2027 contributions to all reserve funds total \$535,960, representing 19% of the total expense budget. Reserve contributions are up \$15,000 or 3% from last year, primarily related to the Street Trees and Invasive Species reserve accounts that we will need in FY2027 to address the arrival of the emerald ash borer in our community of ash trees. Contributions to Capital Reserves are level-funded compared to last year at \$455,560.

In addition to budgeted contributions to reserves, the Selectboard is asking voters to approve the creation of an All Hazards Reserve Fund, with an initial contribution of \$10,000. The Town has experienced two flooding events in the past three years that resulted in unanticipated expenses associated with damage to Town infrastructure. With a warming climate, we anticipate more frequent intense weather events. This reserve fund will better enable the Town to respond to future events with less impact on the general fund.

In FY2026, the Town spent \$956,000 of its Capital Reserves on new trucks and equipment for the Road Department and the paving of the East Warren and Slow Roads. In FY2027, the Town proposes to spend an additional \$881,000 from Capital Reserves to fund a new fire truck, improvements to the Fire Station, and paving and culvert replacements.

As you can see, we will have spent more than we contributed to our Capital Reserves in FY2026 and FY2027. In FY2026, we closed the gap and replenished our Capital Reserves with a \$300,000 transfer of undesignated fund balances (unspent funds from prior years' budgets). In FY2027 and beyond, we propose to close the gap through adoption of a Local Option Tax or LOT. The Mad River Valley Planning District estimates that a LOT would raise an estimated \$600,000 annually for the Town, with 82% of the taxes paid by non-residents.

If adopted by voters, the Selectboard would use the LOT revenue to fund capital investments in our infrastructure, including road paving, bridge and culvert repair and replacement, and debt service on new facilities like a Town Garage, Fire Station, and municipal wastewater system. Use of LOT revenue to fund these infrastructure projects would help stabilize our budget and minimize increases in our property taxes.

Debt Service

This budget category includes all payments of principal and interest on debt incurred by the Town to fund past investments like the Town office, the Town solar array, and the new road grader. The proposed FY2027 budget for debt service is \$185,639, representing 6% of the total expense budget. This budget is flat with last year. The 6% ratio of debt service to total expense is well under the Town's 10% policy target, and

we expect the ratio will fall under 5% in FY2028 as two loans will be fully repaid this year, reducing our debt service by \$70,000.

Reducing our debt and thereby lowering our debt payments benefits the Town in many ways: 1) The Town avoids borrowing at high interest rates that crowd out other expenses in the budget; 2) the Town retains borrowing capacity for unplanned future expenses like flood recovery, and 3) the Town can continue to build reserves for future purchase of critical equipment like fire trucks without taking on high cost debt.

Proposed FY2027 Revenue

To fund the \$2.875 million FY2027 expense budget described above, the Town proposes raising \$2,376,777 in municipal property taxes, up \$77,391 from last year. The remaining \$497,730 of expenses will be funded by various fees, state and federal grants, interest income, etc., consistent with prior years.

The increase in the amount to be raised by municipal property taxes, coupled with recent increases in the grand list value of all Town properties subject to taxation, results in a 2.8% estimated increase in the municipal property tax rate, from \$0.5837 per \$100 of assessed value last year to an estimated \$0.5998 this year. The impact on taxpayers would range from a \$32 annual increase on an assessed value of \$200,000, to a \$64 annual increase on an assessed value of \$400,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Shupe, Chair

Larissa Ursprung, Vice Chair

Dave Babbott-Klein

Chach Curtis

Fred Messer

Did you know:

Waitsfield sits in a rare valley between the Green Mountains and the Northfield Range, creating one of Vermont's most naturally accessible four-season recreation zones. This unique geography places world-class skiing, mountain biking, river paddling, and scenic hiking all within minutes of each other...right in the heart of the Mad River Valley.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

I have officially been here in the Mad River Valley, working for Waitsfield, for one year. It has been an honor. Living and working here is a steady reminder of the local distinctiveness found across our country. I've lived in several places and visited many more. Most of my adult life was spent in the U.S. South, serving on a city council in Tennessee and working for the National League of Cities with communities in Minnesota and Arkansas.

One thing that continues to stand out about Vermont (New England) is the tradition of Town Meeting. It is very different from the structures in other places I've lived and worked. Town Meeting offers more than it may appear at first glance. Longtime Vermonters may feel this naturally, but to someone experiencing it for the first time, the difference is clear.

I've attended only one Town Meeting so far, and I admit I felt a bit overwhelmed. But what I observed that day stays with me in my role. Most of the country does not have the level of direct voice that Vermonters have. The power residents hold here is significant. The influence of our collective voice at Town Meeting is greater than I imagined before coming to Waitsfield.

For someone who believes in community engagement and bottom-up governance, knowing that the residents of Waitsfield guide the direction of our Town is inspiring.

I am grateful to live in a place that supports direct participation in local government...something that sets Vermont apart from much of the country. I am grateful to live in a community that continues to practice one of the strongest democratic traditions in the nation.

And with that, thank you to our community for your trust, support, and shared commitment.

Peace

York Keith Haverkamp

Town of Waitsfield, VT

FY2026 General Fund Budget -- Expenditures Summary

<u>Department/Section</u>	<u>% Total FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 Proposed</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Town Meeting	0.1%	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,750	\$ (2,750)	-42.3%
Legal and Auditing	1.3%	\$ 35,500	\$ 36,000	\$ 500	1.4%
Town Office Operations	3.7%	\$ 102,489	\$ 104,350	\$ 1,861	1.8%
Town Clerk and Treasurer	4.1%	\$ 191,116	\$ 115,008	\$ (76,108)	-39.8%
Selectboard	3.6%	\$ 96,825	\$ 100,000	\$ 3,175	3.3%
Planning and Zoning	2.7%	\$ 69,620	\$ 76,536	\$ 6,916	9.9%
Board of Listers	1.2%	\$ 30,000	\$ 33,200	\$ 3,200	10.7%
Delinquent Tax Collector	0.4%	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ (5,000)	-33.3%
Conservation Commission	0.2%	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
Road Department	24.0%	\$ 598,685	\$ 671,607	\$ 72,922	12.2%
Employee Benefits	11.1%	\$ 233,500	\$ 310,142	\$ 76,642	32.8%
Fire Department	7.7%	\$ 191,648	\$ 216,110	\$ 24,462	12.8%
Public Safety	2.8%	\$ 72,014	\$ 78,489	\$ 6,475	9.0%
Dues and Assessments	8.9%	\$ 232,241	\$ 249,005	\$ 16,764	7.2%
Special Appropriations	1.0%	\$ 28,220	\$ 28,220	\$ -	0.0%
Miscellaneous	1.4%	\$ 24,000	\$ 39,600	\$ 15,600	65.0%
Capital Transfers - to GF and reserves	17.0%	\$ 591,325	\$ 475,960	\$ (115,365)	-19.5%
Contribution to Reserves (non-capital)	1.6%	\$ 57,000	\$ 45,000	\$ (12,000)	-21.1%
Debt Service	6.6%	\$ 187,661	\$ 185,639	\$ (2,022)	-1.1%
Wait House	0.4%	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ -	0.0%
<u>TOTAL</u>	100.0%	\$ 2,779,844	\$ 2,795,116	\$ 15,272	0.5%

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VT

FY27 General Fund Budget -- Expenditure Detail

For Town Meeting March 2026

		\$ Change					
<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
2	<u>Elections & Town Meeting</u>						
3	Election Expense	\$ 268.54	\$ 59.46	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%
4	Town Report	\$ 1,042.16	\$ 2,901.50	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,200	\$ (300)	-20%
5	Ballot Clerks	\$ 1,243.97	\$ 406.30	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,100	\$ 350	20%
6	Section TOTAL	\$ 2,554.67	\$ 3,367.26	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,800	\$ 50	1%
7	<u>Legal and Auditing</u>						
8	Legal	\$ 15,184.82	\$ 16,788.50	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	0%
9	Auditing	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	0%
10	Section TOTAL	\$ 34,184.82	\$ 36,288.50	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ -	0%
11	<u>Town Office Operations</u>						
12	Insurance and Bonds	\$ 18,083.51	\$ 19,613.60	\$ 23,100	\$ 23,100	\$ -	0%
13	Office Utilities	\$ 1,085.60	\$ 3,639.99	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,000	20%
14	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 1,074.58	\$ 7,586.24	\$ 9,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 5,000	56%
15	Postage	\$ 3,340.85	\$ 3,223.49	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500	\$ (500)	-10%
16	Supplies	\$ 7,540.17	\$ 6,104.99	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000	\$ (1,000)	-13%
17	Computer Services	\$ 4,580.02	\$ 6,600.76	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -	0%
18	Training	\$ 677.95	\$ 59.66	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	0%
19	Cleaning	\$ 9,270.00	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,400	\$ 1,400	14%
20	Equip. Maint. & Contracts	\$ 14,458.05	\$ 11,356.32	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	0%
21	Telephone & Internet	\$ 5,965.00	\$ 5,430.98	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,600	\$ (400)	-7%
22	Office Equipment	\$ 74.99	\$ 838.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	0%
23	Public Notice Expense	\$ 8,577.12	\$ 5,543.20	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 500	10%
24	Cyber Security [NEW]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0%

		\$ Change					
	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
25	Special Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ (2,500)	-50%
26	Section TOTAL	\$ 74,727.84	\$ 81,247.23	\$ 104,350	\$ 122,850	\$ 18,500	18%
27	<u>Town Clerk and Treasurer</u>						
28	Salaries	\$ 131,890.57	\$ 125,748.06	\$ 114,758	\$ 116,500	\$ 1,742	2%
29	Borrowing Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	0%
30	Section TOTAL	\$ 131,890.57	\$ 125,748.06	\$ 115,008	\$ 116,750	\$ 1,742	2%
31	<u>Selectboard</u>						
32	Selectboard Reimbursement	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250	\$ -	0%
33	Town Website	\$ 823.00	\$ 1,928.00	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,200	\$ 200	10%
34	Town Admin. Salary	\$ 60,528.00	\$ 49,528.03	\$ 90,000	\$ 93,621	\$ 3,621	4%
35	Training	\$ 30.00	\$ 88.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%
36	Mileage Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
37	SB Recording Secretary	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ -	0%
38	Communications	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
39	Section TOTAL	\$ 66,181.00	\$ 56,044.03	\$ 100,000	\$ 103,821	\$ 3,821	4%
40	<u>Planning & Zoning</u>						
41	PC/DRB Recording Secretary	\$ 1,305.00	\$ 1,287.50	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750	\$ -	0%
42	Special Planning Projects	\$ 5,037.06	\$ 852.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
43	Town Plan	\$ -	\$ 43,192.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
44	Salaries	\$ 68,946.15	\$ 65,943.28	\$ 72,536	\$ 75,076	\$ 2,540	4%
45	Training	\$ 150.43	\$ 181.43	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%
46	Computer Equipment/Service	\$ 1,068.98	\$ 1,054.00	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ (1,000)	-67%
47	Mileage Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	0%
48	Section TOTAL	\$ 76,507.62	\$ 112,510.56	\$ 76,536	\$ 78,076	\$ 1,540	2%
49	<u>Board of Listers</u>						
50	Assessor Services	\$ 23,029.04	\$ 22,292.09	\$ 26,500	\$ 26,500	\$ -	0%
51	Computer Equipment/Service	\$ 3,169.21	\$ 2,133.33	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ (1,000)	-25%
52	Property Map Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	0%

		\$ Change					
	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
53	Training and Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	0%
54	Professional Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%
55	Section TOTAL	\$ 27,698.25	\$ 27,725.42	\$ 33,200	\$ 32,200	\$ (1,000)	-3%
56	<u>Delinquent Tax Collector</u>						
57	Collector Fees	\$ 9,837.61	\$ 16,211.33	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%
58	Section TOTAL	\$ 9,837.61	\$ 16,211.33	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%
59	<u>Conservation Commission</u>						
60	Conservation Special Projects	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,427.50	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0%
61	Section TOTAL	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,427.50	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0%
62	<u>Road Department</u>						
63	<u>Labor</u>						
64	Salaries	\$ 209,573.92	\$ 234,424.65	\$ 283,046	\$ 293,176	\$ 10,130	4%
65	Overtime	\$ 26,200.05	\$ 35,738.76	\$ 35,381	\$ 36,796	\$ 1,415	4%
66	Sub-total	\$ 235,773.97	\$ 270,163.41	\$ 318,427	\$ 329,972	\$ 11,545	4%
67	<u>Equipment Operations/Repairs</u>						
68	Road Department Insurance	\$ 10,221.75	\$ 9,172.35	\$ 11,200	\$ 11,648	\$ 448	4%
69	Gas	\$ 4,236.26	\$ 3,991.50	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -	0%
70	Oil, Grease, and Filters	\$ 6,065.01	\$ 3,122.36	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000	33%
71	Diesel	\$ 31,811.74	\$ 29,940.48	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	0%
72	2020 International Dump Truck	\$ 2,813.71	\$ 2,821.06	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	33%
73	2021 Tandem (Dump Truck)	\$ 1,283.30	\$ 2,695.47	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	33%
74	2021 GMC 3500	\$ 590.85	\$ 2,200.84	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	0%
75	2010 Low Pro Truck	\$ 420.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
76	2009 John Deere Loader	\$ 2,118.83	\$ 2,657.15	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ (3,500)	-100%
77	Ford Chloride Truck	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0%
78	2021 John Deere Grader	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0%
79	2021 Cat Backhoe	\$ 2,640.02	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,500	\$ (3,000)	-67%
80	2025 Single Axle (New)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0%

		\$ Change					
	Item	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Proposed	(FY26 to FY27)	% Change
1	EXPENDITURES						
81	2018 HV Truck (Low-Pro)	\$ 3,445.55	\$ 14,321.84	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ (2,500)	-100%
82	Ventrac	\$ 399.07	\$ 954.83	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%
83	Roadside Mower	\$ 3,500.28	\$ 874.45	\$ 3,000	\$ 750	\$ (2,250)	-75%
84	Steel Pole Saw/Chainsaw	\$ 413.96	\$ 96.96	\$ 1,200	\$ 750	\$ (450)	-38%
85	Garage Repairs	\$ 2,335.63	\$ 2,122.22	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	0%
86	Garage Trash Removal	\$ 1,896.00	\$ 2,042.49	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,600	\$ (400)	-13%
87	Uniforms Services	\$ 8,980.81	\$ 6,499.33	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 500	14%
88	Uniforms Materials	\$ -	\$ 522.23	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	0%
89	Heat	\$ 3,985.43	\$ 4,682.85	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	13%
90	Telephone	\$ 2,600.64	\$ 2,552.98	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ -	0%
91	Electricity	\$ 229.44	\$ 2,484.65	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,500	\$ 600	32%
92	Garage Supplies/Hardware	\$ 4,970.22	\$ 5,514.15	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	11%
93	Chipper/Rake	\$ 798.86	\$ 476.42	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,750	\$ (750)	-30%
94	Alarm System	\$ 252.00	\$ 968.00	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%
95	Water Service	\$ 590.00	\$ 590.00	\$ 630	\$ 630	\$ -	0%
96	Plow Blades and Shoes.	\$ 9,082.86	\$ 6,634.22	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ -	0%
97	Tire Chains [NEW]	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	13%
98	Sub-total	\$ 105,682.22	\$ 107,938.83	\$ 122,530	\$ 119,228	\$ (3,302)	-3%
99	<i>Hired Equipment and Labor</i>						
100	Grading	\$ 460.00	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 200	67%
101	Contract Services	\$ 9,675.00	\$ 21,799.00	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -	0%
102	Sub-total	\$ 10,135.00	\$ 21,799.00	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,500	\$ 200	2%
103	<i>Materials</i>						
104	Salt	\$ 31,356.35	\$ 50,996.15	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000	\$ (10,000)	-20%
105	Sand	\$ 65,278.00	\$ 73,613.63	\$ 75,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 15,000	20%
106	Chloride	\$ -	\$ 10,784.02	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	0%
107	Crushed Gravel	\$ 27,538.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
108	Stone	\$ 9,860.00	\$ 6,391.00	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	0%

		\$ Change					
	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
109	Culverts	\$ 9,986.54	\$ 13,478.45	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 2,500	17%
110	Guardrails	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%
111	Tools	\$ 5,521.45	\$ 1,690.52	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0%
112	Signs	\$ 1,186.38	\$ 1,182.98	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0%
113	Fabric	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%
114	Cold Patch, Hay, and Seed	\$ 2,346.99	\$ 2,047.97	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	0%
115	Waste Blocks	\$ 990.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0%
116	Sub-total	\$ 154,064.21	\$ 160,184.72	\$ 189,000	\$ 196,500	\$ 7,500	4%
117	<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
118	Fayston Winter Agreement	\$ 12,595.65	\$ 24,344.58	\$ 12,500	\$ 13,261	\$ 761	6%
119	Sidewalk Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 61.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
120	Tree Cutting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
121	Bridge Repairs	\$ 3,616.64	\$ 70,770.36	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%
122	Gravel Pit Management	\$ -	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%
123	Line Painting	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	25%
124	July 2024 Flood	\$ -	\$ 63,604.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
125	Street Lights	\$ 5,722.82	\$ 6,126.78	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,700	\$ -	0%
126	Bridge Lights	\$ 309.91	\$ 249.25	\$ 800	\$ 500	\$ (300)	-38%
127	Radios	\$ 335.58	\$ 578.25	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ (500)	-25%
128	Training	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%
129	MRGP/State Roads Permit	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,850	\$ -	0%
130	Sub-total	\$ 24,032.42	\$ 168,383.72	\$ 29,350	\$ 30,311	\$ 961	3%
131	Section TOTAL	\$ 529,687.82	\$ 728,469.68	\$ 671,607	\$ 688,511	\$ 16,904	3%
132	<u>Employee Benefits</u>						
133	FICA/Medicare	\$ 39,562.28	\$ 39,542.52	\$ 44,893	\$ 48,279	\$ 3,386	8%
134	Retirement (VMERS)	\$ 34,548.02	\$ 32,282.00	\$ 39,612	\$ 42,252	\$ 2,640	7%
135	Act 76 Childcare Tax	\$ -	\$ 2,399.43	\$ 2,426	\$ 2,610	\$ 184	8%
136	Unemployment	\$ 228.00	\$ 547.00	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ -	0%

							\$ Change	
	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>							
137	Worker's Compensation	\$ 20,654.25	\$ 21,942.80	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,220	\$ 220	1%	
138	Health Insurance	\$ 99,136.38	\$ 102,953.56	\$ 192,010	\$ 159,911	\$ (32,099)	-17%	
139	Life and Disability	\$ 2,670.33	\$ 2,170.45	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	0%	
140	Vision	\$ 439.64	\$ 261.05	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0%	
141	Dental	\$ 2,589.92	\$ 2,892.01	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,200	\$ 200	7%	
142	Section TOTAL	\$ 199,828.82	\$ 204,990.82	\$ 310,141	\$ 284,672	\$ (25,469)	-8%	
143	<u>Fire Department</u>							
144	Gas, Oil, and Grease	3,150.93	\$ 2,685.14	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,400	\$ 400	10%	
145	Insurance	11,530.99	\$ 14,124.00	\$ 12,800	\$ 14,200	\$ 1,400	11%	
146	Telephone and Dispatch	30,767.46	\$ 24,002.75	\$ 32,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 1,000	3%	
147	Capital West Reserve Contribution	9,534.67	\$ 9,653.84	\$ 9,535	\$ 10,500	\$ 965	10%	
148	Radio and Radio Repairs	4,804.96	\$ 1,409.20	\$ 8,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,000	50%	
149	Electricity	34.68	\$ 2,548.81	\$ 2,600	\$ 3,000	\$ 400	15%	
150	Heat	5,396.72	\$ 6,686.91	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 500	8%	
151	Water Service	590.00	\$ 590.00	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -	0%	
152	Building Repair and Supplies	12,423.08	\$ 10,835.87	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -	0%	
153	Alarm	0.00	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 500	\$ 100	25%	
154	Truck Repairs	15,345.04	\$ 26,855.35	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	0%	
155	Equipment Repairs	3,607.73	\$ 3,305.30	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 500	8%	
156	Bottled Gas	0.00	\$ 15.98	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	0%	
157	Training	4,641.06	\$ 21,743.80	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	0%	
158	Hose and Equipment	6,972.80	\$ 4,350.76	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%	
159	Gear	13,858.40	\$ 9,451.01	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,000	\$ (1,000)	-8%	
160	Fire Prevention	1,150.77	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	100%	
161	Miscellaneous	598.09	\$ 425.50	\$ 750	\$ 500	\$ (250)	-33%	
162	Dues	0.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%	
163	Physical Exams	0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	-100%	
164	Labor	36,631.00	\$ 50,922.00	\$ 49,950	\$ 51,000	\$ 1,050	2%	

		\$ Change					
	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
165	FICA	2,958.34	\$ 5,202.49	\$ 3,825	\$ 5,200	\$ 1,375	36%
166	Ladder/Hose Testing	3,451.32	\$ 1,909.98	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -	0%
167	Administrative Time	5,290.00	\$ 5,607.00	\$ 5,750	\$ 5,750	\$ -	0%
168	Section TOTAL	172,738.04	\$ 202,725.69	\$ 216,110	\$ 226,050	\$ 9,940	5%
169	<u>Public Safety</u>						
170	Sheriff's Department Billing	\$ 29,211.88	\$ 31,101.04	\$ 38,012	\$ 39,550	\$ 1,538	4%
171	Animal Control Officer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	50%
172	Dog Pound Fees	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	0%
173	Emergency Management	\$ 7,126.16	\$ 660.00	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 300	25%
174	Fire Warden	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	0%
175	Fire Hydrant Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
176	Fire Protection Contribution	\$ 25,960.00	\$ 25,960.00	\$ 25,080	\$ 25,080	\$ -	0%
177	Generator Expense	\$ 674.00	\$ 2,173.94	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 600	60%
178	Insurance	\$ 556.75	\$ -	\$ 2,772	\$ 2,855	\$ 83	3%
179	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 476.80	\$ 250	\$ 450	\$ 200	80%
180	Training	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%
181	Town Health Officer	\$ -	\$ 775.00	\$ 775	\$ 1,000	\$ 225	29%
182	Constable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,500)	-33%
183	Section TOTAL	\$ 63,778.79	\$ 61,421.78	\$ 78,489	\$ 79,435	\$ 946	1%
184	<u>Dues and Assessments</u>						
185	Central VT Reg'l Planning	\$ 2,452.52	\$ 2,452.52	\$ 2,545	\$ 2,614	\$ 69	3%
186	Joslin Memorial Library	\$ 68,493.00	\$ 69,149.00	\$ 71,859	\$ 75,015	\$ 3,156	4%
187	MR Resource Mgt. Alliance	\$ 12,908.00	\$ 12,908.00	\$ 12,908	\$ 12,908	\$ -	0%
188	MRV Planning District	\$ 49,639.50	\$ 61,148.00	\$ 68,344	\$ 71,751	\$ 3,407	5%
189	MRV Recreation District	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	0%
190	VLCT	\$ 3,529.00	\$ 7,356.00	\$ 3,718	\$ 3,800	\$ 82	2%
191	Washington County Tax	\$ 32,651.00	\$ 33,456.00	\$ 34,500	\$ 37,979	\$ 3,479	10%
192	Green Mtn. Transit	\$ 2,131.00	\$ 2,131.00	\$ 2,131	\$ 2,131	\$ -	0%

							\$ Change	
	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>							
193	MRVAS	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ -	0%	
194	MRVAS Dispatch (NEW)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,125	\$ 24,125	0%	
195	Section TOTAL	\$ 226,804	\$ 243,600.52	\$ 249,005	\$ 283,323	\$ 34,318	14%	
196	<u>Special Appropriations</u>							
197	Capstone (formerly CVTCA)	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	0%	
198	Center of Independent Living	\$ 620.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 620	\$ 620	\$ -	0%	
199	Circle	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ -	0%	
200	Community Harvest	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	0%	
201	CVT Adult Basic Education	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -	0%	
202	CVT Council on Aging	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050	\$ -	0%	
203	CVT Economic Devel. Corp.	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450	\$ 450	\$ -	0%	
204	CVT Home Health and Hospice	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -	0%	
205	Downstreet (formerly CVCLT)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,000	\$ (2,500)	-71%	
206	Everybody Wins!	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%	
207	Family Center of Wash. Co.	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%	
208	Good Beginnings of CVT	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ -	0%	
209	Good Samaritan	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%	
210	Green Up Vermont	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	0%	
211	Mad River Valley Arts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0%	
212	Mad River Valley Seniors	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%	
213	Mosaic (formerly SACT)	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	0%	
214	Peoples Health and Wellness	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%	
215	Prevent Child Abuse VT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0%	
216	The Children's Room	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	0%	
217	VT Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	0%	
218	VT Assc. of Conservation Districts - Rural Fire Protection	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 100	100%	
219	VT Family Network	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	0%	

		\$ Change					
	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>(FY26 to FY27)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
220	Waitsfield Historical Society	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,500	250%
221	Washington Co. Mental Health	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ -	0%
222	Washington Co. Youth Service	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	0%
223	Section TOTAL	\$ 21,820	\$ 28,220.00	\$ 30,220	\$ 31,320	\$ 1,100	4%
224	<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
225	Town Pond Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	0%
226	Maintenance of Parks	\$ 8,375.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (1,000)	-17%
227	Steward MRV	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	0%
228	Trail Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0%
229	Solar Array Maintenance	\$ 1,355.71	\$ 1,369.12	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0%
230	Memberships and Dues	\$ 55.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	0%
231	MRVTV Meeting Coverage	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	13%
232	Other	\$ -	\$ 1,088.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
233	Cemetery Commission	\$ 17,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,500	\$ 500	3%
234	Section TOTAL	\$ 40,185.71	\$ 16,078.09	\$ 39,600	\$ 39,600	\$ -	0%
235	<u>Capital Improvement Program</u>						
236	Road Dept FY Appropriations	\$ 87,500.00	\$ 33,300.00	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,500	\$ 2,500	31%
237	Road Dept Reserve Transfers	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 425,000.00	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ -	0%
238	Fire Dept FY Appropriations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
239	Fire Dept Reserve Transfers	\$ 97,500.00	\$ 107,025.00	\$ 115,460	\$ 115,460	\$ -	0%
240	Section TOTAL	\$ 525,000.00	\$ 565,325.00	\$ 463,460	\$ 465,960	\$ 2,500	1%
241	<u>Transfer to Non-Capital Reserves</u>						
242	Restroom/Recreation/Conserve.	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	0%
243	Transportation Path/Sidewalk	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0%
244	Covered Bridge Reserve	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,500	20%
245	Long Range Planning Projects	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
246	Reappraisal Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ (10,000)	-100%
247	Lareau Park Reserve	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%

		\$ Change					
	Item	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Proposed	(FY26 to FY27)	% Change
1	EXPENDITURES						
248	Street Trees	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	100%
249	Invasive Species Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	50%
250	Section TOTAL	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 71,500.00	\$ 57,500	\$ 70,000	\$ 12,500	22%
251	Debt Service						
252	Town Office Solar Array	\$ 44,987.44	\$ 40,837.81	\$ 42,944	\$ 42,944	\$ -	0%
253	Town Office	\$ 16,812.29	\$ 16,538.40	\$ 16,250	\$ 16,250	\$ -	0%
254	Storm Damage	\$ 25,749.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
255	Wastewater - "Big Pipe"	\$ 36,484.22	\$ 36,484.22	\$ 36,484	\$ 36,484	\$ -	0%
256	Decentralized Wastewater	\$ 25,281.64	\$ 25,281.64	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	\$ -	0%
257	Bridge Street Improvements	\$ 31,905.45	\$ 31,235.23	\$ 30,480	\$ 30,480	\$ -	0%
258	Grader	\$ 34,198.94	\$ 34,198.94	\$ 34,199	\$ 34,199	\$ -	0%
259	Section TOTAL	\$ 215,419.15	\$ 184,576.24	\$ 185,639	\$ 185,639	\$ -	0%
260	Wait House						
261	Wait House Operations	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	0%
262	Wait House Capital (transfer)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -	0%
263	Section TOTAL	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ -	0%
264							
265	TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$ 2,495,844.73	\$ 2,781,977.71	\$ 2,797,115	\$ 2,874,507	\$ 77,392	2.8%

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VT

FY27 General Fund Budget -- Revenue Detail

Town Meeting 2026

	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>Change (FY26 to FY27)</u>
	REVENUES					
1	Property Taxes					
2	Municipal Property Taxes	\$ 2,029,667.00	\$ 2,176,680.58	\$ 2,311,789	\$ 2,376,777	\$ 64,988
3	Delinquent Penalty Fees	\$ 9,535.77	\$ 16,211.33	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
4	Delinquent Tax Interest	\$ 17,694.16	\$ 15,582.56	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -
5	Section TOTAL	\$ 2,056,896.93	\$ 2,208,474.47	\$ 2,339,789	\$ 2,404,777	\$ 64,988
6	Town Clerk and Treasurer					
7	Town Clerk Fees	\$ 34,882.07	\$ 19,886.40	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -
8	Interest Income (investment)	\$ 55,274.92	\$ 66,237.19	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
9	Liquor Sale Permits	\$ 1,695.00	\$ 3,195.00	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -
10	Section TOTAL	\$ 91,851.99	\$ 89,318.59	\$ 63,500	\$ 63,500	\$ -
11	Road Department					
12	State Highway Aid	\$ 76,331.97	\$ 78,623.92	\$ 78,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 2,000
13	Grants	\$ -	\$ 16,500.00	\$ -	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500
14	Road Dept. Miscellaneous	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 3,417.15	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
15	Section TOTAL	\$ 78,516.97	\$ 98,541.07	\$ 80,000	\$ 92,500	\$ 12,500
16	Fire & Public Safety					
17	Fayston "Share" (40% of exp.)	\$ 55,192.72	\$ 89,723.04	\$ 79,120	\$ 76,000	\$ (3,120)
18	Fire Admin Reimbursement	\$ 5,290.00	\$ 5,607.00	\$ 5,750	\$ 6,000	\$ 250
19	Miscellaneous Fire Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Fire Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

	<u>Item</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 Actual</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed</u>	<u>Change (FY26 to FY27)</u>
	<u>REVENUES</u>					
21	Traffic Control	\$ 4,157.02	\$ 4,445.65	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
22	Miscellaneous Police Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
23	Dog Impoundment Fees	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
24	Section TOTAL	\$ 64,639.74	\$ 99,800.69	\$ 90,020	\$ 87,150	\$ (2,870)
25	<u>General Government</u>					
26	Pilot Program	\$ 6,814.93	\$ 6,785.93	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -
27	Current Use Reimbursement	\$ 126,963.50	\$ 135,362.00	\$ 135,000	\$ 137,000	\$ 2,000
28	Library Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 2,674.00	\$ 2,611.70	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
29	Wait House Insurance Reimburse.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
30	Water Admin./Audit Reimbursemen	\$ 6,750.94	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 7,125	\$ 7,782	\$ 657
31	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 3,240.85	\$ 3,638.37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32	Act 60 Annual Support	\$ 10,830.00	\$ 10,953.50	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -
33	Planning and Zoning Income	\$ 17,176.10	\$ 11,035.90	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -
34	Planning and Zoning Grants	\$ 17,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
35	Insurance Claims	\$ 3,036.42	\$ 70,378.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
36	"Other" Grant Proceeds	\$ -	\$ 500.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
37	Waitsfield Elem. School Solar	\$ 4,012.19	\$ 10,431.28	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
38	Waitsfield Elem. School Snow Clearing	\$ -	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -
39	Water System Hydrant Snow Clearing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,900	\$ 3,016	\$ 116
40	Solar Array Credit Proceeds	\$ 2,375.15	\$ 7,512.06	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -
41	Section TOTAL	\$ 201,374.08	\$ 266,810.11	\$ 198,525	\$ 201,298	\$ 2,773
42	<u>Decentralized Wastewater</u>					
43	WW Loan Re-Payments	\$ 34,023.86	\$ 28,705.92	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	\$ -
44	Section TOTAL	\$ 34,023.86	\$ 28,705.92	\$ 25,282	\$ 25,282	\$ -
45						

Item	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Proposed	Change (FY26 to FY27)
REVENUES					
TOTAL	\$ 2,527,303.57	\$ 2,791,650.85	\$ 2,797,116	\$ 2,874,507	\$ 77,391

Municipal Property Tax "Calculator"			
<i>FY27 Budget as Proposed</i>		\$	2,874,507
<i>Non-property tax revenue</i>		\$	497,730
<i>To Be Raised by Taxes (a)</i>		\$	2,376,777
<i>Estimated Grand List (b)</i>		\$	3,989,108
<i>Tax Rate "Formula"</i>			(a)/(b) = (c)
<i>Est. Municipal Property Tax Rate (c)</i>		\$	0.5958
<i>FY27 Est. Local Agreement Rate* (d)</i>		\$	0.0040
<i>FY27 Est. TOTAL Municipal</i>		\$	0.5998
<i>TOTAL +/- from FY26</i>		\$	0.5837
<i>Percent Increase from FY26</i>			2.8%
Impact for Residential Property Owners			
Assessed Value	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
FY26 Taxes	\$ 1,167	\$ 1,751	\$ 2,335
FY27 est. Taxes	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,799	\$ 2,399
Annual Difference	\$ 32.23	\$ 48.35	\$ 64.47
Monthly Difference	\$ 2.69	\$ 4.03	\$ 5.37

*0.3% increase
from FY26 grand
list*

Summary - All Reserve Account Balances

<u>Reserve [1]</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>FY26 Starting Balance</u>	<u>FY26 Projected Use</u>	<u>FY26 Approved Transfers</u>	<u>FY26 Ending Balance (Estimated)</u>	<u>FY27 Projected Use</u>	<u>FY27 Proposed Transfers</u>	<u>FY27 Ending Balance (Estimated)</u>
Road Dept Vehicles & Facilities	Road	\$ 408,189	\$ 410,937	\$ 150,000	\$ 147,252	\$ 10,300	\$ 200,000	\$ 336,952
Road Dept Paving , Bridge & Culverts	Road	\$ 1,265,937	\$ 541,935	\$ 190,000	\$ 914,002	\$ 465,509	\$ 140,000	\$ 588,494
Fire Dept Vehicles & Facilities	Fire	\$ 318,795	\$ 5,000	\$ 115,460	\$ 429,255	\$ 404,945	\$ 115,460	\$ 139,770
Other Town Facilities	General	\$ 199,630	\$ 106,090	\$ 7,500	\$ 101,040	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 111,040
Town Parks/Rec/Conservation	General	\$ 243,335	\$ 15,000	\$ 47,500	\$ 275,835	\$ 55,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 290,835
Town Operations	General	\$ 162,098	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 172,098	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 172,098
TOTAL TOWN RESERVES		\$ 2,597,984	\$ 1,078,962	\$ 520,460	\$ 2,039,482	\$ 935,753	\$ 535,460	\$ 1,639,188

* Does not include the following grant funded reserve accounts managed by the town:

Town Forest Stewardship	\$ 74,086
Srag Mountain	\$ 37,678
Farley Riverside Park	\$ 43,355
Entrust Conservation	\$ 15,316
	\$ 170,436

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM
FY27 - FY31
Town Meeting March 2026

ESTIMATED INFLATION RATE APPLIED TO FUTURE PURCHASES: 3.0%
 WAITSFIELD SHARE OF WFFD EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT COSTS 60.0%

Project/Item	Total cost (est.)	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
ROADS, BRIDGES, CULVERTS, FACILITIES						
Reserve Balances						
Paving Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$515,176	\$332,676	\$407,676	\$339,406	\$414,406
<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
<i>Transfers from Undesignated Fund Balances</i>	<i>One Time</i>					
Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$257,500	\$0	\$143,270	\$0	\$225,102
Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$332,676	\$407,676	\$339,406	\$414,406	\$264,304
Bridge & Culvert Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$368,826	\$246,868	\$190,778	\$131,505	\$68,954
<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$171,959	\$106,090	\$109,273	\$112,551	\$115,927
Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$246,868	\$190,778	\$131,505	\$68,954	\$3,027
Gravel Crushing Reserve - Estimated Starting Reserve Balance		\$30,000	\$8,950	\$23,950	\$38,950	\$14,557
<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$36,050	\$0	\$0	\$39,393	\$0
Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$8,950	\$23,950	\$38,950	\$14,557	\$29,557
NEW Facilities Reserve - Estimated Starting Reserve Balance		\$100,000	\$114,700	\$139,700	\$164,700	\$189,700
<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
<i>Transfers from Undesignated Fund Balances</i>	<i>One Time</i>					
Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$10,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$114,700	\$139,700	\$164,700	\$189,700	\$214,700

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>	<u>FY30</u>	<u>FY31</u>
1							
25							
26	NEW Emergency Reserve - Estimated Starting Reserve Balance		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
27	<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28	<i>Transfers from Undesignated Fund Balances</i>	<i>One Time</i>					
29	Payments out of Reserve	Annual					
30	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
31							
32							
33	Paving Projects						
34	East Warren Rd Paving (FY26) \$	643,055					
35	Paving Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
36	Paving Grants		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
37	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
38							
39	Slow Road Paving (FY26) \$	29,970					
40	Paving Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
41	Paving Grants		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
42	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
43							
44	Joslin Hill Paving (FY27) \$	250,000					
45	Paving Reserves		\$257,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
46	Paving Grants		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
47	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
48							
49	North Road Paving \$	300,000					
50	Paving Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$143,270	\$0	\$0
51	Paving Grants		\$0	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0
52	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
53							
54	North Fayston Road Paving \$	200,000					
55	Paving Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$225,102
56	Paving Grants		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
57	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
58							

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>	<u>FY30</u>	<u>FY31</u>
59	Culvert Projects						
60	North Road Culvert (FY25)	\$ 65,000					
61	Bridge and culvert reserves		\$68,959	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
62	Grants / ARPA		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
63	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
64							
65	Common Road Culvert (FY26)	\$ 50,000.00					
66	Bridge and culvert reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
67	Structures Grants		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
68	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
69							
70	Future FY Culvert & Bridge Projects	\$ 500,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
71	Bridge and culvert reserves		\$103,000	\$106,090	\$109,273	\$112,551	\$115,927
72	Grants		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
73							
74	<u>Gravel Crushing</u>						
75	Gravel Crushing	\$ 35,000					
76	Gravel Crushing reserves		\$36,050	\$0	\$0	\$39,393	\$0
77							
78	<u>Facilities</u>						
79	Town Garage (FY28)	\$ 5,000,000					
80	Facilities reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
81	Grant/Bond funding		\$5,000,000				
82	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
83							
84	Ventrac Shed	\$ 10,000					
85	Facilities reserves		\$10,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
86	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
87							
88	<u>Stormwater/MRGP projects</u>						
89	FY Appropriation	Annual	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
90							
91	<i>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</i>		\$135,000	\$137,500	\$140,000	\$145,000	\$145,000

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>	<u>FY30</u>	<u>FY31</u>
92	HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES / BUILDINGS						
93	Reserve Balances						
94	Heavy Equipment Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance						
95			\$4,806	\$54,806	\$104,806	\$154,806	\$204,806
96	<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
97	Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
98	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$54,806	\$104,806	\$154,806	\$204,806	\$254,806
99	Road Dept. Vehicle Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance						
100			\$41,732	\$166,732	\$95,466	\$1,920	\$126,920
101	<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
102	Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$0	\$196,267	\$218,545	\$0	\$0
103	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$166,732	\$95,466	\$1,920	\$126,920	\$251,920
104	Heavy Equipment Purchases						
105	Loader (FY26)	\$ 179,900					
106	Heavy Equipment Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
107	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
108							
109	Backhoe (FY33)	\$ 160,000					
110	Heavy Equipment Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
111	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
112							
113	Vehicles Purchases						
114	Pick-up Truck (FY26)	\$ 60,000					
115	<i>To replace 2021 GMC 3500 Pick Up</i>						
116	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
117	FY Appropriation			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
118							
119	International Single Axle Dump Truck (FY28)	\$ 185,000					
120	<i>to replace 2020 International Dump Truck/Single</i>						
121	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$196,267	\$0	\$0	\$0
122	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
123							
124	2025 HV507 Dump Truck (FY26)	\$ 225,000					
125	<i>to replace 2018 HV Truck/Lo Pro</i>						
126	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
127	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
128							

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>	<u>FY30</u>	<u>FY31</u>	
129	Tandem Dump Truck (FY29)	\$ 200,000						
130	to replace 2021 Tandem Dump Truck							
131	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$218,545	\$0	\$0	
132	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
133								
134	Paved Road Plan Update (5-Year)	\$ 7,500						
135	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
136								
137	Highway Garage Design & Planning	\$ 15,000						
138	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
139								
140	Salt/Sand Shed	\$ 20,000						
141	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$21,218	\$0	\$0	\$0	
142								
143	Sub-total to be raised with FY budget		\$175,000	\$196,218	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	
144	FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING							
145	Reserve Summary							
146	WFFD Building Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$74,377	\$48,937	\$54,397	\$69,857	\$85,316	
147	Annual Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$25,460	\$25,460	\$25,460	\$25,460	\$25,460	
148	Annual Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$50,900	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
149	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$48,937	\$54,397	\$69,857	\$85,316	\$100,776	
150								
151	WFFD Building and Equipment Repairs							
152	Capital West Reserve Allocation							
153	Building Reserves	Annual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
154	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
155								
156	Miscellaneous Needs							
157	Building Reserves	Annual	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
158	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
159								
160	Rolston Road Hydrant	\$ 30,000.00						
161	Building/Equipment Reserves		\$30,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
162	Grant Funding		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
163	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
164								

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>	<u>FY30</u>	<u>FY31</u>	
165	Building Needs Assessment	\$ 15,000.00						
166	Building/Equipment Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
167	Grant Funding		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
168	FY Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
169	Sub-total to be raised with FY budget		\$25,460	\$25,460	\$25,460	\$25,460	\$25,460	
170	FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT							
171	Reserve Summary							
172	WFFD Vehicle Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$354,878	\$90,834	\$127,093	\$211,093	\$193,797	
173	Annual Transfers to Reserve	Annual	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	
174	Annual Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$354,045	\$53,741	\$6,000	\$107,296	\$6,000	
175	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$90,834	\$127,093	\$211,093	\$193,797	\$277,797	
176	WFFD Vehicle Purchases							
177	Pumper [Engine 6] (FY44)	\$ 777,150						
178	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
179	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
180								
181	Utility Van (FY30)	\$ 150,000						
182	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$101,296	\$0	
183	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
184								
185	International 7400 Pumper/Tanker (FY40)	\$ 472,221						
186	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
187	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
188								
189	International 4400 Pumper [Engine #5] (FY27)	\$ 570,749						
190	Vehicle Reserves		\$342,449	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
191	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
192								
193	Crew Cab 1 Ton Pick-up Truck (FY26)	\$ 75,000						
194	Vehicle Reserves		\$0	\$47,741	\$0	\$0	\$0	
195	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
196								
197								

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>	<u>FY30</u>	<u>FY31</u>
1							
198	<u>Fire Equipment Replacement/ Repairs</u>	Annual					
199	Miscellaneous Needs	\$ 10,000					
200	Vehicle/Equipment Reserves		\$11,595	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
201	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
202							
203	<i>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</i>		\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
204	<u>PARKS & RECREATION</u>						
205	Reserve Summary						
206	Lareau Park Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$6,865	\$6,865	\$6,865	\$6,865	\$6,865
207	<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
208	Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
209	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$6,865	\$6,865	\$6,865	\$6,865	\$6,865
210							
211	Path & Sidewalk Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$71,875	\$71,875	\$71,875	\$71,875	\$71,875
212	<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
213	Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
214	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$71,875	\$71,875	\$71,875	\$71,875	\$71,875
215							
216	Parks & Recreation Projects						
217	Future Lareau Swim Hole Access/Water Quality Project	\$ 17,500					
218	Lareau Park Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
219	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
220							
221	Sidewalk Maintenance Plan	\$ 6,000					
222	Path Reserve		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
223	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
224							
225	Mad River Path Route 100 Scoping Study contribution	\$ 4,000					
226	Path Reserve		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
227	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
228	<i>Sub-total to be raised with FY budget</i>		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
229	<u>COVERED BRIDGE</u>						
230	Reserve Summary						
231	Covered Bridge Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$15,282	\$5,282	\$20,282	\$10,282	\$25,282
232	<i>Transfers to Reserve</i>	<i>Annual</i>	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
233	Payments out of Reserve	Annual	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
234	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$5,282	\$20,282	\$10,282	\$25,282	\$15,282

	<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Total cost (est.)</u>	<u>FY27</u>	<u>FY28</u>	<u>FY29</u>	<u>FY30</u>	<u>FY31</u>
1	Covered Bridge Projects						
235	Future Covered Bridge repair project						
236	Covered Bridge Reserve		\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
237	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
238	Sub-total to be raised with FY budget		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
239	WAIT HOUSE						
240	Reserve Summary						
241	Wait House Capital Reserve - Estimated Starting Balance		\$91,419	\$101,419	\$5,329	\$15,329	\$25,329
242	<i>Transfers to Reserve</i> <i>Annual</i>		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
243	<i>Transfers from Undesignated Fund Balances</i> <i>One Time</i>						
244	Payments out of Reserve Annual		\$0	\$106,090	\$0	\$0	\$0
245	Estimated Ending Reserve Balance		\$101,419	\$5,329	\$15,329	\$25,329	\$35,329
246	Wait House Projects						
247	Exterior Painting \$ 25,000						
248	Payments out of Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
249	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
250	Roof Replacement \$ 75,000						
251	Payments out of Reserves		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
252	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
253	Window Replacement \$ 100,000						
254	Payments out of Reserves		\$0	\$106,090	\$0	\$0	\$0
255	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
256	Sub-total to be raised with FY budget		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
257	OTHER CAPITAL NEEDS						
258	Capital Purchases						
259	New Town Office Printer \$ 7,500						
260	FY Appropriations		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
261	Sub-total to be raised with FY budget		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
262	*Total to be raised with FY25 Budget		\$460,460	\$484,178	\$465,460	\$470,460	\$470,460
263							
264							
265							
266							
267							

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

	<u>FY2025</u>
Grand List	
Municipal Grand List	3,935,860
State Education Grand List	3,936,772
Tax Rates	
Homestead Municipal	0.5865
Homestead Education	2.1713
Total Homestead Tax Rate	<u>2.7578</u>
Non-Residential Municipal	0.5865
Non-Residential Education	2.0808
Total Non-Residential Tax Rate	<u>2.6673</u>
Taxes Billed (Grand List Value)	
Municipal	\$ 2,292,622.00
Homestead Education	\$ 3,645,641.00
Non-Residential Education	\$ 4,683,680.00
Local Agreement	\$ 15,744.00
Total Taxes Billed	\$ 10,637,687.00
Plus late filed Homestead Declaration fees	\$ -
Plus/Less Corrections, Abatement, State Adjustments	
Net Taxes Due	<u>\$ 10,637,687.00</u>
Less tax collections through June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 10,535,689.00</u>
Total FY2024 taxes due on June 30, 2025	\$ 101,998.00
Delinquent Tax Collections	
Beginning Delinquent Taxes due (FY19 & earlier years on FY24)	\$ -
Delinquent Taxes for FY25	\$ 101,998.00
Delinquent Tax Collections since 06/30/25	\$ (71,992.00)
Abatements/Adjustments	\$ -
Balance of Delinquent Taxes as of 01/21/2026	<u>\$ 30,006.00</u>

CURRENT DELINQUENT TAX LIST
As of February 9, 2026

NAME	2025	2024	TOTAL
DeJames Real Estate Holdings, LLC	\$21,436.46		
Eurich, Elaine	\$3,236.93	\$730.99	
Lanphear, Vickie Jo	\$129.86		
Noack, Peter A.	\$1,048.24		
Pierce, Larry H. (c/o Riley Lush)	\$413.40	\$268.61	
Skelly, Patricia	\$297.35		
Smith, Jason	\$946.88	\$580.96	
Balance Due	\$27,509.12	\$1,580.56	\$29,089.68



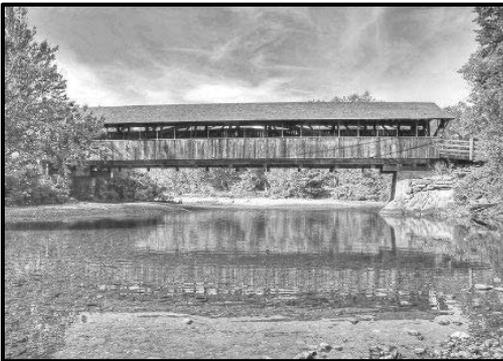
Eastern Newt
 Photo: Courtesy of York Haverkamp

**TOWN CLERK
STATEMENT OF FEES COLLECTED
JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025**

Recording fees:	\$ 18,645.00
Search fees:	\$ 278.50
Copies:	\$ 3,018.90
Permit fees:	\$ 149.00
(land posting, Green Mountain Passports)	
Marriage Licenses, less state fees:	\$ 375.00
Dog Licenses, less state fees:	\$ 1,185.00
Miscellaneous fees:	<u>\$ 92.00</u>
(late dog fines, replacement dog tags, postage reimbursement)	
 Total Fees Collected:	 \$ 23,743.40

Vital Statistics

Births:	4
Deaths:	19
Marriage Licenses Issued:	40



Did you know?
 Waitsfield’s Great Eddy Bridge - also known as the Village Covered Bridge - is Vermont’s longest single-span Burr truss bridge. With its 105-foot clear span, it holds the record for the longest uninterrupted Burr truss span in the entire state.

TOWN RESERVE FUNDS**ROAD DEPARTMENT-TRUCKS**

Balance June 30, 2024	\$86,531
Deposits	\$70,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$3,175
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$159,706</u>

ROAD DEPARTMENT HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Balance June 30, 2024	\$109,465
Deposits	\$35,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$4,017
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$148,482</u>

FIRE DEPARTMENT-TRUCKS

Balance June 30, 2024	\$181,609
Deposits	\$76,605
Loan Proceeds	\$0
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$6,665
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$264,879</u>

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$52,146
Deposits	\$30,420
Withdrawals	(\$40,384)
Interest Earned	\$1,733
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$43,915</u>

RECREATION & CONSERVATION RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$75,445
Deposits	\$20,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$2,820
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$98,265</u>

ENTRUST CONSERVATION RESERVE (MOVED TO FOREST)

Balance June 30, 2024	\$14,774
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	(\$14,774)
Interest Earned	\$0
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$0</u>

TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$67,341
Deposits	\$57,662
Withdrawals	(\$2,247)
Interest Earned	\$4,325
Balance June 30, 2024	<u>\$127,081</u>

TOWN RESERVE FUNDS**TRANSPORTATION PATH RESERVE**

Balance June 30, 2024	\$59,688
Deposits	\$14,000
Withdrawals	(\$4,000)
Interest Earned	\$2,187
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$71,875</u>

LAREAU PARK IMPROVEMENT RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$19,162
Deposits	\$2,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$703
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$21,865</u>

STREET TREES RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$20,324
Deposits	\$5,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$746
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$26,070</u>

REAPPRAISAL RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$124,611
Deposits	\$10,000
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$4,573
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$139,184</u>

ENERGY PROJECTS RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$9,280
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$341
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$9,621</u>

BRIDGE & CULVERT RESERVE

Balance June 30, 2024	\$216,965
Deposits	\$100,000
Withdrawals	(\$4,195)
Interest Earned	\$7,556
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$320,326</u>

SCRAG MTN FOREST RESERVE (MOVED TO FOREST)

Balance June 30, 2024	\$36,341
Transfer from Town Forest Reserve	\$0
Withdrawals	(\$36,341)
Interest Earned	\$0
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$0</u>

TOWN RESERVE FUNDS**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT RESERVE**

Balance June 30, 2024	\$10,528
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$386
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$10,914</u>

PAVING

Balance June 30, 2024	\$621,458
Deposits	\$205,000
Withdrawals	(\$673,025)
Interest Earned	\$22,804
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$176,237</u>

OTHER TOWN FUNDS**GENERAL WAIT HOUSE MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT**

Balance June 30, 2024	\$36,253
Deposits (Rental Income)	\$17,442
General Fund Appropriation-Operations	\$4,000
General Fund Appropriation-Capital	\$4,000
Withdrawals	(\$20,065)
Transfer to Wait House Capital	(\$67,835)
Interest Earned	\$422
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>(\$25,783)</u>

GENERAL WAIT HOUSE CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance June 30, 2024	\$0
Deposits	\$0
General Fund Appropriation-Capital	\$7,500
Withdrawals	(\$37,552)
Transfer from Wait House Maintenance	\$65,835
Interest Earned	\$2,174
Wait House Donations	\$7,626
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$45,583</u>

RECORDS RESTORATION

Balance June 30, 2024	\$43,324
Deposits	\$3,800
Withdrawals	(\$181)
Interest Earned	\$0
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$46,943</u>

BELDEN FUND (Town Clock Waitsfield United Church of Christ)

Balance June 30, 2024	\$1,985
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	\$0
Interest Earned	\$72
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$2,057</u>

TOWN RESERVE FUNDS**COVERED BRIDGE REPAIR**

Balance June 30, 2024	\$12,378
Deposits	\$2,500
Withdrawals	(\$12,540)
Interest Earned	\$445
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$2,783</u>

FARLEY RIVERSIDE PARK

Balance June 30, 2024	\$49,166
Deposits	\$0
Withdrawals	(\$7,615)
Interest Earned	\$1,804
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$43,355</u>

WATER FUND

Balance June 30, 2024	\$418,074
Revenue-Operations	\$225,770
Revenue-Interest	\$15,398
Withdrawals-Operations & Debt	(\$192,117)
Balance June 30, 2025	<u>\$467,125</u>

LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS**Town Office/Solar Array Bond***Original Date of Borrowing - July, 2014 (\$635,000.00) - US Bank*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2024	\$349,250
Principal Repayment FY25	-\$31,750
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$317,500
<i>(Next Payment Due 5/15/26, Interest Rate 3.40%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - December 2034	

Bridge Street Improvement Bond*Original Date of Borrowing - September, 2015 (\$400,000.00) - M&T Bank*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2024	\$186,664
Principal Repayment	-\$26,667
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$159,997
<i>(Next Payment Due September 1, 2026, Interest Rate 2.6%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - September 2030	

Town Office Bond*Original Date of Borrowing - July 1, 2016 - Vermont Municipal Bond Bank*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2024	\$159,250
Principal Repayments	-\$12,250
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$147,000
<i>(Next Payment Due November 1, 2026, Interest Rate 1.491%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - November 2036	

Municipal Water and Wastewater**Decentralized Wastewater State Revolving Fund - Loan RF1-208***Renewed Date of Borrowing - April 9, 2012 (\$210,203) - VT DEC*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2024	\$196,040
Principal Repayment	-\$21,361
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$174,679
<i>(Next Payment Due November 2026, Interest Rate 0.0%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - November 2037	

Centralized Wastewater (Big Pipe) - Loan RF1-058*Renewed Date of Borrowing - November 12, 2012 (\$672,770) - VT DEC*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2024	\$109,454
Principal Repayment	-\$36,486
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$72,968
<i>(Next Payment Due May 2026, Interest Rate 0.0%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - May 2027	

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

Loan Balance on June 30, 2024	\$2,452,249
Principal Repayment	-\$57,670
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$2,394,579
<i>(Next Payment Due September 2026, 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, 2024	\$168,183
Principal Repayment	-\$3,676
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$164,507
<i>(Next Payment Due November 2026, Interest Rate 2.75%)</i>	
Loan Maturity - May 2054	

State of Vermont Special Environmental Revolving Fund - New Community Wastewater System*Original Date of Borrowing - May, 2022*

Loan Balance on June 30, 2024	\$8,041
Borrowed	\$196,131
Loan Forgiveness	-\$181,400
Note Balance on June 30, 2025	\$22,772

This bond transitioned from a 100% forgivable bond, to 92.5% forgivable, the Town recognized \$181,400 in forgiveness in fiscal year 2025.

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, 2024

\$98,591

Principal Repayment

-\$32,209

Note Balance on June 30 , 2025

\$66,382

(Next Payment Due November 2026, Interest Rate 2.0%)

Loan Maturity November 2026



Ashton enjoying the igloo he helped build with buddies at Waitsfield School

Photo: Courtesy of Steve Lewis

AUDIT REPORT AND REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C., Montpelier, Vermont conducted an audit of the Town of Waitsfield's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

They performed their audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of American and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in "Government Auditing Standard," issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The following Fiscal Year 2025 - Audit Discussion and Financial Highlights summarizes the Independent Auditor's Report.

The full Audit Report, with all the Exhibits and Notes to the Financial Statements is available on the town's web site: www.waitsfieldvt.gov. Paper copies are also available at the Waitsfield Town Office located at 4144 Main Street, Waitsfield, Vermont.

If you have questions or comments regarding the audit report, please contact Steve Lewis, Town Treasurer at the Town Office, telephone (802)496-2218 extension 2, or steve.lewis@waitsfieldvt.gov .



Gray Catbird on the Hosford Highway
Photo: Courtesy of York Haverkamp

Fiscal Year 2025 - Audit Discussion and Financial Highlights

Independent Auditor's Report

This 2025 Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 includes an "Unqualified" Opinion. This is the seventh consecutive year that we have achieved this goal.

Statement of Net Position

The Town's (government-wide) modified cash basis net position decreased by \$889 during the fiscal year from \$3,670,259 to \$3,669,370 (Exhibit B, Page 5). This is the sum of the increase of \$187,997 for Governmental Activities and the decrease of \$188,886, for Business-type Activities. The decrease in Business-type Activities was due to the expenditures on the Wastewater project. 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 \$3,403,929 at the close of fiscal year 2025 on the modified cash basis of accounting.

The Town's General Fund unassigned fund balance increased by \$470,467 during the fiscal year from \$1,111,341 to \$1,153,046 (Exhibit C, Page 6). The Fund Balance Policy sets a goal of an unassigned fund balance equal to two months' expenditures (17% or \$472,448).

The Town's Business-type Activities are the Water Fund, the Wait House Fund and the Wastewater Fund (new this year). The Business-type Activities net position decreased by \$188,886 during the fiscal year from \$454,327 to \$265,441 (Exhibit E). The Water Fund's net position increased to \$467,111 while the Wait House Fund decreased to \$21,800. The Wastewater Fund's net position is (\$223,470).

In addition to the six major governmental funds, the Town of Waitsfield maintains twenty (22) non-major governmental funds. 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 their 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 2025, the General Fund had a \$41,705 Excess of Cash Receipts over Cash Disbursements (surplus). Total receipts were \$169,986 more than budgeted. Much of this excess revenue was the result of Insurance proceeds from the Covered Bridge damage and higher than anticipated Interest Income, Road Department Grant and Current Use receipts.

Total Disbursements were \$101,281 more than budgeted. The majority of this overage was due to the Selectboard's decision to purchase a road department truck for \$95,500. Unanticipated expenditures that occurred during the year were covered bridge repairs, July 2024 flood road repairs and Irasville Planning Grant activities. Areas of savings in the budget were due to staff vacancies, and unspent town garage repairs.

Water Fund

The Water Fund ended the year with a Net Position of \$467,111 which was \$49,037 higher than the balance on June 30, 2024. Water User Fees were \$22,800 higher than budgeted due to high income and additional water fees. The Water Fund has over \$450,000 in reserve funds invested in CD's and savings accounts.

Debt

Total Debt, as of June 30, 2025 for Governmental Activities and the Water Fund, is \$3,497,612 which is \$222,069 lower than June 30, 2024. The Town borrowed \$196,131 in FY2025 for the New Community Wastewater System (which is 92.5% forgivable) so the ending principal balance on the new loan is only \$22,772.

Questions concerning any of the information provided in the audit report or requests for additional information should be addressed to Steve Lewis,
Town Treasurer, Town of Waitsfield.

**WAITSFIELD CEMETERY COMMISSION
2025 TOWN REPORT**

Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Report

NSB Beginning Balance July 1, 2024: \$40,659.05

NSB Ending Balance June 30, 2025: \$38,696.94

Income	
Waitsfield Cemetery Trust	\$ 21,995.00
Town of Waitsfield	\$ 216.00
Lot Sales	\$ 11,590.00
Burial Fees	\$ 5,850.00
Investment CD Interest	\$ 669.10
Total Income	\$ 40,320.10
Expenses	
Sexton	\$ 29,130.00
Perpetual Care Costs	\$ 5,700.00
Burial Costs	\$ 4,050.00
Cornerstones	\$ 875.00
Maintenance and Supplies	\$ 2,527.21
Total Expenses	\$ 42,282.21

Thanks to Mark Peal for His Service

We extend our sincere thanks to Mark Peal for his seven years of dedicated service on the Waitsfield Cemetery Commission. Mark brought deep institutional memory, a strong understanding of state cemetery regulations, and a steady, thoughtful voice to difficult decisions.

Waitsfield Cemetery Commission

Robin McDermott, President Robin Preuss, Vice President
Nancy Coombs, Treasurer Laura Brines, Secretary
Mark Peal, Historian

Sexton

George Gabaree, Jr.

Waitsfield Town Cemeteries

Waitsfield is home to four active cemeteries: Wait Cemetery, Village Cemetery, Irasville Cemetery, and Common Cemetery.

Waitsfield Cemetery Commission 2025 Projects Completed

- Reestablished the annual placement of flags on the graves of all U.S. military veterans for Memorial Day, with removal after Veterans Day.
- Established a safe gravestone cleaning process and purchased the necessary tools.
- Completed 15 professional headstone repairs across Waitsfield cemeteries.
- Formalized Cemetery Lot Deed procedures: official deeds are now issued with all lot purchases.
- Began posting Cemetery Commission agendas and minutes on the Waitsfield Town website.
- Hosted the first annual meeting of the Valley Cemetery Commissions (Warren, Fayston, Moretown, and Waitsfield).
- Organized educational tours of Green Mount Cemetery and Vermont Forest Cemetery for Valley Cemetery Commissioners.
- Created and produced the Waitsfield Cemeteries brochure.
- Hosted a community forum on Natural/Green Burials, including a screening of the documentary From Earth to Earth.



WAITSFIELD CEMETERY TRUST

Period Ending	<u>6/28/2024</u>	<u>6/27/2025</u>
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>	Cost Basis	Cost Basis
Common Stock	\$0	\$0
Mutual Funds	\$348,827	\$341,250
Money Market	\$10,109	\$35,831
Exchange Traded Funds	\$8,786	\$20,301
CDs	\$11,000	\$0
Corporate Bonds	\$5,000	\$0
Cash	\$45	\$90
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$383,767</u>	<u>\$397,472</u>
<i>Market Value</i>	\$452,483	\$481,291

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>
Investment Income	\$18,238	\$31,763
Perpetual Care (lot sales)	\$2,800	\$5,700
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$21,038</u>	<u>\$37,463</u>

<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Perpetual Care	\$25,700	\$21,995
Investment Mgmt. Fees	\$3,110	\$3,275
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$28,810</u>	<u>\$25,270</u>

Gilbert Geiger, Chairman
 Robert Cook, Treasurer

Sugaring

Photo:
 Courtesy of Gail Curtin



JOSLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 2025 REPORT

In 2025, the library was as busy as ever. In total, we saw just under 9,000 visits! While they didn't always come to check out books (they DID check out 7,400+ items), they came to make use of our public access computers, spend some time in a comfy chair by the fire, with or without a warm cup of coffee or tea (thanks to our Friends group for providing the coffee and tea!), use our meeting room (over 900 this year), or participate in one of our many adult or youth programs. While, yes, some only came through the doors to use our.....facilities, more often than not they stopped by the circulation desk to engage with one of our amazing volunteers.

Speaking of our volunteers, they, along with our staff, are vital to the success of this library, and I would like to acknowledge that. Without them, we would not be able to sustain the level of service at the circulation desk, or provide the many programs we are able to offer throughout the year. Here to summarize this year's experience from the staff side, are Anna Church, Children's Librarian, and Shevonne Travers, Programs Coordinator:

From Shevonne: The Joslin Memorial Library prides itself on offering a variety of programs to Mad River Valley residents. In 2025, we collaborated on new and long-standing programs with the Mad River Valley Libraries: our monthly themed pub trivia, the annual Peeps diorama contest, Summer Bingo, and the annual Vermont Humanities Council's Vermont Reads book events. One of Joslin's best attended programs happened in June, when we invited the community to hear more about our co-founder, Sarah Joslyn; telling the story from her modest beginnings on a Fayston farm, to her establishment in Omaha, Nebraska as a prominent member of the community. In 2026, we're looking forward to a collaboration with Braver Angels, a commemoration of our nation's 250th birthday, and a variety of creative programs.

From Anna: Joslin Library's inviting downstairs space is the hub for young patrons and their families. In addition to our Children's and Young Adult books, this multipurpose room is home to our collection of toys, games, craft supplies, and more. Storytime,

Mondays at 10, welcomes our youngest patrons and their caregivers to socialize, play, and celebrate early literacy. Since the spring of 2025, we've offered "After School at Joslin" for elementary-age children to gather, craft, create, and play every Tuesday and Thursday while school is in session.

Each year, we work closely with the Moretown Community Library and the Warren Public Library to offer our annual Summer Learning Program. This past year we hired talented local artists to lead workshops and shows, hosted family outings in nature, brought back the Adventure Hunt that sent families searching for clues all around the Valley, and much more.

Public libraries have always been a safe harbor for all, and in these times, where censorship has been on the rise, where funding has been cut, and the cost of materials, salaries, and books has steadily increased, we are grateful that this community has shown our library such strong support. And thanks to that ongoing support, we can continue to work at our mission: to connect people, ideas, and information; enriching lives and strengthening community!

Respectfully submitted, Jason Butler, Library Director.-



Joslin Memorial Library

CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2025 TOWN REPORT

Our general charge is to steward the natural resources on Waitsfield's town lands in a manner which protects and enhances the town's and the broader Mad River Valley's environmental well-being. As examples, we recently contracted for continuing expansion of the trail system at Scrag Mountain Town Forest and are seeking proposals for preparation of a management plan for the Wu Ledges / Fairgrounds town properties.

And, building on prior successes, we applied to the Lake Champlain Basin Program (and received !) a grant to accelerate development of our respected, watershed-based initiative to control Knotweed and additional invasive species and restore native habitat here in the Valley. Methods include grazing by goats. The Warren and Fayston Conservation Commissions are major partners in this project, along with UVM students and faculty. Good works will happen.

Thanks to: Bob Cook for his years of good boots-on-the-ground service to the Commission and Scrag lands, *The Valley Reporter* and MRVTV for news, Waitsfield's Selectboard for its support and confidence, and all the volunteers and kindred spirits who help accomplish things. To Warren, Fayston and Moretown for like-minded thinking. To Friends of Mad River, Mad River Path and VT Land Trust for their leadership and support. And to you, reading this Report, for caring about this valley and its natural world.

The Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. The public is welcome and comments about the Commission's work are always helpful. We have a vacancy and offer you fulfilling opportunities to make a difference on the ground. Contact Curt Lindberg at wccLindberg@gmail.com or Leo Laferriere at leol@gmavt.net.

Respectfully submitted:	James Donaldson
Curt Lindberg, Chair	Ted Joslin
Leo Laferriere, Vice-Chair	Phil Huffman
Gail O'Keefe, Secretary	Chris Loomis
Bruno Grimaldi, Treasurer	

WAITSFIELD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD 2025 TOWN 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, 60 total permits were issued in 2025, compared to 61 permits in 2024, 84 permits in 2023, and 83 permits in 2022. The Board reviewed 2 subdivision applications. The DRB issued 2 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 56 zoning permits in 2025, including 14 for new single-family homes, and 4 accessory dwelling units, and 2 apartments. The PZA also issued 19 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, Chair

Chris Cook

John Donaldson

Gib Geiger

Steve McKenzie, Vice Chair

Rudy Polwin

Jim Tabor

WAITSFIELD PLANNING COMMISSION 2025 TOWN REPORT

2025 was another busy year of hard work for the Waitsfield Planning Commission.

The biggest project of 2025 was the Irasville Master Planning project, which began in the spring of 2024. This Planning Commission project was funded with a Municipal Planning Grant, and was notably a consortium project with the Town of Fayston. The project was led by a Steering Committee consisting of Planning Commissioners, Selectboard members and various stakeholders in the community. The project encompassed the development of a comprehensive Master Plan for the Irasville Village area. The plan aims to increase housing, enhance natural resources, and bolster climate resilience. Key components included assessing current conditions, understanding community perspectives, identifying opportunities for wetland enhancements, and formulating realistic design scenarios for phased revitalization. The planning process included two key community open house events. An initial open house in November 2024 saw community members weigh in on overall project direction and goals. A subsequent open house in March 2025 provided an opportunity for members of the public to share input on initial vision, conceptual design ideas, and master plan recommendations. Individual interviews with key community organizations and stakeholders provided additional perspective on needs and opportunities to be addressed by the plan. Additionally, the project team coordinated extensively with Wetlands Program staff at the VT Department of Environmental Conservation at key milestones in the planning process. The Irasville Master Plan can be found here:

www.waitsfieldvt.gov/fileadmin/files/General/2025/12/Irasville_Village_Master_Plan_FINAL_with_appendices.pdf.

Also in 2025, the Planning Commission adopted a Groundwater Protection Overlay District (GPOD) which seeks to protect the Town's public water source. The purpose of the GPOD is to protect public health, safety and welfare by minimizing the potential for contamination of vulnerable aquifers and source protection areas as authorized under 24 V.S.A. §4414(2), as well as preserving and protecting existing and potential sources of drinking water supplies. The GPOD provides standards to regulate particular uses of land and land development with the foregoing purpose in mind, in addition to those

currently imposed by existing zoning districts or other state and federal regulations.

Also in 2025, the Planning Commission began work on a draft framework for short-term rental registration and regulation which continues into 2026. In the early spring of 2026, the Planning Commission will provide its recommendations to the Selectboard.

The Planning Commission also continues to support the Town's Community Wastewater project in various facets, including representation on the engineering team by member Bob Cook.

The Planning Commission would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to Alice Peal for her seven years serving the Town in her role as Planning Commissioner. We look forward to working with Alice on regional matters pursuant to her continuing work as Town representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission looks forward to another exciting year in 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Cook
Robert Cook
Emma Hanson
AnnMarie Harmon (Vice-Chair)
Becca Newhall
Alice Peal
Jonathan Ursprung (Chair)



The Pines Picnic Area
Photo: Courtesy of Joshua
Schwartz

GENERAL WAIT HOUSE COMMISSION 2025 TOWN REPORT

The General Wait House Commission (GWHC) was established October 23, 2023 and has been meeting monthly since January of 2024. This new commission was established for the purpose of supporting the Town in maintaining and preserving the General Wait House for posterity, to benefit the residents and visitors to Waitsfield. The museum inside the General's House, operated by the Waitsfield Historical Society, has helped teach the Valley's youth and inform tourists about the history of Waitsfield and the way of life in the early 1800's.

General Wait was a national hero. Given the title of "general" for his achievements in the Revolutionary War, he fought alongside Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. He fought in several wars since he was 18 including the French and Indian War. After the Revolutionary War, he and his family relocated to Windsor, Vermont where he became a leader in the fight with New York to make Vermont a separate state. In 1782, Wait applied for and was granted a charter to a vacant track of land in the wilderness that was to become Waitsfield.

In 1995, the Town purchased the home of the Town's founding father with the help of \$50,000 from the Waitsfield Historical Society and a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund (ISTEA) for the purpose of turning it into a visitors' center and an historical museum. In the late 1990's the town undertook the research and restoration of the house with the help of The Burley Partnership. Currently, there are five tenants within the building including the Friends of the Mad River, the Mad River Path, the Mad River Valley Planning District, Art Roots, PLC, and the Waitsfield Historical Society,

The GWHC is proud to have achieved so much this past year. With the help of the Town, the roof was replaced, the entire exterior received a fresh coat of paint, a new accessible ramp and parking space was created, a new furnace was installed, and many other maintenance projects were completed, including upgrading the building's fire safety. The GWHC is always looking for volunteers to become commissioners to help make General's house better serve

the Mad River Valley. A special thank you to Mary Kathleen Mehuron and Vee Lynch for their tireless work while they were on the Fundraising/ Master Planning Committee of the GWHC.



The General Wait House, newly painted and topped with a brand-new roof

Did you know:

The General Wait House was originally built as a one-story frame home in 1793 by Waitsfield's founder, General Benjamin Wait. It was moved by Oxen to its present location in the 1830s, later expanded with a second story, and restored in the 1990s to match the original 1793 floor plan, using period-accurate paint colors and wallpaper uncovered during the renovation.

WAITSFIELD WATER COMMISSION 2025 TOWN REPORT

The Water System continues to be 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.

The quality of the water continues to be outstanding, with no need to chlorinate the water with the exception of one time every August, which is a requirement of the system's state permits.

In 2025 the Water Commission, assisted by Town Staff, assisted several landowners to connect to the system. This followed a decision the Water Commission approved the prior year to reimburse customers for a part of their connection costs. This added 17.4ERUs "Equivalent Residential Units" (ERU's – which equals 245 gallons/day) to the system. The cost of those connections is being repaid through the Water System's reserve funds.

Through careful management and the addition of new users the Commission was able to maintain all Water Fees at the 2023 level.

Looking forward, a priority for the Commission will be coordinating the operations with the establishment of a new wastewater system and ensuring that a wastewater ordinance that will guide the operations of that system is consistent and complementary with the water ordinance.

The Commission wants to extend its gratitude to Robin Morris, the prior Chair of the Commission who stepped down at the beginning of the year, for his continued advice through the year. We are additionally grateful that Robin agreed to serve another term at the start of this year.

Waitsfield Water Commission

Peter Lazorchak

Robin Morris

William Parker

Peter Reynells

Brian Shupe

WAITSFIELD ROAD DEPARTMENT 2025 TOWN REPORT

It was a very busy year for sure. Our winter was cold, our summer was hot, and there was everything else in between. Too much snow, too much rain. Let's see if we can sort it all out.

The start of the new year was a little shaky. The hated rain fell and our crew responded in their usual fashion. Get out there and get it done. Once they settled into their usual grind of winter, we plowed, sanded, and salted our roads keeping the public traveling without fear.

Winter was moving along and we were all wondering what would mud season bring. Well, it brought the slowest thaw ever, a very good thing, as the frost was deep with the cold temps we had. It took all the way through April before we felt the change of seasons, and, how they changed.

Moving into summer, it was getting downright hot, but not quite dry. July brought more flooding rains. With several weeks of flood repair, we finally got back to summer road maintenance. With a rented backhoe, Foreman Rogers and crew found themselves ditching, stone lining, and seeding many areas through town. Along with other duties, roadside mowing, grading, hauling materials, mowing our parks and green spaces, our four crew members are all business.

Chad Guyette joined our crew late in the season. His responsibilities are the sidewalk, summer mowing and helps with whatever is thrown at him. Chad really responded well to it all, with his, let's go and get it done attitude.

The seasons continue to change, and the crew work changes too. Fall grading gets done, snowplows go on, and seasonal equipment is put away. (Winter) is getting ready for the next visit from Mother Nature, and She did not disappoint.

Winter arrived a bit early. Late October brought the first of slippery roads, and once again, our crew was right at it, plowing and

sanding, and watching the temps start falling. It has been a very cold start to winter. Brrrr.

Our crew:

Josh Rogers, foreman

Taylor Armstrong

Jason Blake

Chad Guyette

Charlie Goodman, Road Commissioner



Mad Bush Falls

Photo: Courtesy of Misha Golfman



Photo: Courtesy of Joshua Schwartz

**WAITSFIELD-FAYSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
2025 TOWN REPORT**

2026 Roster

Officers:

Chief:

Jared Young

1st Assistant Chief:

Daniel Beede

2nd Assistant Chief:

Evan Theurer

Captain:

Evan DaCosta

Lieutenant:

Josh Noyes

Lieutenant:

Cameron Mills

Safety Officer:

Kaylie Viens

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Shannon Noyes

Moderator:

Kaylie Viens

Firefighters:

Gordon Eurich

Paul Hartshorn

Eric Haskin

Craig Snell

Ethan Vasseur

Tristan Weide

Bob Lockett

Lucas Weston

Ted Savage

Todd Farnham

Eli McCoy

Tripp Johnson

Allen Greenslit

George Gabaree Jr.

Baylee Duarte

Andy Johnson

Chris Lucchesi

Colin Asper

This year we responded to 120 emergency calls in our operational area as well as helping our mutual partners. I am happy to say that we had no structural fires in either Waitsfield and Fayston. With that being said, we did assist both Warren and Waterbury with structure fires in 2025. Emergency call volume was a little bit lower this year as well.

We still have been diligently training as frequently as possible to hone our skills and make sure that we are always ready to help the community and mutual aid partners when we are called.

We are very excited that we were able to put our new Engine 7 on order this year to replace Engine 5 in the year 2027. There is a lot of new technology and equipment aboard this engine, and it will help us serve the community in ways we have never been able to do before. We are very grateful to the community members of Waitsfield and Fayston for the overwhelming support that we consistently receive from everyone.

Jared Young
Fire Chief
WFFD

Calls By Type 2025						
Call Type	Waitsfield	Fayston	Moretown	Warren	Duxbury	Total
Structure Fire				1	1	2
Vehicle Fire		1				1
Fire Contained to an Object	3					3
Smoke in Building/ Smoke Smell	1					1
Smoke/Fire Alarm Activation- No Fire	21	10				31
CO Alarm Activation- No CO	4	4				8
CO in Building	1	3				4
Car Fire			1			1
Motor Vehicle Accident	12	12				24
Down Power Lines Down / Tree on Lines/ Transformer Malfunction	4	5				9
Flooding		1				1
Propane Smell	6	3				9
Fuel Spill	2					2
Car Smoking	1					1
Service Call	4					4
Unattended Permitted Burn	1					1
Canceled Enroute	3	3	1			7
Good Intent	2	1				3
Elevator Alarm- No Emergency		4				4
Search and Rescue	2					2
Medical Assist	2					2
Total	69	47	2	1	1	120



Gordon Eurich has been on the department for 65 years this year.



Training with hoses



We had 5 dedicated members of our fire department take the a rigorous 250 hour Firefighter 1 course. They all devoted hours to rigorous training with lectures and hands on practical sessions at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford. They have now achieved the esteemed status of Certified Firefighters with expertise in cutting-edge firefighting tactics.

Order from left to right in above picture:

Assistant Chief- Daniel Beede

Captain- Evan DaCosta

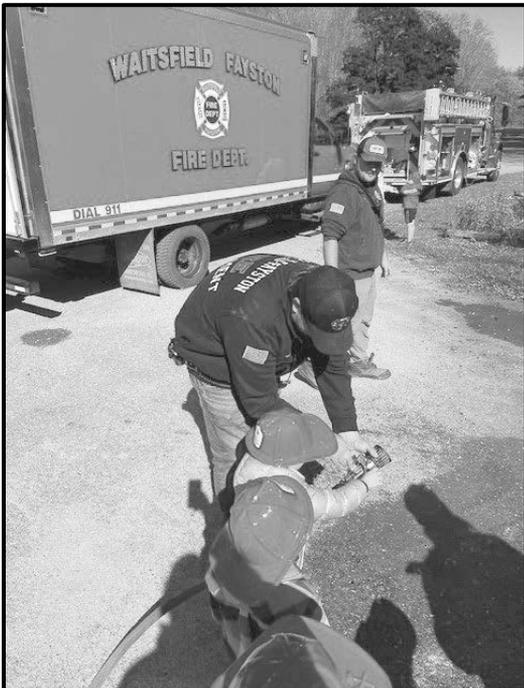
Lieutenant- Josh Noyes

Firefighter- Kaylie Viens

Lieutenant- Cameron Mills



Trained with the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service in vehicle extrication techniques.



We visited local schools to teach fire safety and students got to meet some of our firefighters.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER 2025 TOWN REPORT

The Animal Control Officer position is currently vacant. I have filled in to mediate some of the situations and complaints.

Effective November 21, 2021, Waitsfield enacted an “Ordinance Regulating Domestic Animals.” Available at

<https://www.waitsfieldvt.gov/rules-permits/ordinances-policies-plans>.

This new ordinance replaces the “Dog Ordinance” dated May 2020. It addresses many of the shortcomings of the Dog Ordinance by,

1. Aligns the job description of an Animal Control Officer (ACO) with the ordinance.
2. Fulfills the expectations of the public by regulating all domestic animals.
3. It expands from not just dog issues to all domestic animal issues.
4. It allows greater flexibility for the ACO and Select Board with the enforcement of the ordinance, tailoring enforcement action to the situation. Enforcement is always most challenging.

The “Ordinance Regulating Domestic Animals” has already proven useful, as it has allowed me to address a cat and a poultry issue. Over the past year, I’ve handled dog-related issues, mostly “dogs running at large,” which violates our ordinance.

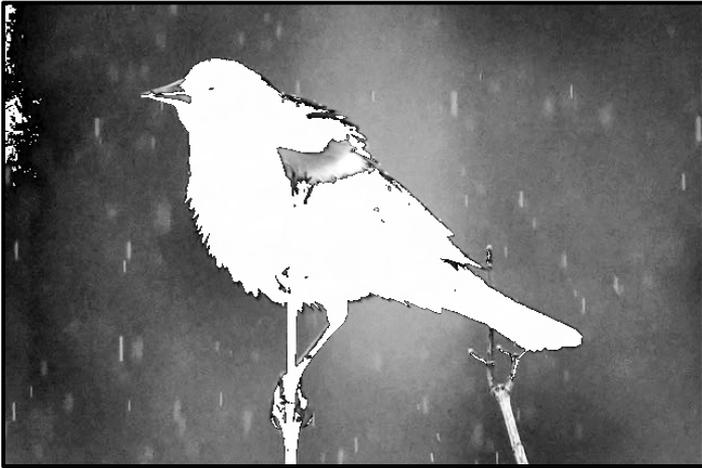
Job Vacancy Announcement and Job Description.

The ACO serves as a key point of contact for the public regarding domestic animal issues. This position requires responding to public calls, investigating complaints, gaining/affirming compliance with relevant Vermont laws and town ordinances, and ensuring humane treatment of animals. This work involves frequent interaction with community members and visitors to Waitsfield. This position requires the ACO to be available at odd hours and on weekends. At times, it may require collaborative work with the Town Health Officer. The ACO advises the Select Board on all issues regarding domestic animals within the Town, serves as prosecutor during litigation that may come before the Selectboard and writes an annual report for inclusion within the Town of Waitsfield Annual Report.

In its role, the ACO contributes to public health and safety by managing stray, injured, and potentially dangerous animals. A significant aspect of the role includes educating the public on responsible pet ownership and relevant animal-related laws. By addressing and resolving domestic animal-related issues, the ACO helps protect both human and domestic animal populations in Waitsfield.

The ACO position is paid an annual stipend of \$1,500. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to the Waitsfield Select Board via the Town Administrator, York Haverkamp, at york.haverkamp@waitsfieldvt.gov

Your humble and most obedient servant,
Fred R Messer
Acting Animal Control Officer



Red-winged Blackbird

Photo: Courtesy of York Haverkamp

Did you know:

In the expanded 246 acre Wu Ledges Town Forest there are 21 natural communities, half of which are considered ecologically significant by the state? Such variety is a sign of high biodiversity and is unusual in a parcel this size. A natural community is “an interacting assemblage of organisms, their physical environment, and the natural processes that affect them”.

WAITSFIELD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2025 TOWN REPORT

On June 17 of this past year, Waitsfield experienced a rain event that caused road damage to Butternut Hill, Sherman, Ralston, The Commons, and Center Fayston roads. The Mad River did not leave its banks in Waitsfield, though it nearly did.

During this event, Clare Ireland, our Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) assumed the role of Incident Commander as the Emergency Management Director (EMD) was out of town. Clare performed the task of Incident Commander most admirably and we thank her. We use events such as this one not only to coordinate relief efforts but also to fine-tune our management of them.

One lesson learned is that we are asking the public NOT to call the Road Foreman to report road damage during an event. He is extremely busy leading the road recovery efforts, and the great many phone calls hamper his efforts. Instead, report road damage to the Emergency Management Team at (802) 595-3491 or the Town Offices at (802) 496-2218 extension 5.

Waitsfield coordinated a FEMA 'buy back' of a home and property damaged during the 2023 flood event. This home on North Fayston Rd. will be removed, and the land will be deeded to the Town with the caveat that it will never be developed.

On January 15, 2025, EMDs from the Towns comprising the HUUHS school district met at the high school to coordinate and improve both the school's and the town's Emergency Management Plans.

Waitsfield is working with FEMA to secure funding to repair the deck of the Meadow Road Bridge, which was damaged during the 2024 flood. The town maintains that excessive, prolonged traffic damaged the decking. The Meadow Road bridge, Meadow Road, and North Road were the only links to I-89 from the Mad River Valley during this event. It appears very likely that some engineering funding will be obtained from FEMA.

Each Vermont Town is required to update its Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) annually, immediately following Town Meeting. Vermont Emergency Management requires certain baseline information before approving the plan. In the past few years, we have added more information in the form of Annexes to the LEMP to capture operational details that are not written elsewhere and are perishable. You can view the LEMP on the Town's website at www.waitsfieldvt.us

The Town of Waitsfield has adopted VT-Alert as its official "Real Time" emergency notification system. Waitsfield Emergency Managers have received the required training and are thus authorized to issue emergency messages via VT-Alert specific to Waitsfield. VT-Alert operates in real time. You may subscribe to VT-Alert at www.vtalert.gov

Your most humble and obedient servant,
Fred R Messer
Emergency Management Director



Hosford Highway

Photo:
Courtesy of Valerie Capels

**Town Health Officer
2025 TOWN REPORT**

State statutes require medical facilities to report all dog bites requiring medical attention to the THO so that the THO can investigate and ensure the offending dog is current with its rabies vaccinations. In previous years, I received notifications at the rate of one dog bite every 4 to 6 weeks. While I would like to believe there are fewer dog bites occurring, years of experience have taught me otherwise.

Upon investigation, it appears that medical facilities are not reporting dog bites due to HIPAA regulations. This is a potentially very dangerous situation affecting public health. I have notified my contact person with the Vermont Department of Health for the Department's resolution of this issue.

During the last year, I have investigated and attempted to remediate four (4) health and welfare cases.

Your humble and most obedient servant,

Fred R Messer
Town Health Officer



Waitsfield Elementary Canoeing
Photo: Courtesy of Misha Golfman

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2025 TOWN REPORT**

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 valued! CVRPC is your resource – please contact us at 802-229-0389 or cvrpc@cvregion.com for assistance.

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

Waitsfield Activities Through June 30, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2025)

- Assisted town in process for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan development and approval (approval 11/13/24). Met with the Planning Commission to discuss water quality restoration opportunities identified through the Local Hazard Mitigation Planning process.
- Provided planning and engineering grant support for the Meadow Road Bridge
- Discussed water quality restoration funding opportunities with the Selectboard, Planning Commission and Conservation Commission. Secured funding to proceed with Project Development on four municipally owned properties along the Mad River.
- Identified 53 discretionary municipal water quality restoration projects from the Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Projects Database supported by goals identified in the municipal plan.
- Provided GIS support for zoning district boundaries data and submitting to state repository.
- Hosted a municipal wastewater workshop in collaboration with Friends of the Mad River, Yestermorrow and the Department of

Environmental Conservation Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division.

- Managed the Mad River Path Active Transportation Corridor feasibility study
- Provided technical assistance and reviewed Irasville Substation upgrade project (248) and relevant town planning initiatives and documents
- Provided information on climate planning, enhanced energy planning, hot weather preparedness planning, and VT Community Charging Program.
- Supported town in planning around Mill Brook landslide mitigation.

Overview of CVRPC Programs and Services

- ❖ *Assistance for town plan and bylaw updates, focusing 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 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: Support water quality projects to meet phosphorous reduction targets*
- ❖ *Special Projects such as recreation paths, farmland preservation, and affordable housing*
- ❖ *Grant support through project identification, scoping, and applications*

MAD RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE 2025 TOWN REPORT

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 on May 10, 2025 and a Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Crossett Brook Middle School in Duxbury on October 11, 2025. A total of 429 households participated in these events. We collected 11.99 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 2026 at Crossett Brook Middle School. The Spring and Fall 2026 schedule is being developed.

A total of 250 gallons of used crankcase oil was collected within the Alliance at our Used Oil Collection Tank during 2025. The tank is located in Waitsfield at the Earthwise Transfer Station.

In 2025 textiles were collected at Rodney's Rubbish Transfer Station and Arandas Mexican Restaurant in Waterbury and the Earthwise Transfer Station and China Fun Restaurant in Waitsfield. 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 35.40 tons of textiles were collected in 2025.

Casella 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 -245 tons of food scraps were

collected by Casella in 2025 in the MRRMA. Visit our web site at 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 14 compost bins and 1 Green Cone. 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 one composting workshop for Alliance residents this year and hope to hold two in 2026. 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 3, 2025. A total of 7.57 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 2, 2026.

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 2025, a total of 15.25 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.

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 FY26 assessment for the administration and programs remains at \$7.00 per capita.

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



Drying of Potatoes at Lareau Farm
Photo: Courtesy of Misha Golfman



The Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD) was created in 1985 by the towns of Warren, Fayston, & 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. Over the past year, MRVPD undertook a range of activities, including, but not limited to, project coordination for Waitsfield's Community Wastewater Project, supporting local pedestrian safety measures, and data analysis.

MRVPD brought \$2.030 million in grants to the MRV in 2025, either through direct pursuit or guidance and support to town officials or local entities, totaling \$10.2 million since 2009.

For FY27, MRVPD requests funding of \$71,751 from each of its four funders: Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren, & Sugarbush Resort. This represents a 5% increase over the existing year.

MRVPD's activities are overseen by a 7-voting member Steering Committee, represented by 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 held on the third Thursday of each month at the Waitsfield Town Office. Meeting details are at mrvpd.org. Staffing consists of Joshua Schwartz, Executive Director, & Franni Hoag, Community Planner.

Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee

Daniel Raddock, Warren Planning Commission (Chair)
Jonathan Ursprung, Waitsfield Planning Commission (Vice-Chair)
Charles Martel, Fayston Selectboard (Secretary/Treasurer)
Kalee Whitehouse, Warren Selectboard
David Babbott-Klein, Waitsfield Selectboard
Paul Quinlan, Fayston Planning Commission
Jim Westhelle, Sugarbush Resort
Eric Friedman, Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Christian Meyer, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Schwartz, Executive Director

802.496.7173 | joshua@mrvpd.org | mrvpd.org

**MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION
DISTRICT
2025 TOWN REPORT**

The Mad River Valley Recreation District (MRVRD) is a Union Municipal District formed by Waitsfield, Warren and Fayston in 1994 and as of January 2026 Moretown became a partial member. 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. 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 2025 we awarded \$55,298 in recreation grant funds to 17 groups plus \$5,000 to support Conservation & Recreation Visioning (CRV) and another \$5,000 for swim lessons. For 2026, 17 applicants requested \$82,911 including \$4,000 for swim lessons for first and second graders in our four towns. We were pleased to fully or partially fund all 17 requests for a total of \$69,900, a 26% increase.

MRV Rec District Budget	
Beginning Bal. (1/1/25)	\$10,332
Income	
Funding from Towns	\$120,000
Moretown	\$3,000
Helmets/Lights	\$2,260
Total Income	\$135,592

Expenditures	
Bill Koch League	\$3,000
Couples Club	\$3,300
Harwood MS PTO	\$3,166
Harwood Youth Basketball	\$3,000
High Country Animals	\$2,500
Highlander Lacrosse	\$2,454
Mad River Little League	\$4,000
Mad River Park	\$12,000
Mad River Path	\$4,500
Mad River Riders	\$2,387
Mad River Ridge Runners	\$3,500
Mad River Soccer	\$3,338
Mad River CoEd Softball	\$3,200
Mad Valley Sports, Inc.	\$4,000
Skatium	\$4,000
Swim Lessons	\$2,960
Warren Recreation	\$1,848
Warren PTO	\$5,000
Warren Skate Park	\$393
CRV	\$5,000
VOREC (reimbursable)	\$890
Executive Director Salary/Benefits	\$51,351
Memberships	\$1,225
Website/Payroll	\$1,188
Miscellaneous	\$1,548
Total Expenditures	\$129,779
Ending Bal. (12/31/25)	\$10,332
Trailhead Kiosk Project Balance	3,491
Mad River Park Balance	\$17,111

Projected Grants 2026	\$69,900
VOREC Reimbursement*	\$29,711

2025 Accomplishments include:

- adding Moretown as a half-member with one seat on the Board;
- closing out and receiving full reimbursement for our \$408,019 MRV Recreation Hub grant from Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) and continuing as the fiscal sponsor of CRV;
- VOREC deliverables, including an online Mapping Tool and "Key Ecological Features," used for developing new trails at www.mrvrd.org/about-crv;
- three safety programs: (1) the sale of discounted bike lights and helmets, (2) "Stop the Bleed" Workshop, and (3) free swim lessons for 27 Valley first and second graders by partnering with Waterbury Recreation.

MRVRD is requesting level funding at \$40,000 from Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren and \$20,000 from Moretown to continue our work, support Mad River Park and enable our Executive Director, Laura Arnesen, to advance MRVRD's strategic goals. Visit mrvrd.org or contact any Board member with questions. **Executive Director:** Laura Arnesen, Warren

Executive Director: Laura Arnesen, Warren

Board: Alice Rodgers (2027), Warren - Chair

Mary Simmons (2026), Waitsfield - Vice Chair/MRP Field Manager

Kevin Anderson (2027), Waitsfield

Corey Ayotte (2026), Fayston

Molly Bagnato (2027), Fayston - Secretary

Doug Bergstein (2026), Waitsfield - Treasurer

Mike DeBonis (2028), Moretown

Luke Foley (2026), Waitsfield

Leah St. Martin (2026), Fayston

VACANT, Warren

***Note:** We received a \$29,711 VOREC reimbursement at the closeout of the VOREC Grant. It was for early VOREC expenses and a reserve held for the possibility of unexpected expenses against the \$408,000 VOREC grant. These funds have been earmarked for capital improvements at Mad River Park.



HEALTHY LAND. CLEAN WATER. VIBRANT COMMUNITY.

2025 TOWN REPORT

*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 2025, 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:

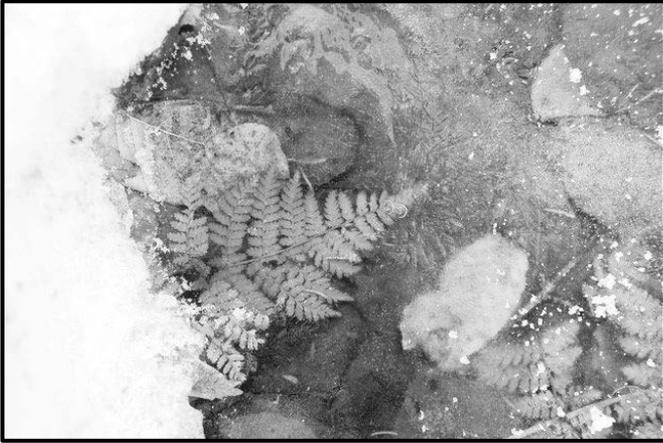
- Continuing the long-standing Mad River Watch program that saw 20+ volunteers record data at 21 field sites across the watershed.
- Partnering with diverse groups, like those involved in the Conservation & Recreation Visioning project, to expand a culture of stewardship.
- Expanding capacity to support flood & climate resilience, support a healthy watershed environment, and protect clean water by hiring Julie Frost as Watershed Project Coordinator.
- Engaging more than 600 local students in hands-on learning about the river, the surrounding watershed, and their place in it.
- Working with technical experts to develop a suite of projects that will support flood resilience, clean water, and wildlife habitat.
- Hosting 30+ events with community partners, like book clubs, film screenings, naturalist hikes, tracking workshops, Climb it for Climate and the Mad Triathlon, all aimed at lowering barriers to learning about and appreciating the Mad River.

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, Education & Engagement Manager; Julie Frost, Watershed Project Coordinator; Rohan Press, Watershed*

Engagement AmeriCorps Member; Michelle Krieg, Restoration Nursery Coordinator

Board of Directors: *Matt Williams, President • Katie Sullivan, Vice President • Sucosh Norton, Treasurer Kinny Perot, Secretary • Richard Czaplinski • Jeannie Nicklas • Amy Polaczyk • Brian Shupe*



Fern frozen in ice

Photo: Courtesy of York Haverkamp



Mad River Triathlon

Photo: Courtesy of Misha Golfman



MAD RIVER PATH ASSOCIATION 2025 TOWN REPORT

In 2025, Mad River Path completed the scoping study for the Active Transportation Corridor and started the design and implementation phase. We formed a five-town implementation committee and applied for two grants on behalf of Waitsfield: the Millbrook Bridge to Dugway Road Transportation Alternatives Grant and the Recreation Trails Program Grant for improving the Fiddlers Walk to the Adaptive Standards. We continued to maintain 11 miles of paths in Waitsfield, including Yestermorrow Path and Loop, Austin Walk, Millbrook Trail, Fiddlers Walk, Heart of the Valley, Waits Way, Spaulding Greenway, and West Greenway. We currently mow 5 miles of Paths in Waitsfield, remove the snow on the portion of Heart of the Valley from Lawson's to Taste Place, and maintain the Rec Hub Bathroom, steward dog waste stations, and coordinate 8 volunteer path stewards.

Throughout 2025, we continued work on the Attitude of Gratitude recreational ethics project and look forward to launching the resulting film and website in the spring of 2026.

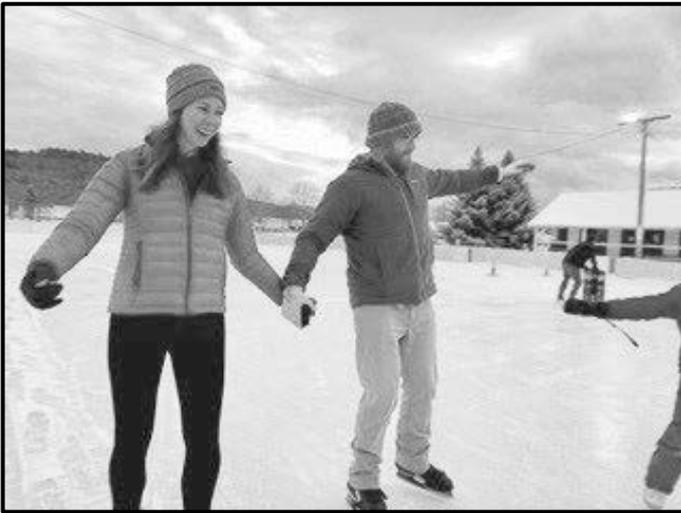
Last April, Mad River Triathlon brought in 313 participants and 400 to the Mad River Valley. We enjoy cooperation with Mad River Riders, Friends of the Mad River, and Backcountry Coalition in facilitating this fun community event. In May, we launched the E-cargo bike demonstration and canoe lending programs.

Mad River Path Adventures hosted youth camps and two-week-long programs for adults and families with 45 participants. We offered four afternoons of canoeing and orienteering programming to the Waitsfield Elementary School and enjoyed productive service projects with both GMVS and HUHS. Last summer, we welcomed our first AmeriCorps service member, Emily Richards. In the fall, with the help of State Representative Candice White, we held a group ride on the Mad River Path from Warren to Waitsfield for state representatives and Agency of Transportation officials.

We welcomed two new board members: Jon Rickard of Warren and Emily Beliveau of Waitsfield.

We would like to thank the town of Waitsfield, Path Stewards, Waitsfield School, Conservation Commission, collaborating organizations and businesses, and people of Waitsfield for helping us to care for the path and provide programming for the community. We are looking forward to a productive year ahead!

Misha Golfman, Director
Sarah Johnson, Communication
Susan Snider, Finance
Abby Bell, AmeriCorps Service Member
Mac Rood, Board President



Skatium

Photo: Courtesy of Joshua Schwartz

Did you know:

The Mad River Valley features 187 miles of official trails, offering easy access to year-round recreation...from riverside walks to rugged mountain routes. This network connects our towns, businesses, and natural areas, making outdoor adventure a daily part of life in Waitsfield and the Valley as a whole.

MAD RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE SERVICE 2025 TOWN REPORT

In 2025 MRVAS celebrated its 55th anniversary serving the Mad River Valley and stands as one of the two remaining all-volunteer EMS squads in Vermont. Our dedicated members train as dispatchers, drivers and nationally registered medical personnel. We also have volunteers trained in vehicle extrication, low-angle ropes rescue, slow water pond/lake rescue and backcountry search and/or rescue.

We ended 2025 with 78 active members across all disciplines and saw the addition of ten new members and the departure of five. Our current roster includes 12 AEMTs, 21 EMTs and 2 EMRs. During the last year our volunteers responded to 564 emergency calls handling 99% of the calls without reaching out to other agencies for mutual aid. Local response shortens the time it takes for us to get on scene to begin EMS care and to get our patients to the hospital.

MRVAS volunteers donated more than 32,000 hours in 2025 representing an “in-kind-service” donation of more than \$1 million. This time was spent filling duty rosters, dispatching and responding to emergency and rescue calls, training to maintain readiness and stay current on EMS protocols, stocking and caring for our ambulances and support infrastructure and managing a complex, multi-disciplinary organization. In addition to fulfilling roles as drivers, dispatchers, medical and search and rescue personnel, members serve in a myriad of other ways: including training officer, building superintendent, operations office, supply officer, District 6 representative (our EMS area), infection/health control officer, QA officer and board member to name a few. We are fortunate to have such dedicated group. Last year we recognized ten members who have served the squad for more than 25 years: three with 25+ years; six with 30+ years; and one celebrating 45 years of volunteer service!

MRVAS’s path is not without challenges. In December, we learned that technology underpinning our dispatch operation is no longer being supported. Loss of this system would have impaired if not prevented

MRVAS from providing EMS services to the Valley. Despite a compressed time frame, MRVAS explored a variety of options and has entered into a pilot program with Capital Dispatch, the company that currently dispatches 911 fire department calls within the Mad River Valley. Capital Dispatch will answer all 911 calls and simultaneously send out an alert to MRVAS responding personnel and contact MRVAS's on duty dispatcher. This pilot hybrid system has the benefit of retaining the knowledge of our local dispatchers and ensuring 911 access through a service provider operating with advanced technology in sync with Vermont EMS goals and with robust backup capabilities able to handle natural disasters. Capital Dispatch will cover the costs of this system through June 30 2026, but would then bill Valley towns as it does currently for fire dispatch services. The recent estimate is an incremental cost across the four towns of approximately \$72,000 per year.

Even with the dedication of our volunteers, the burden of keeping up with state EMS protocols using in-house resources has become too great a challenge. Consequently, MRVAS has entered into a contract with Barretown EMS to provide training support to MRVAS volunteers. This arrangement will ensure MRVAS has access to the latest training materials and techniques and remain fully compliant with state EMS protocols.

However, the cost of this contract, along with need to provide basic health care and retirement benefits for our office manager, will have a material impact on our finances. The reduction in net income will increase our reliance on donations to fund additions to our capital reserve account which is used to purchase new ambulances and other essential equipment. We ended 2025 with a \$19K deficit and this deficit is expected to grow to \$249K at the of our ten-year planning horizon. We project an additional \$25K per year will be needed from our Valley towns starting in 2027 to maintain the current level of readiness.

MRVAS volunteers take pride in serving their communities and in being one of only two all-volunteer squads left in the state. For more than 55 years we've embraced our independence, but these operational and

financial challenges are beyond our control. We respectfully ask your financial support.

We also invite our neighbors 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.

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,
Sara Van Schaick
Dispatcher, A-EMT & Head of Service



Rec Hub

Photo: Courtesy of Misha Golfman

MAD RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER 2025 TOWN REPORT

Board of Directors

The Board at year end (December 31, 2025) was made up as follows: Stephen Fried, President; Don Murray, Vice President; Rosemarie White, Treasurer; Judy Phelon. The Board looks to add four new members in 2026, one from each of the valley towns.

Board Action

The 25/26 leases have been signed by the existing tenants with a 3.2% increase in Base Rent.

CVMC vacated the center on October 25, 2025. In conjunction with its move CVMC paid the center rent from November 2025 thru September 2026 in the amount of \$79,841.08. At the end of October, 2025 Dr. Wilson started a practice based upon the small patient volume model – maximizing on time with patients and focusing on disease prevention. The Valley Loan program moved to the Health Center towards the end of the summer.

Financial

Overall, the financial situation remains solid with few surprises. As of the end of the fiscal year our expenses appear to be slightly over budget (projected expenses of \$103,974 compared with actual expenses of \$105,740). Yet our net ordinary income for the year was \$17,965.

Long term there remains a concern about the overall projected level of cash and the need for a strong reserve to deal with the potential contingencies, especially as the building ages (e.g., replacing the roof) and due to the loss of rental income from CVMC's decision to close the practice here. The Center is actively seeking new tenants. As of December 31, 2025 the balance sheet showed \$154,349 in cash and investments.

Community

In the fall of 2025, the Board once again worked with the Shaw's Pharmacy in Waterbury to run a vaccination clinic which was a big success.

Facility

As a result of CVMS's move, the Board saw an opportunity to make repairs to the first floor. As such, the entire first floor was painted and the tile and carpet professionally cleaned. Selected offices on the second floor were painted as well. The total cost, as of December 31, 2025 has been \$32,540.

The next potential major project may be the roof. The roof should be good for 25 to 30 years and the building is currently just over 20 years old.

Respectfully submitted
Stephen Fried, President



Picking blueberries for Meals on Wheels

Photo: Courtesy of Misha Golfman

**MAD RIVER VALLEY SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.
2025 TOWN REPORT**

The Mad River Seniors 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 over 100 caring volunteers who are central to this success.

In FY2025 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.

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 training, 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.

We thank you all for your support.



Sugarbush Polo Club on
Flemer Field

Photo: Courtesy of The
Valley Reporter

MAD RIVER VALLEY TELEVISION (MRVTV) 2025 TOWN REPORT

2025 was an exciting year for Mad River Valley Television, the nonprofit community media center and Public Access TV organization serving the Mad River Valley communities of Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston, and Moretown.

MRVTV operates two local Public Access cable channels: Channel 44 (Community Programming) and Channel 45 (Government and Education Programming), produces regular livestreaming via MRVTV's YouTube Channel, and manages the *world-famous* YouTube webcam looking at Waitsfield's historic Great Eddy Covered Bridge. MRVTV continues to record, broadcast, and archive local government and Harwood Union School Board meetings, as well as special community events and meetings. Additionally, Mad River Valley TV broadcasts Central Vermont and statewide programs of interest to our community.

Beginning in January 2025, Mad River Valley TV launched *LIVE @ MRVTV*, a monthly in-studio LIVE music show featuring local musicians and bands, such as: Madigan Linnane, Granville Daze, The Tsunamibots, and Glam Cowboys. These LIVE music events are free and open to the public, and the program is shared statewide and regionally with other Public Access TV organizations.

After a year-long collaboration between MRVTV and Mad River Valley Arts, the two organizations exhibited a multimedia art show called "*Along the River's Way: An Elder Artist Oral History Project in Vermont's Mad River Valley*," featuring long-form interviews, art, and stories from local elder artists such as: Gary Eckhart, Elga Gemst, and Randy Taplin. This project was featured on Vermont Public's Vermont Edition. We hope to continue gathering interviews and collecting stories to expand the project in 2026.

Mad River Valley Television continues to provide free and low-cost community media services and resources in the Mad River Valley. New iMac workstations at the MRVTV studio in Waitsfield make editing video projects easier than ever for local community members, who can now access Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere Pro,

and iMovie editing software (for free!) and contribute their videos for local broadcast and share statewide on Vermont's 24 Public Access TV stations!

If you're interested in getting involved with Mad River Valley TV, volunteering, or producing your own show in the Mad River Valley, contact: tv@mrvtv.com and visit mrvtv.com to learn more!



Scrag Mountain Town Forest

Photo: Courtesy of York Haverkamp

Did you know:
A new one mile hiking trail will be constructed at
Scrag Mountain Town Forest this year?

THE WAITSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2025 TOWN REPORT

In 2025, the Waitsfield Historical Society (WHS) took an important look at its financial health, membership levels, and long-term sustainability. This was the first year WHS began paying rent for the back office, which is essential for storing our administrative records and historic artifacts. We're proud to continue maintaining the Museum Room, offering exhibits and activities for the Town without any rental cost for that space.

Throughout the year, we focused on public outreach. Our dedicated archivist and member, Jeni Davisson, represented WHS at Volunteer Day at the Round Barn. She provided information about our Society and engaged attendees with an interactive activity centered on identifying historic buildings in our town.

Thanks to the efforts of Jeni Davisson and Kathy Mehuron, new displays have been added to the Museum Room. We're excited to share that planning is underway for updates to the space, including the installation of a beautiful glass display case donated by the former Sievwright's Pharmacy. This antique piece, which once graced the basement level of the old hotel on Bridge Street near the original Mehuron's Market and Bisbee's Hardware, will be perfect for showcasing rotating artifact exhibits.

In February, we will proudly display the Society's Underground Railroad Quilt, accompanied by a small public opening and an interpretive discussion about the quilt and Vermont's significant role in the Underground Railroad.

WHS will resume regular meetings in April, while ongoing project work will continue through the winter months. Jeni Davisson and Lois DeHeer will work on new displays in the Museum Room. Our spring planning will include activities celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, along with educational programming on Vermont's rich history and its journey to becoming the 14th U.S. state after 14 years as its own sovereign nation—the Republic of Vermont.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Viens family for their generous donation of Shirley Viens' antique horse-drawn sleigh. The sleigh was displayed on the Wait House porch during the holiday season, adorned with Christmas lights and filled with colorful packages.

The Waitsfield Historical Society

Alice Peal, President

Jeni Davisson, Archivist

Brigitte Ritchie, Secretary

Fred Messe

Kitty Werner, Treasurer

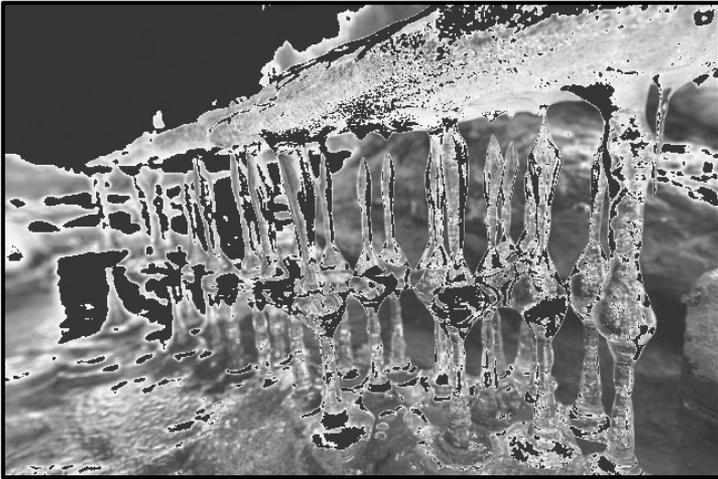
Lois DeHeer

Robert Orem, IT Support

Alice Evans

Kathy Mehuron, Communications

Taylor Radke



Ice – frozen water on the Mad River

Photo: Courtesy of York Haverkamp

Did you know:

The Mad River flows North. Most Vermont rivers flow south, but the Mad River is a north-flowing tributary of the Winooski River, eventually reaching Lake Champlain.

**Washington County Sheriff's Department****Marc P. Poulin, Sheriff****10 Elm St * PO Box 678****Montpelier, VT 05601-0678****802-223-3001****2025 TOWN REPORT**

Town of Waitsfield

Members of The Selectboard

Law enforcement is a challenging profession these days. Upon taking office, we identified our priorities moving forward which included updating our equipment, increasing community engagement, recruiting and retention improvements, and increasing our services to the towns.

For our department operations to be more transparent, we have upgraded our recording devices to Axon Body 4 cameras with cloud storage. We also placed into service Taser 10 CEW devices, which give our Deputies another use of force option, increasing safety for all. 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 can record as much of our interactions as possible without deputy input.

You may have noticed our cruiser markings changing as well. We are transitioning away from the white with red vehicle markings. Our new markings are green, black, and white on silver vehicles. Please keep an eye out for the new ones, we are very proud of how they turned out!

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. Check out a few local podcasts our staff make appearances on, and other public events we try to attend to interact with the public. We have recently created a department website:

www.washingtoncountysheriffvt.gov. This page continues to be a

work in progress, but will eventually allow access to updated town/patrol reporting, employment information, etc. We are looking at options for a “Sheriff’s App” which will allow for increased communication, easily sourced reports, and even the ability to leave tips and complaints. Communication has been and will continue to be a high priority for this office.

Our current primary patrol Deputy, Davis Hart, will be attending the Level III Academy in Pittsford VT beginning February 2. This may mean a slight interruption in our patrol activities as other staff cover for his 17-week absence. This does come with a benefit, upon his return, Deputy Hart will have the highest law enforcement certification to better serve our communities.

All our full-time staff have become VT Emergency First Responder certified/licensed. While we are unable to provide a full medical response, our staff are better able to respond and begin treatment prior to the arrival of EMS. We partnered with the East Montpelier Fire/Ambulance Service to accomplish this goal.

Through a VT Highway Safety equipment grant we placed a variable message board/speed cart into service. We will be using this device to message in various situations, but more importantly to gather speed data to better focus our enforcement efforts where they are needed most. We will work with each town to schedule in the problem areas as soon as road conditions permit. Please note this device does not read and record registration plates but is solely focused on speed data.

Through all the issues we all deal with in today’s world, we take pride in our efforts in making Washington County a safe place to live and work, for all of us.

OFFICIAL WARNING
HARWOOD UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
March 2, 2026, and March 3, 2026

The inhabitants and legal voters of the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown, Waterbury and Duxbury, being the inhabitants and legal voters of Harwood Unified Union School District, are notified and warned to meet at Harwood Union High School in the Town of Duxbury on Monday, March 2, at 6:00PM to transact any of the following business not involving voting by Australian ballot from the floor, and to conduct an informational hearing with respect to Articles of business to be considered by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026, as further explained below.

FLOOR VOTING QUESTIONS- MARCH 2, 2026

ARTICLE I: To elect the following officers:

A Moderator for a
term of one (1) year
commencing
immediately A Clerk
for a term of one (1)
year commencing
July 1, 2026

A Treasurer for a term of
one (1) year commencing
July 1, 2026 District
Treasurer and Board of
School Directors as of
June 30, 2026

- ARTICLE II: Shall the voters of Harwood Unified Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors to retain a licensed public accountant to examine the accounts of the District Treasurer and Board of School Directors as of June 30, 2026.
- ARTICLE III: Shall the voters of Harwood Unified Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors under 16 V.S.A 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipation revenue for the school year?
- ARTICLE IV: Shall the voters of the Harwood Unified Union School District continue to provide notice of availability of the Annual Report, including the proposed school budget, in lieu of distributing the report, with such notice to be provided to the electorate at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting, and with the report to be made available online on the District website and in print upon request, with copies available for pickup at the HUUSD Central Office or any HUUSD school?

BALLOT QUESTIONS-MARCH 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Harwood Unified Union School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at their respective polling place on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at seven o'clock in the forenoon (7:00am), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00pm), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles of business:

ARTICLE V: To act by Australian ballot on the following proposition: "Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$51,884,847, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Harwood School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$16,228.78, which is 4.80% higher than spending for the current school year."

ARTICLE VI: To act by Australian ballot on the following proposition: "Shall the voters of the Harwood Unified Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors to allocate its FY2025 unassigned audited fund balance as follows: assign \$500,000 to the school district's Maintenance Reserve Fund per 24 VSA §2804."

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Said persons and voters are further notified and warned that Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Harwood Union High School, in the Town of Duxbury and via Zoom, shall serve as an informational meeting to discuss Articles V & VI, which will be voted on by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026. The annual meeting shall be recessed until Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at which time Articles to be considered by Australian ballot shall be voted at the usual polling places and during usual polling hours in the Towns located within the District.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes in the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Duxbury and Moretown will be sealed, transported to and opened at Brookside Primary School in the Town of Waterbury, the ballots commingled and publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns Wan-en, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown, Waterbury and Duxbury, and under the supervision of the Clerk of Harwood Unified Union School District.

To participate remotely in the informational hearing via Zoom on March 2, 2026, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/386460007>

To view the live broadcast, use this link: [tinyurl.com/huwebaL!p-youtubc-live](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

POLLING PLACES

Duxbury	Duxbury Clerk's Office
Fayston	Fayston Elementary School
Moretown	Moretown Clerk's Office
Waitsfield	Waitsfield Elementary School
Warren	Warren Elementary School
Waterbury	Brookside Primary School

ABSENTEE AND EARLY BALLOTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE TOWN CLERKS ON AND AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 2026.

The legal voters of the Harwood Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee/early voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Adopted and approved at a duly noticed, called, and held meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Harwood Unified Union School District held on January 21, 2026.

WAITSFIELD INFORMATION DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE	911
CONSTABLE (Jeff Campbell)	802-496-2790 x7

OTHER NUMBERS

Ambulance Information	MRVAS	802-496-8888
Animal Control Officer (Dog Warden)	VACANT (phone assistance only)	802-793-2238
Superintendent of HUUSD Schools	Michael Leichter	802-853-7945
	Elementary School	802-496-3643
	Harwood Union High School	802-244-5186
Evergreen Place		802-496-2020
Fire Chief	Jared Young	802-496-6956
Fire Station (non-emergency)		802-496-2404
Fire Warden	Jared Young	802-917-4856
Game Warden (hunting/fishing)	c/o State Police Dispatch	802-496-2262
Green Mountain Power Corp.		802-223-5235
Highway/Roads	Town Garage	802-496-8897
Hospital (Central Vermont Hospital (CVH) - Berlin)		802-229-9121
Hospital (Fletcher Allen - Burlington)		802-658-3456
Joslin Memorial Library	Jason Butler, Director	802-496-4205
M.R.V. Senior Citizens		802-496-2543
Planning & Zoning Administrator	J.B. Weir	802-496-2218 x 4
Poison Control (Burlington)		802-658-3456
Selectboard	Town Administrator	802-496-2218 x 5
Sheriff	Washington County Sheriff	802-223-3001
State Highway	District 6	802-917-2879
State Police Dispatch		802-229-9191
Town Administrator	York Haverkamp	802-496-2218 x 5
Town Clerk	Jennifer Peterson	802-496-2218 x 3
Town Health Officer	Fred Messer	802-793-2238
Town Treasurer	Steve Lewis	802-496-2218 x 2
State Representatives	Dara Torre	802-828-2228
	Candice White	802-828-2228
Washington County Senators	Ann Cummings	802-828-2228
	Andrew Perchlik	802-828-2228
	Anne Watson	802-828-2228

TOWN WEBSITE: www.waitsfieldvt.gov

Please keep this page by your phone.