

Town of
MARSHFIELD
VERMONT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE TOWN OFFICERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31
2023



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New in 2024
Marshfield Town Meeting will be held
on Sunday, March 3 at 1:00
at Twinfield Union School in the Cafeteria

Dear Marshfield voters,

Because we want to encourage as many people as possible to come to Town Meeting, the citizens voted at Town Meeting last year to change our meeting to Sunday afternoon to see if this time and day would be better. It was a long discussion, lots of ideas were proposed and discussed and at last we all voted to try Sunday afternoon. Most importantly we voted unanimously to keep our town meeting in person, and in place.

Town Meeting is one of the things that makes our Vermont communities special. It is where we come together once a year to make decisions important to our town. Marshfield Town Meeting is welcoming to all. We come together as equals and everyone's voice is heard in respectful dialogue. It is direct democracy in action.

So come on the first Sunday in March to join your neighbors and community members in this once-a-year event. There will be refreshments: coffee, tea, baked goods and more. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 pm.

Note: Childcare will be provided (for ages 3 and above). No advanced registration is necessary, but you can contact bbrigham5@yahoo.com with questions about childcare.

The Presidential Primary and School votes will still be held by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 5th at the Old Schoolhouse Common, from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. If you have an absentee ballot you can drop it off at Twinfield on Sunday during the open meeting.

TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator Michael Caccavo

Town Clerk & Treasurer Bobbi Brimblecombe

Selectpersons

Term Expires 2024 Rich Baker
Term Expires 2025 Michele Gonzales
Term Expires 2026 Justin Campbell

School Directors

Term Expires 2024 Erin Barry
Term Expires 2025 Mark Kaufmann
Term Expires 2026 Patrick Healy

Auditors

Term Expires 2024 Audrey Huntington
Term Expires 2025 Doris Dufresne
Term Expires 2026 Marie Maclay

Listers

Term Expires 2024 Meg Eberhardt
Term Expires 2025 Renee Lawrence
Term Expires 2026 Kathleen Hayes

Collector of Delinquent Taxes Bobbi Brimblecombe

Constable Shawn Codling

Budget Committee

Term Expires 2024 Michael Caccavo
Term Expires 2025 Thomas Maclay
Term Expires 2026 Betsy Brigham
Term Expires 2027 Doris Dufresne
Term Expires 2028 Deanna Martin

Library Trustees

Term Expires 2024 Vacant
Term Expires 2024 Cathy Chodorkoff
Term Expires 2025 Sonia Carrasco
Term Expires 2025 Anne Reed
Term Expires 2026 Michelle McCormick

Cemetery Trustees Board of Selectpersons

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Election)

James Arisman, Meg Eberhardt, Ellen Halperin, Judy Henkin, Mary Leahy, Marie Maclay, Michael Sabourin

Appointed by Selectpersons

Planning Commission*

Term Expires 2024 Bob Buchanan
Term Expires 2025 Michelle McCormick
Term Expires 2026 Sonia Carrasco
Term Expires 2026 Todd Eaton

* The Town Selectpersons and Village Trustees are Ex-officio members.

Development Review Board

Term Expires 2024 Dina Bookmyer-Baker
Term Expires 2024 Jenny Warshow
Term Expires 2025 vacant
Term Expires 2025 Les Snow
Term Expires 2026 Gary Leach

Development Review Board Clerk Vacant

Zoning Administrator (Term expires 06/20/2026) Lorainne Banbury

Central Vermont Fiber Board Member John Morris

Alternate: David Mannix

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Member

Term expires April 2024 vacant

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Transportation Advisory Committee Member Todd Eaton

Northeast Kingdom Waste Mgmt District Member Bobbi Brimblecombe

Conservation Commission

Term expires 2024 J. Bradley Materick
Term expires 2024 Sarah Norton
Term expires 2025 Luke Boushee
Term expires 2025 Steven Fiske
Term expires 2025 Bob Popp
Term expires 2026 Vacant
Term expires 2026 Anne Miller
Term expires 2027 Ed Jalbert
Term expires 2027 Anne Reed

Energy and Climate Change Committee

Wes Cate, Anne Miller, Nick Seifert, Mike Xenakis

Stranahan Stewardship Committee

- Term expires 2024 Brett Engstrom
- Term expires 2024 Michael Sabourin
- Term expires 2024 Jenny Warshow
- Term expires 2025 Douglas Glover
- Term expires 2025 Ellen Cooke
- Term expires 2025 Nancy Everhart
- Term expires 2025 Patrick Pfeifer

Recreation Committee

Margaret Campbell, Drew McNaughton, Pam Quinn, Brad Washburn

Fire Chief Will Schwarz

CFMAS Will Schwarz

CFMAS Alternate..... Tim Morris

Fire Warden (Term expires 6/30/2025)..... Thomas Maclay

Fire Warden Assistant Tim Maclay

Health Officer (Term expires 06/30/2025)..... Kathleen Hayes

Cemetery Sexton Joe Mangan

Pound Keeper Four Paws Inn

Dog Officer Heather Bent, Alana Vaillancourt

Fence Viewers..... Chris Bellamy (and two vacancies)

Tree Warden..... vacant

Assistant Town Clerk Alex Johnson

(Appointed by the Town Clerk)

Road Foreman Timothy Ksepka

Road Crew..... Scott Ciampi

Lance Donald

Village Clerk.....Meg Eberhardt

Village Trustees

Ian Covey, Art Gilman, Tamara McKee, Marie Olson-Badeau

TOWN MEETING 2023

Moderator Michael Caccavo opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at Twinfield Union School. During the course of the open meeting, 120 out of 1181 voters checked in. While passing the hat, \$569 was raised for the Onion River Food Shelf.

The rules were waived by unanimous consent and Representative Mark Mihaly was allowed to speak about legislative issues.

Moderator Caccavo led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance, and then read announcements. He reviewed the rules governing town meeting.

Article 1. To elect the following Town Officers:

Moderator	1 year	<i>Michael Caccavo</i>
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Article 2. To see if the Town will change the date of its annual town meeting to the third day preceding the first Tuesday in March pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2640(b).

Tim Maclay moved this article. Rob Billings seconded.

Diana Levine pointed out that school vacation is the week before town meeting, and having the meeting on Saturday might result in some people having to come back early from their travels or miss the meeting.

Steve Fiske asked whether we could do the voting before school vacation. (No – state law allows any of the three days before town meeting day).

Rich Baker explained that he doesn't think it is fair that people who are self-employed or don't get paid leave have to lose money to come to town meeting – they are paying to vote.

Dan Mulligan likes having the meeting on Tuesday. He pointed out that Saturday is the Sabbath for Jewish people and we can't change the day without hurting someone.

Chris Whalen moved to amend the article from the third day preceding to the day preceding, so that the meeting could be held Monday evening. Michelle McCormick seconded.

Lucy Blue pointed out a benefit of the change, that people could also attend Plainfield town meeting, but a disadvantage is that some people don't drive at night.

Sue Morris supports the Saturday date because an evening meeting would be hard for people with kids, even though she is Jewish.

Renee Lawrence asked if there would still be an informational meeting if we switch to Australian Ballot. Moderator Caccavo took that opportunity to explain that if we vote yes on Article 3, it doesn't matter what happened with Article 2 – there would be no floor meeting.

Marilyn Davis asked what happened in other towns that switched to Saturdays. Mike explained that the general consensus is that attendance numbers are roughly the same but there are different people attending.

Brad Materick likes Monday evening but he feels the Town should provide childcare.

Sarah Norton noted that Saturday interferes with vacation, on Tuesday people lose work, Monday is hard because of driving at night. She suggested starting at 5 and serving a meal.

Graham Unangst-Rufenacht asked if Sunday afternoon would work for Christians. He is going to be a parent so an evening would be difficult, and he is losing money today.

Dan Chodorkoff noted that in the past some meetings have lasted 6-8 hours and that would mean a long night.

Kathleen Hayes likes the idea of serving a meal, likes the idea of Sunday afternoon, and suggested allowing 16-year olds to vote, to get the younger generation involved.

Henry Harris moved to amend the amendment to Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Bobbi suggested that the Selectboard sets the time of the meeting and the voters pick the day. Henry withdrew his amendment to keep the debate going.

Joe Gainza stated that nurturing democracy is a way to worship God.

Asher Barnum asked whether we could to a shuttle service if we have an evening meeting.

Rob Billings is opposed to changing anything, stating that we all make choices. He thinks it is important to maintain our traditions for our youth.

Jay Moore agrees with Rob. He feels that we will never reach a consensus so we should stick to the traditional day.

Betsy disagrees with the statement that we all have a choice. She feels that we should do something as a community to make the meeting more accessible.

Wes Cate agrees with Betsy – we don't all have choices. He noted that the age and affluence of the people at the meeting does not represent the Town. He asked about a hybrid meeting. Bobbi explained that current law does not allow for remote voting but people could talk to our legislators about it.

Kate asked whether we could have a pre-meeting to decide what goes on the ballot, and then vote by Australian Ballot.

Steve Fiske asked whether the Board could change the time to later on Tuesday. Bobbi explained that the school budget ballots and any other Australian ballots have to be counted at 7:00 so it would be difficult.

Beth Stern noted that she has to take vacation time to be here. She encouraged people to vote for a change, so that we will get a more diverse group.

Brett Engstrom is dubious whether we would get more people but he likes the idea of a more diverse group.

Rigel Stelle called the question (the amendment to change the article from Saturday to Monday). Marie Maclay seconded. Motion carried. The amendment was defeated.

Joe Gainza moved to amend the article to replace the “third day preceding” with the “second day preceding” so that the meeting would be held on Sunday, and asked the Selectboard to remember church services when setting the time. Will Schwarz seconded.

Lucy Blue asked for a show of hands for those preferring Saturday and those preferring Sunday.

Michelle McCormick asked if we could do a poll. Bobbi explained that she did a poll when the Selectboard was debating whether to do floor meeting or take advantage of the emergency legislation to allow Australian Ballot again. The result of the poll was even between those wanting open meeting and those wanting Australian Ballot.

Justin Campbell stated that we need to make a compromise, and he will be here no matter what. He called the question. There was a second. The motion passed.

The amendment to change the wording of the article to Sunday passed, 51 -41.

Kathleen Hayes asked whether we could have a trial period. Mike Caccavo explained that the town can always vote to change it back.

Julia Chafets would like to help study how to get more people here.

Fr. David Mulligan stated that one of the commandments is to keep the Sabbath Day holy, and he feels that Joe Gainza's statement is up for discussion. He feels that a Sunday meeting raises difficulty for those keeping the Sabbath.

Dan Mulligan asked if Australian balloting would still be on Tuesday (yes). Henry Harris asked if that would mean having to attend two meetings. Bobbi explained that people could request an absentee ballot and she could have a ballot box at the meeting for folks to drop it off.

Rob Billings advocated for keeping the traditional meeting, noting that the same conflicts that prevent people from coming on Tuesday may keep them away on other days.

Joe Gainza noted that the least amount of people have to work on Sunday, and making it so the most people can come approaches holiness.

Michael Sabourin noted that there is no bus on Sundays.

The article was approved 56-45

Article 3. To see if the Town will elect all officers and vote on all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(d).

Tim Maclay moved this article. Rob Billings seconded.

Rich explained that this is on the warning because of greater participation in the last two years when the town used Australian Ballot for town meeting. It's a fairness issue.

Jay Moore understands but hopes people will defeat the article. He stated that open meeting is real democracy and Australian Ballot is a thin form of democracy.

Joe Gainza feels that open Town Meeting approaches the holy. We come together, share ideas, listen to each other. It's a sacred process. We listen with respect and care, and this has to be preserved.

Wes Cate thinks we should have a straw vote and remote viewing on Sunday, and the actual vote on Tuesday. That would allow for an informed vote on ballot day.

Todd Eaton feels that if participation during COVID was the impetus, there should be further study. That was an extreme situation.

Asher Barnum feels that the open meeting is the most sacred, pure form of democracy and he wants to keep it.

Sarah Hooker feels that an increase during COVID is not a reason to change.

Rob Billings feels it is important to come together as a community. He noted that we used to fill the room. Australian Ballot disassociates the community, and he wants to keep alive the tradition of coming together.

Andrew Perchlik stated that when he was on the Selectboard he was always mindful of the fact that he had to sharpen his pencil because the Board was going to see people. The loss of community would not make up for the gained votes.

Robin Schilling would love to see the open meeting continue. She is happy to be here and hopes it won't be the last meeting.

Doug LaPoint said a vote for Australian Ballot means the open meeting is not important. He likes hearing varied viewpoints.

Renee Lawrence asked, if this discussion is so important, why wouldn't you still come together on Sunday? It's important that people who can't get here can still vote.

Michael Stark said for the first time in many years he is entertaining the idea of a change to Town Meeting.

Brendan McLane asked whether Australian Ballot means we could have absentee ballots (yes).

Melissa Seifert feels that it is important to hear different view points. She would like to diversify. We should give Sunday a try. We should do what we can to get folks here.

Bobbi Brimblecombe gave participation numbers – since 2008 we have had as many as 211 and as few as 121 people at Town Meeting. When we did Australian Ballot in 2021 and 2022 we had 294 and 326 voters. That means even though people were not required to attend an open meeting, there were still 800 people who didn't vote. She doesn't think access is the only reason people don't vote. We have to accept that some people are not going to vote, no matter what. She noted that when there is an informational meeting before the Australian Ballot, people don't come. There were only 2 attendees at the School's informational meeting. She thinks we need to encourage our friends and neighbors to come to Town Meeting, because many people don't know what it is or why it is important. She thinks we should do as much as we can to educate people about the meeting.

Rich Baker said he is willing to try Sunday to see if it makes a difference.

Betsy Brigham feels this is a question of quantity vs. quality. During community events, we should be educating people about what town meeting is and why it is important. She noted that if we don't have an open meeting, how will we get people to fill vacancies?

Ellen Keene said she is happy to be here, to see people. We need each other.

Brad Materick stated that the only way he would accept Australian Ballot if there was a meeting like this beforehand.

Pat Mayhew is thinking about what is happening on a national level – people don't listen. Australian Ballot means coming to the polls with a fixed opinion, without hearing what others say and with no opportunity to have your mind changed.

Wes Cate said we need to encourage youthful participation. He suggested that we use the concept of legislative pages.

Justin Campbell stated he is strongly in favor of open meeting. He called the question. Sarah Phillips seconded. The motion to call the question carried.

The moderator asked for a voice vote and there were no yeas – motion defeated unanimously.

Article 4. To elect the following Town Officers:

Town Clerk	1 year	Bobbi Brimblecombe
Town Treasurer	1 year	Bobbi Brimblecombe
Selectperson	3 years	

Merv Spooner nominated Richard Baker. Marie Maclay nominated Justin Campbell. Rich declined the nomination.

Selectperson	3 years	Justin Campbell
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Attendees thanked outgoing Selectboard Member Chris Martin for his 20 years of service.

Selectperson	1 years	Richard Baker
Auditor	3 years	Marie Maclay
Lister	3 years	Kathleen Hayes
Lister	2 years	Renee Lawrence
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year	Bobbi Brimblecombe
Constable	1 year	Shawn Codling
Budget Committee Member	5 years	Deanna Martin
Library Trustee	3 years	Michelle McCormick

Article 5. To elect School Directors to serve on the Union District Board, as follows:

School Director	3 years	Patrick Healy
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Article 6. To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Chris Martin was thanked again for his 20 years on the Selectboard.

Tim Morris spoke about the Volunteer Fire Department. Tim Maclay was honored for 55 years of service and Will Schwarz was honored for 25 years (actually 26 but no recognition was made last year due to the Australian Ballot).

Bobbi Brimblecombe thanked Assistant Clerk Winnie Valenza for 18 years as the Assistant.

Kate Hayes encouraged people to volunteer for the Planning Commission.

Article 7. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,390,994 as the Selectboard Budget. Said amount made up as follows: \$901,901 to be raised in taxes; \$326,541 from other income; and \$162,552 previous year surplus to be applied. Said budget amount to be allocated as follows:

\$371,084 for the payment of indebtedness and general expenses (\$215,949 from taxes and surplus, and \$155,135 from other income);
\$804,996 for the support of highways and bridges (\$690,599 from taxes and surplus, and \$114,397 from other income);
\$78,623 in support of the Marshfield Fire Department (all from taxes and surplus);
\$51,194 in support of Emergency Services (all from taxes and surplus);
\$18,618 in support of the Planning and Zoning Department (\$15,538 from taxes and surplus, \$3,080 from permit fees);
\$1,800 in support of the Marshfield Recreation Committee (all from taxes and surplus);
\$64,678 in support of the Old Schoolhouse Common (\$21,331 from building lease/rentals and other income, \$32,598 allocated from other town departments, \$10,749 from taxes and surplus).

Tim Maclay moved this article. Tom seconded.

Betsy asked why the computer budget and traffic control budgets are so much higher than what was spent last year. Bobbi explained that we did not need to purchase new computers last year but keep them in the budget in case they need to be replaced this year. She noted that if the money is not spent, it becomes part of the surplus that is used to lower the taxes next year.

Joe Gainza asked about the other income and how reliable it is. Bobbi explained that the other income includes state highway funds, current use hold harmless payments, office fees, interest income, rent, etc and it is a conservative estimate.

Dennis Ross stated that we should consider some payment to the volunteer firefighters. Chief Will Schwarz stated that emergency service agencies all struggle with costs. He noted that they respond to 70-80 calls per year, so their budget amounts to roughly \$1,000 per call. They are honored to provide the service. He noted that the Plainfield Fast Squad responds to about 200 calls per year and they pay their members a stipend of \$300. He said the Fire Department is trying to build a record of their hours. He noted that they have 10 new members, all under the age of 40. He noted that paying the firefighters would result in changes to the workers' compensation policy.

Bobbi asked if having paid members would change our eligibility for grants. Will explained that the Fire Department has applied for an \$85,000 grant for self-contained breathing apparatuses, which cost \$7,000 each. With \$3,000 for turnout gear, it costs about \$10,000 to outfit a firefighter.

Joe Gainza noted that firefighters have an increased risk of cancer. There is a bill in the legislature to allow firefighters to apply for benefits.

Will noted that there is another bill being considered that would give volunteers a tax break. He thanked the town for their support.

Michelle McCormick moved to cap the traffic control budget at \$2,500 and give the additional \$9,500 to the Fire Department for discretionary spending. Will Schwarz explained that 65-70% of the calls are motor vehicle accidents, mostly on Route 2. He noted that in 2010 when Route 2 was paved there were 6 fatalities. The Fire Department's position is that they are thankful for anything that reduces speeding.

Bobbi Brimblecombe explained that a few years ago, the voters appropriated \$8,000 for traffic control and created a committee to study ways to reduce speeds. The committee decided that the best way to spend the money is for enforcement. The \$8,000 was not spent that year so the amount has been carried over for a few years. The money was not spent because the Sheriffs could not provide us with very many hours. Chris Martin explained that the budget was increased to \$12,000 this year because the Sheriffs are asking for an increase in the hourly rate that they bill us. They are not able to keep staff because of the low wage that they are able to pay at the rate that they have been charging towns. They are increasing the rate in order to build up their staff to be able to provide more service to towns.

Todd Eaton explained that he works for VTrans. Statistically, the only way to reduce speed is through enforcement. He stated that radar speed signs only work for a short time.

Sonia Carrasco said if we didn't get much coverage when the budget was \$2,500, and they are increasing their rate, we still won't get much coverage.

Rich Baker explained that the town voted for more speed control. We added speed limit signs, and tried unsuccessfully to get the state to lower the speed limit on Route 2. If the budget is lowered and there are speed concerns, don't come to the Selectboard because we won't be able to do enforcement.

Dan Chodorkoff asked to clarify if they only bill us when they come. Rich Baker said yes, and they are trying to attract more staff so they can come more often.

Asher Barnum stated that he lives on the Cabot Road and people speed and it is dangerous. He thinks law enforcement is a good idea.

Graham Unangst-Rufenacht asked if other towns are also being asked for an increase. Chris Martin explained that yes, the new Sheriff is meeting with all of the towns. They are trying to recruit and equip people. There is no guarantee that we will get that much time. He noted that \$12,000 is a pretty small portion of their budget.

David Lawrence doesn't think \$12,000 is a lot and doesn't have an issue with it.

Melissa Seifert asked what the backup is if we don't budget this. Rich Baker explained that there is no backup and without this, there will be no speed enforcement.

Henry Harris mentioned that the state is setting aside \$320 million for new prisons, and we need to keep an eye on our law enforcement budget. He called the question. There was a second. The motion carried.

The amendment was defeated. The article was approved as warned.

Article 8. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$101,763 in support of the Jaquith Public Library.

Moved and seconded to approve the article as warned. All in favor.

Article 9. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,907 in support of the Marshfield Historical Society.

Moved and seconded to approve the article as warned. All in favor.

Article 10. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the support, improvement and repair of the cemeteries.

Moved and seconded to approve the article as warned. All in favor.

Article 11. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$8,333 as its share of the cost of commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by

appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares.

Moved and seconded to approve the article as warned.

Lucy Blue questioned whether there are rider fares. No one had a certain answer. Joanne Brooking asked how many runs there are. Drew McNaughton said there are two runs in the morning and two in the evening.

All in favor.

Article 12. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$ 12,825 to the following service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 2691?

- \$575 to Central Vermont Adult Basic Education for free adult education and literacy, including high school credentialing.
- \$ 1,400 to Central VT Council on Aging for supporting elders and family caregivers.
- \$ 3,200 to Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice for visiting nurse services.
- \$ 350 to Circle fka Battered Women's Services for support of direct services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- \$ 300 to Family Center of Washington County for delivering a variety of services to families, many of whom may be particularly vulnerable.
- \$ 350 to the Friends of the Winooski for water quality monitoring, tree planting, and ecological restoration.
- \$ 300 to Good Beginnings for free access to support, respite, and connections to community resources during the transition to parenthood.
- \$ 100 to Green Up Vermont for supplies and promotional materials in support of Green Up Day.
- \$ 1,100 to Onion River Food Shelf for food for residents.

- \$ 100 to Our House for support and advocacy for child victims of physical and sexual abuse.
- \$ 400 to Peoples Health and Wellness for providing free medical, mental health and oral health care to uninsured Central Vermonters.
- \$ 3,250 to Twin Valley Senior Center for providing social, emotional and physical wellbeing to our senior population.
- \$ 250 to Twinfield Together Mentoring Program for providing youth in our community an opportunity for a one-on-one friendship with a responsible adult.
- \$ 150 to VT Assoc. for Blind & Visually Impaired for vision rehabilitation services for blind and visually impaired Marshfield residents.
- \$ 150 to VT Center for Independent Living for programs and services to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.
- \$ 200 to VT Family Network for giving support to families of special needs children in Marshfield.
- \$ 100 to VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force for helping to develop water supplies for fire protection.
- \$ 250 to Washington County Youth Services Bureau for prevention, intervention, and support for youth and families in Washington County.
- \$ 300 to Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District for giving assistance to residents for conservation, development and wise use of lands, water, forest, and wildlife in Marshfield.

Moved and seconded to approve the article as warned. All in favor.

- Article 13.**
- a. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes;
 - b. To see if the Town will vote to have the Town taxes paid by Friday, August 18, 2023, by physical delivery to the Treasurer on or before the close of business, with interest

of one percent per month or fraction thereof to be paid by delinquent taxpayers; and

- c. To see if the Town will vote to have the School taxes paid by Friday, November 17, 2023, by physical delivery to the Treasurer on or before the close of business, with interest of one percent per month or fraction thereof to be paid by delinquent taxpayers.

Moved and seconded to approve the article as warned.

Henry Harris asked if there is anything new being proposed in the article, and he noted that the Town will threaten to seize and auction property if the taxes are not paid.

Bobbi Brimblecombe explained that there is nothing new in this article. The Town has to be able to do a tax sale to guarantee payment. She is happy to set up a payment plan but taxes have to be paid. If someone doesn't pay their taxes, the town still needs the funds to operate. If taxes are never paid, other taxpayers eventually have to make up the difference. She urged people to use automatic withdrawal or the drop box if they can, because the mail is not reliable.

Betsy warned people to pay attention to the due dates that we are voting on, so that if the bill doesn't arrive, you can call the town office for another one.

Graham Unangst-Rufenacht asked why the Town does not accept postmarks. Bobbi explained that in the past, voters decided to stop accepting postmarks because there were payments that were never postmarked that arrived late, and the taxpayers argued that it had been mailed on time. There have also been instances of payments with a postage meter postmark. She warned that she has also had mail from the Town office that did not get postmarked until 2 weeks after it was sent.

Graham suggested to Andy Perchlik - as a State representative- that the lack of sufficient funding for essential public infrastructure and services is a root cause of so many issues and asked how we can deal with this on a state level.

All in favor.

Article 14. To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Joe Gainza asked the Selectboard to make a proclamation thanking Chris Martin, Will Schwarz, Tim Maclay and Tom Maclay for their extraordinary service to the Town. All in favor.

Marilyn Davis thanked the Selectboard and Bobbi Brimblecombe for using Front Porch Forum to keep citizens informed.

Library Director Susan Green thanked everyone for supporting the Jaquith Library. She invited everyone to come and see the current art exhibit, and they have maker space kits for children, computers to lend, snow shoes, and many other items. She asked for suggestions of things people would like to have at the Library. There will be a nature-based after school program starting in April with Angella Gibbons.

Rich Baker let people know that all Selectboard meetings are now conducted via Zoom and they rarely hear from anyone. He asked people to join the meetings.

At 1:30, moved and seconded to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe
Town Clerk

Marshfield, Vermont, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on March 7, 2023.

Attest, Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk



Brook Road



Onion River Road Bridge



Folsom Hill Road



Jurkiewicz Place



SASS Ave Bridge

2023 AUDITORS' REPORT

As directed by 24 VSA §1681, the Auditors have examined the financial records of the Town and the supporting data. We believe that all records and accounts contained herein are a true and accurate account of the Town's financial affairs.

State Law 24 VSA §1684 requires that the Auditors publish a statement showing the condition of the Town's indebtedness, trust funds, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit. A list of these follows:

- Assets -

	Interest Rate	Balance
Cash on Hand		812.66
General Fund - Sweep Account	2.75%	55,724.15
Union Bank Money Market	0.1%	1172.79
Union Bank Insured Cash Sweep	0.15%	6194.03
Community Bank N.A.	3.31%	39,090.10
Community National Bank	3.24%	8770.67
Fire Dept. Investments	3.1 - 3.25%	12,768.75
A/R Delinquent Taxes	12.00%	69,765.26
Mortgage on Hollister Hill Apts	0.0%	326,500.00

- Indebtedness -

	Interest Rate	Balance
Truck Loan – 2020	2.00%	44,000.00
Truck Loan – 2023	2.00%	110,000.00
Current Expense Note LOC	5.44%	400,000.00

The investments of the Cemetery Fund and Jaquith Library appear with their reports.

BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 2023

	<u>General</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
- Assets -			
Cash on Hand	813		813
Bank Accounts	(762,864)	873,816	110,952
Fire Dept Invest Account		12,769	12,769
Prepayments	2,869		2,869
Delinquent Taxes	69,765		69,765
Reserve for Del Taxes	(69,765)		(69,765)
Hollister Hill Apts Mortgage		326,500	326,500
Total Assets	(759,183)	1,213,084	453,902
- Liabilities -			
Damage Deposit	1,722		1,722
Performance Bond	500		500
Prepayments	70,034		70,034
Taxes Owed	104,408		104,408
State Funds Payable	40		40
Cemetery Funds	41,551		41,551
Payroll Liabilities	1,895		1,895
Flood Loan	400,000		400,000
2024 Truck Loan		110,000	110,000
2020 Truck Loan		44,000	44,000
Total Liabilities	620,149	154,000	774,149
- Fund Balances -			
Fund Balances, 12/31/22	214,296	1,048,432	1,262,728
2022 Surplus Applied	(162,552)		(162,552)
2023 Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,431,076)	10,652	(1,420,424)
Fund Balances, 12/31/23	(1,379,332)	1,059,084	(320,247)
Liabilities + Fund Balance	(759,183)	1,213,084	453,902

TOWN ASSETS

Property:		Cost
Mears property	37 acres	7,500
Old Town forest	50 acres	195
Gravel pit	4 acres	1,000
Railroad depot	8.1 acres	2,000
Thorndike property/Martin Covered Bridge Park	70 acres & bridge	1,321
Anderson lot	1.05 acres	1,455
Virginia Stranahan Town Forest	619.6 acres	0
Town garage		41,000
Salt Shed		51,722
Old village school lot & bldg	3 acres	1
Fire station and land	2.20 acres	<u>81,000</u>
Total Property		187,195

Equipment - Highway:

2020 Pickup		48,632
2015 International dumptruck (used)		35,000
2021 International dumptruck		124,773
2024 International dumptruck		144,430
2022 International dumptruck (salvage)		12,500
2018 Komatsu loader		140,238
2013 John Deere grader		188,000
2023 Excavator		91,544
2007 Challenger tractor & mower		70,000
2021 Hydroseeder		16,314
2011 chipper		17,900
2023 Trailer for excavator		19,701
Trailer for hydroseeder		3,975
Turbine blower		9,506
Storage container		5,800
Pressure washer & trailer		7,745
Portable generator		1,299
Screen for sand		14,600
Generator at Town Garage		11,041
Sander		4,045
York rake (2009)		5,195
Plasma cutter		2,100
Tools		<u>9,979</u>
Total Highway Equipment		984,317

Other Town Assets

Solar Panels at Old Schoolhouse	63,448
Generator at Old Schoolhouse Common	10,052
Roller shelves (6)	3,100
Computers and printers	20,921
Office equipment	16,565
Office furniture	840
Air conditioners (2)	<u>987</u>
Total Other Assets	115,912

Fire Station Improvements

Security system	9,377
Air vacuum system	15,912
Sprinkler System	<u>15,577</u>
Total Fire Station Improvements	40,866

Fire Station Equipment

Standby generator	14,369
Communications equipment	25,010
Computers	4,162
Uniform washer	3,795
2011 Ford pickup	39,604
1937 Chev. Amer. LaFrance pumper	4,353
1991 Ford L-8000 pumper	99,168
1996 Ford LN 8000 tanker	<u>83,531</u>
Total Fire Station Equipment	273,992

TOTAL **1,602,282**

Assets are listed at their cost at the time of purchase



The National Guard delivering bottled water

SELECTBOARD REPORT

It was business as usual until July 9, 2023, when a storm dumped more than 5 inches of rain in 24 hours in Marshfield. Only the Great Flood of 1927, an event that preceded modern flood controls, exceeded the flooding impact of the July storm. The storm impacted almost every road in our municipality, making some impassable. Bridges serving Sass Avenue, Onion River Road, Holt Road, and Cassidy Road were destroyed, leaving some residents with no access to their homes for weeks. Route 2 was closed for several days and had substantial damage. Part of the Village water system was destroyed, leaving Village residents without potable water for weeks. The Old School House Commons gym and elevator suffered water damage. Many homes suffered water damage from minor flooding to catastrophic losses. Many of those homes were not in the flood zone or even close to a waterway.

Justin Campbell, Select Board member and Emergency Management Coordinator, immediately jumped into action to hire excavating contractors to assist the road crew to make the roads passable. Within days, all but six roads were passable. Justin volunteered hundreds of hours and used personal vacation time from work to assist in the immediate flood remediation work. To help residents gain vehicular access to their properties, many of whom had only temporary pedestrian access or marginal vehicular access over temporary routes, Justin coordinated obtaining contractors and oversaw the construction of the temporary bridges. Justin also coordinated the process of repairing the Village water system. In the short term, Village residents relied on bottled water and potable water, both brought in by the National Guard in water tanks. When time allowed, Justin also visited many residents whose homes or property had been damaged, and helped them evaluate the type of state or federal assistance that might be available.

Our dedicated road crew worked seven days per week and many long hours, including catching a few hours' sleep in the Town garage and then going back out to work on the roads. The road crew continued their work for months, over the summer and fall, to get the roads back into shape.

During the emergency, and for months afterward, the Select Board met weekly and sometimes twice a week, to approve contracts and to make decisions regarding various actions required to address the flood damage. State and federal agencies assisted the Town by providing technical and financial support. Bobbi Brimblecombe coordinated the myriad of required federal and state procurement processes and other guidelines required to obtain potential financial aid. FEMA and state related flood impact funding

is expected to cover about 90% of the cost of storm damage. However, it could take up to two years to obtain reimbursement. Given that the Town paid contractors for their work, the Town had to use available funds and obtain loans to cover costs until reimbursement funds become available.

These flood repair and reconstruction projects cost the Town money that was not budgeted. The details of the Town budget are found elsewhere in this Annual Report. In summary, the Select Board chose to use \$215,000 of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund to help pay these flood-related costs. Loans are built into the 2024 budget to provide funding for flood-related costs. Although not desirable, the proposed 2024 budget includes a 5.5% tax increase.

As of January 2024, the roads are repaired, temporary bridges are in place, and the Village water system is functioning. However, the Select Board has much work to be done over the next several years. These include:

- Engineering and constructing permanent bridges to replace temporary bridges.
- Coordinating a FEMA buyout program for residents who sustained flood damage and are considered a high risk for repetitive losses from flooding.
- Coordinating the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program so that eligible properties can receive partial funding to repair flood-damaged properties (this would not include flood-damage buildings).
- Determining how to best prevent repetitive flooding of the Old School House elevator and gym.
- Considering methods to protect the Old School House Commons from future flooding.
- Developing a plan to improve the Town's flood resiliency and be better prepared to withstand future flooding.

NET BUDGET AND ESTIMATED TAX RATE

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Administration	150,085	165,755	155,138	150,916	163,259	201,572	215,949	247,757
Flood Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116,132
Highways	502,374	537,019	552,526	599,711	620,638	611,307	690,599	703,016
Fire Department	63,647	67,832	69,082	72,119	73,219	76,024	78,623	80,023
EMS	20,500	43,500	46,100	47,318	48,572	49,865	51,194	52,565
Planning & Zoning	19,642	15,336	12,735	7,738	10,388	1,715	15,538	15,190
Recreation	2,250	1,900	1,900	2,400	2,925	2,925	1,800	1,800
Buildings & Grounds	-4,472	-16,797	-20,402	-11,087	-7,404	-2,134	10,749	37,356
Total Essential Services	754,026	814,545	817,079	869,115	911,597	941,274	1,064,453	1,253,839
Less ARPA Funds used for essential services								-215,000
Less Disaster Funds								-1,512,743
Less Surplus/Plus Deficit	-109,847	-122,967	-81,621	-71,097	-107,592	-138,525	-162,552	1,431,076
Taxes for Essential Services	644,179	691,578	735,458	798,018	804,005	802,749	901,901	957,171
Jaquith Library	79,850	80,713	78,954	82,727	82,727	84,383	101,763	106,851
Library Additional Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,428
Historical Society	6,455	6,455	6,455	6,455	6,455	6,455	6,907	6,907
Cemeteries	8,600	8,600	14,000	10,500	10,500	10,500	15,000	15,000
Special Appropriations	0	0	0	8,000	0	13,920	0	0
Outside Organizations	21,165	21,615	21,540	21,740	21,540	21,140	21,158	19,158
Total Taxes to be Raised	760,249	808,961	856,407	927,440	925,227	939,147	1,046,729	1,110,515
Tax Rate	0.6341	0.6710	0.7089	0.7662	0.7599	0.6008	0.6538	0.7043 *

*estimate for comparison only, if all articles are approved.

TAXES NEEDED FOR INDIVIDUAL WARNING ARTICLES

	Taxes Needed	Effect on Tax Rate	Taxes for \$150,000 Property	Taxes for \$250,000 Property	Taxes for \$350,000 Property
Article 5	\$ 957,171	0.6070	\$ 910.54	\$ 1,517.57	\$ 2,124.60
Article 6	\$ 106,851	0.0678	\$ 101.65	\$ 169.41	\$ 237.17
Article 7	\$ 5,428	0.0034	\$ 5.16	\$ 8.61	\$ 12.05
Article 8	\$ 6,907	0.0044	\$ 6.57	\$ 10.95	\$ 15.33
Article 9	\$ 15,000	0.0095	\$ 14.27	\$ 23.78	\$ 33.30
Article 10	\$ 6,833	0.0043	\$ 6.50	\$ 10.83	\$ 15.17
Article 11	\$ 12,325	0.0078	\$ 11.72	\$ 19.54	\$ 27.36
Total	\$ 1,110,515	0.7043	\$ 1,056.41	\$ 1,760.69	\$ 2,464.98

Every \$10,000 in the budget \$ 10,000 0.0063 \$ 9.51 \$ 15.85 \$ 22.20

* Essential Services includes Highways, General Government, the Town Office, the Fire Department, Emergency Services, the Old Schoolhouse Common, Employment Taxes and Benefits, Zoning and Planning, Flood Repairs, and State and Federal Disaster Reimbursements
This chart assumes no increase in the grand list

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

General Fund

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Previous Year Surplus Applied				
Surplus Prv Yr Non Hgwy	43,925	75,961	75,961	
Surplus Prev Yr Highway	94,600	86,591	86,591	
Total Surplus Applied	<u>138,525</u>	<u>162,552</u>	<u>162,552</u>	
Selectboard Managed Income				
ARPA Funds into General Fund				215,000
Property Taxes	932,797	1,052,729	1,055,620	1,116,515
Natural Disaster Reimbursements	0	0	6,597	1,512,743
Town Office Income	15,523	13,935	10,963	13,510
General Government Income	122,886	135,200	138,863	131,700
Highway Department Income	109,675	114,397	93,457	129,367
Buildings & Grounds Income	56,616	53,929	51,956	53,179
Fire Department Income	1,453	0	0	0
Zoning / Planning Income	3,190	3,080	3,032	3,055
Total Selectboard Managed Income	<u>1,242,139</u>	<u>1,373,270</u>	<u>1,360,489</u>	<u>3,175,070</u>
Total Income and Surplus	1,380,665	1,535,822	1,523,041	3,175,070
Essential Services				
Natural Disasters			1,618,426	116,132
Town Office Expense	125,114	143,395	115,818	172,984
General Government Expenses	39,745	99,667	84,601	103,819
Highway Department Expenses	634,487	804,996	698,211	832,383
Buildings & Grounds Expenses	48,303	64,678	48,306	90,535
Fire Department Expenses	71,307	78,623	79,579	80,023
Emergency Services	49,865	51,194	51,194	52,565
Zoning / Planning Expenses	3,732	18,618	15,038	18,245
Recreation/Programming Expenses	3,633	1,800	1,100	1,800
Employee Expenses	107,029	128,022	97,014	122,164
Total Essential Services	<u>1,083,215</u>	<u>1,390,994</u>	<u>2,809,289</u>	<u>1,590,650</u>
Other Appropriations	115,258	123,670	123,670	134,186
Other Agencies	19,640	21,158	21,157	19,158
Total General Fund Expenses	1,218,113	1,535,822	2,954,116	1,743,994
Deficit from previous year				1,431,076
Total Expenses and Deficit	1,218,113	1,535,822	2,954,116	3,175,070
Net Income/(Deficit)	162,552		-1,431,076	

PROPERTY TAXES

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Town Taxes				
Town Taxes Collected	847,277	1,046,729	929,169	1,110,515
State Adjustments - Town Tax	37,385		36,125	
Total Town Taxes	<u>884,662</u>	<u>1,046,729</u>	<u>965,294</u>	<u>1,110,515</u>
Education Taxes				
Education Tax Collected	1,632,355		1,737,809	
State Adjustments - School Tax	(1,485)		(139)	
Annual Adjust - Prev Yr Ed Tax	(392)			
School Tax Administration Fee	3,968		4,155	
Revised Homestead Bill Fees	255		285	
Education Tax Liability	(1,763,602)		(1,846,322)	
Total Education Taxes	<u>(128,900)</u>		<u>(104,212)</u>	
Land Use Change Tax				
Abatements			2,735	
Delinquent Tax Income	172,881		184,495	
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	4,154	6,000	7,334	6,000
Total Property Taxes	<u>932,797</u>	<u>1,052,729</u>	<u>1,055,620</u>	<u>1,116,515</u>



Martin Covered Bridge

TAXES ASSESSED – 2023

Taxable Grand List as of the Date of Town Tax Rate Setting: \$160,102,800

Setting the Town Tax Rate:

Amount of Taxes Needed 1,046,729.22
 Divided by Grand List (in 100ths) 1,601,028.00
 Equals Town Tax Rate 0.6538

Setting the Local Agreement Rate:

Value of Exempt Property@30,000 per veteran 450,000
 Multiplied by Homestead Education Rate 1.4525
 Value of Exempt Property@30,000 per veteran 60,000
 Multiplied by Non-Residential Education Rate 1.3812
 Equals Amount of School Tax to Make Up 7,364.97
 Divided by Grand List Equals Local Rate 0.0046

Total Tax Rate, Homestead Property

Town 0.6538
 Local Agreement 0.0046
 School 1.4525
 Total 2.1109

Total Tax Rate, Non-Residential Property

Town 0.6538
 Local Agreement 0.0046
 School 1.3812
 Total 2.0396

	Town Tax	Homestead Education	Non Residential Education	Late Homestead Filing Penalty	Total School Taxes	Total Taxes
Taxes Billed ¹	1,038,396.81	1,469,824.98	780,324.84	2,126.68	2,252,276.50	3,290,673.31
Taxes Paid To Treasurer	-929,169.41				-1,737,808.81	-2,666,978.22
State Adjustments	-36,426.86				-410,466.15	-446,893.01
Unpaid as of due date ²	72,800.54				104,001.54	176,802.08

¹ Reflects changes to the Grand List after the tax rate was set

² Includes \$717.29 billed in January 2024, not delinquent yet

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Balance Due</u>
2019	2,963.31	2,963.31	0.00
2020	2,237.84	2,237.84	0.00
2021	2,540.60	2,540.60	0.00
2022	70,433.41	70,182.12	251.29
<u>2023</u>	<u>176,084.79</u>	<u>106,570.82</u>	<u>69,513.97</u>
Balance due	254,259.95	184,494.69	69,765.26

COMPARISON OF DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNTS IN PRIOR YEARS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Taxes Billed During Year</u>	<u>Amount of Taxes Turned Over to Collector</u>	<u>Balance of Delinquent Tax Account Dec. 31</u>
2023	3,290,673.31	176,084.79	69,765.26
2022	3,122,582.66	188,402.47	78,175.16
2021	3,157,642.18	194,519.08	62,653.39
2020	3,188,371.99	224,924.00	100,752.90
2019	3,137,007.58	185,541.52	100,831.71
2018	3,006,347.87	199,854.59	95,901.68
2017	2,847,544.30	115,057.97	67,845.95
2016	2,801,942.12	148,741.17	81,977.61
2015	2,800,159.48	123,209.64	81,999.59
2014	2,830,897.81	112,371.00	71,213.79
2013	2,591,841.78	124,607.17	63,282.49
2012	2,440,175.38	130,583.26	50,186.68
2011	2,412,330.10	128,344.17	40,804.94
2010	2,416,810.10	128,555.83	52,669.60
2009	2,276,189.13	158,765.64	56,338.54
2008	2,135,705.29	121,715.21	43,113.12
2007	1,940,836.23	112,870.08	104,445.90
2006	1,780,415.91	111,521.09	74,050.39
2005	1,665,353.22	124,952.07	55,491.38
2004	1,621,502.81	111,298.79	48,333.68
2003	1,771,745.16	130,883.32	61,038.67
2002	1,542,907.66	100,234.17	62,778.52
2001	1,463,678.32	108,203.40	66,822.09
2000	1,275,939.37	122,526.25	65,963.94
1999	1,149,456.77	112,632.76	66,014.55
1998	1,166,789.54	93,957.85	68,078.83
1997	1,138,613.48	102,635.59	84,822.26

FYI - The delinquent tax collector received \$ 14,715.38 in fees in 2023.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND INSURANCE

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Employee Expenses				
Workmen's Compensati	18,949	20,267	17,705	17,062
Unemployment Insurance	653	519	516	481
Disability Insurance	2,039	2,400	2,368	2,500
Health Insurance	83,768	102,436	74,590	99,071
Training	703	2,000	966	2,000
Employee Recognition	0	150	200	200
Benefits Administration	0	250	0	250
Background Checks	0	0	670	600
Total Employee Expenses	<u>106,112</u>	<u>128,022</u>	<u>97,014</u>	<u>122,164</u>



Our Road Crew: Lance Donald, Tim Ksepka, and Scott Ciampi

TOWN OFFICE

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Town Office Income				
Office Fees	13,825	12,000	9,159	12,000
Dog Licenses	1,133	1,500	1,479	1,200
Marriage Licenses	100	100	115	100
Liquor/Tobacco License	465	335	210	210
Total Town Office Income	<u>15,523</u>	<u>13,935</u>	<u>10,963</u>	<u>13,510</u>
Town Office Expense				
Town Office Staff Expenses				
Town Office Staff	83,678	74,376	68,295	114,166
Social Security	4,792	4,611	4,021	7,078
Medicare	1,121	1,078	941	1,655
Retirement	3,648	3,924	3,394	7,378
Childcare Tax	0	0	0	251
Mileage	126	300	375	300
Total Staff Expenses	<u>93,363</u>	<u>84,289</u>	<u>77,026</u>	<u>130,828</u>
COVID Expenses	226	0	0	0
OSC Allocation	11,174	11,956	11,952	11,956
Cleaning Service	675	650	525	650
Postage	2,063	2,000	1,896	2,500
Supplies	2,385	2,400	3,065	3,000
Telephone	1,489	1,500	1,567	1,600
Computer Expenses	5,535	36,000	15,727	15,000
Office Equipment	634	750	697	2,750
Town Report	2,398	2,500	2,845	3,000
Advertising	189	350	118	200
Elections Expense	3,307	500	22	1,000
Alarm System	1,676	500	377	500
Total Town Office Expense	<u>125,114</u>	<u>143,395</u>	<u>115,818</u>	<u>172,984</u>
Net Cost	109,591	129,460	104,855	159,474

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT

Flood

July's floods have had a significant impact on the Town's finances. We spent over \$1.6 million on flood repairs in 2023. We anticipate being reimbursed for 87.5% of the costs, but the timetable for reimbursement is not clear. We have a few minor road repairs left to complete in 2024. We have to come up with a solution for the water that continues to enter the Old Schoolhouse Common and develop a comprehensive plan for the grounds. We will also begin the design process for four permanent bridges. The town ended the year with a deficit of over \$1.4 million. We took out a current expense note and borrowed from our designated funds to cover the costs.

Staffing

At this time last year, I reported that Winnie Valenza would be retiring as Assistant Town Clerk. Since that time, the town has brought on a new assistant, Alex Johnson. She hit the ground running, jumping right in to help manage the flood response.

While a tumultuous year such as this may not have been the easiest to bring on someone new, it did prove a few things. As the responsibilities placed on the town become more and more challenging each year, it's evident Marshfield is reaching a point that requires more than two people to handle the jobs of Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectboard Administrator, Assistant Clerk and Assistant Treasurer. The Board has agreed to include funding in the budget for a second Assistant.

It is my intention to work with the two assistants to teach them all of the duties of the Town Clerk and Treasurer. These are really separate positions and in many towns they are held by two separate individuals. I want to ensure a smooth transition for the town as I retire. I expect it to take at least a year and possibly two years to learn all of the facets of these jobs. It is my hope that we can continue to have an elected Town Clerk and an elected Treasurer, but elected officials have to be town residents.

Town Meeting – Change of Date

It was voted at last year's meeting that all local issues will continue to be voted in person from the floor. Australian Ballot was utilized during the pandemic but voters chose not to adopt it for the future. There was also an article to change the date of our annual town meeting to the third day preceding the first Tuesday in March. This article was approved 56-45. This year's Town Meeting will be held Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 1:00pm. at Twinfield. There will be a non-binding discussion during the meeting to hear how voters feel about meeting on Sunday. Australian Ballot voting for the school budgets will be held on the traditional Tuesday, March 5th at the Old Schoolhouse Common, from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

State and Federal Elections

There will also be a Presidential Primary at the Old Schoolhouse Common on Tuesday, March 5th. Voters will be asked to state which party's ballot they want to vote on. The choice is required by the national political parties. If we don't agree

to abide by their conditions, our primary won't count. The ballot you choose in March does not require you to vote for that party in November.

For the Statewide primary in August, we have secret party choice. Voters will not have to declare their intentions – they will be given all of the ballots, and asked to confidentially return the ballots that they don't choose to vote on.

Voter Registration

You can register to vote online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov> or by mailing a registration form to the Town Clerk's Office. You can register to vote at Town Meeting, but I encourage you not to wait until that day because you may have to wait for a break in the action for someone to become available to approve your registration. Registering early will save you time.

My Voter Page

Every voter can access information about their polling hours and locations at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. This is a great way to request an absentee ballot or notify us of a change of address. You can also track the progress of your ballot to see when it has been issued by us, when we receive it back, and whether it was accepted or whether you need to correct something about the ballot.

Dogs

We continue to struggle getting people to license their dogs as required by statute. Please don't put this off. It's a great waste of time for us to send notice after notice and make repeated phone calls. Please license your dog as soon as possible; the deadline to register them is April 1st. You can register them via mail – just send us the fee and the rabies certificate, and we will mail the license. You may also leave the fee and certificate in the drop box. Call if you have any questions about licensing. We were not able to schedule a rabies clinic at the town garage this year but Tractor Supply and East Montpelier are both doing clinics.

Tax Payments

We are happy to accept prepayments for property taxes at any time; some taxpayers find it easier to make monthly payments ahead of when the bill comes. We can also debit your bank account on the due date – let us know if you would like to sign up for that program. Forms are available on the website.

Drop Box

We have a secure drop box that can be used for anything that needs to be dropped off at the office – tax payments, dog licenses, absentee ballots, etc. The box is secure and tamper-proof, and we check it every work day.

Vital Records

We are no longer printing the lists of births, deaths, and marriages, due to concerns about identity theft. We had 11 marriages, 19 babies were born, and we lost 9 residents in 2023.

Bobbi Brimblecombe
Alex Johnson

clerk@marshfieldvt.gov 426-3305
assist@marshfieldvt.gov

LISTERS REPORT

A person who feels aggrieved by the action of the Listers and desires to be heard by them shall, on or before the day of the grievance meeting, file with them his or her objections in writing... — 32 V.S.A. §4111

The lister's role has expanded quite a bit in recent years, but the principal requirements of the job as mandated by the Vermont Statutes is to maintain the grand list. The "grand list book" is an official listing of all properties (parcels) located within any city or town. Parcel information includes owner name(s) and mailing address, parcel 911 address, parcel size and description, property value, and more. All that information is laid out in orderly fashion within a 2 x 8" rectangular section, the sections being arranged alphabetically by owner last names. Marshfield's grand list is a 167-page document comprising 800 of those sections. That may seem a hefty number of parcels compared to some of Vermont's unincorporated towns and gores, but rather miniscule when one considers the likes of Burlington and Rutland.

For the lister, accuracy is always the goal of maintaining the grand list. That's a relatively straightforward task when dealing with such things as names and addresses and 911 locations. It gets a little stickier, however, when it comes to the issue of a parcel's value. In short, the listers may arrive at an assessment which the owner disagrees with. Is there anything that the owner can do to change the value to what he/she thinks is correct? That question brings us to the subject of this article.

As a property owner, if you believe that your grand list property value is inaccurate, you have the right to request that the listers change the value to one which you consider to be correct. That request is known as a "grievance". If you would like to grieve the current assessment of your property, the following background information concerning the listers' timeline for assessing parcels may be helpful.

1. The state requires that the listers place an assessment value on each property at a particular point in time in the year. That "particular point" in Vermont is April 1. Your property value, then, is based on the value of the land and buildings which together constituted "your property" on April 1. Any changes made after April 1 will be considered on the next April 1. For example, if you demolish a garage in May of 2024, that garage will still be considered as part of your property value for 2024, since the removal did not take place until after April 1, 2024. The change in

your property value due to the garage removal will be reflected on the April 1, 2025 valuation.

2. During April and May, the listers determine which properties in the Town have potential value changes, after they have reviewed current building permits and the status of parcels currently undergoing construction. They then attempt to schedule appointments with the owners of those properties for on-site inspections; or they may try to obtain the relevant information by email or phone. Needless to say (but I'll say it anyway), the listers greatly appreciate owners' cooperation in those respects.
3. After they have concluded their inspections, the listers record any ensuing value changes in the Town's grand list. This must be completed by June 4, when the listers lodge a preliminary ("abstract") grand list copy with the town clerk.
4. At that time, the listers send out a Change of Appraisal Notice to each owner whose property value has changed from the previous year. The Notice informs the owner what the value of their property is now as opposed to its value last year.
5. Additionally, the Notice provides information to the property owner regarding grievances, stating the time and place the listers will conduct grievance hearings. The hearings occur on or before June 19. **If you wish to grieve, you must notify the listers in writing on or before the day set for the grievance meeting, as stated on the Change of Appraisal Notice.** Grievance forms are available at the town clerk's office.
6. Please note that you can grieve an assessment of your property at any time of the year. However, your grievance hearing will not be held until June, on the grievance hearing date so stated on that year's Change of Appraisal Notice. The listers will contact you in early June to set up a time for your hearing.

If you have any questions regarding the above, or on any other aspect of the value of your property, don't hesitate to contact the lister's office at 426-3045 or listers@marshfieldvt.gov.

The Marshfield Board of Listers

Meg Eberhardt, Kathleen Hayes, Renee Lawrence

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
General Government Income				
Interest Income	10,910	25,000	30,077	25,000
Current Use PILOT	83,860	83,000	80,879	80,000
PILOT - Forests & Parks	25,588	25,000	25,588	25,000
Traffic fines	935	700	962	700
Stranahan Town Forest Income	2,385	1,800	2,063	1,800
Transfer to Stranahan Fund	(1,193)	(900)	(1,031)	(900)
Lister Training Grant	0	500	0	0
Miscellaneous Income	401	100	325	100
Total General Government Income	<u>122,886</u>	<u>135,200</u>	<u>138,863</u>	<u>131,700</u>
General Government Expenses				
Town Officer Expenses				
Delinquent Tax Collector	13,914	15,000	14,715	12,500
Delinquent Tax Penalty	(13,829)	(15,000)	(14,801)	(12,500)
Lister Wages	8,726	14,547	11,112	14,322
Selectboard Stipend	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Selectboard Admin	0	27,525	27,525	28,626
Health Officer	117	605	0	629
First Constable	125	125	125	125
Fire Warden	25	25	25	25
Auditors	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Board of Civil Authority	402	500	126	500
Social Security	1,650	2,919	3,320	2,947
Medicare	386	683	776	689
Retirement	124	0	0	0
Childcare Tax	0	0	0	105
Mileage	78	500	146	500
Total Town Officer Expenses	<u>15,019</u>	<u>50,729</u>	<u>46,369</u>	<u>51,768</u>
Lister Services/Supplies	1,483	1,600	1,539	2,000
Health Officer expense	0	100	0	100
Energy Committee	0	500	0	500
Conservation Commission	201	300	340	300
County Tax	11,138	11,500	10,542	11,500
Town Officers' Liability Ins.	1,974	2,015	2,015	1,755
General Liability Insurance	(4,550)	(1,996)	(1,995)	(51)
Employment Practices Ins.	1,753	1,528	1,528	1,878
Interest-Tax Anticipation Note	2,432	13,578	12,018	14,000
Legal Services	2,557	2,500	1,600	2,500
VLCT Dues	3,080	3,185	3,185	3,283
Solid Waste	1,330	1,678	1,678	1,836
Traffic Control/Law Enforcement	2,854	12,000	5,127	12,000
9-1-1 Signs/Expenses	93	100	91	100
Repeater Station	250	300	300	350
Miscellaneous	133	50	264	0
Total General Government Expenses	<u>39,745</u>	<u>99,667</u>	<u>84,601</u>	<u>103,819</u>
Net Cost	(83,142)	(35,533)	(54,262)	(27,881)

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT FUND PROJECTION

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Balance, January 1	129,729	110,340	45,949	79,441	66,603	50,673	51,608	33,377	8,725	15,801
Appropriation	94,025	98,726	103,662	108,845	114,287	120,001	126,001	129,781	134,323	139,024
Grants-In-Aid	209,499	37,000								
Insurance proceeds *	4,000									
Sale of Trailer	1,971	552	230	397	333	253	258	167	44	79
Interest										
Purchases:										
Pickup					(30,000)					
Purchase used (2015) dumptruck *	(35,000)									
Repurchase 2022 dumptruck for parts *	(12,500)									
a. Purchase truck in 2020, 2026, 2032				(200,000)			(200,000)			(200,000)
b. Purchase truck in 2021, 2024, 2030 *		(263,588)								
c. Purchase truck in 2023, 2029, 2035	(144,430)						(200,000)			
Purchase Grader					(225,600)					
Purchase Excavator	(91,544)									
Purchase Trailer	(19,701)									
Loans:										
a. Borrow for truck in 2020, 2026, 2032				125,000				150,000		150,000
b. Borrow for truck in 2021, 2024, 2030		110,000					150,000			
c. Borrow for truck in 2023, 2029, 2035					200,000					
Borrow for Grader	110,000									
Payments:										
a. Pmt on 2020/2026/2032 truck loan	(23,320)	(22,880)	(22,440)	(22,750)	(28,750)	(28,000)	(27,250)	(26,500)	(25,750)	(33,600)
b. Pmt on 2021/2024/2030 truck loan	(89,950)	(24,200)	(23,760)	(23,320)	(22,880)	(22,880)	(22,440)	(34,500)	(34,500)	(23,980)
c. Pmt on 2017/2023/2029 truck loan	(22,440)	(24,200)	(23,760)	(23,320)	(22,880)	(22,440)	(22,440)	(34,500)	(24,640)	(23,980)
Pmts on loader										
Pmts on Grader						(46,000)	(44,800)	(43,600)	(42,400)	(41,200)
Balance, December 31	110,340	45,949	79,441	66,603	50,673	51,608	33,377	8,725	15,801	6,124

* In 2023, the 2022 truck was totaled. The Town received an insurance payment and re-purchased the salvage truck for parts.
A used (2015) truck was purchased, and a new truck was ordered.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Highway Department Income				
Highway/State Aid	94,813	90,000	91,090	90,000
Curb cut permits	70	100	70	70
Sanding Reimb. Twinfield	213	0	0	0
Plowing/Sanding Other Towns	2,297	2,297	2,297	2,297
Grants-In-Aid	12,100	22,000	0	37,000
Other Highway Income	182	0	0	0
Total Highway Department Income	<u>109,675</u>	<u>114,397</u>	<u>93,457</u>	<u>129,367</u>
Highway Department Expenses				
Highway Staff Expenses				
Wages	173,764	209,031	220,052	214,160
Temp Wages	2,480	15,550	9,370	16,172
Social Security	10,606	13,924	13,842	14,281
Medicare	2,481	3,256	3,237	3,340
Retirement	12,364	15,524	16,338	16,576
Childcare Tax	0	0	0	507
Mileage	983	1,000	2,677	1,000
Pagors	284	350	340	350
Uniforms	2,705	3,000	2,931	3,120
Other	(122)	0	0	0
Total Staff Expenses	<u>205,545</u>	<u>261,635</u>	<u>268,786</u>	<u>269,506</u>
Garage Expenses				
Electricity	1,751	1,700	1,555	1,700
Heating Oil	5,876	9,000	7,856	9,000
Building Maintenance	1,489	4,000	2,520	4,000
Supplies	749	1,000	519	1,000
Telephone	1,191	1,200	1,208	1,200
Rubbish Removal	1,222	1,400	1,377	1,400
Fuel Tank Assessment	50	50	50	50
Safety Equipment	850	2,000	369	1,500
Garage Insurance	2,618	2,675	2,675	2,942
Generator	450	250	0	250
Generator Propane	94	250	64	250
Misc. Garage Expenses	755	2,000	259	0
Total Garage Expenses	<u>17,095</u>	<u>25,525</u>	<u>18,453</u>	<u>23,292</u>
Equipment/Maintenance				
2020 Pickup	1,582	1,600	719	1,600
2015 International	0	0	2,376	5,000
2018 International	3,180	4,000	1,093	0
2021 International	2,320	5,000	1,863	5,000
2022 International	2,957	5,000	1,585	0
2024 International	0	0	143	4,000
2013 Grader	4,017	4,500	2,990	4,500
2018 Loader	60	1,000	1,377	1,000
2023 Excavator	0	0	78	2,000

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
2004 Excavator	3,787	2,000	1,213	0
Tractor/Mower	1,353	2,500	270	2,500
Trailers	18	1,000	167	1,000
Sanders	2,175	3,000	200	3,000
Plows	2,076	2,500	2,007	3,000
York Rake	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Chain Saws	499	1,200	525	1,200
Chipper	0	1,000	258	1,000
Tire Chains	8,490	9,000	5,830	9,000
Sanders	0	400	133	400
Tools	1,577	2,000	979	2,000
To Equipment Fund	89,548	94,025	94,025	98,726
Grants to Equipment Fund	12,100	22,000	0	37,000
Vehicle Insurance	8,325	8,521	8,416	9,109
Equipment Rental	0	4,500	5,236	5,500
Misc. Equipment Expenses	3,095	4,400	8,896	5,000
Total Equipment/Maintenance	148,160	180,146	141,378	202,535
Materials				
Staymat	94,803	110,000	69,978	110,000
Stone	4,665	9,000	259	9,000
Winter Sand	68,754	80,000	79,911	80,000
Salt	14,657	21,000	19,602	21,000
Chloride	18,965	21,000	15,600	21,000
Equipment/Vehicle Fuel	40,849	45,000	46,713	45,000
Grease & Oil	598	2,000	1,015	2,000
Welding Supplies	373	700	716	700
Cold Patch	403	500	500	500
Erosion Control Measures	1,389	3,000	1,217	3,000
Misc. Materials	662	1,000	833	1,000
Total Materials	246,117	293,200	236,343	293,200
Highway Infrastructure				
Cabot Road/Route 2 Interse	96	500		500
Municipal Roads Permit Fee	1,350	1,990	1,775	1,350
Culverts Purchased	4,487	14,000	9,133	14,000
Culvert Reimbursements	(552)	0	0	0
Road Signs	1,107	1,000	842	1,000
Guardrails	0	3,000	0	3,000
To Paving Fund	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
To Bridge Fund	3,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
Private Contracts	3,500	4,000	1,500	4,000
Total Highway Infrastructure	18,487	44,490	33,250	43,850
Total Highway Department Expenses	635,404	804,996	698,211	832,383
Net Cost	525,729	690,599	604,754	703,016

WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN

The Winter Parking Ordinance is in effect from November 1st to April 30th. No vehicles are to be parked on town roads during these months. **VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE.**

Plow routes are set up to open the major traffic routes and school bus routes first. The road crew usually starts operations at 3:30 a.m. to have these roads clear by 7:00 a.m. In most cases there will be no maintenance between 8:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.

Each road crew member has a specific route that takes approximately 4½ hours to complete. After 16 hours on the job, they are required to stop operations and take off a minimum of 6 hours.

The Town does not plow Class IV and private roads and certain Class III roads, or sections thereof, as set forth by statute.

Salt will be applied to paved roads with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. (Salt is not effective when the road temperature is below 20 degrees). Sand will be applied to gravel roads.

Please note: according to 23 VSA §1126, it is illegal to plow snow from private property on or across public highways. The snow that is left in the road will freeze, causing a dangerous situation for other drivers and for the snow plow. Under 19 VSA §1105, you could be fined \$1,000 plus damages and legal fees.

The road crew makes every effort to avoid mailboxes. However, because of snow conditions or oncoming traffic, the plows occasionally hit them. The Town has permitted mailboxes to be located in the Town right-of-way. If the mailboxes are damaged as a result of snow or ice clearing operations, the Town will not repair them.

WINTER SAND POLICY

The Town of Marshfield makes sand available to Town residents to help them with icy sidewalks and driveways. Residents will find the sand pile at the Town Garage on School Street. The sand is supplied only for Town residents and only for use at their home. Landlords and businesses should arrange for sand spreading from a number of local contractors.

Because the sand is only intended for home use, residents are asked to limit themselves to collecting two buckets per trip. It is highly recommended residents pick up their sand now and before a storm so they do not need to drive on icy roads. Use caution and do not climb on the pile.

OLD SCHOOLHOUSE COMMON BOARD

The Selectboard is reforming the Old Schoolhouse Common Board. In the past, the OSC Board served as the liaison between the Selectboard and the tenants; they made recommendations to the Selectboard regarding the building budget, maintenance needs, and building use policies, and they coordinated the work of the Building Coordinator.

Over the years, the OSC Board felt that they were not needed any longer so the group was dissolved. Unfortunately a building the size of the Old Schoolhouse needs more oversight and attention than the Selectboard can provide, and the recent flooding makes this the perfect time to re-establish this group.

Since the building and grounds received flood damage, there are decisions to be made about what we as a community want the Old Schoolhouse Common to be. We need volunteers with vision to help imagine the future for the property, and to help the Selectboard follow through with that vision. We are not expecting the OSC Board to do the actual work, just help us make plans and oversee the projects.

We need a plan for the grounds, to determine the best location for the picnic shelter (already purchased but awaiting installation), the community gardens, and the skating rink. We need to decide what to do with the nature trail, as part of it was cut off from the rest of the property when the river changed its course. The playground is 21 years old and needs a facelift. We need to decide what to do with the invasive bushes around the building. Is there enough interest to do a community flower garden?

We need a vision for the gym. It was damaged by the flood and all the floor tiles and part of the walls were ripped out. This would be a suitable time to plan what we want the gym to be. Should it be turned into a beautiful space for performances and programs? Can it also be a gym at the same time? What do we want?

There are several maintenance issues that need to be addressed. The OSC Board could help develop projects and make recommendations to the Selectboard.

We would like to have at least 6 members of this committee. If you are interested, please contact Bobbi Brimblecombe at:

clerk@marshfieldvt.gov or call the Town Clerk's office: 802-426-3305.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Old Schoolhouse Common

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Buildings & Grounds Income				
Allocations from Other Budgets				
Town Clerk's Office	11,174	11,956	11,952	11,956
Library	12,840	13,735	13,740	13,735
Historical Society	6,455	6,907	6,907	6,907
Total Allocations	30,469	32,598	32,599	32,598
Lease Income - Businesses				
Rebop Records	4,692	5,014	5,016	5,014
Food Shelf	5,016	5,339	5,340	5,339
Town Meeting Room *	4,788	0	0	0
5 Seasons Landworks	4,548	4,864	3,214	4,864
Village Office	4,548	4,864	4,860	4,864
Total Business Leases	23,592	20,081	18,430	20,081
Gymnasium	1,152	750	180	
Bandstand Rental	281	50	44	50
Meeting Room	398	200	196	200
Kitchen	390	150	302	150
Community Dinners	250	0	0	0
Tables and Chairs	60	100	206	100
Other Income	25	0	0	0
Total Income	56,616	53,929	51,956	53,179
Buildings & Grounds Expenses				
OSC Staff Expenses				
Wages	4,129	13,537	3,870	13,520
Social Security	256	839	240	838
Medicare	60	196	56	196
Childcare Tax	0	0	0	30
Mileage	1,388	0	270	100
Total Staff Expenses	5,833	14,572	4,436	14,684
Net Cost of Electricity at OSC				
Electricity Used	5,662	5,700	6,464	6,000
Solar Meter Charge	260	260	258	250
Electricity Produced	(4,553)	(4,500)	(3,767)	(4,000)
Solar Incentive	(1,551)	0	(114)	0
Electricity Net Cost	(182)	1,460	2,840	2,250

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Old Schoolhouse Common

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Heating Oil	2,642	5,700	1,803	3,000
Pellet Fuel	6,535	7,350	5,747	7,500
Propane for Cooking	63	250	333	200
Propane for Generator	755	250	109	250
Building Maintenance	1,306	500	2,278	3,000
Janitorial Supplies	968	1,000	573	1,000
Heating Repairs	3,285	1,000	873	2,000
Solar Panel Expenses	306	350	331	350
Contract Labor	2,445	5,000	2,955	5,000
Custodial Services	4,413	4,500	3,794	4,000
Alarm System Expense	606	750	606	750
Insurance	6,954	7,321	7,321	9,178
Rubbish Removal	2,001	2,250	2,245	2,400
Water Expense	2,425	2,500	2,395	2,500
Sewer Expense	2,928	3,000	3,018	3,048
Portapotty Rental	0	2,400	3,396	2,400
Elevator Maintenance	1,195	1,000	158	1,500
To Building Fund	3,000	3,000	3,000	25,000
Generator	450	450	0	450
Miscellaneous	377	75	96	75
Total Expenses	48,303	64,678	48,306	90,535
Net Cost	(8,313)	10,749	(3,650)	37,356



Debris on the Nature Trail

RECREATION COMMITTEE

This year we hosted two cleanup events at the Old Schoolhouse Common to mitigate flood damage, pulling hundreds of pounds of flood borne debris from the river edge and property with the help of dozens of individuals. We hope to continue to beautify and strengthen the resilience of our local trails.

The new ice rink liner had water and river debris moving over it during the July flooding leading us to believe the liner is damaged. The town was able to file a claim with FEMA. This combined with uneven terrain and lack of resources to move and store the liner going forward helped us to decide this is something the committee is not able to take on. Twinfield school is working on building an ice rink for the community to enjoy.

The recreation committee is committed to increasing access to recreation opportunities for all our residents. We continue to collaborate with the library for summer, fall and winter events. The Old Schoolhouse Common is a wonderful focal point for our community and we are excited to organize efforts this Spring to improve the walking trails and recreation opportunities. We are enthusiastic about a new collaboration with Twinfield School and Riders in Plainfield and Marshfield (*RIPM*) to upgrade maps and access to the trails at Twinfield School. More to come on this over the Spring and Summer. We continue to host Sunday morning adult pickleball in the winter at Twinfield, and all levels are welcome to join in. We are always open to new recreation ideas and collaborations, so please join us for one of our meetings at the Old Schoolhouse Common: the last Thursday of February, May, August and November at 7:00 p.m. For more information about events, or how to get involved please email marshfieldrecvt@gmail.com.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Recreation/Programming Expenses				
Little League Field	300	0	0	0
Portapotty Rental	1,418	0	0	0
Recreational Programs	815	700	0	1,800
Transfer to Playground Fund	600	0	0	0
Transfer to Rec Fund	500	1,100	1,100	0
Total Recreation/Programming Expenses	3,633	1,800	1,100	1,800



A sunflower survived the flood water at the Martin Covered Bridge Park

FIRE DEPARTMENT

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Fire Department Income - Grant	1,453			
Fire Department Expenses				
Fire Dept Administration				
Worker's Compensation	1,216	1,250	1,218	1,250
Fireman's Disability	1,805	1,800	1,624	1,800
Office Supplies	0	100	0	100
Operating Supplies	0	50	0	50
Dues & Subscriptions	0	200	0	200
Liability and Vehicle Ins.	7,735	9,750	7,851	9,750
Total Administration	<u>10,756</u>	<u>13,150</u>	<u>10,693</u>	<u>13,150</u>
Firefighting				
Operating Supplies	119	800	332	800
Repairs & Maintenance	0	400	0	400
Small Tools & Equipment	0	250	1,517	250
Hose	0	1,000	0	1,000
Personnel Protective Gear	4,192	4,000	6,694	4,000
Contract Services	0	100	0	100
Breathing App. Maint.	165	250	90	250
SCBA Equipment	50	100	0	100
Repairs	0	100	471	100
Hydrant Development	0	350	0	0
Hydrant Maintenance	0	250	0	600
Total Firefighting	<u>4,526</u>	<u>7,600</u>	<u>9,104</u>	<u>7,600</u>
Fire Prevention				
Operating Supplies	0	100	0	100
Books, Handouts	0	100	0	100
Total Fire Prevention	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>
Fire Department Training				
Operating Supplies	0	200	0	200
Books, Training Aids	0	100	100	100
Contract Services	300	100	200	100
Total Training	<u>300</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>400</u>
Fire Dept Communications				
Simulcast System	0	1,800	851	1,500
Operating Supplies	1,437	1,000	545	1,000
Repairs & Maintenance	320	100	338	100
Computers and Software	0	100	0	100
Capital West Dues	400	450	400	450
Capitol West Dispatching	19,713	20,565	20,531	21,000
Radio/Pager Repairs	572	500	0	500
New Pagers	0	0	3,141	500
Total Communications	<u>22,442</u>	<u>24,515</u>	<u>25,805</u>	<u>25,150</u>

FIRE DEPARTMENT

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Fire Station				
Fire Station Heating Oil	2,713	2,200	2,893	2,200
Operating Supplies	64	100	0	100
Repairs & Maintenance	686	1,000	758	1,000
Small Tools & Equipment	1,678	250	84	250
Telephone	1,875	1,750	1,923	1,750
Insurance	1,527	1,608	1,608	1,773
Contract Services	1,561	1,500	4,315	1,500
Electricity	2,103	1,600	1,888	1,600
Transfer to FD Building Fund	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,500
Fire Station - Other	1,525	200	0	250
Total Fire Station	<u>16,481</u>	<u>12,958</u>	<u>16,219</u>	<u>12,923</u>
Trucks/Fire Fighting/Rescue				
Operating Supplies	161	500	283	500
Repair & Maintenance	0	3,200	1,855	3,500
Tools & Equipment	0	100	320	100
Hose and Ladder Testing	1,642	1,000	0	1,000
Contract Services	0	0	0	500
Total Trucks/Fire Fighting/Rescue	<u>1,802</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>2,458</u>	<u>5,600</u>
Transfer to FD Equipment Fund	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Total Fire Department Expenses	71,307	78,623	79,579	80,023
Net Cost	69,855	78,623	79,579	80,023

EMERGENCY SERVICES

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Emergency Services				
East Montpelier Ambulance Service	44,365	45,694	45,694	47,065
Plainfield Fast Squad	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Total Emergency Services	<u>49,865</u>	<u>51,194</u>	<u>51,194</u>	<u>52,565</u>

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

2023 brought us to the 114th birthday of the Marshfield Volunteer Fire Department. We are still a 100% volunteer department. None of the personnel receive any financial compensation for our service. We, as a department, are very proud of this and will continue to operate as a volunteer department for the foreseeable future.

This past year set a record in terms of call volume, up approximately 40% from previous years. Every year, other than alarm activations, vehicle accidents lead the way both in the number of calls and severity of injuries. 2023 saw no difference in this alarming statistic. The July flooding also increased the overall call volume, and our thoughts go out to all those who were so dramatically affected by the flooding. The approximate total hours that Fire Department personnel spent on-scene at calls this year came to almost 400 hours. These hours do NOT include the countless hours spent training, taking care of the station, trucks, and equipment, putting all the equipment and the trucks back into service after calls, and administrative work. As Chief, I cannot thank our volunteers enough for the work they do, and this year there are three members that deserve special recognition. Carter Martin, currently serving the Town of Marshfield in the role of Firefighter, has been volunteering for 5 years. Jacob Gouge, currently serving in the position of 2nd Assistant Chief, has been serving for 15 years. And Tim Morris, currently serving the Town of Marshfield in the position of 1st Assistant Chief, has been with us for 35 years.

Marshfield Volunteer Fire Department Calls 2023

MVA's/No injuries	16
MVA's/Injuries.....	10
Structure Fires	7
Chimney Fires	4
Appliance Fires.....	2
Vehicle Fires	4
Alarm Activations.....	24
Service calls	3
Brush/Grass fires/Illegal burns	4
Smoke/Hazardous Conditions.....	6
Wires/Trees on Lines/Pole Fires	6
Medical assists	8
Search and rescue	7
Traffic Control Assist	1
Unfounded	3
Other.....	2
TOTAL CALLS.....	107

As the reconstruction work continues on U.S. Rt. 2, please remember to slow down, pay attention, and always wear your seat belts. This is especially true while travelling through the construction zones, as well as the newly paved roadway.

We are re-applying for a Federal Grant to replace our SCBA units (self-contained breathing apparatus). Ours are obsolete at this point as they are no longer supported by the Honeywell Corp. All our SCBA units are more than a decade old, and the new units will meet current NFPA standards. Our AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) application was rejected for the 2022 cycle. We will continue to seek funding assistance to replace our old SCBA units. We are also continuing the planning for an addition to the Fire Station. We are in the process of restoring the 1937 American LaFrance pumper, the first motorized piece of fire apparatus the Town of Marshfield owned. We would like this piece of the town's history to have its own bay at the station. This would also give us more room for training, and for our third piece of apparatus, the brush/utility truck.

Capital Fire Mutual Aid continues planning for a major upgrade of the Central Vermont Communications System. We use a system of radios, pagers, and cell phones throughout the area to "tone out" departments, but the upgrades would vastly improve our capabilities in the entire area.

We are very grateful to have the continued commitment from the members on our roster. The job description of a firefighter involves a very long list of knowledge and practical skills. It's not a job for the faint of heart, it can be downright exhausting, but it is a very rewarding job, helping your neighbors in time of need. It does require time and a willingness to attend training. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of the month at the Fire house. As always, we have the people of Marshfield to thank for supporting us in our efforts, we do so wholeheartedly.

Respectfully,
Will Schwarz Chief
Tim Morris Asst. Chief
Jacob Gouge Asst. Chief

FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

This year Tim and I issued 69 burn permits. I appreciate those folks who call in and ask for permits. Grass fires and brush fires require a lot of man power to extinguish. That is something we are short of in our department during the day time. It would be best to refrain from burning in the spring when wildland fire conditions are at their best. We would like to thank those folks who call for a permit.

Permits cover the burning of brush and natural wood only. Burning painted materials, furniture, tires and similar materials are prohibited by state law. These materials have to go to designated sites.

Fire wardens are given daily weather reports and fire danger reports. We know when it is not safe to burn and stop issuing permits. So please call before you burn. We will issue a permit if conditions are safe.

If you have questions about brush burning and would like to have us inspect the site before you burn please call us, we will gladly visit the site and offer our suggestions.

Please call when you want to burn. It only takes a phone call. The permit system keeps the Fire Department alert to places where burning is taking place and may save the department a run.

I need to emphasize that the fire department has very few volunteers, especially during the day time. Please think about joining the department and becoming a volunteer.

Contact me at 426-3265 or Tim Maclay at 454-7853.

Tom Maclay, Fire Warden

ZONING AND PLANNING

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Zoning / Planning Income				
Building Permits	540	500	380	500
Accessory Use Permits	960	950	780	1,000
Site Plan Review	135	150	105	100
Conditional Use Permits	380	250	105	200
Subdivision Permits	1,040	700	1,300	1,000
Minimal Alteration	0	225	0	75
Certificate of Occupancy	0	130	0	0
Appeal to DRB	135	175	135	180
Other Income	0	0	227	0
Total Income	3,190	3,080	3,032	3,055
 Zoning / Planning Expenses				
Zoning/Planning Staff Expense				
Zoning Administrator	3,995	8,471	3,861	9,843
Planning Commission Cle	131	1,075	0	0
DRB Clerk	73	1,613	0	1,040
Social Security	260	692	239	675
Medicare	61	162	56	158
Childcare Tax	0	0	0	24
Mileage	0	0	0	100
Total Staff Expense	4,521	12,013	4,156	11,840
Advertising	318	300	415	400
Legal Fees	4,248	3,500	6,299	3,500
Regional Planning Dues	2,105	2,105	2,105	2,105
Postage	48	50	45	50
Supplies	0	0	11	0
Maps	0	500	1,366	200
DRB Expense	105	150	0	150
Hazard Mitigation Planning	-7,613	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	640	0
Total Expenses	3,732	18,618	15,038	18,245
Net Cost	542	15,538	12,006	15,190

ZONING 101

Marshfield has had some form of zoning in place since the 1970's, but it can be confusing. Here are a few basics.

If you own land and want to build a house, add a 'mother-in-law' apartment, or any sort of outbuilding, you probably need a permit. Permits for this sort of thing are pretty straightforward, and can generally be approved in a few weeks. If you want to build something of less than 100 ft² (10 x 10 ft.), you may not need a permit, but contact the zoning office to make sure.

Things get more complicated if you are in a flood zone. (Can you see the Winooski from your back yard? You probably are.) If you are doing *anything* more structural than just painting a wall, inside or outside, please check *first* with the zoning office. There are state regulations which we are required to comply with and they can be complicated. We can walk you through them.

Then there are Change of Use / Conditional Use permits. These are mostly for commercial or industrial situations, and they must be approved by the Development Review Board (DRB). These permits give neighbors a chance to weigh in on changes to their neighborhoods that may affect them. They can be short term or permanent. There are several legal requirements that must be met, so they require time, typically 2-3 months. Apply early!

A Change of Use is required if you wish to do something commercial on your land other than its customary approved use. For example, if you operate a farm, and want to cater a wedding or a concert, that's a change of use. Some farm activities are exempted from all the requirements, but only if they are directly related to the farm, such as selling vegetables or eggs produced on that farm. Likewise, some home businesses are exempt too. Check with the zoning office to find out if what you are thinking of requires a permit.

Another example would be if you have a general store and you want to start selling creemees. That's not a change of use. You already retail all sorts of food products. If you want to change it into a sit

down restaurant, though, that would be, and you'd need to get a Change of Use (CUP) permit.

A Conditional Use permit is related. If you apply to stage that rock concert in your back yard, or a restaurant in your old store, there probably will be conditions put on it. Hence these two types are lumped together.

Subdividing is another transaction that must go to the DRB, and takes considerable time to complete, especially as you will need a survey. Roughly, they are divided into major and minor subdivision, with minor being fewer than 4 lots created. This is another one that you should contact the zoning office early in the process.

If you need to put in a driveway off a Town road, get a Curb Cut permit from the Selectboard. Permits for a curb cut off a State highway are obtained from the Dept. of Transportation. Check with the State Permit Specialist for details of this and any other State permit that may be required.

Please be reminded that the Town of Marshfield is not responsible for maintenance of driveway culverts. They must be maintained by the property owner.

The Zoning Regulations are all on the Town's website. It's a good place to start if you are planning anything, but due to the complexity of some aspects, it may not explain everything you would like to know. The best way to get answers is to email zoning@marshfieldvt.gov. You can also leave phone messages at 426-3045.

Application forms and copies of the Marshfield Zoning and Subdivision regulations are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

FEE SCHEDULE FOR ZONING AND SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

Building permits for one and two family dwellings and additions requiring additional sewage disposal	\$150.00
Accessory buildings, additions not requiring additional sewage disposal and signs	\$75.00
Reissuance of a previous valid permit that meets current regulations	\$25.00
Certificate of Occupancy	\$75.00
Minimal Alteration	\$100.00
Minor Subdivision	\$275.00
Major Subdivision	\$350.00 up to 4 lots, \$75.00 each additional lot
Planned Unit Development	\$400.00, plus \$75.00 per unit
Appeal to Development Review Board	\$150.00
Site plan approval	\$175.00
Conditional use permit	\$175.00
Site plan approval and conditional use, if applied for simultaneously	\$225.00
Filing land plats	
11" x 17"	\$25.00
18" x 24"	\$25.00
Curb Cut Permit	\$50.00

The proper fee must be paid before the application will be deemed complete and considered.

The fee should be paid with a check or money order payable to the Town of Marshfield.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Marshfield Budget Committee met on December 19, 2023 and Jan 2, 2024 to review requests for funding from many non-profit organizations that provide services to citizens of Marshfield. Requests are submitted prior to our annual meeting and must include the organization's impact on Marshfield (description of the service provided and number of residents served) plus a current budget. See link to the Town of Marshfield website to review requests. <https://marshfieldvt.gov>. Representatives are invited to attend our meeting to provide additional information and respond to questions from the Budget Committee. This year we met in person but provided the option for representatives to attend either virtually or in-person.

In deciding how to allocate funds, committee members consider the impact of services on residents, the uniqueness of services provided, and prior years' allocations. While recognizing the importance of municipal support to the sustainability of these non-profits, we strive to support the vital services they provide and at the same time minimize budget increases from year to year. No monies were allocated for organizations that did not submit a request. We recommend support for the following:

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	\$ 575.
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 1,400.
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice Circle	\$ 3,200.
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$ 350.
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$ 300.
Elevate Youth Services (formerly Wash. Cty Youth Service Bureau)	\$ 250.
Family Center of Washington County	\$ 300.
Friends of the Winooski	\$ 350.
Green -Up Vermont	\$ 100.
Onion River food Shelf	\$ 1,100.
OUR House of Central Vermont	\$ 100.
People's Health and Wellness Clinic	\$ 400.
Twinfield Together Mentoring Program	\$ 250.
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$ 3,250.
Vermont Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 150.
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 150.
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$ 100.

Respectfully,
Marshfield Budget Committee: Betsy Brigham, Doris Dufresne, Deanna Martin,
Thomas Maclay (Michael Caccavo, absent)

APPROPRIATIONS

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Other Town Departments and App.				
Cemeteries	10,500	15,000	15,000	15,000
Historical Society	6,455	6,907	6,907	6,907
Jaquith Public Library	84,383	101,763	101,763	106,851
Jaquith Library Additional Appr	0	0	0	5,428
Natural Resources Inventory	13,920	0	0	0
Total Other Appropriations	<u>115,258</u>	<u>123,670</u>	<u>123,670</u>	<u>134,186</u>
Outside Appropriations				
Transportation Services				
Route 2 Commuter Bus	6,833	8,333	8,332	6,833
Total Transportation Services	<u>6,833</u>	<u>8,333</u>	<u>8,332</u>	<u>6,833</u>
Social Services				
Community Harvest	0	0	0	300
Central Vermont Basic Education	575	575	575	575
Central Vt Council on Aging	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Central Vermont Home Health	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
Circle	350	350	350	350
Family Center of Washington Cty	300	300	300	300
Friends of the Winooski	300	350	350	350
Good Beginnings	300	300	300	0
Green Mountain Transit	882	0	0	0
Green Up Vermont	100	100	100	100
Rural Fire Protection Task Forc	100	100	100	100
Onion River Food Shelf	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Our House	100	100	100	100
People's Health & Wellness	300	400	400	400
Twin Valley Seniors	3,000	3,250	3,250	3,250
Twinfield Mentoring Program	250	250	250	250
VT Assoc. for Blind & Visually	150	150	150	150
Vt Ctr for Independent Livin	150	150	150	150
VT Family Network	0	200	200	0
Elevate Youth Services	250	250	250	250
Winooski Natural Resources Cons	0	300	300	0
Total Social Services	<u>12,807</u>	<u>12,825</u>	<u>12,825</u>	<u>12,325</u>
Total Outside Appropriations	19,640	21,158	21,157	19,158

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

The following information is taken from the individual requests from these organizations. The full requests are posted on the Town's website. <https://marshfieldvt.gov>

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education Inc: Our mission is to provide free adult education and literacy instruction to adults age 16+, in Washington, Orange and Lamoille counties, and to engage the entire community in our students' efforts. In doing so, we create opportunities for jobs and further education.

Central Vermont Council on Aging: CVCOA is the primary agency serving older Vermonters aged 60 and over as well as their families and caregivers throughout the 54 towns of Central Vermont. We are a private nonprofit that assists these elders to remain independent for as long as possible. All services are made available to our clients at no charge, without regard to health, income or other resources.

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice: CVHHH is a full service, not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Association committed to providing high quality, medically-necessary home health and hospice care to all Central Vermonters, regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, CVHHH promotes the general welfare of the citizens of central Vermont with health promotion and long term care services.

Circle: A small, community based organization dedicated to ending all forms of domestic and sexual violence. Circle provides services to all victims of domestic and sexual violence, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity. Circle has always provided these necessary services at no cost.

Community Harvest of Central Vermont (CHCV): CHCV is committed to bringing our community together through gleaning to recover surplus food produced on area farms to feed those with limited access to nutritious fresh local food. Thus successfully helping the community to gain a greater awareness and appreciation for the local food system, healthy eating and waste reduction. We have been coordinating food distribution with the Onion River Food shelf since 2022.

Elevate Youth Services: (formerly Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Clubs) The Bureau's mission is to provide a wide range of innovative and effective programs that empower and enrich the lives of youth and families in Washington County, and to provide leadership and support to other youth programs throughout Vermont. We accomplish this

through a variety of programs including: youth & family counseling; a program for runaway youth; a transitional living program for homeless youth; an adolescent substance abuse treatment program; a program supporting youth involved in foster care; a transitional living program for young men returning from jail; a teen center; a substance abuse prevention program; and a 24 hour on-call service. The Bureau also operates 4 statewide youth-focused coalitions.

Family Center of Washington County: This organization operates an Early Childhood Program serving children from 6 weeks to 5 years as a traditional early childhood program as well as a therapeutic program for children with special physical or behavioral health needs. Other services and programs include child care referral and financial assistance, outreach to new parents, family supportive housing services, home visiting, job development, and other programs including playgroups and parent education classes.

Friends of the Winooski: FOW is a small non-profit organization working with communities toward a clean, healthy, resilient Winooski watershed. Our Learn, Restore, and Paddle programs give residents access to priority information about their watershed, opportunities to plant trees along streams, collect water quality samples, develop solutions to local erosion problems, and enjoy paddling our scenic rivers. Marshfield is represented in our Winooski Headwaters Community Partnership, along with Cabot and Plainfield, identifying opportunities to focus on headwaters-specific challenges and solutions.

Green Up Vermont: Organizes, promotes, and mobilizes a statewide cleanup day of our roadsides and waterways, always on the first Saturday in May, called Green Up Day. We are committed to raising public awareness for a litter free environment and pride in our communities through educational components in schools year-round and have initiated additional efforts to involve more youth.

Onion River Food Shelf: Operates a food shelf in the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield, open to residents of Marshfield, Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, and Plainfield, open on Wednesdays.

OUR House of Central Vermont, Inc: We are a nonprofit Children's Advocacy Center and Special Investigations Unit located in Barre and serving all of Washington County. OUR House's mission is to provide a safe and supportive setting for child victims of physical and sexual abuse, their non-offending family members as well as adult survivors of sexual abuse. OUR House (which stands for One Unified Response) works very closely with the Dept for Children and Families, Law Enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, CVMC and SACT along with other local organizations to ensure investigations whenever possible are conducted in a child friendly environment, with staff whom are trained in the area of trauma. We also offer

therapy referral, case management, safety planning, training, and referral services to children and adults.

People's Health & Wellness Clinic: Their mission is to provide health care services and wellness education to uninsured and underinsured Vermonters. The clinic is sustained by dedicated volunteer practitioners, who provide an array of medical, mental health, oral health, bodywork, and other services. PHWC also provides comprehensive case management services.

Twinfield Together Mentoring Program: The mission of the program is to provide all interested youth in our community an opportunity for a one-on-one friendship with a responsible, attentive and nurturing role model through a mentoring relationship. Twinfield Together supports three unique mentoring programs: community-based mentoring, *Everybody Wins!* mentoring and peer mentoring.

Twin Valley Senior Center: TVSC offers the community of Marshfield plus surrounding towns a place for social gatherings and activities. It offers well balanced meals to attendees at the center. The center hosts many health related clinics and exercise programs, art classes, tax preparation and informative speakers on many topics. The center cooks, packages, and delivers meals to the homebound.

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Our mission is to help Vermonters with visual impairments to be more independent, cultivate adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life. We provide training, support groups, and a summer camp for students.

Vermont Center for Independent Living: VCIL is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities. **Vermont Center for Independent Living:** works to serve individuals who can benefit from our direct services as well as to educate and inform members of the community about disability related issues and independent living.

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force: We help Vermont communities protect lives, property and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Our Program Manager helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

ARPA Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		302,372.51
Old Schoolhouse Common	(17,698.06)	
Picnic Shelter	(37,584.31)	
Balance, December 31, 2023		247,090.14

Bandstand Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		957.08
Interest	18.34	
Balance, December 31, 2023		975.42

Bridge Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		0.00
Interest	(9.86)	
Budget Appropriation	10,000.00	
Bridge Grants	21,254.40	
Upper Depot Bridge	(23,616.00)	
Balance, December 31, 2023		7,628.54

Conservation Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		13,558.75
Interest	201.23	
Sale of Marshfield Booklets	24.00	
Proceeds from Plant Sale	599.69	
Watershed Grant	(279.35)	
Donations	1,190.00	
Natural Resource Inventory	(7,190.00)	
Balance, December 31, 2023		8,104.32

Energy Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		232.29
Interest	4.46	
Balance, December 31, 2023		236.75

Engineering Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		3,554.17
Interest	68.13	
Balance, December 31, 2023		3,622.30

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Highway Equipment Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		129,729.19
Interest	1,971.45	
Budget Appropriation	94,025.00	
Insurance Proceeds - 2022 Truck	209,499.00	
Repurchase Salvage 2022 Truck	(12,500.00)	
Sale of Trailer	4,000.00	
Loan for 2024 Truck	110,000.00	
Purchase of 2024 Truck	(144,430.00)	
Purchase of Used 2015 Truck	(35,000.00)	
Purchase of Trailer for Excavator	(19,701.00)	
Purchase of Excavator	(91,544.00)	
Principal Payment - Loader	(22,000.00)	
Interest Payment - Loader	(440.00)	
Principal Payoff - 2022 Truck	(88,000.00)	
Interest Payment - 2022 Truck	(1,949.79)	
Principal Payment - 2020 Truck	(22,000.00)	
Interest Payment - 2020 Truck	(1,320.00)	
Balance, December 31, 2023		110,339.85

Fire Department Building Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		22,668.34
Interest	457.09	
Fire Station Improvements	(400.00)	
Budget Appropriation	2,750.00	
Balance, December 31, 2023		25,475.43

Fire Department Capital Equipment Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		88,411.87
Interest, Bank Accounts	1,611.48	
Interest, Investments	415.00	
Budget Appropriation	15,000.00	
Change in Market Value-Investments	133.52	
Balance, December 31, 2023		105,571.87

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Fire Department Ed Duke Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		14,324.87
Interest	279.67	
Donations to the Fund	1,150.00	
Corporate Cup Sponsorship	(200.00)	
Parade Supplies	(57.85)	
Gifts for Firefighters	(430.55)	
Balance, December 31, 2023		15,066.14

Martin Covered Bridge Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		5,693.51
Interest	105.15	
Maintenance of Grounds	(88.27)	
Mowing	(420.00)	
Balance, December 31, 2023		5,290.39

OSC Building Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		56,740.25
Interest	1,110.61	
Budget Appropriation	3,000.00	
Block Grant for Flood Repairs	5,000.00	
Donations	211.50	
Picnic Shelter (2022 Block Grant)	(3,000.00)	
Balance, December 31, 2023		63,062.36

Paving Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		42,626.15
Interest	920.92	
Budget Appropriation	10,000.00	
Balance, December 31, 2023		53,547.07

Pet Control Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		14,138.13
Interest	281.68	
Surcharge on Dog Licenses	750.00	
Balance, December 31, 2023		15,169.81

Playground Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		9,655.69
Interest	185.06	
Balance, December 31, 2023		9,840.75

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Reappraisal Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		132,453.16
Interest	2,648.72	
State Appropriation	7,894.50	
Reappraisal Expenses	<u>(1,148.90)</u>	
Balance, December 31, 2023		141,847.48

Records Restoration

Balance, January 1, 2023		56,041.75
Interest	1,086.17	
Fees Collected	4,560.00	
Archival Storage Materials	(457.20)	
Land Records Software	(2,805.00)	
Land Records Microfilm	<u>(40.20)</u>	
Balance, December 31, 2023		58,385.52

Recreation Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		35.70
Interest	74.22	
Budget Appropriation	1,100.00	
Recreation Grant	10,000.00	
Resurface RR Bed Parking Lot	<u>(1,500.00)</u>	
Balance, December 31, 2023		9,709.92

Stranahan Town Forest Fund

Balance, January 1, 2023		4,738.95
Interest	94.09	
Income from Sugaring and Haying, hal	1,031.47	
Signs for Parking Lot	(172.19)	
Wetland Crossing	<u>(30.02)</u>	
Balance, December 31, 2023		5,620.32

Total Designated Funds, December 31, 2023 **886,584.38**

Fire Dept Investment Account		12,768.75
Designated Funds in Bank Accounts		<u>873,815.63</u>
		886,584.38

DESIGNATED FUNDS POLICY

The Town of Marshfield has designated some town funds to be set aside for future projects. This designated fund balance is segregated into several categories.

The following categories are funded through transfers from the general fund, to be shown as individual line items in the town budget and approved by the voters:

- **Bridge Fund:** This money is used to pay for town highway bridge work.
- **Engineering Fund:** This money has been set aside to allow the town to hire an engineer if required for major development projects.
- **Highway Equipment Fund:** This money is used to buy plow trucks and other major pieces of highway equipment.
- **Fire Department Equipment Fund:** This money is used to replace fire trucks and other equipment for the fire department.
- **Fire Department Building Fund:** This money is used for capital improvements to the Fire Station.
- **Old Schoolhouse Common Building Fund:** This money is used for capital improvements to the Old Schoolhouse Common.
- **Paving Fund:** This money is used for town highway paving projects.
- **Reappraisal Fund:** This category is funded through a line item in the town budget and also by an appropriation from the State of Vermont. It is used for town-wide reappraisals.

The following categories are funded through a combination of transfers and fundraising:

- **Conservation Fund:** This category is funded through donations and proceeds from fundraising, and may also include a line item in the town budget. It will be used for future conservation projects.
- **Energy Fund:** This category is funded through donations and proceeds from fundraising, and may also include a line item in the town budget. It will be used for projects undertaken by the Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee.
- **Playground Fund:** This category is funded through donations and a transfer from the general fund. It is used for maintenance of the playground at the Old Schoolhouse Common, primarily for replacing

the woodchips under the playground equipment, and may be used to purchase other equipment in the future.

- **Recreation Fund:** This category is funded through donations and a transfer from the general fund. It is used to purchase recreation equipment, and was used in 2021 to refinish the basketball court at the Old Schoolhouse Common.
- **Stranahan Fund:** This category is funded by one-half of the revenue from the Stranahan Town Forest. It is used for Town Forest expenses. This fund will be capped at \$5,000.

The following categories of designated funds are either statutory or they are funded solely through donations:

- **Bandstand Fund:** This fund originated from donations that were raised to build the bandstand. It is used for maintenance of the bandstand.
- **Ed Duke Fund:** This category was established in memory of a Marshfield firefighter. It is funded through donations and used at the discretion of the fire department.
- **Martin Covered Bridge Fund:** This category is funded through donations and grants for the rehabilitation of the covered bridge and the creation of the surrounding park. It is used for maintenance and improvements of the bridge and park.
- **Pet Control Fund:** This category is funded through a surcharge on dog licenses, as allowed by statute, for the purpose of rabies control. It is used to pay for the dog officer and other animal control expenses.
- **Records Restoration Fund:** This category is funded by a portion of the recording fees that are received when land records are recorded at the town office. It is used for records restoration, preservation, and computerization.

Any remaining categories of designated funds result from grants that have been obtained for a specific purpose, and those funds are returned if unspent.

- **ARPA:** The American Rescue Plan funds are federal funds meant to help respond to COVID. Some of the funds have been used for public works purchases and for School Street Bridge and the picnic shelter. Some of the funds will be used for regular town operations in 2024.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Marshfield Conservation Commission (MCC) has been in existence for 17 years. The Commission is composed of nine community members appointed by the Select Board. We meet monthly on the first Wednesday at 7 PM at Old Schoolhouse with a virtual option. The meetings are open to the public, and we welcome attendance by any interested community members. We participate in service activities on town land, lead field trips, and sponsor talks by local experts.

The primary goal of the Conservation Commission is to encourage community involvement in protecting and enhancing the town's natural resources. We are strictly non-regulatory and provide advisory information to the Select Board and other town boards.

Members: Luke Boushee (Treasurer), Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Bradley Materick (Facilitator), Anne Miller, Sara Norton, Bob Popp (Secretary) and Annie Reed.

Note: there is currently one vacancy

The Marshfield Conservation Commission has been involved in the following activities in 2023.

Town Natural Resource Inventory:

Oversaw the completion of the Marshfield Natural Resource Inventory which entailed the following:

- Visiting 17 forest blocks in town with landowner permission;
- Doubling the number of state significant natural community occurrences in town to 52;
- Increasing the number of rare and uncommon species to 31 and 49 respectively;
- Discovery of a moss that is new to the state and extremely rare throughout the U.S.
- A very well attended presentation was provided at OSC in May by the authors;
- The Final Inventory Report is available on the Marshfield Town webpage and printed copies are in the library.

Field Trips:

- Mother's Day Wildflower Walk at Stranahan held jointly with Stranahan Stewardship Com.
- Annual Bird Migration Walk at Stranahan Town Forest.
- Led a trip to view beaver activity as part of the Fall Foliage Celebration.

Tree and Shrub Sale:

- Organized and carried out the annual tree and shrub sale. Material was locally sourced wherever possible;
- Cabot Conservation Commission is now included as well as Plainfield CC.

- Surplus plant materials were planted at the Old Schoolhouse Common property;

Old Schoolhouse Common:

- Worked with Bee the Change to supplement and weed the pollinator garden behind OSC and create signage
- Participated in flood cleanup and added plantings post flood
- Additional plantings will be done in spring following an assessment of survival.

Martin Covered Bridge:

- Met with representatives of Cross VT Trail re. management of the RR bed, but later determined that none of the RR bed resides on town land;
- Flagged buffer areas for haying to avoid wetlands and the associated rare Hayden's sedge
- Participated in two flood cleanup events to rake ruts, spread deposited silt and level berms.
- Prepared a draft management plan for future haying and presented it to the Select Bd.

Stream Bioassessment:

- Completed the final report for the Watershed Grant issued to the town.
- Found that all streams assessed (Guernsey Brook, Lye Brook, Marshfield Brook and Nasmith Brook) all achieved a standard of very high quality. They all met the A or B1 criteria for aquatic life use in the Vt Water Quality Standards and would be managed to this higher standard once the state completes its stream reclassification. Class A indicates that the stream's aquatic life is in its natural condition while Class B1 shows only minor detrimental change from its natural condition.

Water Quality Sampling:

- Ten stream reaches in upper Winooski Watershed were sampled for three water quality parameters: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Chloride.
- The stream reaches sampled in Marshfield were Nasmith Brook at two reaches and the Winooski River above the WWTF.
- Samples were collected biweekly thru mid-August. The samples collected after the July flood showed very high Phosphorus in the Winooski River and lower Nasmith Brook. Upper Nasmith Brook seemed to recover quickly from the flood event and maintained very good water quality.

Other Activities:

- Assisted with trail work at Stranahan Town Forest and reviewed and commented on a proposal for new bike trails
- Reviewed and commented on proposed culvert replacements following the July flooding. There is concern that in some cases providing enhanced organism passage may allow movement of non-native species upstream where they presently are absent.

ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm in person at the Old Schoolhouse Common and on Zoom. I hope you'll join us for a meeting, all are welcome! Share an idea, help with a project, join the committee, or just say hi. Reach us by email at: marshfield-plainfield-energy@googlegroups.com

The energy committee is excited to announce that an air quality sensor is available to borrow from the Jaquith Library. This sensor can help visualize changes in air quality, during cooking, before and after removing a gas appliance, with a stove vent hood on or after cracking a window in the winter. An informational pamphlet is included with the sensor to help understand what is being measured, what the measurements mean, suggestions for how to handle air quality issues, and additional references and resources.

The July flooding affected Marshfield and our neighboring towns in so many ways: Washed out roads, ruined appliances, power, phone and internet outages, no water or sewer, and bigger challenges for some. Thinking back on 2023's weather it was a doozy, with its spring heat wave, the summer's erratic, and severe weather, and ending with mud season in December. It's clear that Climate Change's effects are here in Vermont, and sure to continue. The two biggest areas where you can make a real difference are by using less heating energy (electricity, fuel oil, gas, wood), and driving more efficient vehicles. Hybrid all-wheel drive SUV's from Toyota, Honda, and others can get over 40MPG and last 200,000 miles. Hybrids emit much less CO2 and cost less to operate than gas only vehicles over their long lives. Home weatherization continues to provide a high rate of return for those who invest, often 20% or more. Grants from Efficiency Vermont on appliances, heat pumps, and audits can often reduce the cost by thousands, and for income qualified individuals the work may be free. Please feel free to reach out to the committee for references, contacts, or recommendations on how to get help in any of these areas.

The committee discussed and took some action in the following areas during 2023:

- The Town of Marshfield's electrical usage continues to be offset by the 3 solar trackers at the Old Schoolhouse Common. GMP rate changes took effect in 2023 related to how solar energy credits can be allocated. The effect of this on the town will be fully understood during 2024 when a full year's worth of data at the new rates is available. Additional solar panels will be needed to fully offset the town's usage and help keep bills down. Sizing of additional solar to fully cover town usage, and working to get a project underway will be a focus area for the committee continuing into 2024.
- The State of VT offered a grant to municipalities titled Municipal Energy Resilience Program, or MERP, during 2023. The purpose of this program is to help reduce the energy burden of municipalities from electrical usage, heating, cooling, and other sources. The committee applied for grant funding to support weatherization and other improvements for the OSC, town garage and firehouse. This application was approved for the OSC and firehouse, with audits expected to be conducted during 2024.
- Discussions around the adoption of an enhanced energy plan, and some researches were undertaken during 2023. Updated state targets and GIS data required for the update are expected to be available for the committee in early 2024, with progress happening quickly once that is received. The Committee plans to work with the Conservation and Planning Commissions to incorporate relevant considerations and move towards adoption of the enhanced energy plan into the town plan during 2024.

The work completed during 2023 by the committee was made possible by our members: Wes Cate, Anne Miller, Nick Seifert and Mike Xenakis. More great work is expected in 2024, we hope you'll join us.

VIRGINIA STRANHAN MEMORIAL TOWN FOREST

The Stranahan Forest Stewardship Committee (SFSC), a seven-person committee appointed by the Selectboard, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the 620-acre Stranahan Forest (SF), which is owned by the town. The Stranahan Forest is protected by a conservation easement held by the Vermont Land Trust and the VT Housing & Conservation Board. The Committee maintains trails, open spaces, and historic sites, and develops new policies, procedures, budgets and plans for approval by the Select Board. Major decisions, including periodic management plan updates, require ultimate approval by the Selectboard. The Committee meets monthly; all meetings are open to the public. We typically meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 5:30, in the Hap Hayward History Center, accessed through the Jaquith Library.

The Committee encourages people to visit the Stranahan Forest to enjoy its beautiful trails, woods, fields, cellar holes, wetlands, wildlife, and other natural features. The varied uses of the property include hunting, agriculture, sugaring, education, habitat and natural resource protection, historic preservation, and recreation. Hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback-riding, and snowmobiling are available in our town forest along trails designated for the various means of travel. Find trail maps and information on the Town of Marshfield website or at the kiosks located in parking areas on Hollister Hill and Jake Martin Roads, as well as a Facebook page that is maintained by members of the SFSC committee (called "Friends of Stranahan Town Forest"). Please reach out to anyone on the Committee if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas related to the Stranahan Forest.

In 2023, we focused on the following:

Trail maintenance

One of the key responsibilities of our Committee is to keep the existing 7 miles of trails in the Forest open and available for public use. Members of our group and other volunteers periodically clear trees and other obstacles from the trails. In 2023, wet conditions and frequent wind and rainstorms led to more downed trees and maintenance than usual. The constant wet conditions precluded any brushhogging of trails or open areas - and also encouraged beavers to block a culvert under the Thompson Road. Many thanks to the volunteers who battled the beavers throughout the summer, routinely removing the blockage to keep the trail from flooding. We appreciate that frequent trail users often help with trail maintenance independently. The three specific bike trails (Uncle Maple, Tapline and Molasses) are primarily maintained by local members of Riders of Plainfield-Marshfield (RIPM). Thanks to all the volunteers who help us keep the trails open throughout the year.

Rebuild of the bridge on the Homestead trail

In June, a group of volunteers completed a rebuild and upgrade of the bridge at the bottom of the Homestead Lane, near the intersection with the King Brook trail. We used materials from the Forest for the job: stones to build up the foundation, and cedar logs to support the bridge deck. The original pressure-treated decking was able to be reused, helping to minimize costs.

New bridge on Ravine trail

In late December, a small group of volunteers built and installed a new bridge across an intermittent stream crossing on the Ravine trail. The lumber came from a nearby

downed tree, milled on site last winter and stored off of the ground throughout the summer.

New sign at north end of Forest (Pitkin Road end)

Volunteers built and installed a new sign on the Thompson Road, at the north end of the Forest, so that those entering from that end would know where the Stranahan Forest begins and can see a trails map there.

Planning for and seeking funding for Thompson Road improvements

A key priority of the Committee is to improve the condition of the Thompson Road, the primary artery connecting trails throughout the forest. The July flooding caused significant erosion to the already degraded trail. With advice and input from the town road crew and Selectboard, in November we submitted a grant application on behalf of the town for funding to repair and improve the Thompson Road. If funds are approved, we will need to raise match funding to complete the project. If the grant is turned down, we will look for other possible sources.

Evaluating a proposal from the Riders in Plainfield and Marshfield (RIPM) to allow mountain biking on additional trails in the Stranahan Forest

In April, the Committee received a proposal from a local bike group, RIPM, asking that several existing trails in the Stranahan Forest be opened to bike use. Following the process outlined in our management plan, we shared the proposal with the Conservation Commission. We conducted an informal walkthrough of the trails in June, although a further publicly warned site visit would be necessary before any action is taken. We have received numerous comments opposing this request, as well as supporting it, and have discussed the merits of the specific proposal, as well as the broader topic of the pros and cons of allowing more biking in the forest, at several meetings. Reflecting the diverse opinions of the public, members of the Committee are also divided on this topic. We appreciate the patience of the RIPM members, and the public generally, as we take the time to seek common ground, which we recognize may not be possible. As a reminder, any decision made by the Committee will be a recommendation to the Selectboard, which has the final authority to allow or deny new uses of existing trails, or new trails.

Events:

A local tracking group routinely uses the Stranahan Forest.

Our annual Mother's Day spring wildflower walk, co-sponsored with the Marshfield Conservation Commission and Jaquith Library, was very well-attended this year.

Several group activities were held as part of Trails Day, on June 3rd and 4th, including a butterfly walk, family bike ride, and volunteer project (rebuilding Homestead Lane bridge).

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

As noted in last year's report, a forest health specialist at the Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, has confirmed Emerald Ash Borer in some black and white ash on the edge of a hayfield at Stranahan Forest. The Ecological Assessment of Marshfield also found dead and dying ash at other sites in town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stranahan Forest Stewardship Committee

Ellen Cooke, Brett Engstrom, Nancy Everhart, Douglas Glover, Patrick Pfeifer, Michael Sabourin, and Jenny Warshaw

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

A small-town library with big town offerings!

Who are the Jaquiths and why did they give \$ 6,000 to the Jaquith Library in 1895?

When you first come into the Jaquith Library, look to the right of the front door and you will see the **portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Jaquith, early benefactors of the Jaquith Library.** Here is an excerpt from the **History of the Jaquith Public Library compiled by Jaquith Librarian, Zula Mears, in 1959.:**

“Andrew Jaquith, born in Peacham, Vermont, started life as a poor boy and was ‘bound out’ until he was fifteen years of age. His business career began with peddling a cart in Massachusetts, giving a note to **George Wooster of Marshfield, Vermont**, for a horse he used on the cart. He followed this for seven years when he **married Mr. Wooster’s only sister** and located in Templeton, Massachusetts. There, with their united property, he entered into partnership with two others. Later he bought out his partners and very successfully carried on the business himself. Still later he and Mrs. Jaquith moved to Gardner, Massachusetts, where they lived until they died, only four days apart. **They are buried in the Wooster plot of the Marshfield Village Cemetery.** As they had no children, by will they left \$ 1,000 to the Town of Marshfield for the care of cemeteries and **\$ 6,000 for the founding and maintaining of a free public library at Marshfield Village.”** The Jaquith’s no longer lived in Vermont but they still felt a connection. They were buried here and they gave a gift to the town that would live on through the years.

Like the Jaquith’s, we all have a special place in our hearts for Marshfield and that is why the Jaquith Public Library is so important to us!

The Jaquith has seen so many changes over the years: from a simple lending library to a library offering programs. From an inaccessible building to a building with an elevator and lots of space and parking. From a library with no computers to one with five in house computers, four lenders and fast internet service. Now we face new challenges, first COVID, next the flood. But we are still here, providing programs for adults and youth, concerts, art gallery showings, author readings, the Hap Hayward History Center, meeting space for groups, movies viewings and Wi-Fi. **In addition to books**, we lend movies, audio books, laptops, DVD players, Chromebooks, puzzles, games, snow shoes, STEM Maker Space Boxes, and story project interviewing equipment. **People can access all kinds of services from their homes:** e-books and audiobooks online through Libby, Green Mountain Overdrive, and Palace, VT Online Library, Universal Class and Consumer Reports. You can find links to our online services by going to our website: www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Highlights of the Past Year at the Jaquith:

At least 100 people came to the Winter Festival to make snow sculptures, snow painting, listen and sing to music around the fire and eat yummy soup and bread. In the Spring we held a gardening series for adults, and for youth we started a new program: an afterschool nature camp three days a week for six weeks.

The summer programs were just getting started when the flood hit in July. Things came to a screeching halt. The Old Schoolhouse Common elevator and basement flooded, the building shut down to the public and sump pumps and dehumidifiers were installed to get the water out of the building. The Jaquith Library staff took measures to protect the books and materials from mildew by sealing the library off from the rest of the building and installing air conditioners, air purifiers and dehumidifiers. After a few days, the library was able to open by having people enter directly into the library through an outside side door. Through it all the staff continued to lend books and materials, and we started up the summer programs again, all of them outside under the four new tents purchased with a grant. The rain caused quite a few summer concert cancellations but we were happy to be back up and running and tried not to complain too much about the weather.

We had at least 300 people come to the Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 1 to hear two of the bands we canceled in the summer, enjoy the art & crafts tent, petting zoo, cider pressing and vendors, and participate in the new Crock-Pot Cook-off.

It was a tumultuous year - full of challenges, disappointments and surprises but we made it through, here to tell the story!

Gratitude

We continue to be so grateful for the volunteers who give their time to help shelving, working the circulation desk, processing books, helping with computers, planning and providing programs, working tirelessly at events and many other unseen tasks. Thank you to the artists and authors who shared their creativity with us. Thanks to the Library Trustees and the Friends for their endless work. Thank you to all the generous donors who gave financial support for programming and our annual appeal. This library could not function as fully as it does without the selfless gifts of time, enthusiasm, energy, resources and love of the library that these countless individuals give.

Thank you!

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 3 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sundays: closed

Library Trustee Meetings: second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom and in person.

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Town Account

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Available, Jan. 1	21,017	21,013	21,013	21,013
Income				
Previous Year's Surplus	698	0	0	1,032
Town Appropriation	84,383	101,763	101,763	106,851
Total Fundraising	5,888	4,495	6,792	6,160
Dividends Cashed Out	7,230	0	0	0
Interest	23	18	25	15
Total Income	98,222	106,276	108,580	114,058
Expense				
COVID expenses	213	215	65	0
Books	7,079	7,000	6,963	7,200
Magazines	193	155	200	150
Book Review Subscriptions	219	220	60	220
Amazon Prime	0	0	180	0
Computer Expenses	2,507	4,035	2,826	3,790
Telephone	931	950	999	1,100
Old Schoolhouse Common	12,840	13,735	13,740	13,735
Cleaning Service	378	1,040	1,200	1,200
Insurance	1,010	1,046	1,046	1,046
Library Supply	934	1,030	734	860
Postage and Returns	858	1,060	1,130	1,300
Conference Fees	85	100	28	100
Transportation/Mileage	0	50	0	50
Finance Charge	53	50	50	50
Miscellaneous Expenses	47	50	23	50
Staff Expense				
Librarian	37,114	33,050	36,893	39,000
Children's Librian	15,020	16,080	16,007	20,800
Coordinator	0	8,840	6,471	9,662
Substitute	2,100	1,669	1,657	1,800
Custodian	390	0	0	0
Social Security	3,387	3,698	3,562	4,418
Medicare Expense	792	865	1,107	1,033
Childcare Tax	0	0	0	157
Retirement Expense	3,030	2,768	3,087	3,364
Health Insurance	9,047	8,570	9,521	8,402
Total Payroll Expenses	70,879	75,540	78,305	88,636
Total Expense	98,225	106,276	107,547	119,487
Surplus/(Deficit)	-4	0	1,032	-5,428
Town Fund Balance	21,013	21,013	22,046	15,585
Applied to Next Year	0	0	(1,032)	0
Available Dec. 31	21,013	21,013	21,013	15,585

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jaquith Account

	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>
Jaquith Fund Balance, Jan. 1 (including investments)	145,217	116,427
Income		
Investment Income	(24,518)	18,300
Less Dividends Transferred	(7,230)	0
Grants	16,300	31,272
Donations	7,268	5,510
Conscience Can	79	43
Book Replacement	27	28
Book Sales	398	788
Total Income	(7,676)	55,941
Expenses		
Payroll	367	2,025
Books	724	1,077
Playgroup	146	303
Nature Camp	0	12,763
Programs	9,541	5,123
Program Supplies	1,396	2,275
Story Project	4,064	0
Other Donation/Grant Purchases	4,876	2,765
Total Expenses	21,115	26,332
Net Income/(Loss)	(28,790)	29,609
Jaquith Fund Balance, Dec. 31	116,427	146,036
Town Account Balance	21,013	22,046
Jaquith Account Balance	116,427	146,036
Total Library Funds	137,440	168,081
Cash on Hand	0	112
Checking	12,172	4,099
Savings	24,575	44,230
Paypal/Gift Cards	0	430
Prepayments	441	658
Investments	100,252	118,552
Total Library Funds	137,440	168,081

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Marty Podskoch, an expert on the Civilian Conservation Corps, gave a talk on the “History of Civilian Conservation Corps Project in Vermont and Marshfield” on October 1, 2023, in conjunction with the annual Marshfield Harvest Festival.

The Marshfield Historical Society, with the Jaquith Public Library, continued a public reading-discussion series of American presidents called Chapters in History. Titles included *The Impending Crisis; America Before the Civil War 1848-1861*, by David M. Potter; *Zachary Taylor; the 13th President, 1949-1950*, by John S. D. Eisenhower and Sean Wilentz; *The Great Railroad Revolution; the History of Trains in America*, by Christian Wilmar. Books are available for loan from the library. Participants meet in the Jaquith Public Library on second Saturdays, at 2 o'clock. This series is open and free to all those interested in discussing the incredible history of this country.

Interesting interviews with Marshfield people can be found at The Marshfield Story Project site
<https://www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org/marshfield-story-project-html>.

The Marshfield Story Project can live on! A generous grant from the IMLS funded the purchase of new, modern equipment for the library, including a **scanner, digital camera, voice recorder and a Home Interview Kit**. You can use this equipment to record your own history, make a podcast, or scan old photos to preserve them for the future.

For genealogy research see www.generalogybank.com using janetN@myfairpoint.net with the password, “jaquith.”

The Marshfield Historical Society meeting room continues to be well used by other local public groups. The Jaquith Library Vermont collection is shelved in the meeting room as well as exhibits of historical Marshfield artifacts.

The Society is always looking for new participants and has resumed meeting in the Hap Hayward History Center upstairs in the Jaquith Public Library. If you would like to attend a meeting or join the Society, please contact Susan Green at the Jaquith Library: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com. We continue to welcome your stories, old photos or mystery artifacts from Marshfield's past. Drop them off at Jaquith Public Library, labeled for the Historical Society.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Checking Balance, Jan. 1	3,906	4,223	4,082
Income			
Gross Sales			
Book Sales	193	50	
Other Sales	120	30	
Appropriation	6,455	6,907	6,907
Donations			
Interest Income	4	4	
Total Income	<u>6,772</u>	<u>6,991</u>	<u>6,907</u>
Expense			
Rent	6,455	6,907	6,907
Harvest Festival Speaker		175	
Dues		50	
Total Expense	<u>6,455</u>	<u>7,132</u>	<u>6,907</u>
Net Income	317	(141)	
Checking Balance, Dec. 31	4,223	4,082	4,082

DOGS

Marshfield had 271 dogs registered in 2023, but still had over 40 unregistered. You can register through the mail or at the clerk's office. Please send in your dog's rabies certificate and fee today.

Dog licenses for the current year are available beginning on January 2. The deadline for licensing is April 1. Puppies must be licensed when they are six months old. You may license your dog via the mail or using our secure drop box if you send or drop off the following:

- Current rabies certificate (if we already have one on file, we will mail yours back to you). A dog's first rabies shot is good for one year; subsequent shots are good for three years.
- Spay/neuter certificate if applicable
- A description of the dog, including name, breed, size, color, and age
- A check for the appropriate fee, made payable to the Town of Marshfield

The 2024 dog license fees are as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Late</u>	New Dog After <u>Oct. 1</u>
Neutered/spayed dog or wolf-hybrid:			
License	4.00	6.00	2.00
Town Pet Control Surcharge	3.00	3.00	3.00
State Spay/Neuter Surcharge	4.00	4.00	4.00
State Rabies Control Surcharge	<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	12.00	14.00	10.00
Unneutered/Unspayed dog or wolf-hybrid:			
License	8.00	12.00	4.00
Town Pet Control Surcharge	3.00	3.00	3.00
State Spay/Neuter Surcharge	4.00	4.00	4.00
State Rabies Control Surcharge	<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	16.00	20.00	12.00

Dog Licenses Issued in 2023

Male	39
Male Neutered	89
Female	40
Female Spayed	<u>103</u>
Total	271

2024 RABIES CLINICS

East Montpelier will have a rabies clinic Saturday March 9, from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the East Montpelier Fire Department, 54 Village Acres. The cost is \$20 per animal – cash or check. Tractor Supply in Berlin has monthly rabies clinics. Call them at 223-2246 for more information.

DOG ORDINANCE

Marshfield's Civil Ordinance #4, Regulating Domestic Pets, was updated in 2021.

The ordinance prohibits an owner from allowing their dog to run at large or be a nuisance to others. Marshfield does not have a leash law but dogs are required to be under their owner's control at all times.

Dogs that are not licensed, or dogs that violate the ordinance may be picked up by Marshfield's Dog Officer. Violations that may cause your dog to be impounded include excessive barking, damage to property, scattering refuse, harassing pedestrians, cyclists, or passersby, worrying or attacking livestock or other pets, obstructing traffic, or threatening.

If your dog is impounded, you will be required to pay an impoundment fee and boarding fees before getting your dog back. In addition, the town ordinance allows the Selectboard to impose penalties. If your dog is found to be threatening or attacking livestock, the state statute requires the Selectboard to see that the dog is destroyed.

If you have a complaint about a dog, you should report the issue to the Animal Control Officer at ACO@marshfieldvt.gov.

Full text of the ordinance is available on the town's website, <http://www.marshfieldvt.gov/>, or at the Town Clerk's office.

CEMETERY OPERATING FUND

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Balance, Jan. 1	28,910	24,387
Income		
Interest	1,391	1,872
Appropriation	10,500	15,000
Burials	4,600	3,500
Total Income	<u>16,491</u>	<u>20,372</u>
Operating Expenses		
Sexton	2,500	2,500
Burials	3,200	2,350
Maintenance		
Setting Stones		216
Flags	350	525
Capital Repairs	1,850	
Cemetery Mowing	10,500	11,000
Insurance	22	27
Green Burial Site	2,592	
Total Operating Expenses	<u>21,014</u>	<u>16,618</u>
Total Expense	21,014	16,618
Net Income	(4,523)	3,754
Balance, Dec. 31	24,387	28,141

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND

	2022	2023
Balance, Jan. 1	161,432	146,728
Income		
Investment Income		
Mutual Fund Dividends	6,884	2,346
Change in Market Value	(23,837)	5,185
Capital Gains	0	909
Total Investment Income	(16,953)	8,441
Lot Purchases	2,250	2,750
Total Income	(14,703)	11,191
Balance, Dec. 31	146,728	157,919

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31

	2022	2023
Cash/Money Market	0	8
Certificates of Deposit	0	5,001
In General Fund Account	35,055	41,551
Bonds/Government Securities	21,154	15,621
Mutual Funds	114,906	123,880
Total Assets	171,115	186,060
Perpetual Care Fund Balance	146,728	157,919
Operating Fund Balance	24,387	28,141
Total Both Funds	171,115	186,060

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

In 2021, the Selectboard updated the Cemetery Ordinance, and adopted separate Cemetery Rules and Regulations that may be revised from time to time. The Rules and Regulations cover the following:

- I. **Interments and disinterments**
Sets the rules for interments, and requires approval of the Cemetery Sexton or Cemetery Commission for all interment activities.
- II. **Memorial Work**
Sets rules for memorials. The Cemetery Sexton must approve all work and lay out all grave corner markers and approve location of monuments.
- III. **Foundations**
Sets rules for foundation size and date of installation. The Cemetery Sexton must oversee the work.
- IV. **Memorials, mausoleums, and vaults**
Requires Cemetery Sexton's permission before starting work. Prohibits damage to other cemetery monuments, trees and property.
- V. **Lot plantings and decorations**
Sets rules for what may be used decorate cemetery lots, and what happens to items left.
- VI. **Endowment Care**
Explains the Town's obligations regarding perpetual care.
- VII. **Fees**
The adopted rules include the various fees for traditional and green burials, sale of lots, and other cemetery services.

For more information about the cemetery rules or to arrange work in the cemetery or to purchase a lot, contact Sexton Joe Mangan at 426-3121.

The full text of the rules may be obtained from the Town Clerk or viewed on the Town website: <https://marshfieldvt.gov/ordinances>

SUMMARY OF CIVIL ORDINANCES ADOPTED as of December 31, 2023

#1 Burning and Disposal of Solid Waste

Prohibits dumping and burning of solid waste and requires the removal and proper disposal of hazardous fluids (antifreeze, oil, gasoline) and the battery from junked or long unused vehicles.

#2 Regulating Cemetery Operations (revised in 2021**)**

Covers cemetery operations, cemetery closure to all persons at night, vandalism, driving over graves, etc. Updated cemetery rules were adopted at the same time.

#3 Regulating use of External Facilities - Old Schoolhouse Common and other town lands and buildings

Restricts the use of the Town land and facilities surrounding the Old Schoolhouse Common, prohibits smoking on the Old Schoolhouse Common property, limits motor vehicles to parking areas and graveled driveways, prohibits alcoholic beverages, and makes it unlawful to deface or destroy Town property.

#4 Regulating Domestic Pets (revised in 2021**)**

Brings together in one document the licensing, rabies, vicious dog, nuisance and disturbance control requirements.

#5 Road Naming and Road Addressing

Authorizes the Selectboard to name all public and private roads in Marshfield, establishes a numbering system unique for each dwelling, and requires the numbers to be displayed at each dwelling.

#6 Traffic Ordinance (revised in 2021**)**

Sets speed limits on Town roads.

#7 Livestock Ordinance (enacted in 2021**)**

Prohibits Running at Large, authorizes impoundment and other remedies and penalties

The complete text of these ordinances can be reviewed online at <https://marshfieldvt.gov/ordinances> or obtained from the Town Clerk's Office.

WARNING – TOWN MEETING 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Marshfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Twinfield Union School in said Town on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 1:00 E.S.T. in the afternoon to act upon the following articles from the floor.

Article 1. To elect the following Town Officers:

Moderator	1 year
Town Clerk	1 year
Town Treasurer	1 year
Selectperson	3 years
Auditor	3 years
Lister	3 years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year
Constable	1 year
Budget Committee Member	5 years
Library Trustee	3 years
Library Trustee	3 years

Article 2. To elect School Directors to serve on the Union District Board, as follows:

School Director	3 years
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Article 3. To discuss the preferred day and time for Town Meeting (non-binding)

Article 4. To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 5. To see if the Town will authorize expenditures of \$3,021,726: \$1,590,650 for Essential Services (the Selectboard Budget) and \$1,431,076 for deficit elimination, of which \$957,171 shall be raised in taxes and \$2,064,554 from non-tax revenues.

Article 6. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$106,851 in support of the Jaquith Public Library.

Article 7. To see if the Town will appropriate an additional \$5,428 in support of the Jaquith Public Library as requested by the Library Trustees.

Article 8. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,907 in support of the Marshfield Historical Society.

Article 9. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the support, improvement and repair of the cemeteries.

Article 10. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,833 to Rural Community Transport as its share of the cost of commuter bus

service along Route 2 with service into Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares.

Article 11. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$ 12,325 to the following service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 2691?

- \$ 575 to Central Vermont Adult Basic Education for free adult education and literacy, including high school credentialing.
- \$ 1,400 to Central VT Council on Aging for supporting elders and family caregivers.
- \$ 3,200 to Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice for visiting nurse services.
- \$ 350 to Circle fka Battered Women's Services for support of direct services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- \$ 300 to Community Harvest of Central Vermont for gleaning of produce and distribution to food shelves etc..
- \$ 250 to Elevate Youth Services fka Washington County Youth Services Bureau for prevention, intervention, and support for youth and families in Washington County.
- \$ 300 to the Family Center of Washington County for delivering a variety of services to families, many of whom may be particularly vulnerable.
- \$ 350 to the Friends of the Winooski for water quality monitoring, tree planting, and ecological restoration.
- \$ 100 to Green Up Vermont for supplies and promotional materials in support of Green Up Day.
- \$ 1,100 to Onion River Food Shelf for food for residents.
- \$ 100 to Our House for support and advocacy for child victims of physical and sexual abuse.
- \$ 400 to Peoples Health and Wellness for providing free medical, mental health and oral health care to uninsured Central Vermonters.
- \$ 250 to Twinfield Together Mentoring Program for providing youth in our community an opportunity for a one-on-one friendship with a responsible adult.

- \$ 3,250 to Twin Valley Senior Center for providing social, emotional and physical wellbeing to our senior population.
- \$ 150 to VT Assoc. for Blind & Visually Impaired for vision rehabilitation services for blind and visually impaired Marshfield residents.
- \$ 150 to VT Center for Independent Living for programs and services to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.
- \$ 100 to VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force for helping to develop water supplies for fire protection.

- Article 12.**
- a. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes;
 - b. To see if the Town will vote to have the Town taxes paid by Friday, August 16, 2024, by physical delivery to the Treasurer on or before the close of business, with interest of one percent per month or fraction thereof to be paid by delinquent taxpayers; and
 - c. To see if the Town will vote to have the School taxes paid by Friday, November 15, 2024, by physical delivery to the Treasurer on or before the close of business, with interest of one percent per month or fraction thereof to be paid by delinquent taxpayers.

Article 13. To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Dated at Marshfield, VT this 23rd day of January, 2024

Richard Baker

Justin Campbell

Michele Gonzales

Marshfield, Vermont, January 23, 2024 I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting for the year 2023 and that it was recorded before posting.

Attest, Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

NOTICE TO VOTERS

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by February 2, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 25, 2023.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to **olvr.vermont.gov**.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at **mvp.vermont.gov**. The latest you can request ballots for the March 5, 2024 Election is noon on March 4, 2024. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

*** Election officials are active participants in the open town meeting, so registering at the polls may require you to wait until there is a break in the meeting. You are strongly encouraged to register before Election Day, either online or at the town office.*

Town Web Address: <https://marshfieldvt.gov>

Town Clerk's hours: Tues. - Friday 8:00-12:00 & 12:30-4:00
Telephone: 426-3305 email: clerk@marshfieldvt.gov

Zoning and Listing Office: 426-3045 (ext. 1 Listers, ext. 2 Zoning)

SELECTBOARD:	Richard Baker	522-1020
	Michele Gonzales	426-2030
	Justin Campbell	279-4638

ROAD FOREMAN:	Tim Ksepka	426-3631
	Town Garage	426-3752

LIBRARY:	Susan Green	426-3581
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VILLAGE CLERK:	Meg Eberhardt	426-3393
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VILLAGE TRUSTEES:	Ian Covey	498-5624
	Art Gilman, President	426-3272
	Tamara McKee	839-6635
	Marie Olson-Badeau	426-3865

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS: Reach the ACO team via email:
ACO@marshfieldvt.gov

Jaquith Library Trustees meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Marshfield Conservation Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Marshfield Development Review Board meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. when required.

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Marshfield Fire Department meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. (at the Marshfield Fire Station).

Marshfield Historical Society meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Marshfield Planning Commission meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Marshfield Recreation Committee meets the last Thursday of February, May, August and November at 7:00 p.m.

Marshfield Selectboard meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Stranahan Stewardship Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Town Clerk's Office
122 School Street, Room 1
Marshfield, VT 05658
<https://marshfieldvt.gov>

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**Please Bring This Report to Town Meeting on Sunday,
March 3, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Twinfield Union School**

Need a Ride? Call one of your Selectboard members listed inside this cover.