

Brandon Select Board Meeting
October 14, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The Brandon Select Board will meet Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall located at 1 Conant Square expecting to consider the items on this agenda.

Zoom Meeting ID	253 279 4161
Zoom Link	https://zoom.us/j/2532794161
Dial-in only	(929) 205-6099; Enter Meeting ID 253 279 4161 #; # again

- 1) Call to Order
 - a) Adopt Agenda (posted or as amended)
- 2) Select Board Members' Remarks
- 3) Recurring Matters
 - a) Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2024
 - b) Select Board & Budget Advisory Committee Meeting – September 30, 2024
 - c) Warrant – October 14, 2024 - \$590,620.51
- 4) Town Manager's Report
- 5) Community Development Report
- 6) Consider Planning Commission Nomination of Natalie Steen as Acting Zoning Administrator
- 7) Green Fleet 2024 Presentation
- 8) Road Closure Request
 - ❖ Saturday, November 9, 2024 10:30 AM -11:00 AM
 - ❖ Scouts' Salute to Veterans Parade
 - ❖ Park Street from Celebration Rentals (#86) West to the Brandon Inn (#20)
- 9) Public Hearing: Objection to Removal of a Shade Tree Between #42 and #44 Park Street per 24 VSA § 2509
- 10) Public Comment and Participation
- 11) Executive Session
 - 1 I move to find that premature general public knowledge of confidential attorney-client communication made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town will clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing said advice and the Town's position in a possible civil matter.
 - 2 I move to enter executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communication made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town, per 1 VSA § 313(a)(1).
- 12) Adjournment

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
September 23, 2024**

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.

Board Members in Attendance: Doug Bailey, Heather Nelson, Brian Coolidge, Ralph Ethier, Tim Guiles

Others In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Jack Schneider, Todd Nielsen, Steve Bisette, Ray Marcoux, Stephanie Jerome, Sandy Mayo, Steven Jupiter, Susan Benedict, Tom Kilpeck

Others by Zoom: Neil Silins, Cecil Reniche-Smith

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:24PM by Doug Bailey – Board Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

Motion by Heather Nelson/Tim Guiles to approve the agenda, as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Bill Moore advised there is a warrant for Premier Coach in the amount of \$10,026 that is over the Town's spending limit and could either be included in the warrant or pulled out for separate approval by the Select Board. It was the consensus of the Board to keep the item in the warrant.

Seth Hopkins requested a second executive session be added in accordance with 1 V.S.A.313(3)(a)(1) regarding labor relations agreements with employees.

2. Select Board Remarks

Doug Bailey reminded the participants that we are all neighbors and to be respectful of others. Mr. Bailey also noted that the beginning of fall foliage will be bringing additional traffic to Town.

3. Recurring Matters

a. Approval of Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2024

Motion by Heather Nelson/Brian Coolidge to approve the Select Board minutes of September 9, 2024. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Budget Workshop Minutes – September 16, 2024

Motion by Heather Nelson/Brian Coolidge to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of September 16, 2024. **The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Warrant – September 23, 2024 - \$1,533,983.35

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to approve the warrants of September 23, 2024, in the amount of \$1,533,983.35. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Town Manager's Report

A Town Manager's report was provided by Seth Hopkins and is available for viewing in the Board packet on the Town's website.

Seth Hopkins advised he spoke with the Town's attorney about the tax sale and they will be providing recommendations to reinstate the tax sale process regarding the revisions of the law to assure compliance. It was revised for taxpayers for those whose properties are to be brought to sale and there is a notice required that there be an abatement process available to them prior to the tax sale. Mr. Hopkins advised that Vermont Roadways is in Town and have started the Pearl Street sidewalk construction. There is no additional information on the roadwork by the contractors. Heather Nelson stated someone had brought up the idea of asking Vermont Roadways about the cost of doing the tennis courts, similar to what is being done at the hoop house. Bill Moore advised the bidder will be providing an updated bid and he can ask Vermont Roadways to do another bid.

5. Community Development Report

Bill Moore reviewed the community development report submitted:

"The Pow Wow organizers donated all of proceeds to the town of Brandon Recreation department to set up a scholarship fund for youth that have parents/guardians that are experiencing financial troubles due to illness.

The Vermont BGS recreational facilities grant has been submitted to support the purchase of the land on the southern end of the Seminary Hill lot. December will be when the state announces the list of projects that have been awarded.

The first Brandon Rec adult musical was a rousing success. Many thanks to Jeff Hull (Director), Kenny Cifone (Musical Director) and the many volunteers that volunteered to make "Lucky Stiff" a wonderful community collaboration. Next up will be a winter youth play and other smaller productions.

HarvestFest is coming! October 6th from 1PM – 4PM there will be leaf (stick) people, wagon rides and many, many vendors for this annual fall rite of passage at Estabrook Park.

Bootified Brandon house decorating competition registration is open!

The SOLD-OUT three busses to Salem will be heading down on October 3rd. There are still only about 20 tickets left for the NYC trip (2 busses) on December 14th.

The annual Celtics bus trip has been scheduled for December 19th when the defending 2024 NBA Champs take on the Chicago Bulls. The first 15 kids paid will have a chance to stand in front of the players during the National Anthem. These tickets will go fast."

Doug Bailey asked when the fountains will be installed with all funds secured and water fountains are here. Bill Moore stated it is on the water engineer's and fire department's schedule to have them installed this fall.

Neil Silins stated the Powwow event was an excellent addition and was well done. Mr. Silins suggested repeating it annually. Bill Moore advised the organizers were overwhelmed with the community support and would like to hold the event 9/19/25 thru 9/21/25 and open it to the school children to attend during the opening event.

6. Award Bid for Demolition of FEMA Buyout at 110 Newton Road

Bill Moore reported there were 7 bids received ranging from \$64,000 to \$228,000, with the low bidder being Jack Bowen Excavating and the State has asked the low bidder to be approved. Heather Nelson noted the Town is the pass-thru for the funds from the federal government and is not a cost to the Town.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Brian Coolidge to award the demolition bid for the FEMA buyout of 110 Newton Road to the low bidder, Jack Bowen Excavating. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Consider Purchase Order 45041 to Cargill, Inc. for De-icing Salt - \$87,250

Seth Hopkins advised this is beyond his spending authority and is for 100 tons of de-icing salt at \$87.25/ton. It had been forecasted at \$90,000. The usage last year was about 20% under this amount but would be good to have the purchase order authorized for up to this amount.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Ralph Ethier to approve Purchase Order 45051 to Cargill, Inc. in the amount of \$87,250 for de-icing salt. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Public Comment and Participation

Heather Nelson stated in the interest of transparency, the FEMA buy-out is her dad's business on Newton Road. Seth Hopkins noted the building is not owned by Heather's family but is owned by the Town.

Doug Bailey advised the second budget workshop will be held on Monday, September 30th to discuss the Highway Department and Town Management. Mr. Bailey thought the first meeting was a good discussion. He noted the Airstream group will be in Town this weekend. Bill Moore advised they will be located on the Brandon Inn lawn. Mr. Bailey stated they will be providing a free concert on Saturday and they will be arriving on Friday. Brian Coolidge questioned if the Town has any liability for this event. Mr. Moore advised this is being held on the Brandon Inn's property and is a Brandon Chamber function. Susan Benedict asked if the Brandon Inn has made arrangements for dumping their sewage. Seth Hopkins stated the Airstreamers are not connecting to a water supply or sewer connection and will be leaving with what is collected. Mr. Bailey noted he had an Airstream and he could go a week without having to dispose of sewage and was sure they have arrangements for dumping the waste. Cecil Reniche-Smith noted that Airstreams do not require sewer hookups.

Ray Marcoux requested police presence on Union Street as there are cars that are speeding. He had contacted the police department about this issue previously. Heather Nelson agreed that traffic does speed on that road. Mr. Marcoux noted it is a handful of cars but is a daily thing. Tim Guiles agreed that they do the same thing on Carver Street and the citizens need to continue to contact the police department. Seth Hopkins noted he had an email conversation with a Union Street resident about this same topic and he has asked the police department to do a direct patrol of the area. Mr. Hopkins stated the speed cart could also be placed in the area. There has been a request for a permanent sign like on Franklin Street and Grove Street, but those signs are in the \$4,000 range and there are currently not funds in the budget for this item. Tim Guiles encouraged people who can identify the cars to advise the police department. Mr. Guiles did not suggest vigilantism, and we need to allow the police to do their job but gathering information for them can help them do their job. Mr. Marcoux also reported there is a big beehive near Edgar Greeno's house on Union Street. Mr. Hopkins advised that would be under the authority of Green Mountain Power.

Bill Moore advised the deadline for submitting comments to the municipal project manager regarding the Brandon-Forest Dale connector trail is September 25th.

The Select Board recessed at 7:48PM.

The Select Board reconvened at 7:56PM.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 7:57PM regarding the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A.313(3)(a)(3) to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 8:08PM. There was no action required.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to enter into executive session at 8:09PM regarding labor relations agreements with employees per 1 V.S.A.313(3)(a)(1) to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 9:50PM. There was no action required.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 9:51PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

Minutes of Joint Meeting of Brandon Selectboard and Budget Advisory Committee
30 September 2024, Brandon Town Hall

Attendance Selectboard present: Doug Bailey, Heather Nelson, Ralph Ethier, Brian Coolidge. Budget committee present: Janet Coolidge (by Zoom), Gabe McGuigan, Karen Rhodes, Barry Varian, Tricia Welch. Public present: Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Steven Jupiter, Jeremy Disorda, Chris Kent, Pat Wood, Todd Nielsen.

Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey called the meeting to order at 7PM. On motion of Heather Nelson and second by Ralph Ethier, the posted agenda was adopted by the selectboard 4-0.

Selectboard Remarks Doug Bailey indicated it may be prudent to return to a discussion of the police department during the conceptual phase of these meetings. Heather Nelson reiterated her suggestion of using a whiteboard or easel pad to note ideas offered by meeting participants. Doug Bailey distributed an FY24 "net" sugaring-off by the four large mission areas, a staff chart also using the four large mission areas, and a study based on the VLCT 2023 Compensation Report comparing Brandon's administrative costs to other Vermont towns of like size.

Highway Division Chief Remarks Doug Bailey introduced the FY26 conceptual discussion of the highway and buildings & grounds departments. Highway Chief Jeremy Disorda reported that the reduction of one full-time staff member during last year's budget revotes has not been detrimental. The department is focused on maintenance work such as ditching, culverts, Municipal Roads General Permit compliance efforts, grading, and mowing. Guardrails were installed in several locations this spring, and sidewalk work got underway last week. He identified his department priorities as including a replacement highway barn / shop building / garage; replacement of the single-axle truck which required \$10,000 in work to get ready for last year's winter operations [ballpark quote is \$300,000], and a different roadside mower. A replacement zero-turn mower is also on the horizon. Paving he has identified for FY26 includes Wheeler Road from the bridges at Marble Street up to at least Lover's Lane if not to end of pavement at Richmond Road; and McConnell Road south from Wood Lane to Route 7.

Committee Questions & HWY Discussion Selectboard and budget advisory committee members inquired as to the status of leases and buildings & grounds revenue sources. A committee member asked whether the Town crew could take over watering the flowerpots and gardens in the downtown, which up to this point have been the responsibility of the business owners nearby (pots) per a longstanding agreement between them and the Downtown Brandon Alliance, and of a dedicated group of volunteers (gardens). A suggestion was made that due to conditions at the highway barn and any potential replacement facility being in the middle distance, a job trailer might be procured for the use of the department staff. A ballpark figure of \$500/month plus utilities was noted. Upon question about the next round of sidewalk work, the rest of Carver Street (but in conjunction with the larger work required for utilities and roadbed rebuilding there), Champlain Street, and more distance up West Seminary Street. Possible methods for funding a capital replacement program were discussed. Doug Bailey noted that for paving, there are basically three ways of providing local funding (separate from any state grants available): the operating budget, a voted appropriation article, and the 1% local option tax fund. Differing opinions regarding the best methods were discussed by the group. Impacts of the attempt to fund paving with a large line item in the

original FY25 budget proposal were reviewed. More than one member commented on the need to restore trust and a desire to not put the operating budget at risk.

Admin &
Finance

Seth Hopkins then led an overview of the Administration & Finance mission, which is fundamentally a stable mission area of several one-person departments, with the welcome doubling of available hours for our code enforcement officer / health officer / rental housing officer / zoning administrator Larry Stevens. There is a big push to increase the supply of available housing, and there are significant projects underway in Brandon, including two at existing buildings in Park Village and various independent property owner projects throughout town. It is expected that GovPilot will assist in generating some rental housing permit revenue which has long fallen short of its potential. A few questions regarding the town management team approach and work schedule were addressed. The main concern is the seeming impossibility of reining in health insurance costs. Several creative options have been explored, none feasible so far.

Community
Development

Bill Moore led a discussion of Recreation and Economic Development which together constitute the Community Development mission. Taking on year-round programming of the Town Hall when the Friends of the Town Hall disband at year's end is an exciting new focus. This is yet another instance of the Town's Rec Department taking on work that was formerly done by non-Town parties (similarly to youth sports no longer offered at the elementary school, and to picking up a Chamber event such as harvest people). A key focus is multi-generational opportunities for people of all abilities. There followed discussions about facilities, collaborations with other groups, scholarships for those who may have challenges accessing programs, a capital plan, grant matches, and approaching nearby towns for support as is done by the Library.

Revisiting
Police

Doug Bailey initiated a follow-up discussion regarding the police department budget, addressing past spending and the current overtime dynamics with the 24-hour on-duty schedule. It was noted that the overage in the police spending in FY24 was almost but not quite made up by the other departments coming in under budget for FY24. Bailey noted that the police chief is on vacation this week and will be meeting with the town manager when he returns.

FY26
Draft

It was requested that the town manager provide a rough draft of the proposed FY26 operating budget at the October 7th meeting. The town manager will comply and restated that he is not available to attend the October 21st meeting. [It is my recommendation to reschedule that meeting.]

On motion of Brian Coolidge seconded by Heather Nelson and voted 4-0, the meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Seth M Hopkins, town manager

TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable
Check Warrant Report # 63796 Current Prior Next FY Invoices
All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 10/14/24 To 10/14/24

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
101169	09/19/24	athletic trainer		10-5-18-40010	90.00	2162	10/14/24
			09/19/24	Middle School Football			
310590	10/02/24	sept windows		10-5-22-43100	65.00	2163	10/14/24
			8348	Town Office			
311239	09/30/24	Salem-bus trip		10-5-18-60010	1120.00	2159	10/02/24
			0353	Bus Trips			
100190	10/06/24	WF - clothing		10-5-15-10320	131.72	2164	10/14/24
			71406	Clothing Allowance			
100255	10/01/24	Sept water payments		90-5-15-90600	124484.08	2165	10/14/24
			09-30-24	Paid To BFD No 1			
100275	10/02/24	appropriation		10-5-25-70470	7666.67	2166	10/14/24
			OCT 2024	Brandon Library			
100280	09/23/24	electric snow shovel		10-5-15-41110	399.00	2167	10/14/24
			57349/3	New Equipment-Misc. Tools			
100280	09/19/24	ground contact		10-5-22-43160	14.30	2167	10/14/24
			57758/3	Parks Maint.			
100280	09/23/24	hydraulic cement		20-5-55-43160	22.99	2167	10/14/24
			58281/3	Maint. Supplies - General			
100280	09/25/24	plumber's bag		20-5-55-43160	16.99	2167	10/14/24
			58649/3	Maint. Supplies - General			
100280	09/25/24	screws		10-5-15-45120	6.69	2167	10/14/24
			58664/3	Signs & Posts			
100280	09/25/24	cable ties		10-5-22-43080	27.98	2167	10/14/24
			58682/3	Highway Bldg Maint			
100280	09/26/24	plastic PVC caps		20-5-55-43160	3.58	2167	10/14/24
			58783/3	Maint. Supplies - General			
100280	10/07/24	caulk, gloves		10-5-22-43160	58.96	2167	10/14/24
			60609/3	Parks Maint.			
100280	10/07/24	LED light bulbs		10-5-22-43150	159.92	2167	10/14/24
			60696/3	Town Hall Repair/Maint.			
100280	10/07/24	LED		10-5-22-43150	10.99	2167	10/14/24
			60711/3	Town Hall Repair/Maint.			
100280	10/08/24	rope for overhead doors		20-5-55-42140	15.99	2167	10/14/24
			60818/3	Maint. Supplies - Bldgs			
100280	10/08/24	putty knife, scrapers		10-5-22-43150	21.17	2167	10/14/24
			60882/3	Town Hall Repair/Maint.			
200218	09/30/24	DRB, Tax notice		10-5-10-30310	52.00	2169	10/14/24
			9/30/24	Legal Advertising			
200218	09/30/24	DRB, Tax notice		10-5-12-30310	71.50	2169	10/14/24
			9/30/24	Legal Advertising			
100310	10/02/24	appropriation		10-5-25-70480	1291.67	2170	10/14/24
			OCT 2024	Senior Citizen Center			
310449	09/19/24	soccer/football equipment		10-5-18-40010	749.80	2171	10/14/24
			926933493	Middle School Football			
310449	09/19/24	soccer/football equipment		10-5-18-40000	204.98	2171	10/14/24
			926933493	Youth Soccer			
310449	09/23/24	5-pad girdles		10-5-18-40010	149.96	2171	10/14/24
			926988143	Middle School Football			
310449	09/24/24	5-pad girdles		10-5-18-40010	74.98	2171	10/14/24
			927010691	Middle School Football			

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100860	09/18/24	CARROLL, BOE, PELL & KITE Union St ROW 39109	46-5-21-20110 Union St- Legal	67.50	2172	10/14/24
300286	09/21/24	CASELLA CONSTRUCTION INC cold patch 100001-39260	10-5-15-46120 Cold Patching	278.60	2173	10/14/24
301071	10/01/24	CHAMBER AND ECONOMIC DEVE membership renewal 2896	10-5-17-71600 REDC/CEDRR	500.00	2174	10/14/24
300604	08/31/24	CHAMPLAIN CONSTRUCTION CO sand BRANAUG2024	10-5-15-47120 Winter Sand	2818.25	2175	10/14/24
300604	09/30/24	CHAMPLAIN CONSTRUCTION CO sand BRANSEPT2024	10-5-15-47120 Winter Sand	1367.31	2175	10/14/24
301503	09/17/24	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FUELS diesel fuel 540753	10-5-15-41130 Fuel - Vehicles HW	294.18	2176	10/14/24
301503	09/25/24	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FUELS diesel fuel 540930	10-5-15-41130 Fuel - Vehicles HW	224.83	2176	10/14/24
301503	10/01/24	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FUELS diesel fuel 541565	10-5-15-41130 Fuel - Vehicles HW	113.14	2176	10/14/24
300799	09/24/24	CHAMPLIN ASSOCIATES, INC. alarm system 4935	20-5-55-90100 Capital/New Equipment	7039.40	2177	10/14/24
310703	10/08/24	CITY HALL SYSTEMS, INC. CC charges- Sept 2024 20663	10-5-18-40000 Youth Soccer	29.63	2178	10/14/24
310703	10/08/24	CITY HALL SYSTEMS, INC. CC charges- Sept 2024 20663	10-5-18-40010 Middle School Football	148.15	2178	10/14/24
310703	10/08/24	CITY HALL SYSTEMS, INC. CC charges- Sept 2024 20663	10-5-18-60010 Bus Trips	118.52	2178	10/14/24
101170	10/02/24	COLE, KASANDRA refund football fee 824273	10-4-18-40010 Middle School Football	100.00	2179	10/14/24
310097	09/27/24	COMCAST service: Oct 4 to Nov 3 TO 09/27/24	10-5-10-42100 Telephone Exp. Admin.	633.57	2180	10/14/24
310097	09/21/24	COMCAST service: Sep 28 to Oct 27 WW 09/21/24	20-5-55-42100 Wastewater Telephone	206.02	2181	10/14/24
310037	10/06/24	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO service: Sep 06 to Oct 05 HWY 10/06/24	10-5-15-42100 HW Telephone	130.23	2182	10/14/24
310037	09/18/24	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO service: Aug 18 to Sep 17 TH 09/18/24	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	83.40	2182	10/14/24
310733	10/01/24	DENTON & SON dumpster SEPT 2024	20-5-55-50160 Sludge Disposal	460.00	2183	10/14/24
301104	10/01/24	DESABRAIS GLASS windshield - trk #1 D0075049	10-5-15-41180 HW Outside Maint. - Vehic	295.00	2184	10/14/24
101171	09/30/24	DIUNIZIO, MARION refund hiking series fee 824256	10-4-18-04320 Misc. Recreation	150.00	2185	10/14/24
101097	10/01/24	DOUGLAS, ROBIN reimburse uniform shirts 10/01/24	10-5-18-40090 Cheerleading	248.40	2186	10/14/24
100456	09/24/24	DUBOIS & KING INC Union sidewalk design/ROW 924188	46-5-21-20120 Union Sidewalk Engineer	3685.69	2187	10/14/24
100456	09/30/24	DUBOIS & KING INC North St Bridge 924424	56-5-17-20100 North St Bridge-Engineeri	9970.80	2187	10/14/24
300466	09/24/24	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING portable toilet 93400	10-5-18-40000 Youth Soccer	135.00	2188	10/14/24
300466	09/24/24	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING portable toilets 93401	10-5-18-43130 Estabrook	130.00	2188	10/14/24

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300466	09/24/24	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING portable toilets	10-5-18-60100	130.00	2188	10/14/24
		93401	Seminary Hill			
311241	10/10/24	ELLIS, CARINA MIKULICH Lucky Stiff- music	10-5-18-50090	500.00	2189	10/14/24
		09/2024	Adult Activities			
100494	09/19/24	ENDYNE INC testing	20-5-55-22120	357.00	2190	10/14/24
		504873	Testing			
100494	09/20/24	ENDYNE INC testing	20-5-55-22120	45.00	2190	10/14/24
		505120	Testing			
100494	09/23/24	ENDYNE INC testing	20-5-55-22120	155.00	2190	10/14/24
		505249	Testing			
100494	09/27/24	ENDYNE INC testing	20-5-55-22120	45.00	2190	10/14/24
		505781	Testing			
100494	10/04/24	ENDYNE INC testing	20-5-55-22120	45.00	2190	10/14/24
		507376	Testing			
310613	08/22/24	FLEETPRIDE, INC. heater	20-5-55-43160	176.17	2191	10/14/24
		119316411	Maint. Supplies - General			
300187	09/14/24	FLORENCE CRUSHED STONE 3/4 minus, winter sand	10-5-15-47120	855.49	2192	10/14/24
		235138	Winter Sand			
300187	09/14/24	FLORENCE CRUSHED STONE 3/4 minus, winter sand	10-5-15-46140	1386.35	2192	10/14/24
		235138	Gravel			
300829	09/24/24	GARLAND'S AGWAY/GT OUTDOO bar for pole saw	10-5-15-44130	29.99	2193	10/14/24
		113578	Tree Removal/Planting			
100835	10/07/24	GMWEA meeting Kingston/Buckley	20-5-55-10310	190.00	2194	10/14/24
		2024	Travel & Expenses			
300974	08/08/24	GRAPH-X INCORPORATED signs	10-5-18-10330	250.00	2195	10/14/24
		4956	Advertising/Recruitment			
300974	10/01/24	GRAPH-X INCORPORATED clothing for soccer	10-5-18-40000	2265.00	2195	10/14/24
		4978	Youth Soccer			
300974	10/04/24	GRAPH-X INCORPORATED clothing for highway crew	10-5-15-10320	1160.00	2195	10/14/24
		4980	Clothing Allowance			
311128	09/16/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE repairs to truck #1	10-5-15-41180	432.63	2196	10/14/24
		218949	HW Outside Maint. - Vehic			
311128	09/24/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE coupling for jetter	20-5-55-41180	25.49	2196	10/14/24
		219292	Maintenance-Vehicles			
311128	09/25/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE wrenches	20-5-55-41110	26.98	2196	10/14/24
		219307	New Equipment-Misc Tools			
311128	09/26/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE wiper blades	20-5-55-41180	34.98	2196	10/14/24
		219389	Maintenance-Vehicles			
311128	10/01/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE red LED light bar	10-5-15-41160	51.99	2196	10/14/24
		219572	HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl			
311128	10/03/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE antifreeze	10-5-15-41160	61.14	2196	10/14/24
		219687	HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl			
311128	10/10/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE batteries for WW tractor	20-5-55-41180	389.97	2196	10/14/24
		219953	Maintenance-Vehicles			
100559	09/18/24	HACH COMPANY pipet tips for testing	20-5-55-30120	115.50	2197	10/14/24
		14193595	Professional Supplies			
300600	10/07/24	HOLLAND COMPANY INC sodium aluminate	20-5-55-50150	11051.37	2198	10/14/24
		PI-29857	Sodium Aluminate			
310745	10/06/24	JACOBS, JAKE swim lessons	10-5-18-30000	1728.00	2199	10/14/24
		10/6/24	Swim Lesson Expense			

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Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
101156	09/21/24	KONICA MINOLTA PREMIER FI copier contract	538681115	10-5-10-30130 Service Contracts	284.42	2200	10/14/24
311176	10/09/24	LILY WHITE CLEANING SERVI cleaning	100924	10-5-22-10130 Admin Custodian	437.50	2201	10/14/24
311176	10/09/24	LILY WHITE CLEANING SERVI cleaning	100924	10-5-22-10120 PD Custodian	227.50	2201	10/14/24
101152	09/09/24	MISTY KNOLL FARM turkey tube ground bones	390737	10-5-14-40440 Police Dog Expenses	75.00	2202	10/14/24
310906	09/24/24	MODERN CLEANERS & TAILORS uniform maint - Alnwick	B60DCF	10-5-14-10320 Clothing Allowance	138.00	2203	10/14/24
101151	09/30/24	NEW ENGLAND BIOASSAY, INC chronic testing	7299	20-5-55-22120 Testing	2650.00	2204	10/14/24
100788	10/01/24	NEW ENGLAND MUNICIPAL RES Lisa on 7/15 & 7/24	55697	10-5-11-22140 Property Assessor	688.75	2205	10/14/24
101129	05/13/24	OTTER CREEK ENGINEERING Rec Wetland Delineation	23500	10-5-22-43160 Parks Maint.	1300.00	2206	10/14/24
310530	09/23/24	PATCH ELECTRIC INC Town Hall, Light Pole	2796	10-5-15-45120 Signs & Posts	260.00	2207	10/14/24
310530	09/23/24	PATCH ELECTRIC INC Town Hall, Light Pole	2796	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	990.60	2207	10/14/24
310701	09/11/24	PEAK MOTOR & PUMP pump panel Industrial Pk	99049	20-5-55-41110 New Equipment-Misc Tools	10188.90	2208	10/14/24
310763	09/19/24	PEASE, UNA officiating	09/19/24	10-5-18-40010 Middle School Football	85.00	2209	10/14/24
311136	10/02/24	PHENOVA, INC. quality assurance testing	208958	20-5-55-20121 Professional Services	480.14	2210	10/14/24
310736	10/03/24	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL pest control @ Town Hall	38194	10-5-22-43100 Town Office	40.00	2211	10/14/24
310736	10/03/24	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL pest control: Town Office	38195	10-5-22-43100 Town Office	70.00	2211	10/14/24
300315	10/03/24	PREMIER COACH CO., INC trip to Boston - 12/19/24	81815	10-5-18-60010 Bus Trips	2805.00	2212	10/14/24
310334	09/19/24	RAMAGE, ALEX officiating	09/19/24	10-5-18-40010 Middle School Football	85.00	2213	10/14/24
101122	09/23/24	RIMMER, KEVIN reimb hotel/meal-training	9/23/24	10-5-14-10310 Travel & Expenses	461.54	2153	09/26/24
100478	10/02/24	ROYAL GROUP, INC. adjusted door closer @ TH	715715	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	65.00	2214	10/14/24
100479	10/02/24	RSVP appropriation	OCT 2024	10-5-25-70150 RSVP	550.00	2215	10/14/24
300375	09/26/24	RUTLAND CITY August sludge processing	36515 SLUDG	20-5-55-50160 Sludge Disposal	7200.00	2216	10/14/24
100493	09/30/24	RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING TAP-Forest Dale Path	4772	56-5-18-20100 MPM-TAP Forest Dale Path	445.16	2217	10/14/24
310418	09/01/24	SILLOWAY NETWORKS INC monthly service & support	29752095	10-5-10-30134 Technical Support	896.55	2218	10/14/24
310418	10/01/24	SILLOWAY NETWORKS INC .GOV setup,PD-troublshoot	29752339	10-5-10-30134 Technical Support	164.00	2218	10/14/24
310418	10/01/24	SILLOWAY NETWORKS INC .GOV setup,PD-troublshoot	29752339	10-5-14-30210 Office Equipment	1162.50	2218	10/14/24

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310418	10/01/24	SILLOWAY NETWORKS INC monthly service & support	10-5-10-30134	923.49	2218	10/14/24
		29752340	Technical Support			
310921	09/25/24	STEARNS SERVICES LLC consulting fee	10-5-10-30130	360.00	2219	10/14/24
		1258	Service Contracts			
310921	10/07/24	STEARNS SERVICES LLC Cunsulting Fee- FY24 Q3	10-5-10-30130	135.00	2219	10/14/24
		1259	Service Contracts			
300592	09/11/24	SUBURBAN PROPANE, L.P. propane @ Town Hall	10-5-22-42100	35.65	2220	10/14/24
		545779	Heating - Propane			
311238	10/02/24	TORREY, ROSE refund/permit withdrawn	10-4-13-04580	4.00	2221	10/14/24
		10799	Records Preservation			
311238	10/02/24	TORREY, ROSE refund/permit withdrawn	10-4-12-04310	53.00	2221	10/14/24
		10799	Land Use Permit Revenue			
311238	10/02/24	TORREY, ROSE refund/permit withdrawn	10-4-13-04510	11.00	2221	10/14/24
		10799	Land Records			
310534	09/19/24	TRAYNOR, NATHAN J officiating	10-5-18-40010	85.00	2222	10/14/24
		09/19/24	Middle School Football			
100729	10/02/24	TREASURY OPERATIONS DIVIS marraiges 7/1-9/30/24	10-2-00-02113	1170.00	2223	10/14/24
		OCT 2024	Marriage Lic. Fees to Sta			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	20-2-00-02525	4383.44 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	CARVER REFI 2012 SERIES 5			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	20-5-55-60800	52.93 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	USDA Bond Loan #8 Interes			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	55-2-00-02517	41760.00 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	Infrastructure Bond			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	55-1-00-01600	-19750.00 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	Amt for Long Term Debt			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	10-5-19-60500	51404.48 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	2016 Segment 6 Bond			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	55-1-00-01600	-41760.00 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	Amt for Long Term Debt			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	20-2-00-02524	19964.20 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	SEWER IMPROV SERIES 4			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	55-2-00-02512	135000.00 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	Long Term Debt Bond			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	10-5-19-48140	135000.01 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	RT 7 Town Share -2006			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	20-5-55-61000	3308.24 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	USDA Bond Loan #9 Interes			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	55-1-00-01600	-135000.00 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	Amt for Long Term Debt			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	55-2-00-02516	19750.00 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	PD VT Municipal Bond			
310490	09/15/24	US BANK Bond pymts- Nov 2024	10-5-19-60410	21209.72 E	101524	10/15/24
		NOV 24	PD Bond Payment			
311217	10/09/24	VALSOFT CORP INC DBA COTT sept host fee	10-5-13-30123	295.00	2224	10/14/24
		269729	Records Preservation			
330348	09/13/24	VERIZON WIRELESS service: Aug 14 - Sep 13	10-5-21-10310	20.21	2225	10/14/24
		9973853288	Travel & Expenses			
330348	09/13/24	VERIZON WIRELESS service: Aug 14 - Sep 13	10-5-18-42100	20.22	2225	10/14/24
		9973853288	Recreation Telephone			

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330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	09/13/24	service: Aug 14 - Sep 13 9973853288	20-5-55-42100 Wastewater Telephone	40.43	2225	10/14/24
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	09/13/24	service: Aug 14 - Sep 13 9973853288	10-5-14-42100 PD Telephone Service	40.43	2225	10/14/24
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	09/13/24	service: Aug 14 - Sep 13 9973853288	10-5-15-42100 HW Telephone	40.43	2225	10/14/24
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	09/23/24	service: Aug 24 - Sep 23 9974570014	10-5-14-20233 MDT/Aircards	320.48	2225	10/14/24
101160	VERMONT ROADWORKS LLC WBE	10/04/24	Sidewalk paving&shoop bldg 2024-1456	10-5-15-46110 Paving Roads	7998.00	2161	10/09/24
101160	VERMONT ROADWORKS LLC WBE	10/04/24	Sidewalk paving&shoop bldg 2024-1456	25-5-65-01000 Sidewalk Rebuild and Repa	123342.00	2161	10/09/24
100146	VLCT PACIF	09/12/24	add WW trk to Ins. INT068090524	20-5-55-61110 Insurance Expenses	344.00	2226	10/14/24
101090	WADE, ERIC	09/19/24	officiating 09/19/24	10-5-18-40010 Middle School Football	85.00	2227	10/14/24
311240	WESCOTT, CAMERON	10/10/24	Lucky Stiff- music 09/2024	10-5-18-50090 Adult Activities	500.00	2228	10/14/24
310186	WYMAN'S TIMBER HARVESTING	10/08/24	tires- highway garage INV1027	10-5-22-43080 Highway Bldg Maint	77.00	2229	10/14/24
Report Total					590620.51		

Selectboard

To the Treasurer of TOWN OF BRANDON, We Hereby certify that there is due to the several persons whose names are listed hereon the sum against each name and that there are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments aggregating \$ ***590,620.51
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.



Municipal Road Crews
of Vermont
Municipal Service Award
2024



Vermont League
of Cities & Towns



FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

VTrans advises regarding the four-way intersection at Marble Street/Park Street/High Street: “the town can sign it as a 4-way stop intersection if they choose to do so. If so, the town’s traffic ordinance would have to be updated to include the new stop point. A traffic study is not needed. I would suggest that the Select Board perform public outreach if the decision is made to add the new stop sign.” This — again — represents different information than what has been long held to be the accepted practice. The Town’s traffic ordinance requires a front-to-back review and revision at this point. I recommend a comprehensive process to do that rather than a piecemeal approach. A two-board-member working group with the town management team has worked for similar policy revisions in the past.

Sidewalks on Pearl Street and Carver Street were completed with removal, installation of new base, and surfacing with new asphalt. The work by Vermont Roadworks was inspected and approved by our Highway Division Chief. Vermont Roadworks will return for additional sidewalk improvements along West Seminary Street later this month. Road paving by Pike is expected later this month as well (Union Street south of Otter Creek; North Street from post office to 73; patch on River Street).

The Town has received the 45-day notice of Novus Brandon Solar LLC in advance of their anticipation of filing application for a certificate of public good for the 150kW array on land owned by the Brandon Industrial Corporation and from which the Town would be the oftaker of the solar credits generated.

We had planned an open house at the wastewater treatment facility now that the project is officially completed; however, a replacement large component (automatic transfer switch) has been delayed into December, and ongoing interior work by the Town staff over the winter. Our chief operator suggests postponing until Clean Water Week in April 2025, and I support that.

I worked with Edward Delhagen of the Vermont Department of Public Service to advance the Town’s grant request for the energy efficiency and conservation block grant (EECBG) round 2.

The Town worked with our Regional Planning partners to submit a MERP implementation grant which, if successful, will assist the Town in making some of the building improvements recommended by the building energy audits (posted on the Town website under Reports).

FOCUS AREAS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Kyle Leedom from the Town crew completed a resealing of the marble steps in front of the Town Hall last week. The old material was pressure washed and scraped out and the vertical and horizontal joints were resealed using the product recommended by the forensic masonry consultant who performed the initial installation twenty years ago. (For those interested, that 2004 installation is documented with photos here: <http://www.lisztrestoration.com/project-portfolio/granite--marble-stair-restoration>)

As part of ongoing State trainings of which the selectboard has been supportive, I was in Montpelier on Friday the 4th, where our morning instructor was the Legislature's deputy joint fiscal officer Emily Byrne and our afternoon instructor was the Governor's director of budget Aaron Brodeur. I appreciate the selectboard's recognition that learning from and interacting with top-tier officials like this will benefit our own local processes and practices in Brandon and get us the best results for our tax dollars.

I met at Newton Road with Kyle Medash, western floodplain manager; Erin De Vries, Vermont River Conservancy; Josh Carvajal, state river management engineer; and Shannon Pytlik from the watershed management division. The occasion was the planned removal of the factory building at 110 Newton Road and the concurrent interest of another two homeowners for buyout assistance. As a result of this meeting, I've reached out to Vermont Emergency Management's hazard mitigation officer Stephanie A Smith to seek grant support for an engineering alternatives study to see what floodplain restoration would be most effective and efficient at preventing the necessity of continued reinvestment in the public and private infrastructure in harm's way.

I reached out to the police union requesting flexibility in terms of being able to offer either of the small group employer health insurance plans available to it (BlueCross and MVP).

I had many meetings with town officers, staff, townspeople, and responded to a number of requests for information from various parties. Highway/tree/sidewalk matters were the most frequent topics.

FOR AWARENESS OF THE SELECTBOARD

As you are likely already aware, a truck hit the Sanderson Covered Bridge on Friday the 4th. Siding and a beam were damaged, but the bridge was evaluated by Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber and deemed safe for traffic. The Town's opt-in emergency text alert system was activated for the closure at 10:37AM and for the reopening at 6:12PM. The Town has obtained two quotes for repair, both in the neighborhood of \$25,000, and is working with its insurer on a claim. I'm working with our highway division chief to investigate the potential for design and installation of some clearance guide bars well back of the bridge on both sides, where a truck could turn around when they realize they've not cleared the guide bar and will not clear the covered bridge. Coincidentally, the guardrail approach on the Town side of the Sanderson Covered Bridge was damaged by a vehicle in the early morning hours of Friday the 11th.

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Superintendent of Schools Rene Sanchez will meet with the selectboard on 28 October for introductions and to hear from the Town's elected leadership.

Jeremy Gildrien from Rutland Regional Planning Commission will present an update on the Regional Plan to the selectboard at the 28 October selectboard.

I attended the historic preservation commission meeting on October 8th, but they were unable to conduct business due to lack of quorum. This is an important commission to fully staff as it is a requirement of Brandon's certified local government status. There is one vacancy right now and one member who has not attended meetings in quite some time.

The selectboard has before it a nomination from the planning commission to appoint Natalie Steen as the assistant zoning administrator. This is an unpaid, unstipended position which exists to have

a qualified individual in place to act for the zoning administrator when he (Larry Stevens) is unable to act, such as when he has a conflict of interest. Ms Steen has professional education and experience in planning/zoning, and we appreciate her willingness to serve in this capacity.

FY26 BUDGET PROCESS SECOND STEPS

I did consult with the Town Treasurer regarding some continued examination of the FY24 actuals. In both FY23 and FY24, the general fund budget suffered a hit of ~\$100,000 in taxes which were billed, not received, and sent over to the “delinquent” side. I asked whether for prudence we ought to assume we’re not going to collect about that amount in the FY26 budget now being planned, and budget our spending to that lesser figure. Sue says do **not** do this. It may be that that line (second line at the top of the Revenue side on the budget status reports) becomes a positive, whether due to reminder notices from the Town, or attorney letters, or as part of the tax sale process. This all makes sense, but in the meantime, there is the \$100,000 hit to the bottom line, without which, even accounting for the identified problem of overtime in one department, the FY24 budget would have ended net positive. Just passing it along for thought as you form FY26 spending and revenue plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth M. Hopkins

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
FY25 Budget Operating Expenses	33% thru funds /29% thru year
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance	\$441,392
1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated [\$100,000 board-reserved paving now \$35,000 per board action 12 Aug 2024 not included at right]	\$326,173
Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated	UNION STREET
Delinquent property taxes (prior years)	\$507,730 (was \$511,128)
Delinquent wastewater (prior years [‘over 120 days’])	\$203,478 (was \$206,912)
Tax Sale Status — PAUSED due to Legislated changes	70 accounts at attorney for letters

Green Fleet 2023-2024 Presentation

October 17, 2024

The Brandon Green Fleet Policy exists to “help the town meet its energy goals while reducing short/long-term costs of purchasing, maintaining, and operating town vehicles.” The Vermont Energy Guidelines call for a:

26% reduction by 2025

40% reduction by 2030

80% reduction by 2050

Each year we gather easily obtainable data on fuel usage for: Gas, Diesel, #2 Heating Oil, Propane, and electricity. From these numbers we can calculate the municipal carbon footprint for Brandon which is a measure of CO₂ emissions in units of CO₂ equivalent metric tons. Our electricity provider (GMP) currently has an “annual energy mix” that is 100% carbon free.

There are 4 contributors to the town of Brandon’s Carbon Footprint:

Gas – for Police cars and Groundskeeping/Highway equipment

Diesel – Large highway trucks and Heavy Equipment

#2 Heating Oil – for the Highway Garage and the Town Hall

Propane – for Police, Town Office, Town Hall, and Wastewater bldgs

The first fuel type to look at is **propane** usage.

Our police station propane usage has dropped this year, possibly as a result of more use of the heat pumps.

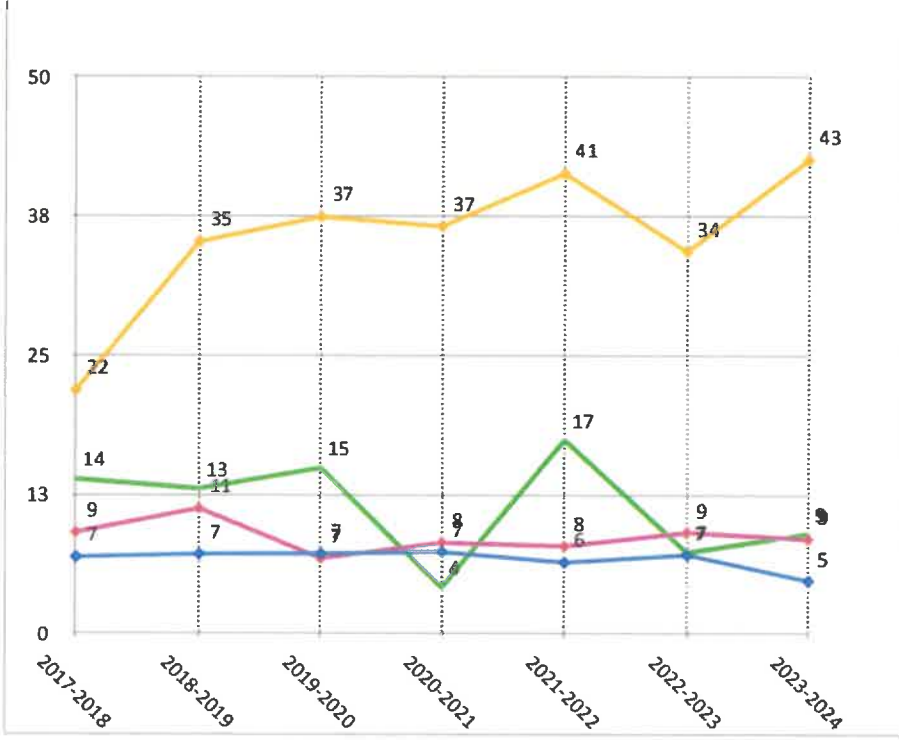
The town hall and town offices propane usage is staying stable. There may be some savings that can be achieved by doing more primary heating with the heat pumps rather than the propane.

The Waste Water Buildings used more propane this year which may be associated with the large construction project which was completed this year. It is worth thinking about how we might reduce our propane usage. The recent MERP study is likely to produce significant savings. It is important that we undertake these improvements as soon as possible.

BRANDON CO2 emissions (CO2 equivalent, in metric tons)

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
GAS - Police	42.6	45.9	41.9	39.3	45.3	56.3	66.8
GAS - other	20.1	22.0	12.4	11.6	10.3	8.9	8.3
DIESEL	142.4	124.2	142.1	130.3	148.5	164.0	140.0
#2 Heating Oil - Highway Garage	39.0	44.7	50.2	25.7	33.4	29.1	23.8
#2 Heating Oil - Town Hall	18.3	20.5	15.6	14.7	20.0	12.6	6.9
Propane - Police	6.9	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.4	7.1	4.8
Propane - Town Office	9.1	11.3	6.8	8.2	7.9	9.1	8.5
Propane - Town Hall	13.9	13.0	14.9	4.2	17.4	7.3	9.0
Propane - Waste Water	21.9	35.2	37.5	36.6	41.4	34.4	42.6
Total CO2 emissions	314.1	324.0	328.6	277.9	337.7	328.7	310.8

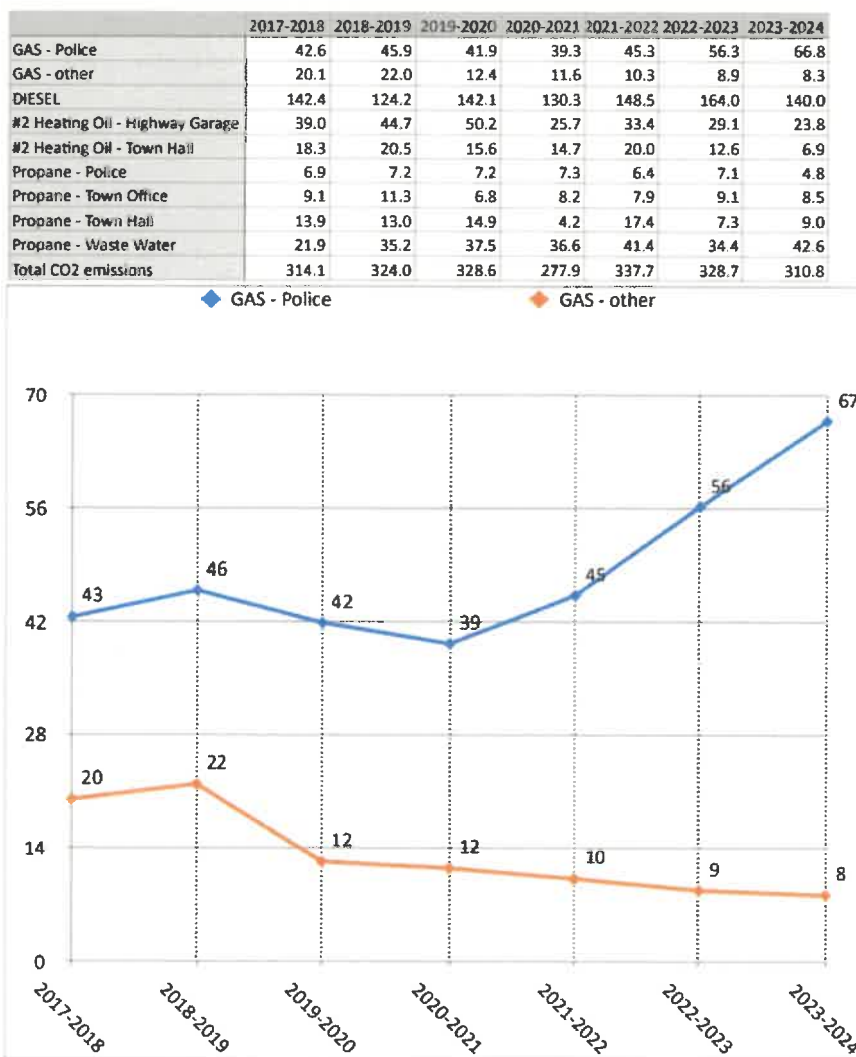
◆ Propane - Police ◆ Propane - Town Office ◆ Propane - Town Hall ◆ Propane - Waste Water



The next fuel type to look at is **Gas** Usage. The Brandon fleet of police cars create a significant portion of Brandon's carbon footprint increasing 20% this year alone. The most obvious solution is to make the move to electric vehicles. There are huge savings in this approach because electric cars require much less maintenance.

The other gas usage (mostly grounds keeping equipment) in Brandon is slowly but steadily declining. To continue this trend, we need to continue the shift away from gas powered equipment and to electric equipment of all sizes.

BRANDON CO2 emissions (CO2 equivalent, in metric tons)



The next fuel type to look at is **#2 Heating Oil** Usage.

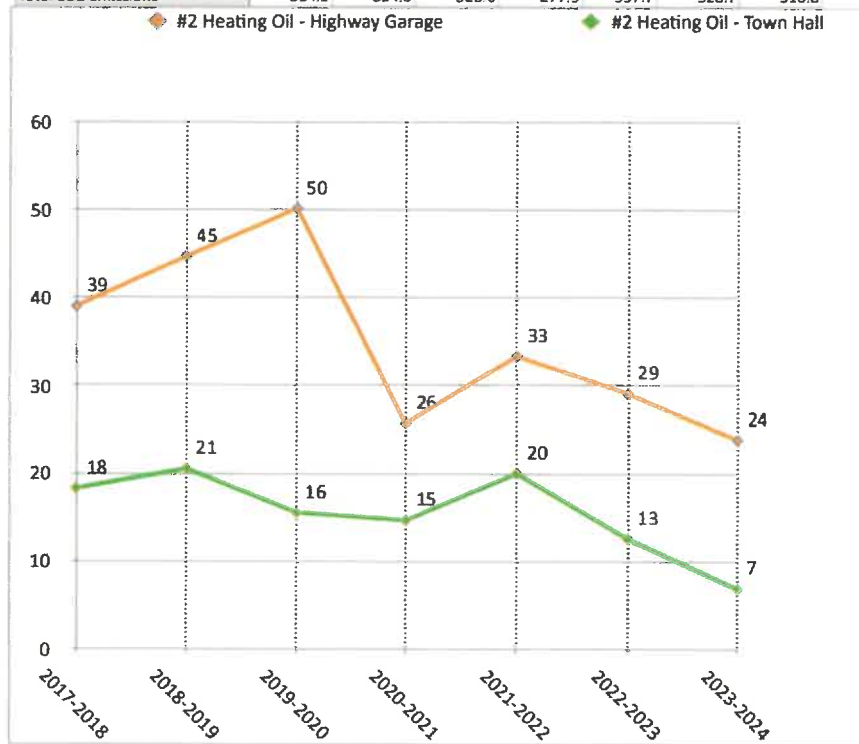
This is a true success story of our energy usage efforts. We are steadily moving away from #2 Heating Oil to heat our buildings. This is a good thing.

The Highway Garage buildings are old and hard to heat. The most obvious and likely solution is for us to start planning on building a new town highway garage. In the meantime, we currently have smart thermostats that can allow for temperatures to stay SAFELY above freezing, while allowing the temperatures to be reduced when there is not a threat of freezing. It's possible that we can get more benefit from these.

The Town Hall building was recently improved with heat pumps. As I mentioned before, there is an opportunity to shift away from #2 heating oil usage by relying MOSTLY on the heat pumps.

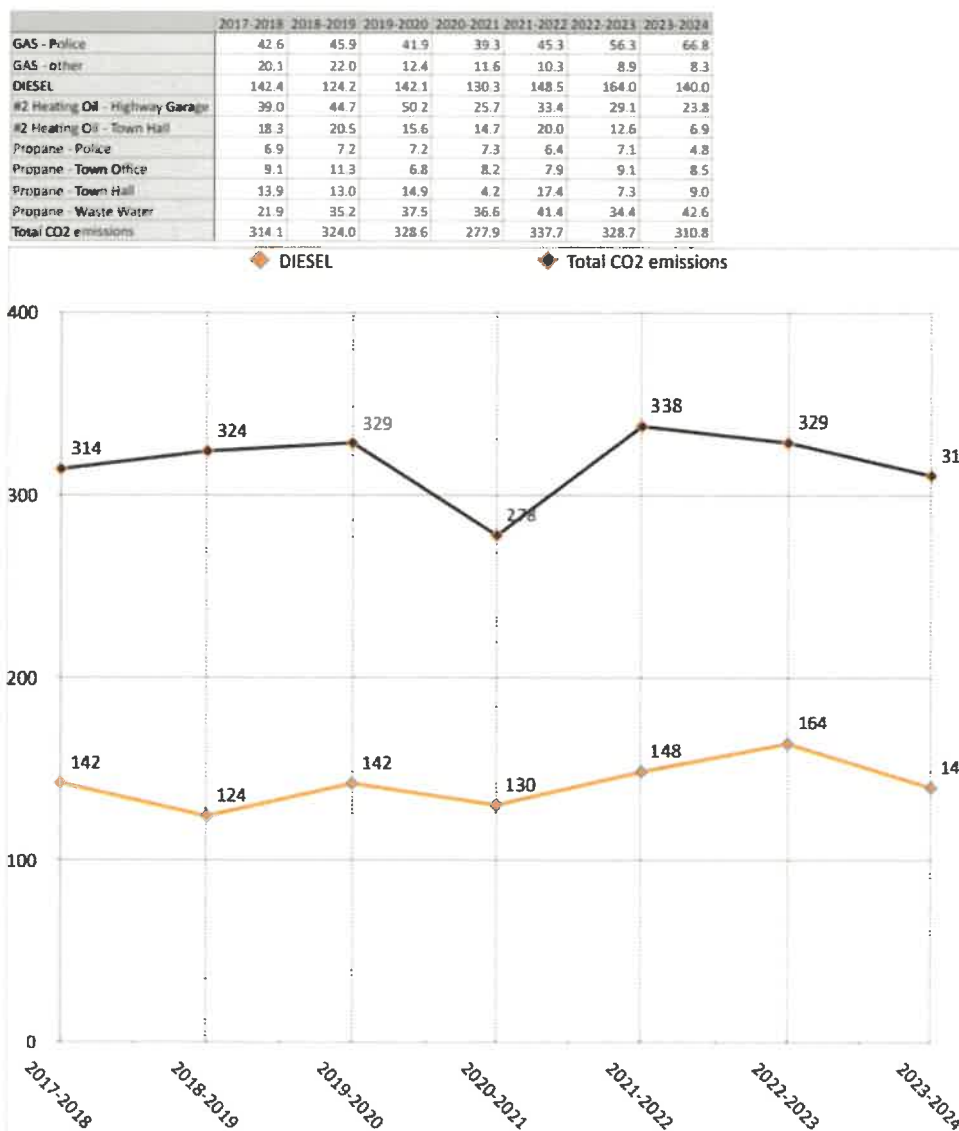
BRANDON CO2 emissions (CO2 equivalent, in metric tons)

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
GAS - Police	42.6	45.9	41.9	39.3	45.3	56.3	66.8
GAS - other	20.1	22.0	12.4	11.6	10.3	8.9	8.3
DIESEL	142.4	124.2	142.1	130.3	148.5	164.0	140.0
#2 Heating Oil - Highway Garage	39.0	44.7	50.2	25.7	33.4	29.1	23.8
#2 Heating Oil - Town Hall	18.3	20.5	15.6	14.7	20.0	12.6	6.9
Propane - Police	6.9	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.4	7.1	4.8
Propane - Town Office	9.1	11.3	6.8	8.2	7.9	9.1	8.5
Propane - Town Hall	13.9	13.0	14.9	4.2	17.4	7.3	9.0
Propane - Waste Water	21.9	35.2	37.5	36.6	41.4	34.4	42.6
Total CO2 emissions	314.1	324.0	328.6	277.9	337.7	328.7	310.8



The last fuel type to look at is **Diesel** usage. It is very clear that the largest part of our carbon footprint is due to our use of heavy equipment to maintain our roads. There are no ready alternatives for the needs that we face as a community. However, every month(!) I read about new electric options for heavy equipment that are starting to become available. It is very important that we stay vigilant so that we can make the transition away from diesel to an electric alternative as soon as possible. This is most obvious when we retire old equipment to replace it with a new one.

BRANDON CO2 emissions (CO2 equivalent, in metric tons)



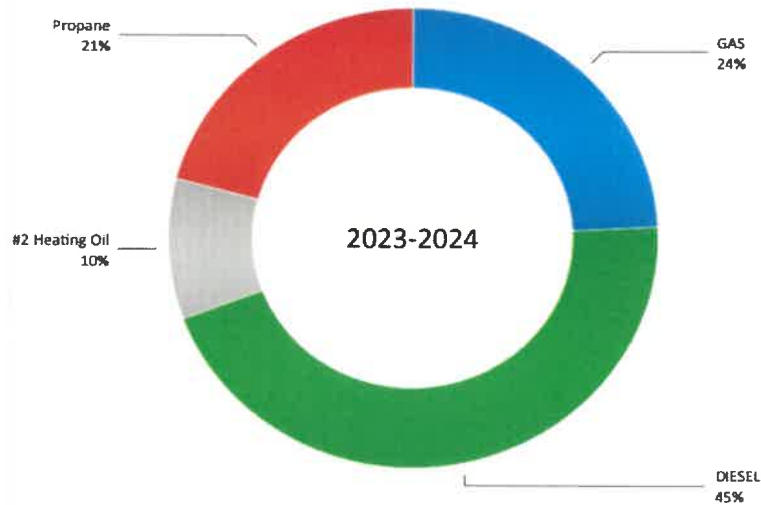
Conclusion

Even while we are doing good things to reduce our energy usage, the 7 year trend shows that Brandon's Carbon Footprint is essentially flat. The Vermont Energy goal calls for a 26% reduction by 2025. Thus, in 1 year our target is for our overall carbon footprint to be about 244 - - - down from our current 311. This is a reduction of ~67 metric tons of CO2 emissions. Here is one way that we might achieve that result:

Propane usage - It's possible to cut our propane usage by shifting to heat pump as the primary heating source - - and by better insulating our waste water buildings. A 20% reduction in propane usage could produce a savings of 13 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

BRANDON CO2 emissions
(CO2 equivalent, in metric tons)

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021	2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
GAS	62.7	67.9	54.3	51.0	55.6	65.2	75.1	
DIESEL	142.4	124.2	142.1	130.3	148.5	164.0	140.0	
#2 Heating Oil	57.3	65.2	65.8	40.4	53.4	41.7	30.8	
Propane	51.8	66.7	66.4	56.3	73.1	29.1	64.9	
Total CO2 emissions	314.1	324.0	328.6	277.9	337.7	328.7	310.8	



#2 Heating Oil – It's possible to cut our usage by building a much-needed new highway garage. A 20% reduction could produce a savings of 6 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

Gas Usage – Almost all of our gas usage is replaceable with electric alternatives. This could be the remaining reduction of 48 metric tons of CO2 emissions.

Diesel Usage – It's likely that we will be unable to replace any of our large diesel equipment by 2025 so our Diesel carbon footprint is likely to remain high. However, if we are going to reach the 2030 and 2050 Vermont energy goals, we must keep finding ways to improve in every way that we use fuel. Our diesel usage is the most important part of our energy mix which we need to find a way to address.



Scout's Salute to Veterans Parade Proposal



Date of Parade: Nov. 9

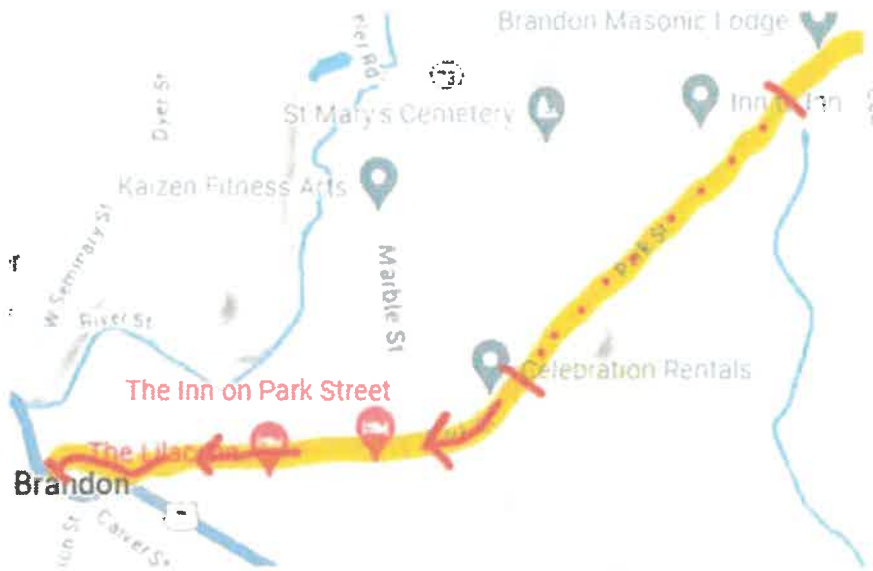
Arrival and Line up: 9:00-10:00

Step off: 10:30

Ceremony: 11:00-11:30

Lunch behind Brandon Inn

All times are approximate after stepping off.



Requests of the Town of Brandon:

Use of Park St. in its entirety with police barricade/road closure.

Park cars on the side of road from Celebration Rentals and east. Other parking will be at the town parking spots in the center of town.

Use of the village green for a ceremony.

Use of the Brandon Rec sound system speakers and microphone.

Other:

Use of the parking lot at the Brandon Masonic Lodge to gather until line up time (will contact BMA for permission).

Use of the area behind the Brandon Inn (Town or private property?) for lunch after the event for all parade participants.

Interests:

Contact information for Fire Department and Brandon Rescue to participate.

2023 numbers:

237 total, 125 youth, 80 adults, 21 veterans

WARNING

PUBLIC HEARING

October 14, 2024 at 7PM

Brandon Town Hall (lower level), 1 Conant Square, Brandon, Vermont

OBJECTION TO NOTICED REMOVAL OF SHADE TREE BETWEEN 42 and 44 PARK STREET

The Brandon selectboard has received an appeal of the Tree Warden's notice that the Town intends to remove a public shade tree between 42 and 44 Park Street.

Pursuant to 24 VSA § 2509, the Brandon selectboard will conduct a public hearing regarding this tree within its regular meeting on Monday, October 14, 2024.

The selectboard will receive and consider testimony from interested parties regarding this tree during the hearing.

Complete text of 24 VSA § 2509 follows:

§ 2509. Cutting shade trees; notice and hearing

(a) The tree warden shall post public notice of the intent to cut or remove a shade tree. The notice shall be posted a minimum of 15 days prior to cutting or removing the tree. If the cutting or removal is appealed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the legislative body of the municipality shall hold a public hearing. This subsection shall not apply to the cutting or removal of a shade tree or trees that:

(1) are infested with or infected by, or at risk to become infested with or infected by, a tree pest and are located in an infestation area designated by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(2) are a hazard to public safety; or

(3) must be removed for the municipality to comply with State or federal law or permitting requirements.

(b)(1) The tree warden shall post public notice of the intent to cut or remove a shade tree or group of shade trees pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in at least two conspicuous locations within the municipality. The tree warden shall post the public notice in or near the office of the clerk of the municipality.

(2) When the shade tree or group of shade trees are located on property held in fee by another, the municipality shall notify each abutting landowner at the landowner's address of record.

(c)(1) Within 15 days after the posting of public notice, a resident or landowner may appeal in writing to the legislative body of the municipality to object to the cutting or removal of a shade tree. The legislative body of the municipality shall give notice of the appeal to the tree warden.

(2) Within 10 business days after receipt of an appeal, the legislative body of the municipality shall hold a public hearing with the tree warden to receive public comment on the proposed cutting or removal of the shade tree. The tree warden shall stay action on the proposed removal until the legislative body of the municipality renders a final decision on the appeal.

(d) In all cases, the decision of the legislative body of the municipality shall be final.

OBJECTION TO NOTICED REMOVAL OF SHADE TREE BETWEEN 42 and 44 PARK STREET

A 150+year old resident living in the public way between 42-44 Park Street has been slated for execution by the Town.

This state tree of Vermont (*Acer saccharum*/sugar maple) and its partner were planted in the mid-late 1800s. It and its mate are the last "bride and groom" trees still standing together on this historic street. Without considering possible options, many of these historic living structures have already been removed by the Town.

It's true this tree is old, it has shelf fungus and is in geriatric decline. However, it is far from dead! It may just need assisted care. It has recently sustained hurricane force winds and torrential rains. Is there a less drastic remedy than totally removing it? Has an arborist imaged the tree to determine its actual condition? Would pruning dead/dangerous limbs, eliminating imminent danger to the public, be a better option? Should the Town make an effort to maintain the few monumental maples left? Can we grant this tree a stay of execution while planting more trees? These last standing trees are evidence of the once grand canopy existing the lengths so many of Brandon's streets.

The circumference of this specific tree is approximately 113 inches. Its canopy is still substantial. It provides oxygen, extracts carbon dioxide, moderates air, sound and visual pollution, absorbs water and stabilizes our land. If killed, its partner and other trees may well follow suit. Its trunk and branches alone are awesome to behold. Given our warming climate, the shade and respite from an increasingly brutal sun will be sacrificed.

I personally will be deeply affected by the removal of this particular tree, but the loss of any of these grand maples diminishes Brandon's streetscape for decades to come. Once removed, no one will witness such grandeur for another century and a half. Let's plant more trees. Let's also put our best effort into the care and maintenance of our remaining living legends.

— Helyn Anderson, 42 Park Street

TREE WARDEN'S RESPONSE TO OBJECTION

This tree has been the subject of much discussion over the past year or so. It has been inspected in person and via photos by Adam McCullough, an arborist working with Forest, Parks and Recreation in Montpelier, who has agreed to be Brandon's arborist for these kinds of issues. Note that Mr. McCullough has been copied on this email as well.

Photos of the bracket fungus (shelf mushroom) have also been sent to a specialist who determined that the presence of the mushrooms indicates that there is likely significant structural damage. All of this is to say I think we have a decision in removing the tree that is protective of people and property.

My suggestion would be that if Ms. Anderson wants further consultation about this tree, it is certainly within her rights to seek out an arborist for a third or fourth opinion. I do not think it would be either beneficial or helpful, nor an expense that should be born by the town. That being said, I am not familiar with the town's approach to accommodating this type of conflict. Further discussion is welcomed.

— Neil Silins, Tree Warden