

## DEVELOPMENTS SINCE BOARD PACKET

Since writing my report on Thursday, the Town of Brandon has been awarded three different grants. The selectboard has long been in a posture of encouraging Town officials to secure non-property-tax revenues to offset Town expenses. ***This is a form of property tax relief that town management and staff have successfully pursued for many years.*** We are gratified that the following three applications have been successful:

I Through the efforts of deputy town manager Bill Moore and Kyle Leedom, our buildings & grounds crew, the Town is once again eligible for equipment grants from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and PACIF (its insurance arm). A punch list of property hazards identified in 2022 had not been entirely addressed, disqualifying the Town from PACIF grants. PACIF highlighted these to us in August, and Kyle was able to correct the outstanding issues this Fall. Our chief of police David Kachajian secured a PACIF grant of \$1,547.50 to replace bulletproof vests for the police officers. This is 50% of the cost; Chief Kachajian anticipates filing with the Leahy Bulletproof Vest Fund (USDOJ) for the remainder if we are able to meet those requirements.

II Through the efforts of deputy town manager Bill Moore, the Town has been awarded funding through the State of Vermont's FY25 Recreational Grants. Our application to acquire 0.79 acres of parkland to expand the Seminary Hill Park was approved in the amount of \$12,500. Again, this is 50% of the proposed purchase price. The Town Farm Fund has been identified as a potential non-budget, non-property-tax source for the 50% Town match.

III The the efforts of the energy committee an in particular Jack Schneider, David Martin, and Jim Emerson, the Town has been preliminarily approved for a \$50,000 grant to establish an energy navigator program to assist Brandon residents in securing contractors and funding sources to weatherize their homes and replace heating equipment, among other homeowner energy initiatives. There is no Town match required for this award.

The Town thanks all those who advanced these successful applications.

Respectfully submitted,



Seth M Hopkins, Town Manager

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
FY25 Budget Operating Expenses	38% thru funds /35% thru year
FY25 Police Budget Operating Expenses	40% thru funds /35% 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)	\$605,731 (was \$507,730)
Delinquent wastewater (prior years ['over 120 days'])	\$201,313 (was \$203,478)
Tax Sale Status — attorney has provided updated language to conform to revised statute	requested of attorney a letter from them to our 70 account holders; awaiting reply

Notable expenditure line items:

Admin tech support (IT/cybersecurity vendor):	69% of \$15,000 budget
Assessor mapping (annual fee):	100% of \$5,800 budget
Assessor reappraisal annual fund transfer:	100% of \$5,000 budget
All GovPilot modules (annual fees):	100% of \$9,990 budget
Police overtime:	240% of \$19,535 budget
Police radio maintenance:	191% of \$1,700 budget
Police office equipment & vehicle equipment	100% of \$8,800 budget
HWY Winter Sand (stockpile)	87% of \$25,000 budget
Rutland County Tax (annual)	86% of \$31,000 budget
The Bus and CEDRR (annual)	100% of \$4,000 budget
Killington Valley (annual)	90% of \$1,400 budget
Debt Service (annual)	90% of \$231,350 budget

\*\*There is also \$8,888 in paving of the hoop building currently in the HWY expense lines with no offsetting revenue. This will be either booked directly to Fund 56 (Infrastructure) or offset with an \$8,888 revenue to the general fund from the voters' appropriation at some point depending on how the Town finance staff determines it is best reflected.