

SANDERSON
BRIDGE

2024

162ND ANNUAL REPORT



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~ DEDICATION ~
"The Year of the Volunteer"

A community becomes what the people of that community determine to make of it. Brandon has long benefitted from a tradition of active citizenship in which residents and business owners take the initiative to fill a need when they see a need. This year, the town report is dedicated to all who make Brandon a better place by volunteering, selflessly giving of their time, talent, and treasure.

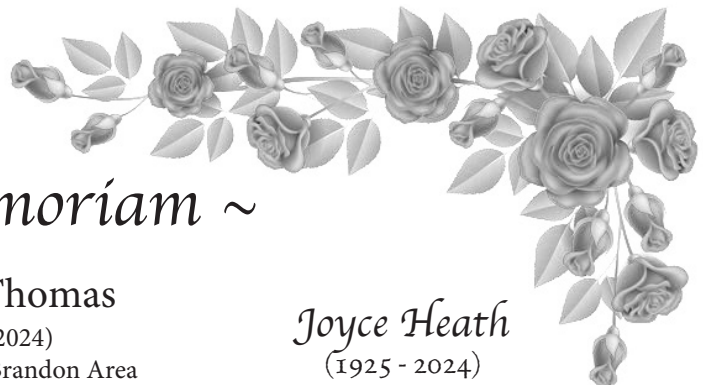
Some volunteering happens in organized groups which focus their energies and sustain their efforts over many years, and other volunteering is an individual decision of independent action. There is a spectrum of visibility, too, from highly forward-facing enhancements to prominent amenities to behind-the-scenes unsung heroes who make all the difference in the world without any public acknowledgment.

This year, we thank those who find ways — create ways! — to serve others. We won't attempt to list names, as there are too many for this space. But we would like to highlight some of some of the ways Brandon folks choose to give of themselves as volunteers, in hopes that it might encourage others who have their own seed of an idea in mind.

We thank those who design, plant, and weed the many flower gardens throughout the downtown. We thank those who drive neighbors to medical appointments or do their grocery shopping for them. We thank those who went out of their way to become educated about stormwater management and rehabilitated the rain gardens (bioswales) that Town resources proved insufficient to maintain. We thank those who week after week take their walks around town with a trash bag in hand and pick up roadside litter. We thank our brave volunteer firefighters and rescue squad. We thank those who brought our historic Town Hall back to life. We thank everyone supporting our youth by coaching and leading enrichment programs. We thank the volunteers who staff the food shelf and all who donate to it. We thank those who put themselves under public scrutiny through service on the Town's boards and commissions. We thank those who organize and put on our parades and civic observances. We thank the crew that garlands the lampposts for the holiday season and plants sidewalk flower pots for summertime. We thank those who support others' efforts with funding. We thank everyone who spends some time at some point in the year doing something for others.

Do you see a need for improving Brandon in some way? Go ahead and take that first step toward making it happen. Giving of ourselves and taking pride in our work for our community is how Brandon will continue to improve, and thrive as a community of which we can all justly be proud.

Front cover photo credit: Andrew Jackson



~ In Memoriam ~

Dolores Furnari
(1932 - 2025)
Lister & Assessor

Robert Thomas
(1931 - 2024)
co-founder of Brandon Area
Rescue Squad

Joyce Heath
(1925 - 2024)
Justice of the Peace & Lister

Town Meeting Procedures 2025

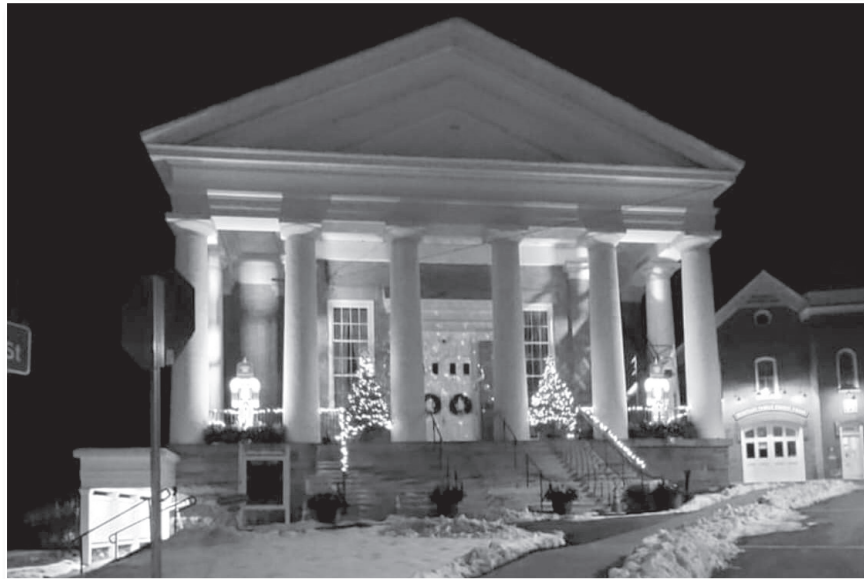
The rules that govern Town Meeting are designed to transact the public business efficiently while giving everyone the opportunity to speak his or her mind. Robert's Rules are the foundation, but even they are modified by State Statute, tradition, and the standing rules adopted by previous Town Meetings. Perhaps even more important is the informal rule that through it all we retain our sense of humor and civility, for the person you attack tonight you will inevitably meet in the grocery store tomorrow!

Like the Australian Ballot, you must be a registered voter of Brandon to fully participate in Town Meeting. While everyone who is interested is invited to observe the meeting, only registered voters may speak without special permission; only voters may actually vote on any question. The job of the Moderator is to keep the discussion focused and to help the people operate within the rules. If you are not quite sure how to make a motion, just ask and the Moderator will guide you through the process. From time to time, the Moderator may have to rule on other issues—most of which relate to the question of germaneness.

Remember the acid test for any motion: Could someone not here have expected that the motion would be offered? If the answer is clearly “yes” it’s probably germane, and if not, you may have a problem. If you make sure that your remarks or motions do not unreasonably stray from the subject, purpose, or funding method of the original warning, you should be well within the rules.

Three final points to remember:

1. To maintain order, all comments, questions, and rebuttals must be addressed to the chair – even when the urge to respond directly to the previous speaker is close to overwhelming.
2. Our standing practice is to allow a follow-up to every question, to give the original questioner a chance to clarify or comment on the response.
3. Even moderators can be overruled. If you think that a bad ruling has been made, make a point of order and the full assembly will decide the question.



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. §1682(a)(2) and the affirmative vote at the Brandon Annual town Meeting on March 6, 2006, the Town hereby gives notice that the independent audit for fiscal year 6/30/2024 conducted by RHR Smith & Company, CPA's is available in the Town Offices located at 49 Center Street. A complete copy may be requested by contacting the Town Office at 802-247-3635 or may be accessed on the website www.BrandonVermont.gov

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Town Officers

SELECTBOARD (5)

Doug Bailey, Chair

dbailey@brandonvermont.gov
736 Basin Rd.; Call (802) 247-8386

Brian Coolidge

bcoolidge@brandonvermont.gov
1227 McConnell Rd; Call or text (802) 345-8961

Ralph Either

reither@brandonvermont.gov
56 Pearl St.; Call or text (802) 247-6957

Tim Guiles

tguiles@brandonvermont.gov
44 Carver St; Call or text (802) 279-2168

Heather Nelson

hnelson@brandonvermont.gov
91 Prospect Street; Call or text (802) 922-4427

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (12)

The following JPs officiate at weddings

BERTRAM COOLIDGE (R)

802-247-6512; bjcool3@comcast.net

LAURA PETERSON (D)

802-247-3280; laura@redmudboots.com

JOHN PETERSON (D)

802-247-3280; John.peterson@ottertin.com

KATHY CLARK (D)

802-247-3935; Kdclark23@yahoo.com

HILLARY KNAPP (I)

802-558-2345; Hillary.knappy@gmail.com

BILL MOORE (D)

802-774-8135; wfvmooreiii@gmail.com

PATRICIA WELCH (R)

413-320-8918; pwelchfl@gmail.com

The following JPs do not officiate at weddings

TODD NIELSEN (R)

802-247-4373; toddnielsenforvthouse@gmail.com

DOUG BAILEY (R)

802-247-8386; baileysdbldranch@yahoo.com

DEL COOK (R)

802-353-2220; Delcook43@gmail.com

SALLY COOK (R)

802-236-3913; Sallycook4@comcast.net

WENDY ROWE-FELDMAN (I)

802-236-9112; wendy@rowerealestate.com

VT STATE REPRESENTATIVE (1)

Rep. Todd Nielsen (R)

15 Corona St., Brandon 05733
tnielsen@leg.state.vt.us
(802) 247-4373

VERMONT STATE SENATORS (3)

Sen. Brian Collamore (R)

124 Patricia Ln, Rutland 05701
bcallamore@leg.state.vt.us
(802) 773-1365

Sen. David Weeks (R)

35 Warner Ave, Proctor 05765
dweeks@leg.state.vt.us
(802) 417-9013

Sen. Terry Williams (R)

319 Ruby Rd, Poultney 05746
twilliams@leg.state.vt.us
(802) 828-2228

GOVERNOR OF VERMONT

Governor Phil Scott (R)

109 State Street Pavilion, Montpelier 05609
(802) 828-3333

To contact the Governor:

go to <https://governor.vermont.gov/contact>

REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. CONGRESS (1)

Congresswoman Rebecca Balint (D)

1408 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4115

To contact Rep. Balint:

go to <https://balint.house.gov/contact>

U.S. SENATORS (2)

U.S.Sen. Bernie Sanders (I)

1 Church St 3rd Floor, Burlington 05401
(802) 862-0697

To contact Sen. Sanders:

go to <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/contact/>

U.S. Sen. Peter Welch (D)

128 Lakeside Ave., Suite 235, Burlington 05401
(802) 652-2450

To contact Sen. Welch:

go to <https://www.welch.senate.gov/contact>

Notice to Voters

FOR TOWN MEETING - MARCH 4, 2025

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by February 2, 2025. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 22, 2025.

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 mvp.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 Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on Monday, March 3, 2025. (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 request ballot(s) at 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.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NOTICE TO VOTERS FOR TOWN MEETING - MARCH 4, 2025

NO PERSON SHALL:

- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Vote Tabulator Ballots at the Polling Place

CHECK-IN:

- Go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- If you do not bring your mailed ballot, an election official will give you a ballot.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT: For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval next to the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- WRITE-IN candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

CHECK OUT:

- Go to the exit checklist table and state your name and address in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot into the vote tabulating machine.

LEAVE the voting area immediately after casting your ballot.



2025 Warning

WARNING FOR EVENING MEETING - MARCH 3, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to convene at the **Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon, VT on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.** to transact the following business:

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

1. To hear a presentation by the Select Board of its recommended budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. This budget and appropriations will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 4, 2025 at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT, between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm.

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon exempt the buildings and property belonging to Brandon Senior Center located at

1591 Forest Dale Rd (parcel ID 0083-1591) from municipal property tax and education property tax for a period of five (5) years in accordance with the exemption clause for charitable and fraternal organizations as set forth in 32 V.S.A § 3840?

3. To transact any other business proper to be done when met.

4. Adjourn.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - MARCH 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are further notified and warned to meet at the Brandon American Legion, 550 Franklin St., Brandon, VT on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian Ballot on the following matters:

1. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year:

- Moderator One for one-year term
- Selectboard..... One for three-year term
- Selectboard..... Two for one-year term
- Trustee of Public Funds One for three-year term
- Library Trustee One for two-year term

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon authorize total general fund expenditures of Three Million, Four Hundred and Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-five Dollars (\$3,403,965) for the FY 2025-2026 budget year, of which the sum of Five Hundred Twenty-seven Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$527,320) is to be raised by non-tax revenues and Two Million Eight Hundred Seventy-six Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-five (\$2,876,645) is to be raised by property taxes?

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$50,000 for the Capital Fund for future capital asset purchases?

4. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$4,000 for ARC-Rutland to support community and social opportunities for local citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities, to be raised by property taxes?

5. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$7,000 for the Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee, to support activities offered at the Independence Day celebration, to be raised by property taxes?

6. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$25,000 for the Brandon American Legion Post #55, to be raised by property taxes?

7. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,000 for the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, for the improvement and advancement of businesses and community in Brandon, to be raised by property taxes?

8. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$82,580 for the Brandon Area Rescue Squad Inc., to support volunteer emergency medical services, to be raised by property taxes?

9. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$92,000 for the Brandon Free Public Library, to support the programs, resources, and community activities of the library, to be raised by property taxes?

10. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$5,000 for the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace Community Center, Inc, to protect and maintain the building and historical artifacts, to be raised by property taxes?

11. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$15,500 for Brandon Senior Citizens Center, Inc, to support free community lunches, and activities and programs at the center, to be raised by property taxes?

WARNING - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

12. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,000 for the Open Door Clinic, Community Health Services of Addison County, to support access to free dental and healthcare to those who are uninsured or under-insured, to be raised by property taxes?

13. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,500 for Rutland County Humane Society, to support shelter and care of companion animals, to be raised by property taxes?

14. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$2,900 for the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, to support meals on wheels, case management and other elderly services, to be raised by property taxes?

15. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$10,200 for the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR), to support home care, hospice, and community health services, to be raised by property taxes?

16. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$10,200 for the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR), to support home care, hospice, and community health services, to be raised by property taxes?

Select Board Signed and Certified January 17, 2025

Ralph Ethier
Timothy Guiles
Heather Nelson

Adopted and approved at a duly warned meeting of the Select Board of the Town of Brandon called, noticed and held on January 17, 2025.

Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Brandon

Brandon 2024 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024, 7 PM

Present: Selectboard Members Tracy Wyman, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Tim Guiles, Heather Fjeld-Nelson, and Brian Coolidge, Town Manager Seth Hopkins, Clerk Susan Gage, and 106 voters.

Moderator Bill Moore opened the meeting at 7:12 pm and introduced Jon and Lucia Carrara from Pack# 110 and Scout Troop# 2019 respectively, who lead the flag ceremony. Moderator Moore then welcomed the crowd, discussed the ground rules and asked all to be kind and civil. Selectboard member Heather Nelson introduced the town report dedicatee, Dennis Marden. Mr. Marden was greeted by a standing ovation.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Doug Bailey to suspend the reading of the warning. The motion passed. Moderator Moore then introduced Article one on the warning.

1. To hear a presentation by the Selectboard of its recommended budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. This budget and appropriations will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2024, at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT,

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between the hours of 9 am and 7 pm.

Selectboard Chair Tracy Wyman welcomed the voters and introduced Selectboard member Heather Nelson who led the presentation of the budget. Ms. Nelson explained the budget process and thanked the budget committee members, Doug Bailey, Jan Coolidge, Neil Silins, Barry Varian, Tricia Welch and Peter Werner, for their work on the budget. After her presentation, Ms. Nelson invited townspeople to attend Selectboard meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Moderator Moore opened the floor to questions and discussion ensued. Moderator Moore then introduced Article 2.

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon exempt the buildings and property belonging to Brandon Area Rescue Squad located at 1338 Franklin Street (parcel ID 0086-1338) from municipal property tax and education property tax for a period of five (5) years in accordance with the exemption clause for charitable and fraternal organizations as set forth in 32 V.S.A § 3840?

Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee was comprised of five members charged with the responsibility of providing insight and transparency to the budget process. All Budget Committee meetings were open to the public and community members were encouraged to participate. This year the community engagement was notably higher. Since its inception in 2014, the committee has observed a few different styles in the process. This year, the process started earlier to provide more time for discussion and input from all quarters, keeping in mind the difficulties of passing last year's budget in a timely manner.

The committee met with the Select Board, town manager and deputy town manager to discuss the process and talk with department heads with no budget numbers. Then the town manager presented the departments' budget with some reported by their respective department head. Throughout the process, the committee members were given ample opportunities to ask questions, give feedback and understand the drivers for operating costs. For example, capturing the data on age of vehicles etc. could help spread out the cost of replacing a vehicle over several years instead of finding the funds on short notice. This led some committee members to stress the importance of long-range planning and a more focused capital expenditures plan.

It is the opinion of the
(Continued on page 12)

TOWN OF BRANDON

2025-2026 Budget - Summary

	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
To be Raised by Taxes	2,737,260	2,749,205	2,804,212	2,876,645
Tax Revenues	45,000	(45,323)	45,000	45,000
Town Admin Revenues	1,750	1,547	1,750	300
Assessor Revenues	2,000	2,011	2,000	2,000
Code Enforcement Revenues	15,700	10,137	15,500	15,500
Clerk/Treasurer Revenues	191,690	188,463	181,170	176,370
Police Dept. Revenues	10,600	28,999	9,500	10,550
Highway Dept Revenues	161,400	182,773	181,450	171,300
Intergovernmental Revenue	-	10,000	-	-
Recreation Revenues	69,750	129,637	76,500	93,500
Bldg. & Grounds	11,000	108,326	11,800	12,800
TOTAL REVENUE:	3,246,150	3,365,776	3,328,882	3,403,965
Tax Expenditures	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Town Administration 10	411,595	395,171	415,005	440,440
Assessor	41,195	39,985	41,190	41,590
Code Enforcement 12	43,625	39,722	52,565	55,905
Town Clerk 13	218,615	212,028	226,580	236,670
Police Dept 14	864,915	925,838	856,400	937,000
Highway 15	824,520	814,666	755,155	697,655
Intergovernmental 17	240,585	219,616	255,235	260,365
Recreation	177,780	239,592	186,088	190,230
Debt Service 19	239,250	235,646	231,350	222,040
Economic Develop. 21	53,280	46,846	50,341	50,485
Bldgs. & Grounds	225,790	322,175	253,972	266,585
TOTAL EXPENSES:	3,346,150	3,491,285	3,328,882	3,403,965
% increase from prior year				2.25%
Fund Balance to Offset Taxes	100,000	125,509	-	-
to be Raised by Taxes	\$2,737,260	\$2,749,205	\$2,804,212	\$2,876,645
% increase from prior year				2.58%
\$ increase from prior year				72,433
APPROPRIATIONS - FINAL REQUESTS INCLUDED ON BALLOT	242,730	242,730	336,230	298,680

Town Manager's Report

As you receive and read the town report this year, the Town of Brandon has made commendable progress in several areas while finding itself still facing perennial challenges. But, to borrow a phrase, difficulties are but opportunities to test and improve our abilities. If we are wise, we will make the mature citizen's decision to confront our common problems with a collaborative approach and a charitable attitude toward each other, fighting and overcoming the obstacle instead of fighting and hurting each other.

The taxpayers' voice has been particularly clear on affordability since the last Town report was published. In response, the selectboard started the FY26 budget process very early, brought new voices onto the budget advisory committee, and approached the budget-building process in a way that was hyper-focused on two outcomes: (1) delivering a budget proposal that all involved could deem

the result of a fair process, and (2) delivering a budget proposal that would successfully balance the voters' affordability priority with the Town's ability to deliver necessary public services. The budget proposal increases spending 2.25% and taken in conjunction with the selectboard's requested appropriation article, the amount to be raised by taxes — for Town operations only — increases less than 1.5%.

The Town's work across its several departments is discussed throughout this book of reports. We would particularly highlight a few areas: successful completion of the wastewater treatment facility upgrade; streamlined operations, new public-facing technology, and reallocated staffing to better serve the public in assessing, zoning, and rental housing programs; a lean highway department oriented to preventative maintenance of roads and equipment; and a recreation department

(Continued on page 17)

Town Administration

REVENUES TOWN ADMIN.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY245 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Duplication Revenue	-	42	-	-
Vendor Permit Revenue	250	1,150	250	300
Misc. Revenue	1,500	255	1,500	-
Cannabis Revenue	-	100	-	-
Totals	1,750	1,547	1,750	300
EXPENDITURES TOWN ADMIN.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY23 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	324,045	304,476	323,055	334,490
Travel & Expenses	3,200	784	500	500
Misc.	-	15	-	-
Dues & Subscriptions	6,700	7,634	6,700	6,700
Professional Development	500	430	1,150	1,150
Legal Services	10,000	720	7,500	7,500
Auditors	14,000	16,000	14,000	21,000
Office Supplies	3,000	5,043	3,000	3,000
Service Contracts	12,000	19,826	17,000	19,500
Postage Expenses	8,250	10,263	8,250	8,250
Technical Support	15,000	16,569	15,000	19,500
Emergency Management	-	277	500	500
Office Equipment	1,000	130	2,000	2,000
Legal Advertising	400	510	750	750
Town Report	5,000	3,767	6,000	6,000
Telephone Exp. Admin.	7,500	8,689	8,600	8,600
Health Insurance Reim.	-	(25)	-	-
Animal Control Expenses	1,000	63	1,000	1,000
Total Expenditures	411,595	395,171	415,005	440,440

Selectboard Report 2024

The end of another year is upon us and I am proud of the work of this selectboard.

As you all know, last year's budget was defeated twice at the polls. This was a very difficult time as this new Board struggled to balance the needs of the Town with the money budget that the voters could support. We all tend to get frustrated and want to vocalize without understanding the real end result. When the rumor mill gets ahead of the facts, it becomes easy to believe the worst in people. Now it is time to see the best in the people of Brandon. We all are different, yet we all want to live in a Town that works together.

Each department head will give the accomplishment of the areas they oversee. We have a great group that work hard and provide great value to our citizens and have the respect of our selectboard.

This year the selectboard has been very careful how taxpayer money is spent. Sidewalk paving in Fall 2024 on Pearl Street, Carver Street, and West Seminary Street (an add-on project slated for Spring 2025) was funded by APRA and our local option tax. ARPA funds and grants secured by the Friends of the Town Hall also paid for the new floor in our historic Town Hall. A replacement highway truck was needed: we used \$73,000 for a down payment, and future payments on this truck will also be covered by the local option tax fund, not the property tax.

Our budget process has also been restructured to ensure that many views are heard during the budget process. Each department head came to talk to the board and budget committee and understands the tight financial times we currently find ourselves in. If you have budget questions, contact any board member for fact-based information.

Brandon 2024 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 7)

A Motion by Tom Kilpeck/Eric Mallory to exempt the Brandon Area Rescue Squad building from property tax. There was no discussion. Motion passed. Moderator Moore then introduced Article 3.

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon exempt the buildings and property belonging to the Brandon Masonic Association located at 1046 Park Street (parcel ID 0030-1066) from municipal property tax and education property tax for a period of five (5) years in accordance with the exemption clause for charitable and fraternal organizations as set forth in 32 V.S.A § 3840? Motion and second by Frank Farnsworth/Doug Bailey to exempt the Brandon Masonic Association Building from property taxes. Moderator Moore opened the floor for discussion. Linda Stewart asked how much the tax would be if it were not exempt. Clerk Susan Gage directed the attendees to the page in the annual report which indicates the assessed value of the building. It is estimated to be a tax of \$6,500. Jessica Doos asked if similar organizations are exempt. Sue Gage said there were several exempt organizations in the town and only a handful of organizations that must periodically request exemption. Karen Decker asked what qualifies an entity for tax exemption. Sharon Steams explained how organizations achieve tax exempt status, and explained the different types of exempt status. Pat Wood asked whether this organization has been exempt in the past, or whether it is requesting a new exemption. Clerk Gage explained that it has been exempt for some time. Adam Murach asked whether other towns exempt their masonic temple, and inquired as to who serves as the president of the organization. Seth Hopkins explained that the Masons' buildings are town-by-town cases; some towns exempt them and some do not. The president of the Brandon Masonic

Association is Attorney Jonathan Heppell from Ripton, Vermont.

Member Roy Murdock then listed over \$7,000 in donations the Masons made to needs within Brandon. He stated that the amounts given back to the community exceed what they would have to pay in property taxes, but that if they must pay property taxes, those donations would likely be compromised. Moderator Bill Moore then called the question, and the motion passed. Moderator Moore introduced Article 4.

4. To hear a presentation by the Selectboard for the purpose of constructing a 150-kW net metered solar array on land leased from the Brandon Industrial Corporation on Robert Wood Drive in Brandon. This bond will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2024 at Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT. Selectboard member Tim Guiles facilitated the bond request presentation. Discussion ensued. After some time and many questions, Bernie Carr/Sue Gage moved to end debate. Motion passed. Debate ended. Moderator Moore then introduced Article 5.

5. To transact any other business proper to be done when met. Moderator Moore introduced Representative Stephanie Jerome who then addressed the meeting, as is Vermont tradition, and spoke about the work she is involved with at the Vermont House of Representatives. She also noted that she brought along a missive with details of her work for folks to take home, and several copies of Freedom and Unity for folks to pick up on their way out.

6. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Doug Bailey / Deb Jennings Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Gage, Town Clerk
Bill Moore, Moderator



Rec Dept. 2024 Events & Initiatives

- Ice Skating Rink @ Brandon Inn - January-February
- Brandon Idol @ The Brandon Town Hall - January-May
- Quiz Night w/Brandon Free Public Library - January, February, October
- Music Concerts @ Brandon Town Hall - January, February, March, April
- Loud and Proud – Teen Rock Band Open Mic @ Town Hall - January – April
- Kids Fest @ Brandon Town Hall - February
- Kids Idol @ Brandon Town Hall -
- Wildlife Encounters w/The Brandon Area Toy Project @ Town Hall - April
- Bounce House Karaoke @ Brandon Town Hall - April
- Safety Day w/Neshobe PTO, Brandon Fire/Rescue/Police, Omya - May
- Summer Kick-Off Car Meet @ Otter Valley - June
- Brandon Extravaganza w/ Brandon Fire @ Estabrook Park - June
- Cruise Nights w/Ripton Mountain Distillery @ Central Park Lot – June - September
- Family Games with Neshobe PTO at the Brandon Independence Day Celebration – July
- Brandon Carnival Days – w/Brandon Area Toy Project and sponsors @ Estabrook Park – July
- For the Luv of Dogs Car Show @ Estabrook Park - August
- Punkstock @ Estabrook - August
- Slide Out of Summer w/ The Brandon Area Toy Project @ Estabrook Park - August
- Eagle Feather PowWow @ Estabrook - September
- Harvest Fest w/Neshobe PTO, Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, Brandon Area Toy Project @ Estabrook Park - October
- Bootified Brandon Halloween Decorating Competition - October
- Spooksville with Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Brandon Police Department & Brandon Fire Department @ Estabrook Park - October
- Lost Nation Film Screening @ Brandon Town Hall w/Brandon Museum - November
- “Get Lit, Brandon” Decorating Competition w/The Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce & The Reporter - December
- OMYA Safety Programs – Bicycle Helmets - Year Round

Recreation Department

REVENUES REC. DEPT.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Rec Programing Rev	69,250	129,037	75,500	80,000
Recreation Donations	500	600	-	500
Town Hall Programming	-	-	-	12,000
DOG PARK REVENUE	-	-	1,000	1,000
Total Revenue	69,750	129,637	76,500	93,500
EXPENDITURES RECREATION DEPT.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	99,385	97,351	105,543	106,185
Travel & Expenses	250	240	250	250
Dues & Subscriptions	600	397	600	600
Advertising/Recruitment	6,000	3,419	6,000	5,800
Registration Software	2,995	3,295	3,295	3,295
Storage Unit Supply/Maint	-	600	-	-
Equipment /Supplies	-	1,010	2,000	1,500
Rec Program Exp total	66,850	131,176	66,800	60,000
Recreation Telephone	1,700	2,105	1,600	1,600
Town Hall Programming	-	-	-	10,000
DOG PARK EXPENDITURES	-	-	-	1,000
Total Expenses	177,780	239,592	186,088	190,230

Recreation Department Report

Grant work in 2024 included the work to scope a potential connector path from downtown Brandon to Forest Dale and a successful grant to fund acquisition of the land that the Brandon Dog Park at the junction of East and West Seminary Streets. Spring work for parks in 2025 includes the resurfacing of the former tennis court to convert it into a multiuse space. We are also working with a municipal planning grant to fund a community calendar that works for everyone.

With the continued support of our amazing community organizations and volunteers, we are constantly looking to the future. The reinvigoration of our existing (and new) committees is how the real work is performed. If you have any interest in volunteering, planning or otherwise just helping us to realize critical recreation missions, please reach out! And as we have constantly preached; if you have an idea about a program, we are here to make it a reality. Case in point: Arlen Bloodworth inquired about starting table tennis club. Now Tuesdays at the OV North Campus space you can find him at the tables with other ping-pong players. Volunteer driven! If you have the passion, we can connect you with the resources to share it with the community and connect you with like-minded individuals.

Even if it is just feedback (negative or positive), it is all critical for the development of a rec department that best reflects our communities' values.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Moore – Rec Director

**2024 Recreation
Participants Numbers
on page 14**

Budget Committee Report Continued

(from page 8)

committee, that department heads are mindful of the needs of the community while demonstrating fiscal responsibility. In addition to discussing current needs the departments have projected future desires, which has allowed the Select Board to make budgetary decisions by acknowledging the requests and making the responsible decisions.

It was acknowledged that smaller towns are challenged with retaining employees by staying competitive in this job market while keeping in mind what the taxpayers can afford. Additional income for the town was expected due to the reserve fund increasing with the collection of past due taxes.

The Budget Committee gained a comprehensive view of what is required to support the Town going forward on a yearly basis. While diverse viewpoints were represented and considered, not all members of the Budget Committee or Select Board fully agreed with every item.

In conclusion, the committee believes that the budget process, while challenging, has resulted in a fiscally responsible budget that reflects the town's values and priorities.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Varian,
Janet Coolidge,
Gabe McGuigan,
Karen Rhodes, and
Patricia Welch

Police Department Report

[Note: This report was submitted November 8, 2024, and has since been edited to reflect current conditions.]

With 2024 coming to a close, the Brandon Police Department has had a lot of ongoing changes and accomplishments that we've gone through this past year. As always, I could not be any prouder of our staff here at the police department, who maintain a high level of professionalism, compassion, and caring towards the community that we are all entrusted to protect and serve. They all give 110% towards whatever challenge they face and continue to make me proud to be the Chief of Police of the Brandon Police Department and for this community.

I began as Chief of Police in Brandon back on January 11, 2022 after having replaced retiring long-term chief Christopher Brickell.

When I came in as chief, we were down to 3 officers total for the department and were in dire need of filling the numerous open positions for our agency. At the time our officers were working extended hours and nearing, if not already at burn-out working both their regular shifts and having to be on call out. Although the department was well run by the prior administration, modernization and updating of policies, procedures, equipment was sorely needed. Since that time, through plain old fashioned "Elbow grease" and with the help of a young, but professional and determined staff, the Brandon Police Department has moved onto its next evolutionary stage as a law enforcement agency.

We have implemented a Traffic Safety Unit (H.E.A.T.) to combat aggressive driving in Brandon, which has helped us in reducing our crash numbers throughout the town. We markedly increased our traffic enforcement efforts in the Town of Brandon this past year and due to our efforts, we have decreased traffic crashes by 29% in the course of a year's time. This was especially important after last year's spate of fatal crashes in Brandon as well as several serious crashes with injuries.

We have also stepped up our efforts in regards to drunk driving enforcement and have had a very successful year at detecting, removing, and prosecuting drunk drivers on our roads. To date, we have arrested 28 drunk drivers. To this end, our efforts by several of our officers in DUI enforcement efforts has been extraordinary. Our agency has some of the highest, if not the highest, DUI arrest stats in all of Rutland County. I have been told by numerous sources that the "Word on the Street" is that if you are going to drink and drive, don't come to Brandon or you're going to most likely get caught.

We also have implemented a Drone Program that helps us in crash reconstruction, search and rescue, natural disaster response, search warrants, and critical incidents, just to name a few. At the forefront of my efforts as the Chief of Police, I have been sending our officers to as many training opportunities as our budget allows so that our personnel are the best trained to handle any situation that may arise. I have also been pushing for our officers to become instructors in a variety of disciplines to help provide training in-house to save money for other classes that we may want access to.

Our call volume as well as the complexity of the case we receive are rising at an accelerated rate over the past year. These cases are time consuming and require intensive manpower to investigate, but our agency has risen to the occasion and continues to do a professional and thorough job at clearing out as many investigations and complaints as is possible. During the six months we were operating with 24-hour on-duty police coverage for the town, we were able to turn our attention to being proactive, especially at combating an ever-increasing drug problem in Brandon. This past year we have served a record number of search warrants on both vehicles and homes in our efforts to send a strong message to anyone thinking of selling or trafficking drugs in our community that they are not welcome here and that our police department will be taking pro-active steps towards

Police Department Report cont.

removing drugs from our streets.

We have also been fortunate this year to be able to get out into the community more frequently and make stronger connections with the residents of the town. Our officers make concerted efforts to conduct foot patrols in the downtown Brandon area so that we can build better relationships with the people we serve and protect. It is not uncommon for our officers to stop in at community events such as the Brandon Carnival or at sporting events at our local high

school to try and make these connections with those that live in our community. Along those same lines, we were very fortunate to be able to work with several students from our community at the Otter Valley Union High School this past year in creating a new sign for the front of the police station. The old one was very faded and in need of a "Facelift." After reaching out to the shop teacher at the high school about the project and after some really hard work, we ended up being the recipients of a beautiful new sign made by some very talented young

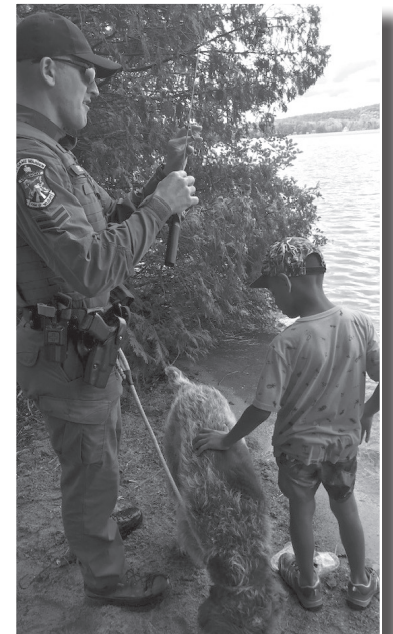
students at the high school. I encourage anyone in town to stop and/or drive by and look at the fantastic piece of work our young students created for both the police department and the community. As I told them when they presented the sign to us earlier this year us, they "Should be proud" of what they accomplished.

In conclusion, as always, we will continue to strive towards making the Brandon Police Department one of, if not the most, professional, and capable law enforcement agencies in the State of Vermont. I intend on making sure that our officers are the best trained and equipped and that they continue to embrace a solid relationship with all members and visitors to our community. My goal as your Chief of Police, and for our police department, is to create the highest level of trust between our officers and the community that we serve and to keep the Town of Brandon a safe place to live, work, and visit.

Police Department

REVENUES POLICE DEPT.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY245 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
State Traffic Ticket Reve	4,000	6,912	4,500	4,000
Misc. Police Revenues	-	1,316	-	-
Police Grants	1,600	7,242	-	1,550
SRO Officer	-	985	-	-
PD Ins Claim Rev	-	5,570	-	-
Click-it or Ticket Campaign	-	4,180	-	-
Police Dog Rev./Donation	-	50	-	-
DOCUMENT REIM. REQ. PD	5,000	2,745	5,000	5,000
Totals	10,600	28,999	9,500	10,550

EXPENDITURES POLICE DEPT.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	768,315	824,222	770,780	835,625
Travel & Expenses	2,750	2,415	2,750	3,000
Clothing Allowance	7,000	6,189	7,000	7,000
Dues & Subscriptions	2,000	1,409	2,000	9,245
Professional Development	5,800	5,832	5,800	8,000
Radio Maintenance	1,700	616	1,700	1,700
MDT/Aircards	3,000	3,806	4,500	4,500
Legal Services	-	589	-	500
Office Supplies	2,500	2,796	2,220	2,500
Professional Supplies	8,200	7,513	8,200	9,000
Service Contracts	6,000	3,913	6,000	6,000
Postage Expenses PD	200	151	200	480
Office Equipment	3,000	2,585	3,000	3,000
Community Police	2,000	1,007	-	-
Police Dog Expenses	2,000	1,409	2,000	-
New Equipment - Vehicles	5,000	6,393	5,000	5,000
Fuel - Vehicles	25,200	24,148	18,000	19,000
PD Maint. Supplies-Vehicle	250	140	250	250
PD Vehicle Maintenance	15,000	15,926	12,000	15,000
PD Telephone Service	5,000	6,380	5,000	7,200
Reimburse Equip Grants	-	8,399	-	-
Totals Expenses	864,915	925,838	856,400	937,000



**Rutland County
Solid Waste District
Household Hazardous
Waste Collection
Schedule**

April 19, 2025

BRANDON 8am-10am

May 24, 2025

BRANDON 8am-10am

September 27, 2025

BRANDON 8am-10am

Questions?

Call 802-775-7209

or visit www.RCSWD.com

**E911 Coordinator
Report**

Emergency Services, Fire, Police, and EMS, depend strongly on the owners of all properties to have their street numbers posted and visible in time of emergency.

Vermont E-911 requires accurate up to date locatable addresses for all municipalities. The Town of Brandon requires ALL Homes, Businesses, and other regularly occupied areas, to have their street address numbers be posted near the main entrance of each building and be visible from the road. If your entrance cannot be seen from the road, an additional posting is needed, near the road and visible at all times. Locatable addresses are based on your properties access point (driveway). Numbers are to be 4 inch white or silver reflective, block style, on a green or black background.

Please contact me with any questions regarding addressing or if you need a new address. Email me at, E911@brandonvermont.gov

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Kilpeck,
E911 Coordinator

Tree Warden Report

The responsibilities of tree wardens in the Vermont state statutes are straightforward— to prevent wanton or unnecessary removal of healthy shade trees and require the removal of diseased, dying or hazardous trees. This is to be performed with warnings and notifications, meetings and, when required, hearings, so no shade trees are cut down by surprise. Determination of tree health is to be made by arborists, certified individuals who are trained to evaluate apparent and hidden issues with trees.

As the Brandon tree warden, I have expanded my duties to include a “50-year plan” which includes regular, annual planting of smaller trees. These trees will consist of an assortment of species suitable for our climate. This should result in a canopy that is varied as to species and age, and is therefore more vibrant and resilient than a canopy of all one species (monoculture) or all the same age. Part of these plans is also engaging the community in decisions regarding placement and planting of trees.

As a way of pursuing this 50-year program at minimum cost to citizens, we applied for and were successful in being awarded a “Communities Caring for Canopy” grant, which provides half the cost of removal of hazard trees and planting and maintenance of Brandon shade trees. Funds for developing the Brandon Tree Inventory are included. The grant, which runs through October 2025, also requires community involvement.

The Town of Brandon administration has participated in dealing with many of these issues. In spring we warned for the removal of four diseased trees. Several citizens voiced concern as to timing of removal (spring is nesting time for birds, bats and other wildlife). The town and I postponed removal of those trees until fall.

When I and other officials received notice that one of the trees scheduled for removal had been examined by a neighbor who thought the tree was healthier than the official investigation, the Select Board held a hearing to evaluate the arborist’s decision and the neighbor’s concerns. I mention this because it is a perfect example of community participation in tree issues.

Vermont Arbor Day was the occasion for a celebration. Joanne Garton and Elise Schadler of the Vermont Urban & Commu-

nity Forestry Program spoke to a small group at the Brandon Senior Center about the importance of trees and proper techniques for successful tree planting. This was followed by a tree giveaway and planting session. We gave away 50, Red Oak seedlings at the celebration and at Clean Up day. I’m happy to report that the trees I’ve heard about and observed are doing well. During the celebration I was presented the 2024 Vermont Tree Steward Arbor Day award. This award is given to a tree warden selected by the staff at the Vermont Urban and Community Forest Program (UCF). The award was presented for the contributions I had made to the Brandon tree program and to tree culture in Vermont in general. I was surprised and humbled at being selected.

Jack Schneider gets a special shout-out for suggesting that the Brandon Tree Group, the tree committee, look for the biggest tree(s) in Brandon. Following some discussion, we started the Brandon Biggest Tree contest. We solicited the community to submit a tree they think is the biggest tree in Brandon and Forest Dale. Many of you have submitted your prize tree in the hope that it really is the biggest. The contest runs until Thanksgiving 2024. At the time of this report, no winner has been selected.

The Brandon Tree Group and I will be planting the first installation of the 50-year plan during the coming spring. The trees will be small (1 ½” to 2” diameter). I have reached out to the community for suggestions as to where new trees should be planted to best foster the tree canopy. The goal is to build the canopy throughout more of the urban areas of Brandon, not just the downtown and tourist areas but not ignoring them, either.

Developing and maintaining a healthy canopy of trees to cover Brandon will benefit us all, with better physical and emotional health, better climate control and enhanced attractiveness, all scientifically proven benefits of trees.

Information regarding tree and tree warden issues is posted on Front Porch Forum and the Brandon Reporter. And, as always, I am available to hear your concerns and comments by email.

Neil Silins
Brandontreewarden@gmail.com



Bill Moore, Director, Ext. 213
 community@brandonveront.gov
 www.brandonrec.com

2024 Recreation Participant Numbers

Aikido with Wade-sensei.....	41	Otter Community Sports Clinics.....	39
Archery at Estabrook!.....	14	Pick-Up Soccer Scrimmaging	9
B-Rec Dance Classes Miss Michaela		Pick-up Volley Ball	5
Motion.....	123	Pickleball @ OV	
B-Rec Pick-up Basketball Adults	28	North Campus Gym	58
Basic Dog Obedience Class!.....	9	Pre-season Baseball Clinics.....	18
Black Cat Salem Tour!.....	35	Pre-Season Football Camp	11
Bootified Brandon!	3	Pre-Season Otter Field Hockey Clinic	7
Brandon Drive In is BACK!	54	Pre-Season Soccer Camp	16
Brandon Idol - Auditions.....	15	Skate Sunday!	48
Brandon Putting League	8	Spring Baseball/Softball.....	173
Brandon Robotics Team- First Lego		Spring in NYC!.....	49
League!	12	Summer Baseball Clinics	9
Bus Trip to Salem MA for the Grand		Summer Baseball/Softball.....	28
Parade on Oct 3!.....	151	Summer Dance Intensives	
Camp Broadway!	17	with Miss Michaela	6
Celtics Bus Trip	35	Sunday Soccer Skills.....	3
December in NYC!.....	102	Swimming Lessons w Jake Jacobs.	108
Fall Into Fur Hiking Series 2.0!.....	6	Table Tennis @ OV North Campus....	2
Flower Show Bus Trip	22	Try Its!	13
Football	69	West Coast Swing Lessons	
Halloween Costume Ball at		@ The Brandon Inn	13
the Brandon Inn!	51	Winter Village at Central Park in	
KBB information	16	Brandon, Dec 4 & 6.....	10
Kids Idol!	8	Youth Basketball.....	119
Little Otters Youth Wrestling	17	Youth Cheer!	40
Mad Hatter Masquerade Ball	27	Youth Soccer	135
OIW	20		

Assessor's Report

The Grand List is statutorily set as of April 1st of each year. The Assessor's office is responsible for tracking all changes in Ownership and Real Property Value. The Town of Brandon had an increase in property value of \$3,890,300. 101 change of assessment notices were sent to property owners. There were 5 approved grievances. Please contact the Assessor's office if you have any questions or need any other information.

The Annual Equalization Study (using the past three years of sales 2021, 2022 and 2023) was completed by Vermont Department of Taxes Division of Property Valuation and Review.

CLA (common Level of Assessment)

2024 74.69% 2023 74.69
 a decrease of 9.46%

COD (coefficient of dispersion)
 2024 19.97% 2023 15.72%
 an increase of 4.25%

The Town of Brandon will be notified of the 2025 Equalization results in December of 2024.

The Real Estate Market continues to be on the rise in Brandon as well as across Vermont. During the period of 4/1/2023 through 3/31/2024 there were 66 fair market sales in Brandon with an average CLA (assessed value/sales price) of 61.6%. The Vermont Dept of Taxes (Property Valuation and Review) requires that Towns with a COD of 20% and above will be required to complete a Town-Wide Reappraisal. The Brandon COD is expected to be over the 20% threshold, and an Order to Reappraise will be issued.

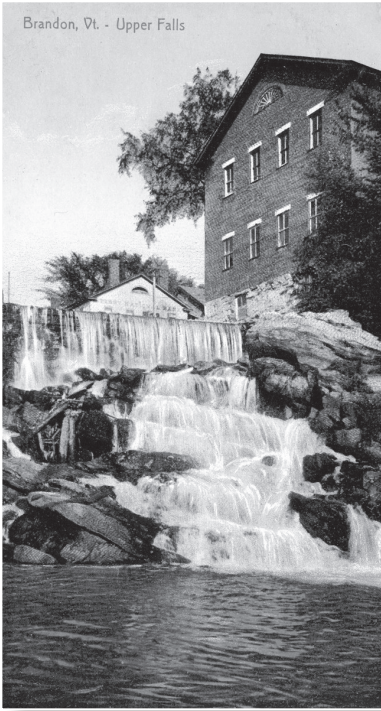
Karen Folger is the Town of Brandon Assistant Assessor. The regular hours for the Assessor's office are Tuesdays from 9am-3pm. The Assessors office can be reached by email at assessor@brandonvermont.gov.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Truchon, VMPPA
 Assessor/NEMRC

Assessor

REVENUES ASSESSOR	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Misc./Revenues Assessor	2,000	2,011	2,000	2,000
Totals	2,000	2,011	2,000	2,000

EXPENDITURES ASSESSOR	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	9,695	8,997	9,740	9,740
Travel & Expenses	100	49	100	100
Dues & Subscriptions	50	-	-	-
Continuing Education	100	-	100	100
Mapping	5,800	5,800	5,800	6,200
Property Assessor	20,000	18,424	20,000	20,000
Professional Supplies	250	-	250	250
Office Equipment	200	1,716	200	200
Reapp Acct.-Transfer out	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Expenses	41,195	39,985	41,190	41,590



Economic Development Report

Area employers need employees. Potential employees need housing. In 2024 The planning commission and select board worked to stay current with the trends around making housing construction easier. The update to the Brandon Land Use Ordinance, the ratifying of the town plan that identifies housing priorities, combined with the town becoming a 10 acre town (parcel size at which an ACT 250 permits is required) along with the legislature ACT 47 (easing ACT250 requirements specific to housing) will make Brandon a more attractive place to develop new housing projects.

With regard to “traditional economic development” (business support) our unique local resources like Tax Stabilization & The Brandon Revolving Loan Fund can be used to help leverage county and state grant and loan programs for any business development project located with our town. The town is an enthusiastic partner and has/will partner with business owners & developers to help them access funding. This includes resources like Community Development Block Grants, Vermont Community Development Program grants, Northern Border Regional Commission programs. Our regional economic development corporation, Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region is an extraordinary resource that can help with applying for Regional Economic Development Grants and has their own Revolving Loan Fund program. Identifying and applying for the appropriate programs for your project can help with creating a “funding stack” for expansion or start-up.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any help you may need for your existing business or with any leads and ideas you might have for potential new development.

(802) 247-3635 X213
community@brandonvermont.gov
<http://brandonvermont.gov/departments/economic-development/>

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moore
 Economic Development Officer

Health Officer Report

The calendar year 2024 has seen a reduction in complaints for health issues (excessive garbage, other health concerns) as well as fewer dog bite reports, with most of the reports coming from people being bit by their own pet while breaking up a fight with another animal. We did have a couple reported bites from wild animals that tested positive for rabies. Please use caution anytime you are confronted with a wild animal. To all our outdoor enthusiasts, Ticks are also always a concern even in the fall and winter when we have warm temperatures like we have been experiencing recently. It is also cold and flu season so please take precautions to help avoid the spread.

If you have any health questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (802) 247-3635 ext. 202 or by email code@brandonvermont.gov

Respectfully submitted,
 Larry Stevens

Economic Development

EXPENDITURES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
ECONOMIC DEV.	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	32,630	31,430	34,691	34,835
Travel & Expenses	250	290	250	250
Economic Development	14,000	727	6,000	6,000
Designated Downtown	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
Killington Valley	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Hist. Preservation Comm.	5,000	5,000	-	-
Total	53,280	46,846	50,341	50,485



Rental Housing Report

Another good year for rentals, since the first of the year I have performed over 35 rental inspections.

I would like to thank all the landlords in Brandon for keeping their rentals in compliance with the Brandon Rental Housing Code. Just a reminder that all rentals must be inspected any time there is a change in tenancy, this applies to renting to family members as well. The Town of Brandon is now using an online scheduling system to make it more convenient for landlords to schedule inspections, the link is available on the Town website under Rental Housing.

Some other good news for renters, there will be approximately 46 new rental units available in town in the near future, so keep a look out for when these become available.

Again, I would like to thank all Landlords and property managers for your hard work in helping to maintain our rental housing standards.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Stevens

Town Manager Report Continued from page 9

that is building community through activities that bring us together to improve our physical and social wellbeing.

With the end of our six-month attempt to provide 24-hour two-officers-per-shift on-duty coverage, and notwithstanding the FY26 budget proposal increasing police funding by 9.4% over FY25 and a wage scale competitive with area peers, our police staffing suffered at the turn of the new year (2025). We are in a rebuilding posture but expect headwinds, as from the Vermont State Police on down to the smallest part-time village department, all police agencies in Vermont are short of staff. Law enforcement is a challenging career. We are looking at all options for providing for public safety, and the community should rest assured that sufficient on-duty and on-call coverage is

in place for the protection of life and property, with our own officers backed up by the state police for emergencies.

Candor requires an acknowledgment that the Spring 2024 budget voting season was bruising to all involved: the elected selectboard, the appointed management, the Town's professional staff, and, most troublingly, the Brandon community at large. It is our hope that the transparency and respectful cooperation that characterized the Fall 2024 budget writing season will carry Brandon forward in a spirit of mutual trust and common purpose. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Seth Hopkins, town manager
Bill Moore, deputy town manager



Energy Committee Report

Probably our most visible project this year was the “ToolShip”, which sat in front of the Library from September through November of this year. A joint project of the Energy Committee, ReBHS, Solarfest, and the Library, the project began when the town purchased six pieces of electric lawn equipment from Brandon Lumber using mini-MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) grant funds. These tools became part of the Brandon Free Public Library’s “Library of Things” and will be housed in the ToolShip each year from May through October. The electric lawn tools are intended for use by library patrons looking to try out such equipment and those who cannot afford to have their own. It’s a good example of the “sharing economy” at work.

The first ToolShip was designed and built by members of ReBHS and the Energy Committee using grant money from the Vermont Council on Rural Development’s Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund Grant Program. Solarfest, which secured the grant for the town, also designed the solar system that charges the tool batteries. The initial prototype was towed by an electric bike in Brandon’s Independence Day Parade, accompanied by ReBHS and Energy Committee members carrying the tools. Both were then on display at our booth at the park afterwards as a way to get the word out about the project.

The ToolShip is mobile so it can be located in different parts of town each month, giving more residents a chance to try out the tools. The first ToolShip was such a success that a second one is planned for next spring so that more than one location can be served at once. We also hope to secure future grants in order to add to the variety of tools, including possibly an electric snow blower or two!

In April we collaborated with ReBHS to put on the first Brandon Repair Fair at the Town Hall. Members of both groups were on hand to repair all sorts of items people brought in. Numerous lamps, furniture, electronics, and household machinery were successfully fixed. It was so popular we decided to put on a second repair fair in October. Given the success of both events we plan to continue offering repair fairs each year. It’s a great way to keep stuff from going to the dump and saves people

money. Good for the environment and good for the wallet!

MERP grant (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) funded energy audits were performed on four town owned buildings —the Town Hall, Town Offices, Sewer Treatment Facility, and Maintenance Building. These will inform future plans for improvements to these facilities in order to reduce their energy burden and thus expense to taxpayers.

The Committee also helped the town win an Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant to fund the hiring of an energy consultant to assist residents with navigating the various options for improving the energy performance and comfort of their houses and apartments.

Our Energy Library, purchased last year, is now part of the newly renovated library’s book collection.

Our fourth annual Button Up event was held this fall, with presentations by BROCC, Heat Squad, and Efficiency Vermont. Nearly half of the attendees signed up for energy audits.

We participated in an electric lawn equipment demonstration event held at Estabrook Park, where lawn care professionals and residents were able to test out equipment.

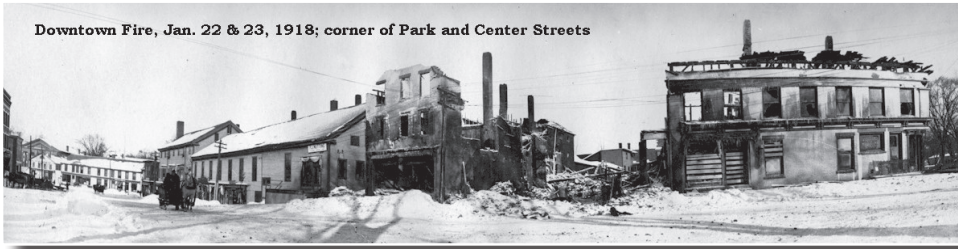
The bond for a town-owned solar project failed to gain approval with the voters this year in part because there were objections to the town owning infrastructure. The project as planned has been taken up by a private developer. As with the town’s existing Green Lantern solar array, the town will have an opportunity to be an “off taker” of the power, thus reducing the cost of that electricity by 15% and lowering the town’s bills, while at the same time adding to it’s tax base.

The energy committee is very grateful for the support of the Brandon Select Board, the town management team, and Rutland Regional Planning Commission, as well as many generous collaborators from the community. We will continue to work hard to support the town in meeting the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% and moving to 90% renewable energy by 2050.

Submitted by David Martin,
Brandon Energy Committee



Downtown Fire, Jan. 22 & 23, 1918; corner of Park and Center Streets



Highway Dept. Report

The Highway Department has had a busy, but productive 12 months. With a crew of 4, we were able to successfully complete on-going projects, scheduled maintenance, and repairs, as well as addressing any unexpected issues that arose throughout the year.

The MGRP Grant work concluded in late summer on sections of Richmond and Wheeler Road. Each included tree cutting, ditching, culvert replacement, and adding road gravel. Patch paving was completed on areas of Town Farm Road, Newton Road, Wheeler Road, and Park Street. Ditching was done on Town Farm Road and on High Pond Road the shoulders were cut, and gravel added. Road paving included North and Union Streets. North Street (Rte. 53) paving was done by Pike industries on the section of road spanning from Route 73 to Newton Road. Union Street paving, also by Pike Industries, was completed on the section of road between Dean's Bridge and High Pond Road. Sidewalk paving on Pearl and Carver Streets with work being completed by Vermont Roads. On Barlow Avenue, the Town Crew stabilized the riverbank with rock to eliminate future erosion.

In addition to wrapping up many open projects, the crew was able to stay on top of our general maintenance and provide support to the Parks & Recs. effectively and efficiently Dept., as needed. This includes roadside mowing and grading, brush hogging, ditching, line painting, street sweeping, curb and leaf clean-up, and lawn maintenance of all town parks and fields.

REVENUES HIGHWAY DEPT.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Misc./Extraor. Rev.	500	-	500	-
Access Permit Revenue	200	650	200	500
Excavation Permit Revenue	50	200	50	100
Reimb- Work WW/BFD	-	11,571	-	-
State Highway Revenue	160,000	167,149	180,000	170,000
Over Weight Permits	650	750	700	700
HW Ins Claim Rev	-	2,453	-	-
Total Revenue	161,400	182,773	181,450	171,300

EXPENDITURES HIGHWAY DEPT.	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	407,320	352,725	319,705	293,205
Travel & Expenses	200	91	200	200
Clothing Allowance	2,500	1,178	2,500	2,500
Dues & Subscriptions	100	-	2,350	2,350
Continuing Education	200	-	200	200
Contractors	4,000	855	12,000	12,000
Equipment Rental	8,000	600	2,500	2,500
State Permits	2,000	3,740	5,000	5,000
State Required cleanup	-	-	-	1,000
New Equipment-Misc. Tools	10,000	11,899	10,000	10,000
Safety Equipment	1,500	177	1,500	1,500
Fuel - Vehicles HW	45,000	43,227	45,000	45,000
Oil - Vehicles	2,200	1,050	2,200	2,200
HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicle	20,000	26,067	20,000	20,000
HW Tires - Vehicles	7,000	11,784	7,000	7,000
HW Outside Maint. - Vehicle	25,000	35,689	25,000	25,000
HW Telephone	2,000	2,058	2,000	2,000
Ditching	-	246	1,000	1,000
Roadside Mower- Maint	1,500	2,883	1,000	2,000
Tree Removal/Planting	15,000	7,692	15,000	15,000
Guardrails	10,000	18,290	15,000	15,000
Signs & Posts	7,000	10,225	8,000	8,000
Line Painting	3,000	1,752	3,000	3,000
Paving Roads	-	49,572	-	-
Cold Patching	2,000	1,037	2,000	2,000
Culverts	10,000	9,801	10,000	10,000
Gravel	65,000	54,284	65,000	65,000
Chloride	26,000	24,887	30,000	30,000
Road Salt	90,000	68,759	90,000	90,000
Winter Sand	25,000	16,186	25,000	25,000
New Equip. Purchase	-	7,100	-	-
Sidewalks	-	2,300	-	-
Leased Equipment	33,000	32,408	33,000	-
Capital Improvements	-	16,106	-	-
Total Expenses	824,520	814,666	755,155	697,655

Development Review Board Report

The Brandon Development Review Board (DRB) is a five-member, one alternate quasi-judicial volunteer board. The DRB hears issues of conditional use, variances and waivers, and presides over appeals to decisions made by the Zoning Administrator in accordance with the Brandon Land Use Ordinance. The DRB is also charged with reviewing sections 6 (municipal impacts), 7 (educational impacts) and 10 (town plan) of the Act 250 review process, before such applications proceed further.

DRB meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the basement of the Brandon Town Hall. Adjustments to day and location do happen occasionally, but always after the appropriate public notice and all information is posted on the town website. All meetings also have a zoom option, and the link is on the website. Agendas and minutes are also posted to the town website.

The DRB members are appointed by the Brandon Select Board and currently are as follows:

Samantha Stone, Chair
John Peterson, Vice Chair
Robert Clark
Jim DesMarais
Jack Schneider
Ralph Ethier, Alternate

Planning Commission Report

The Brandon Planning Commission (PC) spent the majority of calendar 2024 working on the “modernization” of the town’s zoning regulations. This followed the completion of the mandatory updating of the Town Plan which was approved by the Select Board in February.

The Town Plan is the foundation for zoning regulation in Brandon and work began in March with the help of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The RRPC’s assistance was made possible by a state grant at no cost to residents for the work on the BLUO update.

The purpose of amending the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO) is to encourage affordable housing opportunities, reduce zoning nonconformities, and minimize impacts to local resources in a manner consistent with the Town Plan. This update aligns our bylaws with changes in state law, i.e. HOME Act (2023) and Act 181 (2024).

This effort required eleven public working sessions and the public was invited to join and ask questions and identify any area of concern. A walking tour of downtown was held in late June and an information booth was present in Central Park on July 6th. In early Fall, business members of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce were surveyed to discuss changes to the sign regulations. A public review of the final draft was held in mid-November after which the ordinance was forwarded to the Select Board for its review and public hearing.

Other projects completed in 2024 included the following:

- PC reviewing presentations from two solar developers (SolarFest and Novus Energy) following prior review by the town’s Energy Committee. The commissioners unanimously recommended the Select Board submit letters of conformance with the Town Plan to the state Public Utility Commission.

- The Planning Commission, in conjunction with town management, submitted a recommendation to the Select Board to repeal the ACT 250 one-acre ordinance. Municipalities with both a Town Plan and zoning regulations can waive ACT 250 review for properties of 10 or fewer acres. This was done to encourage responsible development by eliminating costly fees associated with ACT 250 local review on small properties.

- Finally, the Planning Commission thanked Jeff Biasuzzi for his past 6 years of service to Brandon and welcomed our new Zoning Administrator, Larry Stevens, in mid-year.

The Planning Commission holds its open in-person meetings the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall meeting room. Meetings are accessible via ZOOM teleconferencing and the agendas, minutes and recording are posted to the town web site.

2024 Planning Commission Members

Jack Schneider, Chair
Natalie Steen, Vice-Chair Robert Foley (term ended 7/1) Sara Stevens
Neil Silins
Lisa Peluso

Planning & Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator processed 89 permit applications for the calendar year 2024, which is an increase of 33 permit applications from 2023.

Project	# Applications
Additions/Decks/Sheds/Garages	37
New Home Construction	10
Signs	13
Change Of Use	8
Subdivisions/ Boundary line Adjustments	6
Demolition/Razing of Structures	6
Home Occupation	1
Misc.	8

This past summer the Select Board voted to change Brandon’s ACT 250 requirements from a 1 acre town to a 10 acre town. This change will make many projects for housing and small businesses easier and speed up the permitting process.

There are two new apartment buildings (one with 20 units and one with up to 24 units) that are proposed for Park Village that will help with the current housing crisis.

The wonderful cohesive team that makes up our Planning Commission has worked tirelessly on updating the Brandon Land Use Ordinance to keep our town the quaint Vermont town it is while encouraging growth. The new Brandon Land use ordinance is available for reading on the Town of Brandon website.

Please remember to check with the town Zoning Administrator if a permit is required for your project.

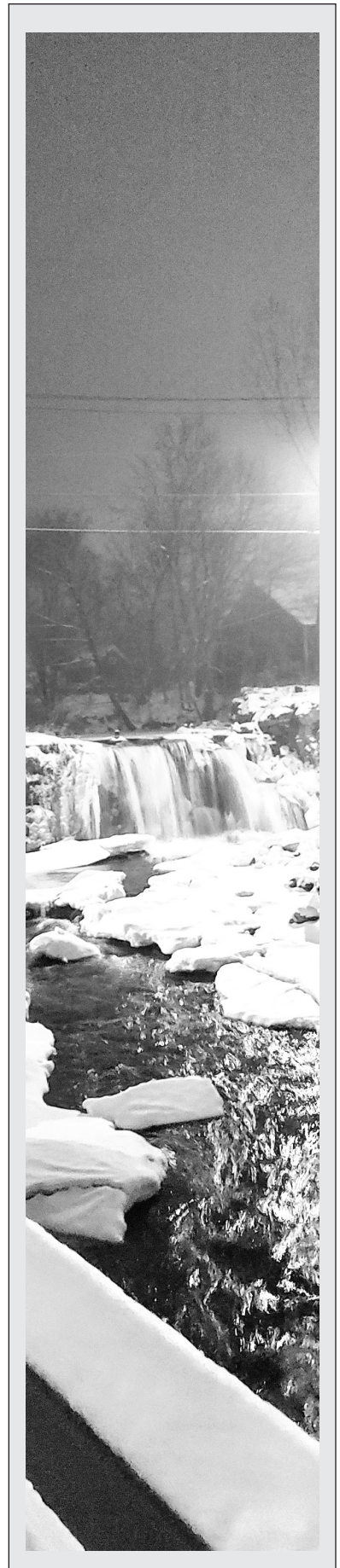
All permit applications are now only being accepted electronically. The link is located on the Town of Brandon website under Zoning and Planning.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Stevens

Code Enforcement

REVENUES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
Code Enforcement	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Misc Zoning	200	-	-	-
Land Use Permit Revenue	6,500	7,912	6,500	6,500
Rental Code Compliance	9,000	2,225	9,000	9,000
Totals	15,700	10,137	15,500	15,500

EXPENDITURES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
CODE ENFORCEMENT	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	35,575	33,450	44,015	47,355
Travel & Expenses	300	-	300	300
Dues & Subscriptions	-	-	4,000	4,000
Continuing Education	500	30	500	500
Legal Services - zoning	2,000	1,031	1,500	1,500
Professional Supplies	100	126	100	100
Planning/Zoning Postage	150	134	150	150
Legal Advertising	500	1,262	500	500
Energy Cm Public Outreach	4,500	3,688	1,500	1,500
Total Expenses	43,625	39,722	52,565	55,905



Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders (BRAVO)

Restorative Justice is a growing movement which offers offenders and the community an alternative (and sometimes a complementary path) to the criminal justice system.

BRAVO handles matters at the “pre-charge” stage, meaning that appropriate cases are referred by Brandon Chief of Police, David Kachajian, before formal charges are filed in court. Three BRAVO panel members then meet with offenders, harmed parties, representatives of the community, and with parents or guardians of juvenile offenders. Together, they create a plan to address the harm done, the needs of parties harmed, and the needs of the community at large. The offender’s participation is entirely voluntary; indeed, to participate the offender must accept responsibility for his or her actions. Restorative Justice plans often involve restitution, letters of apology, and community service. The process itself can be healing for the people involved.

The number of cases appropriate for referral to BRAVO—and in which the offender chooses to participate—can vary widely from year to year. In 2024 BRAVO handled no new cases. Panel members kept busy attending training approved by the Vermont Department of Corrections and making connections with other Restorative Justice organizations in the state. BRAVO’s trained volunteers are now serving with Rutland’s Restorative Justice panels in cases involving folks from Brandon.

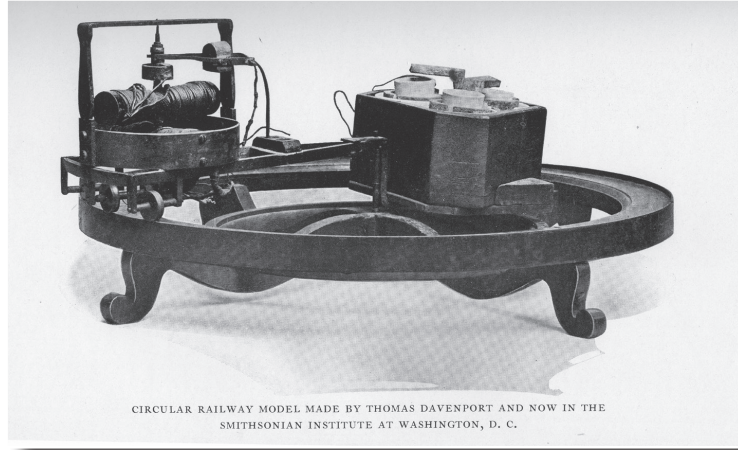
BRAVO is somewhat unique in Vermont because it is a single-town organization. It was founded a number of years ago by Art Doty, Lance Mead, and Debbie Boyce. With Restorative Justice becoming more popular and now “mainstream,” new Vermont legislation seeks to expand access to Restorative Justice programs statewide. This new legislation

may in the coming years affect how BRAVO operates, in that even greater cooperation may be necessary with neighboring and county-wide programs.

The BRAVO volunteers believe that they help to support a safe community by listening to and addressing the needs of victims, offenders, and the community at the earliest possible time. Our Advisory Board meets monthly, on the first Monday

of the month to handle necessary business. We are actively looking for several more members. If you are interested in participating in BRAVO’s work, please consider joining. For more information, please see <https://www.townofbrandon.com/town-committees/bravo/>.

Mitch Pearl, Chair
Paula Ashley, Coordinator



CIRCULAR RAILWAY MODEL MADE BY THOMAS DAVENPORT AND NOW IN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Animal Control Officer Report

Residents of Brandon and Forest Dale,

The Animal Control Office received 61 calls for service.

- 18 calls for nuisance/loud animals
- 13 calls for loose/off property animals
- 9 calls for wild animals/livestock
- 12 calls for information on licensing/ placement/vet treatment/concerns
- 3 transports to Rutland Co. Humane Society
- 5 calls to assist Police Dept
- 1 call serve notice/Attend Viscous dog hearing

Please note that Rabies is prevalent in Vermont. All dogs must be Rabies vaccinated and registered with the town clerk annually in April. Thanks to all those that help me in my duties, you’re most appreciated.

Respectfully,
Tim Kingston
Brandon ACO

Dog Licenses 2023-2024

TYPE	# SOLD	FEE	TOTAL
Neutered	271	\$ 4	\$1,084
Un-Neutered.....	40	\$ 8	320
Neutered After 10/1.....	3	\$ 2	6
Un-Neutered After 10/1	0	\$ 4	0
Kennel/Special.....	0		
Late Fees.....			156
Total Paid to Town.....			\$1,566

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Report

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is deeply grateful for the continued partnership and collaboration with the towns in our region. Our top priority remains supporting and empowering our municipalities to foster community and economic development. With 12 program areas, ranging from emergency management and economic development to transportation and water quality, FY24 was our most productive year yet. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the future. For a detailed overview of our work in FY24, visit www.vapda.org. To learn more about our programs and services, visit www.rutlandrpc.org.

Planning and Technical Assistance

With increasing demands on our towns, the RRPC is here to help lighten the load. As the go-to resource for all 27 municipalities in the Rutland Region, we are often the first call for regulatory, planning, and development questions. We help towns navigate state and federal regulations, share important updates on new rules and funding opportunities, and support the development and management of key projects. In addition, we assist in securing grant funding, creating town plans, zoning bylaws, feasibility studies, and designation areas. We also provide hands-on support and training to municipal officials and staff, helping ensure success across the region.

Economic Development

The RRPC is committed to fostering strong local economies through initiatives like Brownfields Redevelopment. In 2024, we supported assessments and redevelopment planning for 10 projects across five towns, including the former Berwick Hotel and Lynda Lee Factory in Rutland City. These efforts are driving trans-

formative housing, mixed-use, and manufacturing developments while enhancing regional collaboration through an expanded Brownfields Steering Committee.

Energy Efficiency

The RRPC is working closely with towns across the region to implement the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP), which is designed to reduce energy costs and improve the efficiency of town-owned buildings. In FY24, the RRPC secured \$2.5 million in funding for nine municipalities, supporting a range of energy-saving upgrades, weatherization efforts, and other essential improvements. These investments are helping towns lower their energy costs, reduce burdens for local taxpayers, and enhance the sustainability of municipal operations. MERP plays a crucial role in strengthening energy resilience, advancing climate goals, and creating long-term savings for communities throughout the region.

Housing

Recognizing the critical need for diverse and affordable housing options, the RRPC has been a driving force in addressing the Region's housing shortage. In 2024, the RRPC developed a comprehensive Housing Resource Guide featuring over 30 funding opportunities and 45 resources for developers. Widely regarded as a statewide model, this guide has played a pivotal role in helping local developers create new housing units and advance vital projects across the region.

Workforce Development

Workforce development is vital for retaining youth and rebuilding the trades sector in the Rutland Region. In 2024, the RRPC revitalized the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board (RRWIB) to encourage regional collaboration. The RRPC also secured a \$1.25 million grant

from the U.S. Department of Labor to create a bridge program for high schoolers in Rutland County, offering pathways to careers in the trades and addressing workforce needs in the region.

Regional Planning

In 2024, the RRPC began a comprehensive update of the Rutland Regional Plan. Recognizing the importance of community input, the RRPC focused on expanding public engagement to ensure the plan reflects the priorities and needs of all towns in the region. This effort included town presentations, pop-up events, open houses, and a public survey, all aimed at gathering diverse perspectives. The feedback received has been instrumental in shaping the first draft of the updated plan, which will continue to guide local planning and investment decisions for a more equitable, healthy, and resilient Rutland Region. To learn more about the 2026 Regional Plan and upcoming events, check out www.rutlandrpc.org/plan2026.

In closing, we thank the dedicated volunteers and civil servants whose commitment drives progress in our region. Your involvement ensures that diverse perspectives continue to shape our future. As we look ahead to 2025, we encourage all to get involved and help contribute to the success and growth of our Region!

Devon Neary,
Executive Director



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Report

Throughout the past year, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has been actively collaborating with the Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. This initiative included eight towns across Vermont, with a focus on examining and celebrating the unique makeup of each community and community member.

Our work involved acknowledging the diversity within our towns, which encompasses a wide range of experiences related to age, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disabilities, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and national origin. Crafting policies and ordinances that are sensitive to this diversity is

(Continued on page 25)

Vital Statistics Report

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Births	35	28	57	29
Deaths	67	39	37	48
Civil Marriages	34	33	38	26

Due to the town's liability exposure and the possible use of information fraudulently, the Vermont Department of Health has recommended against printing names in the Vital Statistics section of the Town Report. The Brandon Town Clerk's office concurs with this policy.

Building & Grounds

REVENUES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
Bldg & Grounds	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Insurance Rev - B&G	-	31,907	-	-
Solar Lease Payments	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Solar True-up Revenue	-	9,846	-	-
Town Forest Lease	-	-	-	1,000
Town Hall Rent	-	100	-	-
EV Charging Station Rev	1,000	2,798	1,800	1,800
Town Hall Floor Replacement	-	53,675	-	-
Totals	11,000	108,326	11,800	12,800

EXPENDITURES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
BLDG & GROUNDS	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	78,690	68,619	81,450	88,060
B&G Insurance Claims	-	11,574	-	-
Testing/Monitor Fee	6,000	14,332	13,250	13,250
Heating - Propane	9,500	4,996	9,500	8,000
Heating Fuel	15,000	8,578	15,000	10,000
Bldgs & Grounds Water Fee	1,500	1,301	1,500	1,500
Bldgs & Grounds Electric	77,000	87,751	87,000	93,500
Electric EV Car Stations	1,200	1,921	1,200	1,200
Highway Bldg Maint	5,000	1,764	5,000	5,000
PD Bldg Maint.	2,000	3,618	3,000	3,000
Town Office	5,000	15,410	6,000	6,000
Cemeteries	500	500	500	500
Municipal Mowing-maint	2,500	5,215	2,500	2,500
Rec Sports Field Maint.	5,000	-	4,000	4,000
Town Clock Maint.	400	188	750	6,750
Town Hall Repair/Maint.	10,000	11,735	10,000	10,000
Parks Maint.	4,000	8,382	5,000	5,000
Trash costs-Supplies	500	164	500	500
Maint. Supplies Bldgs.	1,000	2,683	1,200	1,200
Generator Maint	1,000	623	2,500	2,500
Estabrook Bldg Maint	-	-	1,500	1,500
Tree Maint.	-	-	2,622	2,625
Capital Outlay B & G	-	17,596	-	-
Town Hall Floor Replacement	-	55,227	-	-
Total Expenses	225,790	322,175	253,972	266,585

Methodist Church and parsonage, c. 1895
notice arc light



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Report

(Continued from page 24)

vital in fostering a culture of inclusion.

Recognizing the complexity of this work, the DEI Committee understands that cultivating an inclusive community is a long-term commitment. It has taken decades to reach our current state, and we know that dismantling entrenched norms and embedding inclusive practices will require sustained effort and dedication. We remain committed to this ongoing journey, understanding that meaningful change takes time and persistence.

In conclusion, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is unwavering in its commitment to fostering an inclusive environment in Brandon. By recognizing and celebrating the diversity within our community, we aim to create a space where every individual feels valued and respected. While the journey continues, with the support of our members, partners, and the wider community, we are confident in our ability to bring about lasting, positive change.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Gage, Ben Wimett
and Bill Moore

Clerk/Treasurer

REVENUES CLERK/TREASURER	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Pilot/CU	52,500	55,121	52,400	55,000
Wastewater Administration	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Liquor License Revenue	2,000	2,105	2,000	2,000
Land Records	38,000	29,847	27,000	29,930
Vault Time	5,500	4,902	5,000	5,000
Misc. Clerk Revenues	500	231	400	200
Marriage Licenses	300	465	400	500
Hunting/Fishing Licenses	35	69	50	70
Vital Statistics	5,800	5,965	6,100	6,100
Dog License Revenue	1,500	1,552	1,500	1,500
Records Preservation	14,055	10,808	9,820	11,070
Interest Revenue	2,500	27,741	8,500	20,000
Penalty & Int. Revenue	39,000	17,658	38,000	15,000
Misc. Tax Revenue	-	2,000	-	-
Totals	191,690	188,463	181,170	176,370

EXPENDITURES TOWN CLERK/TREASURER	FY24 ADOPTED	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED
Salary & Benefits	195,360	197,963	209,560	216,300
Travel & Expenses	150	70	150	150
Dues & Subscriptions	250	195	250	250
Professional Development	500	(88)	500	500
Elections	6,500	8,088	5,500	5,500
Dog License Expense	150	145	150	150
Office Supplies	650	705	650	750
Records Preservation	14,055	4,948	9,820	11,070
Office Equipment	1,000	-	-	2,000
Total	218,615	212,028	226,580	236,670



Intergovernmental / Partner Agencies

EXPENDITURES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
PARTNER AGENCIES	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
VLCT Insurance	91,500	74,345	93,000	94,000
Unemployment Insurance	6,275	5,930	7,000	7,000
Worker's Comp Insurance	64,550	62,301	66,000	66,000
Insurance Deductible	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
County Tax	30,000	28,361	31,000	32,000
Rut. Regional Commission	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,130
Green-Up Day	300	969	750	750
Public Transit	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
REDC/CEDRR	500	500	500	500
Rut Nat Resources Conserv.	250	-	250	250
Mosquito Control	41,710	41,710	51,235	51,235
Total Expenses	240,585	219,616	255,235	260,365

Debt Service

EXPENDITURES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
DEBT SERVICE	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
RT 7 Town Share -2006	151,500	151,315	145,500	138,000
PD Bond Payment	26,000	22,770	25,300	24,640
2016 Segment 6 Bond	61,750	61,561	60,550	59,400
Total	239,250	235,646	231,350	222,040

Tax Expenditures

EXPENDITURES	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26
Tax Expenditures	ADOPTED	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
Tax Sale Expenses	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Total	5,000	-	5,000	5,000



Town Officials

**** **ELECTED OFFICIALS** ****

Justices of the Peace

Doug Bailey 2027
 Kathy Clark 2027
 Del Cook 2027
 Sally Cook 2027
 Bud Coolidge 2027
 Wendy Feldman 2027
 Hillary Knapp 2027
 Bill Moore 2027
 Todd Nielsen 2027
 John Peterson 2027
 Laura Peterson 2027
 Tricia Welch 2027

Library Trustees

Jeff Haylon 2025
 David Roberts 2026

Moderator

Bill Moore 2025

Select Board

Doug Bailey, chair 2027
 Brian Coolidge 2026
 Ralph Ethier 2025
 Tim Guiles 2025
 Heather Nelson 2025

Town Clerk

Sue Gage 2026

Town Treasurer

Sue Gage 2026

Trustees of Public Funds

Courtney Satz 2025
 Laura Miner 2027
 Tanner Romano 2026

*** **APPOINTED OFFICIALS** ***

Animal Control Officer

Tim Kingston

Budget Committee

Janet Coolidge 2025
 Gabe McGuigan 2025
 Karen Rhodes 2025
 Barry Varian 2025
 Tricia Welch 2025

Development Review Board

Robert Clark 2027
 Jim Des Marais 2026
 John Peterson 2025
 Jack Schneider 2025
 Samantha Stone 2026
 Ralph Either, alt. 2026

E-911 Coordinator

Thomas Kilpeck

Emergency Management Director

Seth Hopkins
 Tim Guiles, Alt.

Energy Committee

Erin Ballantine
 Eve Beglarian
 Robert Black
 Jim Emerson
 Jeff Haylon
 David Martin, chair
 Jack Schneider

Fence Viewers

Olya Hopkins 2025
 Jon Wyman 2025
 Tracy Wyman 2025

Fire Warden

Linwood Bovey 2029
 Jon Wyman, Deputy 2029

Green-up Day Coordinator

James Leary 2025

Health Officer

Larry Stevens 2026

Historic Preservation Commission

Frank Bump
 Vicki Disorda
 Shirley Markland
 John Peterson
 Dennis Reisenweaver, chair

Inspector of Lumber

Bob Kilpeck 2025

Otter Creek Communications

Union District Representative

Peter Werner 2025
 Bill Moore, alt. 2025

Otter Creek Watershed Insect

Control District Representatives

Wayne Rausenberger 2025
 Olya Hopkins, alt. 2025

Planning Commission

Lisa Peluso 2027
 Jack Schneider 2025
 Neil Silins 2025
 Natalie Steen 2025
 Sara Stevens 2026

Revolving Loan Fund Committee

Wendy Bizarro 2026
 Stephanie Jerome 2025
 Karen Lynch 2025
 Frank Spezzano 2027
 Catherine Wall 2026
 Tom Whittaker 2027
 Judy Bunde, alt. 2025
 Jack Schneider, alt. 2027

Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative

Gabe McGuigan 2025
 Tracy Wyman, alt. 2025

Rutland Emergency Management Committee Representatives

Seth Hopkins 2025
 Thomas Kilpeck 2025

Rutland Region Transportation Council Representative

Jeremy Disorda 2025
 Seth Hopkins, alt. 2025

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Representative

Jack Schneider 2025
 Lisa Peluso, alt. 2025

Tree Warden

Neil Silins 2025

Weighers of Coal

Lou Faivre 2025
 Olya Hopkins 2025

Zoning Administrator

Larry Stevens 2027

Acting Zoning Administrator

Natalie Steen

***** **Professional Staff** *****

Assessor

Lisa Truchon, NEMRC

Economic Development Officer

Bill Moore

Police Department

Linda Graziano
 David Kachajian
 Ethan Kelleher
 Michael Von Schleusingen

Public Works Department

Ian Buckley
 Jeremy Disorda
 Winston Forbes
 Brian Kilpeck
 Tim Kingston
 Kyle Leedom

Recording Secretaries

Charlene Bryant
 Hillary Knapp

Recreation

Bill Moore

Rental Housing Officer

Larry Stevens

Town Management Team

Seth Hopkins
 Bill Moore

Town Office Staff

Luanne Merkert
 Jacolyn Savela
 Elaine S. Smith

Reports

from Intergovernmental Appropriations and Public Agencies

OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) had a very challenging year due to issues related to permitting, finances, leadership, and staffing. We appreciate the continued support from our member towns, and we are taking measures to mend our deficiencies and are confident that in 2025 service will be restored to the expected levels. We also face capital improvement needs: the fleet of trucks and other equipment are old and the building needs improvements and repair.

The year began with an unexpected permitting challenge with potentially significant financial impact to the OCW. In early January the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFAM) informed the Board of a new requirement for the adulticide permit: the installation of variable flow control meters on the OCW's sprayers. The estimated cost of compliance was \$30,000 and the announcement came after the budget had been prepared and assessments to the member towns were distributed. Fortunately, the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association Board of Trustees stepped up with a grant that covered the final cost of just over \$26,000.

Luckily, the spring was dry and mosquito populations were low until the rains that came in July. The weather was now on the side of the mosquitoes. It was in this period that our short staffing became clear. Further dry weather in the fall and an early frost then lowered the nuisance level.

The same period was marked by some upheaval in the Board's leadership. In spite of that the Board moved forward in addressing the issues that face us, particularly our

staffing situation.

At the Board's Annual Meeting in November, the Board appointed a three-person Ad Hoc Hiring Committee to hire the staff needed to fulfill our 2025 operations properly. At that meeting Jeff Schumann (Salisbury) was elected Chair, replacing Steve Belcher. Jeff Whiting (Goshen) became Vice-Chair, Doug Perkins (Leicester) Treasurer, Steve Belcher (Pittsford) Secretary, and Albert Wenta (Proctor) Auditor.

The overall budget approved by the Board of Trustees for 2025 represents a 0% increase from 2024. The Town Assessments are based upon an algorithm containing metrics which are updated annually. Consequently, each town's 2025 assessment will vary slightly from 2024.

Key 2024 statistics reported by our Operation Coordinator:

No-spray requests: 90 (for 2023 the figure was 104)

Call-in requests: 269 (for 2023 the figure was 415)

Larva dip checks: 140 Adult sampling with light traps: 78

A reminder: No Spray requests must be renewed annually and should be submitted to the OCW no later than April 15th. Please check our website <http://ocwidc.com> or detailed instructions. On that website you can also sign up for notification about planned spraying activities. Please also watch for public notices about permitted activities.

GREEN UP DAY VERMONT

Dear Brandon Community Members,

I have some good news and some bad news about the results of Brandon's Green Up day efforts on May 4. First, the good news . . . our intrepid Green Up volunteers removed almost three thousand pounds of garbage and 92 tires from our roadsides this year! Correspondingly, the bad news is that thousands of pounds of garbage and scores of tires accumulated on our roadsides and landscape since Green Up Day in 2023.

While I applaud the efforts of those who make Green Up Day a success year after year, I nevertheless am eagerly awaiting the day when we no longer need a Green Up Day! Until then, I thank our volunteers and the crew at the transfer station for their help on Green Up Day and beyond. Special recognition goes out to folks who clean up our roadsides throughout the year to keep our roadsides unspoiled, and to those who properly dispose of their tires and trash.

The underlying objective of Green Up Day is laudable. Increasingly, however, some folks place unwanted household items and tires on the roadsides in the days immediately preceding Green Up Day with the expectation that a Green Up volunteer will remove those items at no cost to the offender. Rather than consider how they might assist Green Up efforts, these folks evidently consider only how Green Up Day can benefit them. This is disheartening and, in time, could undermine volunteers' willingness to participate in Green Up Day. If this sounds like you, please consider making a positive contribution to Green Up Day next year.

Thank you,
Jim Leary
Brandon Green Up Day Coordinator

MARBLE VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT – “THE BUS”

Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD), known as “The Bus” is in its forty eighth year of providing service to the residents of the greater Rutland area. The Bus is the largest, non-urban, public transportation system in the State of Vermont and provides transportation to the general public throughout Rutland County, as well as to social and human service agencies, the resort communities and area businesses. MVRTD provides an enhanced level of self-sufficiency for the elderly, disabled and transportation disadvantaged who rely on public transportation. System ridership was over 641,900 rides this past year. MVRTD provides 65 jobs year round, with upwards of 80 during the winter peak season.

MVRTD provided over 1,900 rides to Brandon on the Middlebury Route, a commuter service with stops at the American Legion, Brandon Center Gazebo, Brandon Post Office, Estabrook Field and Park Village. Other highly

successful commuter routes operated by MVRTD both within Rutland County and beyond provide connections to three adjoining counties thus serving the growing population committed to the environmental benefits of public transit use as well as the savings realized in the cost of fuel.

MVRTD has provided service under the Elderly and Disabled Program to Brandon for many years in partnership with Bridges and Beyond.

For more information about schedules and services please call 773-3244 x112 or visit MVRTD’s web site at www.thebus.com.

MVRTD thanks the residents of Brandon for their continued support of public transit.

Lee Bizon,
Community Outreach

VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM “VSNIP”

TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS and LICENSE!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to license. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) & Tractor Supply host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: VSNIP.Vermont.Gov. VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you’ll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not

currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The “mom” cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. “Farm” cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won’t allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be the inside a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not ‘save’ one, it ‘enables’ those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard “Snook” Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! Together We Truly Do Make a Difference! 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw,
Administrator: VSNIP
Executive Director: VVSA

BRANDON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

During the past year, the Town of Brandon Historic Preservation Commission (BHPC) has completed a Historic Preservation Scoping Study. The study provides an overview of existing historic documentation for the town of Brandon, including the Forest Dale area. The results of the study identified areas of significant interest and recommendations for future work by the BHPC. The study identified 3 buildings that should be considered for inclusion in the State or National Registry of Historic Places. It also recommended that the Forest Dale area be considered for a National Registry Historic District due

to its nineteenth and twentieth century mining and industrial history. Discussions have begun determining the eligibility of these buildings and area for meeting these goals.

The BHPC is a requirement for Brandon to meet the Certified Local Government Program. During the year, there has been difficulty filling the Commission positions. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Commission should contact the Brandon Town Manager.

Dennis Reisenweaver
Chair, Brandon Historic Preservation Commission

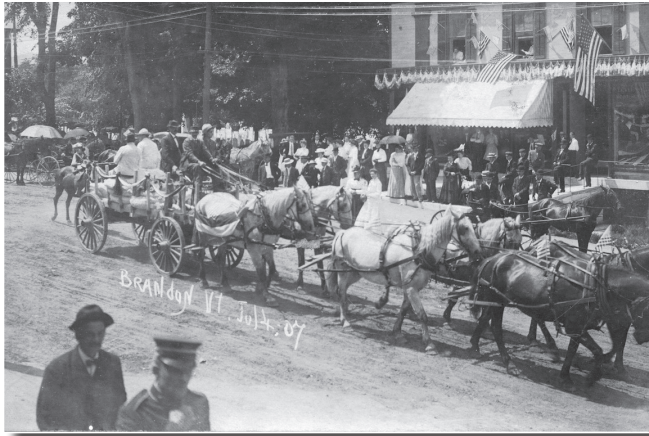
DOWNTOWN BRANDON ALLIANCE

The Downtown Brandon Alliance had a very busy and successful 2024. We were able to hire a part-time coordinator, Fiona Slattery, who has done a grand job for the board. With Ms. Slattery's help, the DBA has increased its board membership and the number of volunteers it can tap into. The DBA continued with the spring and summer flowerpots that we have done for years, and the board wants to thank Jean, Cindy, and Joan for the volunteer time they put into organizing the flowerpots. We also want to thank Wade Davis for the time he puts into running the summer-time Live at Kennedy Park music series. We also want to thank all the volunteers who come out to help plant and place the flowerpots and put up the holiday decorations each year. We hope that the time spent with us brings you as much joy as it does to the people who experience the beauty and holiday spirit that you all provide.

2024 was the year the DBA was able to find an outstanding grant program for the completion of the Bankers Alley, a project that has been on the town's agenda for a number of years. The DBA successfully applied to the Vermont Better Places grant, which provides money to improve Vermont's lives. This grant requires the match to be made through a "crowd-sourcing" process, which means if the

project doesn't have community support, it will not meet the funding necessary to match the grant. I'm very happy to say that the Park 2 Park campaign the DBA created to accomplish the Bankers Alley project not only met the grant match through crowd-sourcing but exceeded it. With the match and grant funding, the DBA was able to clean the graffiti for the brick walls, provide funding to three local artists to create murals, repair damaged brick, remove the battered old asphalt, and replace it with a new, even footpath, plus custom made arches and planters. Bankers Alley now provides a pleasant walk between Central and Kennedy Parks with an opportunity to slow down and enjoy art by local artists, we do hope that everyone will take a moment and enjoy it. In closing I want to thank the DBA board for their continued commitment, the many volunteers who work with us each year, the Brandon Chamber for our collaborations, and the people of Brandon for the financial support. Here is to a great 2025.

Sincerely
Devon Fuller
President.
Downtown Brandon Alliance



Accounts

State Payments to the Town of Brandon

AOT - Grants/Other HW projects.....	\$428,776
AOT - Class 1, 2, 3 Roads.....	\$167,149
Dept. of Administration/ Grant Funds.....	\$4,000
Dept. of Agency of Natural Resources/ PILOT payment.....	\$1,522
Dept. of Children & Families/ Grant Funds/ Recording.....	\$23,285
Dept. of Housing & Comm. Dev/ Grant Funds.....	\$145,506
Dept. of Public Safety/Grant Funds.....	\$359,611
Judicial & Civil Fines/Document Reimbursement.....	\$1,799
Annual Ticket refund.....	\$5,113
DCF Fingerprinting reimbursement.....	\$105
Recording Fees.....	\$255
Cannabis Control Board.....	\$100
Assessor Reappraisal.....	\$17,094
Assessor Revenue.....	\$2,011
Local Option Tax.....	\$276,975
Municipal Property Tax Adjustment.....	\$157,693
PILOT/Current Use/Hold Harmless/RR Tax.....	\$55,319
Total:	\$1,646,312

Debt and Loan Balances

PERIOD ENDING 6/30/2024						
LONG-TERM DEBT						
BONDS						
\$ 309,098.27	Waste Water, System Improvements	\$ 30,882	\$ 30,869	\$ 30,869	\$ 30,840	December-36
\$ 8,926.88	Waste Water, Carver Street Extension of System	\$ 4,639	\$ 4,626	\$ -	\$ -	December-25
\$ 423,910.29	Waste Water, Champlain St Pump Station	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	February-48
\$ 405,000.00	General Fund, Infrastructure Bond 2006	\$ 145,458	\$ 136,805	\$ 135,380	\$ -	December-26
\$ 177,500.00	General Fund, PD Building Rehab	\$ 25,286	\$ 24,635	\$ 23,984	\$ 23,332	December-32
\$ 584,640.00	General Fund, Overflow Culver, Rte 7, Bridge 114	\$ 60,502	\$ 59,381	\$ 58,197	\$ 56,950	November-37
\$ 3,731,714.39	USDA Bond WWTP (estimated timing)**OCTOBER 2023 \$3,780,000	\$ 162,540	\$ 162,540	\$ 162,540	\$ 162,540	November-54
STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS						
\$ 442,026.08	CWSRF -RF1-214-3.0 Park St - \$12,962 forgiven, \$32231.91/yr beg 5/1/21	\$ 30,928	\$ 30,928	\$ 30,928	\$ 30,928	May-40
\$ 476,903.36	WW - RF1-223-2.0 Sewer - \$849,457 / \$327,673 forgiven, \$31,910, 20 yrs, 9/2024	\$ 31,939	\$ 31,910	\$ 31,910	\$ 31,910	September-43
\$ 6,559,719.27						
CAPITAL LEASES						
\$ 31,421.16	General Fund - Grader Lease, 2.75% interest	\$ 32,408	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	February-25
\$ 100,000.00	General Fund - Truck Lease NBM, 4.5% interest	\$ 12,275	\$ 23,879	\$ 22,466	\$ 22,059	December-29
\$ 62,261.36		\$ 559,821.00	\$ 528,536.75	\$ 519,238.25	\$ 381,522.75	

Treasurer's Tax Report (aka Tax Reconciliation)

TREASURERS TAX REPORT TAX YEAR ENDING 5/15/2024

TAXES BILLED 2023-2024	TAX RATE	X GRAND LIST =	TOTAL RAISED
Non-Residential Education	1.6530	\$1,503,671	\$2,485,568
Homestead Education	1.4330	1,965,715	\$2,816,870
Municipal			
Town	0.7864	\$3,480,591	2,737,137
Fire District #1	0.0946	3,480,591	329,264
Local Agreement Rate	0.0059	3,480,591	20,535
Appropriations	0.0697	3,480,591	242,597
Misc Taxes			1,602
Total Taxes Billed			<u>\$8,633,573</u>
Total Taxes Collectible			<u>\$8,633,537</u>
Taxes Paid by 5/15/24		\$8,364,618	
Abatements		3,081	
Delinquent Taxes.....		265,874	
Total Taxes Accounted for		<u> </u>	<u>8,633,573</u>
Variance			(0)

TAXES PAID TO:

Otter Valley Unified Union School District (OVUUSD)	4,465,784	
Brandon Fire District #1	329,250	
Total	<u> </u>	<u>4,795,034</u>

EDUCATION TAX CASH FLOW FINAL

State Payments	991,888
State Payments to Municipality	157,693
Non-Residential Education Tax Billed	2,382,469
Homestead Education Tax Billed	2,928,035
Payments to OVUUSD	(4,465,784)
	<u>844,720</u>
State Payments	(991,888)
State Payments to Municipality	157,693
Late Fees Retained	(453)
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Homestead	(4,711)
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Non-Residential	(5,361)
Variance	<u>0</u>

NOTE: FOR PURPOSES OF RECONCILING THE EDUCATION TAX BILLING, FINAL GRAND LIST AMOUNTS ARE USED IN THE TAX CALCULATION AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE. THESE FIGURES VARY SLIGHTLY FROM THE BILLED TAXES WHICH ARE BASED ON THE GRAND LIST IN JULY.

Respectfully Submitted
Susan Gage, Treasurer

Sale of Town-Owned Assets

The Town currently holds no real estate it wishes to sell. The Town uses municibid.com to market equipment and vehicles it wishes to sell.

Tax Rates / Grand List / Town Budget Over Time

	6/30/21	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/24	6/30/25
GRAND LIST					
Grand List.....	\$344,129,900	\$345,374,100	\$345,824,000	\$348,059,100	\$3,515,637
TAX RATES					
Town Budget.....	0.7899	0.7945	0.7843	0.7864	0.7976
Voted Appropriations.....	0.0788	0.0857	0.0628	0.0697	0.0956
Fire District	0.0834	0.0859	0.0938	0.0946	0.0960
Local Agreement Rates.....	0.0064	0.0062	0.0061	0.0059	0.0076
Total Local Tax Rates	0.9585	0.9723	0.9470	0.9566	0.9968
<i>increase over prior year.....</i>	<i>-0.4673%</i>	<i>1.4397%</i>	<i>-2.6021%</i>	<i>1.0137%</i>	<i>4.2045%</i>
Education Rates					
Non Residential Education.....	1.5763	1.6356	1.5758	1.6530	1.8624
Homestead Education	1.3479	1.3862	1.3735	1.4330	1.6721
Total Tax Rate, Homestead	2.3064	2.3585	2.3205	2.3896	2.6689
<i>increase over prior year.....</i>	<i>0.3961%</i>	<i>2.2589%</i>	<i>-1.6112%</i>	<i>2.9778%</i>	<i>11.6890%</i>
Total Tax Rate, Non Residential.....	2.5348	2.6079	2.5228	2.6096	2.8592
<i>increase over prior year.....</i>	<i>0.8033%</i>	<i>2.8839%</i>	<i>-3.2632%</i>	<i>3.4406%</i>	<i>9.5655%</i>
APPROVED BUDGETS					
Budget to be Raised by Taxes	\$2,718,353	\$2,744,135	\$2,712,274	\$2,737,260	\$2,804,212
<i>increase over prior year</i>	<i>2.4806%</i>	<i>0.9484%</i>	<i>-1.1611%</i>	<i>0.9212%</i>	<i>2.4459%</i>
APPROPRIATIONS					
ARC of Rutland	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	-	-	4,000
Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Brandon Area Rescue Squad.....	28,000	28,000	82,580	82,580	82,580
Brandon Free Public Library.....	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
Brandon Independence Day Committee	6,000	6,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Brandon Senior Citizens Center	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	15,500
Charter House Coalition	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Foxcroft Farm	-	-	-	-	-
Open Door Clinic, Community Health Services	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
RSVP.....	550	550	550	550	550
Rutland Area Visiting Nurses	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
Rutland County Humane Society	750	750	1,500	1,500	1,500
Rutland Mental Health.....	6,624	6,624	-	-	-
Southwest Council on Aging	2,400	2,400	-	2,900	2,900
Stephen Douglas House	2,500	2,500	5,000	2,500	5,000
Infrastructure / Paving.....	100,000	100,000	-	-	85,000
Brandon American Legion Post #55 .	-	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
	\$271,024	\$296,024	\$217,330	\$242,730	\$336,230

Properties Votes Exempt & Properties with Tax Stabilization

PROPERTIES VOTED EXEMPT				
DATE VOTED	NAME	BEGINNING DATE	END DATE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION
3/4/24	BARS Building & Land	7/1/24	6/30/29	584,200
3/3/15	Brandon Senior Citizens	7/1/20	6/30/25	257,800
3/4/24	Brandon Masonic Assn	7/1/24	6/30/29	264,100
PROPERTIES WITH TAX STABILIZATION				
DATE STABILIZED	NAME	STABILIZATION END DATE	STABILIZED VALUE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION
7/1/23	MT Associates LLC	6/30/33	280,000	706,500
7/1/17	Olivia's Holdings LLC	6/30/25	885,000	887,200
7/1/19	Smith Block LLC	6/30/28	366,900	1,787,300

General Fund Balance Sheet

ASSETS

NBM GF #10070240	\$1,998,581
Checking #176452010	4,038
Petty Cash - Town Office	150
Petty Cash - Police Dept	50
Petty Cash - Recreation	75
Interest on Current Taxes	15
Delinquent Tax Receivable	409,162
Int. & Pen. Receivables	140,385
Accounts Receivable	9,036
Middlebury Acct. 10047019	8,784
Due From/To Other Funds	(1,291,964)
Prepaid Expenses	6,829
Total Assets	\$1,285,142

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$71,305
Dog Lic. Fees to State	236
Marriage Lic. Fees to Sta	(150)
Hunting/Fishing Lic. to S.....	3
Anticipated Tax Credits	20,510
Deposits Payable	2,100
Deferred Tax Revenue	525,781
Tax Posting Variance	(807)
Accts Receivable Posting	(3)
Total Liabilities	\$618,976

FUND BALANCE

Fund Balance	\$482,044
Fund Balance - Reserved	803
Fund Balance-Recreation	26,863
Reserved by Selectboard	105,528
Nonspendable Fund Balance	6,829
Reserved - Records Pres.	44,100
Total Fund Balance	\$666,166

Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$1,285,142
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General Fund Balance Over Time

Fund Balance	6/30/20	6/30/21	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/24
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$670,586	\$875,689	\$1,038,336	\$791,675	\$666,166
Unrestricted & Unassigned Fund Balance	519,340	689,145	784,157	564,485	482,044
Restricted Highway, statutory.....	36,451	93,479	152,100	—	—
Reserved Fund Balance	39,679	56,132	57,567	66,203	71,765
Assigned Fund Balance	40,000	30,433	40,162	154,262	105,528
Nonspendable Fund Balance.....	35,116	6,500	4,350	6,725	6,829
Total Fund Balance	\$670,586	\$875,689	\$1,038,336	\$791,675	\$666,166

Fund Balance Policy in Effect 6/30/2017

Budget for Next Year	\$3,408,909	\$3,540,044	\$3,447,730	\$3,346,150	3,328,882
% of Unrestricted & Unassigned FB relative to Next Year Budget.....	15.23%	19.47%	22.47%	16.87%	14.48%

TOWN OF BRANDON FUND BALANCE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to set parameters on the town's unrestricted reserve fund balance. Responsible stewardship of the taxpayers' money, and adequate provision for future needs of the town, both foreseen and unforeseen, require the town to maintain a positive fund balance. The fund balance may be used by the selectboard for any purpose not in conflict with Vermont or Federal statute. The selectboard finds that a desirable amount for the town's unrestricted reserve fund balance is not less than 15% nor more than 30% of the town's then-current annual operating budget.

Local Option Tax Fund Over Time

	to 6/30/20	6/30/21	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/24	Totals to Date
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$43,450	
REVENUES						
Local Option Tax Revenue	\$192,319	\$210,667	\$272,326	\$266,946	\$276,975	1,649,207
Bank Interest.....	3,566	950	609	1,309	3,781	17,521
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$195,885	\$211,617	\$272,935	\$286,255	\$280,756	1,666,727
EXPENDITURES						
Infrastructure Projects - Park St	\$ -	\$ -	\$113,754	\$ -	\$ -	113,754
Infrastructure Projects Rte 7 Seg. 6.....	\$150,000	\$320,636	-	\$ -	\$24,453	495,090
Equipment Purchase-Backhoe.....	-	-	\$123,900	\$268,274	-	392,174
Building Improvements-New Windows T/O	-	-	-	-	\$15,000	15,000
Infrastructure Projects - Town Farm Rd .	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$157,023	-	157,023
Infrastructure Projects - North Bridge R	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$25,000	-	25,000
Infrastructure Projects - Forest Dale Co	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000	-	10,000
Infrastructure Projects - McConnell Cul.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$50,000	-	50,000
Infrastructure Projects -Arnold Dist. Rd.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$123,935	-	\$123,935
Total Expenditures	\$150,000	\$320,636	\$237,654	\$634,232	39,453	1,381,976
Change in Fund Balance	\$45,885	(109,019)	\$409,427	43,450	\$284,752	284,751
ASSETS						
Due To/From Other Funds	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$43,450	294,158	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$43,450	294,158	
LIABILITIES						
Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$9,405	
FUND BALANCE						
Prior Year Fund Balance	\$437,279	\$483,165	\$374,146	\$409,427	43,450	
Current Year	45,885	(109,019)	35,381	(365,977)	241,303	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE .	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$409,427	\$43,450	294,158	

Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds (TOPF) is an independent fund established to manage the trust of the late Shirley Farr, based on her last will and testament after her death in 1955. As a Brandon resident and philanthropist, Ms. Farr was concerned with environmental conditions and general improvements of the town and local society. The board continues to serve improvements of the town and village through Trust awards for projects not sufficiently provided by taxation.

Tanner Romano, Courtney Satz, and Laura Miner

The Trustees of Public Funds (TOPF) reviewed six funding requests for the reporting year.

Town of Brandon for Otter Creek Watershed

Insect Control District 7/14/2023

Amount Requested: \$14,000 • Status: TOPF Disbursed \$10,000

This request was a resubmission from the previous fiscal year requiring more information. The Town of Brandon requested \$14,000 to offset expenditures for mosquito control. After lengthy discussions and presentation to the Select Board, the TOPF unanimously voted to fund this request in the amount of \$10,000.

Neshobe PTO 10/27/2023

Amount Requested: \$10,000 • Status: TOPF Disbursed \$9,065

This request was a resubmission with vendor estimates provided for playground equipment. After reviewing the complete application and estimates which totaled \$9,265, less a \$200 contribution from the PTO, the TOPF unanimously voted to fund this request in the amount of \$9,065.

Otter Valley Football Club (OVFC) 11/15/2023

**Amount Requested: \$7,500 for 2023 and \$10,000 for 2024
Status: TOPF Disbursed \$20,000**

This request came from Nate and Kate McKay on behalf of the OVFC to help offset costs for permanent lighting for the football/varsity field at Otter Valley. The board discussed utilizing slightly greater funding given recent growth in the Trust and the importance of this project for the community. The TOPF unanimously approved funding this request for \$20,000 in 23/24.

Expenditures:

Town of Brandon	\$10,000
Neshobe PTO	\$9,065
Otter Valley Football Club	\$20,000
Otter Valley Activities Association	\$12,000
Otter Valley Activities Association (Pledge #2 of #2)	\$10,000
Brandon Free Public Library (Pledge #3 of #3)	\$10,000
Total Expenditures:	\$71,065

Ending Balance Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Account as of 6/30/2024 **\$21,414**

Composition of Fund as of June 30, 2024

Morgan Stanley Investment Account	
Cash Balance	\$8,751
Equities	\$529,501
Fixed Income	\$307,808
Total Fund Value on June 30, 2024	\$846,060

Five Year Historical Record of Fund Value	
Year end June 30, 2020	\$770,304
Year end June 30, 2021	\$939,476
Year end June 30, 2022	\$770,309
Year end June 30, 2023	\$832,122
Year end June 30, 2024	\$846,060

Outstanding Approved Pledges as of June 30, 2024

None

Wastewater Balance - 6/30/24

Account	
ASSETS	
Sewer Fees Receivable.....	310,206
Unbilled Receivables.....	141,253
Due/To Other Funds.....	581,752
Sewer Plant.....	1,521,825
Acc. Depreciation-Bldgs.....	(1,261,418)
Sewer Plant Upgrade.....	599,674
Accum. Dep. Sewer Lines.....	(391,937)
Sewer lines.....	2,834,600
Sewer Equipment.....	1,947,072
Acc. Depreciation-Equip.....	(1,040,489)
Construction in Progress.....	6,697,848
Total Assets	11,940,385
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable.....	34,199
Sewer Fee Credits.....	4,798
Accrued Vacation/Comp.....	11,086
USDA Bond - Pump Station.....	423,865
2012 WW CWSRF RF1-159.....	2,158
Sewer Improv Series 4.....	309,098
Carver Refi 2012 Series 5.....	8,927
CWSRF Park Street.....	442,026
USDA-Public Sewer Sys.'23.....	3,731,714
Interest Payable - Bond.....	5,136
Sewer Posting Variance.....	360
CWSRF-Coll Sys Loan Payab.....	476,903
Total Liabilities	5,450,271
FUND BALANCE	
Reserved Fund Balance.....	10,000
Retained Earnings.....	830,879
Contributed Capital.....	2,019,725
Contributed Capital.....	254,282
Contributed Capital.....	1,150,868
Fund Balance Current Year.....	2,224,359
Total Fund Balance.....	6,490,113
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	11,940,385

Wastewater Budget / Actual - FYE 6/30/24

Account	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Wastewater Revenues			
Sewer Fees - Revenues	289,000	267,401	93%
Sewer Base Fees	571,200	548,700	96%
Misc. Revenues	-	149	-
Sewer Permit Revenue	250	300	120%
Grant Revenues-WW Upgrade	-	2,387,777	-
Interest Revenue	25,000	40,360	161%
Transfers	-	9 1,020	-
Total Wastewater Revenues	885,450	3,335,707	

Waste Water Expenses

Wages-Permanent Full Time	140,675	145,699	104%
Overtime	5,000	4,773	95%
On Call hours	5,200	5,200	100%
WW Part Time Wages	2,500	-	0%
Fica	9,800	8,871	91%
Medicare	2,295	2,075	90%
Health Insurance	48,000	51,391	107%
Life & Disability Ins.	1,700	1,546	91%
Dental	3,540	3,147	89%
HRA	5,800	5,830	101%
VMER	15,285	15,586	102%
Travel & Expenses	300	32	11%
Clothing Allowance	1,000	549	55%
Dues & Subscriptions	600	550	92%
Continuing Education	500	-	0%
Professional Services	1,500	880	59%
Contractors	-	25,341	-
Licenses & Fees	2,600	2,100	81%
Legal Services	2,500	5,750	230%
Auditors	5,000	5,000	100%
Testing	11,550	6,118	53%
Office Supplies	300	346	115%
Professional Supplies	3,500	5,782	165%
New Equipment-Misc Tools	7,500	7,969	106%
Safety Equipment	500	260	52%
Fuel - Vehicles	2,500	3,026	121%
Maintenance-Vehicles	3,000	3,389	113%
Wastewater Telephone	3,000	3,129	104%
LP Gas - Bldgs	12,000	10,343	86%

Wastewater Budget / Actual cont.

Account	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Water	5,000	5,899	118%
Electric	55,000	65,992	120%
Maint. Supplies - Bldgs	500	1,104	221%
Outside Maint. - Bldgs	2,500	1,897	76%
Maint. Supplies - General	12,000	6,713	56%
Outside Maint.	-	109	-
Cold Weather Bacteria	1,500	1,419	95%
Sodium Hypochlorite	42,325	51,965	123%
Root-X	25,000	11,314	45%
Sodium Bisulfite	18,000	34,482	192%
Sodium Aluminate	36,960	44,233	120%
Sludge Disposal	75,600	80,580	107%
Trucking	24,480	23,760	97%
Outside Equip. - Pump St.	-	4,569	-
Collection Systems	-	785	-
BAN Loan Interest	30,000	61,541	205%
Administration Expense	30,000	30,000	100%
Loan Principal Payments	61,430	-	0%
Loan Interest Payments	26,465	58,860	222%
Insurance Expenses	17,000	12,783	75%
Insurance Claim Ded	1,000	-	0%
WW Unemployment	550	438	80%
WW Workers Comp.	8,200	7,912	96%
Transfer to WW Capital Account	90,000	90,000	100%
Depreciation	170,000	188,151	111%
Total Wastewater Expenses	1,031,155	1,109,190	
Net Revenue over Expenses	(145,705)	2,226,51	

Residents of Brandon and Forest Dale,

The Town of Brandon owns and operates a vast wastewater enterprise. Consisting of 7 pumping stations, 22 miles of sewer collection mains, over 100 manhole structures and a newly overhauled and optimized treatment facility. Our department runs 24/7/365 with a small team of dedicated professionals. 2024 saw many changes. The capital upgrades to the treatment plant are complete. This will optimize processing and quality of 100,000,000 gallons of treated wastewater, discharged annually to Neshobe river. We said goodbye to long time Chief operator Steve Cijka, whose expertise and tenacity kept things running and compliant. We welcome Assistant Chief Ian Buckley to the department. He brings previous experience, solid skills, and will be a valuable employee. I will continue to steward for residents, community, and for our Vermont waterways.

Respectfully,
Timothy Kingston
Chief Operator Brandon Wastewater Dept.

Wastewater Cash Flow

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 6/30/2024

	Wastewater Fund	Sewer Capital AC	COMBINED
Beginning Cash Equivalent.....	\$ 613,260	\$ 182,375	\$ 795,636
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS			
Operating Income (Loss) net of Interfund Transfers	\$ (164,438)	\$ 11,314	\$ (153,125)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by Operation			
Depreciation.....	\$ 188,151	\$ -	\$ 188,151
Receivables	\$ 154,635	\$ -	\$ 154,635
Prepaid Expenses.....		-	
Payables	\$ 21,684	\$ -	\$ 21,684
Sewer Credits	\$ 3,020	\$ -	\$ 3,020
Accrued Expenses.....	\$ 3,625	\$ -	\$ 3,625
Net Cash or Cash Equivalents Provided by (Used in) Operations	\$ 206,677	\$ 11,314	\$ 217,990
CASH FLOWS FROM NON CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Grant / Loan / Bond Revenue.....	\$ 3,304,427	\$ -	\$ 3,304,427
Interfund Transfers	\$ 1,020	\$ (1,020)	\$ -
Fund Balance Adjustments	-	-	-
Net Cash Flow from Non Capital Financing Activities.....	\$ 3,305,446	\$ (1,020)	\$ 3,304,427
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL & RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from Capital Debt.....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Contributions.....	-	-	-
Principal Payments on Debt	\$ (458,325)	\$ -	\$ (458,325)
Acquisition of Capital Assets / Sale of Capital Assets	(3,403,830)	-	(3,403,830)
Net Cash Flows from Capital & Related Financing Activities	\$ (3,543,632)	\$ -	\$ (3,543,632)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ (31,509)	\$ 10,294	\$ (21,215)
Cash Equivalents beginning	\$ 613,260	\$ 182,375	\$ 795,636
Cash Equivalents ending.....	\$ 581,752	\$ 192,669	\$ 774,421

Town of Brandon - Activity in Special Funds ~ 06/30/2024

	FUND 25	FUND 37	FUND 38	FUND 40	FUND 43	FUND 46	FUND 47	FUND 51	FUND 53	FUND 56	FUND 61	FUND 63	FUND 64	FUND 70	FUND 90
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES															
Bank Interest / Investment Revenue	9,179	1,718		724	34,921	-	2,846	47	4,275	428	3	413	223	3,781	
Local Options Tax Revenue														276,975	
Revolving Loan Repayments / Rev		49,815													
Per Parcel Payment / State of Vermont							17,094		7,038						
Capacity Fees															
Unrealized Gains (Losses)					62,236					981,826					
Fed/State Grant Revenue						28,267									
Opioiid Settlement													3,307		
Local Grants															
Local Reimbursements															
Interfund Transfers	9,179	51,534	-	724	97,157	24,453	5,000	47	90,000	4,323	3	413	3,630	280,756	626,488
TOTAL REVENUES															
Program / Direct Expenses		73,000							91,020	15,625					
Brandon Free Public Library	100,000														
Town Hall Roof Replacement	340,022														
Sidewalk Rebuild and Replacement	175,000														
Const Square Parking Lot Match	47,458														
Tennis Court Repairs	30,000														
Municipal Solar Array	4,323														
Investment Expenses/ Bank Charges					80,284			4,845		690,253				39,453	
New Equipment / Infrastructure															
Churchill Rd Bridge						11,071									
Union Street Sidewalk						15,580									
Library CDBG Grant										100,000					
Interfund Transfers	696,803	73,000	-	-	80,284	26,651	-	4,845	91,020	806,162	-	-	-	39,453	701,815
TOTAL EXPENSES															
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE															
BALANCE SHEET															
ASSETS															
Cash/Investments/CDs					867,474										
Due From/(To)(Cash Equivalent)		61,923		(593,386)											
Loans / Grants Receivable		315,711	391,000	748,877		(15,072)	176,171	1,489	192,669	490,070	205	19,103	14,156	294,158	80,632
Prepaid Expenses										9,152					
Receivables															
TOTAL ASSETS		377,634	391,000	155,491	867,474	(15,072)	176,171	1,489	192,669	500,354	205	19,103	14,156	294,158	306,458
LIABILITIES															
Deferred Revenue															
Accounts Payable		315,711	391,000	154,181		600				550,860				9,405	80,632
Grant Anticipation Notes										23,659					
Water Credits															83
FUND BALANCE															
Fund Balance	687,625	83,390	-	585	850,601	(41,741)	151,232	6,287	182,375	(254,580)	202	18,690	10,827	43,450	301,069
Current Year Fund Balance	(687,625)	(21,466)	-	724	16,873	26,069	24,939	(4,798)	10,294	180,415	3	413	3,630	241,302	(75,327)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE															
BALANCE		377,634	391,000	155,491	867,474	(15,072)	176,171	1,489	192,669	500,353	205	19,103	14,156	294,158	306,458

Appropriations

AMERICAN LEGION POST #55 - BRANDON

The mission of Brandon's American Legion Post #55 is to serve the people of Brandon and surrounding communities. The Legion reaches out to all ages through our programs:

- providing mentorship for local youth through Girls and Boys State, Law Enforcement Cadet Program, baseball, and scholarships;
- offering a low cost or no cost, fully accessible hall for community events including helping other organizations and families by hosting basket raffles, benefit dinners, baby showers, holiday parties, and Red Cross blood drives, Brandon Toy Project, meals delivered during Thanksgiving, and a Town Voting Place.
- an ongoing commitment to assist veterans and their families. The Post provides social support and builds positive relationships among veterans; honor guards to honor our fallen heroes at veterans' funerals; and plays a lead role in the Town parades and observances on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veteran's Day;
- advocacy for patriotism and honor, civics instruction and pride, and strong national security.

Brandon Post #55's success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the community of Brandon in which we thrive. Brandon has been home to an American Legion Post since September 12, 1919. Brandon's Post has been located at its current building, 550 Franklin Street, since 1970s. We maintain our Post as a certified emergency shelter for Brandon area residents in times of natural disaster, and it has been used as such.

We are asking for community support to assist us in our mission. It is vital for the Post to continue offering the services and facilities our community has come to rely on from the American Legion. A "Yes" vote on our appropriation request will demonstrate your desire to partner with us to keep our Post viable into the future. We want to thank the voters of Brandon for your continued support of Post# 55, our service to veterans, and our community we serve.

Respectfully,

Aaron Tucker, Commander

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$25,000

BRANDON INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (BIDCC)

The BIDCC is a small group of volunteers responsible for organizing and fundraising for Brandon's Independence Day Celebration. For more than 45 years, this annual tradition has attracted thousands of out-of-town visitors and stimulated business in our commercial center. But even more important, it is the event that brings together our entire Brandon Community. This past summer we once again staged an enormously successful event, right in the middle of our beautiful downtown, and we are expecting the 2025 Celebration to be even bigger and better!

- There will be a full day of planned activities, from parade to fireworks, all taking place downtown on July 5, 2025 (as usual, the first Saturday in July).
- The parade begins at 10:00 and follows the Park Street/Route 7 route.
- Vendors and live music will continue throughout the day at multiple locations, with a concentration around Central Park.
- Family games and activities will take place behind the Brandon Inn.
- The Silent Auction will run throughout the day at Fellowship Hall at the Congregational Church.
- The annual Duck Race will take place down the falls next to Kennedy Park at 1:00.
- The Beer Garden (sponsored by Red Clover) will run from noon to 7:00 pm, with live music throughout the day.
- The annual Street Dance, with Jam Man Entertainment, will take place in the parking lot between Central Park and Park Street businesses, beginning at 6:00 pm.
- The Fireworks will be set off at dusk from Mill Lane, viewable from nearly everywhere within a mile of downtown!

With costs rising each year (fireworks have almost doubled since 2020), we are constantly exploring new funding avenues. The Silent Auction has traditionally been our most dependable resource, but the Duck Race has become increasingly popular, and our 50/50 raffle has been a huge success. We plan to expand these even further in the future, as well as continually develop other ideas.

We want to express our immense gratitude to the entire Brandon community for their continued support. The yearly appropriation we receive is crucial to allowing us to provide fireworks, parade bands, live music, games and activities throughout the day, in addition to publicity, port-a-potties, trash pickup and the other myriad activities involved with a community-wide all-day event.

We look forward to continuing the cherished tradition of the Brandon Independence Day Celebration. Bill Moore, Chairperson
Susan Stone, Treasurer

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$7,000

BRANDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization dedicated to the improvement and advancement of a positive and dynamic economic, industrial, professional and business climate, and community enhancement in the Brandon area." We strive to make the Brandon area a better place to live, work, and play.

The Chamber of Commerce organizes and supports other entities with many community events throughout the year including the free Summer Concert Series, the Great Brandon Auction, Yard Sale Day, Small Business Saturday, Moonlight Madness, Holiday Decorating contest and Reverse Holiday Parade and of course the meaningful Memory Tree lighting ceremony. We give a \$500 prize award to an outstanding OVUHS student, help beautify the town and continue to support the parade and downtown fireworks display organized and staged by the Independence Day committee!

We continue to partner in the activities and operations of our wonderful museum, visitors center, and community meeting space. We also work on many tasks with the Brandon Rec department and the Town. We've been working productively with the Downtown Brandon Alliance now under the umbrella of the Chamber. They are critical in facilitating grant funding to the DBA and maintaining Designated Downtown compliance in regards to: 1) priority on grants 2) tax credits for our businesses. We look forward to continuing our great working relationship with the DBA folks.

We have an active and busy website full of information for the traveling public and the community. Our popular electronic newsletter is sent to more than 1500 email addresses on a regular basis and is an effective communication vehicle.

The Chamber continues to be heavily involved with town economic development, striving to bring new residents and businesses to expand our tax base and working closely with the town's economic development officer. We send out informational packets requested by visitors and those interested in starting a business in town or becoming a resident.

We thank the Brandon voters and taxpayers for past support and look to them for help with future expenses. We're proud to be part of Brandon and hope to continue to effect change in a positive and dynamic way.

Please contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or info@brandon.org with any questions or look us up on-line at www.brandon.org. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, click on the "Join Our Newsletter" link on our website.

Businesses of every size and many valuable "individual" members contribute greatly to making Brandon the place we all love. So call or email today and join in the journey!

Nancy Spalding-Ness, President
Bernie Carr, Executive Director

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,000

BRANDON AREA RESCUE

I am writing this letter to request that Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Inc be included on the 2025 Town Meeting Ballot for an appropriation of \$82,580. This is the same appropriation requested last year and is an essential part of our yearly budget.

Brandon Rescue responded to 935 calls in 2023/2024. We strive to remain a mainly volunteer run organization saving the towns people about \$300,000 or more per year. Those volunteers have given around 25,000 hours of their time over this past year to help ensure emergency medical coverage for Brandon. As needs and availability of volunteers change, we've been forced to add additional paid staff to our roster to supplement our volunteer staff at a cost. We remain committed to keeping our allocation requests as low as possible. We need more help as well on the volunteer side to help mitigate costs to the taxpayers in town. Not only have costs skyrocketed in the medical field, but our call volume has also increased each year over the last 4 years. This puts our current call volume over 40% higher than 2020 and on average we are responding to over 200 more calls on a yearly basis than our former average call volume.

Thank you for your continued support and if there are any questions, please let me know.
Sincerely,

Andrew Jackson
Chief of Operations, Brandon Area Rescue Squad
802-247-3231 • andy@brandonrescue.org

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$82,580

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide a friendly and safe environment in which patrons of all ages may enrich their lives through the benefit and pleasure of learning and discovery. The BFPL pledges quality service, demonstrating respect for all individuals and our community.

Under half of the BFPL's annual operating budget is from voter-approved appropriations from the towns of Brandon (including Forest Dale), Goshen, Leicester, and Sudbury, our service towns. Each year we must meet the remaining budgetary needs through several fundraisers, donations from the Friends of the Library, donations from our patrons, grants, and apartment rents.

At the 2025 Town Meetings, our towns' voters will be asked to approve their town's appropriation for the Library. Without these essential appropriations, the BFPL could not sustain the volume of services that it currently offers.

After moving the entire library back to our 1830s building after a comprehensive ADA renovation, we are at full operations, serving our community. The BFPL is a busy place, with an average door count of 200 people/day; here are some things that our friendly and helpful Librarians do for you:

General Services

- Books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, audio CDs, interlibrary loan, myriad programming, 2 monthly book discussions, drop-in tech help with Librarian Carey Bunker, Indoor Kid League run by Librarian Eric Drzewianowski (Pokémon, Magic the Gathering, D&D), tax forms

Children's/Teen's Services

- Books, dedicated teen area, DVDs, audio CDs, magazines, summer program every July/August, story hours on Thursdays and Saturdays, Teen Advisory Group, board games, and a safe space for kids after school

Outreach Services

- Tables at local events (Harvest Fest, Spooksville, Fairy Tale Festival)
- Personalized visits to homebound patrons

Building as a Resource

- The Library building is used by a wide variety of community groups including school tutors, Farmer's Market, Republican/Democratic caucuses, Child Care Providers, homeschoolers, Pins & Needles crafting group, Brandon Publishing Club, Forget-Me-Not grief group, and more

Computer/Digital Services

- We offer 5 public laptop computers, 1 Chromebook, iPads, 3 preloaded Kindles, 3 preloaded kids' tablets, 3 programmable robots, 1 Android tablet. Librarians assist patrons and offer tech help/solutions and assistance with job applications, unemployment, insurance applications, and other critical needs
- The Brandon Library pays membership fees for

patrons to access Vermont Online Library, Udemy, Listen-Up Vermont e-lending, and Universal Class, all free to our patrons

- Print, air-print, copy, scan, fax for public use
- 3-D printer
- Personalized computer help: free sessions by appointment and scheduled digital literacy workshops
- Free Wi-Fi in and out of the building

Non-traditional Services

- The BFPL Seed Library offers free seeds and sustainability education
- The Library is an outlet for community service and volunteer opportunities
- Free/reduced-price passes available for Vermont museums and parks

- Weekly free bread distribution site

- Free COVID tests

Library of Things

- Snowshoes, moisture meter, projectors, backup power supply, sewing machine, serger, Cricut, board games, ukuleles, microphone, green screen set-up, lawn games, , E-bikes, Toolship E-tool lending, puzzles

Elderly Services

- Extensive Large Print selection
- Home delivery for housebound patrons. The Library is often one of the few links someone might have to our community

- Various programming
- Free rides to the polls
- Digital Literacy classes, tech help

Community Partnerships

- Recreation Department – Quiz night, Trivia Championship, Spooksville, Harvest Fest
- Neshobe School- Resource sharing, 2nd grade visit
- Brandon Energy Committee - E-bikes, Toolship
- ReBHS - Toolship

As you can see, the BFPL is about much more than books, and really is a Community Center for all! Appropriations from Brandon, Sudbury, Leicester, and Goshen that YOU approve will allow all of these valuable services to continue.

It is critical for citizens to vote "Yes" for Library appropriations, and we thank you in advance for supporting one of Brandon's gems- your local Library. Check us out at the corner of Franklin and Park Streets. call or text. 802-247-8230 or brandonpubliclibrary.org

Thank you!!

Librarians: Molly Kennedy, Joni Osterhau dt, Eric Drzewianowski, Eva Fillion, Carey Bunker, Dan Fox
BFPL Board of Trustees: David Roberts, President; Cristy Harding, Treasurer; John Peterson, Recording Secretary; Jeff Haylon; Nancy Iwanicki; Beate Jensen; Gary Meffe; Bruce Ness; Cecil Reniche-Smith; Courtney Satz

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$92,000

BRANDON SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, INC.

We are continuing to serve the meals; free brunch, free lunches and dinner.

Socialization, at this point, is of utmost importance to us. We try to encourage people to just stop in for a free cup of coffee and chat. Game days will begin the first of January with cards, board games, bingo, darts, jigsaw puzzles, or just reading a magazine in the corner with a beverage. We have added a free bookshelf outside the front door for everyone to come by and take a look. Once you take the book, we don't want it back ©

The Board of Directors continues to improve the building and gardens.

Our solar panels seem to be doing what they are supposed to do and have decreased the amount we are paying to GMP. Our gardens produce the veggies used for our meals and we would welcome any help to maintain them.

The Toe Nail Clinic continues to be held the first Tuesday of every month and we have between ten and fifteen clients benefitting from this program. We continue with Bone Builders every Monday and Wednesday and have added Tai Chi every Thursday. All are welcome to these free classes. The Sick Lane and Lazy club men's coffee club) continued to meet every Thursday afternoon.

We thank everyone who contributes in any way, thereby helping us to help others. As we are all in this together, we encourage folks to keep safe and help each other. Thank you, Brandon.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$15,500

SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older Vermonters living in Brandon during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 9/30/2023 through 10/1/2024.

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide 8,886 meals that were delivered to the homes of 58 older Brandon residents in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 33 older Brandon residents came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 354 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 60.25 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 46 residents of Brandon.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 84 older residents in your community for a total of 925 hours. Case managers meet with an older Brandon resident privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assess the resident's individual situation. They worked with the resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the resident desired, the case manager linked the client to appropriate services, coordinated and monitored services as necessary, and provided information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older Vermonters connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to older Brandon residents facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

- "Helpline" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Helpline staff provide telephone support to older Vermonters and others who need information on available programs and community resources.
- Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program.
- Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project.
- Information about issues and opportunities directly affecting older Vermonters via various agency articles and publications.
- Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician.
- Senior Companion support for frail, homebound older Vermonters.
- Outreach services to older Vermonters dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland Mental Health.
- Transportation assistance
- Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to older Vermonters in need of assistance.
- Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to older Vermonters and younger disabled individuals.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$2,900

ARC • ADVOCACY, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY

Mission Statement: To advocate for the right of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families to be regarded as valued citizens with the same entitlements as non-disabled individuals, including the right to lifelong opportunities for personal growth and full participation in the community.

PROGRAMS;

Representative Payee Program: ARC currently has an active client base of fifty individuals living with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities. We manage each client's individual Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Income and process payments of their financial obligations timely. The Rep. Payee is the liaison for Social Security and works with various other agencies and the client's case managers to assure that the beneficiaries are receiving appropriate services. We are currently at capacity with a waiting list of four potential clients.

Self-Advocates (SABE-R) and Aktion Club: The Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered - Rutland trained and practiced Disability Acceptance presentations about what it is like to live in Rutland County as an adult living with a developmental disability to various organizations such as the Free Clinic, Castleton Campus of VTSU, the Civil and Probate Divisions of VT Superior Court, and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The Aktion Club (a Kiwanis member group) created a new fund raiser: "8-Bean soup in a Jar" has been a great hit this past year. We expanded our "jar" series to include 'fairy jars' - glow in the dark lanterns. Last year's self-sponsored Car Wash and Bake Sale allowed them to donate \$350 to a deserving family of the Boys & Girls Club. We are doing it again at the Bennington Bank on August 10th.

Social Events/Great Outdoor Experiences: These events provide a safe and healthy environment for individuals with developmental disabilities that builds a circle of support, family and community while practicing social skills, and getting physi-

cal exercise. We offer five themed dances and three outdoor events throughout the year. We start with our Valentine's Dance, followed by the End O' Winter, Spring Fling, Halloween, and end with the Holiday Dance. Our outdoor events are at least the Family Fun Day, Urban Legend Walk, and Duffy Barn Picnic. We hope to add another outdoor event in 2025!

Transportation: We are especially grateful to MVRTD and the grant we received. They provided transportation through volunteer drivers to 5 Self Advocate & Aktion club members who live rurally to their monthly meetings and weekly trainings this winter and this summer, while transporting them to the specific community locations for their presentations! This year we collaborated with RRPC to create a pilot survey for individuals with ID/DD for their safety and accessibility to public transportation. MVRTD provided transportation to the Annual Self Advocates convention in March and to all our events, transporting on average fifteen people per event from and return to their homes as well as providing some special individual trips.

On behalf of those we have served, and their families for over 66 years, we are grateful for the support and continued assistance from the citizens of Rutland Area. Rutland County's population claims 28% as having a disability-one of the highest counties in the State. We rely on the support of eighteen towns in the Rutland Area along with grants, donations, and small fundraisers throughout the year. We choose to embrace peer comradery, to offer opportunities for the DD /ID population to share in the community through self-advocacy skills and respectfully appreciate the offerings from all of Rutland Area. For those wanting more information on these wonderful services or to volunteer, please call 802-775-1370.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Drake, Executive Director

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$4,000



OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$1,000 from the Town of Brandon for the fiscal year 2025-2026 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. The allocation will be used to provide free health care to the uninsured and under-insured residents of Brandon and Addison County in general. We would be grateful for your continued support!

Our Mission: The Open Door Clinic provides access to free, quality health care services to those who are uninsured or under-insured in a compassionate, respectful, and culturally sensitive manner until a permanent healthcare provider can be established.

YTD Report: Between 1/1/24-12/2/24, the clinic has provided 1,567 medical and dental visits to 1,236 distinct patients, including 508 new patients! We have served 19 Brandon residents, providing 4 medical visits, 5 dental visits, 13 consults and 3 case management services. In addition, 12 Brandon residents have received help from our health insurance navigator, learning about options available to them through Vermont Health Connect.

Outreach and Services: Through our outreach program this year, we have served 344 patients on 42 farms, orchards and other small businesses. While in the field, we have provided 416 vaccines and 61 medical appointments with a doctor or nurse practitioner. We continue to offer 7-10 in-person medical and dental clinics each month through which patients receive comprehensive chronic and acute care and referrals to a variety of specialists when needed. We also have a new UVM clinical social worker intern who, as a trauma-informed provider, is dedicated to collaborating with patients to develop healthy coping strategies and foster joy and hope in their lives.

Volunteer Based: As a free clinic, we cannot charge for any of our services and rely entirely on the expertise and efforts of many volunteers to care for our patients. Our volunteers include our medical and dental directors, nurse practitioners and physicians, nurses, nutritionists, pharmacists, medical interpreters, and others who provide general support.

Help with Health Insurance: To date, our incredibly knowledgeable insurance navigator has assisted 359 individuals in learning about health insurance plans and has enrolled 196 individuals in plans through Vermont Health Connect. She is the only navigator in Addison County, is available to meet with any member of our community and her services are free.

Budget for last completed fiscal year, 12.31.2023

Total Income: \$758,558

Federal Taxes/Grants:	33.5%
State Taxes/Grants:	25.2%
Municipal Taxes:	3.9%
Patient Donations:	0.03%
Fundraising:	20.87%
Grants/Foundations/UWAC	14.9%
Other	1.6%
Total	100%

Total Operating Expense: \$570,249

Fundraising/Marketing:	0.29%
Facilities:	0.0%
Salaries:	* 82.8%
Office/Admin:	3.9%
Programs/Clinic:	11.6%
Professional Fees/Other:	1.4%

Total 99.99%

Heidi R. Sulis, MPH, Executive Director

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,000

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The Rutland County Humane Society is dedicated to advocating for and working towards a responsible and humane community. We provide shelter and adoption opportunities for pets that are homeless and promote animal welfare through community programs that benefit both animals and people.

We also serve our community by providing information and referral services to people dealing with animal issues.

The RCHS shelter is the largest program of the agency, taking in more than 1,100 animals in 2023.

Our agency is funded through fees for service, town funding, membership, donations and special events. No funding comes from the state or federal government or national organizations. We sincerely thank those who support our operations. We can only save lives with your help.

The Rutland County Humane Society took in 52 animals from the Town of Brandon from December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024.

Please call us at 483.9171 or visit our website at RCHSVT.org if you would like more information about the Rutland County Humane Society.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,500

VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION

To the Officers and Citizens of Brandon:

In 2023, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Brandon residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From children with intensive medical needs, to seniors who wish to remain independent at home, to those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring quality health care wherever it is needed, regardless of the location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking federal and state reimbursements, along with rising health care costs, VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services to Brandon's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's skilled and dedicated staff made more

than 119,829 home visits to 2,915 patients. In Brandon, we provided 5,425 visits to 133 individuals.

Thank you for your continued support! With your vote of confidence, we will continue to fulfill our promise to your community to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

Sincerely,
Sara C. King, CEO
VNA & Hospice of the
Southwest Region
Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$10,200

THE BRANDON MUSEUM

Over the past year, the Brandon Museum has worked to expand its offerings to the community by developing new presentations, exhibits, and events that connect town residents with the town's unique history. In addition to being an educational resource, the Museum runs the Visitors' Center; open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., to provide area information and a public restroom. The Museum also offers a large meeting room for use by town residents at no charge. The Museum is also caretaker and preserver of the Stephen A. Douglas birthplace, a state recognized historical site housing many artifacts and documents.

Experiencing the museum's exhibits and displays first hand offers an excellent introduction to Brandon's remarkable history. Museum visitors learn about Stephen A. Douglas, while also being introduced to the role Brandon played in the abolition movement and the Civil War, as well as our crucially important industrial history. Schoolchildren and their teachers rely upon annual visits to the Museum for this knowledge and learning. Visitors from across the country researching Douglas visit the Museum every summer. Powered by a team of dedicated volunteers and a part-time steward, the museum is open four days a week, May through October, or by appointment year round.

An increase in the number of seminars and workshops offered by the Museum is underway for this year! The Vermont Community Foundation provided funding that enabled a reconfiguration of the meeting room into a suitable workshop and presentation space. Study tables, chairs, and audiovisual equipment now supports in-person and remotely linked seminars made available to our community year round. Remotely linked presentations will broaden the availability and scope of our presenters. For example, the history/archeology students at Castleton University wish to present their senior thesis to our community using our new remote capability, and we will engage the Vermont Humanities Council to offer several events.

Our Thomas Davenport Exhibit is portable and we continue to offer it to organizations in town to display. It tells the story of Davenport's significant contributions to the invention of the electric motor, and it includes an exact replica of the Davenport electric

motor. Recent events organized by the Museum include Solar Eclipse Exhibit/presentation, Vermont Covered Bridges Exhibit, and Brandon's Natural History and Geology. The Davenport presentation was provided at a school and twice at the Museum. The Museum joined forces with faculty and students from Castleton University for the second annual Artifacts Roadshow and we hosted The History of Vermont in the Movies. The Museum collaborated with Vermont Film maker, Jay Craven, to screen his film Lost Nation. Securing sponsors for the screening fee allowed us to offer the film free to the public, which resulted in a full house. The steward and board members respond year round to people seeking help with their historical or genealogical searches. During the winter months, we open the Museum upon request.

Many new events are in the making for 2025. A music history event is being coordinated with the Vermont History Museum about Ebenezer Child, a Brandon shape note songwriter from the early 1800. We hope to provide a Crown Point Road event, an original Neshobe Settlers event, a youth summer day camp, an Ayrshire Breeders Association exhibit, Hikes into History walks and talks, the Lime Kilns of Brandon exhibit, and more. Placing archival displays in windows around town remains a priority. The Museum has joined the State of Vermont's 250th Anniversary Commission committee for museums and historical societies to plan town events that celebrate our country's 250th Anniversary and Vermont's unique history as the 14th state. We have increased efforts to obtain sponsors, to secure grants, and do fund raising to cover these programs.

The Museum's basic operating costs (heat, water, electric, plowing, insurance, etc.) are always pressing, as are the on-going maintenance needs of a building over two centuries old. Our full budget is very small. We request that the Town of Brandon allocate \$5,000, the same amount appropriated in the previous year, to the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace and Community Center. Your support will enable us to offer a variety of educational events about Brandon's history. It will also help us to expand programs that will be accessible to all residents in 2025. If you have questions, please contact us at info@brandonmuseum.org.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$5,000



PHONE DIRECTORY

General Information:
247-3635 ext. 201
Accounting:
247-3635 ext. 205
Assessor:
247-3635 ext. 214
E-911 Coordinator:
247-3635 ext. 217
Economic Development:
247-3635 ext. 213
Health Officer:
247-3635 ext. 217
Police Department:
Non-Emergency:
247-5723
Office:
247-0222
Public Works Department:
Director:
247-3635 ext. 210
Highway Garage:
247-3600
Sewer Plant:
247-6730
Transfer Station:
772-5224
Recreation Department:
247-3635 ext. 213
Rental Housing Officer:
247-3635 ext. 217
Town Clerk & Treasurer:
247-3635 ext. 203 & 204
Town Manager:
247-3635 ext. 210
Zoning Administrator
247-3635 ext. 202

Brandon Fire District #1
Water Department: 247-3311
Brandon Fire District #2
Forrestbrook: 247-4193
Brandon Area Chamber
of Commerce: 247-6401
Brandon Library: 247-8230
Neshobe School: 247-3721
Otter Valley UHS: 247-6833
RNESU: 247-5757

www.brandonvermont.gov

MEETING SCHEDULES

Dates and locations may change. Some Boards and Committees are currently meeting by Zoom. It is a good idea to contact coordinator or check website to confirm.

SELECT BOARD

2nd and 4th Monday at 7:00 PM at the Brandon Town Hall

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearings are scheduled as applications are received. Check the website for time and location.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

1st Monday at 4:30 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Hall

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Monday at 6:00 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Office

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BRAVO)

1st Monday at 6:00 PM at the Stephen Douglas House

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION BOARD

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 PM with alternating locations of the 1st meeting at the OVUU Schools and the 3rd meeting at the Otter Valley UHS Library

RNESU SCHOOL BOARD

3rd Wednesday at 5:15 PM at the OVUHS Library

HOURS OF OPERATION

BRANDON TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TOWN CLERK'S

OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

* Or by appointment

The Town Office will be **closed** for the following holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Indigenous Peoples Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Friday after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tuesday and Wednesday:
10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday and Friday:
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PERMITS

BURN PERMIT

A permit is required for any outside burning. Only untreated wood products such as unpainted lumber, brush and leaves can be burned. To obtain a burn permit, please call Linwood Bovey at 236-4914

BUILDING & LAND USE

Please contact the Zoning Office to determine if a permit is required before you start any type of land use development on your property.

RENTAL HOUSING

Before a tenant moves into any rented unit, a landlord **must** obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. Owners of rental property must complete a compliance form for each unit every January. A \$25 per unit fee is due annually by January 31st.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FIRE DEPARTMENT

If you are interested in joining the Fire Department, applications are available at the Fire Station and can be picked up on Wednesdays between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

RESCUE SQUAD (BARS)

To volunteer please contact us at 247-3231.

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF
Brandon
VERMONT
49 Center Street
Brandon, VT 05733



www.brandonvermont.gov