

2020

Hardwick Town Report



About 1890



About 1916



About 1940



About 2007

The Pedestrian "Swinging Bridge" over the years
Photos Courtesy of Hardwick Historical Society

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If you are interested in a copy of the audit, you can call the Town Manager's office at (802) 472-6120 to have a copy mailed, or you can come to the Town offices at the Memorial Building on Church Street. You can also gain access to the Town Report or audit reports online by going to the Town's website at www.hardwickvt.org. If you would like a copy of Hardwick Electric Department audit report, please contact Hardwick Electric at (802) 472-5201.

Dedication: Dona & Patricia Bessette



Dona Bessette first appeared in the *Hardwick Gazette* when, as a 12-year-old, he and Kenneth King came in second in a three-legged race, and then he placed third in a bag race at the 1939 Independent Milk Producers picnic and games in South Woodbury. He appeared in the paper regularly for the rest of his life. The three-legged race, which requires cooperation within a competitive framework, seems a good metaphor for his life.

A Hardwick native, Dona dropped out of school after eighth grade and took jobs doing hard manual labor – pipeline jobs, farm jobs, logging jobs, etc. He served in a tank company during the Korean War, but he returned to Hardwick in 1951 after his brother and

brother-in-law were killed in separate car accidents. Dona moved in with his widowed sister to help care for her young children. To help support them, he drove for, and then took over, the "Hardwick Stage" running a daily route to Barre-Montpelier and back. For a nickel a ride, he would take you to a doctor's appointments or on a shopping trip; he'd even pick up a bottle of liquor for you. Dona met Pat because she worked at a bank in Barre. A year later, he bought a house on South Main Street, and they married. They had four daughters and a son over the next decade.

Pat Murphy Bessette, of Barre, was a patient, selfless woman, but she knew how to hold her own with her high-energy, always-thinking-ahead husband. They had a good partnership. In 1956, when passenger trains stopped running through Hardwick, the Post Office put out a contract for a truck route to deliver the mail from St. Johnsbury to the communities along the train route to Morrisville. Dona beat out 40 competitors and won the contract for \$7,876.40. He made two runs every day, leaving St. J. at 5:30 A.M. and 3:45 P.M. Pat kept the books.

Dona learned to re-tread tires, and in 1959, he opened the Hardwick Tire Center out of an addition on their house. An accident with a tire cost him the end of his ring finger. Pat kept the books. In 1961, Dona bought into (and later owned) Barcomb Motors, a car dealership. He went on to develop self-storage units, rent and flip houses, create Wildcat Busing, a school bus company named for the local teams, and, after he sold Barcomb Motors, open Dona's Car Store.

Meanwhile, Pat ran their home and five active children – filling the house with wonderful smells from the kitchen. A daughter remembers their home as a happy place. The Bessette's welcomed everyone, and they regularly organized family reunions. Dona and Pat 'gave back' by helping others. Both worked in benevolent organizations — the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, the American Legion, the Elks. Every Christmas, Pat handed the manager of a local grocery store a list of groceries and asked to have a certain number of banana boxes filled. She and Dona wrapped and delivered the boxes to families they knew needed help.

Dona also immersed himself in the life of the Town, serving on committees (e.g., Hardwick Development Corporation's Site Committee which developed the Industrial Park), running special events (e.g., Hardwick Fiddlers' Contest), and quietly underwriting civic programs and good causes (e.g., a founding sponsor of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Foundation and of the Hardwick Historical Society).

After they retired, the Bessette's became snowbirds, spending winters in Florida. Old age did not treat them kindly – arthritis and Parkinson's Disease diminished their abilities, but they always did what they could. In the last week of November 2020, within 48 hours of one another, Dona, 93, and Pat Bessette, 88, died from complications caused by the Coronavirus. They would have celebrated their 68th anniversary two days after Christmas. In the December 13, 2020 issue of *Seven Days*, their son was quoted as saying, "It's quite a love story."

Dona and Pat Bessette loved well. They loved each other, their families, their neighbors, and their community. The community benefitted immeasurably from their presence. They will be greatly missed and forever remembered.

Town Officials

All terms expire Town Meeting 2021 unless otherwise noted.

Moderator.....
Town Clerk, Term expires 2022
Town Treasurer, Term expires 2022

Orise Ainsworth
Alberta Miller
Alberta Miller

Lucian Avery
Shari Cornish
Elizabeth Dow
Eric Remick
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane

Fire Department
Chief
1st Assistant Chief
2nd Assistant Chief
Captain
1st Lieutenant
2nd Lieutenant
3rd Lieutenant
Foreman
Assistant Foreman
Pipeman
Assistant Pipeman
Ax Man
Safety Officer
Training Officers
Secretary/Treasurer
Dispatcher

Tom Fadden
Perley Allen
David Hale
Mike Gravel
Mike Hall
Ken LaCasse
Charles Bartlett
Lindsey O'Steen
Rick Sullivan
Dave Colburn
Dana Camp
Devon Whipple
Davey Chase
Tom Fadden/Perley Allen
Jennifer Bellavance
Lamoille County Sheriff

Select Board

Term expires 2021
Term expires 2021
Term expires 2021
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2023

Listers

Term expires 2021
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2023

Auditors

Term expires 2021
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2023

Town of Hardwick Officials

Delinquent Tax Collector
Town Agent
Surveyor of Wood, Bark & Lumber
Tree Warden
Town Grand Juror
Trustee of Public Funds
Trustee of Public Funds
Trustee of Public Funds

Town Manager
Karen Holmes
Lucian Avery
Lucian Avery
David Shepard
Vacant
Mario Fradette
Lorraine Hussey

School Directors

Term expires Feb. 2023
Term expires Feb. 2022

Orise Ainsworth
Katharine Ingram

Hazen Union Directors - Hardwick

Term expires 2021 Appointed
Term expires 2021
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2023

Patrick Kane
Andrew Meyer
Amy Holloway
Brett Stanciu

Cemetery Trustees

Main Street
Maple Street
Fairview
Sanborn
West Hill
Hardwick Street
Hardwick Center

Trustees
Trustees
Trustees
Select Board
Select Board
Select Board
Select Board

Recreation Committee Members

Committee Chair
Committee Vice Chair
Committee Sec/Treas.
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Coordinator

Holly Bolio
Rhonda Hess
Mallory Greaves
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Library Trustees

Term expires 2021
Term expires 2021
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2023
Term expires 2023

Jodi Lew-Smith
Elizabeth Rossano
Brendan Buckley
Andrea Brightenback
Kathleen Sampson
Ross Connelly
Daphne Kalmar

Hardwick Electric Commissioners

Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2022
Term expires June 30, 2022
Term expires June 30, 2023

Lynne Gedanken
Nat Smith
Michael Ambrosino
Roger Prevost
Vince O'Connell

Hardwick Conservation Commission

Term expires 2021
Term expires 2021
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2022
Term expires 2023
Term expires 2023
Term expires 2024
Term expires 2024
Term expires 2024

Judith Ruskin
Ken Davis
Vacant
Renaud Demers
Rachel Kane (Chair)
Vacant
Ben Pougner
Jerry Schneider
Norma Wiesen

Hardwick Planning Commission

Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2022
Term expires June 30, 2022
Term expires June 30, 2023
Term expires June 30, 2023

Jim Lewis
Joyce Mandeville
Michael Haveson
Vacant
Dave Gross (Chair)
Vacant
Kenneth Davis (Vice Chair)

Hardwick Development Review Board

Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2021
Term expires June 30, 2022
Term expires June 30, 2022
Term expires June 30, 2023
Term expires June 30, 2023

Ruth Gaillard
Edward Keene
Helm Notterman
Kate Brooke (Vice Chair)
Vacant
John Mandeville (Chair)
Vacant

Equity Committee Members

Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary
Member

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Myles Tandy
Beth Cate
Chip Troiano

WARNING
TOWN OF HARDWICK ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 2, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Hardwick Fire Station at 333 Wolcott Street in said Town of Hardwick on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 7 o'clock in the afternoon for Australian Ballot Voting only to act on the following business:

DUE TO EMERGENCY HEALTH ORDERS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT, ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE SENT TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS. NO APPLICATION IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT.

In the Year 2021, Approval of all Articles and Election of Town Select Board and Union School District No. 26 Directors shall be voted on by Australian ballot. The polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Masks and social distancing will be required at the polling site. If special accommodations are necessary because of physical disabilities, please contact the Town Clerk's Office (472-5971).

Article 1. To elect a Moderator to govern said Town Meeting and for the year ensuing.

Article 2. Shall the Town accept the Town Report, year ending June 30, 2020?

Article 3. Shall the Town have its current taxes collected by the Town Treasurer?

Article 4. To elect all Town Officers and School District No. 26 Directors as required by the public laws of Vermont and the Town Charter.

Select Board.....	3-year term
Select Board	2 seats for 1-year terms
Hazen Union District #26 Director.....	3-year term
Hazen Union District #26 Director.....	2 years remaining on a 3-year term
Lister.....	3-year term
Auditor.....	3-year term
First Constable.....	1-year term
Second Constable.....	1-year term
Town Agent.....	1-year term
Surveyor of Wood, Bark and Lumber.....	1-year term
Tree Warden.....	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Main Street.....	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Maple Street.....	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Fairview.....	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Sanborn.....	1-year term
Cemetery Trustees for Hardwick Street.....	1-year term
Fire Dept. Officers	1-year term (each)
Library Trustee.....	3-year term
Library Trustee.....	3-year term
Grand Juror.....	1-year term
Trustee of Public Funds.....	1-year term
Trustee of Public Funds.....	1-year term
Trustee of Public Funds.....	1-year term
Fence Viewers.....	1-year term

- Article 5.** Shall the Town vote a budget of three million five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$3,525,629.00) to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a new tax rate sufficient to provide the same?
- Article 6.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of the Greensboro Nursing Home?
- Article 7.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of A.W.A.R.E.?
- Article 8.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of the Lamoille Family Center?
- Article 9.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of the Hardwick Historical Society?
- Article 10.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand one hundred sixty-one dollars (\$3,161.00) for the support of the Northeast Kingdom Human Services?
- Article 11.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Hardwick Area Food Pantry?
- Article 12.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600.00) for the support of Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice?
- Article 13.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of the Hardwick Community Television (Channel 16)?
- Article 14.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400.00) for the support of Rural Community Transportation?
- Article 15.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Arts Council (Hardwick Town House)?
- Article 16.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?
- Article 17.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100.00) for the support of the North Country Animal League?
- Article 18.** Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of the Craftsbury Community Care Center?
- Article 19.** Shall the Town exempt the property of the Hardwick Area Rescue Squad from taxation for a period of five (5) years in accordance with section 3840 of Title 32, VSA?
- Article 20.** Shall the Town exempt the property of the Caspian Lake Lodge Masonic Temple Association, Inc. from taxation for a period of five (5) years in accordance with section 3840 of Title 32, VSA?
- Article 21.** Shall the Town exempt the property of the Caledonia Grange from taxation for a period of five (5) years in accordance with section 3840 of Title 32, VSA?

Article 22. Shall the Town exempt the property of the Knights of Columbus Association, Inc. from taxation for a period of five (5) years in accordance with section 3840 of Title 32, VSA?

Article 23. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees, bailees, of real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees or operators who construct, acquire or renovate industrial and/or commercial real property, including additions to existing property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to the provision of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Article 24. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with operators of agricultural real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees, or operators who construct acquire or renovate, or who intend to construct, acquire or renovate agricultural real property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount in money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to provisions of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

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

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont this 26th day of January, A.D. 2021.

Eric Remick, Chair
Elizabeth Dow, Vice Chair
Shari Cornish
Lucian Avery
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 26th day of January 2021 at 11 o'clock 00 minutes a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.

Alberta A. Miller, Town Clerk

**FY2022 Estimated Tax Rate based on Proposed FY2022 Budget
and Impact on a \$100,000 home**

FY2022 Estimated Tax Rate

FY 2022 Proposed Property Tax	\$2,469,720.36
Estimated Grand List July 1, 2021	\$187,837,200.00
FY 2022 Estimated Tax rate	\$0.01315
Value per \$100	\$1.3148
FY2021 Municipal Tax rate	\$0.01296
Value per \$100	\$1.2961

Impact on a \$100,000 home

Estimated FY2022 municipal tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,314.82
FY2021 tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,296.10
Increase (decrease) in FY2022 before appropriations	\$18.72

Impact of Appropriations on a \$100,000 home

	Without	With
Estimated value of Appropriations	\$0.00	\$38,761.00
Proposed property taxes	\$2,469,720.36	\$2,508,481.36
FY2022 Estimated Tax rate	0.01315	0.01335
Value per \$100	\$1.31	\$1.34
Estimated FY2022 municipal tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,314.82	\$1,335.46
Increase (decrease) in FY2022 on a \$100,000 home	\$18.72	\$39.36
Estimated increase in Tax Rate reflected in actual dollars/100	\$0.0187	\$0.0394
Percent Increase (decrease) in Property Tax rate from FY2021 to FY2022	1.44%	3.04%

Impact of Appropriations on Tax Rate

Article 6.	Greensboro Nursing Home, \$4,500.00
Article 7.	A.W.A.R.E., \$3,500.00
Article 8.	Lamoille Family Center, \$1,500.00
Article 9.	Hardwick Historical Society, \$3,000.00
Article 10.	Northeast Kingdom Human Services, \$3,161.00
Article 11.	Hardwick Area Food Pantry \$2,500.00
Article 12.	Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice, \$2,600.00
Article 13.	Hardwick Community Television, \$3,000.00
Article 14.	Rural Community Transportation \$3,400.00
Article 15.	Northeast Kingdom Arts Council, \$3,500.00
Article 16.	Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, \$4,500.00
Article 17.	North Country Animal League, \$2,100.00
Article 18.	Craftsbury Community Care Center, \$1,500.00

The total requested appropriations are \$38,761.00. If all the requested appropriations are approved, we would need a tax rate of approximately \$.0206 cents. This means that you will be paying \$20.63 on your 2021-2022 tax bill for every \$100,000 of Grand List Value.

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Projected Revenues

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
School Tax Admin Fee	\$6,040	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.00%
PILOT	\$73,523	\$72,235	\$74,402	\$2,167	3.00%
Current Use Hold Harm	\$159,147	\$159,147	\$163,063	\$3,916	2.46%
Delinquent Charges	\$37,532	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	0.00%
Trailer Lease Revenue	\$31	\$100	\$25	(\$75)	-75.00%
Tax Sale Interest	\$517	\$150	\$200	\$50	33.33%
Zoning Permits	\$2,685	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Licenses and Fees	\$2,781	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Recording Fees	\$19,742	\$26,400	\$26,000	(\$400)	-1.52%
Dog Licenses	\$2,064	\$3,100	\$2,500	(\$600)	-19.35%
DMV Fees	\$444	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
State Highway Aid	\$146,863	\$143,000	\$146,863	\$3,863	2.70%
Copying Fees	\$5,562	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$500	11.11%
Greensboro Police Contract	\$244,355	\$267,938	\$245,053	(\$22,885)	-8.54%
COPS Grant	\$52,044	\$58,152	\$20,160	(\$37,992)	-65.33%
Hardwick PD Ticket Rev	\$10,899	\$7,500	\$8,500	\$1,000	13.33%
Outside Services-PD	\$56	\$550	\$250	(\$300)	-54.55%
Sale of Equipment/Vehicles	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Insurance Pay-out	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Efficiency VT Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Interest on Investments	\$8,444	\$1,500	\$6,500	\$5,000	333.33%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,007	\$2,000	\$500	(\$1,500)	-75.00%
Water Transfer	\$146,127	\$151,879	\$158,746	\$6,867	4.52%
Sewer Transfer	\$146,127	\$151,879	\$158,746	\$6,867	4.52%
Fireworks Donations	\$0	\$1,750	\$1,500	(\$250)	-14.29%
Room Rent	\$100	\$250	\$100	(\$150)	-60.00%
Police SIU Revenue	\$24,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
PD Vest Grant	\$484	\$649	\$800	\$151	23.27%
Gov Highway Safety Grants	\$4,326	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
VCDP Grant Admin Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Lister Education Grant	\$270	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
VLCT Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Green Up Day Grant	\$174	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Total Revenues	\$1,097,791	\$1,089,679	\$1,055,909	(\$33,770)	-3.10%
Total Budget	\$3,391,391	\$3,465,120	\$3,525,629	\$60,509	1.75%
Property Taxes	\$2,293,600	\$2,375,441	\$2,469,720	\$94,279	3.97%

Budget Summary

Highway/Garage	\$ 868,801	\$ 951,376	\$ 947,720	\$ (3,656.23)	-0.38%
Police Department	\$ 836,329	\$ 983,023	\$ 981,803	\$ (1,219.82)	-0.12%
Office Expenses	\$ 399,074	\$ 427,260	\$ 448,209	\$ 20,949.41	4.90%
Payroll (Part-time & Elected)	\$ 41,815	\$ 74,425	\$ 73,002	\$ (1,423.00)	-1.91%
Fire Department	\$ 39,162	\$ 48,809	\$ 45,661	\$ (3,148.00)	-6.45%
Line Items	\$ 799,474	\$ 898,744	\$ 950,405	\$ 51,660.55	5.75%
Buildings	\$ 70,549	\$ 81,484	\$ 78,829	\$ (2,655.00)	-3.26%
Total Budget	\$ 3,055,204	\$ 3,465,120	\$ 3,525,629	\$ 60,507.92	1.75%

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Office Expenses

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF</u>
Town Manager's Office	\$172,062	\$177,861	\$183,197	\$5,336	3.00%
Town Clerk's Office	\$86,223	\$87,581	\$90,259	\$2,678	3.06%
Social Security Expense	\$19,354	\$20,937	\$21,876	\$939	4.49%
Workers' Compensation	\$1,264	\$1,342	\$950	(\$392)	-29.21%
Unemployment Insurance	\$249	\$280	\$750	\$470	167.86%
VLCT/PACIF	\$1,482	\$1,303	\$1,556	\$253	19.42%
Health Insurance	\$70,369	\$80,609	\$93,315	\$12,706	15.76%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$4,840	\$4,765	\$4,990	\$225	4.72%
Retirement Expense	\$15,188	\$15,608	\$17,091	\$1,483	9.50%
Town Manager Supplies	\$5,016	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Town Clerk Supplies	\$3,119	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
Town Report Expense	\$1,701	\$1,900	\$2,000	\$100	5.26%
Conferences/Dues/Mileage	\$1,201	\$1,800	\$1,500	(\$300)	-16.67%
Tax Billing/Collection Exp.	\$1,542	\$1,500	\$1,200	(\$300)	-20.00%
Telephone	\$2,450	\$3,000	\$3,150	\$150	5.00%
Advertising	\$547	\$1,200	\$1,000	(\$200)	-16.67%
Copier	\$47	\$750	\$500	(\$250)	-33.33%
Election Expense	\$846	\$1,500	\$1,000	(\$500)	-33.33%
Computer Software/Services	\$2,406	\$4,200	\$5,750	\$1,550	36.90%
Web Site Maintenance	\$0	\$75	\$75	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Purchases	\$3,734	\$4,000	\$3,000	(\$1,000)	-25.00%
Lister Supplies	\$2,229	\$3,000	\$2,800	(\$200)	-6.67%
Health Officer Supplies	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
Education/Training	\$1,042	\$3,000	\$1,200	(\$1,800)	-60.00%
Zoning Supplies	\$2,165	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Totals	\$399,074	\$427,260	\$448,209	\$20,949	4.90%

Payroll (Part-Time and Elected)

Public Official's Liability	\$3,628	\$3,945	\$3,773	(\$172)	-4.36%
Lister's Salary	\$4,013	\$2,100	\$2,500	\$400	19.05%
Election Officials	\$713	\$2,000	\$1,500	(\$500)	-25.00%
Zoning Administrator	\$21,977	\$22,475	\$23,150	\$675	3.00%
Planning/DRB Board	\$1,725	\$2,500	\$2,250	(\$250)	-10.00%
Board of Civil Authority	\$39	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Moderator	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
Select Board	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Energy Coordinator	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
Solid Waste Rep	\$500	\$500	\$150	(\$350)	-70.00%
TEC - Conference Fees	\$68	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Town Service Officer	\$100	\$100	\$150	\$50	50.00%
Part Time Labor	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Health Officer	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Town Website Coordinator	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Comm. Dev. Coordinator	\$0	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0	0.00%
Social Security Expense	\$2,853	\$5,805	\$4,529	(\$1,276)	-21.98%
Totals	\$41,815	\$74,425	\$73,002	(\$1,423)	-1.91%

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Highway Department

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Public Works Salaries	\$275,500	\$289,852	\$299,468	\$9,616	3.32%
Overtime	\$22,513	\$33,500	\$31,000	(\$2,500)	-7.46%
Sewer Operator	\$2,351	\$5,053	\$2,500	(\$2,553)	-50.52%
Social Security Expense	\$21,657	\$25,868	\$23,154	(\$2,714)	-10.49%
Workers' Compensation	\$26,994	\$29,472	\$19,600	(\$9,872)	-33.50%
Unemployment Insurance	\$289	\$350	\$650	\$300	85.71%
VLCT/PACIF	\$12,245	\$14,579	\$13,500	(\$1,079)	-7.40%
Health Insurance	\$91,433	\$125,325	\$129,787	\$4,462	3.56%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$7,991	\$8,150	\$8,707	\$557	6.83%
Retirement Expense	\$17,829	\$19,027	\$20,654	\$1,627	8.55%
Operating Expense/Supplies	\$21,707	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$0	0.00%
Permits/Fees	\$1,350	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$1,000	33.33%
Telephone/Internet	\$1,195	\$1,600	\$1,500	(\$100)	-6.25%
Low Band Radio	\$1,009	\$1,100	\$0	(\$1,100)	-100.00%
Culverts	\$5,725	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Uniforms	\$6,376	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.00%
Line Painting/Crosswalks	\$991	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Road Signs	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Streetscape Maintenance	\$191	\$1,500	\$1,000	(\$500)	-33.33%
Storm Drains	\$3,439	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Safety/Training	\$2,681	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$1,000	66.67%
Building Maint./Repair	\$5,291	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,000	200.00%
Equipment Repair	\$41,499	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$4,000	11.11%
Equipment Expense	\$49,107	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$4,000	11.11%
Gasoline Fuel	\$2,600	\$3,000	\$2,700	(\$300)	-10.00%
Diesel Fuel	\$42,535	\$47,500	\$45,000	(\$2,500)	-5.26%
Heating Fuel - Garage	\$3,389	\$7,500	\$6,000	(\$1,500)	-20.00%
Utilities - Garage	\$5,389	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$500	10.00%
Summer Gravel	\$29,759	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0	0.00%
Ditch Stone	\$17,856	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	0.00%
Hydroseeding	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,000	(\$500)	-14.29%
Mud Season Material	\$4,278	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
Chloride	\$15,709	\$22,000	\$20,000	(\$2,000)	-9.09%
E. Hardwick Sidewalks	\$599	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Contract Mowing	\$4,950	\$5,000	\$5,200	\$200	4.00%
Paving/Patching	\$5,369	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Brush Cutting	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Downtown Beauty	\$1,032	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Street Sweeping	\$4,500	\$4,400	\$4,700	\$300	6.82%
Winter Sand	\$30,770	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$0	0.00%
Salt	\$80,705	\$90,000	\$85,000	(\$5,000)	-5.56%
Totals	\$868,801	\$951,376	\$947,720	(\$3,656)	-0.38%

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Police Department

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF</u>
Base Payroll	\$393,149	\$466,464	\$480,878	\$14,414	3.09%
Overtime	\$74,852	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$15,000	25.00%
Part-Time Officers	\$790	\$10,000	\$7,500	(\$2,500)	-25.00%
Social Security Expense	\$36,407	\$41,903	\$44,865	\$2,962	7.07%
Workers' Compensation	\$36,261	\$42,503	\$36,500	(\$6,003)	-14.12%
Unemployment Insurance	\$445	\$500	\$1,200	\$700	140.00%
VLCT/PACIF	\$18,832	\$21,460	\$19,693	(\$1,767)	-8.23%
Health Insurance	\$64,061	\$96,589	\$81,550	(\$15,039)	-15.57%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$5,525	\$8,350	\$5,189	(\$3,161)	-37.85%
Retirement Expense	\$44,681	\$53,994	\$58,923	\$4,929	9.13%
Supplies	\$7,774	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.00%
Training	\$1,384	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Memberships	\$292	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Recruitment Expense	\$1,525	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Legal Expenses	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Internet Communications	\$4,530	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Dispatch Services	\$33,756	\$35,723	\$27,566	(\$8,157)	-22.83%
Telephone	\$4,110	\$5,000	\$4,500	(\$500)	-10.00%
Vehicle Maintenance	\$3,087	\$7,500	\$6,500	(\$1,000)	-13.33%
Advertising	\$449	\$200	\$300	\$100	50.00%
Radio Service	\$1,590	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500	50.00%
Investigation Expense	\$2,312	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$500	33.33%
Uniforms (Cleaning)	\$769	\$1,600	\$1,000	(\$600)	-37.50%
Uniform Purchases	\$4,385	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Gasoline	\$9,178	\$15,000	\$11,000	(\$4,000)	-26.67%
Tires	\$1,788	\$3,000	\$2,500	(\$500)	-16.67%
Education	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Equipment	\$6,187	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0	0.00%
Total PD Operating Exp.	\$758,120	\$903,686	\$899,565	(\$4,121)	-0.46%
SIU Grant Salary & Soc Sec.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
SIU Expenses	\$280	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
COPS Grant Officer	\$72,721	\$77,537	\$80,638	\$3,101	4.00%
Governor's HW Safety Grant	\$329	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Governor's Equipment Grant	\$3,910	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
VLCT Grant	\$0	\$600	\$0	(\$600)	-100.00%
Vest Grant	\$968	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$400	33.33%
Total Special PD Expenses	\$78,209	\$79,337	\$82,238	\$2,901	3.66%
Total PD Expenses	\$836,329	\$983,023	\$981,803	(\$1,220)	-0.12%

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Buildings

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
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Memorial Building

Custodial Services Expense	9,274	9,500	9,850	350	3.68%
Custodial S.S. Expense	495	773	525	(248)	-32.08%
VLCT/PACIF	2,932	3,270	3,365	95	2.91%
Operating Exp/Supplies	3,036	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%
Building Maint./Repair	5,148	4,500	5,000	500	11.11%
Utilities	6,002	5,800	6,000	200	3.45%
Fuel Oil	7,829	10,000	9,000	(1,000)	-10.00%
Elevator/Fire Alarm	2,247	1,500	2,000	500	33.33%
Generator	0	500	500	0	0.00%
Totals	36,962	38,844	39,240	396	1.02%

Public Safety Building

VLCT/PACIF	3,213	3,500	3,567	67	1.91%
Operating Expenses	906	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Building Maint./Repair	664	3,500	3,000	(500)	-14.29%
Utilities	2,804	2,500	2,800	300	12.00%
Fuel Oil	4,320	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%
Custodial Services Expense	5,271	6,136	6,000	(136)	-2.22%
Custodial Serv. S.S. Expense	403	490	450	(40)	-8.16%
Totals	17,582	22,127	21,817	(310)	-1.40%

Fire Station

VLCT/PACIF	2,843	3,095	3,156	61	1.97%
Utilities	2,544	2,800	2,600	(200)	-7.14%
Fuel Oil	4,879	7,500	6,000	(1,500)	-20.00%
Building Maint./Repair	2,037	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%
Totals	12,303	15,395	13,756	(1,639)	-10.65%

Town House

VLCT/PACIF	1,692	1,840	1,881	41	2.23%
Building Maint./Repair	299	2,000	1,000	(1,000)	-50.00%
Utilities	544	315	350	35	11.11%
Totals	2,535	4,155	3,231	(924)	-22.24%

Historical Depot

VLCT/PACIF	171	187	195	8	4.28%
Building Maint./Repair	263	400	400	0	0.00%
Totals	434	587	595	8	1.36%

Old Senior Center Bldg

VLCT/PACIF	162	176	0	(176)	-100.00%
Totals	162	176	0	(176)	-100.00%

Yellow Barn

VLCT/PACIF	125	200	190	(10)	-5.00%
Maintenance	265	0	0	0	0.00%
Utilities	182	0	0	0	0.00%
Totals	572	200	190	(10)	-5.00%

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Fire Department

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Labor	\$6,525	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0	0.00%
Social Security	\$483	\$680	\$680	\$0	0.00%
Workers' Compensation	\$585	\$1,249	\$1,250	\$1	0.08%
Liability Insurance	\$3,959	\$4,168	\$4,156	(\$12)	-0.29%
Operating Exp./Supplies	\$2,408	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Dispatch Service	\$14,467	\$15,162	\$11,825	(\$3,337)	-22.01%
Phone/Internet	\$1,297	\$1,100	\$1,300	\$200	18.18%
Gasoline	\$18	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Diesel Fuel	\$918	\$750	\$750	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Purchases	\$6,254	\$8,100	\$8,100	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Repair	\$2,247	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0	0.00%
Training	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Totals	\$39,162	\$48,809	\$45,661	(\$3,148)	-6.45%

Line Items

Auditing	\$11,830	\$18,500	\$13,000	(\$5,500)	-29.73%
Fireworks	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.00%
Animal Control	\$2,791	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.00%
Professional Services	\$4,494	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0	0.00%
Lister Professional Services	\$18,150	\$18,750	\$19,350	\$600	3.20%
NVDA	\$2,258	\$2,363	\$2,258	(\$105)	-4.44%
VLCT	\$4,632	\$4,500	\$4,823	\$323	7.18%
Jeudevine Memorial Library	\$114,209	\$117,191	\$125,171	\$7,980	6.81%
Memorial Day	\$450	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Caspian Lake	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,300	\$50	1.54%
Cemeteries	\$18,800	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$0	0.00%
Capital Equipment Fund	\$210,000	\$175,000	\$180,000	\$5,000	2.86%
Capital Road Fund	\$170,000	\$185,000	\$205,000	\$20,000	10.81%
Capital General Fund	\$119,000	\$120,000	\$132,000	\$12,000	10.00%
Capital Fire Fund	\$0	\$65,423	\$75,000	\$9,577	14.64%
Tax Mapping	\$3,800	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Solid Waste District	\$2,956	\$2,956	\$2,956	\$0	0.00%
Streetlights	\$23,471	\$22,600	\$23,500	\$900	3.98%
Memorial Park Electricity	\$194	\$320	\$220	(\$100)	-31.25%
Employment Practices Ins.	\$7,835	\$8,175	\$6,500	(\$1,675)	-20.49%
Community Crime Ins.	\$1,784	\$1,893	\$1,600	(\$293)	-15.48%
Town Service Officer Expenses	\$131	\$250	\$250	\$0	0.00%
Hazard Mitigation Fund	\$1,091	\$7,500	\$5,000	(\$2,500)	-33.33%
Insurance Deductibles	\$1,531	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Tax Sale Expense	\$1,713	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Carey Rd. Property	\$175	\$156	\$175	\$19	12.18%
Conservation Commission	\$300	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Equity Committee	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	100.00%
911 Signs	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	100.00%
Recreation Dept.	\$19,603	\$27,053	\$26,251	(\$802)	-2.96%
Hardwick Trails	\$6,866	\$8,799	\$8,799	\$0	0.00%
County Taxes	\$21,398	\$22,966	\$22,750	(\$216)	-0.94%
Rescue Squad	\$22,762	\$44,599	\$45,502	\$903	2.02%
Totals	\$799,474	\$898,744	\$950,405	\$51,661	5.75%

**TOWN OF HARDWICK
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE SCHEDULE**

YEAR	SPEND										APPROPRIATE					
	Dump Truck 1	Dump Truck 2	Dump Truck 3	Dump Truck 4	F-550 Truck 5	F250 Truck 6	F150 Truck 7	Lawn Mower	Excavator	Skidsteer	Loader (1) Loan	Loader (2) Grader (1)	Police Cruiser	EQUIP. TOTAL	FUNDS SET ASIDE	ACCOUNT BALANCE
Bal 6/30/20																
2021			\$200,000					\$10,000			\$12,000		\$0	\$222,000	\$175,000	\$172,580
2022	\$180,000									\$50,000	\$12,000		\$45,000	\$287,000	\$180,000	\$18,580
2023					\$80,000						\$12,000		\$46,000	\$138,000	\$190,000	\$70,580
2024									\$125,000		\$12,000	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$217,000	\$205,000	\$58,580
2025			\$180,000									\$50,000	\$47,000	\$277,000	\$215,000	-\$3,420
2026						\$40,000		\$10,000				\$50,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$225,000	\$121,580
2027							\$30,000			\$55,000		\$50,000	\$48,000	\$183,000	\$235,000	\$173,580
2028		\$120,000			\$90,000							\$50,000	\$48,000	\$308,000	\$245,000	\$110,580
2029			\$220,000									\$50,000	\$32,000	\$302,000	\$255,000	\$63,580
2030	\$210,000											\$50,000	\$49,000	\$309,000	\$265,000	\$19,580
2031								\$10,000			\$125,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$185,000	\$275,000	\$109,580
2032										\$60,000		\$50,000	\$49,000	\$159,000	\$285,000	\$235,580
2033				\$210,000	\$100,000	\$43,000						\$50,000	\$50,000	\$453,000	\$295,000	\$77,580
2034							\$33,000						\$34,000	\$67,000	\$305,000	\$315,580
2035													\$51,000	\$51,000	\$315,000	\$579,580
2036		\$130,000						\$11,000					\$0	\$141,000	\$325,000	\$763,580
2037			\$240,000							\$65,000			\$52,000	\$357,000	\$335,000	\$741,580
2038	\$230,000				\$110,000								\$53,000	\$393,000	\$345,000	\$693,580
2039													\$54,000	\$54,000	\$355,000	\$994,580
2040						\$46,000					\$140,000		\$36,000	\$222,000	\$365,000	\$1,137,580

1) Increases in costs are based on a "best guess" scenario with input from dealers

2) Loader #2 & Grader purchased in Spring 2009, 15 yr life. Replace 2024

3) Loader #1 purchased Spring 2014, 15 yr life. Replace 2031

4) Police Cruisers traded or replaced every 5 years

5) Dump Trucks 1, 2, 3, 4 are traded every 8 years

6) Truck 5 is traded every 5 years

7) Truck 6 is traded about every 7 years

8) Truck 7 is traded about every 7 years

TOWN OF HARDWICK
CAPITAL FIRE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE SCHEDULE

YEAR	E1	E2	Ladder	Pumper	Fire	Tanker	EQUIP.	FUNDS	ACCOUNT
	2014 Bond	2020 Bond	L1	E1	E2	W1	TOTAL	SET ASIDE	BALANCE
Bal 6/30/20	\$ 75,000								
2021	\$ 34,834						\$34,834	\$70,423	\$65,589
2022	\$ 34,161	\$ 3,816					\$37,977	\$75,000	\$102,612
2023	\$ 33,417	\$ 21,339					\$54,756	\$80,000	\$127,856
2024	\$ 32,613	\$ 21,259					\$53,872	\$85,000	\$158,984
2025	\$ 31,770	\$ 21,173					\$52,943	\$95,000	\$201,041
2026	\$ 30,897	\$ 21,078					\$51,975	\$100,000	\$249,066
2027	\$ 29,996	\$ 20,976					\$50,972	\$105,000	\$303,094
2028	\$ 29,070	\$ 20,860					\$49,930	\$110,000	\$363,164
2029	\$ 28,121	\$ 20,724					\$48,845	\$115,000	\$429,319
2030	\$ 27,154	\$ 20,569	\$400,000				\$447,723	\$120,000	\$101,596
2031		\$ 20,395					\$20,395	\$125,000	\$206,201
2032		\$ 20,201				\$250,000	\$270,201	\$130,000	\$66,000
2033		\$ 19,967					\$19,967	\$135,000	\$181,033
2034		\$ 19,341					\$19,341	\$140,000	\$301,692
2035		\$ 18,962					\$18,962	\$145,000	\$427,730
2036		\$ 18,549					\$18,549	\$150,000	\$559,181
2037							\$0	\$155,000	\$714,181
2038							\$0	\$160,000	\$874,181
2039							\$350,000	\$165,000	\$689,181

1) E1 2014 Bond is done in 2029.

2) Ladder Truck L1 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2030.

3) Pumper E1 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2039.

4) Pumper E2 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2046.

5) Tanker W1 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2032.

6) These are best guess estimates for used equipment.

TOWN OF HARDWICK
CAPITAL ROAD SCHEDULE

						<i>Spend</i>	<i>Appropriate</i>	
Year	Mackville Rd. Bond	Center Road	Hardwick Street	Paving (see below)	Backroad Rebuild	Road Total	Funds Set Aside	Account Balance
Bal 6/30/20								\$111,679
2021	-\$22,626			-\$180,000	-\$28,941	-\$231,567	\$185,000	\$65,112
2022	-\$22,316			-\$140,000	-\$30,388	-\$192,704	\$205,000	\$77,408
2023	-\$21,962			-\$100,000	-\$31,907	-\$153,869	\$230,000	\$153,539
2024	-\$21,575			-\$85,000	-\$33,503	-\$140,078	\$255,000	\$268,461
2025	-\$21,167	-\$700,000		-\$90,000	-\$35,178	-\$846,345	\$280,000	-\$297,884
2026	-\$20,738			-\$100,000	-\$36,937	-\$157,675	\$305,000	-\$150,559
2027	-\$20,288			-\$100,000	-\$38,784	-\$159,071	\$330,000	\$20,370
2028	-\$19,818			-\$105,000	-\$40,723	-\$165,541	\$355,000	\$209,829
2029	-\$19,334			-\$110,000	-\$42,759	-\$172,093	\$380,000	\$417,736

Paving Projects:

FY 2022: East Hardwick Village (Brickhouse Road, Cedar Street, Belfry Road)
FY 2023: Terrace Hill Road, Lower Cherry Street, Elm Street, Cottage Street, Upper Cherry Street, Dale Street
FY 2024: North Main Street, West Church Street
FY 2025: Center Road

**Prices based on current market prices; increases are expected, schedule may vary depending on price*

**Conditions of roads may change, resulting in a change to the paving schedule*

Town of Hardwick Capital Improvements Three-Year Plan

	Balance 6/30/2020	<i>FY2021</i>	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Future Balance
Buildings	<i>Last Year</i>					
Memorial Building	-\$7,905	\$7,500	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$48,595
Public Safety Building	\$13,038	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$33,038
Highway Garage	-\$8,699	\$5,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$32,301
Fire Department	\$27,311	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$47,311
Library	\$22,361	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$33,361
Library Bond	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$70,000
Town House	\$17,923	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$37,923
Carey Rd. Property	\$1,360	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$18,860
Historical Depot	\$29,616	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$39,616
Subtotal	\$95,005	\$45,000	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$81,000	\$361,005
Public Works						
Gravel Pit Reclaim	\$29,782	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$41,782
Bike Path (all Phases)	\$4,740	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$24,740
Sidewalk Expense	\$56,067	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$96,067
Guardrails	\$8,492	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$18,492
Brush Cutting	\$5,050	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,050
Road Signs/Crosswalks	\$3,948	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$11,948
Bridge #4 East Hardwick	\$81,034	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$141,034
Bridge Fund	\$63,415	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$123,415
Subtotal	\$252,528	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$462,528
General Government						
Trails Capital Account	\$11,016	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,016
Recreation Capital Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fire Department Equipment/Clothing	\$1,742	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$41,742
Records Restoration/Vault Door	\$32,509	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$55,009
Cemetery Upgrades	\$10,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$26,500
Recruitment - Police	\$7,061	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$9,061
Interest Accrued on Account	\$12,334	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,334
Subtotal	\$75,161	\$22,000	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$155,661
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$422,694	\$119,500	\$132,000	\$152,000	\$153,000	\$979,194

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Library Budget

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Librarian Salary	\$41,920	\$42,848	\$44,135	\$1,287	3.00%
Asst.Librarian/Youth Librarian	\$16,746	\$17,140	\$17,655	\$515	3.00%
Library Clerk Salary	\$14,959	\$15,319	\$15,779	\$460	3.00%
Social Security/FICA Expense	\$5,528	\$6,024	\$6,205	\$181	3.00%
Worker's Comp	\$455	\$664	\$510	(\$154)	-23.19%
Unemployment	\$291	\$306	\$225	(\$81)	-26.47%
VLCT/PACIF	\$1,032	\$469	\$600	\$131	27.93%
Health Insurance -Librarian only	\$6,755	\$7,405	\$8,168	\$763	10.30%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$669	\$720	\$650	(\$70)	-9.72%
Retirement	\$2,415	\$2,518	\$2,759	\$241	9.57%
Books- Adult	\$3,456	\$2,800	\$3,000	\$200	7.14%
Books - Juvenile	\$1,802	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0	0.00%
Books - Young Adult	\$802	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Magazines- Adult	\$237	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Magazines - Juvenile	\$30	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
Audio books/ DVDs - Adult	\$744	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Audio books/ DVDs - Juvenile	\$561	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Computer Software/Technology	\$655	\$435	\$435	\$0	0.00%
Computer Databases	\$1,190	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0	0.00%
Courier Expense	\$285	\$260	\$260	\$0	0.00%
Fiber Connect (Sovernet)	\$353	\$720	\$780	\$60	8.33%
Equipment	\$1,303	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Telephone	\$956	\$800	\$900	\$100	12.50%
Supplies - General	\$2,323	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Youth Supplies	\$405	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Postage	\$765	\$1,000	\$800	(\$200)	-20.00%
Professional Services	\$217	\$228	\$230	\$2	0.88%
Conferences / Memberships	\$321	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Mileage	\$65	\$500	\$400	(\$100)	-20.00%
Advertising	\$70	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Jeudevine Friends Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Interlibrary Grant Expense	\$385	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Misc. Grant Expense	\$1,479	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Operating Budget	\$109,175	\$110,206	\$113,541	\$3,335	3.03%
Custodial Services Expense	\$5,075	\$5,345	\$9,353	\$4,008	74.99%
Custodial Services S.S. Expense	\$388	\$450	\$716	\$266	59.11%
Building Insurance	\$627	\$1,340	\$1,500	\$160	11.94%
Electricity	\$839	\$1,000	\$1,740	\$740	74.00%
Fuel Oil	\$3,006	\$2,000	\$4,071	\$2,071	103.55%
Water/Sewer	\$738	\$750	\$750	\$0	0.00%
Maintenance Expense	\$1,323	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Total Library Building Budget	\$11,997	\$12,385	\$19,630	\$7,245	58.50%
Friends of Jeudevine Donations	\$ (100.00)				
Restricted Donations	\$ (0.35)				
Interest on Investments	\$ (93.00)				
Grant Income	\$ (390.00)				
Fiber Connect Credits	\$ -				
Courier Revenue	\$ (207.50)	\$ (400.00)	\$ -		
Misc. Income	\$ (2,285.80)	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ (8,000.00)		
Town Appropriation	\$114,209	\$117,191	\$125,171	\$7,980	6.81%
Fund Balance	\$4,898				

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Recreation Budget

	<u>SB's</u>				
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>
Rec Coordinator Salary	\$2,710	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$0	0.00%
Social Security/FICA	\$207	\$440	\$440	\$0	0.00%
VLCT Workers Comp/Insurance	\$382	\$350	\$175	(\$175)	-50.00%
VLCT Unemployment Insurance	\$36	\$45	\$45	\$0	0.00%
VLCT PACIF/Liability Insurance	\$102	\$106	\$106	\$0	0.00%
Youth Program: Soccer, Swim, Ski	\$10,265	\$11,600	\$10,973	(\$627)	-5.41%
Mileage	\$193	\$262	\$262	\$0	0.00%
Holiday Programs	\$932	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Green-Up Day	\$174	\$700	\$700	\$0	0.00%
Senior Programming	\$688	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0	0.00%
Supplies and Advertising	\$139	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Maintenance	\$3,470	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Training	\$305	\$310	\$310	\$0	0.00%
Sports Programming	\$0	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.00%
Total Expenses	\$19,603	\$27,054	\$26,251	-\$802	-2.96%

2021-2022 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Trails Budget

	<u>SB's</u>				
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>
Salaries	\$3,672	\$3,215	\$3,780	\$565	17.57%
Social Security/FICA	\$281	\$289	\$302	\$13	4.50%
Trail Repair & New Construction	\$46	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	\$993	\$1,800	\$1,000	(\$800)	-44.44%
Gas, Oil and Diesel	\$390	\$700	\$700	\$0	0.00%
Publicity/Advertising/Signage & Maps	\$417	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Program and Activities	\$537	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
VLCT Workers Comp/Insurance	\$178	\$195	\$175	(\$20)	-10.26%
VLCT Unemployment Insurance	\$24	\$35	\$40	\$5	14.29%
VLCT PACIF/Liability Insurance	\$326	\$365	\$350	(\$15)	-4.11%
TOTALS	\$6,866	\$8,799	\$8,547	-\$252	-2.86%

Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Upgrades Bond FAQ's

The Select Board is asking voters to consider supporting a \$2.2 Million Bond for necessary upgrades to our Wastewater Facility. We have an opportunity to get subsidy funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The 40% construction subsidy is available on a first-come first-served basis and may not be available in the future, so it is important that the Town pass a Bond vote to make use of this funding.

Why is the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade necessary?

- All of these components, some of which are over 40 years old, have reached the end of their expected useful life.
- Proactive replacement will maintain the reliability of the facility and help control operational costs by improving efficiency.
- Several of these components will be exceedingly difficult to repair or replace once they have failed.
- These components must be in good working order for the WWTF to meet the Town's wastewater capacity needs, which are critical to Hardwick's economic well-being.

What improvements are included in the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade?

- New lagoon liners
- New aeration system, including blowers, air piping, laterals, and diffusers.
- New anaerobic reactor compartment floating cover and hydraulic curtain
- Refurbished grit trap and new grit collector
- New furnace and refurbished ventilation in the control building
- New electrical equipment
- Piping improvements

What is the projected impact on the current Sewer Rates?

The annual loan payment for the 2%, 30-year term, will be approximately \$59,161, with the first debt payment due in August 2023. This is estimated to cost a typical residential user approximately \$15.00 per quarter.

What is the project cost and bond amount?

The estimated construction cost is \$1,600,000. The total project cost is summarized below.

Estimated Construction Costs

Item Description	Estimated Cost
Construction	\$1,600,000
Construction Contingency	\$200,000
Engineering	\$310,000
Administrative & Other Costs	\$78,500
Total Project Cost	\$2,200,000

The **total project cost is \$2,200,000** and includes: construction, construction contingency, engineering, legal, permit fees, administration, short term interest, and other costs.

What are the available funding sources?

Funding is available through the State Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program as follows and the Town continues to pursue other State and Federal funding sources:

- Engineering subsidy is provided at 50% of the cost, total \$55,000.
- The State is providing an additional first-come first-served subsidy of 40% of construction costs, or a total of \$836,000.
- The remainder is eligible for a loan at 2%, 30-year term.

Funding Summary

Funding Source	Estimated Amount
CWSRF Engineering Subsidy	\$55,000
Construction Subsidy	\$836,000
CWSRF Loan (2%, 30 years)	\$1,309,000
Total Funding	\$2,200,000

After the subsidies are applied, the anticipated total loan amount is \$1,325,000.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

February 23, 2021 5:30 p.m.

Via Zoom at this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97470928158>

or by calling 1 (301) 715-8592

Greensboro Nursing Home

Greensboro Nursing Home is also known as the Greensboro Hospital Association. The Greensboro Hospital Association was organized and incorporated on August 22nd of 1935, for the purpose of “caring for the sick and injured, and the furthering of health in the community”. The organization remains steadfast to its vision: put quality care, professionalism, teamwork, and community partnership at the heart of everything we do, and we accomplish both by remaining true to our core values. Some of the faces may have changed however our commitment to providing the highest quality of care and quality of life to our residents has not, and we will always remember that we are your nursing home. The nursing home is a not-for-profit organization, with oversight by a volunteer Board of Trustees whose president is Bobbie Nisbet. Greensboro Nursing Home continues to support the local area by participating in the Meals on Wheels program. We prepared several thousand hot, nutritious meals annually that are delivered by volunteers throughout the community. The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging (NEKCOA) has recently awarded Greensboro Nursing Home with the “Humanitarian Hero Award”, in honor of “outstanding dedication and service during the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic”. This award is given to an organization in honor of their dedication and impact they have on our community at large in support of elder and disabled Vermonters. We are also one of the largest employers in the area, and we are proud of the dedicated team of professionals who support your nursing home 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, all year long. Our staff is happy to serve the community, and it is our pleasure to be a resource to our local residents, families, friends and visitors by guiding individuals to services which may be available to them. Greensboro Nursing Home continues to improve in 2021! In 2020, the nursing home has continued to renovate our resident rooms, flooring, and upgraded our IT structure with Fiber-optics and updated technology. Although many projects have been delayed or interrupted by the Pandemic, we are continuing the process of applying for an outpatient license, so that we will be able to offer outpatient rehabilitation services to our community as well as to any of our staff who are in need, or could benefit from therapy services once the state of emergency due to the Pandemic has been lifted. We are also working with the State of Vermont and a local contractor in the development of a walking path on our property, to encourage ambulation and

independence with our elders. Greensboro Nursing Home is proud to announce that our facility continues to maintain a Five Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). We invite you to log-on for yourself to the Medicare Nursing Home Compare website at:

<https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

On this site, you can explore data from all the nursing home in the state of Vermont and you can compare various aspects of nursing home care. This is a great tool to use when considering a nursing home for yourself, or for a loved one. This has been a very difficult year for our community. Most of us had no idea we would be facing such heavy challenges with the Covid-19 Pandemic. At Greensboro Nursing Home, we have strived to focus on our residents’ physical and emotional wellbeing, during this hard time. Although mandated restrictions on visits and socializing have made it more challenging, we have put a major focus on our activities department, rehab department and have purchased several electronic devices to allow virtual interactions through Zoom, Facetime, telemedicine visits and more. We appreciate everyone’s understanding and encouragement in the following of guidelines and mandates from the various state and regulatory organizations. We are very proud to say that we have been able to remain COVID-Free at our facility, throughout this Pandemic! Let the tradition of serving others continue to thrive at Greensboro Nursing Home. We would like to say thank you to our community, it is only through individual donations and town appropriations that we are able to offer the highest quality of care that the community has grown accustomed to from Greensboro Nursing Home. Your support is invaluable, and we appreciate it immensely.

*Respectfully,
Brian Labelle, LNHA
Administrator*

AWARE

AWARE's mission strives to prevent and heal the trauma of domestic and sexual violence in the greater Hardwick area in such a way that people of all ages are empowered to act towards themselves and others with awareness, empathy, respect, and personal responsibility. During the past year AWARE served 196 women, men, and children, who were directly affected by violence, 111 children who were exposed to violence, answered over 2100 hotline and in-person

assistance requests, and educated over 1200 community members which includes professionals as well as school-aged children. Those served by AWARE received services such as crisis intervention, legal support and advocacy, information and referrals, safety planning, emergency provisions, housing assistance, transportation, support groups and education. Educational classes included topics such as healthy relationships/friendships, gender and society, domestic and sexual violence, managing emotions, social media, and sexual harassment.

Annie Pirie
Executive Director
(802)472-6463

Craftsbury Community Care Center

Craftsbury Community Care Center has been a trusted resource for elders and their families for twenty-five years, serving many residents of Hardwick since its creation by the Craftsbury community in 1994. The Care Center is a non-profit, non-denominational, tax-exempt organization which provides a safe, caring, homelike and affordable residence for elders who can no longer live independently. It encourages independence, activities, and involvement with family, friends, and the larger community. The Care Center offers recreational, wellness and cultural activities that are available to both residents and members of the surrounding communities. These include exercise classes for older adults, concerts by local musicians, and art classes offered by local arts organizations. Many of the Center's usual activities and events have been curtailed by the COVID-19 epidemic, but staff have been creative and diligent in providing activities and entertainment for the residents. The Center offers both employment and volunteer opportunities for local residents and many have been involved with the organization over its quarter century of service. The Center has an active engaged Board of Directors, two of whose members are Hardwick residents, work closely with the Centers management to improve the facility and develop new programs for the residents and surrounding communities. The spacious facility has twenty-four private rooms, one third of which are reserved for elders whose care is supported by Medicaid payments. Because Medicaid covers less than a third of the cost of care, the Center relies on donations for community members and towns in the Northeast Kingdom whose residents we serve. The Craftsbury Community Care Center is the only residential care center in our

immediate area and provides an invaluable and necessary service for elders in our community who can no longer live independently or whose families cannot care for them at home. The support of the Hardwick community will help ensure that this irreplaceable resource remains available for many years to come. Our inclusion in the Town appropriations will be gratefully welcomed by Board Staff, and Residents of the Center.

Thank you,
Jane Marlin, President of Board of Directors
Kim Roberge, Executive Director
(802) 586-2414

Lamoille Family Center

Promotes the well-being of Lamoille Valley children, youth and families and supports them in meeting life's challenges through education, direct services, and advocacy. The Lamoille Family Center is celebrating over 40 years of service to children, youth, and families! Since 1976 thousands of individuals throughout the Lamoille Valley have received our services, including home visiting, parent education, playgroups, child-care resource and referral, prevention programming, youth services, and emergency assistance. While we open to our services to everyone, many of the families we serve face the overwhelming challenges of isolation, poverty, substance misuse and trauma. Our staff work with families to create stable environments for children so they may have an opportunity to thrive. In fiscal year 2020, our caring and dedicated staff of 35 reached more than 5,000 children, youth, parents, and caregivers throughout the Lamoille Valley and have impacted many more. LFC pivoted quickly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, transitioning to telehealth counseling and services, virtual home visits, playgroups and workshops, driveway drop-offs and pick-ups of basic needs and activity kits, coordinated mask exchanges, community collaboration, and socially distanced support. Examples of Hardwick and East Hardwick residents served include: our Children's Integrated Services team made roughly 450 home visits, providing family support and early intervention, to 46 families in Hardwick and East Hardwick, LFC donates \$500 every year to Hardwick Holiday Project to provide children with holiday gifts, sixty-four residents, including 40 children, received emergency assistance including funding for rent and fuel and goods such as diapers, clothing and furniture, 2 students received summer camp scholarships so that

they could attend summer programs with their peers ,1 family was accompanied by a DULCE family specialist to their pediatric infant wellness visits, 5 youth facing severe crisis situations were attended to through LFC's Youth and Young Adult Program, 7 Hardwick residents participated in Playgroups, 25 Hardwick children received Activity Bags filled with goodies in response to COVID-19 stay-home orders , Hardwick students and families benefitted from prevention programming via Healthy Lamoille Valley, dozens of families and several childcare providers received childcare support services including assistance with applications for financial assistance and help with referral to regulated programs, countless children are stronger, safer and more resilient as a result of their involvement with the Family Center. Together, we strive to help families become mentally and physically healthy, independent, and resilient. Support through volunteer time, donation of goods and services, and financial contributions remain vital to the sustainability of the Lamoille Family Center. We cannot do this work without you. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about our organization. Please call if you would benefit from our services.

Floyd Nease

Executive Director

802-888-5229 ext. 124

Hardwick Historical Society

The threat of Covid-19 limited public activity at the Depot, but not the volunteers' work. Here is what we did. **Awards:** Every year the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) presents Achievement Awards to recognize the exceptional work. Two of the nine they awarded this year came to Hardwick. *Lorraine Hussey* received an award for individual achievement for her work and commitment to Hardwick's history. Lorraine has been making and preserving Hardwick history for more than 70 years. The HHS received an Award of Excellence for the Eleanor Angell climate-controlled storage room. Steve Perkins, Director at the VHS, and Eileen Corcoran, Community Outreach Manager, came to Hardwick to present the awards in September. They told us that one of the judges who sat on the award panel admitted s/he had never considered the 'room within a room' concept, and s/he would spread the word about it. Another admitted that s/he was just jealous that she doesn't have a storage room like that.

Collections: We spent the spring and summer moving the collections into the Angell Room. While we are still sorting and filing things, our focus has switched

to making sure we have an inventory, so we know where everything lives. Kris Lance continues to register the artifact collection, and the rest of us plug away at various document collections. Slowly, we are populating our website, www.hardwickvthistory.org with inventories of what we have. Before you clean out your attic/basement/closets/garage of all that old stuff, please give me (472-6424) or Lorraine Hussey (472-5903) an opportunity to look for historical treasures in it. **Finances:** In 2020, the HHS had cash expenses of \$11,500, paid for by a \$3,000 appropriation at the 2020 Town Meeting, membership fees, advertising in the *Journal*, assorted donations, the St. Patrick's Day dinner, sales of cards and back issues of the *Journal*, and bottle redemptions at All Metals' transfer station. Getting the work of the HHS done, however, took the considerable contribution of time from volunteers. **Personnel:** The volunteers logged 781 hours of free labor at the Depot in 2020. The logged hours do not include the work volunteers did at home or in outside venues – the treasurer paying bills and keeping accounts, the publications committee preparing the quarterly *Journal*, etc. – so, that number vastly under-represents the amount of work volunteers have contributed to make to preserve Hardwick's history and make it accessible to the public. What is volunteer time worth? A group called Independent Sector <http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time> monitors the activities of non-profit organizations all over the country and calculates that, on average, volunteers contribute worth \$27.20/hour. By that calculation, the HHS volunteers contribute about \$20,000 in time. Even if we ascribe only minimum wage, \$10.96, to our recorded volunteer hours, they add about \$8,560 to the budget. Thank you, volunteers: Lorraine Hussey, Donna Hale, Susan Earle, Carmeline Williams, Janet Slayton, Spencer Slayton, Mary Brochu, Taylor Meyer, Andrew Meyer, Fenton Meyer, Shari Cornish, Tracy Martin, Judy Nudd, Mark Sassi, Neil Stout, Mario Fradette, Mary Janes Fradette

Elizabeth H. Dow
President

Northeast Kingdom Human Services

Thank you, Town of Hardwick voters, for your appropriation support last year. Annual appropriations are a vital funding source supporting community members who otherwise cannot afford care to improve their lives through confidential program services for Emergency/Crisis Services, mental health, addiction, and/or developmental/intellectual disabilities. Our

mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities by promoting hope, healing, and support.

Summary data for July 2019 through July 2020:

***3,663** = Total number of individuals of all ages in our service area that utilized support services in the past year.

***73** = Number of individuals **from the Town of Hardwick** who accessed supportive care at Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.

***Over 100 hours** = Employees provided community consultation, education, and outreach in community meetings, events, and trainings in Northeast Kingdom Human Services offices, area schools, and businesses. Training examples include QPR Gatekeeper and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

***512** total, **5 from the Town of Hardwick** = Dedicated professional employees who support community members in the Derby or St. Johnsbury offices, the satellite office in Hardwick, telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, in homes, in schools, and throughout Northeast Kingdom communities.

***18%** = There was an increase of 18% in unanticipated expenses not reimbursed by the state or other grants for technology, cleaning supplies, and personal protective equipment needed to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Good mental health is important for everyone. As a Designated Agency serving the Vermont's system of care, NKHS has a responsibility for assuring that a comprehensive range of services are available regardless of an individual's ability to pay. A sliding fee scale is available for those in financial need. Northeast Kingdom Human Services is asking the Town of Hardwick voters to consider helping neighbors, family members, and friends receive the supports they need to live a happy, fulfilling life and be an active and contributing member in your community. The 2021 appropriation request of \$3161 is the same amount voted on at the 2020 Town Meeting. This represents 3.28% of appropriation requests from 48 towns. **Thank you so much for your support!**

Respectfully submitted,
Tomasz Jankowski, DPT, MHA, MBA
President and CEO
(802)334-6744

Hardwick Area Food Pantry

As we say farewell to another year, we give thanks for the many ways that the community supports the Hardwick Area Food Pantry. We could not do what we do without your generous financial donations, food and fund drives, and volunteering. Together we are able to improve local food access and community resilience at a time when this work has never been more critical...Thank you!! In 2020 the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) has grown and changed in ways we never anticipated -finding the resources within our staff, participants, volunteers, farmers, partners, donors, and community members to navigate the incredible challenges and opportunities of this wild year. We are honored to continue to serve this resilient community and humbled by the myriad of ways people are coming together to care for each other. HAFP's work has become more vital than ever during this pandemic. Major systems redesign for COVID-responsive operations include outdoor service, a home delivery program, virtual and physically distanced Grow Your Own food independence workshops and partnering with the Center for an Agricultural Economy to distribute local grocery vouchers. We have expanded our services to offer more frequent visits, additional federal food distribution, and improved referral processes. Since March, we estimate a 25% increase in total households served monthly, with 30% accessing the delivery program and 30% accessing more frequent visits. We are also moving forward on an expansion project to serve a distinct and significant new group of households within our service area that has been accessing the pop-up pandemic response food efforts in Craftsbury and Albany. To build long term sustainability for food access work that meets this demonstrated need in the HAFP service area, HAFP and Craftsbury-Albany Food Share are collaborating on an expansion to the HAFP that will result in a multi-site program, incorporating the Craftsbury and Albany sites into HAFP operations. We are energized by this strong collaboration and the clear and significant impact of this project in supporting community resilience in the greater Hardwick area. Our engaged and generous community members (you!) have made it possible for us to meet the significantly increased need. We are grateful and humbled to continue our work with such a strong foundation of support that is offered by so many and comes in so many different forms. To learn more about the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, contact director@hardwickareafoodpantry.org or 1-802-472-

5940. Our open hours are Mondays from Noon-2pm, Thursdays, and Saturdays 9-11am. More info about the Hardwick Area Food Pantry can be found at NourishHardwick.org/pantry. Please reach out to Kris Coville at mama.kris.coville@gmail.com for questions specific to Craftsbury and Albany sites.

HAFP Board: Ruby Baker, Reeve Basom, Alice Fleer, Ruth Gaillard, Erika Karp, Jake Lester, Diana Peduzzi, Regina Troiano, John Tuthill
HAFP Director: LauraLee Sweeney

Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice

Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice (CHHC) is Northern Counties Health Care's (NCHC) certified Medicare and Medicaid comprehensive Home Care and Hospice division. Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice has proudly served the residents of Caledonia and Southern Essex counties since 1968. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of individuals and families by providing compassionate, accessible, and affordable patient-centered health services to our community. In the last year, Caledonia Home Health and Hospice was honored to provide 4,600 visits to the town residents of Hardwick, VT. Our staff visited 160 homes of community members living in the Hardwick area. While working with residents, we provided physical, occupational, and speech therapies. We provided skilled nursing, medical social work, personal care attendants, and even home makers. We work together with primary care physicians so that care is specific and structured to treatment goals.

2021 Town Appropriation Visit Statistics
Hardwick, VT Home Care (Therapy, Nursing, MSW) = **2,714 visits**, Maternal Child Health= **47 visits**
Hospice (Nursing, Therapy, Personal Care, Respite) = **360 visits**, Long Term Care (Case Management, Personal Care, Respite) = **1,479 visits**, **Total Visits in Hardwick, VT = 4,600 visits**

Laurie A. Bellizzi
(802)748-8116

Hardwick Community Television

Hardwick Community Television – Comcast Channel 1080 Hardwick Community Television is committed to fulfilling the vision of a local nonprofit TV station that gives the community access to the people, government meetings, and events of interest to the area. Please note: in 2020, HCTV switched to a new cable channel number - 1080! In 2021, HCTV will be continuing to cover regular Select Board Meetings (virtual and in-person), Hazen Varsity Sports,

Hardwick Electric Meetings, School Board Meetings, and other community events. We hope to offer free video workshops, including another VT Crowdsourced Cinema collaborative project and/or a free “Vid-kids” workshop for area children to work creatively with video. In 2020, HCTV has maintained full internet accessibility to locally made programs. Every program is archived and available for viewing at www.hctv.us. We also post each program on the Hardwick Community Television Facebook page. This includes Hazen Varsity Basketball and Soccer games, Hardwick Select Board, the Memorial Day Parade, Jeudevine Library Events, Hardwick School Board and more local programming. Anyone who has internet access can watch these programs whether they get cable or not. And with the programs on Facebook, they are easy to share with other organizations and residents. When streamed live over the internet, the programs can be viewed live on <https://www.hctv.us> at the time of the actual event. As always, HCTV's full broadcast schedule can be viewed on Channel 1080 by cable subscribers. HCTV can share locally produced shows with the rest of the state's cable access stations through the VMX network. We hope to broadcast Hazen Union Varsity Basketball games, if sports can continue in 2021, in light of the pandemic. The games will be announced with full play-by-play and broadcast on the cable channel and the website. These games offer underwriting opportunities for local businesses to promote themselves while supporting HCTV and community events. HCTV operates on an annual budget of under \$40,000. Leif Goldberg is the Executive Director and works with several independent camera-people to record over 120 programs annually. From station programming to live events to creative workshops and technical training, this small station is a great asset for Hardwick and Woodbury. In order to cover more of what is going on in Hardwick, HCTV always needs volunteers. HCTV offers free camera and editing training and will equip you to run the cameras at community events or help you to edit programs for broadcast. A trained volunteer can also produce their own show with the support of HCTV resources and staff. The HCTV Board of Directors and staff thank you, the citizens of Hardwick, for your support. Your feedback is always welcome. If you would like to volunteer your time, and learn a valuable new skill, call us at 472-6655.

Rachel Kane
HCTV President

Northeast Kingdom Arts Council **(Hardwick Town House)**

The mission and purpose of NEKAarts is to restore, preserve and operate the historic Hardwick Town Opera House as a center for entertainment, education and community engagement in Hardwick and the Northeast Kingdom region. NEKAarts Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. We meet once monthly and would welcome new members to our group. The requested appropriation of \$3,500 will be used as matching funds to secure additional grants that require evidence of the community's support of the NEKAarts Council's mission. NEKAarts has operated since 2001 primarily through successful grant writing and individual donations which have allowed it to make significant renovations to the Town House while expanding the number and variety of its programs. The Town House is owned by the Town of Hardwick and is leased to NEKAarts with the agreement that NEKAarts Council will actively pursue both public and private funding necessary to further rehabilitate this historic town asset. 2020 has been quiet at the Hardwick Town House. Our typical live performance season was replaced by masked meetings, a socially distant census training, and live-streamed performances to audiences from afar. While this was not our first choice, the lack of programming allowed the board members to reflect on the needs of our community and consider big steps for a more inclusive, vibrant future. This summer and fall, we took a hard look at the life-safety and accessibility of a 150-year-old building that wasn't constructed with modern standards in mind. After conducting both an ADA accessibility audit and facility condition report, we found two glaring concerns that require immediate attention. Our fire escapes, while functional, are woefully out of code and causing water damage to the exterior siding. Our stage, despite being lovely to look at, is all but inaccessible for anyone with limited mobility. To fix both problems while preserving the building's historic aesthetic is not an easy puzzle. We have secured architectural plans for an addition to the south (back) side of the Town House that will provide an enclosed fire-escape, interior loading area, and a wheelchair lift to the stage. This will dramatically improve the safety of patrons seated in the balcony and will make the stage ADA compliant for the first time ever, all while retaining the historic character and architectural detailing that give the Town House such charm. The Select Board has been invited to return our

Town Meeting to enjoy the traditional environment designed for civic discourse. It is only with much-appreciated financial contributions from the annual appropriation alongside individual donations that we continue to accomplish our restoration, preservation, and maintenance goals, expand programming, and apply for matching grants from supporting organizations. Our vision is to create a truly accessible and time-honored venue where young and old can celebrate together, where a community can assemble to laugh or learn, and where new creative work can come to life. Our volunteer board has also laid the groundwork to improve our eligibility for historic preservation and arts funding in 2021. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2022, and fundraising is underway. In October, we received \$50,000 from the Preservation Trust of Vermont through its partnership with the Freeman Foundation.

If you would like to know more about what is happening at the Hardwick Town House, please contact us. Email -nekarts@hardwicktownhouse.org or visit - <http://hardwicktownhouse.org/> and follow NEKAarts at the Hardwick Town House on Facebook & Instagram.

The Hardwick Town House (NEKAarts) Board of Directors: Shari Cornish, David Gross, Tess Martin, Sally Anstey, Audrey Grant, Lucas Whitaker, Beana Bern, Annie Houston, Brent McCoy, Maya McCoy & Barbara Graham

North Country Animal League

We would like to start by saying thank you for your support of North Country Animal League (NCAL) through the years and respectfully ask that you continue to support us at the \$2100 level. Since 1994, NCAL has contributed to a more humane community for all beings and saved over 14,000 lives through our programs, playing an important role in your town and the surrounding community through both our rescue services and our commitment to teaching empathy through our humane education programs. While our humane education programs have been greatly diminished during the COVID-19 pandemic, our rescue and adoption efforts have continued and been deemed essential by the state of Vermont. While our income through programs and adoption services has been impacted significantly this year, we have had to remain open to shelter surrendered, abused, and abandoned dogs and cats in Lamoille County and the surrounding towns and have continued our humane education programs following strict safety guidelines

in accordance with the State. The expense of keeping our doors open has been great but we know that the work that we do makes a difference for the animals who come through our doors. Hardwick's support of NCAL every year is much needed especially as the expenses incurred per animal during COVID-19 have been larger than normal. During this time, the average length of stay for both dogs and cats has increased due to challenges with access to vet care and our new adoption process to ensure safety protocols are being followed. While intakes by town vary greatly year over year, in 2019/20 we took in 10 stray animals from Hardwick and 11 Hardwick residents who could no longer care for their pets surrendered them to us. With the average length of stay for dogs at 20 days, and cats at 21 days and including vaccinations, sterilization, microchipping and daily care, our average expense per animal is \$756. In 2020, 15 Hardwick residents adopted a dog or cat from NCAL. Our adoption fees only account for 46% of each animal's expense. NCAL's Humane Education programs continue to serve children of all ages from Lamoille County and the surrounding towns. Even despite the challenges our programs have faced in 2019/20, we have welcomed 42 children to our Reading Buddies program, 26 children to our Humane Heroes Camps, 28 children to our Be a Vet Camps, 77 children to our Horsemanship Camps, and 11 children to our After-school Saddle Club to share our mission to promote compassionate and responsible relationships between humans and animals. Starting January 2021, in an effort to bring relief to local pet owners in Lamoille County impacted financially or otherwise by COVID-19, NCAL will provide pet owners in need with food and supplies for their pets through a new community outreach effort, NCAL Meals. NCAL Meals is an extension of NCAL's onsite Pet Food Shelf which started in April 2020 in response to growing unemployment rate in Vermont due to the pandemic. Since then, NCAL has distributed 3,459 pounds of dog and cat food to local community members in need. Hardwick's support helps cover the expense incurred from the stray and surrendered animals we take in from Hardwick and ensures that these animals are provided the best second chance possible. Funding also helps support our humane education and community outreach programs, which create a more humane and compassionate community for all sentient beings. Thank you for your consideration of our request for your continued support. We look forward to continuing to provide your community with

essential animal rescue, sheltering, and adoption services for stray and surrendered animals and humane education programs for local children of all ages.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Goldfine
Executive Director*

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging

For over 41 years, the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging has been a valued and trusted resource for older Vermonters to age independently, their way. Our mission is to deliver the person-centered support necessary for our older Vermonters to sustain their independence and live well in their communities. Our valuable services include a Helpline, Medicare counseling and Bootcamp, specially trained staff who help people develop long-range planning as they age, exercise and mobility programs, family and caregiver support programs and grants, case management for those who need a bit more support with aging in place, as well as assistance in applying for fuel, food, and pharmacy programs. Our nutrition programs partially fund meal sites and home delivered meals under the guidance of our registered dietitian. Working with RCT and Legal Aid, we provide solutions for the complex challenges people face while living in a rural community. In addition, our work is supplemented by over 370 volunteers who serve as home-delivered meal drivers, wellness program leaders, friends who make neighborly check-in phone calls, and home-based caregivers. Our service area extends across the entire Northeast Kingdom. During this past year 185 residents of Hardwick used the services of our organization to meet their needs. People called our Helpline for assistance with caregiving and programs such as 3SquaresVT, Medicaid and Medicare, fuel assistance, and transportation, among other services. Our website www.nekcouncil.org provides information on many of our programs and services. We sincerely thank the residents of Hardwick for your continued support to make a difference in the lives of your residents who are often the most vulnerable. As a private non-profit, we are able to remain independent and put the focus on our clients who need unbiased assistance. If you have a friend or family member who may benefit from our services, please contact us. We are just a phone call away at the Helpline: 1-800-642-5119. The staff at the NEK Council on Aging wish to extend a special note of thanks to all the residents of

the towns that supported us with an appropriation or donation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Requests for our services increased substantially and we remain grateful for the support of all our friends in the Northeast Kingdom as we continue to help our elders to remain healthy and safe.

*In gratitude,
Meg Burmeister
Executive Director*

Rural Community Transportation, Inc.

Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) respectfully requests an appropriation in the amount of \$3,400.00. This is the same amount requested and appropriated last year. RCT is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation which provides public transportation services throughout Caledonia, Orleans, Essex, and Lamoille Counties. In Fiscal Year 2020, RCT provided 7683 trips to 108 residents of Hardwick, travelling 193,726 miles at a total cost of \$129,691.

RCT operates with federal and state funding; however, our funding sources typically require 20% - 50% local match dollars. All Town appropriations received are used to provide the required local match. We hope you will be able to assist with this request and look forward to our continued service to the residents of Hardwick.

*Lila Bennett
Community Relations Manager*

NEK Broadband Communications Union District

(NEK CUD/ CUD) was formed through affirmative Town Meeting votes on March 3, 2020 by 27 NEK towns: Albany, Barnet, Barton, Brighton, Burke, Concord, Coventry, Craftsbury, Danville, East Haven, Glover, Greensboro, Groton, Hardwick, Kirby, Lowell, Lyndon, Newark, Peacham, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Stannard, Sutton, Waterford, Westfield, and Wheelock. Within two weeks, Vermont and much of the country, and world, entered a state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus. The safety measures instituted to protect public health exacerbated and laid bare existing deficiencies in our region's broadband infrastructure. Since then, additional attention and funding has been made available to begin to tackle the problem. In addition, all our meetings have been conducted via the online video conferencing application Zoom, following emergency open meeting rules provided by the Vermont Secretary of State. On April 30, 2020, NEK CUD held its organizational meeting with Governing

Board members and alternates appointed by each member town. We adopted bylaws and established an Executive Committee and elected seven members to serve. The CUD was officially recognized by the Vermont Secretary of State on May 6, 2020. By our June meeting, we established a regular meeting time, the second Thursday of each month between 5:30 and 7 p.m. as well as a website where we post agendas and minutes: nekbroadband.org. Highlights of the past year include: May: Created standing Finance and Technology Committees with appointed members. These two committees are open to both Governing Board members and members of the public. June: Adopted a Statement of Mission, Service Goals, Operating Principles, and Immediate Priorities. Approved a Hybrid Public-Private Operator as a preferred operating model, which means the CUD would not be an Internet Service Provider (ISP) but would strive to own assets that would be leased to one or more private operators. July: Recommended Tilson Technology Management, Inc. as the communications consultant to conduct our feasibility study and business plan. Partnered with Tilson Technology Management, Inc., VELCO (Vermont Electric Power Company), Green Mountain Power and the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) to prepare for the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction. Joined an Interlocal Agreement with other Vermont Communication Union Districts to explore collaboration. August: Approved a 2020 Budget which included contract positions: a part-time Project Manager, Bookkeeper/Clerk and Administrator/Treasurer. Hired Christine Hallquist of Hyde Park as part-time Project Manager for the months of August and September. September: Approved COVID-Response Connected Community Resilience Program grant-funded broadband project with Kingdom Fiber, which will fund the customer portion of fiber connections for up to 100 underserved addresses in Albany, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick and Irasburg by the end of the year. Hired Jami Jones of Hardwick as part-time Bookkeeper/Clerk. October: Hired Christine Hallquist as Administrator/Treasurer. Adopted draft 2021 budget and annual report. Approved applying for a second COVID-Response Connected Community broadband project with Tilson Technology Management, Inc. in Concord, VT. This project is conditional upon Tilson moving forward with their Lunenburg, VT project and funding may be reallocated to other projects elsewhere in the CUD.

November: Tilson completed the feasibility study highlighting 8 strategic projects that would cash flow positive in three years. Study also presented multiple sources for financing the initial projects including Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) loans, grants and private equity. December: FCC announced RDOF awards for Vermont. Significant awards were given to 3 ISP's who will be required to provide service speeds of at least 100mbps. In 2020, membership has grown to 31 Towns. Wolcott and Irasburg joined on May 29, Westmore joined on July 9. Brownington joined on November 12, 2020 and Walden joined December 10, 2020.

*Evan Carlson
Chair*

Town Clerk Report

2020 was a crazy year for everyone and Tonia and I have tried our hardest to keep everything running smoothly in this maze of chaos. We are pleased to announce that after many years of customer requests, we now offer a Credit Card Payment Option. We have partnered with MuniPay, a company that works throughout the United States with municipalities to assist their customers with electronic payment options. We have set up a link on our website, hardwickvt.org, if you are interested in exploring payment options. The Town Clerk's Office was also the recipient of a grant from the State of Vermont for records digitization. The State was given funding through COVID – 19 relief and decided to create a grant program to help Vermont Towns either begin or continue the process of digitizing their land records. We applied and received an award of \$15,250.00 to begin the process. We continue to improve our Water and Sewer meter billing system. The rate structure continues to be lower for our single families and many customers have expressed how pleased they are with the reduction. We again want to remind our utility customers the due dates for Water and Sewer are different than they were a few years ago. We read meters every 3 months and bill based on those reading dates. The long-used dates of September 10, December 10, March 10, and June 10 are no longer applicable. Please check your bill closely for the correct due date when you receive it. While COVID -19 office closing procedures have forced us to temporarily suspend processing DMV renewals the service is still offered at our office and will continue once the office reopens to the public. To register with our office the following items are required:

- Your registration renewal form from the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.
- A check or money order made out to Vermont DMV for the registration fee. (Cash or card cannot be accepted.)
- Finally, there is a \$3.00 processing fee that can be cash or check made out to the "Town of Hardwick".
- From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the Town Clerk's Office processed 148 renewals with revenue of \$444.00.

You can access Town of Hardwick Lister Cards and Tax Maps on our website from the comfort of your own home. Just access the Town of Hardwick website at hardwickvt.org, highlight the Government tab, click on the Lister / Assessor card link, or click on the Tax Maps link to be able to locate the information that you may need. By Vermont State Law, every dog or wolf hybrid in the Town of Hardwick is required to be registered with the Town Clerk's office by April 1 of each year. To register your dog, you must show proof of a current rabies vaccination. The fee to register in Hardwick is: Spayed/Neutered - \$8.00 and Non-Spayed/Neutered - \$12.00 We continue to be one of the Town Clerk's Offices that offer certified copies of Vital Records. Please see our Town Website for more details including the Certified Birth/Death request form that must be filled out to receive a certified copy. We continue to update the Town Clerk page on the Town's website and continue to work toward additional information that we can make easily available to the Hardwick community.

*Alberta Miller
Town Clerk/Treasurer*

Town Manager Report

What a wild year for all of us! Even given the challenges for business operations because of the pandemic, the Town has kept its focus on and continues to deliver services for the good of the Hardwick community. Changes to meeting practices changed overnight for all of us and going online for now is the new normal. We have adapted to the best of our ability to keep moving forward. Thanks to all in Hardwick for your ongoing support and understanding as we adjust operations processes, sometimes daily. At the close of FY2020, the Town was able to add \$295,342 to its Fund balance (Town savings account). The amount in the Fund balance is currently \$810,988 or 24% of the Town budget. This is above the generally accepted municipal target of

15%. With the economic uncertainty the pandemic has created, having some reserves for any expected expenses is a good position to be in. During the year, several capital projects were completed. This included road and ditch improvements across all parts of Town. Paving was completed on Hillside Street, Union Street, Central Street, Woodbury Street, Upper/Lower Prospect Street, Upper Central Street, Park Street, and West Hill Road. Clearing of roadside brush was completed on several Town roads to include some streets in the Village area as well. Public water system improvements in 2020 included the completion of the Bridgman Hill Water Storage Reservoir Roof replacement. A significant project for the community wastewater system was a comprehensive clean out of sludge waste material in the lagoons at the treatment facility. The Town hired an outside firm to complete an engineering report of the wastewater facility and to determine options to upgrade several major components. There is more information included in the Town report on this matter including details of the proposed improvements and details of the Public Hearing to answer any questions from the public. This meeting is set for February 23 at 5:30 p.m. and will be conducted via Zoom platform. Improvements would be significant as most of the wastewater facility infrastructure dates from 1972 and some portions of the collection system network were installed many years prior to this date. The total project cost is estimated at \$2.2 Million. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) Clean Water State Revolving Fund is preparing to provide long-term funding support for the project. Information provided by VT DEC indicates the Town would be eligible for significant support subsidy to cover portion of total costs noted above. The annual review of rates used for the public water and wastewater system services, administered via a separate and dedicated enterprise fund, was completed. During this review, the rate structure for the year is set to cover all costs to operate the systems. For this year, the rate adjustment was just slightly above the previous year's rate structure(s); almost level funded when comparing last year's rate to newly set one. The rates and fees charged are designed to offer a pricing structure that is equitable and reasonable for the utility services being offered. This does also ensure some funds are allocated to reserves for future capital investments and ensures that the Town is complying with a significant number of standards per the Safe and Clean Water Drinking Act and associated Vermont rules. In the

Village area, several recommendations put forward by the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force were approved by the Select Board. The changes included addition of LED crosswalk signal devices, addition of "Stop, Wait, Wave," notation at sidewalk area for entrances to a number of crosswalks. In addition, the parking space near the entrance to the post office parking lot was eliminated to improve site lines for traffic in the area. A split rail fence was added at the base of the bank in the Town parking lot adjacent to the blinking light intersection at Main and Wolcott Street. This was established in an effort to prevent pedestrians from crossing the noted intersection for safety improvement since there is no established crosswalk at this location. As many of you are aware a failed support cable on the Village Pedestrian Bridge led to an unplanned closer of the bridge this past summer. This has created a significant disruption for pedestrian traffic in the area. The Town is evaluating options to address the bridge closure to include seeking out various funding support options. The path forward is being mapped out at this time. Construction improvements to a section of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) in the vicinity of the Highway Garage were completed, between North Main Street and Slapp Hill Road. The completion of this shorter section is generating a significant amount of recreational use. On another portion of the LVRT east of the Village area, as led by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, two major bridges were completed for a crossing point over the Lamoille River. Not all portions of the LVRT are fully completed in Town but various improvements, particularly east of the Village area allow for use of the recreational path for the full section between the Hardwick Village area and East Hardwick Village. Moving forward the Vermont Agency of Transportation will take over all future construction aspects of the LVRT in Hardwick and for any other sections not completed for the entire trail run between St. Johnsbury and Swanton. All construction is estimated to be completed in a two-year timeframe. As additional LVRT improvements take place, Hardwick will benefit from recreational and economic activity. The Town continues to collaborate with the Center for an Agriculture Economy (CAE) and other project planners on the Yellow Barn project. Several significant grant awards were obtained this past year and the goal at this time is to get all details to move forward with a groundbreaking in the second half of 2021. For various details on the

project visit this link:
https://www.nvda.net/yellow_barn/

A special thank you to all Hardwick staff members, Board and Committee members, and volunteers involved with Town operations. You are an important part of Town activities and your efforts are appreciated. For anyone out there needing support, please remember to take advantage of the Hardwick Neighbor-to-Neighbor support network. A shout out to everyone involved with the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, your efforts help many of your neighbors in a big way. It has been a challenging 10-months and I am confident the year ahead will improve. Be well.

Shaun Fielder
Town Manager

Select Board Report

Two thousand twenty was a tumultuous year. We are living through very unusual times but there are reasons for optimism. The biggest reason is that vaccines which should quell the pandemic are currently being distributed. We also have some exciting projects on tap for this year. Last summer two bridges were re-decked on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail allowing travel between the Health Center and East Hardwick. This summer we expect the LVRT to be brought up to final standard throughout Hardwick. After a major fundraising effort and a successful bond vote last year, the Jeudevine Memorial Library is set to break ground on its much-anticipated addition this year. And the Yellow Barn project which received its first major grant in 2017 has now received over \$5 million in grants and is scheduled to start construction this coming fall. The Yellow Barn project includes a full restoration of the historic barn that housed Greensboro Garage for over 30 years into a new retail space. A new building next to the barn will house a state-of-the-art cheese aging facility plus food distribution and other business accelerator space. Within five years of completion, the yellow barn project is projected to add over 100 new jobs to our area's economy. In addition, we have a task force exploring possibilities for repairing or replacing the swinging pedestrian bridge and hope to get underway this year. While these projects are new and exciting, there is also a project that is not new or particularly exciting but is particularly important to our Town. In 2020, the Town commissioned an engineering study of our Wastewater Treatment Facility. The engineering study showed several areas where repairs and upgrades will help keep our 40-year-old facility functioning well for the next 40 years. While the total

cost for the WWTF project seems large (over \$2 million) we need to consider that most of these repairs will last for decades. The timing for this WWTF project is fortuitous because our need for repairs coincides with the offer of a 40% grant from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund which greatly decreases the cost to the Town. As always with water and sewer bonds, the whole town will vote on the bond but only residents and businesses on the sewer system will repay the bond through sewer charges. The Select Board strongly encourages voters to vote in favor of this bond. As the Select Board worked to craft a budget for the next fiscal year, we tried to tighten the budget up as much as we could while still leaving enough money for our municipal functions to continue. The result is a budget that is up \$60,509 or 1.75% over the current year. Unfortunately, revenues are down substantially this year mostly due to the end of the COPS grant and an anticipated decrease in the Greensboro Police Contract amount. When the 1.75% budget increase is combined with the decrease in revenue, we anticipate needing a 3.97% increase in the total property tax collected. When taking into account the expected increase in the Grand List, this nets out to an estimated 3.04% increase in municipal property taxes (if the budget passes and if all appropriations pass). I always like to take this opportunity to thank all the Town employees for all they do. This year our employees have done even more than usual to follow the ever-changing state guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 all while carrying out their normal duties. So, I salute all Town employees and thank them for helping to make Hardwick a great place to live every day.

Eric Remick
Select Board Chair

Hardwick Police Department

In the year ending June 30, 2020, Hardwick Police responded to 2,616 calls for service. There were 85 criminal arrests by Hardwick Police Officers. The categories with the highest number of offenses were Driving with a criminally suspended license (17), False Pretenses (13), Violation of Conditions of Release (8), and Petite Larceny (7), Sale of Narcotics (4), and Domestic Assault (3). A combination of 339 tickets and warnings were issued by Hardwick Police Officers during fiscal year 2020. We suffered the loss of a grant from the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety program and did not participate in the program during this period. The "Drug Drop Box" program continues to be utilized by many residents of

Hardwick and Greensboro and has been found to be a highly effective program in getting unused prescription drugs out of the community. We found this past year to be challenging in many ways due to the national pandemic we had, and still currently face. Officers of our police department were not exempt from Covid-19, and we personally felt the effects of the virus. We took every safety health precaution recommended very seriously and were forced to adjust for safety and health reasons. Regardless of the adjustments made, we continued to provide 24/7 police coverage to the towns of Hardwick and Greensboro. The Officers of the Hardwick Police Department would like to thank the Hardwick and Greensboro communities for their strong support and in assisting the Hardwick Police in becoming a strong member of the community partnership. Wishing everyone a healthy and safe year.

Sincerely,

Aaron Cochran, Police Chief

Sergeant Darin Barber, Detective Cpl. Kevin Lehoe,

Officer RJ Caldwell, Officer Lucas Marcoux, Officer

Scott Gagnon, Officer Katie Cimmino, Officer

Donald Jenness

Hardwick Fire Department Report:

The Hardwick Fire Department responded to a total of 84 calls this past year.

5 structure fires

6 carbon monoxide calls

2 grass fires

19 accidents

3 vehicle fires

10 fire alarm calls

14 mutual aid calls

7 medical assists

4 hazmat calls

14 miscellaneous call outs

I would like to thank the people of Hardwick who voted on the bond for our new pumper truck that should arrive around mid-July to early August 2021 and thank the members of the department.

Tom Fadden

Fire Chief

Jeudevine Memorial Library

It is hard to believe that FY2019-2020 held a summer and fall full of events for the Jeudevine Expansion Fund. The Campaign Committee worked hard raising funds. In the winter of 2020, the library was just starting a second round of programs with science-based book discussions using a grant from the National Science Foundation when we started to hear about the “novel” Coronavirus, which ultimately was named COVID 19. Then.....Governor Phil Scott of asked that all but essential businesses close in order to contain the spread of the virus. The library closed on March 27. The Youth Librarian, Diane Grenkow, and the Assistant Librarian, Kevin Hill, and I all worked from home. Kevin completed his coursework for his Vermont Certificate of Public Librarianship. Now both of my staff have reached that milestone. Diane made some cute online story time videos. We provided online resources. The library helped with the formation of Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor which received a grant for \$1,000 from the New England Grassroots Fund. The Town of Hardwick kicked in \$1,000 for postcard design and postage. Postcards were sent to everyone in the Town of Hardwick to let them know how to contact the group for whatever help they needed. A request for volunteers resulted in a long list of 38 volunteers. The volunteers made food deliveries, made masks, picked up and delivered mail, connected people to resources, made an area resource list and helped at the food pantry. During the lockdown there was a need for lots of information and the library served as the communication hub for the Hardwick Neighbors to Neighbors group, taking calls, directing the callers to the correct entity, and managing volunteers. On April 27, libraries were given the go-ahead by Gov. Scott to reopen for curbside pick-up. Libraries across the state, country and world were sharing lots of information about how to treat library materials. From information coming out of the VT Department of Libraries, the CDC, the Batelle study on materials, we came up with a phased reopening plan. People were overjoyed when we resumed doing curbside pick-up of library materials. By the middle of June, we started planning for limited in-person visits which we initiated on July 15. The library received a Cultural Relief Grant for \$5,000 to cover the loss of revenue usually brought in for the library’s operating budget through the library book sale, small donations, fees for copies, faxing and other income. During the summer we held a couple of author programs in partnership with the Galaxy Book Shop and hosted the

rest of the science-based book discussions. These were held outdoors, under the Atkins Field Pavilion with people sitting 6 feet apart and wearing masks. One of the books for the book discussion series was a fictional account of a flu pandemic. In midsummer it was announced that the library was to be awarded \$157,000 from the USDA and \$100,000 from the Vermont Community Block Grant program toward the Jeudevine Expansion Project, which required the library to start the project within a certain time period. The Town held a bond vote on August 11 to ask taxpayers for \$500,000 toward the expansion. The bond passed! The Trustees and Staff of the Jeudevine Library are all very grateful for this support. The fall has seen the Design Committee working with the architects, engineers and permitting agencies to ready the project for ground-breaking in the spring of 2021.

Also, in the fall, the Hardwick Neighbors to Neighbors group helped with school projects and ran the 100 Hats for Hardwick (and Beyond!) campaign. We received far more than 100 hats from knitters and other winter weather items (hats, ear bands, neck gaiters) from Skida. The Hardwick Area Food Pantry, local schools, and the satellite pantries in Craftsbury and Albany are distributing the hats. After seeing the press releases and seeing the call on Facebook, people in far flung states sent hats. Hardwick Neighbors continues to meet and address needs in the community. The number of cases of COVID grew in the fall and the library went back to delivering materials through curbside pick-up only. The library continues to provide printing, copying, and faxing. Library circulation is slightly lower than when we are open to the public, but books, movies and audiobooks are proving to be of great solace during the pandemic. The Youth Librarian, Diane Grenkow, got a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation for \$500 to make Storytime Book Bags filled with books and crafts for families to check out which have been immensely popular. ***The year of 2020 has been like no other.***

*Lisa Sammet
Library Director*

Hardwick Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee has been dedicated to coordinating with organizations and individuals to bring wholesome, fun, and interactive recreational activities to Hardwick. The Committee is grateful to the Select Board for continuously supporting our programming and events. The committee continues to support the Youth Programming run by the OSSU

REACH! At Hardwick Elementary School. The committee supports REACH! through the Recreation Committee budget, this year REACH! had multiple successes and a few COVID-19 related setbacks. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Director for REACH! thanks the Hardwick Recreation Committee for their support in helping the REACH! Afterschool and Summer programs run a successful cross country ski program on the Hardwick Trails and a fall sports program at Hardwick Elementary. Due to COVID, school closures, and state guidance, we were unable to run our swim program, summer sports sampler, or mountain bike program. This coming year we look forward to continuing our cross-country ski program on Hardwick Trails and plan to run in-person summer opportunities. This year the committee has worked in unity to plan and host special events for the town. Unfortunately, since last March, most events needed to be cancelled due to the pandemic we are all facing. At the start of 2020, the committee planned, organized, and set dates for the following events. *Mackville Grand Opening*: The committee began to plan a block party for the grand opening of the playground at Mackville. This would have included a barbeque and outdoor games such as corn hole and volleyball. *Easter Egg Hunt*: The committee has hosted very successful easter egg hunts in the past, this year we had planned for April 10th at 6pm. The egg hunt would have included better obstacles, 12 movie pass prizes, and a grand prize of a giant easter egg basket. *Winter Festival*: The committee started to plan a new event that would have included sleigh rides, a snowman building contest, a hot chocolate bar, an eye spy scavenger hunt, and ice skating. *Valentine's Day Party*: The committee had planned on supporting the Valentine's day party by donating glow sticks, decorations, a photo booth, and face painting. *Senior Programming*: Unfortunately, this year we were unable to provide a safe alternative for the seniors. Pre COVID, we provided financial support for the Bone Builders programs along with outings for the seniors. We continue to expand our horizons for programs the seniors would enjoy participating in when it is safe. Under the COVID guidelines, the committee remained dedicated to helping organize and coordinate events despite major setbacks. In early 2020, prior to the pandemic, the committee wrapped up a successful season for the ice rink. We received praise and positive feedback for location and usage. In May, the committee helped organize and showed support for Green Up Day which included volunteering, set up of

dumpsters, advertising, and clean up. In October, the committee showed support for the first Trunk or Treat hosted by Josh Peets from the Center of Agricultural Economy. We supplied a donation of candy and set up a trunk for candy distribution. In December, the committee hosted a virtual Small Town, Big Lights! Contest. This included Hardwick and surrounding towns, the winners received gift cards to local restaurants. The committee is very proud to have announced the grand opening of the playground at Mackville. The structure opened for the public on July 4th, social distancing and masks were recommended. The committee will be planning a block party post pandemic for an official grand opening. We are in the process of purchasing a projector and screen, hoping to host movie nights when possible. We have started to discuss further events that will bring the community together in unity for the year 2021. We will continue to be supporters for Green Up Day, holiday events, and the ice rink at Atkins field. The committee remains dedicated to bringing the community together for recreational events, and we are looking forward to seeing all of you post COVID! We would like to thank the community for your support to the Recreation Committee, and of course to the volunteers that help make it all possible! Thank You!

*Recreation Committee
Holly Bolio, Rhonda Hess,
Mallory Greaves, & Ceilidh Galloway-Kane*

Hardwick Trails Committee

The Hardwick Trails Committee has continued to meet monthly throughout this pandemic-dominated year. As many organizations, we have found alternative ways to further our efforts to tend and improve the trails, including employing a virtual platform for our meetings. Hardwick Trails hosted the REACH program last winter, leading enthusiastic Hardwick Elementary students as they honed their cross-country skiing skills. The program is currently gearing up to launch a new season, in tandem with our first significant snowfall. In other years, the cabin has been staffed on Saturday mornings to lend equipment to interested skiers. This year, we have instituted an alternate *season-long rental option* to manage the pandemic risk, while continuing to encourage access to winter use of the trails. We have also supplied youth programs with equipment for the season. Hardwick Elementary teachers utilized the trails network as part of their outdoor learning initiatives this past spring and fall. Additionally, the trails serve as an anchor for

Hazen's "Dare to be Me" program. The pandemic curtailed most of the annual events we delight in hosting. We adapted as best we could to keep our community safe. In place of our annual Pumpkin Walk that usually draws near 500 participants, the Trails Committee partnered with the Hardwick Community Television Network to film Lisa Cathcart as the "Friendly Witch". Lisa's witchy stories by the bonfire are a Pumpkin Walk highlight for children. This video was shared widely on our HCTV public access station and through social media. We thank the REACH program for creating a virtual pumpkin walk, helping our community to keep this tradition alive, even through a pandemic. The Hardwick Trails collaboration with the GMTCC Forestry program, under teacher Megan Luther, continues to expand based on our shared commitment to stewardship of the Hazen forest, and to ensure ongoing public access to the greatest extent possible. Forest planning and tending are accomplished as a joint effort, with appreciation for our respective roles and resources. The removal of rocks and stumps on our wide recreational-use trails are an indicator of our commitment to continuous improvement. Some tight corners were also widened to facilitate winter grooming. We plan to continue to smooth the trail surface in years to come. While we do not have any mechanism to count trail users, trail committee members have noted a marked uptick in trail use this year. We were disappointed to not be able to host our regular trail events this year, but we are happy to see increasing numbers of people exploring the trails! Multi-season access to approximately 7K of Single Track has been a hallmark of our improvement efforts. A newly constructed trail north of Billings Road has been enjoyed throughout the fall. A stretch of single track has also been constructed to eliminate use of the wider trail on Dave's Drop. Notably, we are now grooming much of the single track for fat bike use (open to other trail users too!). New, more detailed, maps have been created for both the wide general recreational use trails and our Single-Track network. The committee is working on signage to ensure easy navigation. The Hardwick Trails Facebook page is regularly updated, including daily trail grooming reports throughout the winter. When possible, we have also groomed the new stretch of rail trail starting at the Hardwick Area Health Center and running out to East Hardwick. It is a sneak preview of this remarkable community resource. This stretch will be completed during the summer. The entire cross-state rail trail is

slated to be completed by 2022. The Hardwick Trails Committee, a volunteer committee of the Hardwick Town Recreation Department, welcomes everyone to our meetings on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 pm. The Trails Committee thanks the Town of Hardwick for its support.

*Respectfully submitted by
Helen Beattie
Co-Chair*

Hardwick Equity Committee

The Equity Committee was formed in October to realize the Equity Resolution passed by the Hardwick Select Board. Our mission is to strive to make the Town of Hardwick a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community, where all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression of sexual orientation, immigration status, religious or political affiliation can feel protected, included, secure, safe, and ensured of equal justice under the law. Currently, the committee is working on developing actions around our three main goals: *Education*: Educate/train ourselves, select board, town employees, and community. *Inclusion & Voices*: amplifying diverse voices and increasing awareness. *Governance*: Review town policies, procedures, and language to ensure inclusion. We would like to thank Daryl Abraham for his dedication to helping us start this committee. We are seeking members of all backgrounds to join the Equity Committee. If you are interested in finding out more about the committee, please contact equitycommittee@hardwickvt.org.

*Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Chair
Myles Tandy, Vice Chair
Beth Cate, Secretary
Chip Troiano, Member*

Conservation Commission

While we started the year with several good activities planned, like everyone else, we had to take a long hiatus on meetings and activities. After adopting bylaws early in the year, we had no official meetings between April and August, but resumed in September with remote meetings. Our meetings are held on third Tuesdays and are open to the public. We applied for and were chosen by Vt Urban and Community Forest as one of three towns in Vermont to receive 100 trees to give away. The program was cancelled for 2020, but we will conduct the tree giveaway this coming June. We will be sending out a notice on how you can sign up for free trees this spring, so keep your eyes open for

that. We received a grant of \$1300 to work of revivifying the street trees along Wolcott St. The plan was to mulch, prune and fertilize the trees, but all we could accomplish this year was getting them mulched – we plan to finish the project this year with volunteers. Please contact us if you'd like to help prune trees this spring, we could use you! We have been exploring funding options to pay for a Natural Resource Inventory for the town, something which is called for in the town plan. It might take us a year or two to accomplish this, and we will be keeping the public informed with information about the process. An inventory will be invaluable to help make informed decisions regarding land-use, identify important wildlife areas and crossings, and focus land and water conservation efforts to maximize the impact of those efforts. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has not been found in Hardwick yet, though it will not be many years away, sadly. To remind you, the insect is deadly to nearly all ash trees, and so plans should be made to remove ash trees along roadways and by houses, where a dead tree can create a hazard. However, there are benefits to wildlife if dead trees are left standing in forests, so the recommendation is to leave ash trees standing when possible, in places where they will not become hazardous. We have met with representatives of the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation, and the Caledonia County Natural Resource Conservation District, who are interested in hearing from Hardwick about Lamoille River, Hardwick Lake, and water quality issues. Looking ahead, we want to continue and expand on our particular focus on tree planting and working to enhance river health. Riparian buffers along the waterways, made up of resilient native plants, protect against erosion, enhance water quality, and keep the fish happy too. Let us know if you see areas of concern. There are currently two open seats on the commission, and we will welcome interested and active new members. You may apply by sending a letter of interest to the Select Board. Commission members include Rachel Kane, Ken Davis, Renaud Demers, Ben Pougner, Judith Ruskin, Jerry Schneider, and Norma Weisen.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Kane
Chair*

Zoning Report

The Hardwick Planning Commission (HPC) and the Hardwick Development Review Board (DRB) have continued to work throughout the 2020 COVID-19

pandemic. During the summer months, all zoning business was conducted at the Atkins Field gazebo. As the weather grew colder, both the HPC and the DRB shifted to meeting by Zoom. We anticipate that outdoor, socially distanced meetings will again take place in the spring and summer months of 2021, until the State of Emergency is lifted by the State of Vermont. Throughout 2020, the Hardwick Planning Commission worked with the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force to continue the examination of parking and traffic and pedestrian safety issues. A final report was forwarded to the Select Board in August of 2020. This report included 17+ recommendations for improving the safety of the Hardwick village center. The suggestions ranged from adjusting the sight lines near crosswalks to installing bike racks at various locations to removing parking from the blinking light intersection (Route 14/15 intersection). During the fall months, in response to the final report, the Town of Hardwick purchased and installed two LED crosswalk devices in the village center and installed a fence near the Town parking next to the Village Diner. The fence was recommended as a deterrent for pedestrians traveling over the parking area bank and through the busy intersection. We anticipate that additional tasks will be accomplished in the spring and summer months of 2021. The Hardwick Planning Commission will continue the evaluation of the pedestrian and traffic safety in both village centers. Additional work will focus on necessary zoning bylaw updates and zoning district reviews. If you would like to help, the Planning Commission currently has two vacancies. Letters of interest can be submitted to the Town Manager's office. In 2020, the Hardwick Development Review Board reviewed and approved the Yellow Barn development proposal. Other DRB hearings focused on Flood Plain requests, a major subdivision, a conversion of a mixed-use structure, and an expansion of an Industrial Park structure. An increase in development requests is anticipated during the upcoming year. If you would like to help, the DRB currently has two vacancies. Again, letters of interest can be submitted to the Town Manager's office.

Kristen Leahy
Zoning Administrator
(802) 472-1686
zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.org

Hardwick Electric Department

2020 presented new and different challenges for HED as well as all our customers – due to COVID. Despite this fact, our specific mission focus on efficiency and effectiveness - as well as our strive for continuous improvement - helped HED to enjoy a successful year. Two highlights were the completion of a three-year system voltage upgrade, and we rebuilt our 34,500-volt transmission line (which serves 100% of HED's customers). Both were solid investments with short payback periods that will serve all HED's customers energy needs well into the future. Another highlight is our 1,650 kW H11 solar project. The H11 has also been a multi-year effort, but about half of the work for it was done in 2020. It is presently scheduled to be complete/on-line in summer of 2021, and will provide clean, local, renewable energy for all HED customers. HED's Wolcott hydro generation production struggled this year. This was primarily due to the exceptionally dry summer which resulted in a significant lack of water for several months. In addition, the unit suffered a hydraulic system failure which shut the plant down entirely for multiple weeks. Even with these setbacks, the facility generated well over 2 million kilowatt hours of clean energy and is a key component in HED providing stable rates for our customers. The Hardwick Electric Department Board of Commissioners has continued their steadfast due diligence efforts in the Joyce Bellavance embezzlement. The matter was scheduled to be brought to closure via HED's ongoing lawsuit in spring of 2020, but unfortunately COVID shut down the courts and caused this closure to be pushed into 2021. HED revenues for 2020 were 2.4% over budget, and expenses were 5.8% under budget. The Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) also provided a solid year with our Purchase Power costs coming in 2% under budget with a coverage ratio of 102%. HED enjoyed a very successful 2020 along with all our customers. Our team remains committed to our Mission, Vision, and Values – and we will seize every opportunity we have for improvement in 2021.

Very Truly Yours,
Commissioners:
Lynne Gedanken – Chair/Hardwick
Nat Smith – Greensboro
Roger Prevot – Hardwick
Michael Ambrosino – Hardwick
Vince O'Connell – Craftsbury

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CURRENT TAX RECONCILIATION: 7/1/2019 TO 6/30/2020			
MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST AT 1%		\$	1,858,525.00
HOMESTEAD GRAND LIST AT 1%		\$	1,086,835.92
NON RESIDENTIAL GRAND LIST AT 1%		\$	779,432.08
TAXES BILLED ON 8/06/2019			
MUNICIPAL TAXES BILLED		\$	1,200,796.25
HIGHWAY TAXES BILLED		\$	1,130,726.60
LOCAL AGREEMENT BILLED		\$	19,514.97
HOMESTEAD TAXES BILLED		\$	1,857,619.97
NON RESIDENTIAL TAXES BILLED		\$	1,245,700.62
LATE HOMESTEAD PENALTY		\$	1,461.85
MISC. BILLING (GARBAGE)		\$	820.00
TOTAL TAXES BILLED		\$	5,456,640.26
TAX BOOK BILLING BALANCE 6/30/20			
MUNICIPAL TAXES BILLED		\$	1,200,911.24
HIGHWAY TAXES BILLED		\$	1,130,834.89
LOCAL AGREEMENT BILLED		\$	19,516.86
HOMESTEAD TAXES BILLED		\$	1,868,849.42
NON RESIDENTIAL TAXES BILLED		\$	1,235,410.14
LATE HOMESTEAD PENALTY		\$	2,498.03
MISC. BILLING (GARBAGE)		\$	120.00
TOTAL TAXES BILLED		\$	5,458,140.58
COLLECTIONS REPORT 7/1/2019 TO 6/30/2020			
ABATEMENTS		\$	(588.64)
ADJUSTMENST		\$	(397.37)
COLLECTIONS		\$	4,304,384.98
CREDIT REFUNDS (HS-122 & OVERPAYMENTS)		\$	(9,788.63)
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 7/1/2019 TO 6/30/20		\$	585,355.10
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 7/03/2019		\$	162,132.52
STATE TAX PAYMENT TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 8/02/2019		\$	4,491.00
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 9/09/2019		\$	2,377.51
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 10/15/2019		\$	3,091.00
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 11/04/2019		\$	2,599.00
RETURNED CHECKS			
REMOVAL OF GARBAGE FEE			
PROPERTY TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR ON JUNE 30, 2020		\$	5,053,656.47
DELINQUENTS		\$	404,484.11
PROPERTY TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR ON JUNE 30, 2020		\$	5,458,140.58
GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2020		\$	810,988.00

Dog Licenses:

<u>Town of Hardwick</u>			
<u>Dog License Report</u>			
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020			
<u>Total Number of Licenses</u>	<u>Price Per License</u>	<u>Total Collected</u>	
22	\$ 3.00	\$	66.00
1	\$ 5.00	\$	5.00
246	\$ 8.00	\$	1,968.00
22	\$ 10.00	\$	220.00
65	\$ 12.00	\$	780.00
8	\$ 16.00	\$	128.00
Total Licenses	364		
2 Kennel Permits	\$ 31.00	\$	62.00
2 Pet Dealer Permits	\$ 25.00	\$	50.00
Late Collection Fees		\$	175.00
Total Collected for FY20		\$	3,454.00
Fees to State of Vermont		\$	(1,390.00)
Total Revenue for FY20		\$	2,064.00

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Clerk's office was not able to actively pursue the licensing of the dog population in Hardwick. Therefore, the license numbers for FY20 were down from years past. We are hopeful that we will have better results for FY21.

Vital Records:

<u>Town Clerk's Office</u>
<u>Vital Records Information:</u>
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020
The following records were filed:
25 Birth Certificates
11 Marriage Certificates
45 Death Certificates

Minutes

For Town of Hardwick Annual Town Meeting

March 3, 2020

At 10:00 a.m. Orise Ainsworth began the Town Meeting with several announcements. She stated that there were several organizations in the front lobby.

The Hazen Music Department is selling food for their trip to Ireland.

The Jeudevine Library has a booth with information regarding the Library expansion.

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail has information regarding Article 21 and the proposed expansion of the rail trail from St. Johnsbury to Swanton.

The REACH program was offering information regarding the Afterschool Student Programs that they offer.

Friends of Hardwick Elementary School were selling tickets on baskets the students from each grade had created.

Hardwick Area Community Television was handing out flyers regarding the change of their broadcast channel from Channel 16 to Channel 1080 on the Comcast Network.

Orise then requested that the front table introduce themselves to the audience. Shaun Fielder, Town Manager, Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, Shari Cornish, Elizabeth Dow, Lucian Avery, Select Board members, Danny Hale, Select Board Vice Chair, Aaron Cochran, Police Chief, Alberta Miller, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Amanda Fecteau, Payroll and Benefits Administrator and Casey Rowell, Business Manager.

Orise then stated Roberts Rules of Order that would be used for Town Meeting 2020.

At 10:07 Orise read the Town Meeting 2020 Warning. The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Hardwick Elementary School in said Town of Hardwick on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business:

(Election of Town Select Board and Union School

District No. 26 Directors shall be voted on by Australian ballot. The polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.). If special accommodations are necessary because of physical disabilities, please contact the Town Clerk's Office (472-5971).

Katharine Ingram, Chair of the Orleans Southwest Union Elementary School District board spoke to the audience regarding the open seat for a Hardwick resident on the OSUESD Board. If anyone is interested, please send a letter of interest to the Hardwick Town Manager's Office and they will be presented to the Hardwick Select Board for consideration and appointment to the OSUESD board. She also informed the audience that in 2021 the OSUESD board will be changing and they will need five members from Hardwick.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator to govern said Town Meeting and for the year ensuing.

David Shepard nominated Orise Ainsworth.
Seconded by Raymond Bellavance
Motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Orise asked the audience for permission to suspend part of Roberts Rules to allow for Shaun Fielder, Amanda Fecteau and Casey Rowell to speak if there are questions that they can offer information on.

Article 2. Shall the Town accept the Town Report, year ending June 30, 2019?

Motion made by Karen Collier.
Seconded by Raymond Bellavance
Motion carried.

Article 3. To elect all Town Officers and School District No. 26 Directors as required by the public laws of Vermont and the Town Charter. (Select Board and Union School District No. 26 Directors, to be voted by Australian Ballot).

One Lister.....3-year term

Jan Howard was nominated by Alberta Miller.

Karen Collier made the motion for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Jan Howard as Lister.

Seconded by Alberta Miller

Motion carried.

One Auditor.....3-year term

Ivan Menard was nominated by Karen Collier.

David Shepard made the motion for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Ivan Menard as Auditor.

Seconded by Dave Gross

Motion carried.

First Constable.....1 year term

Arthur Chase was nominated by Karen Collier.

Second Constable.....1 year term

Erwin Gilcris was nominated by David Shepard.

One Town Agent.....1 year term

Karen Holmes was nominated by Tracy Martin.

Surveyor of Wood, Bark and Lumber.....1 year term

Lucian Avery was nominated by David Shepard.

Tree Warden.....1 year term

Lucian Avery was nominated by David Shepard.

Cemetery Trustees.....1 year term

Approved as a block nominated by David Shepard.

(Main Street, Maple Street, Fairview, Sanborn, West Hill Cemetery & Hardwick Center Cemetery),

Fire Dept. Officers (voted as one vote)1-year term

Approved as a block listed on page 3 of the Town Report nominated by David Shepard.

One Library Trustee.....3-year term

Ross Connelly nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith.

One Library Trustee.....3-year term

Daphne Kalmar was nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith

One Library Trustee...1 year remaining on 3-year term

Elizabeth Rossano nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith.

Grand Juror.....1 year term

David Shepard was nominated by David Shepard.

Trustee of Public Funds.....1 year term

Vacant

Trustee of Public Funds.....1 year term

Mario Fradette was nominated by David Shepard.

Trustee of Public Funds.....1 year term

Lorraine Hussey was nominated by David Shepard.

Fence Viewers.....1 year term

Hardwick Town Listers were nominated by David Shepard.

Article 4. Shall the Town have its current taxes collected by the Town Treasurer?

Moved by David Shepard

Seconded by Dave Gross

Motion carried.

Article 5. Shall the Town vote a budget of three million four hundred sixty-five thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$3,465,120.00) to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a new tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Moved by Karen Collier

Seconded by Dave Gross

Shaun Fielder, Town Manager then spoke on the year in review for the Town of Hardwick.

Shaun reported to the crowd that on June 30, 2019 we added \$103,664 to the Fund Balance bring the total to \$515,646 which amounts to 16% of the total Town budget. The recommended standard is 15% so we are right on target. These funds are reserved for to cover unexpected expenses in a given budget year.

Several Capital Projects were completed in FY 19:

*Paving was completed on several Hardwick Village Streets (Glenside Ave, Sumner Street, Holton Hill, Dewey Street, Summer Street and portions of Junction Road and Log Yard Drive).

*Road and ditch improvements were done on portions

of Hardwick Farms Road, Hopkins Hill Road, Marsh Road, West Hill Extension, Porter Brook Road and Mackville Road. This ditch work has shown to be very beneficial during the several significant rain events we saw last summer.

*Brush work was done this year by a contractor. They were able to make progress on Hardwick Street, Mackville Road, Dutton Road and Nichols Pond Road.

*Water and Sewer Rates got another careful review this year. Rates are set to cover the budget needs and clean water rules we are mandated to address each year.

*We developed a Frequently Asked Questions sheet to help customers better understand the Water & Sewer Billing.

*In 2019 we were able to install another 19 Water meters bringing us to 87% complete with installation.

*Bridgman Hill Reservoir cover project was completed and was back online in December. We will be finishing up the financing process by the end of this spring. The Bond will be figured into next year's rate structure.

*The aeration system at the sewer treatment plant was update.

*Slip lining was done to the sewer line on Charlevoix Street.

Moving forward in summer 2020:

*Paving projects planned are Hillside Street, Woodbury Street, Park Street, Prospect Street, Central Street and West Hill Road.

*Several sidewalk improvements are planned for 2020. The Parking & Pedestrian Task Forces is looking for recommendations.

*The Yellow Barn Project has been three years in the making and now we have the final designs in order and commitment letters from both Cabot Creamery and Jasper Hill Cheese. We are waiting on a \$3 million dollar grant award and then we can break ground Summer 2020.

*We have received a grant of \$175,512 to be used to improve the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail that runs from Slapp Hill Road to Pumpkin Lane.

*Governor Scott is looking to approve funds to improve 60 miles of L.V.R.T from St Johnsbury to Swanton.

*Creamery Road will be getting an upgrade this summer.

Shaun closed with a reminder that the 2020 Census is in progress and that its very important you fill out the information request sheets or check out online at 2020Census.org.

David Shepard asked if the budget continues to stay the same next year would you anticipate not adding to the fund balance.

Eric Remick explained that ½ million dollars sounds like a lot of money, however one catastrophic event could take the entire fund balance. Budgets are set to cover costs sometimes budgets can be a little above or below the projections, but the goal is always to run an even budget.

David Shepard asked if the 100%-meter goal is just for businesses or residential and businesses.

Eric Remick stated that it is both residential and commercial properties. The Town used the grant funds that were available to us to install as many meters as we could. The remaining meter installations will require line upgrades or meter pits, so we are working to fix several of them each year until they are all completed.

Brad Ferland questioned if Governor Scott's budget with the \$14 million for the LVRT improvements passes are we putting local money into projects that we do not need to.

Shaun Fielder explained that the project being done between Slapp Hill and Pumpkin Lane will be using previously received grant funds.

Eric Remick reminded the crowd that there is an article at the end of the warning regarding the support of the Legislature approving those LVRT funds.

Andrea Brightenback let the crowd know that she has hand outs and website information in the front lobby.

Ray Bellavance questioned if the LVRT trails are open to four wheelers.

Eric Remick explained that the trails are not currently available to four wheelers.

Orise Ainsworth then asked that any further LVRT questions be held until Article 21.

Eric Remick then asked everyone to look at page 8 of the Town Report for the Budget Summary.

*The Highway budget saw an increase due to changes in Health Insurance and Brush Cutting. Several items like fuel, salt and sand were adjusted to last year's actual budget cost. The Police Department budget saw a decrease this year also due to health

insurance changes. Eric explained that with a budget this size when an employee changes insurance status it significantly affects the budget.

*The office budget is up due to payroll increases and insurance increases.

*The Payroll and Part Time budget has a decrease in the Listers Salaries as we have moved from Listers to a Part Time Assessor with back up assistance from our Listers. The Assessor costs have been moved into the Line Items.

*The Payroll and Part Time did see an increase with the proposed addition of the Community Development Coordinator budgeted for approximately \$30,000. The Town of Hardwick is trying to get significant federal funding for several projects like the Yellow Barn, LVRT and Jeudevine Library. This is more than the Town Manager's Office can be expected to do. We are also looking into building a new Town Garage and possibly work on the development of the Carey Road land that the Town now owns.

*Finally, we moved the Fire Truck Bond Payments to the Capital Fund and added funds to cover future Fire Truck purchases.

Brad Ferland asked if we were sure that we were going to put aside enough to not need to bond for Fire Trucks in the future.

Eric Remick stated that they have increased the amount enough that they are confident it will cover the next necessary fire truck purchase.

Orise Ainsworth asked if there were any further budget questions for Eric or Shaun.

Motion carried.

Article 6. "Shall the Town of Hardwick enter into a Communications Union District (CUD) to be known as NEK Community Broadband, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch82?" *The towns of the Northeast Kingdom have a chance to benefit from funding available through the State of Vermont and the federal government to develop broadband infrastructure that would offer high speed internet (at least 100 mbps up and down) to every residential and business address in the region. CUD is municipal entity, made up of 2 or more towns, with the specific purpose of bringing high-speed internet access, commonly called "broadband" to every e911 address in the NEK. As*

stated in Title 30 V.S.A. Chapter 082 § 3053(d), membership in the CUD poses no financial risk to the Town of Hardwick or individual taxpayers within Hardwick. All towns that approve this ballot measure will become members of the CUD and each member town must appoint a representative to the CUD governing board.

Moved by Jake Lester

Seconded by David Shepard

Emily Lanxner asked for an explanation of what CUD is.

Jake Lester explained that CUD is a group of Towns' getting together to gain better leverage to work toward faster internet with no cost to the Town's themselves. This will be a board that all the Towns that vote to join will have a representative on. Forming a CUD is the first step in a multi-year process to plan, fund and build a network to deliver high speed internet across our region.

Rose Friedman questioned if this would be done by fiberoptic towers? Also, what is the process for the community getting information regarding the decisions being made. Finally, how does the representative for Hardwick get chosen?

Jake Lester explained that the CUD board of representatives will be tasked with doing studies of what infrastructure will give the best service. Joining the CUD is the only way that Town's will get a say in the choice of how the system is created. The NEK Communications Board would work with the Towns.

Eric Remick stated that the Select Board will appoint the representative to the board and that representative will need to report back to the Select Board.

Mike Demarco from East Hardwick questioned if there were Federal funds that will be helping with this program.

Jake Lester explained that there are Federal funds that have been earmarked to help with this.

Emily Lanxner of Hardwick stated that there can be significant danger from 5G for pollinators, birds, and people. It would be a good idea to have input on this board.

Rose Friedman from East Hardwick questioned if by voting yes is we are giving the green light to CUD; this makes her very uneasy. Could we find ourselves with no voice down the road with tower placement?

Eric Remick explained that CUD is like a public utility that we can opt to be a part of and get a voice, and potentially benefit from it. Or we can opt out get no voice and no be offered any benefit from this program.

Dave Gross of East Hardwick questioned if the CUD representative will answer directly to the Select Board or will be like the Hardwick Electric Department board.

Eric Remick explained that the CUD representative will not be a multiyear seat and will report directly back to the Select Board.

Jake Lester explained that the CUD board will have its first meeting in May and their by-laws will be established. They will either be the provider or contract out to other providers. They will also have to go through each individual town permitting process.

Paul Fixx of Hardwick looked up the Statute and the Select Board will need to appoint the CUD representative in April.

Eric Remick stated that all letters of interest for this board seat should be sent to the Town Manager's Office as soon as possible.

Brad Ferland of Hardwick supports getting highspeed internet to the rural areas of Hardwick and East Hardwick. We are at a disadvantage by not having high speed internet available.

Gary Michaels of East Hardwick seconded Brad's comments. He also questioned if we could have more than one representative on the board.

Eric explained that we are only allowed 1 representative and 1 alternate.

Dave Cozinski of East Hardwick called the question.

Orise Ainsworth asked for a show of hands for the 2/3 vote needed to call the question.

Motion carried.

At this time Orise welcomed our House Representative Chip Troiano to take the podium and speak to the crowd.

Chip thanked everyone for their support and letting him speak. He informed the crowd that he has been very busy in Montpelier. Working 10 to 12 hours a day with no staff assistance.

Chip then highlighted the programs he has work on this past year. As a member of the Working Vermonters Caucus, he was a driver of the Family Leave Bill that was Vetoed by Governor Scott. The attempt to override the veto failed by 1 vote. Chip has asked many young Vermonters what would keep them in the State of Vermont for the future. The top three answers are always better pay, paid family leave and better childcare. The minimum wage bill was also vetoed by Governor Scott, but the House was able to get the 100 votes needed to override that Veto. So minimum wage will increase to \$12.55 per hour by 2022. There is a bill that will put \$10.5 million into childcare. We have a large hole in the network of daycare providers. Need to incentivize young people to go into the childcare field. It will also enlarge the eligibility for childcare assistance. Some other items that Chip has been involved in this year are the opioid crisis, the Global Solutions Warming Act, streamlined the renter rebate process, the Act 250 Bill is being revised, and Governor Scott has appropriated \$2.8 million for support of expansion of the rail trail network. This will equal \$11 million when matched with the Federal funds. Chip then asked the crowd for any questions.

Nancy Schade suggested consideration for opening a state-of-the-art addiction center at the Windsor Farm Prison.

Heather Bryant questioned if there has been any further improvement in the process of recycling. Chip explained that July 1, 2020 does bring into effect the ban of single use plastic bags and Styrofoam take out containers. He also suggested that people looking for places to compost reach out to Black Dirt Farm as they are very successful.

Dave Gross suggested that the Legislature look at setting up financial disincentives for trash dumping.

Brad Ferland suggested that Chip needs to be a loud voice for us regarding school funding laws. The funding mechanism is flawed. Chip stated that he is against Act 46 and is vocal to attempt to get changes.

Ron Wiesen made a motion to move Articles 7-20 as a block this year.

Seconded by Dave Gross

Motion carried.

Orise read each Article individually.

Article 7. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of the Greensboro Nursing Home?

Article 8. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of A.W.A.R.E.?

Article 9. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of the Lamoille Family Center?

Article 10. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of the Hardwick Historical Society?

Article 11. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand one hundred sixty-one dollars (\$3,161.00) for the support of the Northeast Kingdom Human Services?

Article 12. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Area Community Justice Center?

Article 13. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Hardwick Area Food Pantry?

Helmut Notterman made a motion to increase the Hardwick Area Food Pantry appropriation from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Seconded by Emily Lanxner

Emily Lanxner stated that with the reduction of food stamp benefits more people are in need of assistance from the food shelf.

Brad Ferland questioned if the food shelf needs the extra funds to self-sustain and if there is any confirmation that food stamp benefit reduction.

Dave Gross confirmed that the State has reduced the snap benefits.

Janice Davison offered that the food shelf is opening twice this month to allow for residents to get a second food option if they are in need.

Orise called the question on the amendment to Article 13.

Motion carried and Article 13 was increased to \$5,000.

Article 14. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600.00) for the support of Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice?

Article 15. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of the Hardwick Community Television (Channel 16)?

Article 16. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400.00) for the support of Rural Community Transportation?

Article 17. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Arts Council (Hardwick Town House)?

Article 18. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?

Article 19. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100.00) for the support of the North Country Animal League?

Article 20. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of the Craftsbury Community Care Center?

Orise called the question on Articles 7-20 with the amendment to Article 13.

Motion carried.

Article 21. Shall the Town make the following statement of support: Lamoille Valley Rail Trail resolution request: “We, the citizens of Hardwick, strongly support the completion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. We urge the Governor and Legislature to jointly develop a plan that will ensure the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is completed by 2025.”

Moved by Norma Wiesen
Seconded by Dave Gross

Emily Lanxner expressed concerns of snow machines on the rail trail. How will snow machines be regulated.

Eric Remick stated that there is a 10 p.m. curfew and its enforced by VAST.

Mary Gagnon is in favor of the rail trail but wonders with the current climate concerns if the rail trail improvements will allow for rail travel to be restored should it be necessary in the future.

Eric Remick explained that the rail trail will continue to be owned by the Federal Government and could be returned to rail travel at any time should they want to re-invest in it.

Deborah Hartt lives very close to the rail trail in East Hardwick and uses it often and loves it. However, she feels that there are some people that use the trail inappropriately. Wishes they had more integrity.

Eric Remick stated that only 20% of the year-round use of the rail trail is by snow mobiles. He hopes that the audience will support this article.

Motion carried.

Article 22. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees,

bailees, of real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees or operators who construct, acquire or renovate industrial and/or commercial real property, including additions to existing property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to the provision of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Moved by David Shepard
Seconded by Dave Gross

Motion carried.

Article 23. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with operators of agricultural real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees, or operators who construct acquire or renovate, or who intend to construct, acquire or renovate agricultural real property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount in money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to provisions of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Moved by David Shepard
Seconded by Dave Gross
Motion carried.

Article 24. To transact any other nonbinding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

Elizabeth Dow made the announcement in Lorraine Hussey’s absence of the Hardwick Historical Society’s Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at the American Legion on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Deborah Hartt gave a shout out to the Hardwick Fire Department. They recently had an incident at their home, and they were so very grateful for the quick response of the fire department. “Thank you all so much” The Fire Department received a round of applause.

Katarina Razzionelli asked about the plan for walkability to the Yellow Barn. Eric Remick explained that all options are still being considered. They are very open to suggestions. The downtown parking taskforce are discussing the walkability to the Yellow Barn along with the parking and sidewalk issues in Hardwick Village.

Dave Gross stated that he is Chair of the Planning Commission and on the downtown taskforce. The taskforce is looking into sidewalk proposals and rail trail accessibility to walk to the Yellow Barn.

Motion to adjourn made by Karen Collier.
Seconded by David Colburn

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by

Alberta Miller, Town Clerk

**RESULTS OF AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE
FOR TOWN & SCHOOL OFFICERS:**

Total Votes Cast: 660

Select Board- 3-year term:

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane.....339 (elected)
Danny Hale.....279

Select Board – 1-year terms:

Lucian Avery.....484 (elected)
Shari Cornish443 (elected)

Hazen Union School Director #26 – 3-year term:

Brett Stanciu.....542 (elected)

**Hazen Union School Director #26 – 1 year
remaining on a 3-year term:** No one elected....

**Hazen Union School District # 26 Budget of
\$6,850,674.00**

Total Votes 1120 (Greensboro, Hardwick &
Woodbury Co-Mingled)

786 Yes *(Budget Passed)*
321 No

**Orleans Southwest Union Elementary School
District Budget of \$7,110,165.00**

Total Votes 1165 (Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard
& Woodbury Co-Mingled)

835 Yes *(Budget Passed)*
301 No

Presidential Primary Results:

Democrat:

Biden, Joseph (91)
Buttigieg, Pete (12)
Weld, Bill (19)
Castro, Julian (0)
Gabbard, Tulsi (2)
Klobuchar, Amy (3)
Patrick, Deval (0)
Sanders, Bernie (314)
Stewart, Mark (0)
Steyer, Tom (0)
Warren, Elizabeth (58)
Williamson, Marianne (1)
Yang, Andrew (3)

Republican:

De La Fuente, Roque (1)
Bloomberg, Michael (42)
Trump, Donald (143)

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End of Minutes

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

137 Barre Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 www.cvswwmd.org 802-229-9383

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents to reduce and manage solid waste. Shari Cornish represents Hardwick on the CVSWMD Board of Supervisors. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates, and providing information and resources to our member communities.

In recognition of COVID-19 related fiscal challenges faced by our member municipalities, the CVSWMD Board reduced the FY21 per capita assessment to \$.50 (fifty cents) from \$1.00, beginning on July 1, 2020. The per capita assessment will likely return to the \$1.00 level next year.

In FY20, CVSWMD provided \$10,604.00 in School Zero Waste and Organizational Waste Reduction & Reuse Program Grants, and \$1,779.00 in Green Up Day Grants. The District invites all member municipalities to apply for an annual non-competitive Green Up Day Grant each spring. Also in FY20, CVSWMD provided \$9,400.00 in Municipal Services Program grants. The District invites all member municipalities to apply for an annual Municipal Services Program Grant.

The District continues to provide award-winning programming, including:

- **Residential Composting:** CVSWMD sells Green Cone food digesters, Soil Saver composting bins and kitchen compost buckets to district residents at discounted rates.
- **Outreach and Education:** In FY20, CVSWMD provided 21 workshops and webinars on topics such as recycling, composting, safer cleaning, and reducing toxins in the home.
- **School Programming:** Our School Zero Waste Program works with 26 schools in the District, teaching solid waste lessons in classrooms and facilitating the recycling of paint, bulbs, electronics, batteries and more. In FY20, we provided 5 classroom lessons and led one waste audit at Hardwick Elementary School. At Hazen Union Middle & High School, we supported a student group pursuing a cafeteria waste reduction initiative through the VT Youth Climate Leadership Academy and provided the school with 2 recycling receptacles. School Program Coordinators work with maintenance staff and teachers to help schools compost on site and mentor student groups who lead initiatives toward zero waste in their schools.
- **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** In FY20, CVSWMD provided 5 collection events in which we collected household hazardous waste.
 - 106 households participated in the Hardwick household hazardous waste collection.
- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC, at 540 N. Main St. in Barre, is open M, W, F 10:30am-5:30pm and every third Saturday from 9am-1pm. The ARCC is a recycling drop-off for hard-to-recycle materials. *Blue bin recyclables are not accepted at the ARCC.* More info at cvswwmd.org/arcc.
 - In FY20, 26 visitors from Hardwick recycled at the ARCC.

Web Site: CVSWMD posts useful information on what can be recycled, what can be composted, how to dispose of hazardous waste, leaf, and yard waste disposal, Act 148, details of our special collections, and an A-to-Z Guide listing disposal options for many materials. For specific questions, call 802-229-9383.

All households and businesses in the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District are now required to recycle:

- Glass - all colors (empty)
- Tin, steel, aluminum cans (empty)
- Foil and pie plates
- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Newspaper
- Magazines, catalogs, paperbacks
- White and colored office paper
- Paper mail and envelopes
- Brown and colored paper bags
- Boxboard
- Corrugated cardboard
- Phone Books
- Plastics #1-#7 (Except Styrofoam!) Learn more about plastics coding & recycling.

* The fee charged to recycle materials cannot exceed 50% of the cost charged to collect the same quantity of trash.

* If your trash hauler or landlord is not offering recycling of these items, please call the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District at 800-730-9475 X 105.

Town of Hardwick General Information:

Visit us at www.hardwickvt.org

Town Manager's Office Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Phone: 472-6120 or 472-3789 Fax: 472-3793

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Friday 8:00 A.M. - Noon

Phone: 472-5971 Fax: 472-3108

Property Tax Collection Information:

Taxes are due to be paid in full by May 10 of each year. Each tax bill is issued with four quarterly payment coupons, but the mandatory due date is May 10. An 8% penalty is assessed once on May 11 of the year in which the property tax is due. A 1% per month interest charge will be applied against all taxes owed on the 11th of each month for the first 90 days and 1.5% per month thereafter until all taxes are paid in full.

Voter Registration:

Hardwick residents who are not currently on the Voter Checklist can register through the Town Clerk's Office. Please call 472-5971 or email a request to: alberta.miller@hardwickvt.org or tonia.gray@hardwickvt.org

DMV Registration Renewals:

For your convenience, the Hardwick Town Clerk's Office can process Vermont DMV renewals. If you have your renewal card from the DMV and it is not more than 2 months past the renewal date, you can renew it at our office. DMV fees can be paid with either a check or money order. There is also a separate \$3.00 processing fee to the Clerk's Office that can be cash or another check. *DMV Renewals are not being processed during the current State of Emergency while the office is closed. They will resume upon reopening of the office.*

Hardwick Zoning Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and by Appointment

Phone: 472-1686

Zoning permits are issued by the Zoning Administrator. These permits are required for all property development in the Town of Hardwick. Permit applications and fee schedules are available on the Town of Hardwick website or can be picked up from the Zoning Administrator or in the Town Clerk's Office.

***** All fees double if application is filed after development/construction has begun. *****

Hardwick Police Department: Monday – Friday 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Located at 56 High Street (the former Hardwick Health Center Building) Entrance is at the rear of the building.

Phone: 472-5475

Other Important Contact Numbers:

Town Garage: 472-6029

Hardwick Rescue Squad: 472-6343

Hardwick Fire Department: 472-5242

Hardwick Area Food Pantry: 472-5940

Hardwick Health Officer (Richard Brochu): 472-8282

Hardwick Water/Wastewater Operator: 472-5939

TOWN OF HARDWICK

WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN

1. Plow Routes are set up to open the major traffic bus routes first. After all bus routes are finished, staff will plow the roads which appear historically to cause the most problems for the public. This is based on traffic volume, steepness, and curves. Staff will continue plowing until all roads are open. Please note that good winter tires are necessary for safe driving in the climate we live in and Hardwick does not have the resources to maintain bare roads throughout the Town.
2. The Town of Hardwick has six road crew members to maintain (plow, sand, salt) 65 miles of Town roads and Town sidewalks. Town plow vehicles do not travel at high rates of speed while performing road maintenance operations. Each member of the road crew has their own specific route, which takes anywhere from three - five hours to complete. These routes only vary in instances of emergency needs.
3. The Town does not plow or sand class four roads, private roads, or driveways.
4. Road operations generally start at 3:00 a.m. on the weekdays to have the bus routes clear by 6:30 a.m. The Road Foreman and the Police Department monitor conditions and respond accordingly. Highway maintenance staff will be called in to work at the discretion of the Road Foreman.
5. Salt is not effective when the road temperature is below 20 degrees.
6. The Town's sand and salt resources are to be used for winter maintenance of the roads, not for private commercial use, though individual public use of Town sand is permitted.
7. Please be aware that the Town is not responsible for items left or placed in the Town road right of way without permission of the Town and these may be damaged or destroyed during road maintenance activities. Per the Town Traffic Ordinance, during the period from the 15th day of November of each year to the 15th day of April of the following year, no person shall park any vehicle or permit any vehicle to remain parked on any public highway in the Town between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
8. If there is an emergency after regular working hours regarding water, sewer, or highway, please call the Police Department at 472-5475 to have them contact the necessary resources.

Please give yourself some extra time when the weather is bad and please drive safely.

Tom Fadden, Public Works Foreman
Shaun Fielder, Town Manager
Effective Date 2021-2022

Town of Hardwick

P.O. Box 523

Hardwick, VT 05843

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