

# 2023

## Hardwick Town Report



**EAST HARDWICK GETS A BYPASS\***

*Photo Courtesy: Hardwick Historical Society*

*\*See page 2*

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*If you are interested in a copy of the Town 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.gov](http://www.hardwickvt.gov). If you would like a copy of the Hardwick Electric Department audit report, please contact Hardwick Electric at (802) 472-5201.*

**\*COVER PHOTO REFERENCE:**

Source: The Barre Daily Times (Barre, Vermont) · Fri, Aug 25, 1950  
(The Associated Press)

“The State Highway Board today awarded a contract, subject to concurrence by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, for seven miles of highway construction on route 12 to extend the pavement from East Hardwick through Greensboro Bend toward Barton. The w bid was submitted by A. L. Dougherty company of Indianapolis, Ind., and Woodbury, Vt., for \$388,882.98. Six bids were submitted. The proposed improvements will by-pass East Hardwick and Greensboro Bend villages and will eliminate four railroad crossings. A new 34-foot span bridge will be included in the contract.”

## Dedication

### Jean Hackett



A Vermonter, Jean Hackett grew up in Albany. At Craftsbury Academy (CA), she wrote for and then became editor of the school paper, served on the Student Council, and represented the Academy at Green Mountain Girls State. She played saxophone in the band, sang in the choirs, and was chosen to attend the Vermont Music Festival. She became a star basketball player, edited the yearbook her senior year, and won the CA “Outstanding Student Cup.” Teaming up with Gail Burnham, she won the cross-cut saw competition in the CA winter festival. Naturally, she graduated as valedictorian of her class. In 2011, the Orleans, Northeast, and Essex (ONE) Athletic Hall of Fame included her.

After graduating from UVM in 1964, she became a math teacher. In 1970, she accepted the job as head of the Math Department at the brand-new Hazen Union High School. In 1979, the Hazen chapter of the National Honor Society named her “Teacher of the Year.” In 1980, The Vermont chapter of the math teachers’ professional organization named her Vermont Math Teacher of the Year. By 1983, the White House had heard about her and included her as one of the first winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in

Mathematics or Science Teaching, presented by President Reagan. That award carried a \$5,000 honorarium, which she spent on taking other members of the Hazen faculty to a state-wide teacher’s conference at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. In 1985, Jean took to the stage as “Sleeping Beauty” in the first annual “Faculty Shows” at Hazen.

For twenty-two years Jean coached girls field hockey, basketball, and softball, frequently in partnership with Jan Howard. Several of her teams became State Champions. By 1991, organizers of a fund raiser for scholarships at HU created the Jean Hackett Golf Tournament; she didn’t play in it until 1998, on the winning team, of course.

Outside school, Jean bowled with the Timbers in Women’s Bowling League. In 1981, her team won the annual tournament. Although she averaged about 145, she became the high bowler for the league with 221 that year. In the summers, she pitched on a summer softball team in Barre, which, in 1981, came in second in the state tournament. She also coached Special Olympics and Pee Wee baseball.

At the United Church, she served as organist for decades, as music director, and frequently as the contact person for programs and projects. At Christmas, she joined St. Norbert’s Community Hand Bell Choir.

Jean retired from teaching in 1994 and turned her energy to town government. She became a Justice of the Peace in 1982, and still holds that position. She served on the Select Board, including as chair, between 1984 and 1991, the era in which the Village and Town merged. In 1998, she became a lister, a position she held until 2022.

Jean has excelled at everything she put her mind to, and in the process, she has made Hardwick a much better place. Thank you, Jean.

\*Pictured above: Jean receiving her Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 1983.

## TOWN OFFICIALS (ELECTED AND APPOINTED)

<b>TOWN MODERATOR</b> Term Expires 2024	Orise Ainsworth
<b>SELECT BOARD</b> 1 Year Term Expires 2024 1 Year Term Expires 2024 3 Year Term Expires 2024 3 Year Term Expires 2025 3 Year Term Expires 2026	Eric Remick Elizabeth Dow Shari Cornish Danny Hale Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
<b>TOWN CLERK &amp; TOWN TREASURER</b> 3 Year Term Expires 2025	Tonia Chase
<b>TOWN AGENT</b> 1 Year Term Expires 2024	Vacant
<b>SURVEYOR OF WOOD, BARN &amp; LUMBER</b> 1 Year Term Expires 2024	Vacant
<b>TREE WARDEN</b> 1 Year Term Expires 2024	Geoffrey Fehrs
<b>TOWN GRAND JUROR</b> 1 Year Term Expires 2024	Raymond Bellavance
<b>FIRST CONSTABLE</b> 1 Year Term Expires 2024	Vacant
<b>SECOND CONSTABLE</b> 1 Year Term Expires 2024	Vacant

### CEMETERY TRUSTEES 1 Year Term Expires 2024

<b>MAIN STREET CEMETERY</b>	Trustees
<b>MAPLE STREET CEMETERY</b>	Trustees
<b>FAIRVIEW CEMETERY</b>	Trustees
<b>SANBORN CEMETERY</b>	Select Board
<b>WEST HILL CEMETERY</b>	Select Board
<b>HARDWICK STREET CEMETERY</b>	Select Board
<b>HARDWICK CENTER CEMETERY</b>	Select Board

### DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

1 Year Term Expires 2024	Town Manager
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### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

3 Year Term Expires 2024	Myles Tandy
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Jodi Lew-Smith
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Kathleen Sampson
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Andrea Brightenbach
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Brendan Buckley
3 Year Term Expires 2026	Ross Connelly
3 Year Term Expires 2026	Daphne Kalmar

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

1 Year Term Expires 2024

Chief	Tom Fadden
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief	Perley Allen
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief	Rick Sullivan
Captain	Mike Gravel
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	Charles Bartlett
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	Ken LaCasse
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant	Lindsey O'Steen
Foreman	Joe Donna
Assistant Foreman	Dana Camp
Pipeman	Dave Colburn
Assistant Pipeman	Tyler LeBeau
Axe Man	Codey Marckres
Safety Officer	Davey Chase
Training Officers	Tom Fadden/Perley Allen
Secretary/Treasurer	Jennifer Bellavance
Dispatcher	Lamoille County Sheriff

**SCHOOL DIRECTORS - HARDWICK**

Term Expires 2024	Terri Vest
Term Expires 2024	Vincent Razionale
Term Expires 2025	Kevin Moore
Term Expires 2026	Adam Gann
Term Expires 2026	Mandy Spaulding

**HAZEN UNION DIRECTORS – HARDWICK**

Term Expires 2024	Andrew Meyer
Term Expires 2025	Patrick Kane
Term Expires 2026 – Appointed for 1 year remaining on 3-year term	Clara Lew-Smith
Term Expires 2026 – Appointed for 1 year remaining on 3-year term	Sabrina Morrison

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

<b>HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>	
4 Year Term Expires 2024	Jerry Schneider
4 Year Term Expires 2024	Ben Pougner
4 Year Term Expires 2024	Norma Wiesner
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Ken Davis
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Erin Rosenthal
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Lucy Zendzian
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Kathleen Hemmens
4 Year Term Expires 2027	Rachel Kane
4 Year Term Expires 2027	Geoff Fehrs
<b>EQUITY COMMITTEE</b>	
Chair	Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Secretary	Jan Mueller
Treasurer	David O'Brien
Member	Bradford Smith
Member	Vacant
Member	Vacant
<b>RECREATION COMMITTEE</b>	
Chair	Mallory Greaves
Vice Chair	Emily Varvir
Secretary	Sara Behrsing
Treasurer	Samantha Collins
Member	Emily Hale
Member	Lanna Lawson
Recreation Coordinator	Jason Bahner
<b>HARDWICK ELECTRIC COMMISSIONERS</b>	
2 Year Term Expires 2024	Roger Prevot
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Nat Smith
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Michael Ambrosino
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Lynn Gedanken
3 Year Term Expires 2026	Myles Koch-Kamisher
<b>HARDWICK PLANNING COMMISSION</b>	
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Jim Lewis
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Joyce Mandeville
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Michael Haveson
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Dave Gross
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Larry Fliegelman
3 Year Term Expires 2026	Ken Davis
3 Year Term Expires 2026	Shari Cornish
<b>HARDWICK DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD</b>	
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Ruth Gaillard
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Helm Notterman
3 Year Term Expires 2024	Vacant
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Kate Brook
3 Year Term Expires 2025	Vacant
3 Year Term Expires 2026	John Mandeville
3 Year Term Expires 2026	Kole
<b>TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE</b>	
Chair	Bill Chidsey
Vice Chair	Emily Hershberger

**WARNING TOWN OF HARDWICK  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 05, 2024**

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 05, 2024 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).

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, 2023?

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).

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 Main Street, Maple Street, Fairview, Sanborn, Hardwick Street, West Hill, Hardwick Center	1-year term
Fire Dept. Officers (can be voted as one vote)	1-year term
One Library Trustee	3-year term
One Library Trustee	3-year term
Grand Juror	1-year term

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

Article 5. Shall the Town vote a budget of four million eighteen thousand eighty three dollars (\$4,018,083) 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 five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of 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 AWARE.?

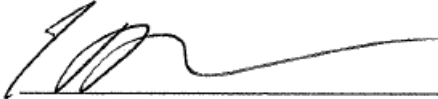
- Article 8. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Lamoille Family Center?
- Article 9. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Area Food Pantry?
- Article 10. 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 11. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Community Television?
- Article 12. 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, Inc.?
- Article 13. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?
- Article 14. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100.00) for the support of North Country Animal League?
- Article 15. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Craftsbury Community Care Center?
- Article 16. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of Justice For Dogs?
- 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, Inc. (NEKarts)?
- Article 18. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for the support of Center for an Agricultural Economy?
- Article 19. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of Salvation Farms, Inc.?
- Article 20. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$2,800.00) for the support of Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Inc.?
- Article 21. 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 22. 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?



Article 23. To transact any other nonbinding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

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 18th day of January, A.D. 2024.

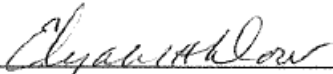


Eric Remick, Chair

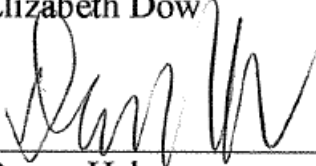


Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair

Shari Cornish



Elizabeth Dow



Danny Hale

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 2024 at 7 O'clock 30 minutes a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.



Attest: Tonia L. Chase, Town Clerk:

**FY2025 Estimated Tax Rate based on Proposed FY2025 Budget  
and Impact on a \$100,000 home**

**FY2025 Estimated Tax Rate**

FY 2025 Proposed Property Taxes		\$3,066,039.59
<i>Fund Balance Contribution to Offset Tax Rate</i>		(\$50,000.00)
FY 2025 Proposed Property Taxes <i>after Fund Balance Contribution</i>		3,016,039.59
Estimated Grand List July 1, 2024		\$200,471,500.00
FY 2025 Estimated Tax rate		\$0.0150
	Value per \$100	\$1.504
FY2024 Municipal Tax rate		\$0.0138
	Value per \$100	\$1.382

**Impact on a \$100,000 home**

Estimated FY2025 municipal tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,504.47
FY2024 tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,382.30
Increase (decrease) in FY2025 before appropriations	\$122.17

**Estimated increase in Tax Rate reflected in actual dollars/100** \$0.1222

**Percent Increase (decrease) in Property Tax rate from FY2024 to FY2025** 8.84%

**Impact of Appropriations on a \$100,000 home**

Estimated value of Appropriations		\$46,900.00
Proposed Property Taxes with Appropriations		\$3,062,939.59
FY2025 Estimated Tax rate		\$ 0.0153
	Value per \$100	\$1.528
Estimated FY2025 municipal tax liability on a \$100,000 home		\$1,527.87
Increase (decrease) in FY2025 on a \$100,000 home		\$145.57

**Estimated increase in Tax Rate reflected in actual dollars/100** \$0.1456

**Percent Increase (decrease) in Property Tax rate from FY2024 to FY2025** 10.53%

## Impact of Appropriations on Tax Rate

Article 6.	Greensboro Nursing Home	\$5,000.00
Article 7.	AWARE	\$3,500.00
Article 8.	Lamoille Family Center	\$2,500.00
Article 9.	Hardwick Area Food Pantry	\$5,000.00
Article 10.	Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice	\$2,600.00
Article 11.	Hardwick Community Television	\$3,000.00
Article 12.	Rural Community Transportation, Inc.	\$3,400.00
Article 13.	Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	\$4,500.00
Article 14.	North Country Animal League	\$2,100.00
Article 15.	Craftsbury Community Care Center	\$2,500.00
Article 16.	Justice For Dogs	\$1,000.00
Article 17.	Northeast Kingdom Arts Council, Inc. (NEKarts)	\$3,500.00
Article 18.	Center for an Agricultural Economy	\$4,000.00
Article 19.	Salvation Farms, Inc.	\$1,500.00
Article 20.	Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Inc.	\$2,800.00

The total requested appropriations are \$ 46,900.00. If all the requested appropriations are approved, we would need a tax rate of approximately \$.0236 cents. This means that you will be paying \$23.61 on your 2024-2025 tax bill for every \$100,000 of Grand List Value.

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

***Projected Revenues***

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2022-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
School Tax Admin Fee	\$6,461	\$6,900	\$6,500	(\$400)	-5.80%
PILOT	\$140,398	\$161,433	\$140,398	(\$21,035)	-13.03%
Current Use Hold Harm	\$174,020	\$174,020	\$174,470	\$450	0.26%
Delinquent Charges	\$18,421	\$27,000	\$22,000	(\$5,000)	-18.52%
Tax Sale Interest	\$548	\$300	\$500	\$200	66.67%
Zoning Permits	\$4,255	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$1,000	33.33%
Licenses and Fees	\$3,558	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$500	16.67%
Recording Fees	\$19,930	\$26,000	\$23,000	(\$3,000)	-11.54%
Dog Licenses	\$2,566	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$1,000	66.67%
DMV Fees	\$348	\$350	\$350	\$0	0.00%
State Highway Aid	\$153,290	\$149,254	\$154,823	\$5,569	3.73%
Grant-in-Aid Revenue	\$17,500	\$31,000	\$21,000	(\$10,000)	-32.26%
West Woodbury Revenue	\$3,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	100.00%
Copying Fees	\$11,870	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$2,000	20.00%
COPS Grant	\$21,516	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Hardwick PD Ticket Rev	\$13,988	\$9,000	\$15,000	\$6,000	66.67%
PD SIU Revenue	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	(\$5,000)	-100.00%
Outside Services-PD	\$448	\$1,000	\$500	(\$500)	-50.00%
Sale of Equipment/Vehicles	\$125	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Interest on Investments	\$20,578	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$16,000	400.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$281	\$750	\$500	(\$250)	-33.33%
Insurance Payout	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Water Transfer	\$128,917	\$141,671	\$167,939	\$26,268	18.54%
Sewer Transfer	\$140,884	\$128,550	\$154,264	\$25,714	20.00%
ARPA One-time Funds	\$0	\$9,929	\$0	(\$9,929)	-100.00%
Room Rent	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
PD Vest Grant	\$1,028	\$850	\$850	\$0	0.00%
PD Vast Patrol	\$6,961	\$0	\$6,500	\$6,500	100.00%
State Highway Safety Grants	\$16,675	\$6,000	\$15,000	\$9,000	150.00%
Misc. Grants	\$19,838	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
VLCT Grant	\$7,458	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Green Up Day Grant	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$935,310</b>	<b>\$900,957</b>	<b>\$952,044</b>	<b>\$51,087</b>	<b>5.67%</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$3,486,090</b>	<b>\$3,736,029</b>	<b>\$4,018,083</b>	<b>\$282,054</b>	<b>7.55%</b>
<b>Property Taxes</b>	<b>\$2,550,780</b>	<b>\$2,835,072</b>	<b>\$3,066,040</b>	<b>\$230,968</b>	<b>8.15%</b>

***Budget Summary***

Highway/Garage	\$ 978,093	\$ 1,072,644	\$ 1,072,256	\$ (388)	-0.04%
Police Department	\$ 844,508	\$ 854,451	\$ 893,902	\$ 39,451	4.62%
Office Expenses	\$ 579,322	\$ 594,878	\$ 709,750	\$ 114,872	19.31%
Payroll (Elected & Appointed)	\$ 15,560	\$ 18,341	\$ 16,863	\$ (1,478)	-8.06%
Fire Department	\$ 43,364	\$ 45,409	\$ 45,684	\$ 275	0.60%
Line Items	\$ 1,158,258	\$ 1,050,791	\$ 1,181,348	\$ 130,557	12.42%
Buildings	\$ 87,762	\$ 99,515	\$ 98,281	\$ (1,234)	-1.24%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 3,706,867</b>	<b>\$ 3,736,029</b>	<b>\$ 4,018,083</b>	<b>\$ 282,054</b>	<b>7.55%</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

***Highway Department***

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2022-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Public Works Payroll	\$313,644	\$357,290	\$382,029	\$24,739	6.92%
Overtime	\$25,121	\$32,000	\$29,000	(\$3,000)	-9.38%
Sewer Operator	\$335	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Social Security Expense	\$23,665	\$27,250	\$28,772	\$1,522	5.58%
Workers' Compensation	\$19,785	\$20,000	\$23,859	\$3,859	19.30%
Unemployment Insurance	\$485	\$750	\$600	(\$150)	-20.00%
VLCT/PACIF	\$12,402	\$14,900	\$13,022	(\$1,878)	-12.60%
Health Insurance	\$115,725	\$139,952	\$135,278	(\$4,674)	-3.34%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$8,232	\$8,124	\$8,124	(\$0)	0.00%
Retirement Expense	\$23,164	\$26,277	\$28,772	\$2,495	9.49%
Operating Expense/Supplies	\$16,460	\$18,000	\$17,000	(\$1,000)	-5.56%
Permits/Fees	\$2,779	\$4,300	\$4,000	(\$300)	-6.98%
Telephone/Internet	\$1,337	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Culverts	\$3,740	\$8,000	\$6,500	(\$1,500)	-18.75%
Grant-in-Aid Expense	\$6,120	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$0	0.00%
Uniforms	\$7,029	\$5,800	\$7,500	\$1,700	29.31%
Line Painting/Crosswalks	\$19	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Road Signs	\$551	\$1,500	\$1,000	(\$500)	-33.33%
Streetscape Maintenance	\$2,851	\$700	\$1,000	\$300	42.86%
Storm Drains	\$2,986	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Safety/Training	\$7,152	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Expense	\$72,293	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$0	0.00%
Gasoline Fuel	\$4,121	\$5,500	\$5,000	(\$500)	-9.09%
Diesel Fuel	\$69,985	\$95,000	\$75,000	(\$20,000)	-21.05%
Gravel/Crushing	\$69,143	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	0.00%
Ditch Stone	\$199	\$5,000	\$3,500	(\$1,500)	-30.00%
Hydroseeding	\$0	\$2,000	\$1,500	(\$500)	-25.00%
Mud Season Material	\$881	\$6,000	\$4,000	(\$2,000)	-33.33%
Chloride	\$23,404	\$17,000	\$20,000	\$3,000	17.65%
E. Hardwick Sidewalks	\$599	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Roadside Mowing	\$4,950	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$1,000	14.29%
Paving/Patching	\$1,824	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0	0.00%
Brush Cutting	\$15,510	\$12,000	\$10,000	(\$2,000)	-16.67%
Downtown Beauty	\$892	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Street Sweeping	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	12.50%
Winter Sand	\$22,644	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
Salt	\$94,069	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$978,093</b>	<b>\$1,072,644</b>	<b>\$1,072,256</b>	<b>(\$388)</b>	<b>-0.04%</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

**Office Expenses**

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2022-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF</u>
Town Manager's Office Staff Payroll	\$258,912	\$277,560	\$320,386	\$42,826	15.43%
Town Clerk's Office Payroll	\$95,965	\$102,698	\$110,196	\$7,498	7.30%
Social Security Expense	\$23,637	\$22,583	\$30,141	\$7,558	33.47%
Workers' Compensation	\$744	\$1,200	\$2,004	\$804	67.04%
Unemployment Insurance	\$631	\$850	\$520	(\$330)	-38.82%
VLCT/PACIF	\$2,415	\$3,075	\$2,673	(\$402)	-13.06%
Health Insurance	\$105,754	\$116,441	\$159,245	\$42,804	36.76%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$6,587	\$6,544	\$6,544	\$0	0.01%
Retirement Expense	\$19,831	\$21,777	\$30,141	\$8,364	38.41%
Town Manager Supplies	\$5,504	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$500	10.00%
Town Clerk Supplies	\$4,161	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$500	14.29%
Town Report Expense	\$3,062	\$2,800	\$3,500	\$700	25.00%
Conferences/Dues/Mileage	\$1,285	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$200	20.00%
Tax Billing/Collection Exp.	\$1,534	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$100	6.67%
Telephone	\$3,539	\$3,600	\$3,800	\$200	5.56%
Advertising	\$2,274	\$1,750	\$2,500	\$750	42.86%
Copier	\$0	\$500	\$250	(\$250)	-50.00%
Election Expense	\$440	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	100.00%
Computer Software/Services	\$10,771	\$12,500	\$14,000	\$1,500	12.00%
Misc Grant Expense	\$23,418	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Purchases	\$3,611	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$500	20.00%
Assessor Supplies	\$2,078	\$2,500	\$2,300	(\$200)	-8.00%
Education/Training	\$299	\$1,000	\$750	(\$250)	-25.00%
Zoning Supplies	\$2,870	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$500	16.67%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$579,322</b>	<b>\$594,878</b>	<b>\$709,750</b>	<b>\$114,872</b>	<b>19.31%</b>

**Other Payroll**

Public Official's Liability	\$3,330	\$3,900	\$2,813	(\$1,087)	-27.87%
Election Officials	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Planning/DRB Board	\$2,725	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$800	40.00%
Board of Civil Authority	\$60	\$25	\$50	\$25	100.00%
Moderator	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
Select Board	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Energy Coordinator	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
Solid Waste Rep	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.00%
TEC - Conference Fees	\$150	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Town Service Officer	\$50	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.00%
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%
Social Security Expense	\$2,795	\$4,716	\$3,500	(\$1,216)	-25.78%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$15,560</b>	<b>\$18,341</b>	<b>\$16,863</b>	<b>(\$1,478)</b>	<b>-8.06%</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

***Police Department***

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>DIFF</u>	<u>DIFF</u>
Police Payroll	\$401,864	\$379,902	\$464,695	\$84,793	22.32%
Overtime	\$35,080	\$57,398	\$54,898	(\$2,500)	-4.35%
Part-Time Officers	\$91,831	\$115,200	\$60,000	(\$55,200)	-47.92%
Social Security Expense	\$40,781	\$38,675	\$40,572	\$1,897	4.90%
Workers' Compensation	\$39,176	\$34,800	\$36,299	\$1,499	4.31%
Unemployment Insurance	\$799	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.00%
VLCT/PACIF	\$20,167	\$23,700	\$21,175	(\$2,525)	-10.65%
Health Insurance	\$36,218	\$54,726	\$52,549	(\$2,177)	-3.98%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$2,699	\$4,104	\$5,383	\$1,279	31.17%
Retirement Expense	\$45,404	\$46,458	\$59,475	\$13,017	28.02%
Supplies	\$5,937	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.00%
Training	\$2,263	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Memberships	\$0	\$350	\$350	\$0	0.00%
Legal Expenses	\$4,269	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$500	33.33%
Internet Communications	\$2,611	\$3,000	\$2,800	(\$200)	-6.67%
Dispatch Services	\$28,331	\$30,588	\$31,506	\$918	3.00%
Telephone	\$3,552	\$3,500	\$3,800	\$300	8.57%
Vehicle Maintenance	\$6,979	\$5,500	\$6,000	(\$1,700)	-30.91%
Advertising	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Radio Service	\$1,063	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Investigation Expense	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,000	(\$500)	-33.33%
Uniforms (Cleaning)	\$1,485	\$750	\$1,200	\$450	60.00%
Uniform Purchases	\$4,256	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$500	14.29%
Gasoline	\$12,710	\$15,000	\$13,000	(\$2,000)	-13.33%
Tires	\$201	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
Education	\$1,350	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	100.00%
Equipment	\$2,832	\$5,500	\$4,000	(\$1,500)	-27.27%
<b>Total PD Operating Exp.</b>	<b>\$791,857</b>	<b>\$841,751</b>	<b>\$881,302</b>	<b>\$39,551</b>	<b>4.70%</b>
COPS Grant Officer	\$37,202	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
SIU Expense	\$780	\$5,000	\$1,000	(\$4,000)	-80.00%
State Highway Safety Office Grant	\$9,792	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$1,500	25.00%
State Highway Equipment Grant	\$4,876	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	0.00%
Vest Grant	\$0	\$1,700	\$1,100	(\$600)	-35.29%
<b>Total Special PD Expenses</b>	<b>\$52,651</b>	<b>\$12,700</b>	<b>\$12,600</b>	<b>(\$100)</b>	<b>-0.79%</b>
<b>Total PD Expenses</b>	<b>\$844,508</b>	<b>\$854,451</b>	<b>\$893,902</b>	<b>\$39,451</b>	<b>4.62%</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

***Buildings***

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>

***Memorial Building***

Custodial Services Expense	\$9,339	\$10,751	\$11,324	\$ 573	5.33%
Custodial S.S. Expense	\$645	\$700	\$793	\$ 93	13.24%
VLCT/PACIF	\$2,828	\$3,275	\$2,969	\$ (306)	-9.34%
Operating Exp/Supplies	\$3,917	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$ 500	14.29%
Building Maint./Repair	\$5,134	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$ 1,000	33.33%
Utilities	\$4,856	\$5,037	\$5,289	\$ 252	5.00%
Fuel Oil	\$10,197	\$13,000	\$12,000	\$ (1,000)	-7.69%
Elevator/Fire Alarm	\$2,286	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ -	0.00%
Generator	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$39,201</b>	<b>\$41,963</b>	<b>\$43,075</b>	<b>\$ 1,112</b>	<b>2.65%</b>

***Public Safety Building***

VLCT/PACIF	\$3,136	\$3,675	\$3,293	\$ (382)	-10.40%
Operating Expenses	\$1,462	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$ -	0.00%
Building Maint./Repair	\$1,925	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$ (500)	-20.00%
Utilities	\$2,755	\$2,821	\$2,962	\$ 141	5.00%
Fuel Oil	\$5,357	\$7,500	\$6,500	\$ (1,000)	-13.33%
Custodial Services Expense	\$6,009	\$6,034	\$6,430	\$ 396	6.56%
Custodial Serv. S.S. Expense	\$460	\$500	\$450	\$ (50)	-9.98%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$21,104</b>	<b>\$24,529</b>	<b>\$23,135</b>	<b>\$ (1,394)</b>	<b>-5.68%</b>

***Fire Station***

VLCT/PACIF	\$2,782	\$3,300	\$3,308	\$ 8	0.23%
Utilities	\$2,356	\$2,476	\$2,600	\$ 124	5.00%
Fuel Oil	\$6,565	\$9,500	\$8,500	\$ (1,000)	-10.53%
Building Maint./Repair	\$139	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 11,842</b>	<b>\$ 16,276</b>	<b>\$15,407</b>	<b>\$ (869)</b>	<b>-5.34%</b>

***Highway Garage***

Heating Fuel	\$4,420	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$ -	0.00%
Building Maint./Repair	\$228	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$ -	0.00%
Utilities - Garage	\$3,890	\$5,088	\$4,650	\$ (438)	-8.61%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,538</b>	<b>\$12,088</b>	<b>\$11,650</b>	<b>\$ (438)</b>	<b>-3.62%</b>



**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

**Buildings continued...**

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>

**Town House**

VLCT/PACIF	\$1,674	\$1,975	\$1,851	-\$124	-6.27%
Building Maint./Repair	\$2,297	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	100.00%
Utilities	\$306	\$349	\$375	\$26	7.45%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4,277</b>	<b>\$2,824</b>	<b>\$3,226</b>	<b>\$402</b>	<b>14.24%</b>

**Historical Depot**

VLCT/PACIF	\$159	\$175	\$187	\$12	6.80%
Building Maint./Repair	\$127	\$400	\$300	-\$100	-25.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$286</b>	<b>\$575</b>	<b>\$487</b>	<b>-\$88</b>	<b>-15.32%</b>

**Carey Rd. Property**

VLCT/PACIF	\$227	\$135	\$163	\$28	20.56%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$227</b>	<b>\$135</b>	<b>\$163</b>	<b>\$28</b>	<b>20.56%</b>

**Yellow Barn**

VLCT/PACIF	\$154	\$175	\$188	\$13	7.40%
Maintenance	\$1,731	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Utilities	\$400	\$450	\$450	\$0	0.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,285</b>	<b>\$1,125</b>	<b>\$1,138</b>	<b>\$13</b>	<b>1.15%</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

**Fire Department**

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>

Labor	\$6,075	\$7,500	\$7,000	(\$500)	-6.67%
Social Security	\$448	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Workers' Compensation	\$1,219	\$1,400	\$1,280	(\$120)	-8.58%
Liability Insurance	\$4,031	\$4,900	\$4,251	(\$649)	-13.24%
Operating Exp./Supplies	\$1,898	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Dispatch Service	\$12,142	\$13,109	\$13,502	\$393	3.00%
Phone/Internet	\$1,163	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Gasoline	\$0	\$200	\$100	(\$100)	-50.00%
Diesel Fuel	\$1,612	\$1,400	\$1,650	\$250	17.86%
Equipment Purchases	\$6,573	\$8,000	\$7,000	(\$1,000)	-12.50%
Equipment Repair	\$8,202	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	50.00%
Training	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$43,364</b>	<b>\$45,409</b>	<b>\$45,684</b>	<b>\$275</b>	<b>0.60%</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

*Line Items*

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2022-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Auditing	\$14,670	\$17,750	\$18,750	\$1,000	5.63%
Fireworks	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Animal Control	\$2,722	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$0	0.00%
Professional Services	\$15,961	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$7,500	100.00%
Assessor Services	\$39,600	\$41,400	\$43,200	\$1,800	4.35%
NVDA	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$2,482	\$224	9.92%
VLCT	\$4,778	\$4,949	\$5,196	\$247	5.00%
Jeudevine Memorial Library	\$126,891	\$138,528	\$161,449	\$22,921	16.55%
Memorial Day	\$553	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Caspian Lake	\$3,300	\$3,650	\$4,500	\$850	23.29%
Cemeteries	\$16,436	\$18,000	\$23,000	\$5,000	27.78%
Capital Equipment Fund	\$190,000	\$150,000	\$175,000	\$25,000	16.67%
Capital Fire Equipment Fund	\$75,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$20,000	100.00%
Capital Road Fund	\$305,000	\$170,000	\$160,000	(\$10,000)	-5.88%
Capital General Fund	\$149,500	\$129,000	\$100,000	(\$29,000)	-22.48%
Union Bank Loader Payment	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	(\$12,000)	-100.00%
Loader & Grader Payment	\$0	\$55,000	\$57,000	\$2,000	3.64%
Mackville Rd. Bond Payment	\$0	\$21,575	\$21,377	(\$198)	-0.92%
Gravel Pit Bond Payment	\$0	\$18,500	\$43,650	\$25,150	135.95%
Library Bond Payment	\$0	\$0	\$48,000	\$48,000	100.00%
2014 Fire Truck Bond Payment	\$0	\$32,613	\$32,200	(\$413)	-1.27%
2021 Fire Truck Bond Payment	\$0	\$21,259	\$21,218	(\$41)	-0.19%
Tax Mapping	\$3,900	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$500	6.67%
Solid Waste District	\$2,920	\$2,920	\$2,920	\$0	0.00%
Streetlights	\$22,730	\$23,783	\$23,866	\$83	0.35%
Memorial Park Electricity	\$157	\$175	\$175	\$0	0.00%
Employment Practices Ins.	\$5,466	\$6,425	\$5,605	(\$820)	-12.76%
Community Crime Ins.	\$1,095	\$1,200	\$867	(\$333)	-27.73%
Town Service Officer Expenses	\$541	\$1,000	\$750	(\$250)	-25.00%
Hazard Mitigation	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	(\$3,000)	-100.00%
Cyber Security	\$15,035	\$2,500	\$1,500	(\$1,000)	-40.00%
Tax Sale Expense	\$3,338	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500	50.00%
Tax Abatement Expense	\$1,414	\$275	\$300	\$25	9.09%
Restricted Donation Expense	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Pedestrian Bridge Planning	\$26,210	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Conservation Commission	\$1,500	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Equity Committee	\$2,016	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$500	25.00%
Recreation Dept.	\$18,644	\$24,245	\$21,565	(\$2,680)	-11.05%
Hardwick Trails	\$8,732	\$9,185	\$11,158	\$1,973	21.48%
County & Gravel Pit Taxes	\$23,603	\$24,635	\$34,200	\$9,565	38.83%
Rescue Squad	\$71,264	\$72,765	\$90,220	\$17,455	23.99%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,158,258</b>	<b>\$1,050,791</b>	<b>\$1,181,348</b>	<b>\$130,557</b>	<b>12.42%</b>

**TOWN OF HARDWICK  
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE SCHEDULE**

YEAR	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	Toolcat	Loader (2) "Traded out vehicles"	Loader & Grader	Police Cruiser	SPEND TOTAL	FUNDS SET ASIDE	ACCOUNT BALANCE
Bal 6/30/23																\$3,684
2024									\$145,000					\$145,000	\$150,000	\$8,684
2025														\$0	\$175,000	\$183,684
2026				\$250,000									\$46,000	\$296,000	\$200,000	\$87,684
2027						\$60,000				\$60,000			\$32,000	\$152,000	\$225,000	\$160,684
2028		\$180,000			\$130,000			\$15,000					\$47,000	\$372,000	\$255,000	\$43,684
2029			\$280,000										\$48,000	\$328,000	\$285,000	\$684
2030	\$280,000						\$42,000							\$322,000	\$315,000	-\$6,316
2031													\$48,000	\$48,000	\$250,000	\$195,684
2032										\$65,000			\$35,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$345,684
2033					\$140,000								\$48,000	\$188,000	\$250,000	\$407,684
2034				\$280,000									\$50,000	\$330,000	\$250,000	\$327,684
2035						\$65,000		\$18,000						\$83,000	\$250,000	\$494,684
2036		\$200,000											\$50,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$494,684
2037			\$280,000							\$70,000			\$35,000	\$385,000	\$250,000	\$359,684
2038	\$280,000				\$150,000								\$52,000	\$482,000	\$250,000	\$127,684
2039									\$185,000				\$52,000	\$237,000	\$250,000	\$140,684
2040							\$50,000							\$50,000	\$250,000	\$340,684
2041													\$52,000	\$52,000	\$250,000	\$538,684
2042				\$280,000		\$70,000				\$75,000			\$38,000	\$463,000	\$250,000	\$325,684

- 1) Increases in costs are based on a "best guess" scenario with input from dealers
- 2) Loader & Grader purchased in Summer 2023. Replace in FY 2038. Borrow.
- 3) Police Cruisers traded or replaced around every 5 years
- 4) Dump trucks 1, 2, 3, 4 are traded around every 8 years

- 5) Truck 5 is traded every 5 years
- 6) Truck 6 is traded about every 8 years
- 7) Truck 7 is traded about every 10 years
- 8) Not replacing Loader 2 - traded 2 loaders for one new
- 9) Excavator purchased 2023. Replace in FY2039.

**TOWN OF HARDWICK**  
**CAPITAL FIRE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE SCHEDULE**

YEAR	Ladder L1	Pumper E1	Fire E2	Tanker W1	SPEND TOTAL	FUNDS SET ASIDE	ACCOUNT BALANCE
Bal 6/30/23							\$215,423
2024					\$0	\$20,000	\$235,423
2025					\$0	\$40,000	\$275,423
2026					\$0	\$60,000	\$335,423
2027					\$0	\$80,000	\$415,423
2028					\$0	\$100,000	\$515,423
2029					\$0	\$125,000	\$640,423
2030	\$750,000				\$750,000	\$140,000	\$30,423
2031					\$0	\$120,000	\$150,423
2032				\$250,000	\$250,000	\$130,000	\$30,423
2033					\$0	\$100,000	\$130,423
2034					\$0	\$100,000	\$230,423
2035					\$0	\$100,000	\$330,423
2036					\$0	\$100,000	\$430,423
2037					\$0	\$100,000	\$530,423
2038					\$0	\$100,000	\$630,423
2039		\$350,000			\$350,000	\$100,000	\$380,423
2040					\$0	\$100,000	\$480,423
2041					\$0	\$100,000	\$580,423
2042					\$0	\$100,000	\$680,423
2043					\$0	\$100,000	\$780,423

- 1) Ladder Truck L1 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2030.
- 2) Pumper E1 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2039.
- 3) Pumper E2 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2046.
- 4) Tanker W1 is replaced every 25 years. Replace in 2032.
- 5) These are best guess estimates for used equipment.

**TOWN OF HARDWICK**  
**CAPITAL ROAD SCHEDULE**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Center Road</b>	<b>Hardwick Street</b>	<b>Paving (see below)</b>	<b>Backroad Rebuild</b>	<b>Spend Total</b>	<b>Funds Set Aside</b>	<b>Account Balance</b>
Bal 6/30/23							\$262,590
2024			-\$130,000		-\$130,000	<b>\$170,000</b>	\$302,590
2025			-\$70,000		-\$70,000	<b>\$160,000</b>	\$392,590
2026	-\$550,000		\$0		-\$550,000	<b>\$165,000</b>	\$7,590
2027			-\$100,000		-\$100,000	<b>\$170,000</b>	\$77,590
2028			-\$100,000		-\$100,000	<b>\$175,000</b>	\$152,590
2029			-\$100,000		-\$100,000	<b>\$180,000</b>	\$232,590
2030			-\$100,000		-\$100,000	<b>\$185,000</b>	\$317,590
2031			-\$100,000		-\$100,000	<b>\$190,000</b>	\$407,590
							\$497,590

**Paving Projects:**

FY 2025: N. Main St., Vermont Ave., Hideaway Acres

FY 2026: Center Road partial

FY 2027: To Be Determined

FY 2028: To Be Determined

FY 2029: To Be Determined

*\*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*

*\*FY2024 no paving done*

**Town of Hardwick Capital Improvements Three-Year Plan**

	<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>Future Balance</b>
<b>Buildings</b>	<i>Last Year</i>					
Memorial Building	\$7,147	\$20,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$63,147
Public Safety Building	\$2,523	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$22,523
Highway Garage	\$28,301	\$26,000	\$30,000	\$32,000	\$34,000	\$150,301
Fire Department	\$42,311	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$59,311
Library	\$30,361	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,361
Library Bond	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Town House	\$34,879	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$54,879
Carey Rd. Property	\$14,860	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,860
Historical Depot	\$13,216	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$17,216
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$203,599</b>	<b>\$66,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$58,000</b>	<b>\$61,000</b>	<b>\$443,599</b>
<b>Public Works</b>						
Gravel Pit Reclaim	\$29,332	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,332
Bike Path (all Phases)	-\$4,972	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$4,972
Sidewalk Expense	\$31,270	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$91,270
Guardrails	\$14,992	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$31,992
Brush Cutting	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Road Signs/Crosswalks	\$1,460	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$9,460
Bridge #4 East Hardwick	\$126,034	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$171,034
Bridge Fund	\$100,475	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$145,475
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$298,591</b>	<b>\$54,000</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>\$473,591</b>
<b>General Government</b>						
Trails Capital Account	\$16,013	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,013
Recreation Capital Fund	\$6,351	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,351
Fire Department Equipment/Clothing	\$6,148	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$38,148
New Vault Door	\$25,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,500
Cemetery Upgrades	\$21,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$24,500
Recruitment - Police	\$6,061	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,061
Accrued Interest	\$23,869	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,869
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$105,442</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$140,442</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND</b>	<b>\$607,632</b>	<b>\$129,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$109,000</b>	<b>\$112,000</b>	<b>\$1,057,632</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

**Library Budget**

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2022-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Library Payroll	\$82,634	\$82,128	\$93,184	\$11,056	13.46%
Social Security/FICA Expense	\$6,151	\$6,345	\$6,523	\$178	2.80%
Worker's Comp	\$456	\$550	\$550	\$0	0.00%
Unemployment	\$279	\$275	\$300	\$25	9.09%
VLCT/PACIF	\$587	\$425	\$625	\$200	47.06%
Health Insurance - Librarian only	\$8,909	\$19,309	\$21,320	\$2,011	10.41%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$650	\$1,541	\$1,541	\$0	0.01%
Retirement	\$3,083	\$2,971	\$3,629	\$658	22.15%
Books- Adult	\$3,653	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
Books - Juvenile	\$1,842	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0	0.00%
Books - Young Adult	\$647	\$700	\$700	\$0	0.00%
Magazines- Adult	\$297	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Magazines - Juvenile	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
Audio books/ DVDs - Adult	\$509	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Audio books/ DVDs - Juvenile	\$244	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Computer Software/Technology	\$132	\$435	\$435	\$0	0.00%
Computer Databases	\$1,542	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	0.00%
Courier Expense	\$592	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Internet Expense	\$831	\$1,000	\$900	(\$100)	-10.00%
Equipment	\$80	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Telephone	\$992	\$950	\$1,000	\$50	5.26%
Supplies - General	\$3,589	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Youth Supplies	\$479	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Postage	\$681	\$700	\$725	\$25	3.57%
Professional Services	\$618	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Conferences / Memberships	\$344	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Mileage	\$199	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Advertising	\$638	\$100	\$150	\$50	50.00%
Education	\$3,997	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Restricted Donation Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Jeudevine Friends Expense	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Interlibrary Grant Expense	\$571	\$0	\$550	\$550	100.00%
Misc. Grant Expense	\$6,133	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$131,507</b>	<b>\$131,279</b>	<b>\$145,982</b>	<b>\$14,703</b>	<b>11.20%</b>
Custodial Services Expense	\$5,743	\$9,632	\$8,614	(\$1,018)	-10.57%
Custodial Services S.S. Expense	\$435	\$737	\$603	(\$134)	-18.18%
Building Insurance	\$1,167	\$1,700	\$2,000	\$300	17.65%
Electricity	\$926	\$1,860	\$2,000	\$140	7.53%
Fuel Oil	\$3,010	\$7,520	\$6,500	(\$1,020)	-13.56%
Water/Sewer	\$686	\$800	\$750	(\$50)	-6.25%
Maintenance Expense	\$1,145	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total Library Building Budget</b>	<b>\$13,111</b>	<b>\$23,449</b>	<b>\$21,667</b>	<b>(\$1,782)</b>	<b>-7.60%</b>
<b>Friends of Jeudevine Donations</b>	<b>\$ (100.00)</b>				
<b>Restricted Donations</b>	<b>\$ (200.00)</b>				
<b>Interest on Investments</b>	<b>\$ (386.00)</b>		<b>\$ (300.00)</b>		
<b>Grant Income</b>	<b>\$ (6,397.48)</b>		<b>\$ (1,500.00)</b>		
<b>Courier Revenue</b>	<b>\$ (190.32)</b>	<b>\$ (200.00)</b>	<b>\$ (200.00)</b>		
<b>Fund Balance Contribution</b>		<b>\$ (12,000.00)</b>			
<b>Misc. Income</b>	<b>\$ (4,271.21)</b>	<b>\$ (4,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ (6,000.00)</b>		
<b>Town Appropriation</b>	<b>\$126,891</b>	<b>\$138,528</b>	<b>\$161,449</b>		
<b>Fund Balance as of 06.30.2023</b>	<b>5,638</b>				

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

***Recreation Budget***

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>
Recreation Coordinator Salary	\$4,370	\$5,200	\$5,000	(\$200)	-3.85%
Social Security/FICA	\$334	\$364	\$350	(\$14)	-3.85%
VLCT Workers Comp/Insurance	\$152	\$120	\$165	\$45	37.50%
VLCT Unemployment Insurance	\$30	\$60	\$50	(\$10)	-16.67%
VLCT PACIF/Liability Insurance	\$69	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Youth Program: Soccer, Swim, Ski	\$4,780	\$9,801	\$6,000	(\$3,801)	-38.78%
Mileage	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Community Programming (all)	\$6,107	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$1,500	21.43%
Supplies and Advertising	\$0	\$500	\$300	(\$200)	-40.00%
Transfer to Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Maintenance	\$2,803	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Training	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,644</b>	<b>\$24,245</b>	<b>\$21,565</b>	<b>-\$2,680</b>	<b>-11.05%</b>

**2024-2025 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET**

***Trails Budget***

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>
Trails Salaries	\$2,723	\$3,880	\$4,074	\$194	5.00%
Social Security/FICA	\$209	\$305	\$285	(\$20)	-6.50%
Trail Repair & New Construction	\$218	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	\$1,275	\$800	\$1,200	\$400	50.00%
Gas, Oil and Diesel	\$461	\$700	\$600	(\$100)	-14.29%
Publicity/Advertising/Signage & Maps	\$491	\$400	\$500	\$100	25.00%
Program and Activities	\$1,889	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$800	66.67%
VLCT Workers Comp/Insurance	\$177	\$110	\$200	\$90	81.82%
VLCT Unemployment Insurance	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$10	25.00%
VLCT PACIF/Liability Insurance	\$1,259	\$950	\$1,448	\$498	52.46%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$8,732</b>	<b>\$9,185</b>	<b>\$11,158</b>	<b>\$1,973</b>	<b>21.48%</b>



## General Fund Balance

Fund Balance as of June 30, 2022:	\$1,240,041
Fund Balance Used:	\$ (260,538)
Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023:	\$ 979,503

In FY 2023, the Town started to see and feel the effects of rising inflation in terms of fuel prices, equipment repairs, road materials, and more. At the close of FY 2023, the Town had used \$260,538 of the fund balance. The Town had anticipated using \$175,000, but for factors out of our control such as fuel prices, repairs, materials, etc., we ended up using about \$85,000 more than expected. The fund balance is currently \$979,503 or about 27% of the Town budget. It is generally accepted that the fund balance should be 15% of the municipal budget. The Town fund balance policy says the *goal* is 20%. The fund balance serves as a reserve to help the Town through significant budget shortfalls or through natural or human triggered disasters.

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The Town of Hardwick received \$855,429 in ARPA funds. In July 2022, the Select Board reviewed applications from various local organizations and allocated ARPA funds based on those applications. The applicants had to answer a series of questions about how their request benefits the community. Awards were made as follows:

Caledonia Grange #9	\$ 40,000
Civic Standard	\$ 35,000
Conservation Commission for NRI	\$ 15,000
Craftsbury Community Care Center	\$ 2,500
Downtown Partnership, Inc.	\$ 10,000
Hardwick Food Pantry	\$ 15,000
Hardwick Town House (NEKarts)	\$ 50,000
Jeudevine Library Expansion	\$ 35,000
Mobilize Software	\$ 3,500
NEK Broadband	\$ 139,499
One-time revenue in FY24	\$ 9,930
Wastewater Plant Upgrade Project	\$ 500,000

Here are reports about the activity and impact of the ARPA funds from the recipients.

Caledonia Grange #9 was awarded a \$40,000 ARPA grant from the Town of Hardwick to support the organization's work to make the Grange Hall in East Hardwick accessible to all. The Caledonia Grange #9 Building Committee has been working with a local architect to create concept drawings for the project. In the coming year, formal construction plans for the project will be drafted, and additional funding will be sought to move the project toward implementation. To this end, Caledonia Grange #9 has expended \$900 in ARPA funds during FY24 to have a survey done of the property.

The Civic Standard was honored to receive support from the town's ARPA funds, which made it possible for our small organization to take up residence in the former Gazette office on Main Street and launch our first year of programming. The funding covered the cost of utilities in our headquarters, programming supplies, staffing pay, and collaboration with a variety of venues around town. Our first year of programming included free suppers, seasonal celebrations, original theater productions, live music performances, youth outreach and support, direct relief work after the flood, community meetings, old-time junkets, karaoke, and honky tonk at the Legion, trivia at the Village Restaurant, and much more. We are grateful for the mutual support, engagement, and encouragement shown by so many businesses, organizations, and individuals in our community.

The Hardwick Conservation Commission is grateful to have received \$15,000 in ARPA funding from the town. This gift has allowed us to move right ahead with the long planned for Natural Resource Inventory, which is in process at this time. Without this funding, it could've taken us many years to fundraise! The final report of the inventory will be presented to the public in the spring and will be a meaningful and valuable record both in terms of documentation about the natural resources we currently have in Hardwick, and in how to incorporate this info into future land use plans. Thank you, Rachel Kane, Co-Chair, Hardwick Conservation Commission.

The ARPA funds so generously allocated to Craftsbury Community Care Center for our major kitchen update assisted with architect and engineering fees associated with preparing for bid. With Hardwick's help, we went to bid last fall, and are now working with the apparent low bidder towards a contract, with an aggressive start schedule. The allocated funds should also count towards a local expenditure requirement for a federal grant, further boosting the allocation's impact for area elder residents and Meals on Wheels programs. The Care Center board and staff very much appreciate the confidence and support shown by the Town of Hardwick.

The Hardwick Downtown Commission, now Hardwick Downtown Partnership Inc. was awarded \$10,000 in ARPA funds. As part of the application for our Downtown Designation the Town of Hardwick committed to providing approximately half of the organizational funding for FY23 and one-third of the funding for FY24 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hardwick Downtown Partnership (HDP). The ARPA funds award represents a significant portion of the organizational funding for FY23. The funds allowed us to "hit the ground running" once we received Downtown Designation in February. The Board of Directors of HDP contributed to Hardwick's Spring Festival, sent representatives to the annual Downtown Conference, paid our first-year insurance premium, hired local vendors for graphic design and website development, retained a bookkeeper to set up our chart of accounts and manage/pay expenses and sponsored the Small Business Saturday on Main Street.

The Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) is incredibly grateful for the support of the Town of Hardwick. The ARPA funds that were provided to the HAFP allowed us to meet the significant increase in demand we experienced this year, due to essential benefits being cut, higher food costs, and the flooding in July. At our Hardwick site, we have experienced a 40% increase in participation between March and November, which includes a significant number of larger households. It truly takes a village to build a stronger community and a better future, and we are grateful for the Hardwick community's ongoing support for our neighbors who are experiencing need.

NEKarts was awarded \$50,000 in ARPA Funds. In 2024, NEKarts will be renovating the backside of the town's historic Hardwick Town House with an addition that will enclose the new fire escape and a lift to the stage, thereby making balcony seating safe again. And, for the first time in the building's history, the stage will be ADA-compliant. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$250,000. Sources of support include: Freeman Foundation Grant funds through the Vermont Preservation Trust; Town of Hardwick ARPA Funds & the Town Capital Improvement Funds; a FY23 Tax Credit Award; charitable donations from Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, Community Bank NA Foundation, Union Bank, & Community National Bank; generous gifts from Mrs. Henry A. Jordan & The Norman J. Fisher & Doris Fisher Foundation; and more than half of the funding is made up of numerous individual donations to NEKarts from people in our community.

The ARPA money awarded to the Jeudevine Expansion project was critical for getting our building project underway. The funding was part of a larger assortment of funds that enabled us to sign a contract with ReArch Construction Inc. to act as Construction Manager for the project. With the funds assembled, the contract was signed and approved by USDA Rural Development such that we broke ground in May of 2023. The current completion date is August of 2024, slightly later than first planned due to unexpected soil issues at the site.

Mobilize software was purchased to be used as a communication tool for the community organizations to collaborate and provide updates about community events. The organization that requested the software did not meet their participation goal with the software and it was not renewed for a second year.

NEK Broadband: Thank you for the \$139,499 Town ARPA investment to help accelerate buildout of broadband in 9 miles of Hardwick serving 154 addresses. Design and permitting for those areas are complete. We have

permission from Hardwick Electric to install our anchors, guys, and fiber-optic cable along West Hill in Hardwick, which will reach the public safety emergency repeater. Construction of the emergency repeater will be complete by the beginning of March with service provided by Kingdom Fiber. Service by NEK Broadband to all of the ARPA accelerated areas will be available this summer once the equipment cabinet in Craftsbury is installed.

There were \$9,930 of unallocated ARPA funds left when the Town was working on the FY24 budget. It was decided that those funds would be injected as a one-time revenue into the Town's budget to help offset the increase in taxes and reduced revenue over the prior year.

ARPA funds were used to assist with project costs associated with upgrading the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). This included a complete cleanout of the sludge in Lagoons 1 & 2, new lagoon liners, a new anaerobic cover, and other efficiency upgrades. These are the first major upgrades since it was built in 1978. A functioning WWTF is crucial to all aspects of town growth and environmental sustainability.

.....  
*End of ARPA reports*

**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 226 women, men and children who were directly affected by violence, 114 children who were exposed to violence and answered over 1,800 hotline and in-person requests for assistance. AWARE educated over 1,500 people through community events and outreach and educated 20 professionals about domestic and sexual violence. 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. 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 176 women, men and children who were directly affected by violence, 113 children who were exposed to violence and answered over 1,000 hotline and in person requests for assistance. AWARE educated over 1,600 people through community events and outreach and educated 83 professionals about domestic and sexual violence. 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. Mailing address is P.O. Box 307 Hardwick, VT 05843 Website: AWAREVT.org

*Anna Pirie  
Executive Director  
(802) 472-6463*

**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 provide high quality, accessible, patient-centered health care, and our vision is to be a key partner in building healthy families and thriving communities. In the last year, Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice was honored to provide 3600 visits to 214 residents of Hardwick, VT. While working with residents, we provided physical, occupational, and speech therapies. We provided physician, skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy,

medical social work, home health aide and homemaker visits. We work together with primary care physicians so that care is specific and structured to treatment goals.

### **2024 Town Appropriation Visit Statistics Hardwick, VT**

Number of residents served: **214**

Home Care (Therapy, Nursing, MSW): **2265 visits**

Maternal Child Health: **62 visits**

Hospice (Nursing, Therapy, Personal Care, Respite): **405 visits**

Long Term Care (Case Management, Personal Care, Respite): **868 visits**

**Total Visits in Hardwick, VT: 3,600 visits**

To learn more about our programs and services please visit [www.nchcvt.org](http://www.nchcvt.org) or call (802) 748-8116. Thank you!

### **Center for an Agricultural Economy**

The Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) is a nonprofit based in Hardwick and works with numerous farms, businesses, and schools in Hardwick. CAE also owns and operates the Vermont Food Venture Center, its central operating space, and offices, operates a local food distribution service branded as Farm Connex delivery services and is the owner of the 15-acre Atkins Field community greenspace. While our organization serves farmers and small food businesses all over the state through its work to create and bolster local food systems, CAE's community programs are centered here in Hardwick. The heart of these programs is at Atkins Field. The public greenspace hosts numerous events, workshops, and opportunities to engage and connect to the community and nature. Since CAE took ownership of the space in 2008, its use by the community as a place to meet, celebrate, engage, and learn has grown exponentially with the COVID-19 pandemic only solidifying its status as a critical community resource.

We deeply value our partnerships with the Town of Hardwick, the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, and the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union. Together, we can accomplish much more for our community than any of us can do alone.

We are asking for a town appropriation of \$4,000 to support the costs of keeping the site publicly accessible. This will cover less than half the annual cost of upkeep and improvements of this property that CAE has been investing in since 2008.

As a nonprofit organization, CAE is reliant on individual contributions for about a third of our operating budget, which primarily supports the cost of our program activities. In contrast, our request to the Town is specifically to help with the site maintenance associated with public access, which includes mowing, wi-fi, electricity, and porta potty rental costs. Thank you for your consideration.

*Jon Ramsay  
Executive Director*

### **Craftsbury Community Care Center**

For nearly three decades, the Craftsbury Community Care Center has been a trusted resource for elders and their families, 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 both to 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.

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 and engaged Board of Directors, three of whose members are Hardwick residents, that works closely with the Center's management to improve the facility and develop new programs for the residents and surrounding communities. Its involvement

in the Hardwick community includes active and regular patronage of community businesses, particularly our pharmacy, hardware stores and grocery stores. Your support and generosity are more important to us than ever as we enter a new year with significantly increased salary, food, and fuel expenses that we must reconcile with our commitment to maintain affordable rental rates for our residents and their families. One-third of our twenty-four private rooms are reserved for elderly people of low and moderate income. In order to remain affordable for all, the Center relies on donations from 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. Our inclusion in the Town appropriation will be gratefully welcomed by the Board, Staff, and Residents of the Center.

*Geoffrey Bok, President of Board of Directors  
Kim Roberge, Executive Director*

### **Greensboro Nursing Home**

The Greensboro Nursing Home is a 30-bed skilled nursing rehabilitation and long-term care facility. As a not-for-profit organization, our only priority is to provide high quality care to our residents in a caring, homelike environment. We are one of the largest employers in the area and are very proud of our dedicated staff who work hard to take care of the elderly and disabled in our community.

Over the past year we have completed major projects to improve the environment and experience for our GNH residents. (1) With generous support from The USDA Rural Development Fund, the Town of Greensboro American Rescue Plan Act funds, the Vermont Department of Human Services Building Fund, the Wisdom Connection, and many individual donors we replaced the almost 40-year-old roof in June, just in time to protect GNH from the severe storms in July. (2) We created two hospice rooms to allow residents and their families more privacy near the end of life. (3) We renovated the dining room and common area to create more open space and better lighting. In a time of labor shortage when many nursing homes and other medical facility struggle to maintain staff, our administrator, Michelle Pippa, has created a positive work environment that has strengthened morale, reduced turnover, and enabled us to remain fully staffed with one of the lowest resident-to-caregiver ratios in the state.

For the coming year we been awarded grant support from Vermont Human Services, the Wisdom Connection, and the Pleasant's Fund to renovate tub and shower facilities to make it easier and less staff intensive for infirm and wheelchair bound residents to shower or bathe. We also plan to renovate the front patio to create a more convenient and comfortable space for the residents to get fresh air during the warmer months.

The Board of Trustees of the Greensboro Nursing Home is deeply grateful to the strong community support we have received from many donors. We have received critical grant support from the Town of Greensboro, the Greensboro Association, the Wisdom Connection, the Pleasants Fund, and the Towns of Hardwick and Craftsbury. We are also very grateful for the generous support we receive from many community organizations and businesses, including Lussier Barn Builders, The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Union Bank, Des Groselliers Funeral Home, Heather Hollow Farm, and Stannard Farms. Greensboro Nursing Home exists to serve the community; if you have questions about the nursing home, about resources for elder care or rehabilitation in the area, if you would like to join the great team at Greensboro Nursing Home, or if you would consider volunteering to serve on the Board of Trustees, please be in touch.

*Bill Rogers, Board President*

### **Hardwick Area Food Pantry**

In 2023 the HAFP experienced a significant increase in demand: a 28% increase overall between our three sites in Hardwick, Craftsbury, and Albany, and a 36% increase in participation at our Hardwick site specifically. We have a strong team of staff, board members, volunteers, and donors who are committed to providing healthy foods to our neighbors who are experiencing need. We continue to also see an increased demand for our delivery program, which connects many of our clients to food throughout a wide service area. We are also proud to purchase food from many local farmers and producers. We also want to extend a warm thank you to our communities, staff, volunteers, and donors: your continued support in making our mission possible.

*HAFP Board: Reeve Basom, Gina Campoli,  
Hannah Dreissigacker, Alice Fleeer, Erika Karp,  
Jake Lester, Diana Peduzzi, John Tuthill, Liz Baum  
Heather Davis, Director  
[www.NourishHardwick.org/pantry](http://www.NourishHardwick.org/pantry)*

### **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.

In 2023, HCTV has maintained full internet accessibility to locally made programs. Every program is archived and available for viewing at [www.hctv.us](http://www.hctv.us). We also post each program on the Hardwick Community Television Facebook page. This includes Hazen Varsity Basketball, Baseball and Soccer games, Hardwick Select Board, the Memorial Day Parade, Jeudevine Library Events, Hardwick Electric Board and more local programming. Anyone who has internet access can watch these programs whether they get cable or not. When streamed live, the programs can be viewed live on [www.hctv.us](http://www.hctv.us), our YouTube channel, or on Channel 1080 at the time of the actual event. As always, HCTV's full broadcast schedule can be viewed on Channel 1080 by cable subscribers.

HCTV operates on an annual budget of under \$40,000. We record over 130 programs annually. From station programming to live events to creative workshops and technical training, this small station is a great asset for Hardwick, Woodbury, and Greensboro. HCTV offers free camera and editing training and will equip you to run the cameras at community events. 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, email us at [info@hctv.us](mailto:info@hctv.us).

*Elizabeth Rossano  
Executive Director*

### **Justice For Dogs**

Justice For Dogs (and cats too) is a local animal rescue, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year continues with its mission of helping only local animals including Hardwick animals and their residents. Our rescued animals are never brought in for adoption from out of state. Our mission is to rescue only local dogs and cats whether the animals are being surrendered, rescued from abusive situations, found lost with no owner identified, abandoned animals, or of a result that the animal's owner died.

Justice For Dogs operates with all volunteers with no paid staff at all. Since there are many animals in need of rescue, JFD has a lot of expenses in caring for them. Veterinarian costs include all vaccines, spaying and neutering, and any other medical needs that must be addressed prior to adoption. This past year Justice For Dogs has helped both Hardwick friendly and feral cats. Each cat prior to adoption was provided veterinarian services costing an average of \$160 per cat. Justice For Dogs has over the years had a close working relationship with Hardwick's dog officers. Justice For Dogs will be purchasing a universal microchip reader for the Hardwick animal control officer to use to help reunite lost animals with their owners. As always Justice For Dogs has assisted folks, when they call Justice seeking information regarding animals.

Justice For Dogs sincerely wishes to thank Hardwick taxpayers, community businesses, foster animal families and dedicated volunteers, who work tirelessly for the animals. We thank Hardwick taxpayers for your support through the town appropriation, which helps us tremendously with the work that we do. Justice For Dogs always welcomes new volunteers to work with us in a variety of ways. Please give us a call at 802-472-3894, or contact us at [justicefordogs@aol.com](mailto:justicefordogs@aol.com) or check out [www.facebook.com/justicefordogs](http://www.facebook.com/justicefordogs).

## **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.* 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 are open to everyone, an increasing majority of families we serve face the overwhelming challenges of isolation, poverty, substance abuse, violence, and much more. Our staff work with families to set realistic goals and celebrate together as each step is achieved to create stable environments for children so they may have an opportunity to thrive. In fiscal year 2023, our caring and dedicated staff reached more than 4,000 children, youth, parents, and caregivers throughout the Lamoille Valley and have impacted many more. Examples of Hardwick and East Hardwick residents served include:

- ~Our Children's Integrated Services team made roughly 300 home visits, providing family support and early intervention, to 32 families in Hardwick and East Hardwick
- ~LFC donates \$500 every year to Hardwick Holiday Project to provide children with holiday gifts
- ~125 residents, including 38 children, received emergency assistance including funding for rent, groceries, fuel, and goods such as diapers, clothing, and furniture
- ~3 students received summer camp scholarships so that they could attend summer programs with their peers
- ~9 families were accompanied by a DULCE family specialist to their pediatric infant wellness visits
- ~3 youth facing severe crisis situations were attended to through LFC's Youth and Young Adult Program
- ~10 families received Welcome Baby visits from our Maternal-Child Health Specialist
- ~33 families received childcare support services including assistance with applications for financial assistance and help with referral to regulated programs
- ~8 kids, parents and/or caregivers attended Playgroups to strengthen social connections
- ~142 Hardwick residents interacted with Healthy Lamoille Valley (HLV), LFC's prevention coalition
- ~Many Hardwick coaches, athletes and community members benefited from HLV's prevention resources

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: <https://www.lamoillefamilycenter.org>. Please call if you would benefit from our services. Thank you for your support.

*Carol Lang-Godin, Executive Director*  
[clang-godin@lamoillefamilycenter.org](mailto:clang-godin@lamoillefamilycenter.org)  
480 Cady's Falls Road Morrisville, VT 05661  
(802) 888-5229 ext. 124

## **Northeast Kingdom Arts Council Inc. (NEKarts): The Hardwick Town House**

NEKarts 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 NEKarts with the agreement that NEKarts will actively pursue both public and private funding necessary to further rehabilitate this historic town asset. This appropriation of \$3,500 will be used as matching funds to secure additional grants that require evidence of the community's support of the NEKarts Council's mission.

After three years of pandemic-derailed planning, negotiating, and fundraising, we are very happy to announce that we are "shovel ready" for our safety and accessibility addition at the Hardwick Town House. In coming months, we will be renovating the backside of the building with an addition that will enclose the new fire escape and a lift to the stage, thereby making balcony seating safe again. And, for the first time in the building's history, the stage will be ADA-compliant. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$250,000 and we are beyond excited to see it through. Sources of support include Freeman Foundation Grant funds through the Vermont Preservation Trust; ARPA Funds & the Town of Hardwick's Capital Improvement Funds; a FY23 Tax Credit Award; charitable donations from Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, Community Bank NA Foundation, Union

Bank, & Community National Bank; generous gifts from Mrs. Henry A. Jordan & The Norman J. Fisher & Doris Fisher Foundation; and of course, numerous individual donations from people like you!

This year, we saw the Town House really being used as intended. It has become a true multi-use space. We hosted movies, school events, public meetings, workshops, performances, voting, and more. We had several highlights. The 57th Season of the Craftsbury Chamber Players once again saw record attendance. The Blackfly Story Hour is now an annual tradition, with live storytelling by and for audience members from our community. For the first time ever, psychic medium Rebecca Ann Locicero took to the stage, attracting a big enough crowd to warrant an encore performance!

All the while, our volunteer board has been working diligently to continue fundraising, not only for continued preservation and restoration work and general operating funds, but also to make the transition to focus on future programming. Not to mention welcoming Hardwick Town Meeting back to its traditional space once the stage is accessible to allow for voting behind the grand drape while the meeting happens in the house.

The mission and purpose of NEKarts is to preserve and operate the historic Hardwick Town House as a center for entertainment, education, and community engagement. NEKarts 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. <https://hardwicktownhouse.org>

**Current members of the Hardwick Town House (NEKarts Council) Board of Directors ~**  
Shari Cornish, David Gross, Tess Martin, Sally Anstey,  
Brent McCoy, Maya McCoy, & Lynn Angebrandt

### **North Country Animal League**

On behalf of the board, staff, volunteers, and animals, thank you for your past financial support. At this time North Country Animal League (NCAL) respectfully submits a request for \$2,100 in town appropriation funds for the year 2024. These funds help us fulfill our mission of promoting compassionate and responsible relationships between animals and humans through sheltering of homeless animals, pet adoptions, spay/neuter programs, support of cruelty prevention, and humane education. Through November 10, 2023, NCAL has accepted 17 stray or surrendered animals into our shelter to date from Hardwick. These animals amount to an approximate expense to NCAL of \$13,073 when using a minimum average expense of \$769 per animal for care, feeding and medical needs before adoption. Our adoption fees range between \$200 to \$450 for dogs and \$50 to \$225 for cats, which cover only a small amount of the expenses incurred: veterinary exams, spay/neuter, vaccinations, routine testing, deworming, emergency medical needs, microchipping, food, and care.

To ensure the adoption of homeless animals, we must keep our adoption fees as affordable as possible. We seek town-wide support for our local stray and unwanted animals and help to provide them with quality care and placement into permanent homes. Daily boarding fees at private kennels average \$30 per day. To board animals, with an average stay of 26 days before adoption, your town would have spent a minimum of \$13,260 to house these strays, not including medical treatment, adoption services, overhead of staff and building, etc. NCAL offers the best humane and financial solution for Hardwick's stray and unwanted animals. In addition to taking Hardwick's stray and surrendered animals, we served Hardwick families through pet adoptions, outreach, and humane education programs. Our humane education programs serve hundreds of community members of all ages throughout the year, with the goal of teaching responsible pet ownership and fostering compassion and empathy for animal life.

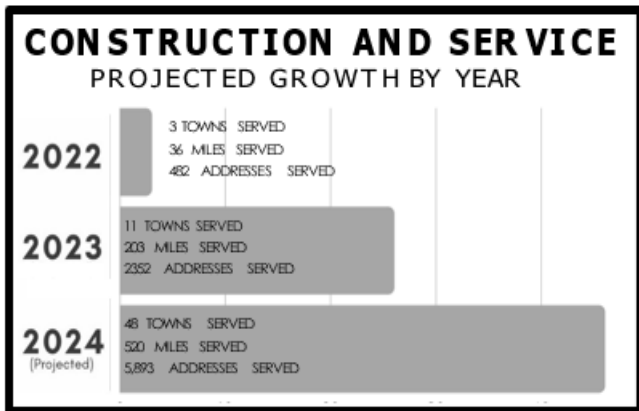
The Equine Center provided horsemanship and riding opportunities for community members of all ages and abilities through group riding lessons and camps. We also bring humane education to schools by offering group shelter tours and classroom visits. To increase accessibility to our program offerings, scholarships are available to our community's low-income families. Our Pet Food Assistance Program has distributed 10,000 pounds of food in the last 6 months to community members in need with a goal for no pet to be left hungry. We have partnered with the VT Food Bank, Lamoille County Food Share, and Meals on Wheels to ensure that we are reaching as many pet owners as possible.




In 2023, we began offering monthly Low-Cost Wellness Clinics at North Country Animal League. These wellness clinics provide affordable and accessible health care to animals in need and are available for low-income pet owners. We provide examinations with a licensed veterinarian, vaccinations, microchips, flea, tick, and deworming preventatives. By providing this community service, NCAL is working hard to have our community animals vaccinated, healthy, and be able to receive routine and consistent care that many pet owners may not have had access to before. Thank you for your consideration of our request for annual support from Hardwick. Together, we are providing a safe haven for animals in crisis and building a more humane community.


*Jacques Du Preez*  
*Executive Director*  
*(802) 888-5605*

**NEK Broadband Communications Union District**



In 2023, NEK Broadband put in place the additional staff, funding and infrastructure needed to continue delivering on its promise to bring high-speed, reliable internet to unserved and underserved communities in the NEK. We have made significant progress in building the “backbone” of our network throughout the region. This “backbone” of interlocking fiber optic cable will provide extra reliability for our internet service. We received a USDA ReConnect grant of 17.5 million to cover most of Essex County, thus freeing up more funds to expand our network build in the rest of the NEK. This year, we also increased our construction capacity and our ability to purchase and store more materials.

**2352**   
**SERVICE AVAILABLE**  
 WE NOW OFFER SERVICE TO 2352 ADDRESSES IN THE NEK.

**203**   
**MILES SERVED**  
 AT THE END OF 2023, WE NOW HAVE 203 MILES OF FIBER NETWORK SERVED THROUGHOUT THE NEK.

**179**   
**CUSTOMERS SERVED**  
 IN 2023, WE OVER DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS SERVED.



We were awarded a USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000 that will cover most of the addresses in Essex county and Eastern Orleans and Caledonia counties. The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$17.94 million in construction funding bringing the total investment in NEK Broadband to \$38.9 million to date. Our 2022 financials were given an unqualified “clean” opinion (evaluation) by our auditors.

We are up to 6 full-time staff. We now have active warehouses in Danville, St. Johnsbury, and Brighton for the storage of construction materials. We are working with the state and vocational partners to train and increase the workforce in the NEK to help build our network.

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org)

**Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging**

For over 45 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 14 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 400 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, all Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties. During this past year, 167 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, our e-learning portals Trualta and GetSetUp, fuel assistance, and transportation, among other services. Our website [www.nekcouncil.org](http://www.nekcouncil.org) provides information on many of our programs and services.

We sincerely thank the residents of Hardwick for your continued support in making 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're just a phone call away at the Helpline: 800-642-5119 or (802) 748-5182.

*In gratitude,  
Meg Burmeister  
Executive Director*

### **Northeast Kingdom Development Corporation**

The Northeast Kingdom Development Corporation (NEKDC) is a five-member private 501(c)(3) that works on significant economic development projects in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK). Our goal is to improve the quality of life in the NEK by creating jobs that pay well. We are currently focused on completion of two major projects, one of which is the Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator.

The Town of Hardwick is the owner of Yellow Barn, and the NEKDC has secured financing to complete its construction. This financing completes the funding scenario for the project and complements the grants already acquired: Economic Development Administration, Northern Border Regional Commission, Vermont Community Development Program, Vermont Community Recovery and Reinvestment Program, the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the State of Vermont Brownfield Revitalization Fund, as well as a grant from the Small Business Administration. This extensive funding commitment underscores the project's significance both regionally and statewide. We have had amazing support from our economic development partners.

The NEKDC has formed a subsidiary to receive New Market Tax Credits for the project, which will minimize long-term debt that we, the NEKDC, will carry on the project. Additionally, the NEKDC is responsible for the management and oversight of the Yellow Barn once construction is complete. We will also manage subleases, as well as the day-to-day operational demands.

This spring, we awarded a construction contract to Wright & Morrissey. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our long-awaited groundbreaking. Senator Patrick Leahy, a long-time champion of the project, was the keynote speaker. Anyone who's regularly driven along Route 15 over the past few months will note the rapid progress our GC is making. We anticipate reaching substantial completion later this year. The historic Yellow Barn, now resting on its new foundation, will serve as a retail destination for Cabot, who will showcase their signature cheese, as well as other local foods at the gateway to downtown Hardwick. The new steel Accelerator building (which is also going up as we write this) will host two anchor tenants: the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) and Jasper Hill Farm. Jasper Hill will fit up its space to expand its e-commerce fulfillment and consolidate inventory from scattered locations statewide. The CAE will fit up its space for their innovative distribution and logistics service, Farm Connex, which has more than doubled since CAE started operating it in 2020. The CAE space will also feature shared community space for education and workshops.

The Yellow Barn is tax exempt, but we will make PILOT payments to the Town, (PILOT stands for payment in lieu of tax), achieving full valuation of the municipal share by Year 7.

Please note that the NEKDC does not receive, nor does it seek, an appropriation from the Town. Our ground lease requires us to prepare a letter to the voters of Hardwick annually, in the interest of transparency. We value our partnership with the Town of Hardwick on this very important project, and we look forward to celebrating with you at the ribbon cutting soon!

*NEKDC Board of Directors: Minty Conant, President  
Kimberly Butler, Richard Isabelle,  
Eric Remick, Thomas Robinson, and David Snedeker*

**Rural Community Transportation, Inc.**

Thank you for your continued support for Rural Community Transportation. Your support is felt in our communities daily. Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT), is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that has provided public transportation services throughout Lamoille, Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex Counties. RCT operates fare-free shuttle and commuter bus routes, micro transit, and emergency relief transportation facilitating connections between towns in our region and the ability to travel throughout Vermont and beyond. RCT also provides demand-response transportation services under several programs, such as Medicaid, the Older People & People with Disabilities program, and Rides 2 Wellness.

RCT runs four commuter routes to enhance access to employment, connecting Morrisville to the towns of Barre and Waterbury, and St. Johnsbury to Montpelier and to Littleton. We operate three shuttle routes tying Morrisville, Newport/Derby, and St. Johnsbury/Lyndonville residents and nearby Vermonters to essential locations, from grocery stores to medical centers. Shopping routes provide similar service spanning Morrisville and Stowe in the west, Newport and surrounding towns in the north, and Lyndon to New Hampshire in the east. Our neighbors who utilized over 130,000 rides in FY2023 have expressed their gratitude and noted their dependence on our services. RCT operates with federal and state funding; however, our funding sources typically require between 20% and 50% locally matched dollars. All town appropriations received are used to provide the required local match and are crucial to RCT's operations. Your generosity allows RCT to transform your funding into the ability to thrive, grow, and provide your community with reliable, quality transportation service. Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

*Caleb R. Grant  
Executive Director*

**Salvation Farms:**

Over the course of the past four years, Salvation Farms has moved approximately 1,134,250 servings of surplus food from more than 45 local farms into the community, serving upwards of 50 community food programs. In this work, Salvation Farms has engaged volunteers who have contributed more than 3,965 hours collecting and distributing surplus farm food, among other tasks.

All of this work is performed at no cost to farmers or the food programs that receive this food. During 2023, as of the end of November, Salvation Farms has delivered locally raised food and vegetable starts to the following community food programs in the Lamoille Valley and Northeast Kingdom that likely serve residents of Hardwick:

<b>Food Program Served</b>	<b>Produce Delivered</b>	<b>Veggie Starts Delivered</b>	<b>Cheese Delivered</b>
Hardwick Area Food Pantry (Hardwick)	1833	155	162
Northeast Kingdom Community Action – Head Start (Hardwick)	1769	450	61
Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf	684		25
Wolcott Elementary Afterschool Program	1223		9
Craftsbury Community Care Center	1500	180	
Greensboro Nursing Home	1323		
Lamoille Health Partners	396		50
Lamoille Community Food Share (Morrisville)	2964	125	125
Lamoille County Mental Health Services – Food Shelf (Morrisville)	2390		25
The Manor (Morrisville)	1484		14.5
WIC (Morrisville)	813	294	47.5
Copley House (Morrisville)	1474		14.5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>15,459 pounds</b>	<b>1204 starts</b>	<b>533.5 pounds</b>

Salvation Farms  
Morrisville, VT 05661  
[www.salvationfarms.org](http://www.salvationfarms.org)

### **Hardwick Assessor**

New England Municipal Consultants (NEMC) completed another year as the Assessor for the Town of Hardwick. NEMC has been the assessing consultant in Hardwick since 2018 and completed Town-wide Reappraisals in 2006 and 2016. NEMC filled the roles of both Assessor and Assessing Clerk for the Town of Hardwick once again in 2023. Our office is able to assist property owners or members of the public by email, telephone, or in-person. The following assessment statistics were applied for 2023:

CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) – **78.42%**

*This is a measure of current assessment value compared to recent market sales that have occurred in the community. It tells us on average how close to market value we are assessing property.*

COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) – **20.83%**

*This is a measure of uniformity among all assessments in the community. This statistic can be summarized as a measure of equity.*

Data collection will begin in 2024 for purpose of the 2025 town-wide reappraisal. A foundational element of fair assessments is ensuring physical property data is accurate and up to date. Our goal in 2024 will be to inspect as many properties as possible in order to strengthen our property data and begin to build equity throughout the community. Property owners should expect to receive notice by mail prior to any visits. The notice will outline the process and encourage the recipient to reach out with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with the community for the duration of the process.

We will also be conducting permit and new construction checks in the spring of 2024. Any properties that have an active building permit or under construction credit should expect a visit from our office. If an assessment is due to change in some way, the property owner would receive a change of appraisal notice by mail that outlines the new value and potential options moving forward. This process is independent of any reappraisal work or activity that will take place in 2024. The Assessor's Office would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. We look forward to another year working with The Town of Hardwick in 2024.

Matthew Krajewski (NEMC), Assessor  
(802) 472-4054  
[assessor@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:assessor@hardwickvt.gov)

### **Hardwick Conservation Commission**

“Busy” is the word for the Hardwick Conservation Commission this year! The Commission contracted with experienced Consulting Ecologist Matt Peters of Woodbury to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory for Hardwick in January. This NRI, called for in our Town Plan, compiles data about soils, wetlands, critical wildlife habitats, natural plant communities, wildlife corridors, etc. within the Town. The final report will be available to everyone in Hardwick. Peters conducted field work throughout the summer and fall, completed his report this winter and he will present his findings to the community this spring. This will be a foundational document helping the Town plan wisely for development and protect its natural resources. Watch for notice of our public meeting and how you can get this report.

The HCC thanks the many willing landowners whose permission allowed Peters to gather information. Also, the HCC thanks the Hardwick Selectboard for ARPA funding for this project. The HCC held two public meetings about the NRI and also sponsored other public events this year: In January, Jerry Schneider presented an “All About Bats” program, reporting on the recovery status of our local bats. Jonathan Shapiro led a “Wildlife: Tracks & Signs” walk on the Hardwick Trails in March, that time when both snow and mud reveal who’s in our woods.

At the Spring Festival, the HCC distributed free vegetable seeds and offered hazelnut, mountain ash and black walnut tree seedlings by donation. In August, Matt Peters led a “River and Woods” walk along the lower flank of Buffalo Mountain, noting unusual plants, fungi, and wasps nesting in sand deposits. The HCC partnered with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to sponsor a “Let’s Go Fishing” event at Lake Eligo in September to introduce kids (and grownups!) to this sport. In October, Matt Peters took participants on a walk along the Lamoille River in East Hardwick to study effects of the July flooding and note the tree species growing in different soils of the riverbanks.

During this year, the HCC welcomed new members: Erin Rosenthal and Lucy Zendzian. We thank Geoff Fehrs, who stepped down from the Commission, for his always helpful work. We welcome the public to our meetings held on the second Monday of the month at 5:00 pm at the Memorial Building. Agendas and minutes of previous meetings can be found at [www.hardwickvt.gov](http://www.hardwickvt.gov). Watch for notice of public events in the Hardwick Gazette and on Front Porch Forum.

*Rachel Kane, Co-chair  
Lucy Zendzian, Co-chair  
Jerry Schneider, Treasurer  
Norma Wiesen, Secretary  
Ken Davis  
Kathy Hemmens  
Ben Pougner  
Erin Rosenthal*

### **Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Inc.**

The mission and purpose of our 501(c)3 organization is to provide leadership to support the economic, social, recreational, & cultural vitality of Downtown Hardwick. The appropriation from the voters of Hardwick directly assists Hardwick Downtown Partnership in in our efforts toward our mission. The funds will be used as matching funds to leverage additional grants that require evidence of the community’s support of HDP.

The board members of HDP work closely with Town leadership to improve Downtown Hardwick’s infrastructure by acting as an ally with the Town of Hardwick, providing energy, input and staff time to address bicycle, pedestrian and vehicular access, wayfinding, parking, lighting, street-scaping, accessibility, connectivity and other infrastructure issues that may arise. We leverage state and federal funding for Downtown Hardwick priority projects by writing grants and exploring other funding sources to capitalize on all available outside resources. Our efforts are focused on maintaining and encouraging downtown vibrancy by providing a “one-stop-shop” for business and property owners seeking information and technical assistance with accessing available downtown incentives. The Partnership works to build relationships with downtown property owners to help address high-visibility vacancies in Downtown Hardwick by leveraging available State and Federal resources. All with the overall support of downtown grand list growth and revitalization as a priority. The Hardwick Downtown

Partnership Organization is modeled closely on the National Main Street Center model for downtown revitalization.

HDP was a recipient of a \$25,000 Downtown Vibrancy grant funds from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development that has allowed us to hire a part-time Executive Director who will help us stay organized and on-task in our mission. If you are interested in further information, making a tax-deductible donation toward achieving our mission or volunteer to serve on a committee and assist the Downtown Partnership, please contact us via email [hardwickdowntownpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:hardwickdowntownpartnership@gmail.com) We can be found online at <https://www.hardwickdowntown.org>

**Current Board Members:** *Shari Cornish-Whistle Emporium, President & Secretary, Sandy Scott-Galaxy Books, Treasurer, Gary Michaels -Retired Professional, Bethany Dunbar-CAE, Tobin Porter -Front Seat Coffee, Katie Tandy -Birdsong Beer & Wine, Emily Hershberger - Buffalo Mountain Market, Nora Lakhani-The Flower Basket*

### **Hardwick Electric Department**

The Town of Hardwick Electric Department (HED) enjoyed many successes and tackled many challenges in 2023. From three new line workers joining the team, to supply chain issues – and from a perfect safety record to the continued pressure of increasing costs in global energy markets through Q1 2023 - there has been no idle time for HED in 2023.

In the 2022 report HED advised that a rate increase had been filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission – and they approved HED’s first rate increase in the last fourteen years - in Q1 2023. Presently HED is evaluating the need for another rate increase and does expect to file a small one in Q1 2024. The primary drivers for this are increased costs for transmission services and increases in power costs.

HED’s customers benefited from Vermont finally coming out of the drought conditions of the last couple of years – and enjoyed hydroelectric generation production from Wolcott hydro that increased back up to historical performances/expectations. The facility is a critical component for HED as it supplies about 15% of all our customers’ energy needs annually, and directly combats the cost increases identified above. Unfortunately, the July 2023 floods destroyed the powerhouse with the highest water level ever seen since it was constructed in 1937. Seven feet of water ran through the building and filled it with mud, logs, silt, rocks, and all kinds of debris. The generator, protection and controls systems, the high-pressure hydraulic systems, computer systems, fiber optic equipment, and all the electrical switchgear and equipment were submerged and either destroyed or significantly damaged. For almost half of 2023 HED had to purchase replacement power from the open market to replace what the plant would have produced. In addition, HED will be incurring expenses of approximately \$1.5 million to get the facility back into operation. All equipment repairs, refurbishments, and replacements are planned and expected to be complete – and the facility generating power again - in Q2 2024.

The Board of Commissioners and HED consistently strive for ongoing and continuous improvement – as part of our Right Way to Work philosophy. New renewable energy sources are being evaluated for adding to our power portfolio going forward, and we are investigating potential new/additional generating facilities of our own in 2024. Upcoming capital projects include a substation upgrade, a distribution system capacity upgrade, a new hot line truck, Business Office maintenance, and a large maintenance project at Wolcott dam.

Four Mondays in a row late this fall and early this winter pummeled HED’s service territory with very wet heavy snow. These storms trigger many outages with younger trees bending under the weight of the snow from outside the pole line right of way and contacting the lines – as well as from wires slapping when the snow accumulated on the high voltage wires falls off. One of these storms is routinely expected annually – but four in a four-week period was challenging. HED listened to the feedback from customers, and we have implemented a couple changes and tools to improve system restoration operations - and to improve customer communications/information during such major system disturbances.

Financially HED was about \$175k (or 2.8%) under budget on revenues, and about \$110k (or 1.8%) under budget on expenses for 2023. Purchased power landed about \$40k (or 1%) over a budget of \$4 million with a coverage ratio of 93%.

The Board of Commissioners are proud of the performance HED delivered in 2023 and look forward to another successful year in 2024.

*Commissioners:  
Lynne Gedanken – Chair/Hardwick  
Nat Smith – Greensboro  
Roger Prevot – Hardwick  
Michael Ambrosino – Hardwick  
Myles Koch-Kamisher – Hardwick*

### **Hardwick Energy Committee**

Our Energy Committee's mission is to strive to make the Town of Hardwick a stronger, more resilient community.

The Hardwick Select Board continued their commitment to our clean energy future by supporting Bill Chidsey serving as Hardwick Energy Coordinator and appointing Emily Hershberger to our committee Feb 2, 2023. The Select Board approved our Committee Policy Apr. 20, 2023.

Many thanks to Town Manager David Upson, along with Business Manager Casey Rowell and Payroll/Benefits Administrator Amanda Fecteau, Town Clerk Tonia Chase and her assistant Alberta Miller, Community Development Coordinator Tracy Martin, and Zoning Administrator Kristen Leahy, for their tireless efforts supporting our committee.

Currently, we are engaged with State of Vermont Building and General Services implementing the M.E.R.P. [Municipal Energy Resilience Program] grants. Hardwick has been awarded \$4000 to facilitate public communication, education, outreach, and engagement about municipal energy resilience.

We have submitted ten of Hardwick's municipal buildings for energy assessments. Upon completion, Hardwick may be eligible for up to \$500,000 for energy resilience building projects. More information is available on the web at: <https://bgs.vermont.gov/municipal-energy-resilience-program>

As part of the MERP grant, in 2024, the Hardwick Energy Committee will participate in a multi-town energy efficiency education program to raise awareness of the benefits and savings of energy efficiency measures and provide tips on where to get help. The program will include outreach activities, community workshops and a Panel Discussion on home weatherization and energy savings. Other towns participating include Glover, Greensboro and Stannard. Beth Meacham and Liz Steel of Greensboro are leading this initiative.

Flood grants for furnaces by Efficiency Vermont, Hardwick Electric Dept, NEK Regional Energy Committee, Northeastern Vermont Development Association, Energy Action Network, UVM, VECAN, Craftsbury Energy Committee, Greensboro Energy Committee, Renewable Energy Vermont, VT League of Cities and Towns.

### **2024 goals:**

M.E.R.P. Municipal building Energy Audits and project funding with State of Vermont grants

Increasing Energy Committee membership.

Device level municipal building HVAC controls and datalogging.

Building Performance grants and implementation.

Restarting Hardwick's 2023 Window Dressers initiative [paused]

Committee Members as of Dec 31, 2023, include Chair: Bill Chidsey, Vice Chair: Emily Hershberger. We have five open seats available. If you are interested in finding out more about the rewarding role you can have, please contact [Energy.Coordinator@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:Energy.Coordinator@hardwickvt.gov). Your call is always welcome 802-249-6004. Or simply find me at the Co-op.

### **Hardwick Equity Committee**

The Equity Committee now coming into its fourth year was formed with a mission 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.

Over the past year, the Equity Committee has been busy! Here are some examples of our activities:

- ~Sponsored an equity and inclusion training led by the Peace and Justice Center for town employees and with Building Fearless Futures for our committee
- ~Hosted two community films in partnership with the NEK Rainbow Coalition and the Vermont Learning Support Initiative
- ~Hosted numerous listening sessions at Front Seat Coffee, Buffalo Mountain Co-op, and Hardwick Health Center
- ~Continue to partner with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union to review equity policies and form connections
- ~Was a member of the IDEAL statewide equity program
- ~Continued to work on reviewing town policies, procedures, and language to ensure inclusion.

We would like to thank Lucian Avery and Chip Troiano for their service on this committee.

We are seeking members of all backgrounds to join the equity committee. If you are interested in finding out more about the equity committee, please contact [equity@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:equity@hardwickvt.gov)

*Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Chair  
Jan Mueller, Secretary  
David O'Brien, Treasurer  
Amy Rosenthal, Member*

### **Hardwick Fire Department Report:**

This year we ended up with 92 calls for the year. Mutual aid is very needed for all the local fire departments with the lack of volunteers, but I am pleased to say we added 3 new members to our department last year. We could still use more. I would like to thank one of our members that has decided to retire from the department this year—a great thanks and appreciation to Mike Hall for 30 years of helping this community! His presence will be missed. Lastly, thank you to our dedicated members for their time.

*Tom Fadden, Fire Chief*

### **Hardwick Historical Society**

THE GAZETTE PICTURE PROJECT IS DONE!!!

Shortly after Ray Small purchased the *Hardwick Gazette*, he gave the HHS the backlog of photographs that had accumulated over the previous forty years. The owners of the newspaper had collected the pictures, contact sheets, and negatives into 9" by 12" envelopes and put them into file drawers in chronological order. The envelopes filled six five-drawer file cabinets which Taylor Meyer and Mario Fradette hauled to the Depot. At the Depot, over the next six years, Lorraine Hussey, Carmaline Williams, Janet Slayton, Donna Hale, Judy Nudd, Sarah Remick, and Elizabeth Dow processed the pictures for the collection.

Phase One: identify the pictures. First, we pulled out an envelope of pictures published in a single month — say, June 1980. Second, we got the 1980 volume of newspaper and turned to June. Third, we matched a picture from the envelope to its picture on the page. Fourth, on the back of the picture we wrote 1) *Hardwick Gazette*, 2) the issue date, 3) the page number, 4) (from the caption) the names of the people in the picture, 5) what the picture



showed, 6) who took the picture, and 7) what town the event occurred in. Finally, we put a Hardwick picture into a folder which eventually went into a box. We put a picture from another town into its own box. Next picture, please.

If we assume each newspaper had an average of 20 to 25 pictures in it, and we multiply that number by 4, we get an average of 80 to 100 pictures each month. Multiplying that by 12 months gets 960 to 1000 pictures each year, multiplied by 40 years brings the total to 38,400 to 40,000 pictures. Thinking about what really illustrated Hardwick history, we threw some out. Only the best five pictures each month for a Hazen sport, for instance. No baby pictures (Remember “I’m One”?) No pictures from real estate ads that didn’t include a location. No professional publicity shots of performers.

Phase Two: file the pictures. By the time we separated Hardwick pictures from those of neighboring towns, we had reduced our collection by about half, so we had only about 20,000 pictures to file. Using a faceted index, we started with a category, like Businesses, Buildings, Organizations, and Schools. Then we became more specific. We broke down businesses into the types of businesses, like Banks, Farms, Professions, Restaurants, etc. Then we created a file folder for each business, to get *Businesses—Restaurants—Village Restaurant* and *Businesses—Professions—Victoria Hill, Physical Therapist*. Schools needed the most breaking down: *Schools—Hardwick Elementary—Activities—Science Fair* and *Schools—Hazen Union—Sports—Basketball—Girls, 1990-1999*. As we created files, we created an inventory of the folders (not individual pictures) which you can find by clicking on “Pictures” at < <https://hardwickvthistory.org/research-archives/about-the-collections/> >

The Hardwick Historical Society has a rich collection of pictures, and now we can find them all. It took thousands of volunteer hours to make that so, but the knowledge that our work will make our pictures available to future researchers kept us going — along with the knowledge that we only had to do this job once. And now we’re DONE!

*Elizabeth H. Dow  
President*

**Hardwick Police Department**

The Hardwick Police Department responded to 2513 calls for service in 2023. Calls for mental health incidents increased 52% from 2022. In December, we were able to get an embedded mental health crisis worker from Northeast Kingdom Human Services for direct local assistance with mental health crisis calls. This is a huge asset to the town. Below is a breakdown of the top five types of calls during that year:

Suspicious Event	248
Assist – Agency, Public, Motorist, & Other	233
Fingerprints	184
Directed Patrol	161
Motor Vehicle complaint	143

Criminal investigations take priority, and the investigations take up a great amount of the officer’s time. The Hardwick Police Department made 165 arrests during the 2023 calendar year. This was a 60% increase from the previous year. Some of the arrested individuals were referred to the Community Restorative Justice Program rather than the criminal court system.

The top five arrest categories were as follows:

Arrest on in-state warrant	36
Driving with a criminally suspended license	24
Violation of conditions of release	20
Driving under the influence	10
Burglary	7

Drug use and abuse continues to surge in our area. Although there were quite a few overdoses this year, the Hardwick Police Department did not investigate any fatal drug overdose deaths in 2023. Members of the community raised safety concerns with the drug traffic in their neighborhoods. The Hardwick Police Department responded with increased patrols, search warrants, and regular contact with known drug distribution houses.

Traffic crashes:

The Hardwick Police Department responded to a total of 103 reported traffic crashes, which is an 18% reduction from 2022. The majority of these crashes (73) were property damage without injuries. There were 5 injury crashes and 1 fatal crash, which is almost half as many as last year. In addition, there were 14 crashes in which the operator left the scene of the crash. This is less than half from the previous year. Below are the types of reported traffic crashes:

Property damage crashes – state reported	53
Property damage crashes – non state reportable	20
Leave the scene of a crash	14
Injury crash – state reportable	5
Fatal crash	1

One of the top complaints the police department receives is regarding traffic. There were 143 motor vehicle complaints this year in addition to quite a few residents requesting speed enforcement in their neighborhoods, which are not captured in our statistics. Officers randomly select problem areas for enforcement through directed patrols. The high visibility reduces crashes. The Hardwick Police Department’s proactive motor vehicle enforcement resulted in 264 traffic tickets being issued and 484 written warnings. Below are the top five types of tickets issued for 2023:

Operating without liability insurance	50
Persons required to register	40
Operating after suspension	27
Stop Sign violation	23
11-20 mph over speed limit	18

The Hardwick Police Department has a great working relationship with the schools. We try to have high visibility at the schools during drop off and pick up times to promote safety awareness. We also try to build positive relationships with students and staff.

Staffing continues to be an issue for the Hardwick Police Department. We started the year strong with four full-time officers, four part-time officers and an Interim Chief. In May, part-time Officer Joe Rossi had to retire due to health issues. In August, we lost full-time Officer Paul Barnard who moved out of state. In October, part-time Officer Bill Morley decided 40 years of law enforcement was enough. At the end of December, full-time Officer Andrew Force accepted a position with US Customs.

In September, we were fortunate to hire Daniel Brunelle as a full-time law enforcement officer. Brunelle has over 25 years of law enforcement experience. He retired from South Burlington Police Department in 2022 as a patrol sergeant and had an excellent reputation as a professional throughout his career. Dan enjoys being a police officer in Vermont and felt he still had a great deal to offer the profession.

The Hardwick Police Department works in partnership with the community to preserve and improve the quality of life and make it safer for all. We are fortunate to have all our local agencies and businesses working well together. This was especially evident during the July flood. We are very appreciative of the continued support received from the community throughout the year.

In closing, I would like to commend the dedicated employees of the Hardwick Police Department for their continued commitment to the community, professionalism, and continued effort to keep our community safe. The officers ensure that coverage is provided 24/7/365.

*Sincerely,  
Interim Chief Michael Henry*

### **Hardwick Recreation Committee**

On behalf of the Hardwick Recreation Committee, we would like to start by saying a BIG THANK YOU to all of the crews and folks who muscled through some very tough times this year with the flooding in July. These disasters bring out the worst in the weather but the best in our community. So, THANK YOU.

The recreation committee has remained optimistic and motivated in regard to providing recreational opportunities here in Hardwick. The year 2023 started off great as we assisted the Hardwick Trails Committee with the purchase of new skis as loaners for those who may want to use the Hardwick Trails. We had planned for the much larger ice rink to be ready, as well as a fun Winter Carnival, but the weather had other plans for us. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the rink usage and winter carnival.

Spring came and so did the arrival of the newly completed LVRT network!! This brought much excitement and hope to our recreational community. The committee planned a family fun run/walk to kick off the Springfest here in town. This event was deemed a success since many runners (both kids and adults!) and walkers registered and enjoyed the trail. Emily Varvir, Rec Committee member, assisted in collaborating with Adaptive Sports Partners to bring adaptive cycling to town for Springfest. This collaboration continued beyond the event, and we hope to have them return again and provide adaptive sports to our community!

We collaborated with The Aquatic Connection and Greensboro Rec Committee and brought swim lessons back to Lake Caspian for another season. This program is becoming very popular, and all parties involved are brainstorming ways to keep this program afloat and make it equitable for all. As the flooding occurred during the peak of summer, we lost the rail trail and parts of the Hardwick Trails system as well. As a committee we did not feel like we could plan future events due to the state of our town. However, the Trails Committee held their celebration this summer and we were proud to be invited to lead one of the rides.

Fall brought the annual Trunk or Treat at Atkins field. This event is growing every year and gives kiddos the opportunity to safely enjoy a Halloween event with their families! What a treat! This was followed up by a wonderful Spooky Halloween soccer clinic held by Megan Mercier and several Hazen Union students!!! Everyone had a ball!

The Rec Committee also offered several movie nights throughout the summer into fall - something we would love to continue in years to come! The winter months have brought back the planning for a Winter Carnival and the hopes for the ice rink. Community members participated in the annual holiday lights contest as a way to bring joy to folks living in or passing through town! Congratulations to our winners and what a great way to end 2023! The Hardwick Recreation Committee remains optimistic that we can provide and promote recreational opportunities to our community in 2024!

*Jason Bahner,  
Recreation Coordinator  
Recreation Committee:  
Mallory Greaves, Emily Varvir, Sara Behrsing  
Emily Hale, Samantha Collins, Lanna Lawson*

## **Hardwick Trails Committee**

The Hardwick Trails Committee has met monthly throughout the year, focusing our efforts on expanding program offerings, forming new partnerships, and continuing to improve the trails network.

Our ski and snowshoe program this past year accommodated increasing demands, including the: 1) Friday Hazen Wellness offering, 2) Dare To Be Me program, 3) Saturday morning multigenerational “loan & lessons program”, 4) a new Hazen Nordic ski team. The Craftsbury Ski Center offered free access to their equipment and trails to close out our season, drawing nearly 40 participants. Additionally, through a Lakeview Elementary parent initiative and a generous donation by the Prevot Family Foundation, Nordic ski equipment was secured for the entire student body for the coming season. We remain committed to lowering the financial barrier for local residents who would like to learn to ski or otherwise use the trails during the winter months.

This spring, the trails were the primary training ground for Hazen Union track team and were the setting for several races during the season. In May, committee members arranged for local naturalists to lead bird walks. We continue to partner with the Jeudevine Library to develop the Story Walk as a community asset. Flood damage repair was a major focus for the summer months. Culverts needed replacing. We secured grant funding to help offset these expenses.

The Pumpkin Walk drew nearly 500 participants to enjoy the 400 pumpkins carved by Hardwick Elementary school students, under the tireless guidance of Beth LeCours.

The Trails Committee maintains representation of both the NEK and Hardwick Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) groups, thus expanding the scope of our efforts to other regional recreational assets. We also secured grant funds to complete a connector trail from the LVRT to the Hardwick Trails network and to create a trailhead kiosk. We are grateful to the Hazen Technical Education teacher, Maxfield English, and his students. They partnered with the committee to construct two new kiosks for the trails. They built the main kiosk at the back side of the Hazen Parking lot, and a new smaller kiosk at the trail intersection with the LVRT. The committee anticipates increased use of Hardwick Trails in the coming years, as LVRT users become more aware of this remarkable resource.

The Hardwick Trails celebrated its 20-Year Anniversary on September 9. The festivities included a nature walk, a guided bike ride, a challenge along the Marlene Clark Fitness loop, a *Cat in the Hat* Storybook walk, fairy house building, and bike equipment loans through the Adaptive Sports Partners organization. We closed the event by honoring those who have been instrumental in the development of the Hardwick Trails over two decades: Wendell and Beverly Shepard, Judy Geer and Dick Dreissigacker, Beth LeCours, and Roger and Margie Prevot.

We have joined forces with the Adaptive Sports Partners (ASP) organization to ensure that our trails, along with the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), will be accessible to ALL residents. Before the LVRT was damaged by the July floods, ASP had been offering weekly riding sessions to area residents. They plan to continue a partnership with our Trails Committee in the years ahead.

New, more detailed maps have been created for both the wide general recreational use trails and our Single-Track network. Check out the Trailhead Kiosk and the downtown display cases for the most up to date map, and a new poster that captures our many trail offerings. These can also be found on our web site (<https://hardwicktrails.com>). The committee continues to work on signage and virtual means to facilitate easy navigation.

The Hardwick Trails Committee, a volunteer sub-committee of the Hardwick Town Recreation Department, welcomes everyone to our meetings on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 PM. Email [hardwicktrails@gmail.com](mailto:hardwicktrails@gmail.com) for more information.

The Trails Committee thanks the Town of Hardwick for its support.

*Submitted by Helen Beattie*

## **Jeudevine Memorial Library**

In May 2023, the Jeudevine expansion broke ground! The library staff and trustees thank all of the voters, donors, and patrons who made this possible. The library is for everyone, and with more space, the Jeudevine will be able to offer more of what it has done so well in the past: books, movies, magazines, computer access, Wi-Fi 24/7, programming from the cradle to the grave, a place to meet and work and rest. Do you want to borrow an audiobook or an eBook? You can do that with your library card, too! In the future, quiet spaces will be available, robust programming for little ones, teens and adults, plus meeting space for large and small community groups or folks needing a quiet place to have a telehealth conference with excellent internet connectivity. All of this will be possible in a building that is finally accessible to all.

Also, this year, the library was a finalist for the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Medal. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities. The IMLS chose the Jeudevine as one of fifteen library finalists for this prestigious award.

The flood in July was difficult for many in Hardwick and surrounding towns. Thankfully, the library itself was unharmed and able to open for those needing a place to work with electricity and an internet connection. Television station WCAX used the library several times to put together reports about regional flooding. FEMA workers came in to use the library building in the early days before their trailer arrived. As a partner of Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor, the library helped organize and run the Flood Supply Distribution Center out of the Senior Center for several weeks while also answering the Neighbor's hotline and emails, responding where needed.

Unfortunately, we did lose many DVDs from the gifted Edgar Davis collection that were flooded in our storage unit. After cleaning up, volunteers continued sorting and organizing the remainder. A community survey helped decide which movies and TV shows to keep when there is space in the new addition. When we are done, we will have an enviable collection," said none other than Rick Winston, founder of the Savoy Theater, who shared his expertise with us.

With grants from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the library hired Tim Byrne of New England Art Glass in Derby to restore all nine stained glass windows. He has completed three as of this writing.

Programming for young people continued to thrive under the care of Youth Librarian Marilyn McDowell. Activities included story times at the library, in partnership with Head Start, and at the Hardwick Farmers' Market. Lego Club, Dungeons and Dragons, and four-story walks were up spring to fall on the Hardwick Trails. The summer reading program brought in performers and workshops for children of all ages. Last fall, Miss Marilyn represented the Jeudevine as Little Red Riding Hood at the Fairy Tale Festival in Killington, and Jeudevine convened its first Teen Advisory Board (TAB), inviting teenagers to have a say in programming and activities for them.

Programming for adults included readings, crafting, and writing get-togethers; a wellness workshop with the Vermont Department of Health; a garden tour fundraiser; and a presentation by HomeShareVT. There were readings by local authors Stephen Kiernan and Rick Winston, which the Galaxy Bookshop co-sponsored with us, and one by Marshfield author Dan Chodorkoff. The Galaxy continued to support the library by asking customers to round up and donate to their favorite local library in October for Banned Books Month and again as partners in the Pages in the Pub, a favorite annual fundraiser.

The past year has not been without challenges, as the excavation of the construction site hit a vein of water in the ground that led to unstable soil conditions. The construction work was paused for nearly four months as a new design was developed to address the soil issues. Fortunately, the work was remobilized in late September and will continue through the winter. The redesign has added costs to the project for which we are currently raising funds, however, we're on track to finish the new building in August of 2024.

This has been a landmark year for the Jeudevine in just about every way. The future holds remarkable promise as the library grows into a new role as a community hub. Beyond programming, the new library will have space for public events, even those requiring kitchen facilities, available to community members. In addition to private space for one-on-one video calls, a meeting room will be available for small groups, such as book clubs or committees. The library hopes to meet as many community needs as possible, so please make your needs known to the library staff.

*Diane Grenkow, Library Director  
Jodi Lew-Smith, Library Trustee/Chair*

### **Select Board Report**

What a year it has been! The flooding in July may make 2023 nearly as infamous as 1927. In Hardwick, 2023 may also be remembered as a year of great community solidarity.

During the flooding, our police, fire department, rescue squad, and Town Manager came together to respond as events unfolded. In the immediate aftermath of the flood our Town road crew worked tirelessly to restore our badly damaged highways. Many individuals and local companies aided the road crew in their efforts, often making repairs in locations the road crew could not reach. The flood waters also dealt a huge blow to the Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Plant but through the creative efforts of Town staff, the plant was operating again on a limited level within days. Many businesses and individuals were majorly impacted by the floods. Friends, family, and groups such as the Hardwick Area Food Party, Neighbor to Neighbor, and the Civic Standard came together in a coordinated effort to aid those in need. Flooding also added many tasks for our Town Manager and his staff. Normally the Town Manager deals with myriad issues related to roads, policing, water, sewer, administrative tasks, and any resident issue that comes through the door. The flooding brought a whole new level of communication and coordination with State and Federal agencies in addition to coordinating local relief efforts. It is a testament to the dedication of our Town staff and to our community as a whole that we were able to come together to find and implement the best solutions for each unique situation.

From an infrastructure point of view, we will be recovering from the 2023 flooding for several years to come. Though immediate repairs were made as soon as possible, long term repairs will take additional study, engineering, and funding. We need to evaluate our critical infrastructure both for its current serviceability and for its long-term flood resiliency. This process is occurring now and will be ongoing for as long as it is needed.

The Select Board has been working closely with the Town Manager and Business Manager to craft a budget to meet our needs for the coming fiscal year. The first draft of the budget showed an alarming 14% increase over the previous year. After several months of adjustments and refinements, the final budget we are presenting to voters represents a 7.5% increase over the previous year. While this is still a large budget increase, the Select Board feels that this is the best budget to meet the needs of the Town in the coming year and we hope you agree. The main drivers of the budget increase are personnel costs (wages and benefits) and equipment costs. In recent years the price of trucks especially has increased dramatically, and we've adjusted the capital equipment schedule accordingly. Wages have also increased in recent years and the Select Board feels that Town employees should be compensated at market rates to help recruitment and retention. This budget also includes the expansion of one Town position from part-time to full-time. This expansion is to create capacity to deal with the increased administrative burden of managing long-term flood recovery. We look forward to a lively budget discussion at Town Meeting.

As always, and this year perhaps more than most, on behalf of the Select Board I would like to thank all Town employees for their hard work and dedication.

*Eric Remick  
Select Board Chair*

### **Town Clerk Report**

The Town Clerk's office offers many services on a walk-in basis to the residents, such as, issuing marriage licenses; dog licenses; certified copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates; voter registration; absentee ballot applications; and notary services.

We continue to update the Town Clerk's page on the Town's website. You can access forms, election information, water and sewer rates, tax rates, Hardwick assessor cards and tax maps, digital land records, unredacted tax bills and much more. Please visit the site at [hardwickvt.gov/government/town-clerk](https://hardwickvt.gov/government/town-clerk)

We continue to offer DMV registration renewals. To renew your registration at the Town Clerk's office you will need to have the following: your registration renewal form from the DMV (please note that renewals more than two months past due cannot be processed at the Town Clerk's office), a check or money order made out to Vermont DMV for the registration fee (cash or credit card cannot be accepted), and a separate cash or check fee for \$3.00 to the Town of Hardwick.

*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 fees from January 1 – April 1 are: Spayed/Neutered \$9.00 Non-Spayed/Neutered \$13.00 After April 1, late fees are applied.

Looking toward 2024, our office will have a busy election year. Remember, absentee ballots must be requested by the voter for any election other than the November 5<sup>th</sup> General Election. If you wish to vote by early ballot, call the Town Clerk's Office 802-472-5971 or log on to your voter page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> Ballots for State and Federal elections are available forty-five days ahead of the election. Also remember, this March 5<sup>th</sup> is the Presidential Primary. The Primary is simply a party nominating process. It is the ONE time you will be asked which party ballot you wish to cast. Do not be alarmed. We do not register by party in Vermont, and you are not tied to any particular party if you choose to mark that party ballot on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Tonia Chase  
Town Clerk/Treasurer*

### **Town Manager Report**

The Town of Hardwick was put to the test by Mother Nature this past year. Recovery efforts to strengthen our infrastructure and protect town assets will be a major component of operations in the coming year. The flood shed some light on several areas where town government needs to improve. The activation of our local Emergency Operations Center allowed emergency managers to see the plan in action, which provided live feedback on what needs to be improved. The local Neighbor-to-Neighbor group has recently taken on the role of updating and further strengthening our Emergency Response Plan for the next disaster, which will happen again.

Early on, local community organizations stepped up to the plate with staffing emergency shelters, supply distribution, and case management. The newly formed Civic Standard, a non-profit organization, called in over 100 volunteers to assist with mucking and gutting basements in homes damaged by the flooding. The Hardwick Neighbor-to-Neighbor group answered requests for support on their telephone hotline stood up during the pandemic. Without local community support, recovery would have been further drawn out and/or non-existent. Immediately following the flooding, we realized several homes sustained damage beyond repair. Homeowners were faced with the decision to enter a buyout program. In all, we had eight properties that decided to enroll. The result was that four went to the state program and four are in the federal buyout program. The four properties in the state program, through VT Emergency Management (VEM), have reached the point of a grant agreement. The four federal properties are still pending initial engagement with the Town. Six additional property owners who were made aware of the buyout program decided not to enroll due to their fears of not being able to relocate or find available housing in their community. Their decision to stay in "harm's way" was based on the fact that finding a new place to live would be almost impossible, and with winter coming, was not an option.

For those that remain in flood prone areas, Town staff are currently working with state partners for hazard mitigation grants for these families. State hazard mitigation grants will be key to assisting families with the needed funds to elevate their homes and prevent them from being displaced caused by future weather events.

What was noticeable from day one was the amount of human-made debris that was scattered throughout the flood plain on Wolcott Street and littering the river corridor from the site of The Inn by the River (Hardwick Motel) to the Hardwick town line with Wolcott and beyond. Solar panels, metal roofing, personal belongings, tools, building materials, a boat, a motorcycle, a shipping container, and propane tanks are just some of the major items that were left behind in the flood.

I had several conversations with FEMA, VEM & VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation, days, weeks, and months after the flood and in some cases met with those agencies on site. Since July, some of this debris has been picked up by volunteers donating their time and equipment, but most of the bigger and hard to reach items still remain. FEMA will not reimburse the town for river clean-up. In my past, I was a wastewater plant operator, and it was always clear to me that the State dictated what happened in and around the river. The State, along with the federal government, sets the discharge limits for point source pollutions. From day one I asked who is going to clean up the debris in the river. I know Hardwick is not the only community asking this question. The river cleanup should not rest on the individual towns nor the individual owning land along the river to clean. I will continue to relay this message to State officials until the mess gets picked up.

As we wait for the initial round of FEMA reimbursements from emergency work, prioritizing projects and deciding where to allocate financial resources to maximize efficiency in recovery efforts is at the forefront of our day-to-day government operations. Short term borrowing, even at low interest rates, furthers taxpayers' financial obligations, which is not a popular option in the current climate. Town staff, along with regional partners, are working to align grant opportunities with future mitigation and climate resiliency projects. Planning and design to rebuild our Wastewater plant will be a priority in 2024. The success of that project will allow for needed and sustainable growth in existing and future economic development goals for the town. Finding a new home for our Fire Department will follow suit as mitigation and climate resilience projects are a must.

Despite the environmental challenges this community has faced over the past several months, one thing that remains undamaged is our ability to come together. I have worked in many communities in our area. Hardwick is strong and can persevere. 2024 will bring in a new set of challenges and I wouldn't want to take them on in any town other than this one because I know my community is here with me.

*David Upson  
Town Manager*

### **Zoning Report**

The Hardwick Planning Commission (HPC) and the Hardwick Development Review Board (DRB) are utilizing a hybrid model for their meetings. Both entities meet virtually by ZOOM and in-person on the third floor of the Memorial Building. We anticipate that this approach will continue in 2024.

In 2023, the Hardwick Planning Commission continued the examination of traffic and pedestrian safety issues throughout Hardwick. The HPC also reviewed the plans from Local Motion regarding a proposal to create a pedestrian and bicycle Connector Loop from downtown Hardwick to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and made short-term recommendations for the Select Board's approval. The main focus of the HPC in 2023, however, was the Bylaw Modernization grant work. Heather Carrington, a local consultant, was hired by the grant funds to assist the HPC. The HPC spent nine months reviewing, revising, and drafting zoning bylaws that will allow additional housing stock to be created in the areas with town water and/or sewer. In addition, the Bylaw Modernization work will bring the Town into compliance with the newly passed State statute – the HOME Act. Two public forums were held in the fall of 2023. The Planning Commission anticipates that the proposed bylaw updates will be ready for review and approval by the summer of 2024.



In 2024, the Hardwick Planning Commission will continue to pursue zoning bylaw updates (including floodplain regulation updates) and to support improvements throughout the Town of Hardwick. The HPC currently has no vacancies and two alternates on the Commission.

In 2023, the Hardwick Development Review Board reviewed and approved changes of use in Hardwick. DRB hearings focused on Flood Hazard Area Overlay requests, an expansion of an Industrial Park structure, an expansion to the Hardwick Town House, an expansion to the Buffalo Mountain Market and three indoor cultivation structures. If you would like to participate in future development review, the DRB currently has two vacancies. Letters of interest should be submitted to the Town Manager's office.

The Floodplain Administration component increased this year with the July 2023 flooding. Over fifty houses in the Flood Hazard Area Overlay were impacted by the summer flooding event. Additional homes were affected in adjacent areas. Currently, the Town has completed Substantial Damage determinations and is now collecting zoning applications for the repairs and renovations in the Flood Hazard Area. Hazard Mitigation grants are assisting with the purchase and demolition of 6-8 structures which were severely impacted by the flooding. Additional grants are being sought to assist with the elevation of multiple mobile homes on Route 14. The Town of Hardwick had 10+ structures that were Substantially Damaged, including the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Additional Floodplain Administration reviews and updates will be forthcoming in 2024.

*Kristen Leahy*  
*Zoning Administrator*  
*(802) 472-1686*

[zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov)

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*End of Town and Appropriation Reports*

**Town of Hardwick**  
**Dog License Report**  
**July 01, 2022 to June 30, 2023**

<b><u>Total Number of Licenses</u></b>	<b><u>Price Per License</u></b>	<b><u>Total Collected</u></b>
7	\$ 3.00	\$ 21.00
2	\$ 7.00	\$ 14.00
1	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
219	\$ 9.00	\$ 1,971.00
93	\$ 11.00	\$ 1,023.00
55	\$ 13.00	\$ 715.00
19	\$ 17.00	\$ 323.00
		\$ -
1 Kennel Permit	\$ 31.00	\$ 31.00
1 Kennel Permit	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00
1 Pet Dealer Permit	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
<b>399</b>		\$ 4,176.00
<b>Total Collected for FY23</b>		\$ 4,176.00
Fees to State of Vermont		\$ (1,531.00)
<b>Total Revenue for FY23</b>		\$ 2,645.00

**Town Clerk's Office**  
**Vital Records Information:**  
**July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023**  
**The following records were filed:**

31 Birth Certificates  
12 Marriage Certificates  
30 Death Certificates

<b>CURRENT TAX RECONCILIATION: 7/1/2022 TO 6/30/2023</b>		
MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST AT 1%	\$	1,930,288.00
HOMESTEAD GRAND LIST AT 1%	\$	1,107,989.98
NON RESIDENTIAL GRAND LIST AT 1%	\$	807,593.02
<b>TAXES BILLED ON 7/20/2022</b>		
MUNICIPAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,228,628.55
HIGHWAY TAXES BILLED	\$	1,331,705.81
LOCAL AGREEMENT BILLED	\$	19,495.88
HOMESTEAD TAXES BILLED	\$	1,864,857.94
NON RESIDENTIAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,329,128.83
LATE HOMESTEAD PENALTY	\$	1,995.81
MISC. BILLING (GARBAGE)	\$	120.00
<b>TOTAL TAXES BILLED</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,775,932.82</b>
<b>TAX BOOK BILLING BALANCE 6/30/23</b>		
MUNICIPAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,229,143.49
HIGHWAY TAXES BILLED	\$	1,332,263.95
LOCAL AGREEMENT BILLED	\$	19,504.04
HOMESTEAD TAXES BILLED	\$	1,887,008.05
NON RESIDENTIAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,308,657.78
LATE HOMESTEAD PENALTY	\$	3,832.26
MISC. BILLING (GARBAGE)	\$	120.00
<b>TOTAL TAXES BILLED</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,780,529.57</b>
<b>COLLECTIONS REPORT 7/1/2022 TO 6/30/2023</b>		
ABATEMENTS	\$	1,309.55
ADJUSTMENTS	\$	20,516.70
AVAILABLE CREDITS FOR FY23	\$	(4,473.66)
AVAILABLE CREDITS FOR FY24	\$	(3,748.55)
COLLECTIONS	\$	4,972,376.43
CREDIT REFUNDS ( HS-122 & OVERPAYMENTS)	\$	25,734.79
<b>STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 7/1/2022 TO 6/30/23</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>536,603.55</b>
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 7/06/2022	\$	128,938.30
STATE TAX PAYMENT TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 8/02/2022	\$	5,299.00
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 9/06/2022	\$	4,066.00
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 9/29/2022	\$	4,687.00
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 11/09/2022	\$	5,166.00
STATE TAX PENALTY PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$	315.00
PROPERTY TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR ON JUNE 30, 2023	\$	5,696,790.11
DELINQUENTS ON JUNE 30, 2023	\$	83,231.52
<b>PROPERTY TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR ON JUNE 30, 2023</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,780,021.63</b>
<b>ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE - NEMRC</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(5,780,529.57)</b>
<b>**DIFFERENCE**</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(507.94)</b>

**TOWN OF HARDWICK  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 07, 2023**

Orise Ainsworth, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The voting audience included approximately 147 people.

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

Orise Ainsworth nominated by Karen Collier  
Motion passed unanimously

Orise requested any non-Hardwick voters in the audience raise their hands so she and audience neighbors realize who should not be voting. Two audience members raised hands.

The front table was asked to introduce themselves. The front table included Eric Remick – Select Board chair, Ceilidh Galloway Kane – Select Board Vice Chair, Shari Cornish – Select Board member, Elizabeth Dow – Select Board member, Danny Hale – Select Board member, David Upson – Town Manager and Tom Fadden – Road Foreman and Fire Chief.

David Upson spoke about his day-to-day goals and priorities related to town activities. He stated that the Town currently has a great staff of employees and asked audience to take time out of their day to thank one or more of our town staff as they are all doing a great job.

He then discussed several facilities projects to maintain and upgrade town owned properties. Projects will be carried out with energy efficiency in mind. The Memorial Building will undergo roof repair this summer, paid for by a grant and with the help of the Energy Committee, the windows will be replaced hopefully in the next year or so. The Library will begin their upgrade. The Public Safety building heating system will be looked at soon. The Wastewater Facility will have facelift by the end of summer of 2023. The Town Garage is an outdated facility to be housing our most valuable assets to town operation. Staff are exploring ways to leverage existing tax dollars for grants to fund the planning and construction of a new public works facility. David's opinion is that we are currently on borrowed time with this building.

The downtown received a significant facelift last summer and he would like to expand out to the areas that have had less attention over the years. Last summer, the town crew replaced an original section of sidewalk on the north side of Church Street. We will begin to prioritize the refurbishment of remaining sidewalks in need. Manhole risers and catch basins in need of rehab and/or repair will be done on an as needed basis. David would like to start looking at ways we can fund a rebuild of N. Main Street and West Church in Hardwick Village and Main Street in East Hardwick Village which will include assets below the surface as well. Water & Sewer infrastructure is ongoing.

We continue to bring back roads up to state standards. We are looking for funding sources to refurbish the bridge over the Lamoille River in East Hardwick. The road foreman has provided David with a list of failing and damaged guardrails, will continue to develop plans to repair and/or replace sections of guardrail.

We invested in Cyber-Security hardware for the town computer network and will be working with Champlain Collage's Leahy Center for digital forensics and cyber security to do a no-cost Cyber Security and Network Security assessment of the Town's computer network.

David wants everyone to know he is available, bring him your ideas, complaints, and questions. He is available by email or phone and has an open-door policy at the office.

Orise reminded the audience of what is out in the lobby, there are several groups trying to get information to you. Historical Society has tea and coffee; the Civic Standard has sandwiches, chips, and goodies as well as a bingo

game. There is a group looking for your thoughts on the park that will be going in by new swinging bridge; there are flyers on the rail trail, yellow barn, and Woodbury granite shed; there is information on gravel pit bond that is being voted on today; Northeast Kingdom Broadband has info along with window inserts and the Conservation Commission has info. Orise apologizes if she missed anyone but there is plenty of info in lobby.

Orise stated that there is also voting today on the Hazen Budget, Town Budget, Select Board and Hazen School Board members.

She announced that starting at 11:00 at Hazen Union High School, the Red Cross will be doing a blood drive and that they will be available after Town Meeting.

Orise stated we are following Roberts Rules and the most important one is if you want to be recognized raise your hand and she will recognize you. A microphone will be brought to you and then you may make your comments. If you are doing a nomination, just stand and say who you are nominating. Nominations do not need a 2nd.

Orise asked the audience for permission to allow the out-of-town employees to be able to speak. This includes Mike Henry, Police Chief located at front table, Casey Rowell, and Amanda Fecteau. No objections.

Article 2. Shall the Town accept the Town Report, year ending June 30, 2022?

Motion by Dave Shepard

Seconded by Rob Lewis

Discussion: Brad Ferland thinks the report is very informational but recommends next year's report includes the General Fund fund balance. He thinks this information would be helpful to voters going into Town Meeting. No other comments or concerns.

Motion passed unanimously

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. (Selectboard and Union School District No. 26 Directors, to be voted by Australian Ballot).

First Constable	1 year term	No motion or volunteers, office stays open
Second Constable	1 year term	No motion or volunteers, office stays open
Town Agent	1 year term	No motion or volunteers, office stays open
Surveyor of Wood, Bark and Lumber	1 year term	No motion or volunteers, office stays open
Tree Warden	1 year term	Geoffrey Fehrs nominated by Rachel Kane
Cemetery Trustees	1 year term	
Main Street, Maple Street, Fairview, Sanborn, Hardwick Street, West Hill, Hardwick Center		

Motion made by Karen Collier to nominate the Cemetery Trustees as presented on Page 4 of 2022 Town Report

Motion passed unanimously

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

Motion made by Dave Shepard

Motion passed unanimously

One Library Trustee 3 year term  
Ross Connelly nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith  
Motion passed unanimously

One Library Trustee 3 year term  
Daphne Kalmar nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith  
Motion passed unanimously

One Library Trustee 2 year remaining on a 3-year term  
Kathleen Sampson nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith  
Motion passed unanimously

One Library Trustee 2 year remaining on a 3-year term  
Andrea Brightenbach nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith  
Motion passed unanimously

One Library Trustee 2 year remaining on a 3-year term  
Brendan Buckley nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith  
Motion passed unanimously

Grand Juror 1 year term  
Raymond Bellavance nominated by himself  
Motion passed unanimously

Vacant positions will be turned over to the Select Board to try and fill.

Article 4. Shall the Town have its current taxes collected by the Town Treasurer?  
Motion by Rob Lewis  
Seconded by Dave Mitchell  
Motion passed unanimously

Article 5. Shall the Town vote a budget of three million seven hundred thirty-six thousand twenty-nine dollars (\$3,736,029.00) 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?

Orise stated that this Article was being voted on by Australian Ballot today, she was corrected by several people, Article 5 is voted from the floor. She corrected herself.

Eric Remick began the discussion by asking if everyone could see the budget that Casey Rowell has projected on wall as we will try to use that for walk through in case people have questions. He stated that when the Select Board is preparing budget in the fall for Town Meeting, they try to keep the budget increase roughly inline with inflation and they target to be around 3%. This year and last year inflation was higher which affected the town as well as everything else. The cost for materials is up, especially heating and diesel fuel, salt for the roads and health insurance saw a 20% increase. Employee salaries are increasing in order to keep pace with inflation. All these things increase expenses for the town. Unfortunately, revenues are not increasing at the same pace. Revenues are up 3.78% and the budget is up 4.8%. The net result of this is a proposed tax rate increase of 5.13% to meet the budget.

There were a few things that were moved around, such as lease payments for equipment that we were paying out of equipment capital fund that were moved to line items as suggested by our auditors.

Eric noted that we are voting on a bond for a gravel pit today by Australian ballot. The current budget that we are looking at reflects the bond passing. If the bond doesn't pass that amount in budget will be used to buy gravel and maintain roads, we would just be moving from a bond payment to buying material.

Dave Shepard noticed payroll went up about 15% which is double inflation. He would like to know if that is a multi-year contract or 1 year increase, Eric said it is a one year increase. Partly due to two union contracts which were up for renewal this year. Public Works is a three year contract and police department is a one year contract. David Upson and Eric said we need to be competitive to keep the towns valued workers and pay accordingly so they do not feel underpaid or undervalued and go elsewhere.

Dave Shepard asked what kind of insurance VLCT Insurance is? Eric said that VLCT PACIF is an insurance cooperative that a lot of towns in Vermont pay into that is used to cover property and casualty. It is not health insurance.

Rob Lewis saw that the sand budget has decreased by \$19,000 for coming year and wondered if we are anticipating a free source or a mild winter? Eric said that it is assuming the gravel pit bond passes and we have access to a year's worth of sand at the new gravel pit. If the bond does not pass, we will have to buy sand, but we will not be paying a bond payment.

Brad Ferland questioned the gravel pit and how it impacts this budget. We have a general fund balance as of June 30, 2022 of \$1.2 million, which is an accumulation of surpluses over the years and the highest it has been in a long time. Eric said the target is about \$700,000 range so we are carrying more cash there then we need to or want to. Brad believes town has a policy that says we should maintain 10% balance of what our budget is, and he thinks we have a goal of 20%. Brad says with a budget of \$3.7 million we should have \$370,000 in fund balance. Brad wants to know if access to a portion of fund balance would be better than a bond to reduce bond and reduce interest expense. David Upson said that policy is 15% not 10%, Brad got 10% from auditor's report, if it's 15% than the report is incorrect. Eric said we believes we have committed from \$1.2 million in fund for \$100,000 towards swinging bridge, \$125,000 to offset FY24 property taxes and \$175,000 which was used to offset current taxes in FY23. David Upson said at the end of this fiscal year we expect fund balance to be \$760,000. Brad would like to know where in the budget it is reflected that these payments will be from FY24 budget? Eric informed which pages in town report to find that. Brad feels it needs to be in a better location of the town report, so it is more noticeable to people. He thinks it is misleading where located now.

Steve Fortmann would like to understand the process of where \$500,000 amount was arrived at for the bond. David Upson said the price was a little lower at start of negotiations but a couple of things changed with telecommunications contract and the price went up to \$500,000. There was not a lot of negotiating with that price and he believes there are several other offers pending.

Dave Shepard asked to have the first three items of the police budget explained, specifically why police payroll decreased but overtime and part-time officers increased. David Upson said we have more part-time employees than certified full-time employees and we are relying on more part-time employees to cover shifts. Eric stated there is a cost benefit to the town by doing this because we don't provide insurance for part time employees. David pointed out that finding certified full-time law enforcement officers right now is not an easy task. Eric took a moment to commend Chief Mike Henry for the recruiting and hiring that he has done over the past year. It has been a huge success. Danny said it is a necessity not a choice, we are getting good quality part-time officers right now.

Jennifer Fliegelman inquired why the fireworks were taken out of the budget. Fireworks increased to a \$6,000 minimum show for the upcoming year. However, the \$3,000 that was previously budgeted for fireworks will be committed towards Springfest.

Paul Cillo asked how many full-time and part-time officers we have. Mike Henry said currently there are four full and four part-time, not including himself.

Pollyanna Cooper Levangie asked what the 2<sup>nd</sup> step is if bond does not pass. Eric said the Select Board will reevaluate. Options are to maybe get one more year from current gravel pit or buy material from commercial pits in the area.

Karen Collier said that the Kiwanis have stepped forward and are taking over fireworks along with Springfest. The Town of Hardwick is donating the \$3000 that was in the budget for fireworks, and they will be raising balance. Contact Sherry Lussier if you would like to donate.

Vince Razionale would like to know how many fewer part-time police hours or overtime hours it would take to fund the fireworks show.

Michael Lew-Smith supports the bond but is curious if there is a reason, we shouldn't take some general funds to lower bond amount. Eric said it could be done, the bond wording says, "not to exceed \$500,000" and could be offset with grants and aid. Pollyanna Cooper Levangie asked what kind of interest the excess carried over makes is it comparable to the interest we would pay on the bond? She wants to know if makes sense to use fund money to offset bond if we are not making more money in interest. Eric said we don't want to put ourselves in a position of not having reserve money.

Miles Kamisher-Koch asked that Eric or David elaborate on the telecommunications opportunity effects the purchase of the gravel pit. David said the current owner is researching ways of bringing in revenue so if that happens prior to purchase then we have to deal with that.

Dave Gross asked if we applied for a grant, and it needs a matching portion, does that come from fund balance? Eric said no, fund balance is more of a savings reserve in case of severe overage in budget. Dave asked if legally we can use it for grant matches; Eric said yes, it is town money.

Danny Hale said fund balance is necessary in case of another covid and the government does not give us all that free money. Covid is one of the reasons that our fund balance grew so much.

Brad Ferland questioned fund balance policy again being 10%. He doesn't think Select Board has authority to just spend it. \$750,000 is lot to have sitting around when asking voters to pay increased taxes. He does not think it makes sense to pay interest on a bond.

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane mentioned again that the Select Board is allocating \$125,000 to lowering taxes, and the bond language is to spend "up to \$500,000." We will be trying to get that down from \$500,000.

Nancy Schade thinks the bond is a long-term investment and should be thought of that way.

Brendan Buckley wants to know what the projected life span of the gravel pit is. At current rates of use 4,000 cubic yards of sand and 7,000 cubic yards of gravel, the consultant estimates about 20 years' worth of material that's easily accessible, not including processing ledge.

Lynne Gedanken thinks if the pit is producing for 20 years, then the bond should be for 20 years so that the people benefiting are the people who are paying.

Lucian Avery questioned how much we can discuss bond since it is on Australian ballot. Orise said we can because it is a money item. Lucian looked at the report for gravel pit and talked to people about the Morrisville gravel pit. They did something similar by digging down with an excavator and they thought had 35 years of gravel in there, but it ran out in half that time. Can you bore down to ledge to get a better idea of how much material is in there and you can see how deep the water level is. Is topsoil sold off already? Is some left? Eric said yes, sufficient topsoil is left to reclaim the pit. Lucian asked if pit is currently in compliance of Act 250. Eric said yes. Polly Cooper Levangie said the report says 14 years projected for the pit to last. Eric said that is correct, the consultant used a higher number for gravel then we will use annually.

Raymond Bellavance is wondering how much gravel is under the solar panels in old pit. Eric said that in part of the pit that was done and reclaimed for solar (which is producing electricity for us) that the town hired someone to drill for water for a possible secondary water source. The report states that right below surface, there is



bedrock, not more material. Raymond also asked if the Select Board checked on Willie McAllister's gravel pit, said he has a nice one close to Hardwick. Eric did not know that it was for sale, Tommy said there is not any more gravel there.

Amanda Fecteau asked Orise who made the original motion to pass budget, Town Clerk did not have any notes. Orise stated that motion was made by Dave Shepard. In reviewing Town Meeting footage, it was discovered that a motion was never made. Select Board to consider approval of the Town of Hardwick Budget Vote Resolution (17 V.S.A. § 2662) at the March 16, 2023, Select Board meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

Orise stated appropriations can be voted on as a block if in favor of and then particular appropriations can be pulled separately to be discussed. By a show of hands, the voters approved to vote Articles 6 – 18 as a block. Orise asked if anyone wanted to take out specific appropriation to discuss?

Rob Lewis asked when last time we increased the A.W.A.R.E. appropriation was? Orise stated appropriations come directly from the organizations so that was their request.

Amy Rosenthal would like to discuss Article #16 and #18.

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 two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of the Lamaille 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 four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of the Northeastern Kingdom Council on Aging?

Article 17. 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?

Motion to approve Articles 6 – 15 and Article 17 as a block.

Motion by Dave Shepard

Seconded by Rob Lewis  
Motion passed unanimously

Article 16. 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?

Motion by Dave Gross  
Seconded by Dave Shepard

Amy Rosenthal thinks the amounts of Article 16 and 18 should be switched. Orise said we need to make an amendment to the article and change the dollar amount.

Amy Rosenthal made a motion to change the dollar amount of Article 16 to \$1,000.  
Motion by Amy Rosenthal  
Seconded by Rob Lewis

Sherrie Olmsted said every 3 years she collects NCAL signatures. She thinks Hardwick is fortunate to have NCAL's services. Sherry also shared her feelings regarding Hardwick's dog registration issues.

Dave Gross opposes Amy's amendment since each organization made their request.

Robin Leslie thinks we should vote amendment down. Organizations know what they need.

Lynne Gedanken agrees with Robin, NCAL provides a host of other services than just adoption.

Motion to amend fails

Article 16 passed unanimously

Article 18. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of Justice For Dogs?

Motion by Dave Shepard  
Seconded by Dave Gross  
Motion passed unanimously

Article 19. 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?

Motion by Rob Lewis  
Seconded by Dave Mitchell  
Motion passed unanimously

Article 20. 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?

Motion by Ron Wiesen  
Seconded by Rob Lewis  
Motion passed unanimously

Article 21. To transact any other nonbinding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

Paul Fixx from Northeast Kingdom Broadband, who was appointed by the Select Board to be our representative to NEK Broadband, gave an update on what's happening in their organization.

Rose Friedman would like to open a discussion about town meeting growing. What are people's thoughts on moving to a different day; providing childcare; having a meal afterward; fundraisers, etc. Looking for creative ways to get more people to show up.

Rob Lewis asked if Chip Troiano is coming? Orise said he was planning to arrive.

Lucian Avery said the town still has some free 911 signs. Reach out to the Town Manager's Office if you would like to request one.

Brad Ferland noticed last summer driving through the village that a lot of people have trouble trying to navigate leaving the diner parking lot. He has seen close calls. Is there a way we can we direct people to not cross under the blinking light?

Erin Rosenthal thinks the suggestions from Rose about Town Meeting seem great. She mentioned perhaps a mock Town Meeting for school kids, as she thinks it would be a good way to get them interested early.

As a follow up to Brad Ferland's comment, Dave Gross said the Planning Commission has an ongoing project to improve traffic and safety.

Eric Remick said that regarding Brad's comment about people crossing, the road crew did put up a split rail fence at the edge of the village parking lot but it did not seem to deter people as much as thought. Regarding Rose's comment he thinks that it is a great thing for people to think about and that the Select Board picks the date and time of Town Meeting around the first of the year. Shari Cornish asked Eric to remind people that we may be moving Town Meeting back to the Town House next year.

Rob Lewis thanked the Select Board and Highway Department for the work on sidewalks and curbs last summer.

Ann Gilcris wants to know if Town Meeting is moved to Town Hall where are people going to park and walk safely. She thinks the school works best for the community.

Karen Collier agrees with Ann. She loves the Town House and thinks it is a beautiful building; however, she thinks the school is a better place and easier to move around in. The Town House is not conducive to sit down, it is not the place to have Town Meeting.

Orise stated that representative Chip Troiano had arrived and if no one objects to him speaking, since he is not a Hardwick resident, she will allow him to speak.

Danny Hale made a motion to adjourn meeting and then have Chip speak.

Motion by Rob Lewis  
Seconded by Danny Hale  
Motion fails

At 11:45 a.m. our State Representative, Chip Troiano, took to the floor and gave an update on what is happening in the State House. He shared some bills that are hot topics right now, including childcare, the Affordable Heat

Act, and the family leave bill. He shared about his work on various committees at the State House and gave people an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Karen Collier  
Seconded by Robin Leslie  
Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Tonia Chase, Town Clerk

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*End of minutes*

# Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

137 Barre Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 [www.cvswwmd.org](http://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. CVSWMD's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and services for residents and businesses in reducing and managing their solid waste in order to protect public health and the environment. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates, and providing information and resources to our member communities. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.00 for fiscal year 2025.

Hardwick's appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors is Shari Cornish.

CVSWMD continues to provide valuable programs and services to its residents, including:

**Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC is located in Barre City, Vermont. We work with the State of Vermont to recycle TVs, computers and computer peripherals, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs and thermostats for free for Vermont residents. We also accept dozens of hard-to-recycle items that cannot be recycled in curbside recycling. In FY23, 352,978 lbs. of materials were collected and diverted from the landfill. ARCC operations came to an abrupt halt on July 10 when the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River surged through the facility, destroying most of our equipment and leaving up to three feet of mud in its wake. While simultaneously conducting emergency operations for our member towns, CVSWMD staff, with aid from FEMA and the State, began what would become a 5-month cleanup and refitting of the ARCC with a reopening on November 27.

**Grants:** CVSWMD continues to offer several grant programs: the Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse Program (OWRRP); the Municipal Services Program (MSP); the Emergency Municipal Solid Waste Response Program (EMSWRP); and the School Zero Waste (SZW) program. In FY23, CVSWMD awarded \$23,312 in grant funding to towns, businesses, organizations, and schools in our District. Green-Up Day grants totaling \$5,964 were also distributed. The town of Hardwick received \$5,000 through our Municipal Services Program.

**Outreach and Education:** CVSWMD maintains its website with useful information on what can (and can't) be recycled, what is landfill banned (and how to dispose of those), what can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, and an A-Z Guide providing guidance to dispose of all types of waste. CVSWMD provides monthly newsletters and is active on social media, communicating waste management information and program updates to residents. Our knowledgeable staff provides guidance to residents and local businesses regarding all their waste management questions and concerns. CVSWMD's Outreach program continues to offer Waste Warrior trainings and composting workshops to District residents and event organizers.

**Household Hazardous Waste:** In FY23, CVSWMD held five one-day collections throughout the District and helped 533 resident households dispose of 43,593 lbs. of hazardous waste. CVSWMD is currently working to open a year-round collection facility in Berlin that will collect waste that is labeled for and sold for home use. The District has reached a host-town agreement with the Town of Berlin for siting our "Eco-Depot," and is in the process of acquiring permitting and purchasing the property with a goal of opening in January 2025. Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation has provided a generous grant to facilitate the project. In time, CVSWMD hopes to consolidate all its operations on the 5.2-acre site.

**School Program:** In FY23 the CVSWMD School Zero Waste Program reached 4600 students, grades K-12, through 165 classroom/schoolyard programs, cafeteria visits, etc. Topics presented and initiatives supported included living more sustainably, engaging in the "Rs" (recycling, repurposing, reusing, etc.), utilizing food scraps as a natural resource, classroom worm composting, special recycling initiatives, etc. Support was also provided to school food services departments in reducing cafeteria waste, and school custodial in proper disposal of books, batteries, mercury-containing bulbs, and electronic waste through the CVSWMD ARCC, as well as the management and proper disposal of school-generated hazardous waste, including via District collection events.

**Compost and Zero Waste:** CVSWMD sells Green Cone food digesters, Soil Saver composting bins, recycling bins, and kitchen compost buckets to District residents at discounted rates. We will also continue to offer our Event Kit and Bin Loan programs on a first-come, first-serve basis to help reduce and manage waste at events held within the District. These programs have been put on hold due to our inventory being destroyed by the July flooding, but we plan to re-establish them as soon as possible.

**Emergency Operations:** In the aftermath of the July flood, [CVSWMD](#) teams cruised the streets of Montpelier and Barre, pulling paint cans, fluorescents, motor oil, batteries and a slew of other items that had been mixed with regular trash, in order to prevent their transport to the landfill. [The District](#) also called all member towns to offer organized collection events. These were provided in Barre City and Barre Town (who generously accepted drop-offs from neighboring Williamstown, Orange and Washington), where we partnered with [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) staff to ensure that collected items were handled and packaged correctly. Additionally, CVSWMD played a major role in connecting towns with vital State and Federal subsidized debris remediation programs.

CVSWMD posts useful information on what can (and can't) be recycled, what items are banned from the landfill (and how to dispose of those), what items can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, Act 148, details about our special collections, and an A-to-Z Guide listing disposal options for many materials. For specific questions, call (802) 229-9383.

# Town of Hardwick General Information:

Visit us at [www.hardwickvt.gov](http://www.hardwickvt.gov)

**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 7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. Fridays 7:30 – 11:30 A.M.

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 for convenience, but the mandatory due date for the entire amount 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: [tonia.chase@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:tonia.chase@hardwickvt.gov) or [alberta.miller@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:alberta.miller@hardwickvt.gov)

## **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.

**Hardwick Zoning Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday - 8:00 am to Noon. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday - by appointment or by chance. Phone: 472-1686 Email: [zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov)

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.

**\*\*\* 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:**

Hardwick Town Garage: 472-6029

Hardwick Rescue Squad: 472-6343

Hardwick Fire Department: 472-5482

Hardwick Electric: 472-5201

Hardwick Area Food Pantry: 472-5940

Hardwick Health Officer (Eric Remick): 472-8025

Hardwick Water/Wastewater Operator: 472-5939

Jeudevine Memorial Library: 472-5948

# **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) 80 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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  
David Upson, Town Manager  
***Effective Date 2024-2025***

**The river speaks**  
**By Ursa Goldenrose, 13, of Hardwick**

There is a web  
and it holds us.  
Pieces come apart,  
so we help rebuild it.

We are a species  
that has forgotten  
our place  
on the web,  
so the Earth reminds us.  
It shows us that  
there are some lines  
that we do not cross,  
and if we do cross them,  
the water rises,  
pushing us back.

The water comes  
and it takes.  
It's the destruction of what we've built,  
but also  
the reconstruction  
of the natural world.

The water roars,  
it cries,  
and it heals,  
even when we feel hurt.

It washes over the land  
that was stolen  
and poisoned.  
It warns us  
as we build our walls.

The river speaks.  
It wills us to understand  
years of neglect,  
hurt, and carelessness  
that've seeped into the sand.

The river is strong,  
stronger than us.  
It will  
reclaim its path,  
slowly healing the world.

We are a thread  
in a web that  
is breaking.  
We have forgotten  
the path.  
We have forgotten  
the way  
the river speaks.  
It wills us to understand  
this is not just our land.