

2024

Hardwick Town Report



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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. If you would like a copy of the Hardwick Electric Department audit report, please contact Hardwick Electric at (802) 472-5201.

****Want to attend Town meeting, but don't have anyone
to watch your children?!****
The Civic Standard will provide childcare during the meeting.
Email thecivicstandard@gmail.com to sign up.

Dedication



Tom Fadden, *Retired* Fire Chief

In 1985, Tom Fadden was voted in as a member of Hardwick's volunteer fire department and since that time, he has spent countless hours serving area communities. Tom grew up in Hardwick and is a third generation Hardwick Firefighter.

During his 39 years in the department, he grew through the ranks from Member to Foreman in 1990, 2nd Lieutenant in 1993, 2nd Assistant Chief in 1999, 1st Assistant Chief in 2001, and Chief from 2011 until his recent retirement in 2024.

Tom was instrumental in getting the Hardwick Fire Department a tanker truck from a grant along with other grants for equipment and gear. He was an instructor for the Lamoille Area Firefighters course.

In an article written by Nathan Meunier in the December 7, 2005, edition of the *Hardwick Gazette*, it was noted that Tom (then Asst. Chief) was recognized with a letter of commendation from the Town Manager Daniel Hill for his performance during a November 25 fire. Hill read "Assistant Chief Tom Fadden was in charge of multiple fire departments during the blaze and also responsible for overall site management during the event. Due to his calm and steady leadership we were able to save most of our main business district and part of the Bemis building." Furthermore, "Assistant Chief Tom Fadden is a credit to the Hardwick Fire Department and the Town of Hardwick in general."

In another article by Michael Bielawski in the November 9, 2016, issue of the *Hardwick Gazette*, Tom said having to give up evenings on a whim is just part of the nature of the work.

Whether it be as Road Foreman or Firefighter, the Town of Hardwick is grateful for your dedication.

TOWN OFFICIALS (ELECTED AND APPOINTED)

TOWN MODERATOR Term Expires 2025	Orise Ainsworth
SELECT BOARD 1 Year Term Expires 2025 1 Year Term Expires 2025 3 Year Term Expires 2025 3 Year Term Expires 2026 3 Year Term Expires 2027	Eric Remick Timothy Ricciardello Danny Hale Ceilidh Galloway-Kane Shari Cornish
TOWN CLERK & TOWN TREASURER 3 Year Term Expires 2025	Tonia Chase
TOWN AGENT 1 Year Terms Expires 2025	Vacant
SURVEYOR OF WOOD, BARK & LUMBER 1 Year Term Expires 2025	Vacant
TREE WARDEN 1 Year Term Expires 2025	Geoffrey Fehrs
TOWN GRAND JUROR 1 Year Term Expires 2025	Raymond Bellavance
FIRST CONSTABLE 1 Year Term Expires 2025	Lawrence Hamel
SECOND CONSTABLE 1 Year Term Expires 2025	Lindsey O'Steen

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

1 Year Terms Expires 2025

MAIN STREET CEMETERY	Select Board
MAPLE STREET CEMETERY	Select Board
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY	Select Board
SANBORN CEMETERY	Select Board
WEST HILL CEMETERY	Select Board
HARDWICK STREET CEMETERY	Select Board
HARDWICK CENTER CEMETERY	Select Board

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

1 Year Term Expires 2025	Town Manager
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LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Lauren Honican
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Abrah Griggs

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1 Year Term Expires 2025

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

SCHOOL DIRECTORS - HARDWICK

Term Expires 2025	Kevin Moore
Term Expires 2026	Adam Gann
Term Expires 2026 – Appointed for 2 years remaining on 3-year term	Donald Cota
Term Expires 2027	Doreen Cota
Term Expires 2027	Terri Vest

HAZEN UNION DIRECTORS – HARDWICK

Term Expires 2025	Patrick Kane
Term Expires 2026 – Appointed for 2 years remaining on 3-year term	Margaret Bledsoe
Term Expires 2026 – Appointed for 2 years remaining on 3-year term	Terri Vest
Term Expires 2027	Sabrina Morrison

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Ken Davis
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Tyler Buswell
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	Lesia Cathcart
4 Year Term Expires 2028	Erik Erbes
4 Year Term Expires 2028	Ben Pougner
4 Year Term Expires 2028	Norma Wiesen
EQUITY COMMITTEE	
Chair	Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Secretary	Jan Mueller
Treasurer	David O'Brien
Member	Amy Rosenthal
Member	Vacant
Member	Vacant
RECREATION COMMITTEE	
Chair	Mallory Greaves
Vice Chair	Emily Varvir
Secretary	Sara Behrsing
Treasurer	Vacant
Member	Vacant
Member	Vacant
Recreation Coordinator	Jason Bahner
HARDWICK ELECTRIC COMMISSIONERS	
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Michael Ambrosino
2 Year Term Expires 2025	Lynne Gedanken
3 Year Term Expires 2026	Myles Kamisher-Koch
2 Year Term Expires 2026	Roger Prevot
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Renaud Demers
HARDWICK PLANNING COMMISSION	
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Jim Lewis
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Bud Stevens
3 Year Term Expires 2027	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
HARDWICK DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD	
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
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Ruth Gaillard
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Gillian D'Acerno
3 Year Term Expires 2027	Helm Notterman
TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE	
Chair	Bill Chidsey
Member	Emily Hershberger

**WARNING TOWN OF HARDWICK
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 04, 2025**

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 04, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business:

The polls for Australian ballot voting 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, 2024?

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, Town Clerk/Treasurer 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	1-year term
Main Street, Maple Street, Fairview, Sanborn, Hardwick Street, West Hill, Hardwick Center	
Fire Dept. Officers (can be voted as one)	1-year term
One Library Trustee	3-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 four hundred seventeen thousand seven hundred fifty two dollars (\$4,417,752) 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 three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of AWARE?

Article 7. 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 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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 12. 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 13. 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 14. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Historical Society?

Article 15. 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 16. 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 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 five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?

Article 19. 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 Northeast Kingdom Human Services?

Article 20. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Learning Services?

Article 21. 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 22. 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 23. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees, bailees, of real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees or operators who construct, acquire or renovate industrial and/or commercial real property, including additions to existing property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to the provision of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?


Article 24. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with operators of agricultural real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees, or operators who


construct acquire or renovate, or who intend to construct, acquire or renovate agricultural real property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount in money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to provisions of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

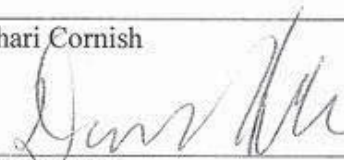
Article 25. To transact any other nonbinding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

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 16th day of January, A.D. 2025.


Eric Remick, Chair


Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair

Shari Cornish

Danny Hale


Timothy Ricciardello

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 17th day of January, A.D. 2025 at 7 O'clock 30 minutes a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.

Attest: Tonia L. Chase, Town Clerk: 

**FY2026 Estimated Tax Rate based on Proposed FY2026 Budget
and Impact on a \$100,000 home**

FY2026 Estimated Tax Rate

FY 2026 Proposed Property Taxes	\$3,386,157
Estimated Grand List July 1, 2025	\$331,000,000.00
FY 2026 Estimated Tax rate	\$0.01023
Value per \$100	\$1.023
FY2025 Municipal Tax rate	\$0.01527
Value per \$100	\$1.527

Impact on a \$100,000 home

Estimated FY2026 municipal tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,023.01
FY2025 tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,527.10
Increase (decrease) in FY2026 before appropriations	(\$504.09)

Estimated increase in Tax Rate reflected in actual dollars/100 (\$0.5041)

Percent Increase (decrease) in Property Tax rate from FY2025 to FY2026 -33.01%

Impact of Appropriations on a \$100,000 home

Estimated value of Appropriations	\$51,961.00
Proposed Property Taxes with Appropriations	\$3,438,117.77
FY2026 Estimated Tax rate	\$0.0104
Value per \$100	\$1.039
Estimated FY2026 municipal tax liability on a \$100,000 home	\$1,038.71
Increase (decrease) in FY2026 on a \$100,000 home	(\$488.39)

Estimated increase in Tax Rate reflected in actual dollars/100 (\$0.4884)

Percent Increase (decrease) in Property Tax rate from FY2025 to FY2026 -31.98%

Impact of Appropriations on Tax Rate

Article 6.	AWARE	\$3,500.00
Article 7.	Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice	\$2,600.00
Article 8.	Center for an Agricultural Economy	\$4,000.00
Article 9.	Craftsbury Community Care Center	\$2,500.00
Article 10.	Greensboro Nursing Home	\$5,000.00
Article 11.	Hardwick Area Food Pantry	\$5,000.00
Article 12.	Hardwick Community Television	\$3,000.00
Article 13.	Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Inc.	\$2,800.00
Article 14.	Hardwick Historical Society	\$3,000.00
Article 15.	Justice For Dogs	\$1,000.00
Article 16.	Lamoille Family Center	\$2,500.00
Article 17.	Northeast Kingdom Arts Council, Inc. (NEKarts)	\$3,500.00
Article 18.	Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	\$4,500.00
Article 19.	Northeast Kingdom Human Services	\$3,161.00
Article 20.	Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	\$1,000.00
Article 21.	Rural Community Transportation, Inc.	\$3,400.00
Article 22.	Salvation Farms, Inc.	\$1,500.00

The total requested appropriations are \$51,961.00. If all the requested appropriations are approved, we would need a tax rate of approximately \$.0157 cents. This means that you will be paying \$15.70 on your 2025-2026 tax bill for every \$100,000 of Grand List Value.

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Projected Revenues

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
School Tax Admin Fee	\$6,872	\$6,500	\$7,078	\$578	8.90%
PILOT	\$204,949	\$140,398	\$147,898	\$7,500	5.34%
Current Use Hold Harm	\$176,485	\$174,470	\$181,780	\$7,310	4.19%
Delinquent Charges	\$22,617	\$22,000	\$22,500	\$500	2.27%
Tax Sale Interest	\$56	\$500	\$100	(\$400)	-80.00%
Zoning Permits	\$2,815	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Licenses and Fees	\$3,102	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
Recording Fees	\$15,776	\$23,000	\$19,000	(\$4,000)	-17.39%
Dog Licenses	\$1,514	\$2,500	\$1,500	(\$1,000)	-40.00%
DMV Fees	\$207	\$350	\$250	(\$100)	-28.57%
State Highway Aid	\$157,830	\$154,823	\$167,476	\$12,653	8.17%
Grant-in-Aid Revenue	\$0	\$21,000	\$20,000	(\$1,000)	-4.76%
West Woodbury Revenue	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$2,000	33.33%
Copying Fees	\$11,037	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0	0.00%
Hardwick PD Ticket Rev	\$16,881	\$15,000	\$17,000	\$2,000	13.33%
PD SIU Revenue	\$3,750	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	100.00%
Outside Services-PD	\$1,376	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	100.00%
Sale of Equipment/Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Interest on Investments	\$42,511	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$15,000	75.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,676	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	100.00%
Insurance Payout	\$101,206	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Water Transfer	\$141,671	\$167,939	\$186,678	\$18,739	11.16%
Sewer Transfer	\$128,550	\$154,264	\$172,236	\$17,972	11.65%
ARPA One-time Funds	\$9,930	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Room Rent	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
PD Vest Grant	\$664	\$850	\$650	(\$200)	-23.53%
PD Vast Patrol	\$1,760	\$6,500	\$4,000	(\$2,500)	-38.46%
State Highway Safety Grants	\$21,397	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.00%
Misc. Grants	\$189,489	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Green Up Day Grant	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Total Revenues	\$1,270,521	\$952,044	\$1,031,595	\$79,551	8.36%
Total Budget	\$4,010,484	\$4,018,083	\$4,417,752	\$399,668	9.95%
Property Taxes	\$2,739,963	\$3,066,040	\$3,386,157	\$320,117	10.44%

Budget Summary

Highway/Garage	\$ 1,466,230	\$ 1,072,256	\$ 1,112,852	\$ 40,596	3.79%
Police Department	\$ 826,244	\$ 893,902	\$ 1,014,585	\$ 120,683	13.50%
Office Expenses	\$ 644,847	\$ 709,750	\$ 906,980	\$ 197,230	27.79%
Payroll (Elected & Appointed)	\$ 16,181	\$ 16,863	\$ 16,778	\$ (85)	-0.50%
Fire Department	\$ 84,616	\$ 45,684	\$ 46,702	\$ 1,017	2.23%
Line Items	\$ 1,081,710	\$ 1,181,348	\$ 1,229,241	\$ 47,893	4.05%
Buildings	\$ 93,441	\$ 98,281	\$ 90,615	\$ (7,666)	-7.80%
Total Budget	\$ 4,213,269	\$ 4,018,083	\$ 4,417,752	\$ 399,668	9.95%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Highway Department

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Public Works Payroll (6 FT)	\$359,670	\$382,029	\$394,992	\$12,963	3.39%
Overtime	\$36,223	\$29,000	\$30,000	\$1,000	3.45%
Sewer Operator	\$768	\$500	\$750	\$250	50.00%
Social Security Expense	\$28,399	\$28,772	\$31,619	\$2,847	9.90%
Workers' Compensation	\$22,487	\$23,859	\$23,809	(\$50)	-0.21%
Unemployment Insurance	\$416	\$600	\$416	(\$184)	-30.67%
VLCT/PACIF	\$12,416	\$13,022	\$13,727	\$705	5.41%
Health Insurance	\$132,123	\$135,278	\$154,770	\$19,492	14.41%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$6,843	\$8,124	\$8,157	\$34	0.41%
Retirement Expense	\$27,835	\$28,772	\$30,812	\$2,040	7.09%
Operating Expense/Supplies	\$19,260	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$1,000	5.88%
Permits/Fees	\$4,088	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Telephone/Internet	\$1,341	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Culverts	\$11,412	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$1,000	15.38%
Grant-in-Aid Expense	\$0	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$0	0.00%
Uniforms	\$7,799	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$500	6.67%
Line Painting/Crosswalks	\$861	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Road Signs	\$2,729	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500	50.00%
Streetscape Maintenance	\$906	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Storm Drains	\$3,268	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$500	25.00%
Safety/Training	\$330	\$1,500	\$1,000	(\$500)	-33.33%
Equipment Expense	\$90,889	\$65,000	\$80,000	\$15,000	23.08%
Gasoline Fuel	\$4,024	\$5,000	\$4,500	(\$500)	-10.00%
Diesel Fuel	\$58,643	\$75,000	\$65,000	(\$10,000)	-13.33%
July 2023 Flood	\$426,002	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Gravel Pit Operation	\$47,064	\$60,000	\$70,000	\$10,000	16.67%
Ditch Stone	\$7,806	\$3,500	\$0	(\$3,500)	-100.00%
Hydroseeding	\$1,751	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Mud Season Material	\$28,174	\$4,000	\$0	(\$4,000)	-100.00%
Chloride	\$10,827	\$20,000	\$12,000	(\$8,000)	-40.00%
E. Hardwick Sidewalks	\$599	\$600	\$599	(\$1)	-0.17%
Roadside Mowing	\$0	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$2,000	25.00%
Paving/Patching	\$5,683	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$500	11.11%
Brush Cutting	\$12,010	\$10,000	\$8,000	(\$2,000)	-20.00%
Downtown Maintenance/Trash	\$2,717	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$3,500	233.33%
Street Sweeping	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$500	11.11%
Winter Sand	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	50.00%
Salt	\$84,368	\$100,000	\$90,000	(\$10,000)	-10.00%
Totals	\$1,466,230	\$1,072,256	\$1,112,852	\$40,596	3.79%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Office Expenses

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF</u>
Town Manager's Office Staff Payroll (5 FT/1 PT)	\$273,339	\$320,386	\$428,431	\$108,045	33.72%
Town Clerk's Office Payroll (2 FT)	\$104,654	\$110,196	\$117,201	\$7,005	6.36%
Social Security/Child Care Tax	\$26,143	\$30,141	\$40,595	\$10,454	34.68%
Workers' Compensation	\$2,841	\$2,004	\$2,535	\$531	26.47%
Unemployment Insurance	\$506	\$520	\$550	\$30	5.77%
VLCT/PACIF	\$2,812	\$2,673	\$2,991	\$318	11.88%
Health Insurance	\$127,480	\$159,245	\$197,226	\$37,981	23.85%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$6,577	\$6,544	\$8,135	\$1,591	24.31%
Retirement Expense	\$22,213	\$30,141	\$37,316	\$7,175	23.80%
Town Manager Supplies	\$5,068	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0	0.00%
Town Clerk Supplies	\$3,942	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Town Report Expense	\$3,573	\$3,500	\$3,800	\$300	8.57%
Conferences/Dues/Mileage	\$805	\$1,200	\$1,000	(\$200)	-16.67%
Tax Billing/Collection Exp.	\$1,233	\$1,600	\$1,400	(\$200)	-12.50%
Telephone	\$3,768	\$3,800	\$4,000	\$200	5.26%
Advertising	\$1,868	\$2,500	\$2,200	(\$300)	-12.00%
Copier	\$0	\$250	\$100	(\$150)	-60.00%
Election Expense	\$238	\$2,000	\$500	(\$1,500)	-75.00%
Software/Computer/Tech. Services	\$17,292	\$14,000	\$39,000	\$25,000	178.57%
Misc Grant Expense	\$10,675	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
July 2023 Flood	\$21,452	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Purchases	\$2,570	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.00%
Assessor Supplies	\$2,122	\$2,300	\$2,500	\$200	8.70%
Education/Training	\$425	\$750	\$1,500	\$750	100.00%
Zoning Supplies	\$3,253	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
Totals	\$644,847	\$709,750	\$906,980	\$197,230	27.79%

Other Payroll

Public Official's Liability	\$3,280	\$2,813	\$2,918	\$105	3.73%
Election Officials	\$0	\$500	\$200	(\$300)	-60.00%
Planning/DRB Board	\$2,775	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$0	0.00%
Board of Civil Authority	\$60	\$50	\$60	\$10	20.00%
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	\$25	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
Town Service Officer	\$50	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.00%
Part Time Labor	\$453	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Health Officer	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.00%
Town Website Coordinator	\$600	\$600	\$900	\$300	50.00%
Social Security Expense	\$3,088	\$3,500	\$3,300	(\$200)	-5.71%
Totals	\$16,181	\$16,863	\$16,778	(\$85)	-0.50%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Police Department

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF</u>
Police Payroll (6 including Chief)	\$387,981	\$464,695	\$538,971	\$74,276	15.98%
Overtime	\$56,771	\$54,898	\$58,716	\$3,818	6.95%
Part-Time Officers (1-2)	\$46,898	\$60,000	\$40,000	(\$20,000)	-33.33%
Social Security Expense	\$38,178	\$40,572	\$47,444	\$6,872	16.94%
Workers' Compensation	\$34,104	\$36,299	\$36,405	\$107	0.29%
Unemployment Insurance	\$893	\$1,200	\$982	(\$218)	-18.14%
VLCT/PACIF	\$18,693	\$21,175	\$27,419	\$6,244	29.49%
July 2023 Flood	\$9,975	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Health Insurance	\$43,184	\$52,549	\$88,689	\$36,140	68.77%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$5,148	\$5,383	\$8,004	\$2,621	48.69%
Retirement Expense	\$47,034	\$59,475	\$69,332	\$9,857	16.57%
Supplies	\$7,463	\$7,000	\$7,500	\$500	7.14%
Training	\$4,607	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	12.50%
Memberships	\$0	\$350	\$150	(\$200)	-57.14%
Legal Expenses	\$68	\$2,000	\$1,500	(\$500)	-25.00%
Internet Communications	\$2,877	\$2,800	\$3,000	\$200	7.14%
Dispatch Services	\$30,588	\$31,506	\$32,423	\$917	2.91%
Telephone	\$3,739	\$3,800	\$4,000	\$200	5.26%
Vehicle Maintenance	\$26,865	\$6,000	\$7,500	(\$2,000)	-33.33%
Advertising	\$1,214	\$400	\$500	\$100	25.00%
Radio Service	\$453	\$1,000	\$800	(\$200)	-20.00%
Investigation Expense	\$4,620	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	100.00%
Uniforms (Cleaning)	\$289	\$1,200	\$1,000	(\$200)	-16.67%
Uniform Purchases	\$1,702	\$4,000	\$3,000	(\$1,000)	-25.00%
Gasoline	\$9,434	\$13,000	\$11,000	(\$2,000)	-15.38%
Tires	\$1,350	\$2,000	\$1,500	(\$500)	-25.00%
Education	\$0	\$1,000	\$500	(\$500)	-50.00%
Equipment	\$3,757	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.00%
Total PD Operating Exp.	\$787,885	\$881,302	\$1,000,835	\$119,533	13.56%
SIU Expense	\$1,615	\$1,000	\$1,750	\$750	75.00%
Enforcement/Safety/Misc. Grants	\$7,562	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Grants	\$26,599	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.00%
Vest Grant	\$2,584	\$1,100	\$1,500	\$400	36.36%
Total Special PD Expenses	\$38,359	\$12,600	\$13,750	\$1,150	9.13%
Total PD Expenses	\$826,244	\$893,902	\$1,014,585	\$120,683	13.50%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Buildings

<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>	<u>DIFF.</u>

Memorial Building

Custodial Services Expense	\$10,738	\$11,324	\$11,060	\$ (264)	-2.33%
Custodial S.S. Expense	\$733	\$793	\$823	\$ 30	3.81%
VLCT/PACIF	\$3,057	\$2,969	\$3,580	\$ 611	20.58%
Operating Exp/Supplies	\$4,393	\$4,000	\$4,400	\$ 400	10.00%
Building Maint./Repair	\$4,336	\$4,000	\$4,300	\$ 300	7.50%
Flood 2023	\$3,464	\$0	\$0	\$ -	0.00%
Utilities	\$5,183	\$5,289	\$5,598	\$ 309	5.85%
Fuel Oil	\$8,468	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$ (2,000)	-16.67%
Elevator/Fire Alarm	\$2,103	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ -	0.00%
Generator	\$0	\$200	\$100	\$ (100)	-50.00%
Totals	\$42,475	\$43,075	\$42,361	\$ (714)	-1.66%

Public Safety Building

VLCT/PACIF	\$3,423	\$3,293	\$3,440	\$ 147	4.46%
Operating Expenses	\$659	\$1,500	\$750	\$ (750)	-50.00%
Building Maint./Repair	\$1,603	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$ (500)	-25.00%
Utilities	\$2,889	\$2,962	\$3,178	\$ 216	7.28%
Fuel Oil	\$4,505	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$ (500)	-7.69%
Custodial Services Expense	\$6,615	\$6,430	\$4,500	\$ (1,930)	-30.02%
Custodial Serv. S.S. Expense	\$505	\$450	\$335	\$ (115)	-25.62%
Totals	\$20,199	\$23,135	\$19,703	\$ (3,433)	-14.84%

Fire Station

VLCT/PACIF	\$3,216	\$3,308	\$3,758	\$ 450	13.60%
Utilities	\$2,820	\$2,600	\$2,961	\$ 361	13.88%
Fuel Oil	\$4,982	\$8,500	\$7,000	\$ (1,500)	-17.65%
Building Maint./Repair	\$161	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ -	0.00%
Totals	\$ 11,179	\$ 15,408	\$14,719	\$ (689)	-4.47%

Highway Garage

Heating Fuel	\$3,696	\$5,500	\$1,985	\$ (3,515)	-63.91%
Building Maint./Repair	\$3,462	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$ 1,500	100.00%
Utilities - Garage	\$3,768	\$4,650	\$4,144	\$ (506)	-10.87%
Totals	\$10,926	\$11,650	\$9,129	\$ (2,521)	-21.64%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Buildings continued...

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Town House					
VLCT/PACIF	\$1,868	\$1,851	\$2,288	\$437	23.61%
Building Maint./Repair	\$402	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
Utilities	\$375	\$375	\$425	\$50	13.33%
Totals	\$2,644	\$3,226	\$3,713	\$487	15.10%
Historical Depot					
VLCT/PACIF	\$178	\$187	\$190	\$3	1.60%
Building Maint./Repair	\$4,151	\$300	\$300	\$0	0.00%
Totals	\$4,329	\$487	\$490	\$3	0.62%
Carey Rd. Property					
VLCT/PACIF	\$148	\$163	\$0	-\$163	-100.00%
Totals	\$148	\$163	\$0	-\$163	-100.00%
Yellow Barn					
VLCT/PACIF	\$177	\$188	\$0	-\$188	-100.00%
Maintenance	\$1,214	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Utilities	\$150	\$450	\$0	-\$450	-100.00%
Totals	\$1,541	\$1,138	\$500	-\$638	-56.06%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Fire Department

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Labor	\$6,825	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.00%
Social Security	\$502	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Workers' Compensation	\$1,219	\$1,280	\$1,256	(\$24)	-1.88%
Liability Insurance	\$4,511	\$4,251	\$4,888	\$637	14.97%
Operating Exp./Supplies	\$3,981	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$500	20.00%
Dispatch Service	\$13,109	\$13,502	\$14,158	\$656	4.86%
Phone/Internet	\$1,201	\$1,500	\$1,300	(\$200)	-13.33%
Gasoline	\$0	\$100	\$50	(\$50)	-50.00%
Diesel Fuel	\$1,231	\$1,650	\$1,250	(\$400)	-24.24%
July 2023 Flood	\$41,210	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Purchases	\$6,696	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Repair	\$4,131	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.00%
Training	\$0	\$400	\$300	(\$100)	-25.00%
Totals	\$84,616	\$45,684	\$46,702	\$1,017	2.23%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Line Items

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Auditing	\$20,130	\$18,750	\$29,000	\$10,250	54.67%
Animal Control	\$2,596	\$3,200	\$3,000	(\$200)	-6.25%
Professional Services	\$16,381	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.00%
Assessor Services	\$41,400	\$43,200	\$45,000	\$1,800	4.17%
NVDA	\$2,482	\$2,482	\$2,774	\$292	11.76%
VLCT	\$4,949	\$5,196	\$5,214	\$18	0.35%
Jeudevine Memorial Library	\$138,528	\$161,449	\$181,010	\$19,561	12.12%
Memorial Day	\$600	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Caspian Lake	\$3,650	\$4,500	\$4,750	\$250	5.56%
Cemeteries	\$26,563	\$23,000	\$28,000	\$5,000	21.74%
Capital Equipment Fund	\$150,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$0	0.00%
Capital Fire Equipment Fund	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	25.00%
Capital Road Fund	\$170,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$0	0.00%
Capital General Fund	\$129,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
Loader & Grader Payment	\$0	\$57,000	\$57,012	\$12	0.02%
Loader Debt Payment	\$11,506	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Mackville Rd. Bond Payment	\$21,575	\$21,377	\$20,519	(\$858)	-4.01%
Gravel Pit Bond Payment	\$15,451	\$43,650	\$43,160	(\$490)	-1.12%
Library Bond Payment	\$0	\$48,000	\$47,500	(\$500)	-1.04%
2014 Fire Truck Bond Payment	\$32,613	\$32,200	\$30,454	(\$1,746)	-5.42%
2021 Fire Truck Bond Payment	\$22,671	\$21,218	\$21,079	(\$139)	-0.66%
Tax Mapping	\$3,300	\$8,000	\$4,000	(\$4,000)	-50.00%
Solid Waste District	\$2,920	\$2,920	\$2,920	\$0	0.00%
Streetlights	\$23,392	\$23,866	\$24,562	\$696	2.92%
Memorial Park Electricity	\$128	\$175	\$150	(\$25)	-14.29%
Employment Practices Ins.	\$5,883	\$5,605	\$5,832	\$227	4.05%
Community Crime Ins.	\$1,014	\$867	\$836	(\$31)	-3.61%
Town Service Officer Expenses	\$0	\$750	\$500	(\$250)	-33.33%
Hazard Mitigation	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	100.00%
Cyber Security	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
Tax Sale Expense	\$2,049	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$500	33.33%
Tax Abatement Expense	\$15,431	\$300	\$500	\$200	66.67%
Restricted Donation Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Insurance Deductibles	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Pedestrian Bridge Planning	\$73,790	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Conservation Commission	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Equity Committee	\$911	\$2,500	\$1,500	(\$1,000)	-40.00%
Recreation Dept.	\$18,526	\$21,565	\$20,412	(\$1,153)	-5.35%
Hardwick Trails	\$8,886	\$11,158	\$11,577	\$419	3.76%
County & Gravel Pit Taxes	\$19,719	\$34,200	\$36,008	\$1,808	5.29%
Rescue Squad	\$72,762	\$90,220	\$96,472	\$6,252	6.93%
Totals	\$1,081,710	\$1,181,348	\$1,229,241	\$47,893	4.05%

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	Police Cruiser	SPEND TOTAL	FUNDS SET ASIDE	ACCOUNT BALANCE
Bal 6/30/24														\$ 38,267
2025												\$0	\$175,000	\$213,267
2026				\$280,000							\$50,000	\$330,000	\$175,000	\$58,267
2027		\$180,000								\$65,000	\$52,000	\$297,000	\$200,000	-\$38,733
2028								\$15,000			\$52,000	\$67,000	\$225,000	\$119,267
2029					\$130,000	\$60,000					\$53,000	\$243,000	\$235,000	\$111,267
2030							\$45,000					\$45,000	\$245,000	\$311,267
2031			\$280,000								\$54,000	\$334,000	\$250,000	\$227,267
2032	\$280,000									\$75,000	\$54,000	\$409,000	\$250,000	\$68,267
2033											\$55,000	\$55,000	\$240,000	\$253,267
2034											\$55,000	\$55,000	\$230,000	\$428,267
2035					\$140,000			\$18,000				\$158,000	\$230,000	\$500,267
2036				\$300,000							\$57,000	\$357,000	\$230,000	\$373,267
2037		\$180,000								\$80,000	\$57,000	\$317,000	\$230,000	\$286,267
2038									\$185,000		\$58,000	\$243,000	\$230,000	\$273,267
2039						\$65,000					\$58,000	\$123,000	\$230,000	\$380,267
2040							\$50,000					\$50,000	\$230,000	\$560,267
2041			\$290,000		\$150,000						\$58,000	\$498,000	\$230,000	\$292,267
2042	\$290,000							\$20,000		\$85,000	\$58,000	\$453,000	\$230,000	\$69,267
2043											\$60,000	\$60,000	\$230,000	\$239,267
2044											\$60,000	\$60,000	\$230,000	\$409,267
2045												\$0	\$230,000	\$639,267

- 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 about every 10 years

- 5) Truck 5 is traded about every 6 years
- 6) Truck 6 and 7 are traded about every 10 years
- 7) Excavator purchased 2023. Replace in FY2038.

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 6/30/24							\$235,423
2025					\$0	\$40,000	\$275,423
2026					\$0	\$50,000	\$325,423
2027					\$0	\$70,000	\$395,423
2028					\$0	\$90,000	\$485,423
2029					\$0	\$100,000	\$585,423
2030	\$600,000				\$600,000	\$110,000	\$95,423
2031					\$0	\$110,000	\$205,423
2032				\$300,000	\$300,000	\$110,000	\$15,423
2033					\$0	\$100,000	\$115,423
2034					\$0	\$100,000	\$215,423
2035					\$0	\$100,000	\$315,423
2036					\$0	\$100,000	\$415,423
2037					\$0	\$100,000	\$515,423
2038					\$0	\$100,000	\$615,423
2039		\$350,000			\$350,000	\$100,000	\$365,423
2040					\$0	\$100,000	\$465,423
2041					\$0	\$100,000	\$565,423
2042					\$0	\$100,000	\$665,423
2043					\$0	\$100,000	\$765,423
2044					\$0	\$100,000	\$865,423

- 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

	Center	Hardwick	Paving	Spend	Funds	Account
Year	Road	Street	(see below)	Total	Set Aside	Balance
Bal 6/30/24						\$443,102
2025			-\$70,000	-\$70,000	\$160,000	\$533,102
2026	-\$650,000		\$0	-\$650,000	\$160,000	\$43,102
2027			-\$80,000	-\$80,000	\$165,000	\$128,102
2028			-\$80,000	-\$80,000	\$165,000	\$213,102
2029			-\$90,000	-\$90,000	\$165,000	\$288,102
2030	-\$450,000		\$0	-\$450,000	\$170,000	\$8,102
2031			-\$100,000	-\$100,000	\$175,000	\$83,102
2032			-\$100,000	-\$100,000	\$175,000	\$158,102
2033			-\$100,000	-\$100,000	\$175,000	\$233,102
2034			-\$100,000	-\$100,000	\$175,000	\$308,102

Paving Projects:

FY 2026: Center Road partial
FY 2027: Marshall St., Perry Ln, Buffalo St.
FY 2028: Wakefield St., High St.
FY 2029: To Be Determined
FY 2030: 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*

**FY 2024 no paving done due to flooding*

Town of Hardwick Capital Improvements Three-Year Plan

	Balance 6/30/2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	Future Balance
Buildings	<i>Last Year</i>					
Memorial Building	\$21,897	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$69,897
Public Safety Building	\$7,523	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$27,523
Highway Garage	\$54,301	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$174,301
Fire Department	\$18,168	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$26,168
Library	\$31,361	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,361
Library Bond	\$13,004	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,004
Town House	\$34,379	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$54,379
Carey Rd. Property	\$1,376	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,376
Historical Depot	\$14,216	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$18,216
Subtotal	\$196,225	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$416,225
Public Works						
Gravel Pit Reclaim	\$26,486	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,486
Bike Path (all Phases)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sidewalk Expense	\$51,270	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$91,270
Guardrails	\$16,992	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$36,992
Road Signs/Crosswalks	\$3,460	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$11,460
Bridge #4 East Hardwick	\$141,034	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$181,034
Bridge Fund	\$62,098	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$102,098
Subtotal	\$301,340	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$449,340
General Government						
Trails Capital Account	\$21,172	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,172
Recreation Capital Fund	\$6,351	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,351
Fire Department Equipment/Clothing	\$11,338	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$43,338
New Vault Door	\$25,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,500
Cemetery Upgrades	\$22,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,500
Police Equipment	\$6,061	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,061
Accrued Interest	\$18,783	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,783
Subtotal	\$111,705	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$143,705
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$609,269	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$1,009,269

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Library Budget

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Library Payroll (1 FT & 2 PT)	\$83,812	\$93,184	\$108,169	\$14,985	16.08%
Social Security/FICA Expense	\$6,093	\$6,523	\$8,048	\$1,525	23.37%
Worker's Comp	\$671	\$550	\$725	\$175	31.76%
Unemployment	\$299	\$300	\$319	\$19	6.47%
VLCT/PACIF	\$669	\$625	\$702	\$77	12.37%
Health Insurance - Librarian only	\$17,138	\$21,320	\$22,804	\$1,484	6.96%
Dental/Vision/Life/Disability	\$975	\$1,541	\$1,547	\$6	0.36%
Retirement (2)	\$3,112	\$3,629	\$6,059	\$2,430	66.96%
Books- Adult	\$3,641	\$3,500	\$3,750	\$250	7.14%
Books - Juvenile	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0	0.00%
Books - Young Adult	\$414	\$700	\$700	\$0	0.00%
Magazines- Adult	\$415	\$600	\$400	(\$200)	-33.33%
Magazines - Juvenile	\$0	\$50	\$0	(\$50)	-100.00%
Audio books/ DVDs - Adult	\$449	\$600	\$400	(\$200)	-33.33%
Audio books/ DVDs - Juvenile	\$214	\$600	\$200	(\$400)	-66.67%
Computer Software/Technology	\$172	\$435	\$400	(\$35)	-8.05%
Computer Databases	\$1,656	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	0.00%
Courier Expense	\$586	\$400	\$600	\$200	50.00%
Internet Expense	\$1,054	\$900	\$0	(\$900)	-100.00%
Equipment	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Telephone	\$1,029	\$1,000	\$1,700	\$700	70.00%
Supplies - General	\$1,811	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Youth Supplies	\$695	\$600	\$700	\$100	16.67%
Postage	\$538	\$725	\$725	\$0	0.00%
Professional Services	\$54	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Conferences / Memberships	\$644	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
Mileage	\$317	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Advertising	\$40	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.00%
Restricted Donation Expense	\$193	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Jeudevine Friends Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Internet Transition Grant Expense	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	100.00%
Interlibrary Grant Expense	\$636	\$550	\$650	\$100	18.18%
Misc. Grant Expense	\$921	\$0	\$500	\$500	100.00%
Total Operating Budget	\$130,448	\$145,982	\$169,748	\$23,765	16.28%
Custodial Services Expense	\$6,026	\$8,614	\$9,273	\$659	7.65%
Custodial Services S.S. Expense	\$460	\$603	\$690	\$87	14.41%
Building Insurance	\$1,331	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$500	25.00%
Electricity	\$2,519	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$800	40.00%
Fuel Oil	\$2,886	\$6,500	\$6,000	(\$500)	-7.69%
Water/Sewer	\$684	\$750	\$750	\$0	0.00%
Maintenance Expense	\$1,546	\$1,200	\$2,500	\$1,300	108.33%
Total Library Building Budget	\$15,452	\$21,667	\$24,513	\$2,846	13.13%
Friends of Jeudevine Donations	\$ (200.00)				
Restricted Donations	\$ -				
Interest on Investments	\$ (692.00)	\$ (300.00)	\$ (500.00)		
Grant Income	\$ (1,557.25)	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ (5,000.00)		
Courier Revenue	\$ (230.99)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (250.00)		
Fund Balance Contribution			\$ (3,000.00)		
Misc. Income	\$ (3,869.63)	\$ (6,000.00)	\$ (4,500.00)		
Town Appropriation	\$138,528	\$161,449	\$181,010	\$19,561	12.12%
Fund Balance as of 06.30.2024	4,817				

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Recreation Budget

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Recreation Coordinator Salary	\$3,980	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Social Security/FICA	\$304	\$350	\$372	\$22	6.29%
VLCT Workers Comp/Insurance	\$104	\$165	\$120	(\$45)	-27.27%
VLCT Unemployment Insurance	\$33	\$50	\$40	(\$10)	-20.00%
VLCT PACIF/Liability Insurance	\$71	\$100	\$80	(\$20)	-20.00%
Youth Program: Soccer, Swim, Ski	\$6,715	\$6,000	\$0	(\$6,000)	-100.00%
Mileage	\$0	\$100	\$0	(\$100)	-100.00%
Community Programming (all)	\$7,165	\$8,500	\$14,500	\$6,000	70.59%
Supplies and Advertising	\$154	\$300	\$300	\$0	0.00%
Maintenance	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	(\$1,000)	-100.00%
Total Expenses	\$18,526	\$21,565	\$20,412	-\$1,153	-5.35%

2025-2026 HARDWICK TOWN BUDGET

Trails Budget

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2024-2025</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2025-2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>DIFF.</u>	<u>%</u> <u>DIFF.</u>
Trails Salaries	\$3,103	\$4,074	\$3,750	(\$324)	-7.95%
Social Security/Child Care Tax	\$237	\$285	\$279	(\$6)	-2.11%
Trail Repair & New Construction	\$414	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.00%
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	\$350	\$1,200	\$900	(\$300)	-25.00%
Gas, Oil and Diesel	\$319	\$600	\$500	(\$100)	-16.67%
Publicity/Advertising/Signage & Maps	\$670	\$500	\$600	\$100	20.00%
Program and Activities	\$2,470	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$800	40.00%
VLCT Workers Comp/Insurance	\$126	\$200	\$150	(\$50)	-25.00%
VLCT Unemployment Insurance	\$33	\$50	\$50	\$0	0.00%
VLCT PACIF/Liability Insurance	\$1,163	\$1,448	\$1,748	\$300	20.72%
TOTALS	\$8,886	\$11,158	\$11,577	\$420	3.76%

General Fund Balance

Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023:	\$ 979,503
Fund Balance Used:	\$ (240,046)
Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024:	\$ 739,457

In FY 2024, the Town was fortunate to have a fund balance to assist us with covering hundreds of thousands of dollars in flood damage without borrowing money. At the close of FY 2024, the Town had used \$240,046 of the fund balance. The Town had expected to use \$125,000. The fund balance is currently \$739,457 or about 18% of the proposed FY2026 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. It helped us significantly with the July 2023 and 2024 floods.

Grant Revenue Report

The Town of Hardwick has been the recipient of many grants that support both regular operations and special programs/projects. Grants are an attractive form of funding for projects and various departments. During the fiscal year, we had more than 40 active grants ranging from a few hundred dollars to \$3M for the Yellow Barn Project. Below is a summary of the grant revenue by department that we received in FY24:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Yellow Barn Project	\$ 5,183,094
Flood Buyouts/Resiliency	\$ 1,132,561
Flood Recovery: FEMA	\$ 87,932
Police Department	\$ 36,487
Library: General Operating	\$ 1,557
Library: Building Fund	\$ 447,444
Sewer: Upgrade Project	\$ 449,820
Sewer: Debt forgiveness for Upgrade Project	\$ 522,900
Water: Debt forgiveness for Water Service Inventory Project	\$ 9,174
Trails - Flood Recovery	\$ 2,500
LVRT - Kiosks	\$ 7,700
Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)	\$ 4,000
VOREC - for pedestrian bridge	\$ 19,630
Municipal Planning Grant - Bylaw Modernization	\$ 8,039
Budget Adjustment Act (State of VT)	\$ 75,000
Misc. Grants	\$ 5,650
	<hr/>
	\$ 7,993,488

AWARE

AWARE was established in 1984 in Hardwick in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, located at the cross-roads of four counties (Caledonia, Lamoille, Orleans, Washington) and 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 all people are empowered to act towards themselves and others with awareness, empathy, respect and personal responsibility.

AWARE focuses on two priorities: crisis intervention and prevention education. Advocates are first responders in crisis situations involving domestic and sexual violence, operating a 24 hour hotline where callers can speak to an advocate who can inform them of their legal rights and options, be connected to other community resources, and provide immediate necessary assistance which may include access to financial assistance and safe haven. Victims experiencing abuse who call our hotline, or are referred by police, family, or friends, need immediate and concentrated assistance, support, and information. AWARE advocates can provide services and support from the initial emergency to long term planning and support. AWARE also provides in depth legal advocacy services and support and information to families of victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE's crisis and prevention programs focus on increasing participants' knowledge about community resources and providing them with information. Programs are designed to intervene effectively in crisis situations and to educate all segments of the community to participate in prevention of domestic and sexual violence.

During the past year, AWARE served 194 women, men, and children who were directly affected by violence. Additionally, they helped 114 children who were exposed to violence, and AWARE responded to 1,481 hotline and in-person requests for assistance. The organization educated over 2,800 individuals through community events and outreach programs focused on domestic and sexual violence.

Those served by AWARE received a variety of services, including crisis intervention, legal support and advocacy, information and referrals, safety planning, emergency provisions, housing assistance, transportation, and education about domestic and sexual violence.

AWARE
Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
P.O. Box 307
Hardwick, VT 05843
(802) 472-6463
AWAREVT.org

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 3267 visits to 129 residents of Hardwick, VT. While working with residents, we provided physical, occupational, and speech therapies. We provided physicians, 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.

2025 Town Appropriation Visit Statistics Hardwick, VT

Number of residents served: **129**

Home Care (Therapy, Nursing, MSW): **2396 visits**

Maternal Child Health: **69 visits**

Hospice (Nursing, Therapy, Personal Care, Respite): **232 visits**

Long Term Care (Case Management, Personal Care, Respite): **570 visits**

Total Visits in Hardwick, VT: 3,267 visits

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

Center for an Agricultural Economy

The Center for an Agricultural Economy provides critical resources for Vermont's farm and food businesses, supporting each part of the farming sector. Founded in 2004, CAE works to build a regenerative, just, locally based, healthy food system that fosters socially thriving and economically viable rural communities.

Atkins Field is a 15-acre property owned and maintained by the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) in Hardwick, VT. 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 are asking for a town appropriation of \$4,000 for 2025 to support the costs of keeping the site publicly accessible.

*Jon Ramsay
Executive Director*

Craftsbury Community Care Center

For 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 thirty years' 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.

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 elders 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. Thank you.

*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. This year we were ranked by US News and World Reports as one of the three best nursing homes in Vermont.

Over the past year we have completed major projects to improve the environment and experience for our GNH residents. We renovated the three bath/shower rooms in the facility to make them less cramped, more pleasant, and more wheelchair accessible; it is now easier for the staff to help residents bathe or shower, and as a result

the residents have more control and choice over their bathing. We continue to renovate individual resident rooms to give them a less institutional feel, and we have caught up on maintenance projects deferred during the pandemic, including a new call system, new siding for the building, and many more. In a time of labor shortage when many nursing homes and other medical facility struggle to maintain staff, we remain fully staffed with one of the lowest resident-to-caregiver ratios in the state.

The summer floods of 2023 and 2024 did notable damage to the grounds, flooded the basement, and revealed issues with drainage around the building. We repaired the walking path to Maggie's Pond, which had been washed out several times in the past two years, with a more durable surface. We will need significant work on drainage around the foundation to prevent future basement flooding. In the longer term we are looking at ways to increase the number of single rooms, without increasing the total number of beds, in order to give more privacy to our residents and to create a more home-like atmosphere.

The Board of Trustees of 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 O.E.S. Coral Chapter (Hyde Park), Calderwood Insurance, and the American Legion in Hardwick.

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 2024 the HAFP continues to see an increase in participation and new participants between our three sites in Hardwick, Craftsbury, and Albany as well as an increase in food costs. A second summer of significant flooding has created challenges for those we serve and for fundraising. We also continue to see an increased demand for our delivery program, which connects many of our clients to food throughout a wide service area. We are proud to purchase food from many local farmers and producers. Our strong team of staff, board members, volunteers, and donors are committed to providing healthy foods to our neighbors who are experiencing need. We extend a depth of gratitude to all those who support our mission to expand food access and choice in our region. We believe nourishing food for all is central to community vitality. We are committed to partnerships, dignity and care.

*HAFP Board: Reeve Basom, Gina Campoli,
Hannah Dreissigacker, Alice Fleer, Erika Karp,
Jake Lester, Diana Peduzzi, John Tuthill, Liz Baum
Director: Open position
www.NourishHardwick.org/pantry*

Hardwick Community Television Comcast Channel 1080

Hardwick Community Television is committed to fulfilling the vision of a local nonprofit TV station, covering local government, sports, and community events in the greater Hardwick area.

In 2024, HCTV maintained full accessibility to locally made programs. This includes Hazen Varsity Basketball, Baseball and Soccer games, Hardwick Select Board, Woodbury Select Board, Hardwick Electric Board, the Memorial Day Parade, Jeudevine Library Events and more. Each program is archived on Vimeo, YouTube and our website at www.hctv.us. Programs are run 24/7 on Comcast channel 1080. Our livestreams can be viewed on YouTube, and on channel 1080. We work hard to make these local programs accessible by sharing links to them on our Facebook page, and on the front page of our website.

While HCTV runs programs 24/7, many of these programs are produced by other Vermont media stations. Our goal for 2025 is to run mostly programs that are produced by **us** to promote **our** community! However, we operate on an annual budget of under \$40,000 and already produce over 130 programs annually. With a very small budget, and crew, we need more involvement from the community to make that happen. We believe that we are a great asset for this amazing community and want to be utilized.

HCTV is working towards a future where local organizations, business owners, community leaders, students, teachers, and YOU can work together to spread media, entertainment, and news through our platforms. Our crew is capable of training on media production, editing, and camera work, and we are eager to share our knowledge and equipment to make this future happen!

The HCTV Board of Directors and crew 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.

Macy Molleur
Executive Director

Hardwick Historical Society

The HHS had another busy year collecting and preserving evidence of the lives and activities of the people, businesses, and government of Hardwick.

Collections:

We received large collections from the Masons this year and added to our collection of medical instruments. We also had the last of the un-digitized and microfilmed newspapers converted. In time they will all appear on Newspapers.com. Further, we have had our collection of VHS tapes of the French Heritage Festivals digitized. We have not yet decided on an online home for them, but we are looking. *Please, before you clean out your attic/basement/closets/garage of all that old stuff*, give me an opportunity to look for historical treasures in it. (edow1@protonmail.com or 802-472-6424)

Personnel :

Volunteers logged 660 hours of free labor *at the Depot*. PLUS, uncounted hours at home or at outside venues. At minimum wage, \$12.55 per hour, the volunteers add about \$8,699 to our budget. Thank you: Mary Braun, Mike Clark, Diane Demers, Skip Duncan, Elaine Gendron, Ted Graham, Pat Hussey, Kris Lance, Mike Lance, Jeff LeCours, Tracy Martin, Gary Michaels, Judy Nudd, Dave O'Brien, Gail O'Brien, Sarah Remick, Mark Sassi, and Norma Spaulding.

Publications:

Every member household gets *The Hardwick Historical Society Journal*, published quarterly since 2008. ***We warmly invite articles and manuscripts from people who have stories to tell about life in Hardwick.***

Special Projects:

We installed benches on the north side of the Depot in memory of Lorraine Hussey. Rail Trail users immediately started to use them as a shaded resting place along their journey. Because the Depot has an outside faucet there, it has become a popular place for filling water bottles. We also placed a large flat bowl nearby, so people's canine companions can also have a drink.

Exhibits:

The changing exhibits this year featured pictures and artifacts showing how the people of Hardwick endured winter (coping with ice, snow, and cold) and enjoyed winter (playing in ice and snow) over the past 150 years.

Visitors:

During our open hours this year, 261 people stopped to look around — most from the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Further, we had two classes of students from Hazen Union and a class from Sterling College, a total of about forty students use our exhibits and research resources in their studies. Consider coming to see us next summer, and if you have research, we can help you with, contact us at info@hardwickvthistory.org and we will set up an appointment.

*Elizabeth H. Dow
President*

Justice For Dogs

Justice For Dogs (and cats too), a local animal rescue, now in its 18th 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.

In Hardwick this year Justice For Dogs rescued a dog from an owner that no longer could care for him. This dog required two surgeries for Justice to pay for along with housing him for several months before he was successfully adopted with the perfect match since he was a large canine and needed the perfect match with a new owner. Also, a mother cat and kittens were relinquished to Justice For Dogs as the Hardwick residents were not allowed pets in their apartment. Three other senior cats came into Justice from two Hardwick pet owners when one owner no longer could care for the cat and two other cats needed veterinarian services due to medical issues that Justice provided for these two cats. Finally, a small dog had been returned to a Hardwick breeder and the breeder did relinquish the dog to Justice For Dogs and Justice provided the necessary veterinarian services and adopted it to a new home.

As always, Justice For Dogs continues to assist 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 the Hardwick taxpayers for your support through the town's 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 or check out 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 the 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 2024, our caring and dedicated staff reached more than 5,000 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 230 home visits, providing family support and early intervention, to 23 families in Hardwick and East Hardwick
- ~LFC donates \$500 every year to Hardwick Holiday Project to provide children with holiday gifts

- ~194 residents, including 136 children, received emergency assistance including funding for rent, groceries, fuel and goods such as diapers, clothing and furniture
- ~10 students received summer camp scholarships so that they could attend summer programs with their peers
- ~5 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
- ~77 children received childcare support services including assistance with applications for financial assistance and help with referral to regulated programs
- ~37 Hardwick kids, parents and/or caregivers attended Playgroups to strengthen social connections
- ~15 Playgroups were offered in Hardwick free of charge
- ~Many Hardwick students, coaches, athletes and community members benefited from Healthy Lamoille Valley, a prevention coalition of LFC

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
 480 Cady's Falls Road Morrisville, VT 05661
 (802) 888-5229 ext. 124

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

Northeast Kingdom Arts Council (NEKarts) has operated since 2001 primarily through successful grant writing and individual donations which have allowed us to make significant renovations to the Town House while expanding the number and variety of programming. 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 and program 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.

2024 has been a year of amazing progress at the Hardwick Town House. Construction is well underway on our Safety and Accessibility Project. If you drive by Depot Street in Hardwick, you'll notice a new addition on the northeast corner that houses a stairwell to the balcony and an elevator to the stage. Work is well underway and will continue through the winter months. We are filled with gratitude for the support from our community, donors, grantors and the Town of Hardwick for making this possible. Thank you! For the last decade, the Town House board has been focused on the preservation and modernization of the building. Now we will turn our attention more fully to what happens inside of it. Programming and production take up time, funding, and energy. There are many ways that Hardwick citizens can help to further our positive impacts for the Town House and the Northeast Kingdom at large; we invite you to...

Become a board member. We are a small, dynamic, dedicated group of community members. We meet once per month, make each other laugh, and volunteer our time to manage a space that has stolen all our hearts. Let it steal yours.

Use the space. Got an idea for an event between March and October? Options are many: recitals, dance parties, exercise classes, movies, live theater, trainings, workshops, concerts, conferences, weddings, rehearsals. There simply isn't another place like the Town House. With a little imagination and time, you could join the growing list of staple events that make our community so special.

Spread the word. If you know someone in need of a venue, send them our way - Booking@hardwicktownhouse.org. We also have an Instagram account: [@hardwicktownhouse](https://www.instagram.com/hardwicktownhouse), where you can follow us to see what's happening.

Donate. Contributions from a broad base of supporters is our biggest source of funding. Every bit helps, so please give what you can, when you can. Due to the continued escalation of construction costs, we have used some of our operating budget to complete our accessibility addition. It's now time to replenish the coffers. Financial contributions to NEKarts, the 501(c)3 non-profit that stewards the Town House, either by check to Hardwick Town House, PO Box 476, Hardwick, VT 05843 or online at www.HardwickTownHouse.org. Any donation has an immediate, positive impact for the Town House and the Northeast Kingdom at large. We thank you for helping us to further our mission!

Current members of the Hardwick Town House (NEKarts Council) Board of Directors
*Shari Cornish, David Gross, Tess Martin, Sally Anstey,
Brent McCoy, Maya McCoy, Mavis MacNeil,
Audrey Grant, Fran Rowell, & Lynn Angebrannt*

NEK Broadband Communications Union District

CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE
PROJECTED GROWTH BY YEAR


2024	33	Towns Served
Projected	665	Miles Built
	8,200	Addresses Passed
2025	50	Towns Served
Projected	1,165	Miles Built
	15,000	Addresses Passed

As of August 16, 2024, NEK Broadband and CVFiber merged under 30 V.S.A. 3052a forming one Communications Union District (CUD) dba NEKCV. NEK Broadband and CVFiber will continue to use their brands within their respective territories. The district now includes 71 member communities in Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Lamoille, Washington and Orange Counties. 50 of our towns currently have public fiber-optic infrastructure, and 57 towns have started pre-construction licensing work.

Broadband Nutrition Labels - In compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirement that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) display standardized broadband information labels, you will find these listed under the service offerings of NEK Broadband and CVFiber websites.


We were awarded \$2,847,276 through the Community Connect Grant program. This is in addition to the USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000, which we received in 2023. The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$4M in construction grants and \$21M as a match for our Broadband Equity and Deployment Grant Application coming later this year. This brings our foundational support to over \$73 million for the Northeast Kingdom Region and over \$20 million in Central Vermont.

8200




SERVICE AVAILABLE
WE NOW OFFER SERVICE TO
8200 ADDRESSES IN THE
NEKCV.

665





MILES OF NETWORK
AT THE END OF 2024, WE
NOW HAVE 665 MILES OF
FIBER NETWORK
THROUGHOUT THE NEKCV.


1200



CUSTOMERS SERVED
NEKCV MORE THAN
DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF
CUSTOMERS SERVED in 2024







We have doubled the size of staff, with a full-time staff of 12. We have active warehouses in Danville, Montpelier and Brighton for the storage of construction materials. In May we completed our first workforce development program, with 7 NEK residents receiving training to become Broadband Technicians/Installers.

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form atget.nekbroadband.org. or cvfiber.net

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging

Our 45th year has certainly been one that reflects the world we live in! Times are changing, seasons are changing and we're growing! As we reflect on this past year it is a time to be thankful for the opportunities we've had and the team we've created to bring the agency into the next year. As we reflect, we couldn't be more appreciative of our staff. We see the dedication, caring and commitment to helping those we serve to live their lives set by their goals. Our work is complex in helping people navigate their journey in their own unique way. Our staff begin with the fundamental belief that each individual's goals should be supported and the creativity and advocacy to help clients achieve that is amazing. From help with funding for challenges people face, to connecting people with services and information, and ensuring that people understand what choices they have we have an exceptional team of caring individuals. In addition to our paid staff, we have over 300 volunteers helping people to meet their needs in the community.

45 years ago, the group that formed this agency looked to help navigate nutritional needs of those we serve and my how that has grown. In 45 years, we've seen an 800 number, computers come to life, reporting requirements and oversights, and the sheer volume of those we serve all grow! Our work expands into our collaborations with the state and other local agencies that share our vision to support our mission of providing support to make the NEK the best place to age in place.

This report looks to travel the timeline of the Older American's act and its importance in supporting older residents of our communities to gain support needed to be successful.

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.

*Meg Burmeister, Executive Director
Susan Gordon, President of Board of Directors*

Northeast Kingdom Development Corporation

The Northeast Kingdom Development Corporation (NEKDC) is a six-member private 501(c)(3) that works on significant economic development projects in the Northeast Kingdom. Our goal is to improve the quality of life in the NEK by creating jobs that pay well and strengthen communities through developments and redevelopments. We are currently focused on completion of two major projects, one of which is the Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator. The project consists of extensive renovations of the historic barn on Route 15, as well as the new 25,000 sq. ft. steel structure alongside it. As you enter downtown Hardwick heading east on Route 15, you can't miss it. Construction commenced on this project in the summer of 2023. We achieved substantial completion on the entire project late in 2024.

The Town of Hardwick owns the Yellow Barn, and NEKDC has a long-term lease on the property. We are responsible for the management and oversight of the Yellow Barn, and we are managing three subleases:

Food Hub/Center for an Agricultural Economy: The Food Hub provides a new and appropriately sized space for Farm Connex, which currently aggregates and distributes more than \$13 million in local food through its innovative direct shipping service. The Food Hub, which takes up slightly more than half of the new building, hosted a well-attended open house in October. With multiple loading docks and more workspace, Farm Connex will now be able to hold inventory for more producers, reduce redundancies, and expand operations.

Jasper Hill Farm: When the pandemic threw this local cheese producer a curveball, they nimbly responded by expanding their direct-to-consumer sales. Jasper Hill is leasing the balance of space in the new building to house its new fulfillment operations center -- a move that will consolidate inventory from multiple locations around the state and reduce carbon footprint by thousands of miles annually. Consolidation of inventory will also allow for an increase in cheese production in the neighboring Vermont Food Venture Center.

Cabot Creamery: This cheese retail destination celebrated its grand opening in September. Cabot has leased entire barn, which is eligible for the National Register. The retail store is just a few feet from the Lamoille Valley

Rail Trail, and we've already seen many cyclists, tourists, as well as locals, visit the shop to sample Cabot cheese products, as well as many other delicious local specialty foods.

The Hardwick Yellow Barn was a \$11.8 million endeavor, and our partnership with the Town of Hardwick was essential in making it happen. Our general contractor was Wright & Morrissey, and our architecture was Coe + Coe. The NEKDC secured construction financing and formed a subsidiary to receive New Markets Tax Credits for the project, which will minimize long-term debt that we, NEKDC, will carry on the project. In addition to the financing, there were several grants: Economic Development Administration, Northern Border Regional Commission, Vermont Community Development Program, Vermont Community Recovery and Reinvestment Program, the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Dairy Business Innovation Center, 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 Yellow Barn is tax exempt, but we have already begun to make annual PILOT payments to the Town, (PILOT stands for payment in lieu of tax). We anticipate achieving full valuation of the municipal share by Year 7. Please note that 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 seeing you at the Yellow Barn soon!

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

Northeast Kingdom Human Services

Please consider financially supporting Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.'s (NKHS) mission to empower individuals, families, and communities by promoting hope, healing, and support. As a Designated Agency serving Vermont's system of care, we are responsible for assuring that a comprehensive range of services are available regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The 512 professional employees work to help others live fulfilling lives and contribute to their community. We offer confidential services for Emergency Mobile Crisis, mental health, addiction, and developmental disabilities in the Derby and St. Johnsbury offices, Front Porch Mental Health Urgent Care, satellite offices, telehealth, homes, schools, and throughout the Northeast Kingdom. For more information about our agency and services, please visit our website at <https://www.nkhs.org>, or call our offices. Emergency Services are available 24/7.

Between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, NKHS provided supportive services to 2826 individuals, **75** lived in the Town of Hardwick benefiting from 11,227 service hours. Your town was home to 4 NKHS employees in Fiscal Year 2024. NKHS also provided 332 hours of community outreach, including Starting Over Strong VT support, and training in the Northeast Kingdom impacting 6244 individuals.

We strive to respond to community needs with quality care and your support is integral to our mission. Thank you for considering our request.

*Kelsey Stavseth, Executive Director
NKHS Board of Directors and Leadership Team*

Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS)

At NEKLS, we are dedicated to providing impactful educational opportunities through our Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program, K-12 Tutorial program, and the Ready, Set, Grow Childcare Center (RSG). Our mission is to empower communities like Hardwick by offering quality learning experiences that support personal and professional growth.

We envision a future where all individuals can access the education they need to enhance their skills and achieve their goals. Your support is essential in making this vision a reality. A town appropriation of \$1,000.00 will directly contribute to expanding and improving our programs.

Our Adult Education and Literacy programs, offered at learning centers in Canaan, Hardwick, Island Pond, Newport, and St. Johnsbury, serve individuals aged 16 and older who are seeking to:

- Earn their high school diploma or GED
- Acquire skills for career transitions
- Improve reading, writing, and math abilities
- Prepare for college or workforce training
- Learn or enhance English language skills as a second language

Additionally, our Tutorial program partners with local schools throughout the NEK, providing essential support to help K-12 students achieve academic success.

In Newport, Vermont, our Ready, Set, Grow Childcare Center, a 5-STAR rated facility, is licensed to serve 99 children, ensuring high-quality early education and care.

We invite you to support NEKLS in fostering educational growth within your community. Enclosed is our NEKLS appropriations information sheet for inclusion in your town report, offering a summary of our services for local taxpayers. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the future of education in Hardwick.

Michelle Faust
Executive Director

Rural Community Transportation, Inc.

RCT is a nonprofit(c)(3) corporation which provides public transportation services throughout Caledonia, Orleans, Essex and Lamoille Counties. In FY2024, RCT provided 520 rides, traveling 19,934 miles at a total cost of \$16,062.00. RCT continued to provide safety-focused, demand-based rides and all buses operated fare-free.

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 therefore vital to RCT's operation.

We hope you will vote to fund this request, and RCT looks forward to continued service to the residents of Hardwick.

Renee Stalczynski
Office Administrator

Salvation Farms:

Salvation Farms respectfully requests a budget allocation of \$1,500 from the voters of Hardwick to be determined at the Town's annual meeting in March of 2025.

Salvation Farms is a federally recognized non-profit with a mission to build increased resilience in Vermont's food system through agricultural surplus management. Since 2005, Salvation Farms has been connecting communities with local farms and engaging volunteers to collect and distribute crops that would otherwise never make it off our Vermont farms. One of the organization's most notable efforts is the act of gleaning, or collection of surplus produce from farms with the help of volunteers, who then help distribute the gleaned produce to community food programs that feed many of our more vulnerable neighbors. Salvation Farms is an organization that is deeply rooted in serving the communities of the Lamoille Valley including Hardwick. Any financial support received is critical to our ability to distribute produce from local farms to the region's residents, ensuring that Vermont moves towards a more localized, resilient food system.

We appreciate the voters of Hardwick considering our request for support.

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. Within 2024 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:

Food Program Served by Salvation Farms in 2024	Produce Delivered in 2024
Craftsbury Community Care Center	988
Albany Community Schools	85
Saplings Community Children's Center	1379
Greensboro Nursing Home	1266
The Greensboro Giving Closet	948
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	1991
Hardwick Area Health Center	949
Wolcott Elementary Afterschool	271
Woodbury Calais Food Shelf	541
Head Start (Hardwick)	1750
Northern New England Women's Home	851
The Civic Standard	17
Lamoille Community Food Share	4894
Lamoille Health Partners	1221
TOTAL:	18,661 pounds

Salvation Farms
Morrisville, VT 05661
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 reappraisal contractor for the Town of Hardwick in 2024. We continue to work towards completion of the 2025 town-wide reappraisal. 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 2024

CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) – **67.29%**

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) – **24.26%**

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

Over the course of 2024, property inspections were conducted for purpose of the 2025 town-wide reappraisal. More than half of all improved parcels throughout the community were inspected for data verification. An important, foundational piece of equitable assessments is solid data. NEMC received a great deal of cooperation from the community over this past year and looks forward to the culmination of the project. Inspections will continue in 2025 until the early portion of spring.

Preliminary valuations are due to be issued to all property owners this coming spring 2025. All owners should expect to receive notice of their new valuation with an option to schedule an informal hearing with NEMC. The purpose of the informal hearing process is to hear from property owners prior to valuations becoming more finalized. The informal, informational hearing process is in addition to the annual grievance appeals to the Assessor. All instructions regarding the informal process will be included in the mailed notice.

NEMC would like to thank the Town Clerk's Office for all of the help and support throughout 2024. Both Tonia and Alberta were extremely vital to the flow of information from one office to the other. The assessing tasks were heavily aided with their support.

The Assessor's Office would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2025.

*Matthew Krajewski (NEMC), Assessor
(802) 472-4054
assessor@hardwickvt.gov*

Hardwick Conservation Commission

The Hardwick Conservation Commission (HCC) had a busy 2024. We completed the three-years-in-the-making Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Matt Peters, consulting biologist and botanist, who conducted the survey, presented it to the community in April. The NRI is a compilation of text, maps, charts and other information about the natural resource's characteristics and environmentally significant features of an area. It is a key tool for the community to use to learn about its natural resources. This information can then support wise planning both for conservation efforts and for local development. Hardwick's NRI is available online at www.hardwickvt.gov. Choose "Government" and then choose "Conservation Commission".

The HCC sponsored walks to learn more about Hardwick's natural world: In March, Jonathan Shapiro, head teacher at the Fox Paw School, led a walk to find tracks and signs of animal life. The questions to answer by those attending: Who is the animal? What is that creature doing? In October, Matt Peters and Jonathan Shapiro led an October trek to Tuttle Pond to study plant and animal life at this unique water body.

At the May Spring Festival, we distributed seeds for pollinator-friendly flowers and offered ninebark, nannyberry and elderberry seedlings to the public.

In November, Trey Martin, Director of Conservation and Rural Community Development, (Vermont Housing and Conservation Board), spoke about Vermont's newest conservation law, Act 59. He provided information about the law's goals and possible effects on local communities.

Currently, the HCC is working with Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator, to help with flood mitigation planting projects at critical sites in the Town. Also, the Commission is assisting the Hardwick Downtown Partnership, under director Jan Mueller, with a tree-planting project for the downtown area, scheduled to be completed this spring.

We thank the Hardwick Select Board for their support and invite the public to our meetings, held on the second Monday of the month at 5:00 pm at the Memorial Building.

*Rachel Kane, Co-chair
Lucy Zendzian, Co-chair
Kathy Hemmens, Treasurer
Norma Wiesen, Secretary
Ken Davis
Lesla Cathcart
Ben Pougner
Tyler Buswell*

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 (HDP) 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 the 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.

In our first year of Downtown Designation Hardwick was the recipient of a Downtown Transportation Funds to support the new Pedestrian Bridge that will replace the Swinging Bridge. In 2024 HDP was awarded \$25,000 Downtown Vibrancy grant funds from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development that supported our operating funds and allowed us to bring on a consultant in a part time capacity to help us stay organized and on-task in our mission. New events like *Hoopla* and the *Holiday Soupla* invited the community to enjoy our downtown businesses in new ways. HDP has partnered with the Conservation Commission in the first ever "Adopt-A-Tree" program and was awarded funds to plant 30 trees in our downtown area in 2025. We are collaborating with Kiwanis, CAE, Civic Standard, AWARE, the Recreation Committee and others to collectively plan Spring Festival going forward for added features and traditions to our annual celebration on the days leading up to Memorial Day. We have partnered with Preservation Trust of Vermont through grant funding for a facilities condition assessment of the Hardwick Bank Building and will be engaging consultants to prepare a feasibility study for hospitality. All to promote redevelopment of the historic anchor property in our downtown as a small hotel and neighboring parking lot.

If you are interested in further information, or getting involved and assisting the Downtown Partnership please contact us online by visiting ~<https://www.hardwickdowntown.org> or call 802-472-1761. We welcome volunteers in any capacity! Maybe you would like to serve on a committee or maybe you would like to support our work by making a tax-deductible donation to support us in achieving our mission.

Current Hardwick Downtown Partnership Volunteer Board of Directors: HDP President, Shari Cornish-Whistle Emporium, Bethany Dunbar-CAE, Secretary, Kole, Northern VT Appraisals, Treasurer, Gary Michaels-Retired Professional, and Directors: Tobin Porter-Front Seat Coffee, Emily Hershberger - Buffalo Mountain Market, Nora Lakhani-The Flower Basket, and Tracy Martin, Hardwick Community Development Coordinator.

Hardwick Electric Department

2024 will be remembered as a year of transitions and change at Hardwick Electric Department. During the year, most of our line workers left the Department, as did our General Manager of over 10 years. Our community also endured serious flooding on July 10th for the second year in a row.

With all the departures, HED relied heavily on those who remained as well as a "traveling" electric line crew to make improvements to our system and keep the power on. Amazingly, restoration of our system post flood, work enabling the fiber companies to run wire across our communities (over 100 poles were set) and performing much needed vegetation maintenance was all accomplished.

By August, HED had hired four new crew members with two first class linemen and two apprentices. They joined our two remaining members (one first class lineman, and one apprentice). As such, we end the year with a strong team of linemen to provide service to our communities.

Thankfully, our team at the office of HED all remained throughout the year, providing wonderful service to our customers and offering stability amidst all the changes of the year. Importantly, the Board of Commissioners focused on identifying a new General Manager for the Department. Sarah Elise Braese joined HED in January of 2025 to take on that role, and we are eager to work alongside her.

While most damage from the 2024 flood has been repaired, one significant impact was to our dam in Wolcott. The penstocks for the dam “floated” during the flood making them unusable. We anticipate the dam will be down for at least all of 2025, meaning power supply will be more expensive and less local. HED is working closely with FEMA to arrange the necessary funding for the repairs to this infrastructure.

Financially, HED revenues were approximately \$94,000 over budget (1.6%), and expenses were approximately \$535,000 (8.3%) over budget, primarily due to the use of contractors because of crew staffing. Included in expenses is purchased power which was approximately \$83,000 (2.2%) underbudget. The receipt of FEMA funds, Vermont Bond Bank loan, and local financing enabled the additional financing required for contract crews and flood repairs.

Overall, HED is poised for great progress in the years to come. Our customers pay less than the majority of Vermonters for their electricity, the system is strong and improving in reliability, and our energy is continuing to become more renewable with each passing year. Add a strong team and new leader to the mix of the longer-term staff and Commission and one sees a bright future for our hometown electric utility. HED is committed to working with our communities to provide a reliable electric system and support local economic growth.

Commissioners:
Lynne Gedanken – Chair/Hardwick
Roget Prevot – Hardwick
Michael Ambrosino – Hardwick
Myles Kamisher-Koch – Hardwick
Renaud Demers – Hardwick

Hardwick Energy Committee

Our Energy Committee's mission is to strive to make the Town of Hardwick a stronger, more resilient community. Currently, we are fully engaged with State of Vermont Building and General Services implementing the M.E.R.P. [Municipal Energy Resilience Program] grants. Hardwick received a **\$250,455.79 award** on Dec. 16, 2024, to upgrade outdated existing HVAC systems, as well as lighting and insulation. Scope of work includes:

- ~Memorial Building: HVAC – Envelope – Lighting
- ~Town House: Envelope – Lighting – HVAC smart controls
- ~Public Safety & Senior Center: Envelope – Lighting – HVAC to net-zero
- ~Library: Envelope on original building

Many thanks to Town Manager David Upson, along with Business Manager Casey Rowell and Amanda Fecteau, Town Clerk Tonia Chase and Alberta Miller, Community Development Coordinator Tracy Martin and Zoning Administrator Kristen Leahy for their tireless efforts supporting our committee. The Hardwick Select Board continued their commitment to our clean energy future by supporting Bill Chidsey as Energy Coordinator.

Regional networking:

As part of the previous MERP grant, to facilitate public communication, education, outreach, and engagement about municipal energy resilience, in 2024, the Hardwick Energy Committee participated 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 included outreach activities, community workshops and a Panel

Discussion on home weatherization and energy savings. Other towns participating include Craftsbury, Glover, Albany, Greensboro and Stannard. Beth Meacham and Liz Steel of Greensboro are leading this initiative.

Ongoing resources:

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.

2025 goals:

- ~Managing M.E.R.P. projects to completion
- ~Increasing Energy Committee membership
- ~Device level municipal building HVAC controls and datalogging
- ~Building Performance grants and implementation

Committee Members as of Dec 31, 2024, include Chair Bill Chidsey, and 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. Your call/ text is always welcome 802-249-6004. Or simply find me at the Old Firehouse.

*Bill Chidsey
Committee Chair*

Hardwick Equity Committee

The Hardwick Equity Committee was formed in 2020 with the mission of making the Town of Hardwick a more welcoming, inclusive, safe, and equitable community for all—regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation/expression. Over the past year, the Equity Committee has worked on several initiatives including:

- Co-hosted an equity-focused book group in partnership with the Jeudevine Memorial Library
- Worked with other towns in the IDEAL network (racialequity.vermont.gov/ideal-vermont) to advance policies and practices to support equity in Vermont
- Supported Community and School equity initiatives
- Developed the Hardwick Equity Project to bring together town-supported organizations to collaborate on promoting equity and belonging in Hardwick, with the support of a \$10,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation

We welcome people of all backgrounds to get involved in our work. To find out more, please contact us at equity@hardwickvt.gov.

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

Hardwick Fire Department Report:

The members of the Hardwick Fire Department would like to thank retiring Chief Tom Fadden for the many years of selfless service to the Town of Hardwick. The Department will miss Chief Fadden's decades of experience and willingness to assist his community in so many ways. He will be missed by the Department. Thank you again, Tom. We responded to 101 calls this year consisting of the following:

- ~8 Structure fires
- ~1 Chimney fire
- ~17 Accidents
- ~2 Vehicle fires
- ~22 Alarms
- ~1 Extrication
- ~19 Medical assists

~1 Hardwick Police Assistance
 ~10 C.O. Calls
 ~1 Grass Fire
 ~19 Other
 ~9 Mutual Aid

I would like to thank all of the members for the time they put in and the hard work that goes with the job we do. I would also like to thank the Hardwick community for the support they show the Fire Department.

*Perley Allen
 Fire Chief*

Hardwick Police Department

The Hardwick Police Department responded to 2470 calls for service in fiscal year 2024. Calls for mental health incidents increased 10% from 2023. We continued to partner with Northeast Kingdom Human Services for an embedded mental health crisis team and direct local assistance with mental health services. This team directly meets with people in the community rather than them having to drive to St. Johnsbury.

There has been a 25% increase in requests for fingerprints this fiscal year due to more professions requiring background checks. We are able to provide this service to local residents when officers have down time.

Below is a breakdown of the top five types of calls during the 2024 fiscal year:

Suspicious Event	256
Assist – Agency, Public, Motorist, & Other	247
Fingerprints	193
Directed Patrol	192
Motor Vehicle complaint	159

One of the top complaints the police department receives is regarding traffic issues. There were 159 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. We had 2 portable radar speed signs and one fixed solar speed sign. Through a state grant, we were able to acquire two additional fixed solar radar signs. One is located on South Main Street and the other is located on Wolcott Street. Officers randomly select problem areas for enforcement through directed patrols. The high visibility reduces crashes and crime. The Hardwick Police Department's proactive motor vehicle enforcement resulted in 209 traffic tickets being issued and 354 written warnings. Below are the top five types of tickets issued for fiscal 2024:

Operating without liability insurance	32
Persons required to register	40
Stop sign violations	29
State speed limit violations	19
Operation after suspension (civil)	12

The Hardwick Police Department responded to a total of 79 reported traffic crashes, which is a 26% reduction from fiscal 2023. Most of these crashes (54) were property damage without injuries. There were 9 injury crashes and 2 fatal crashes. In addition, there were 14 crashes in which the operator left the scene of the crash, which is a 40% decrease from the previous year. Below are the types of reported traffic crashes:

Property damage crashes – state reported	29
Property damage crashes – non state reportable	25
Leave the scene of a crash	14
Injury crash – state reportable	9
Fatal crash	2

The top five types of written warnings were as follows:

Stop sign violations	93
State speed limit violations	62
Defective equipment	44
Local speed limit violations	31
Display of registration	18

Criminal investigations take priority, and the investigations take up a great amount of the officer's time. The Hardwick Police Department made 91 arrests during the 2024 fiscal year. This was a 30% decrease from the previous year (132). 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	31
Driving under the influence	6
Violation of conditions of release	4
Grand Larceny	4
Burglary	4

Drug use and abuse continues to be a problem in our area as well as the rest of Vermont. Although there were quite a few overdoses this year, the Hardwick Police Department did not investigate any fatal drug overdose deaths in 2024. 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.

The Hardwick Police Department has built 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 have also built a positive relationship with students and staff.

Staffing continues to be an issue for the Hardwick Police Department. We started the fiscal year with an adequate staff of four full-time officers, four part-time officers and an Interim Chief. In July, part-time Officer Joe Rossi had to retire due to medical issues. He will be missed by Hardwick Elementary School students. In August, we lost full-time Officer Paul Barnard who moved out of state with his family. In October, part-time Officer Bill Morley decided 40 years of law enforcement was enough. Morley began his career in Hardwick in 1984. He went on to Morristown Police Department and eventually retired from Morristown Police Department. He agreed to come out of retirement to help the Town of Hardwick. His experience will be missed. At the end of December, full-time Officer Andrew Force accepted a position with US Customs. Force started his law enforcement career in 2022 with Hardwick Police.

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. In April of 2024, we hired Robin French who had previously worked as a dispatcher for Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. She went to Level II law enforcement training and then began Level III training in August of 2024.

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 second annual major flood in July. 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

Hey Hardwick! The Recreation Committee has been doing our best to continue to promote, fund, and volunteer at events throughout the year. We were unsuccessful with the ice rink due to many weather elements. Moving forward we will assess how best to have a manageable rink and how to do this with the weather patterns we have. We had another successful Spring Egg Hunt. It is such a joy to see the kid's faces as they arrive and see several thousand eggs for the gathering!

We moved on from the melting snow to the Memorial Day events here in town. The committee has worked hard to bring back the 5k Fun Run and it gets bigger every year. It is such an asset to have the rail trail come through town and to have the privilege to utilize it for such events! We also assisted with the farmers market fun days and the Hardwick Hoopla field games.

The Rec Committee has also worked with the Town of Greensboro and Teach America to Swim to promote and fund swimming lessons for all of our kids. We even introduced adult lessons to the community! We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts!

We are currently working with members of the community and the Civic Standard with the hopes of bringing a skatepark and bigger pump track to the Hardwick area. Stay tuned!

We did lose two very insightful and energetic members of our committee, Sam Collins and Emily Hale. We thank them for their energy and support and wish them well. The committee has had difficulty recruiting new members. Feel free to reach out if you would like to attend a meeting or become a committee member!

*Jason Bahner,
Recreation Coordinator
Recreation Committee:
Mallory Greaves, Emily Varvir,
Sara Behrsing*

Hardwick Trails Committee

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

Once again, our ski and snowshoe program this past year reflected our commitment to lowering the financial barrier for local residents who would like to learn to ski or otherwise use the trails during the winter months. A lackluster year for snow conditions unfortunately limited the use of our equipment and trails this past season. Still, the popular Loan and Lesson offering served a number of enthusiastic new skiers when snow conditions were favorable.

The committee has been busy organizing the upcoming season, with enthusiastic and skilled ski instructors secured from January 4 through mid-February, and the cabin ready for the free ski and snowshoe loan program. The Lakeview Elementary ski initiative, that integrates Nordic skiing into PE and afterschool programming, is entering its second year. This program utilizes Hardwick Trails equipment inventory, generously donated by the Prevot Family Foundation, to outfit every student in the school.

With the onset of spring, the trails were the primary training ground for the Hazen Union track team. They were also the setting for several races during the season.

Because the trails wind through such a rich wooded environment, the Committee sponsored many nature-based public events throughout the warmer months. May is dedicated to welcoming spring migration with Saturday Bird Walks, this year led by Lucian Avery, Dave Brown, Elinor Osborn and Marie LaPre Grabon. This summer's

events ranged from Mushroom Hunting (with Joe Nudell) to a Geology Walk (with Dave Mitchell). In between, Lucian Avery taught about foraging for wild plants; Alicia Clark led a Children's Nature Hunt; and with sketchbooks in hand, folks went out for an afternoon of drawing with Susan Sawyer. The Trails Committee can only offer such events because we have so many knowledgeable and willing local folks.

We are also grateful to partner with the Jeudevine Library to develop the Story Walk as a community asset. The Hazen Dare to be Me program has helped with upkeep of the reading stations.

Unfortunately, once again flood damage repair was a major focus for the summer months. Grant funds were secured 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 on the Hardwick Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) group, thus expanding the scope of our efforts to this regional asset. We secured grant funds to complete a connector trail from the LVRT to the Hardwick Trails network. A new trailhead kiosk, built and installed by the Hazen Union Technical Education program, in partnership with Trails committee members, will educate LVRT users about our diverse trail offerings. The committee anticipates increased use of Hardwick Trails in the coming years, as LVRT users become more aware of this remarkable resource.

A new trailhead has been established on Billings Road, and is dedicated to Joe McCarthy, who lived adjacent to the trails and was a mental health therapist who was deeply committed to this town. He ventured almost daily into the woods with his beloved dogs and modelled for many how time alone in the woods with a four-legged companion that could bring serenity to one's soul. Signage is under development.

We are grateful for the Shepard family's on-going support and rich vision for trail expansion on their property. A new single track trail is currently being developed and a more detailed plan for trail building on the east side of the Bridgeman Hill road will be created in the coming year.

As a result of a series of meetings with the Green Mountain Technology Center staff, Hazen Union leadership and trails members, a Memorandum of Understanding was finalized, reflecting a long standing shared interest in use of the woods behind Hazen as both a learning laboratory for the Forestry Program and a recreational mecca for residents. This strong collaboration promises to ensure continued trail improvement.

We continue to deepen our partnership with the Adaptive Sports Partners (ASP) organization to ensure that our trails will be accessible to ALL residents. ASP had been offering weekly adaptive bike riding sessions to area residents every Monday on the LVRT and utilizing the trails for several school groups they work with on a regular basis. They are spearheading an assessment of steps to increase single track trail accessibility, to be implemented in the year ahead.

New, more detailed, maps have been created for both the wide general recreational use trails and our Single Track network. 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 5:00 PM (email hardwicktrails@gmail.com for more information).

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

Submitted by Helen Beattie

Jeudevine Memorial Library

The library's biggest story this year continues to be its expansion! This year, we were honored to receive a \$725,000 federal capital project grant from the Vermont Department of Libraries. A generous bequest in memory of Leone Cobb allowed us to move ahead with landscaping the grounds of the library buildings and installing a

stone patio. With the current timeline, the expanded Jeudevine will open in early spring, followed by a grand opening celebration in the summer.

The Jeudevine in numbers: 8,573 people were counted coming through the door this year, with 775 reference questions answered, 339 people assisted on the computers, and 1,803 unique wireless sessions. Patrons checked out 858 eBooks and listened to 2,768 audiobooks. The total number of books, DVDs, magazines, park and museum passes, and kits circulated was 10,837. We provided 200 items to other libraries and received 697 through interlibrary loan. 1,338 people of all ages attended programs over the year.

Programs this year, as always, were wide-ranging and included participants from the very youngest to the oldest. For younger people, we provided weekly community story times and story times for Head Start, after-school programs, a children's garden in the Hardwick Community Garden at Atkins Field, summer reading performances featuring singing and storytelling, and story walks on the Hardwick Trails and in Main Street storefronts, as well as the start of a Teen Advisory Board for the library. In the middle of the year, we said goodbye to Marilyn McDowell and welcomed Rachel Funk as the Youth Services Librarian.

Programs for adults included author talks, writing workshops, health and aging-related presentations from the Vermont Department of Health, craft gatherings, and an ongoing book discussion group co-sponsored with the Hardwick Equity Committee. We also had speakers from the Vermont Humanities lead discussions about themes in the VT Reads book this year, *Gather*, by Vermont author Ken Cadow. Thanks to our partnership with the Galaxy Bookshop, we were lucky enough to have Mr. Cadow, a National Book Award finalist, give a reading and talk. We partnered again with the Galaxy to have the Pages in the Pub fundraiser at the Cork and Fork, a win-win-win for Hardwick businesses and the library. The Eclipse Party, held in the Memorial Park across from the library, was a favorite and well-attended program by locals and out-of-towners alike this year.

In other news, we expanded offerings in several ways. Patrons can now use credit/debit cards to pay for copying, laminating, or lost books through the town's website. The service fee is passed along to the user; there is no cost to the library. We are now able to offer notary services. The internet service we used for many years ended in June, and we switched to NEK Broadband. With the help of many, we were able to make the switch seamlessly and have some of the fastest speeds around – available 24/7 outside the building! We will pay NEK Broadband for service with a Department of Libraries grant for the next five years. In other technology-related news, we received a \$10,000 Technology Improvement Award from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, which allows us to upgrade our computers and purchase audio/visual equipment for the new community room.

The library continues to partner with Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor. Library staff answer emails and phone calls for Neighbors and connect people who need something with people volunteering to help. Neighbors are also the conduit for funds for the Hardwick area from the Salvation Army with vouchers available at the library to Buffalo Mountain Market, Kwik-Stop, and Hannaford's in Morrisville. Neighbor to Neighbor ran the Supply and Support Center again this year after the floods in July and is working with the town on the Local Emergency Management Plan.

As we look ahead to the library growing both in size and potential, we hope to expand our crew of volunteers as well. If you want to help promote the library and dream up and execute fun fundraising ideas, consider joining the Friends of the Jeudevine. If you like to organize and have an excellent command of the alphabet, consider volunteering as a shelper! Do you want to help prepare crafts for story times or have another idea about volunteering? Contact the library; we'd love to hear from you!

Diane Grenkow, Library Director

Friends of the Jeudevine Library

The Friends of the Jeudevine Library is a separate nonprofit entity that exists to strengthen and support the work of our municipal library. The Friends was active for many years, however the chaotic nature of the expansion project and then the pandemic led to a lull in activity. As of spring 2024, the Friends of the Jeudevine has regrouped to begin supporting the expanded library.

The Friends of the Jeudevine raises money to support programming events for both adult and children's programs at the library. Some of these special programs are hosted by the Friends, while others are hosted by the library but funded by the Friends. The Friends has separate accounts from the library, and as a 501(c)3 nonprofit is able to provide services for the community that the library cannot. For example, the Friends can hold the accounts for the Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor entity, allowing that group to receive grant money to fund

important community efforts such as flood relief. The Friends has also served in this capacity for the library expansion project by applying for grants for which only nonprofits were eligible. The expansion was able to receive a \$500,000 Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Program award by collaborating with the Friends to apply for and administer the grant. This was a highly important piece of funding for the project.

Beyond raising money to support the library, the Friends host various fun events for our community. For numerous years, members of the Friends have built the library's float for the annual Spring Festival parade and taken part in the various festival activities. This winter the newly revitalized Friends group is hosting a ski/snowshoe at the Hardwick Trails followed by a family movie—designed to be a good time for all ages.

Once the expanded library opens, all kinds of possibilities arise for using the community spaces and the kitchen to host more and different events. We expect it will be an exciting time in the long life of the library. It will certainly be a great time to become a Friend of the Jeudevine.

*Jodi Lew-Smith
Board President*

Select Board Report

Reflecting on the past year, the event that stands out again is the July flooding. One year to the day after the 2023 flooding, Hardwick and other Vermont towns were hit with another major flood. Again, we witnessed streams and rivers overflow their banks, roads wash out, bridges wash away, and homes and businesses flooded. Given the short time between the floods, we can no longer pretend that such disasters are infrequent. It's time to take steps toward better flood resilience. We need to address issues we've known about for a long time, and we need to embrace new ideas that will help protect our homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

Flood recovery and broader efforts to build resilience will continue for years. In addition to assisting individual property owners and rebuilding our highways, our town government is pursuing several long-term changes to strengthen town infrastructure. We are working to bring funders together around a project to move our Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) out of the flood zone. Moving the WWTF involves major effort and expense and may require completely changing our wastewater treatment process. We know that the rate payers cannot shoulder such a huge expense alone, which is why we are engaged with FEMA and other federal and state funders to cover the majority of the cost.

We are committed to relocating the Fire Department out of the flood zone. With funding from a Vermont Municipal Technical Assistance Program grant, Hardwick has engaged an architecture firm to create a conceptual design for a new Fire Department building on Creamery Road. This initial concept includes a new Town Highway Garage and a new Hardwick Rescue building. We're on schedule to have preliminary conceptual designs to share with everyone at Town Meeting. Finally, the town is engaged in several assessments to better understand the risks posed by future floods and ways to mitigate them. Through several ongoing processes, we will gain insight into dynamics of major waterways such as the Lamoille River and Cooper Brook, evaluate the impact of Jackson Dam, understand the risks to our downtown, and explore flood mitigation options for residential areas like the historic Granite St neighborhood. The goal of these assessments is to develop a list of actions that the Town can take to reduce the impact of future floods. In all of these efforts, the town is leveraging all available funding assistance from a variety of sources.

Beyond flood relief, many other Town projects are nearing completion. At long last, we are poised to construct a replacement pedestrian bridge between Main St and the Daniels Building this summer. This project also includes riverbank stabilization that is critical to maintaining underpinnings for Main St itself. The Jeudevine Memorial Library addition is almost complete and will be open to the public by summer. The long anticipated

library expansion will provide more room for library patrons of all ages. The Yellow Barn project is also nearly complete. The Cabot store in the restored barn has been open for several months and the tenants in the new building next to the barn are working on fitting up their new spaces. The Center for an Agricultural Economy will begin using its new Food Hub at the Yellow Barn in early 2025 and Jasper Hill Farm will move into the other half of the building shortly thereafter. All combined, the tenants in the Yellow Barn project will bring 25 new or saved jobs to Hardwick. While the Cabot store attracts visitors to Hardwick, the new facilities will allow Jasper Hill to increase bulk milk purchases by 4.4 million pounds per year while CAE's food hub will positively impact on the 100+ farm and food producers currently served by CAE's Farm Connex program.

Floods, new projects, and general improvements all require a lot of work. The Town employees deserve great kudos not only for responding to disasters but also for keeping Hardwick continually moving forward. The increase in workload after the recent flooding events, however, has highlighted the capacity limits we have with a small town government. I've highlighted most of the larger projects here but there are many other projects currently underway. The Select Board has been working with the Town Manager and Business Manager to devise a way to increase capacity in the Town Manager's office. Hardwick has been very successful in securing funding for many projects, both flood-related and not, but those projects need oversight and management. Many of the projects, such as road, culvert, and bridge repair and replacement and the WWTF rebuild, fall in the Public Works category. Our budget proposal includes the creation of a new position of Public Works Director, reporting to the Town Manager. This new position will take over some existing Public Works responsibilities and also pick up some tasks that haven't been given the priority they deserve. Adding this position will free up time for other town employees to focus on their primary roles, particularly the Town Manager and the Road Foreman. By adding this position, Hardwick will be well positioned to tackle all the projects in front of us and will also be able to maximize use of available state and federal funds.

Our Police Department also deserves praise for its steadfast commitment to responding to calls for assistance both during and outside of natural disasters. Our staffing is very thin at the Police Department and has been for a couple of years. Chief Henry has recommended adding an additional Police Officer position next year. The additional officer would relieve the strain on the current officers and reduce reliance on part-time officers. The Select Board agrees that this is a necessary addition in order to maintain the current level of service provided by the Police Department.

To meet the needs of Hardwick, the Select Board is proposing a Town budget of \$4,417,752. This is an increase of roughly \$400,000 (10%) over the previous year. The Select Board is very aware that this is a large increase, and we did not arrive at it lightly. We believe this is the most appropriate budget to run the Town for the coming year. The main drivers of the proposed increase include adding a new Public Works Director at a cost of about \$100,000 including salary and benefits, adding a new Police Officer at a cost of about \$100,000 including salary and benefits, and the remaining \$200,000 is mostly due to increases in health insurance costs, other insurance costs, and cost of living increases in staff salaries. The Select Board meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month and invites public comments. Additionally, individual Select Board members are available to answer questions outside of meetings. We also look forward to discussion at Town Meeting.

Finally, we wish to recognize the outstanding Town staff who have served us through another difficult year. Things like keeping the roads passable, stewarding the finances, preparing for the future, and all other Town services only happen through the hard work and dedication of the Town staff. We thank you.

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

Notary Services are by appointment only. The Town Clerk's office will have only one Notary in the office effective February 01, 2025.

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 1st of each year. To register your dog, you must show proof of a current rabies vaccination. The fees From January 1st – April 1st are: Spayed/Neutered \$11.00 & Non-Spayed/Neutered \$15.00 You will note a \$2.00 increase, the State of Vermont increased their fee. After April 1st late fees are applied.

Tonia Chase
Town Clerk/Treasurer

Town Manager Report

After the July 2023 flooding event and spending the remainder of the summer and fall repairing damage caused by rushing flood waters, we were planning for a summer of progress in design and mitigation work of our critical infrastructure. Nothing goes as planned. The July 2024 flooding solidified the town staff's focus to get our residents out of harm's way. Not a day goes by where flood resiliency projects are not being discussed in our offices. After July of 2024 it became clear that we needed to shift our focus to strengthening our community's ability to weather future storms.

Late in fall of 2024, all the damage identified and declared for the July 2023 disaster were obligated by FEMA. Town staff are currently working on the 2024 damage declarations and will continue to through the winter and early spring. With repetitive damage to several town owned properties, mainly the Wastewater Treatment Facility, Fire Station, and two Wastewater Lift Stations, we will be submitting applications to FEMA to move or mitigate that critical infrastructure to be able to withstand future high water.

We are currently in the early stages of redeveloping our Creamery Road property, the current location of our Town Highway garage. This redevelopment will house not only a new Town Highway garage but potentially utilize that space for a new Fire Station building as well. We have partnered with Hardwick Rescue on the project to ensure they have continued use of the space, with room to grow to provide important and necessary services for Hardwick and beyond. Repairs for the South Main Street retaining wall and replacement of the Pedestrian Bridge will commence in the early summer. This project will finally bring an end to the closure of the Bridge and at long last link our downtown with more opportunities for access, which leads to economic growth by both continued community support and visitors alike.

In preparation for multiple large-scale construction projects and the need to free up capacity with current Town staff, we have determined the need for an additional role. With the support of the Select Board, we are asking you, the taxpayer, to support a Director of Public Works position. This position would be a boots on the ground person working with contractors, public works employees, and vendors, to move our recovery efforts forward at faster pace. In my opinion, this position is decades overdue. Our Town is no different from the rest of the country with addressing our aging infrastructure. Our Town staff has been working hard to secure funding, and the implementation phase is next, and I want to make sure we are as efficient as we can be.

Looking ahead, we will continue to place major emphasis on building climate resiliency not only with our large infrastructure projects but with our bridges and road repairs. The challenges brought by a second year of flooding further reinforced the need for fortifying stormwater systems and public and private properties along the river through our downtown and beyond. We are committed to implementing measures that will help us withstand extreme weather events.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to the Town of Hardwick's staff, Select Board, local organizations, and every resident who has contributed to our progress and successes. The dedication and hard work of this community have made each accomplishment possible. As we move forward, we will continue to prioritize the needs and well-being of our residents, improving our infrastructure, enhancing our emergency preparedness, and supporting sustainable growth. Together, we are making Hardwick a more resilient, welcoming, and vibrant place to live, work, and visit. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

*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.

In 2024, the Hardwick Planning Commission continued the examination of traffic and pedestrian safety issues throughout Hardwick. South Main Street and Wolcott Street had walkability reviews created and presented to the Select Board. The HPC also updated the original 2020 findings of the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force and updated the recommendations for the LVRT Connector Loop in downtown Hardwick. The main focus of the HPC in 2024 was the Bylaw Modernization and Floodplain regulation update. Heather Carrington, a local consultant, was hired by the grant funds to assist the HPC. The HPC spent 2024 reviewing, revising, and drafting zoning bylaws that would allow additional housing stock to be created in the areas with town water and/or sewer. The revised Flood Hazard Area Overlay rules follow the State and Federal rules that will accompany the new FEMA Flood Maps in the next year. The proposed bylaw updates were adopted by the Select Board in September 2024.

In 2025, the Hardwick Planning Commission will focus on zoning bylaw updates for a proposed new Village Center zoning district in East Hardwick and support improvements throughout the Town of Hardwick. The HPC currently has no vacancies and two alternates on the Commission.

In 2024, the Hardwick Development Review Board reviewed and approved changes of use in Hardwick. DRB hearings focused on Flood Hazard Area Overlay requests (Bridge Removal and a bridge installation), a Cultural Facility, two major subdivisions, a new storage and office location, and indoor cultivation structures. If you would like to participate in future development review, the DRB currently has one vacancy. Letters of interest should be submitted to the Town Manager's office.

The Floodplain Administration component again increased this year with the major July 2024 flooding. More than twenty-five structures in the Flood Hazard Area Overlay were impacted by the summer flooding event. 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 assist with the purchase and demolition of ten additional structures which were severely impacted by the flooding in 2023 and 2024. Additional grants were received to assist with the elevation of six structures.

*Kristen Leahy
Zoning Administrator*

From the Zoning Office: Town of Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws – Updated on September 5, 2024

Historical Perspective:

Since the last comprehensive update to the Town's Unified Development Bylaws in 2017, the Town has engaged in bylaw modernization efforts utilizing a 2023 Vermont Bylaw Modernization grant. The Planning Commission worked with Carrington Community Development Services to review the Unified Development Bylaws and propose amendments to support additional housing. The 2024 amendments brought Hardwick's bylaws into compliance with the 2023 Vermont Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone (HOME) Act. Following the widespread flooding in July 2023, the Planning Commission also initiated consideration of bylaw amendments to mitigate flood risk in Hardwick. The 2024 amendments help improve and clarify the interpretation of the floodplain regulations.



The Housing amendments adopted in 2024 seek to assist with the following:

1. create more housing-related allowable (permitted) uses
2. reduce minimum required dimensional standards in zoning districts served by municipal water and sewer infrastructure
3. align minimum off-street parking requirements to the statutory requirements of the Vermont HOME Act (Act 047)
4. revise the regulations associated with Mobile Home Parks to align the rules with Fair Housing practices
5. include Emergency Shelters in the Protected Public Uses as per the HOME Act
6. add or clarify definitions.

The adopted Floodplain bylaws are compliant with the Vermont Floodplain Management regulations and make the following changes:

- Add Bridges and Culverts to the permitted uses (was a conditional use)
- Add Channel Management to the permitted uses (was a conditional use)
- Add Footbridges to permitted uses (was a conditional use)
- Add River and Floodplain projects to permitted and conditional use (in floodway) (no mention before)
- Add primary access fill to conditional use (previously was not allowed)
- Prohibit all new residential or non-residential structures, including small Accessory Structures, in the Floodway. (Hardwick previously prohibited only Accessory Structures in the floodway)
- Prohibit Natural Burial Grounds and cemeteries from the Floodplain (no mention before)
- Add the word "Facility" to Storage in the prohibited uses
- Exempt interior improvement and repairs to existing buildings under \$500 (no exemption before)
- Exempt maintenance on roads, bridges, and storm water drainage. (Only mentions roads in the previous rules)
- Exempt routine maintenance to an existing building
- Exempt stream bank stabilization and abutment work

New or substantially improved structures must be elevated to or above the Design Flood Elevation (2 feet above base flood elevation). The previous rules had an elevation at Base Flood Elevation but, with current flooding patterns, a higher standard was needed.

For Critical Facilities (fire stations, wastewater treatment facilities, etc.) to be substantially improved, they must now have the lowest floor (including the basement) elevated or dry flood proofed at least one foot above the elevation of the 0.2% annual flood height (500 year Floodplain) or three feet above base flood elevation, whichever is higher. (New critical facilities are prohibited from the Floodplain).

Hardwick Flood Resiliency Projects – 2023 and 2024

Inn by the River location – the parcel was purchased by the Town of Hardwick in the spring of 2023. The remaining structure was demolished and removed prior to the July 2024 flooding. In July 2024, Hays Service Station/Jiffy Mart and the Town of Hardwick lost 100 feet of property, three vehicles were swept downstream, and three in-ground fuel tanks were precariously close to the Lamoille River. The continued erosion at this location is a threat to both the Hays Service Station but also the Hardwick downtown and the correlating Routes 14/15/16. Temporary Bank Stabilization was done in July 2024 by the State of Vermont at the request of the Town. A Hazard Mitigation grant is in process for bank stabilization and floodplain restoration. RIVER program is working on preliminary engineering.



A study of a comprehensive approach to the riverbanks in the center of town from above the North Main Street Bridge to the Cottage Street Bridge is being reviewed by RIVER. NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program will be funding the stabilization of Brush Street and Buffalo Mountain Coop and the Hays Service/Town of Hardwick area. 65 Brush Street lost a corner of the building in the aftermath of Debby on August 10, 2024. The 41 Brush Street property (FEMA buyout in process) is also threatening to collapse. The retaining wall near the pedestrian bridge has received funding from FEMA to be replaced and repaired.

The Town-owned property below the Cottage Street Bridge has been identified as a location for a floodplain restoration/flood mitigation project. The Lamoille River is one component of the flooding issue. Flood Benches and floodplain restoration etc. on the property below the intersection of Cooper Brook and the Lamoille River may alleviate some of the pressure at that junction. This project was identified in several Lamoille River studies. RIVER grant through NVDA is being utilized for a Benefit Cost Analysis and early engineering.



Wastewater Treatment Facility Plant– Substantially damaged by flooding in July 2023 and July 2024. The facility and its components will need to be elevated and/or removed from the floodplain. The Feasibility Study, Benefit Cost Analysis and Alternatives study are done and have been forwarded to FEMA for funding discussions. Area could be used for future flood storage if the structures are removed from the site.

Fire Station – Substantially damaged by flooding in July 2023 and July 2024. The facility will need to be elevated and/or removed from the floodplain. Standard Operating Procedure is now to remove fire equipment and trucks in weather events. MTAP grant through NVDA was obtained to complete a scoping study and feasibility study for removing the Station from the floodplain. Vermont Integrated Architects have been retained to complete the work by spring of 2025. Area could be used for future floodplain restoration after removal.

Storm water/flood mitigation assistance in the Granite Street Historic District – possible Municipal Planning Grant 2025. At the intersection of Cooper and Lamoille – this section is more likely to be flooded. This area of Hardwick received higher amounts of flooding in July 2024. Neighborhood focused response – Sump pump was purchased by one resident and utilized by several homes– seeking funding for 10+ structures to be floodproofed, elevated land removed from Atkins Field, restoration of the storm water garden on Cottage Street, future removal of debris near Brook Street Bridge.



In October 2024, extensive debris clean-up occurred on Haynesville Brook on VT Route 15 East – near Fisher's Folly Bridge – and along the Lamoille River after the Jackson Dam.

Eleven Damaged Roads/Culverts were repaired, graded and top-dressed and re-opened to travel after July 2024. Mitigation funds from FEMA helped with fortifying culverts with headers and wing walls: 1. Kate Brook Road (several new culverts installed); 2. Belfry Road; 3. Bunker Hill Road; 4. Smith Farm Road (Fixed shoulder – 8/24); 5. Dutton Road (culvert upsized) (9/24); 6. Nichols Pond Road (culvert upsized) (9/24); 7. Stage House Road (2 culverts upsized) (9/24); 8. Sawmill Lane; 9. Wright Farm Road/Yellow Barn parking; 10. Stannard Mtn Road is partially owned by Hardwick – road & river edge (Repaired – 7/24); 11. Tucker Brook (3 culverts added – 9/24).

Six bridges were damaged in July 2023 and July 2024.

1. Tucker Brook (From 2023 – Temporary held in 2024) *Needs to be upgraded.*
2. Carey Road box culvert/bridge - Damaged – Temporary Fix (2024) *Needs to be upgraded.*
3. Riverside Farms Bridge was destroyed. Permanent Bridge in place – September 23, 2024
4. Fisher's Folly Bridge was damaged. Temporary done. *Needs to be upgraded.*
5. Hardwick Farm Road Bridge - damaged (incl. temporary bridge) Engineering proposals received for permanent – Temporary done. *Needs to be upgraded.*
6. E. Main Street, East Hardwick Bridge was removed in the spring (Damaged in 2023) – RFP for engineering proposals being generated. *Needs to be upgraded.*



Ten buyouts were arranged after the July 2023 flooding. Four Substantially Damaged properties were purchased by the town of Hardwick. The houses were demolished in 2024: 223 Mill Street, 2832 Craftsbury Road, 387 Carey Road, and School Street in East Hardwick.

Six additional properties returned from FEMA in 2024 with funding to purchase them in the Spring of 2025 - 161 VT Route 14 South, 115 VT Route 14 South, 24 Sawmill Lane, 444 Wolcott Street, 41 Brush Street, and 5 Sawmill Lane.

After the July 2024 flooding, the Select Board voted to re-open the buyout requests – ten requests have been sent to the State of Vermont. Two are on the Haynesville Brook, two are on the Lamoille River in East Hardwick, two are in downtown Hardwick on the Lamoille River, and four are on the lower Wolcott Street area. All have flooded on multiple occasions.

Six properties have requested elevation assistance after the flooding in July 2023 and July 2024 – two are on the Lamoille River and four are on Cooper Brook. The State of Vermont provided funding for elevations. A priority list was generated, and an engineering firm will be contracted in early 2025.

Neighbor to Neighbor and the Town are working with consultants to create a local partner's version to the Local Emergency Management Plan. Four categories are under consideration. A draft version will be available in early 2025.

Neighbor to Neighbor created a supply and support center to respond to the flooding in July 2024. Cleaning kits, dehumidifiers, sump pumps, fans, safety suits, masks, protective glasses and more were made available for the public. The July 2024 supply center was utilized by Walden, Wolcott, Stannard, Greensboro, and Woodbury. Plans are in place to make this a sustainable and ready-to-go element of emergency response.

EDA grant for Flood Modeling and Economic Development. Money has been received, and a completed project will be available by the end of 2025. The Lamoille River and the Cooper Brook will have current flood models complete in 2025.

Jackson Dam – A feasibility study will be conducted on the Hardwick Lake and Jackson Dam area. The study will focus on the flood resilience aspects for upstream and downstream on the Lamoille River.

Dog Licenses and Vital Records Reports

<u>Town of Hardwick</u> <u>Dog License Report</u> July 01, 2023 to June 30, 2024			
<u>Total Number of Licenses</u>	<u>Price Per License</u>	<u>Total Collected</u>	
4	\$ 3.00	\$	12.00
196	\$ 9.00	\$	1,764.00
57	\$ 11.00	\$	627.00
54	\$ 13.00	\$	702.00
8	\$ 17.00	\$	136.00
		\$	-
2 Kennel Permit	\$ 31.00	\$	62.00
1 Pet Dealer Permit	\$ 25.00	\$	25.00
332		\$	3,328.00
Total Collected for FY24		\$	3,328.00
Fees to State of Vermont		\$	1,814.00
Total Revenue for FY24		\$	1,670.00

<u>Town Clerk's Office</u> <u>Vital Records Information:</u> July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 The following records were filed:	
16 Birth Certificates	
18 Marriage Certificates	
39 Death Certificates	

CURRENT TAX RECONCILIATION: 7/1/2023 TO 6/30/2024		
MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST AT 1%	\$	1,987,215.00
HOMESTEAD GRAND LIST AT 1%	\$	1,107,989.98
NON RESIDENTIAL GRAND LIST AT 1%	\$	807,593.02
TAXES BILLED ON 7/27/2023		
MUNICIPAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,427,301.43
HIGHWAY TAXES BILLED	\$	1,319,404.64
LOCAL AGREEMENT BILLED	\$	20,466.78
HOMESTEAD TAXES BILLED	\$	1,956,536.43
NON RESIDENTIAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,441,160.57
LATE HOMESTEAD PENALTY	\$	979.12
MISC. BILLING (GARBAGE)	\$	120.00
TOTAL TAXES BILLED	\$	6,165,968.97
TAX BOOK BILLING BALANCE 6/30/24		
MUNICIPAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,426,453.09
HIGHWAY TAXES BILLED	\$	1,319,046.74
LOCAL AGREEMENT BILLED	\$	20,461.23
HOMESTEAD TAXES BILLED	\$	1,959,360.10
NON RESIDENTIAL TAXES BILLED	\$	1,437,810.12
LATE HOMESTEAD PENALTY	\$	1,238.56
MISC. BILLING (GARBAGE)	\$	120.00
TOTAL TAXES BILLED	\$	6,164,489.84
COLLECTIONS REPORT 7/1/2023 TO 6/30/2024		
ABATEMENTS	\$	14,808.98
ADJUSTMENTS	\$	6,025.05
AVAILABLE CREDITS FOR FY24	\$	(2,164.84)
AVAILABLE CREDITS FOR FY25	\$	(8,121.89)
COLLECTIONS	\$	5,402,504.07
CREDIT REFUNDS (HS-122 & OVERPAYMENTS)	\$	8,220.37
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 7/1/2023 TO 6/30/24	\$	488,371.75
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 7/03/2023	\$	135,207.00
STATE TAX PAYMENT TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 8/01/2023	\$	3,856.00
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 9/1/2023	\$	5,104.92
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 10/02/2023	\$	898.00
STATE TAX PAYMENTS TO TOWN OF HARDWICK 11/1/2023	\$	2,651.03
STATE TAX PENALTY PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$	-
PROPERTY TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR ON JUNE 30, 2024	\$	6,057,360.44
DELINQUENTS ON JUNE 30, 2024	\$	107,184.84
PROPERTY TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR ON JUNE 30, 2024	\$	6,164,545.28
ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE - NEMRC	\$	(6,164,489.84)
DIFFERENCE	\$	55.44

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

Orise Ainsworth, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The voting audience included approximately two hundred people.

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

Orise Ainsworth nominated by Dave Shepard
Motion passed unanimously

Article 2. Shall the Town accept the Town Report, year ending June 30, 2023?

Motion by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Rob Lewis
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. (Select Board and Union School District No. 26 Directors, to be voted by Australian Ballot).

First Constable 1-year term

Larry Hamel nominated by David Upson
Motion passed unanimously

Second Constable 1-year term

No motion or volunteers, office stays open

Town Agent 1-year term

Rob Lewis nominated by Rob Lewis
Motion passed unanimously

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 Tracy Martin
Motion passed unanimously

Cemetery Trustees 1-year term
Main Street, Maple Street, Fairview, Sanborn, Hardwick Street, West Hill, Hardwick Center

Motion made by Dave Shepard to nominate the Cemetery Trustees as presented in 2023 Town Report
Motion passed unanimously

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

Motion made by Dave Shepard to nominate Fire Dept. Officers as presented in 2023 Town Report
Motion passed unanimously

One Library Trustee 3-year term

Lauren Honican nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith
Motion passed unanimously

One Library Trustee 3-year term

Abrah Griggs nominated by Jodi Lew-Smith
Motion passed unanimously

Grand Juror 1-year term

Raymond Bellavance nominated by Dave Shepard
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 Kevin Moore, Seconded by Rob Lewis
Motion passed unanimously

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?

Motion by Ron Wiesen
Seconded by Dave Shepard

Town Manager, David Upson, highlighted a few projects that are ongoing and gave an update on some of Hardwick's bigger projects.

He said that it has been 9 months since the flood and that efforts to recoup recovery spending from our federal partners are ongoing. Each week he has meetings with FEMA staff to follow up on and fulfill requests for essential elements of information for each of the projects that have been created by FEMA grant managers. He stated that there are several larger recovery projects that will take time to complete. Days and weeks after the flood, town staff requested hydrologic studies from our state partners for larger river crossings. The information requested in a hydrological study will allow us to request engineering services for the replacement and upsizing of culverts and bridges lost or damaged in the flood. The process Hardwick must follow is time consuming but essential to receiving reimbursement. As we work on recovery, some of our long standing projects continue to move forward.

David stated that the Yellow Barn has been fully leased to a development corporation to complete and operate. He said that many are mistaken when they think our property tax dollars are bankrolling that project. The investment that was made was by many and the payback is in the long game. He said Hardwick will be the beneficiary of that project for its lifetime through PILOT payments.

He said that the library project continues to move forward and will be a great addition to our community.

David believes this will be the year for the replacement of the pedestrian bridge. The July flooding changed some of the existing conditions but teams working on the project were able to adapt and continue to move forward. He hopes to be walking across that bridge by the end of this year! Next, David discussed the rebuilding of our wastewater treatment facility. He stated that the wastewater plant is related to every form of growth and development in our village. He said if our plant cannot treat the waste streams it receives, we cannot continue

to grow and without growth, the burden falls on the existing rate payers to keep the plant operating. He will do everything in his power to ring the bell for financial and technical assistance to rebuild and/or relocate the facility, making it more resilient for the future.

David said that they are working on getting the ACT 250 permit opened up and amended in order to blast and crush our own Samat at Hardwick's Route 14 pit. He said that crushed gravel and stone are highly sought after resources for the rebuilding and resurfacing and it will be cost effective if we can produce it closer.

David thanked the many community members who year after year show up for the greater good of Hardwick and its residents. He also wanted to express his gratitude to the audience. He said their willingness to come to the discussion about the future of our community is what makes it strong. He said the most important thing for him to do in his position is to find solutions to community problems.

Eric Remick wanted to thank David Upson and staff. Eric addressed the motion on the floor, the budget. He stated that this was the biggest increase that has been proposed in his time on the Select Board, so he wanted to go through it briefly. He referenced the budget summary on page 11 of the Town Report and went through those figures. He said that the 7.55% increase originally started at 14%. They feel they have tightened to some degree but are still able to meet the needs of the town.

Danny Hale stated that the position increase hours is for the current position for flood/zoning administrator. Because of new regulations there is a ton of mandated paperwork, new maps that have to be made and more complicated permitting. Someone in the audience questioned whether that money can be recouped through grants, Eric said yes, there is a way to recoup.

Rob Lewis proposed a couple of ideas to lower the budget. He thinks the community is consistently being asked to bear the burden of tough times. He stated that historically our fund balance is maintained at approximately 10-15%. He questioned, looking at the 2023 balance, why it is currently at more than 20%. Casey Rowell, Business Manager, requested permission to answer as a non-Hardwick resident, there were no objections. She stated that at the end of 2023 the fund balance was just under \$980,000 which based on current budget is about 24%. The fund balance policy states we want to have a minimum of 15% for a goal of 20%, but there is a projected \$125,000 of the \$980,000 being used for current fiscal year budget and anticipate using another \$50,000 of that in fiscal year 2025 and also some of that money is committed to the pedestrian bridge. That would then put the balance at 15-18%.

Rob Lewis thanked Casey for that information, but he still disagrees with the 18%. He put a motion on the floor to take \$75,000 out of the capital budget to reduce taxes. He believes the Select Board should rework that number. On the fire department equipment budget, he would like to see \$25,000 taken from that and put back into the budget for a reduction of taxes and since the fund balance is almost \$1,000,000, he also proposed a reduction of \$200,000 come from the fund balance to reduce taxes for the people of Hardwick.

Eric Remick responded that the Select Board did spend a fair amount of time working on the capital equipment purchase schedule. They pushed out some purchases and decided we could wait on police cruisers and the small trucks. The capital equipment schedule, other than funds set aside for this year, is there for planning purposes. Nothing is committed to anything beyond this year, but to try and plan, they map out future years.

Rob Lewis understands that but thinks that some of these costs should be deferred to another year. He also asked if there was a mechanic in the town garage that maintains vehicles. Eric said no, that in the past mechanics were hired to come to the garage, but due to how computerized trucks are now, it is not feasible.

Larry Hamel wants to vote no on the budget. He stated that he hears from people that do not want to stand up and speak at Town Meeting but that they have had enough with the increases. He said that Hardwick has the highest tax rate in the Northeast Kingdom.

Steve Sampson asked if the budget is rejected when would the next opportunity be presented. Orise informed of options the floor has to make amendments to the budget. Steve asked again what opportunity the people would have to vote on the next amended budget. Orise informed that there would have to be another special Town Meeting.

Dave Shepard noted that in the Town Manager's opening statement that he said something about potentially moving the sewer plant, he would like to know where it could be moved to. David stated that the facility has flooded four times. Engineers have been hired to determine the substantial damage and if it is over 51% substantially damaged then we would be required to elevate it or relocate it and elevating plant would be considered relocating and that is the most cost effective.

Ray Bellavance stated the sewer plant leaks, but David corrected and said that the lagoons just went through relining, that the liners in them were not compromised but they had reached their useful age, and that facility is completely contained. He stated that where we do get ground water infiltration is the aging collection system. We can assume there is some leaking from the pipes that connect houses to the plant, but there is no evidence that the facility itself is polluting the ground water. Eric noted that the sewer plant and water are critical infrastructures but wanted to clarify that those are separate budgets, and they are paid out of water and sewer rents, that this is not part of the budget on the floor. He also clarified that the lagoons and sewer plant are not leaking, when it flooded in July the water did wash through there and into the Lamoille River. Ray asked why the water and sewer bill went up and Eric informed him that the water and sewer rents are set by the Select Board every July and if interested in helping with that process he invites anyone to participate. Meredith Holch felt that Eric's answer to Ray was evasive, and she would like an answer why rates went up. Eric stated that he did not have those figures in front of him because it is not part of today's meeting, but that the rates are to cover the costs of running system, regular operating cost, regular maintenance, and bond payment. Ray then questioned sewer overage rate when sewer is not metered, Eric said sewer cannot be metered so the assumption is what goes in must come out.

Rob Lewis made a motion that the Select Board revisit the budget and provide a reduction on the fund balance of another \$300,000. Orise asked Rob to clarify what he is proposing. Rob stated that he is proposing an amendment to take another \$300,000 off the almost \$1,000,000 that is in there. Orise said then the only thing that can be done is a non-binding straw poll, because legally all that be done is changing the bottom line of the budget. Rob asked for a straw poll. Eric cautioned that even though it looks like a large amount in the fund balance he wanted to point out that if an additional \$300,000 is taken from fund balance to offset taxes this year, which can be done and the same is done next year, that there would not be enough money to keep doing that and then it will be a pretty big bump in the future year.

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane asked if Casey could come up with a figure that would be appropriate to take out of the fund balance this year considering what is already committed.

Michael Lew-Smith asked if we could get an estimate of how much that \$300,000 change would affect the tax rate. Casey referenced page 9 of the Town Report and said that if Fund Balance Contribution to Offset Tax Rate is changed from \$50,000 to \$350,000 it shows an estimated decrease, because we do not know Grand List, of 1.99%.

Tracy Martin wanted to double check that the fund balance in the Town Report is from 8 months ago and we are currently not sitting on that money right now, Casey said that is correct.

Rob Lewis thanked Casey for the information, but he stands by his straw poll request.

Danny Hale wanted to thank everyone for coming to today's meeting but also wanted to remind everyone that the Select Board meets twice a month and that the budget is discussed often. He said if you have questions and ideas come to a meeting so you can have these discussions and try to work those ideas into the budget. He reminded that this budget started at 14% and that they as a group feel like they did a rather good job of getting to where they are still providing the essential services. If you really want to have influence on the budget come

to the meetings before the Town Meeting. He stated that he knows of several communities that are now paying large interest rates on money they had to borrow to mitigate flood problems in July. Hardwick did not have to borrow money and not pay interest and were able to pay for the services needed right then, which is why we were able to open roads in two days. He asks the voters to consider not spending that additional fund balance money so that Hardwick is prepared if there is another catastrophic event.

Paul Fixx said that he agrees with Danny.

Cody Sisk wanted clarification on the proposal if that would be a net decrease or percentage off the 8%. Casey said net decrease.

Raymond Bellavance asked if Hardwick paid for all the flood damage repairs or if FEMA helps. Eric said that yes, FEMA does help but the money does not come right away. When a flood occurs, or any other event, money is needed on hand or to be borrowed. David gave additional details on how FEMA pays and percentages of what they pay, it is not 100%.

Orise called for a non-binding straw vote to give the Select Board direction to take additional \$300,000 from the fund balance to offset taxes. Nays won the straw poll.

Motion passed.

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. Orise asked if there was any objection to putting appropriations as a group. Larry Hamel objected. He stated that the few people in the room are going to decide on \$46,000 for the rest of the town and that there are things on the appropriations that he objects to. Most are consistent and they qualify but if they cannot take the time to be at the meeting and speak for groups, then they should have a no vote and believes we should take each one individually and have some discussion. Orise asked if voters wished to take appropriations as a block and thought the vote was 50/50 so she decided votes will be done separately. Orise also stated that all of the explanations of who was asking for money, how much and why are found in Town Report on page 26-35.

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?

Motion made by Norma Wiesen, Seconded by Jennifer Laundry

Larry asked if anyone was here to speak for the appropriation. Sarah Morgan, former board member and current Medical Director at the Greensboro Nursing Home explained why they were requesting appropriation and gave information on what Greensboro Nursing Home offers and would be happy to answer any questions. No questions were asked.

Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Meredith Holch

Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Theresa Scott

Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Ann Gilcris, Seconded by Dave Shepard
Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Jennifer Laundry
Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Ann Gilcris, Seconded by Dave Shepard
Motion passed

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.?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Meredith Holch
Motion passed

Larry Hamel would like to know what Hardwick gets from RCT? He stated that he is right in the middle of town and watches traffic all the time and hasn't seen any buses or anyone using service. Orise stated that on page 34 in the Town Report is a description of what they do. Alex Jump stated that she personally experiences people needing rides to rehab and hospital. She stated that you have to make an appointment 24-48 hours prior and they will come, pick you up and bring you home. She stated that this is vital for folks who do not have transportation.

Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Kris Lance
Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Ross Connolly

Larry Hamel stated that in his capacity as the Animal Control Officer that NCAL has not taken one dog from him and he has tried several times. He also said that Town Manager has tried several times, and his predecessor Dean Mercier tried several times and they have not had any luck. He said that Justice for Dogs, however, has been quite helpful, and they have worked with them extensively. He is making a motion to give Justice for Dogs the \$2,100 appropriation instead of NCAL.

Dave Gross read what was stated in the Town Report from NCAL and is assuming people are bringing their animals or found animals directly to NCAL because he doubts that they are falsifying the document.

Shari Olmstead stated that she works for both organizations. She gave several reasons why NCAL needs the appropriation.

Emily Willems said that NCAL is a community partner with Hazen Union School and for many years special needs students get their first introductory work experience there.

Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Ann Gilcris
Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Kevin Moore
Motion passed

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)?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Ross Connolly
Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Emily Willems, Seconded by Dave Shepard
Motion passed

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.?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Deborah Hartt

Jessa Gebbie from Morrisville requested to speak on behalf of Salvation Farms, with no objections. She highlighted what they offer Hardwick and gave a brief description of the organization.

Motion passed

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.?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Kathy Unser
Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Kevin Moore
Motion passed

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?

Motion made by Dave Shepard, Seconded by Larry Hamel
Motion passed

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

Elizabeth Dow – President of Hardwick Historical Society wanted to mention that the Hardwick Historical Society chose not to request a \$3,000 appropriation this year because they knew it was going to be a hard year for taxpayers. She also gave a little history on tax rates.

Meredith Holch said that she only has one square left on her Civic Standard bingo card and asked if the woman Select Board member sitting next to Opie could say her name. Shari Cornish said her name and Meredith got BINGO.

Orise gave a run down of the organizations that are out in the lobby.

Deborah Hartt stated that she is going to miss Lorraine Hussey getting everyone all geared up for the corned beef and cabbage dinner.

David O'Brien stated that he and his wife were victims of the flood and he wanted to thank Opie, Kristen and other town staff who were amazing in assisting them through this complicated journey. Dave asked everyone to stand and thank Opie for all his work.

Eric Remick wanted to recognize Wiz Dow for her years of service on the Select Board, as she is not running for reelection this year.

Jennifer Laundry requested a straw vote approving a petition or whatever action is needed from the State of Vermont Department of Education for Hardwick to look into divorcing or leaving the forced merger for Act 46 and bring Hardwick Elementary back to an individual town school and our own school board. Meredith Holch asked if she could get a little background because she does not know anything about this. Jennifer gave a detailed explanation for her request. Meredith then realized that she did know about this, and recommended people read Greensboro's Front Porch Forum. It has different information, views, and figures from Karl Stein. Beth LeCours said that this is separate from what is being voted on and that this is for Hardwick going back to having control of its school rather than being split between four towns. Raymond Bellavance said he thinks Lakeview is going to close anyway because they just lost more teachers and that we should bring the money back to Hardwick and pay our teachers more. Orise said that again this is a non-binding straw vote on whether Hardwick voters would support taking back Hardwick Elementary School and diving the forced merger. Orise asked for a standing vote, after counting she said straw vote is for a yes.

Shery Lussier spoke on behalf of the Kiwanis and is requesting volunteers to help with Spring Festival.

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, Tom Fadden – Road Foreman and Fire Chief and Mike Henry – Interim Police Chief.

Deborah Hartt, the current coordinator for the Four Winds Program at Hardwick Elementary School, gave a description of the program and stated that they are looking for volunteers.

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 is happening in their organization. Meredith Holch asked if he knew when it would be coming to East Hardwick. He does not have any details beyond 2024 yet.

Steve Fortmann, also known today as the Microphone Man, is requesting that we have a second microphone next year. He also wanted to thank the Hardwick Police Department for their efforts to combat drug related crime.

Dave Shepard was really pleased to see that the Town Report was dedicated to Jean Hackett.

At 11:52 a.m. our State Representative, Chip Troiano, took to the floor and discussed education and childcare. He shared his thoughts on Act 46 and school consolidation. He brought up Act 127, a law that was passed and is an act relating to improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula and providing education quality and funding oversight. He also shared that last year the childcare bill was passed and his thoughts on that. 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 Kevin Moore, Seconded by Tracy Martin

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 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 802-229-9383

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member municipalities and just over 53,000 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. Hardwick's appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors is Shari Cornish. The appointed alternate is Ceilidh Galloway-Kane. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.25 for fiscal year 2026. With your support, CVSWMD offers valuable programs and services to its residents, including:

Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC): Our Barre recycling facility for special items that cannot go in your regular recycling accepts TVs, computers, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs, and thermostats from Vermont residents at no cost through the State's Extended Producer Responsibility programs. We also accept other electronics and hard-to-recycle materials. Unfortunately, our facility was flooded again on July 10, 2024, a year to the day since we were forced to close due to historic flooding in July 2023. Despite both floods, 139,678 lbs. of materials were collected through the ARCC and diverted from the landfill in FY24. We also continued to sell composting and recycling equipment to District residents at discounted rates once we re-opened.

Household Hazardous Waste: In FY24, we helped 639 households dispose of 53,616 lbs. of hazardous waste through seven single-day collections, including two special emergency collections in response to the July 2023 flood. We are planning to open our Eco-Depot in 2025, which will include the ARCC, our administrative offices, and our new year-round household hazardous waste facility in one convenient location in the Berlin industrial park.

Grants: CVSWMD offers grants to towns, businesses, organizations, and schools for Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse, Municipal Services, Emergency Solid Waste Response, and School Zero Waste initiatives. In FY24, CVSWMD awarded \$23,669 in grant funding across the District, including \$6,830 in non-competitive Green-Up Day grants.

Outreach and Education: CVSWMD maintains a website, social media accounts, and a searchable A-Z guide with information on landfill-banned items, composting, blue bin recycling, special materials recycling, and household hazardous waste. We also send out monthly email newsletters to communicate relevant information and program updates to residents. In FY24, our School Zero Waste Program provided solid waste management support for 28 public and 3 independent schools. This included 1,871 students, pre-K-12, reached through 118 on-campus programs.

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2024

Morrisville Local Health Office | 63 Professional Drive, Morrisville, VT
Phone 802.888.7447 | AHS.VDHMorrisville@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The Morrisville Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Lamoille, Orleans, Caledonia, and Washington counties. Some highlights of our work in 2024 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/morrisville

Improving Family and Child Health

Our Woman Infants and Children (WIC) Program supports pregnant people, infants, and kids under 5 with nutritious food and nutrition education. In 2024, we

- Served 690 WIC participants through tele-WIC visits and in-person clinics in Johnson, Cambridge, Morrisville, and Hardwick.
- Worked with Buffalo Mountain Coop to become a new WIC grocer.
- Provided a total of \$8,460 in fresh produce through our Farm to Family program.
- With Salvation Farms, provided 1,154 pounds of free seasonal produce.
- Supported 63 prenatal and postpartum families with our dedicated Breastfeeding Peer Counselors
- Through Building Bright Futures resumed Dabble Days with over 90 kids and families attending to play and learn about community resources.



Protect and Promote Community Health

Our team is committed to preventing disease and investigating reports of infectious disease. We provide vaccines to individuals uninsured or facing barriers to access. As of November 2024, we held 40 clinics in the office and offsite and provided 250 vaccines, including COVID, flu, MMR, Mpox, Hepatitis A & B, Tdap, Shingles, and Pneumococcal vaccines. Our team also responded to Measles cases, providing resources and support, and offering vaccines.



Emergency Preparedness

- We partnered with Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LEARN) to support community members at risk of adverse effects due to flooding and distributed water test kits.
- Our teams collaborated with Critical Access Hospitals, Copley, NWMC, and NCH to establish mutual emergency preparedness goals and share resources.
- We provided personal preparedness information and education at Capstone Community Action, The Community Center, and other events, including Bright at Night Reflector Road Safety resource. We partnered with GMTCC Students to provide Stop the Bleed training in schools and the community.

We also recruit and support Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers, who are critical resources to our community during emergencies. We welcome clinical and non-clinical volunteers. Everyone is needed. Contact us for more information.

DOG LICENSING & THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”!

Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. §3581 of the Vermont Statutes Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet or Wolf-hybrid Control. Sub-chapter 002: Licenses: **A dog must be licensed (registered) by six months of age at your town office to be legal. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year is required. Dogs not licensed can be seized and euthanized by the state statute.**

Registering identifies your dog. It's proof of protection against rabies in case an animal or person is bitten. Immediate medical attention is needed. Animals not vaccinated and registered could be quarantined or possibly seized and euthanized, enabling the brain to be tested. Rabies is deadly. PLEASE LICENSE NOW!

Vermont Statutes Title 20 - Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 193 - Domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid Control §3621. Issuance of warrant to impound; complaint.

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers, constables, pound keepers, or appointed animal control officers, directing them to promptly impound all dogs or wolf-hybrids within the town or city not licensed according to the provisions of this subchapter, except as exempted by section 3587 of this title, and to enter a complaint against the owners or keepers of the impounded dogs and wolf-hybrids.

A puppy (or kitten) can have their first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. Community Animal Aid hosts a Wellness Clinic, including rabies vaccinations, for those unhoused or those receiving state benefits usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month: East Barre Fire Station. Check for updates: AnimalAidVT@gmail.com or 802-734-0259. Tractor Supply Stores host a monthly rabies clinic, and some VT Humane Societies and veterinarians offer a rabies clinic in March.

THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”

VSNIP helps income eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them. Veterinary offices are throughout the state, and we invite other veterinarians to join this altruistic effort to help continue eliminating routine euthanasia of mostly, an overpopulation of cats and kittens. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Town of Hardwick General Information:

Visit us at www.hardwickvt.gov

Town Manager's Office Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.
Phone: 472-6120 Fax: 472-3793

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Closed 12:00 – 12:30.
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 or 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: Mondays 11:00-1, Tuesdays 8:30 to 2, Wednesdays 9:30 to 2, Thursdays 8:30 to 2, Friday and Saturday by appointment. Phone: 472-1686 Email: 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.

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
Neighbor to Neighbor: 441-3301

Hardwick Area Food Pantry: 472-5940
Hardwick Health Officer (Eric Remick): 472-8025
Hardwick Water/Wastewater Operator: 472-5939
Jeudevine Memorial Library: 472-5948
Cemetery Sexton, Joe Mangan: 426-3121

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 15th day of April of the following year, no person shall park any vehicle or permit any vehicle to remain parked on any public highway in the Town between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
8. If there is an emergency after regular working hours regarding water, sewer, or highway, please call the Police Department at 472-5475 to have them contact the necessary resources.

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

Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
David Upson, Town Manager
Effective Date 2025-2026

Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.