



Town of Shaftsbury, Vermont

Annual Report for Year Ending June 30, 2024

Proposed Budget For The Year Ending June 30, 2026

2025 Town Meeting and Election

Town Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025, 6:00pm at Shaftsbury Elementary School

Balloting

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Town Garage

This year's annual report is dedicated to an outstanding citizen who was important in the life of Shaftsbury. *He will be missed. . .*

Ronald Paul Lindsey

January 29, 1943 - September 3, 2024



Ron was born in Bennington, VT on January 29, 1943, the son of Ralph H. and Opal A. Lindsey. He married Rosemary Hogan in St. Francis de Sales Church in Bennington on November 16, 1963.

Ron joined the Army Reserves in 1961 and served until September of 1968. Ron was a Quality Control Manager at Johnson Controls and later at Chem Fab.

Ron was a 57 year member of the Shaftsbury Fire Department serving as Secretary and Treasurer before serving as its Chief for 10 of those years.

Ron worked with the Vermont State Police to replace the old air horn fire alarm system with the new radio system.

He was a 12 year member of the Norshaft Lions Club. Ron also served on the zoning board in Shaftsbury and was a coach for Bennington Little League.

Ron lived for his grandchildren, enjoying every minute spent with them. He was a snowmobile enthusiast and also enjoyed riding motorcycles. He loved camping in Maine and he always looked forward to the summers he could go up there.

Ron's wife of over 60 years, Rosemary Lindsey, proclaims that while she was his first love, she became his second love when he joined the Shaftsbury Fire Department.



Town of

Shaftsbury, Vermont

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending June 30, 2024

Southwest Tech, MAU & SVUESD
Boards Annual Meetings
Please visit www.svsu.org for more information

Town Meeting
6:00 p.m. Monday, March 3, 2025 - Town Meeting
at Shaftsbury Elementary School

Balloting
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 4, 2025
at the Town Garage

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This year's town report was produced by Town Clerk, Marlene Hall. Cover Photography and Design by Marlene Hall. Thank you to Gina Jenks and Jen Holley for proofing.

HELPFUL NAMES AND NUMBERS

Emergency Dial 911 Fire — Medical — Police

Town Officials

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Gina Jenks, Assessor's Clerk (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 103
Email assessors@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours Monday - Thursday – 9:00 am - Noon and by appointment

BOARD OF AUDITORS

Michael Caslin, Chair (Home) 802-442-3936
Meetings As needed

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Jen Holley, Cemetery Superintendent (Home) 802-384-8320
Kathy Cardiff, Chair
Meetings First Wednesday, 9:00 am, April - December

CONSTABLES

Robert “Bob” Perry, First Constable (Home) 802-442-3071
Francis Buck, Second Constable (Home) 802-558-1948

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Michael Day, Chair (Home) 315-283-4547
Meetings First & Third Wednesdays of each month, 6:00 pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rick Bennett, Chair (Cell) 201-654-5248
Meetings Fourth Thursday, 8:00 am as needed

FIRE DEPARTMENT (VOLUNTEER)

Joe Vadakin, Fire Chief (Cell) 802-384-0061
Fire Station #1: 166 Buck Hill Road (non-emergency) 802-442-4226
Fire Station #2: 364 Old Depot Road (non-emergency) 802-375-9308

State Fire Warden (Burning Ordinance is in effect: please call 24 hours in advance to obtain permit)

Eric Bushee 518-836-7639
Deputy Fire Warden Ed Shewell 802-379-0441

Glastenbury Fire Warden (Burn permits for Glastenbury) Jerry Mattison 802-379-4487

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT / DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mike Yannotti (Office) 802-681-7240

PLANNING COMMISSION

Naomi Miller, Chair..... (Home) 845-342-5224
Meetings.....Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each month, 6:00 pm

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Deena Ruege, Chair..... (Home) 802-447-4741
Meetings..... Fourth Friday of each month, 10:00 am

SELECTBOARD

Naomi Miller, Chair..... (Cell) 845-342-5224
Martha Cornwell, Vice Chair..... (Home) 802-375-2968
Tony Krulikowski..... (Home) 802-442-6423
Mike Cichanowski..... (Cell) (781) 738-2552
Brad Peacock..... 802-598-5367
Meetings..... First and third Monday of each month, 6:30pm

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Paula Iken (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 102
Email.....administrator@shaftsburyvt.gov
HoursMonday, Tuesday & Thursday 8am-4pm | Wednesday 8-12 | Friday By Appointment
Tiffany Mays, Bookkeeper (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 105
Email.....accounting@shaftsburyvt.gov

TOWN CLERK

Marlene Hall, Town Clerk..... (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 100
Email.....townclerk@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours Mon. 9am-3pm and 5pm-7pm, Tues. - Thurs. 9am-4pm, Fri. by appointment

TREASURER

Melanie Dexter, Treasurer (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 101
Email..... treasurer@shaftsburyvt.gov
HoursMonday - Thursday 9am - Noon & by appointment

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Rob Steuer, Chair (Home) 802-447-3137
Vacant
Bill Hession (Home) 802-442-8919
Meetings..... As needed

VETERANS COMMITTEE

Meetings..... As needed

ZONING

TBD, Zoning Administrator (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 104
Email..... zoning@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours Monday - Wednesday 9am-Noon

STATE OFFICIALS

(www.vermont.gov)

BENNINGTON-3

Representative David Durfee 802-491-7832
Email ddurfee@leg.state.vt.us

BENNINGTON COUNTY

Senator Seth Bongartz 802-598-3477
Email sbongartz@leg.state.vt.us
Senator Rob Plunkett 802-440-2649
Email rplunkett@leg.state.vt.us

VERMONT STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Governor Phil Scott 802-828-3333
Lt. Governor John Rodgers 802-828-2226
Attorney General Charity Clark 802-828-3171
Treasurer Mike Picciak 802-828-2301
Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas 802-828-2363
Auditor Doug Hoffer 802-864-2281

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

(www.usa.gov)

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

Senator Peter Welch 802-652-2450
Senator Bernie Sanders 802-862-0697
Representative Becca Balint 202-225-4115

Additional Helpful Names and Numbers

Animal Control Officer, Bob Perry 802-681-3724
Arlington Rescue Squad - non emergency 802-375-6589
Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce 802-447-3311
Bennington County Clerk and Bennington County Superior Court, Bennington 802-447-2700
Bennington County Industrial Corporation (BCIC) 802-442-0713
Bennington County Probate Court 802-447-2700
Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) 802-442-0713
Bennington County Sheriff's Department 802-442-4900
Bennington Free Library 802-442-9051
Bennington Rescue Squad 802-442-5817
Delinquent Tax Collector, Holly Bahan (Home) 802-379-2299
Emergency Management Director, Paul Dansereau (Home) 802-430-3266
..... emergencymanagement@shaftsburyvt.gov
Health Officer, Jackie Myers (Cell) 802-688-9570
John G. McCullough Free Library, North Bennington 802-447-7121
Mount Anthony Union High School, 301 Park Street, Bennington 802-447-7511
Mount Anthony Union Middle School, 747 East Road, Bennington 802-447-7541

North Bennington Treasurer's Office	802-442-5547
Post Office, North Bennington (05257), 52 Main Street, North Bennington	802-442-4884
Post Office, Shaftsbury (05262), 56 Church Street, Shaftsbury	802-442-2142
Regional Technical School District.....	802-447-0220
Second Chance Animal Shelter	802-375-2898
Shaftsbury Elementary School, 150 Buck Hill Road, Shaftsbury.....	802-442-4373
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union	802-447-7501
Town of Shaftsbury, Fax Number.....	802-442-0955
Town Service Officer, Jackie Myers	(Cell) 802-688-9570
Tree Warden, David Mance III	(802) 375-6454
Vermont Agency of Transportation, Bennington District #1 Office	802-447-2790
Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, Game Warden (police barracks)	802-442-5421
Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT)	802-229-9111
Vermont State Police Barracks, Shaftsbury Troop D (non-emergency).....	802-442-5421
Village School of North Bennington, 9 School Street, North Bennington	802-442-5955

PUBLIC WORKS EMERGENCIES

Shaftsbury Highway

Nights/weekends/holidays - notify State Police 802-442-5421

Shaftsbury Water System (for public water in Shaftsbury Village)

Joshua Brace, Water Superintendent (Cell) 802-375-5621
..... water@shaftsburyvt.gov
Mike Yannotti, Department of Public Works Superintendent (Cell) 802-379-1547

North Bennington Water Systems (for public water outside Shaftsbury Village)

Zach Bull..... 802-379-2858
Truck Cell 802-688-9005

SOLID WASTE FACILITY

(Transfer Station) 510 North Road

Shelly Bordman, Manager

Hours of Operation – Year-round

Tuesday	7:00am - 12:00 Noon
Thursday	11:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday	7:00am - 4:00pm

Transfer Station Holiday Closings 2025 - Please check website at shaftsburyvt.gov

Electronics can be dropped off at the Bennington Transfer Station during their regular business hours.

Located on Houghton Lane in Bennington

Visit our Website

www.shaftsburyvt.gov

All meetings are held at the Town Office Building,
Cole Hall (upstairs), 61 Buck Hill Road, unless otherwise posted

TOWN OFFICERS - ELECTED

Selectboard

Naomi Miller, Chair.....2-year term expires 2025
Martha Cornwell, Vice Chair.....3-year term expires 2025
Mike Cichanowski.....3-year term expires 2027
Tony Krulikowski, Vice Chair.....3-year term expires 2026
Brad Peacock.....2-year term expires 2026

Town Clerk

Marlene Hall.....3-year term expires 2027

Treasurer

Melanie Dexter.....3-year term expires 2027

Auditors

Michael Caslin.....3-year term expires 2025
Lisa Lent.....3-year term expires 2026
Vacant.....3-year term expires 2027

Trustees of Public Funds

Rob Steuer, Chair.....3-year term expires 2027
Vacant.....3-year term expires 2025
Bill Hession.....3-year term expires 2026

One-year terms (expire 2025)

Town Moderator..... Thomas Dailey

Delinquent Tax Collector..... Holly S. Bahan

First Constable..... Robert “Bob” Perry

Second Constable..... Francis Buck

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (2-YEAR TERM EXPIRES 2027)

Michael Caslin, Democrat	802-442-3936
Abigail Chaloux, Democrat	802-430-0104
Joseph Coonradt, Independent	802-442-2243
Marna Whitman Dailey, Independent	802-442-6582
Joan Dornhoefer, Democrat	802-442-6411
Dave Mance, Independent	802-688-3506
Anne Mele, Democrat	802-447-3859
Karen Mellinger, Democrat	802-447-1950
Alice Miller, Democrat	802-430-1615
Linda I. Morris, Democrat	802-442-3504
Katie Seaton, Democrat	904-479-5470
Joan Vargo, Democrat	802-442-5646

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY CONSISTS OF:

Justices of the Peace – Selectboard – Town Clerk

BOARD OF ABATEMENT CONSISTS OF:

Justices of the Peace – Selectboard – Town Clerk – Town Treasurer

TOWN OFFICERS - APPOINTED

CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Jen Holley Term length at discretion of the Selectboard

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

TBD 3-year term expires 2026

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Michael Day, Chair	3-year term expires 2025
Ted Habberfield, Vice Chair	3-year term expires 2025
Denny Browe	3-year term expires 2025
Zoe Contros Kearl	3-year term expires 2025
Sarah Costin	3-year term expires 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION

Nancy Burns, Chair	3-year term expires 2025
Michael Albus	3-year term expires 2025
Emily Cowperthwaite	3-year term expires 2027
Zoe Contros Kearl	3-year term expires 2026
Michael Foley	3-year term expires 2025

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Animal Control Officer	Bob Perry
Bennington County Regional Commissioner	Cinda Morse
Emergency Coordinator	Paul Dansereau
Energy Coordinator	Ben Hulett
Fire Chief	Joe Vadakin
1 st Asst. Chief	Mike Taylor
2 nd Asst. Chief	Ed Shewell
Fire Warden	Eric Bushee
Deputy Fire Warden	Ed Shewell
Health Officer	Jackie Myers
Deputy Health Officer	Vacant
Town Service Officer	Jackie Myers
Tree Warden	David Mance III

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Kathy Cardiff, Chair | Neal Strong, Vice Chair | Betsy Habberfield
Peggy Wilson | Rosemary Lindsey | Jen Holley, Superintendent

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rick Bennett, Chair | Shari Miller | John Verocchi
Marita Cockburn | Andrea Bacchi

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Deena Ruege, Chair | Tony D'Onofrio | Liz Duffy | Sarah Costin
Historian member Helen Olney

SHAFTSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jeffrey Johnson, Principal
802-442-4373

Town of Shaftsbury Town Floor Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2024

In person at Shaftsbury Elementary School, 150 Buck Hill Road, and remotely via Zoom

Tom Dailey, moderator, introduced himself shortly after 6 p.m.

All present voiced the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dailey noted the annual report is dedicated to Charlie Becker, Mert Snow, Pauline Knapp, and Tim Kinney. He asked for a moment of silence for those Shaftsbury residents as well as others who have passed recently. He also asked that attendees reflect upon Americans' good fortune to have a system such as is being exercised tonight.

Mr. Dailey introduced the selectpersons: Art Whitman (chair), Tony Krulikowski (vice-chair), Martha Cornwell, Mike Cichanowski, and Naomi Miller. He noted that CAT-TV is broadcasting live and is recording the meeting and thanked Jim Byers from CAT. He noted that Jen Holley is running the Zoom broadcast. He thanked Town Clerk Marlene Hall for being the Town's go-to person. At Mr. Dailey's request, the audience applauded Karen Mellinger for organizing the potluck dinner that preceded the floor meeting.

David Durfee, Shaftsbury state representative, spoke. He noted that pre-Covid, one of the issues he spoke about at Town Meeting was broadband. Now, virtually all of Bennington County except Readsboro and Stamford are well served by high-speed internet. Selling property is now therefore much easier. A second issue previously addressed was affordable child care. Last year, the legislature passed Act 76, opening up more than 7000 new child care slots with more coming on line all the time. Housing remains a focus of the legislature, as is Act 250 reform. He said this year's state budget will be more conservative than those passed during the pandemic.

A citizen moved to dispense with the reading of the official meeting warning. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Business to be enacted from the floor

- To hear reports of the Town officers and take action thereon.

Mr. Dailey noted that his name was misspelled in last year's minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- To Determine:

A. Shall Selectboard members each receive an annual stipend of \$750?

A motion was made and seconded to that effect. Karen Mellinger listed a number of responsibilities carried by the selectpersons and moved that the item be amended to "an annual stipend of \$1000." The motion to amend was seconded. The amended article passed unanimously.

B. Shall the Board of Auditors be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?

The motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

C. Shall the 1st and 2nd Constable be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?

The motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

- Shall the Town authorize collection of taxes on real and or personal property by its Treasurer, which are due in hand on or before Tuesday November 12th at 5:00 P.M. or likewise postmarked no later than November 12th?

A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

- Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,740,081 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal Year 2025, the amount of such sum to be raised by property taxes and to be reduced by non-tax revenues and reserve funds?

Mr. Art Whitman gave the report of the selectpersons. He noted that David Kiernan, town administrator, has retired. The selectboard received more than twenty applications for his position and has hired a town administrator, Paula Iken. He asked all to welcome her with open arms. She will begin work in April.

He said the ARPA (American Rescue Act Plan) committee conducted a survey of citizens, which found that high priorities for the use of ARPA funds were making Cole Hall ADA-compliant, and creating a civic center in town. In response, the Selectboard purchased a property north and east of Cole Hall and is under contract to purchase a one-acre lot north of Cole Hall where those initiatives can be implemented. He asked that citizens consider joining any of several committees dedicated to pursuing these and other projects.

The Selectboard also produced a new speed ordinance and has requested increased funding for sheriff monitoring of speed in Town.

A new firearms ordinance was adopted for South Shaftsbury.

A "host town" agreement has been signed with the solar developer. It includes the following: limitations on which town roads can be used; that primary access be off Route 7; that every year it operates the company will pay to the state Education Fund \$28,000; that every year it operates the company will pay the Town \$123,000 (this is irrespective of school tax); that every year it operates the company will pay Town and School tax; that every year it operates it will donate \$15,000 toward the purchase of a new brush truck; that electric charging stations will be constructed on town property; and that upon ground-breaking, a \$50,000 donation will be made to the Town.

Looking forward, the next big DPW project will be the paving of White Creek Road. Tree work and ditching will continue.

A solar screening ordinance is in the works (it is a result in part of the creation of an Enhanced Energy Plan).

He complemented Town staff on their efforts over the year.

Mr. Dailey read the budget article. A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$2,741,331 for fiscal year 2025. Mr. Whitman made a presentation on the budget.

He said the FY 2025 budget is up 8.4% over the FY 2024 budget. Why? Inflation is a contributor. Health insurance and wages are big factors. Truck and equipment maintenance costs have gone out of sight. A summer helper has been added to the DPW (this to avoid pulling a CDL-licensed individual off the road crew to, for example, mow grass). Finally, the sheriff's hours have been doubled.

Mr. Whitman illustrated the proposed budget, the entire budget and the DPW budget, with pie chart slides. (These graphics are included in the Town Report on page 43.) Mr. Whitman noted that all proposed community appropriations are included in the budget total, but whether to approve them is entirely up to the voters.

Mr. Whitman described a newly adopted process for community appropriations: any increased appropriations or new requests must be accompanied by a petition; and existing requestors will have only one chance to notify the Select Board of their request.

Karen Mellinger asked Mr. Whitman to explain the water situation. He said it is a cloudy one. North Bennington made a major upgrade to their system in their Village at a cost of several million dollars. The Village then charged the Town of Shaftsbury for part of that cost. Shaftsbury refused payment, as the improvement did not benefit Shaftsbury water users. After much back and forth and a suit brought by North Bennington, the two entities went to mediation. The mediation resulted in an order that Shaftsbury did not have to pay for any part of the bond issue, but rather should pay the same amount as a North Bennington resident. North Bennington raised the rate of the next water bill by about 60%. The Town has refused to make such payment. Mr. Whitman said he'd been notified by Mr. Durfee that the State might be willing to assist in resolving the matter. Mr. Dailey clarified that there is a state department dealing with community water, but it doesn't touch upon pricing.

Jenifer Hoffman asked for clarity about an inconsistency in the warned appropriation for the Bennington County Conservation District. Mr. Whitman reported the ballot would announce a \$475 appropriation.

Alan Baker noted that loose horses had been captured.

A citizen asked about taxes charged senior citizens. Gina Jenks, assessor's assistant, recommended the citizen contact the Taxpayer's Advocate, or call 211 regarding state programs for low income folks. Ms. Jenks will have the Taxpayer's Advocate phone number placed on the website. Ms. Jenks said she thought there might be fund managed by the Select Board to help older citizens.

The motion regarding the budget passed unanimously.

- To transact any other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.

Marlene Hall, Town Clerk, described the voting to be held on March 5, 2024.

Three elections will be held: a presidential primary, a town election, and a school election. Those living in the N. Bennington school district will vote on the school budget there. All other votes will be cast in Shaftsbury. For the presidential primary, each voter will be asked whether they want a Republican or Democrat ballot. This step is required not by the Town or the State but by the national political parties. You may take any ballot you wish. As regards the Town ballot, voters will vote on appropriations, town officers, some zoning bylaw changes, and the CDC/Tech Center budget.

Ms. Hall said the new tabulators are slower than they had been, but the election workers will do their best to move the lines along.

These agenda item will be discussed by not voted on. Voting will be by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 5, 2024.

1. Review and discuss Articles 1, 2, and 3: Shall the voters authorize amendments to the Shaftsbury zoning bylaws?
2. Review and discuss Article 4: Community Appropriations
3. Discussion of other non-binding business

Alan Baker asked a question about the work of the economic development community. Martha Cornwell said the Regional Commission is working with the committee to identify all the possible developable sites in the Village. These would include the Bernstein property and

properties that might now be vacant. She said it would likely take a number of years to achieve success.

Andrea Bacchi, vice-chairperson of the economic development committee, noted that the business climate has changed. Brick-and-mortar is no longer the only model. She herself works from home.

Ms. McEnaney asked that the community support Article C of the school budget, the approval of Spinelli Field. She noted some of the benefits to children who participate in sports. She urged everyone to vote in favor of the Article to voice their support for the town's children.

Karen Rose, a Shaftsbury citizen, spoke on behalf of Monty's House wildlife rehabilitation center and her \$1000 request for funding. She noted the center is described on page 73 of the Town Report.

Jennie Rozycki, director of the John G. McCullough Library, and Gizelle Guyette, Youth Services Librarian at the library, spoke about services offered by the library.

Cynthia Thomayer of Sunrise Family Resource Center spoke on behalf of the Center and thanked the community for its support. The report is on page 79 of the Town Report.

Dr. David King spoke on behalf of GBICS.

Alan Baker spoke on behalf of WBTN and encouraged folks to think about hosting shows on the station.

Art Whitman noted that the Julia Mattison fund, established in 1926, was designed to provide care, comfort, and maintenance of aged women that are residents of Shaftsbury. Interested persons should contact the Trustees of Public Funds.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION RESULTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2024
Total Votes 1069

SELECTMAN

2 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Brad Peacock	535
Arthur Whitman	489
Write-In	2
Spoiled	1
Blank	42
Total	1069

SELECTMAN

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Michael Cichanowski	541
Tony D'Onofrio	335
Write-In	5
Spoiled	0
Blank	188
Total	1069

TOWN CLERK

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Marlene Hall	938
Write-In	2
Spoiled	0
Blank	129
Total	1069

TREASURER

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Melanie Dexter	861
Write-In	2
Spoiled	0
Blank	206
Total	1069

MODERATOR

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Thomas J. Dailey	878
Write-In	4
Spoiled	0
Blank	187
Total	1069

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Holly Snow Bahan	848
Write-In	1
Spoiled	0
Blank	220
Total	1069

AUDITOR

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Write-In	22
Spoiled	0
Blank	1047
Total	1069

TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Rob Steuer	736
Write-In	3
Spoiled	0
Blank	330
Total	1069

1ST CONSTABLE

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Robert Perry	569
Chad R. Skinner	242
Write-In	4
Spoiled	0
Blank	254
Total	1069

2ND CONSTABLE

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Francis Buck	732
Write-In	9
Spoiled	0
Blank	328
Total	1069

ELECTION RESULTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT

MARCH 5, 2024

Total Votes 1069

ARTICLES

1. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

New section: “Road frontage requirements in the R40 and R80 zones shall be reduced to 75’, where the new lots so created are no more than one and a half times the minimum size for that zoning district.”

(Note: this might also be placed in the Rural Zones table.)

YES 621 NO 297

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

revised 3.3.2:

“If an application is submitted for a proposed use that is not identified in these Bylaws as a permitted or conditionally permitted use for the district, the Development Review Board shall review and evaluate the proposed use as a conditional use, pursuant to Zoning Bylaw §3.4. The Development Review Board shall not grant a permit for the unlisted use if any individual impact, as listed in Zoning Bylaw §3.4, is greater than the impact reasonably expected for a permitted use in the subject district. The Development Review Board shall grant a permit, impose conditions on the permit or deny the application consistent with the provisions of Zoning By law §3.4.”

YES 657 NO 243

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

Zoning map change (to facilitate definition of area to be covered by new firearms ordinance)

Rezoning in the VR district to R40: We will suggest that parcels 16 21 20.1 and 16 21 22 as recorded in the Town Grand List are to be placed in the R40 zone.

ELECTION RESULTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2024
Total Votes 1069



Proposed changes to Shaftsbury Zoning Map

Area outlined in red is now Village Residential (VR). The change from VR to R40 will align the Village Residential Zone with the area covered by the new Municipal Firearms Ordinance. The area outlined in red is known locally as a traditional hunting ground.

YES 530 NO 369

4. Shall the Town vote to exempt Taconic Community Grange from payment of property tax for a period of five years?

YES 512 NO 391

ELECTION RESULTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2024
Total Votes 1069

5. Community Appropriations to Determine:

1) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,225 to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?

YES 936 NO 103

2) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?

YES 794 NO 235

3) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Bennington Free Clinic?

YES 834 NO 193

4) Shall the Town appropriate \$18,630 to the Bennington Free Library?

YES 691 NO 334

5) Shall the Town appropriate \$600 to Bennington Little League?

YES 849 NO 190

6) Shall the Town appropriate \$4,500 to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?

YES 821 NO 202

7) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,700 to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?

YES 586 NO 412

8) Shall the Town appropriate \$600 to the Center for Restorative Justice?

YES 682 NO 332

9) Shall the Town appropriate \$200 to the Green-Up Vermont?

YES 891 NO 140

10) Shall the Town appropriate \$25,200 to the John G. McCullough Free Library?

YES 650 NO 375

11) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,000 to the Martha Canfield Library?

YES 606 NO 408

Appropriations Continued

12) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?

YES 828 NO 195

13) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,500 to the Park McCullough House

YES 633 NO 382

14) Shall the Town appropriate \$450 to the Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES 831 NO 195

15) Shall the Town appropriate \$950 to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES 864 NO 162

16) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?

YES 769 NO 256

17) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?

YES 711 NO 309

18) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,100 to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?

YES 833 NO 190

19) Shall the Town appropriate \$900 to the Tutorial Center?

YES 759 NO 258

20) Shall the Town appropriate \$300 to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?

YES 906 NO 126

21) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the VT Center for Independent Living?

YES 818 NO 208

22) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)

YES 513 NO 491

23) Shall the Town appropriate \$750 to Bennington Senior Center?

YES 868 NO 158

24) Shall the Town appropriate \$475 to Bennington County Conservation District?

YES 765 NO 258

25) Shall the Town Appropriate \$1,000 to Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitations

YES 738 NO 283

**STATE OF VERMONT
Bennington County, SS:
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY**

March 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warning

Shaftsbury residents, qualified to vote at the Annual Town Meeting, are hereby notified and warned to meet in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School 150 Buck Hill Road or virtually via zoom on **Monday, March 3rd, 2025, at 6:00 PM** to hold a public information hearing. Upon completion of the information session, the Meeting will stand adjourned until **Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** when voting by Australian ballot will commence at the Town Garage on North Road for the election of town officers and consideration of ballot articles.

Shaftsbury residents may submit an application to the Town Clerk to have their names added to the voter checklist no later than **12:00 PM on Monday, March 3rd, 2025 or at the Town Garage on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 from 7am to 7pm** to be eligible to vote on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at the polls. Any voter unable to come to the polls may apply for an early voter ballot with the Town Clerk until **12:00 PM on Monday, March 3rd, 2025**. Registration to vote can be done online by going to **MVP.VERMONT.gov**. Residents registering on Election Day must do so only at the polling place of their physical residence.

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY

IN PERSON and REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

NOTICE and AGENDA

The Selectboard for the Town of Shaftsbury will hold a public informational hearing in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School, 150 Buck Hill Road and by electronic means on March 3rd, 2025 at 6:00pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2025 Town Meeting Warning.

Information on how to access the remote hearing:

Shaftsbury Town is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Town Meeting

Time: Mar 3, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87696861851>

Meeting ID: 876 9686 1851

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,87696861851# US | +13092053325,,87696861851# US

Dial by your location

- +1 305 224 1968 US | • +1 309 205 3325 US | • +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 931 3860 US | • +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) | • +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 564 217 2000 US | • +1 669 444 9171 US | • +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US | • +1 719 359 4580 US | • +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) | • +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) | • +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US | • +1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 876 9686 1851

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/ky962IFX1>

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings" to understand how these electronic hearing will be managed.

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote hearing software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, email webmaster@shaftsburyvt.gov.**

Notice on hybrid public meetings

This meeting is a hybrid meeting, which means that some or all of the public body is meeting remotely and some are meeting physically in a previously noticed location where the public may attend to observe, listen, and participate contemporaneously. One member of this public body or other staff is present at the location to ensure the public can participate, if desired.

Please note that while we will strive to provide means for those attending remotely to participate in the public comment period, there may be technical difficulties or reasons that

otherwise prevent or interrupt remote public participation. Therefore, it is important to note that the Open Meeting Law only ensures the public's right to participate and comment at a public meeting by attending at the designated physical location as posted in the notice and agenda.

YOU CANNOT VOTE AT TOWN MEETING VIA ZOOM

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR ON MONDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2025 AT 6:00 PM IN THE SHAFTSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 150 BUCK HILL ROAD.

- To hear reports of the Town Officers and take action thereon.
- To Determine:
 - A. Shall Selectboard members each receive an annual stipend of \$1,000.00?
 - B. Shall the Board of Auditors be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?
 - C. Shall the 1st and 2nd Constable be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?
- Shall the Town authorize collection of taxes on real or personal property by its Treasurer, which are due in hand on or before, **Monday, November 10th** at 5:00 PM or likewise postmarked no later than **November 10th**.
- Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,972,493 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal Year 2026, the amount of such sum to be raised by property taxes and to be reduced by non-tax revenues and reserve funds?
- To transact any other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.

AGENDA

The agenda items will be discussed but not voted on. Voting will be by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 4, 2025.

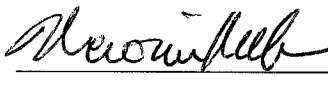
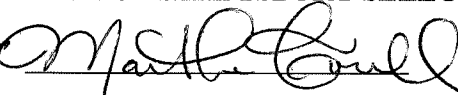
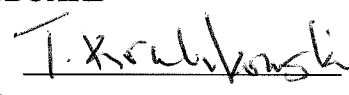
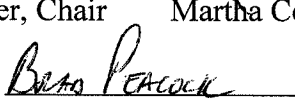

1. Review and discuss Articles 1, 2, and 3.
 - Public Comments
2. Review and discuss Article 4: Community Appropriations
 - Public comments
3. Discussion of other non-binding business
 - Public comment

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025
7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
Town Garage North Road

- 1) **Voting for Town Officials**
- 2) **Shall the Town approve the term of the Delinquent Tax Collector to be changed from one year to three years?**
- 3) **Shall the Town approve the terms of the First and Second Constables to be changed from one year to two years?**
4. **Community Appropriations to Determine:**
 - 1) Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,225** to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?
 - 2) Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,000** to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?
 - 3) Shall the Town appropriate **\$200** to the Green-Up Vermont?
 - 4) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,850** to Bennington County Habitat for Humanity
 - 5) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Bennington Free Clinic?
 - 6) Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to Bennington Little League?
 - 7) Shall the Town appropriate **\$4,500** to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?
 - 8) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,700** to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?
 - 9) Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to the Center for Restorative Justice?
 - 10) Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
 - 11) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,500** to the Park McCullough House
 - 12) Shall the Town appropriate **\$450** to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
 - 13) Shall the Town appropriate **\$950** to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
 - 14) Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?
 - 15) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
 - 16) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,100** to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
 - 17) Shall the Town appropriate **\$900** to the Tutorial Center?
 - 18) Shall the Town appropriate **\$300** to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
 - 19) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the VT Center for Independent Living?
 - 20) Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,000** to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)
 - 21) Shall the Town appropriate **\$475** to Bennington County Conservation District?
 - 22) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitations

DATED at Shaftsbury, Vermont this 20th day of **January 2025**.

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD

 Naomi Miller, Chair	 Martha Cornwell, Vice Chair	 Tony Krulikowski
 Brad Peacock	 Mike Cichanowski	

Remote Only Public Informational Hearing

Handout Town of Shaftsbury

Public Informational Hearing

The process for using the Australian ballot system at town meeting requires a public informational hearing as a precursor to the vote. The Selectboard must hold an informational hearing when a town uses this system of voting on any public or budget question. The informational hearing, which is administered by the Selectboard, must be held within the 10 days immediately preceding the town meeting at which the Australian ballot system of voting is to be used. The purpose of the informational hearing is to afford the electorate an opportunity to discuss the article(s) on which they will be voting. The hearing serves as the debate component that would otherwise accompany voting when conducted from the floor.

The Selectboard of the town of Shaftsbury will offer in person and remote access via electronic means to its public informational hearing. Whenever feasible, the public should, at minimum, be able to access and participate in the remote hearing by dialing in through telephone.

Accessing a Meeting

Please refer to the remote only public informational hearing notice and agenda for information on how to access the hearing remotely. Please note that whether you join by telephone, computer, or device, you may be put on hold or in a waiting “room” until granted access to the hearing. You also may be muted or restricted from using any chat function until the public comment portion of the hearing.

Participation

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Selectboard’s Rules of Procedure , to the extent practicable. The moderator will follow the public informational hearing agenda and, when feasible, allow members of the public attending remotely to participate through voice (audio) means or alternatively using any chat function during the designated public comment periods on the agenda and at other applicable times as needed.

While the moderator will attempt to provide those attending remotely the same reasonable opportunity to comment, please be aware that technical and other issues may interfere or possibly even prevent that opportunity from occurring.

Initially, the meeting's host/organizer will mute all remote attendees. This is necessary to control background noise. The host/organizer will then unmute remote participants or allow participants to unmute themselves when invited to speak by the moderator.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The moderator will invite comment:
 - during the public comment period as designated on the agenda; and
 - other times as determined by the moderator.
- When a remote participant/attendee is unmuted, they must state their name before commenting.

When the Selectboard adjourns the hearing, the host/organizer will end the electronic meeting by turning off/closing the remote meeting software. Remote attendees will be automatically disconnected.

The hearing will be recorded unless unusual circumstances make it impossible to do so. Minutes and other public records that are part of the hearing will be made available in accordance with VT's Open Meeting and Public Records Laws.

YOU CANNOT VOTE AT TOWN MEETING VIA ZOOM

TREASURER'S REPORT

Overview of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024 (FY2024):

FY2024 was a transitional year for the Town of Shaftsbury. We had several personnel challenges, brought payroll inhouse, and, on the recommendation of our external auditors, Sullivan Powers, switched to the modified cash basis of accounting. There was also a one-time transfer of some of our remaining ARPA funds to the general fund. All of these factors combine to make it less straightforward than usual to compare financials year over year.

While it may appear that revenue came in 14% over budget, it's important to note that \$279,075 of this is due to the unbudgeted one-time ARPA fund transfer to the general fund. Without this, the favorable variance would have been less than 3%. Almost half of that is due to the unusually high interest rates, as well as the increase in transfer station fees.

Expenditures came in 5.7% over budget, much of it due to higher than budgeted highway equipment maintenance.

	Budget	Actual	Actual % of Budget	Variance Favorable/(Unfavorable)
Total Revenue	2,527,046	2,880,950	114.0%	353,904
Total Expenditures	2,527,046	2,671,076	105.7%	(144,030))
Excess of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements				209,874

These numbers are drawn from the Sullivan Powers Town of Shaftsbury Audit Report, which can be found on the Shaftsbury website and the Town Offices. The report provides a great deal of detail and explanation.

This past year, I once again had to explain to several homeowners that, under Vermont State Law, they must file a Homestead Declaration (HS-122) every year. Most people find it easiest to do so when they file their state income tax returns. If you opt to get an extension, you will pay a penalty, and if you don't file by October, you will not qualify for the homestead tax rate. Every year, several Shaftsbury residents pay thousands of dollars more than they should in state education tax, because they or their tax preparer neglected to file this simple form. This is a state issue, and cannot be resolved at the local level.

My advice: when you receive your tax bill in August, open it and make sure you are being taxed at the expected education rate, while there is still time to correct it.

Melanie Dexter, Shaftsbury Town Treasurer

AUDITORS REPORT

During Fiscal year 2024, the Auditors' met monthly to reconcile the town's bank statement, audit the Reserve Fund, review the General Journal Entries, and review Transfer Station Receipts.

At the close of Fiscal year 2024 the Auditor's completed examinations of the Town Treasurer's Records including purchase orders, invoices, and checks, comparing these items with the Selectboard Warrants and the Detailed Transaction Report. This examination was based on an estimated 35% sample of records.

The Auditors' have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Shaftsbury as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. These financial statements are based on information supplied by the Town Treasurer and were prepared by the outside auditor, Sullivan and Powers. The Auditors' responsibility is to express an opinion concerning these financial statements based on our review. In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present the financial position and changes in financial position of the Town of Shaftsbury as of June 30, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Caslin

Lisa Lent

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Year Ended June 30, 2024

This report summarizes the activity of the town funds for which the Trustees of Public Funds have responsibility. The Trustees manage these funds for the purpose of providing income for fund purposes while protecting the purchasing power of the funds through capital appreciation.

For the 12-month period, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, we began to reverse our course of action regarding the cash positions of each fund. At year end cash accounted for 13% of all holdings versus 30 % as of June 30, 2022.

On Sept. 21, 2023, the Trustees received a request to distribute \$20,000 from the GW Hawkin fund to be used for the purchase of equipment for a shelter for the Transfer Station employees and \$47,400 from the Howard Park fund to complete stormwater and drainage projects at the park.

In Sept. 2024, the town received \$14,788 as a transfer of income generated from individual accounts between July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, as follows:

Cemetery Perpetual Trust	5,138
Recreation	5,174
School	1,076
Library - Restricted	443
Library - Unrestricted	380
Grandview Cemetery	<u>2,577</u>
	\$14,788

The funds were established for the benefit of the Town and local townsfolk. The Trustees recognize the fund purposes as they strive to make certain the funds are used as they were intended.

Robert Steuer

William Hession

CEMETERY TRUST FUND

The Cemetery Trust Fund was dissolved in 2022.

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE

These funds result from payments made to the Town of Shaftsbury to provide for the perpetual care of cemetery lots. An amount for this purpose is included in the price of each lot sold. Monies received by the Town from this source become part of the principal of the fund and may not be used for any other purpose but to produce income for perpetual care. This income is used by the town for cemetery care under the supervision of the Selectboard. The annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year.

HUNTINGTON CEMETERY FUND

An 1890 gift in trust by Calvin Huntington established the Huntington Cemetery Fund to provide income “to keep in repair the family gravestones of his relations in the town graveyard.” The Bennington Probate Court in 2000 appointed the Selectmen of the Town of Shaftsbury as successor trustees to the Huntington Cemetery Trust. The Select Board voted “to turn management of the Huntington Cemetery Fund over to the Trustees of Public Funds” at its June 20, 2005, meeting. The Trustees received the Huntington Fund in July 2005.

The Huntington Fund principal may not be expended for any purpose. Income from the Huntington Fund may only be used for the stated purpose of the Fund.

SCHOOL FUND

The School Fund, derived from any payments or bequests to the Town of Shaftsbury School District, provides that the net income from the fund be paid annually to the school district.

LIBRARY FUND-RESTRICTED

All net income is paid annually upon request to the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library Association to purchase books for the library at the Shaftsbury Elementary School.

LIBRARY FUND-UNRESTRICTED

In June 1994 the trustees received a check for \$10,000 from the estate of Tirzah J. Sweet as an unrestricted bequest to the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library, located in the Shaftsbury Elementary School. Net income is credited to the fund. Monies from this fund are requested and disbursed at the discretion of the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library Association.

HEALTH FUND

The Health Fund was dissolved in 2022. All investments were transferred to the Recreation Fund, per the Selectboard.

RECREATION FUND

The Selectboard established this fund to function as an endowment providing income for use in supporting recreation projects in the Town of Shaftsbury. Prior town recreation saving accounts together with Howard Park contributions were either transferred or deposited into this fund to make up its principal. The annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year for use by the recreation committee.

JULIA MATTISON FUND

A 1919 will of Julia E. Mattison, a Shaftsbury resident established this fund. The Bennington Probate Court distributed the funds to the Town in a 1926 order following Ms. Mattison's death. Fund income provides care, comfort and maintenance of any aged and needful women who are residents of the Town of Shaftsbury under the terms of Ms. Mattison's will. The Selectboard determines recipients of assistance from this fund at its discretion.

GEORGE W. HAWKINS FUND

A generous legacy from a former resident, George W. Hawkins, established this fund in 1976. Net income is credited to the fund. The fund is unrestricted as to use and monies are disbursed at the discretion of the Selectboard. It has been the Selectboard's policy to maintain a minimum principal of \$80,000.

HOWARD PARK FUND

Florence Howard kindly bequeathed half of her estate to the town in 2017. The funds are to be earmarked for any use relating to Howard Park. The funds are invested to protect the principle while net income is reinvested back into the fund. The Selectboard has discretion over the use of the funds as they relate to Howard Park.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

Land was conveyed to the North Bennington Cemetery Association in 1911 "...for the purpose of purchasing, acquiring and holding real and personal property to be used for and in connection with a cemetery or burial ground in Shaftsbury, Vermont; of selling and conveying lots therein; erecting of the necessary structures; soliciting and holding trust funds and making contracts for the perpetual care of burial lots therein, with authority to do all things requisite and proper to accomplish said purpose." Since assuming responsibility for the cemetery in 2018, the annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year.

1/15/2025 BUDGET FY26

<i>General Government</i> Administration	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY26
	Final	Budget	YTD 12/31/24	Proposed	
Select Board Stipend	3750	5000	5000	5000	5000
Meeting Recording Clerk	0	0	0	0	0
Town Administrator Salary	84363	80000	43076	84000	84000
Operations Coordinator Salary	N/A	N/A	N/A	39494	39494
Employee Health Premium	0	21942	15313	23111	23111
Health Plan Administration	1000	1000	703	1000	1000
Employee Health Ins Deductable	0	4000	3814	4000	4000
FICA 0.0765	6327	6986	3089	9447	9447
Childcare Contribution	0	1325	-1325	3330	3330
AFLAC Admin Short term Disability	973	750	394	750	750
Dental Plan	0	1127	830	1910	1910
Vision Plan	0	104	51	170	170
Insurance and Bonds	72685	79326	59329	80000	80000
Retirement Contribution	5694	2729	-1325	9130	9130
Unemployment Insurance	2712	2712	2272	2712	2712
Professional Services	21000	26000	13106	20000	20000
Postage	1200	1800	1800	0	0
Meetings & Training	500	500	-349	500	500
Staff Development	0	0	0	0	0
Video CAT-TV ZOOM	4800	4800	4101	4800	4800
Advertising and Legal Notices	1500	1500	307	1500	1500
Dues and Subscriptions	14000	14000	7595	14000	14000
Office Supplies	2500	3500	2898	3000	3000
Office Equipment	3000	5000	3021	3000	3000
Bank Service Charges	0	0	0	0	0
North Street Property Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	1200	1,200	1200	0	0
Website Management	9181	5244	-3821	5244	5244
Total Administration	236385	270545	158276	316098	316098

<i>Municipal Offices</i>	FY24	FY25	F25 YTD	FY26
Custodial Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	0	0
Contract Services	6900	6,900	2061	7500
Repair and Maintenance	2000	1,500	1246	1500
Operating Supplies	2300	2,300	-3378.28	2300
Utilities	9000	10,000	1126	10000
Heating Fuel	4000	4,000	0	4000
Total Municipal Offices	24200	24700	5055	25300

<i>Town Clerk</i>	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Town Clerk Salary	48968	56,898	30637	59743
Assistant Town Clerk	9181	20,974	12543	16000
Poll Worker Wages	4200	5,000	-1266	3200
TC Health Ins.	19,946	18,689	11819	23949
TC Health Deductable	2000	2,000	856	4000
AFLAC Admin Short Term Disability	420	420	-129	1100
FICA	4662	6,630	3718	5828
Retirement Contributions (VMERS)	3305	3,698	1838	4332
Dental Plan	628	1,034	533	1250
Vision Plan	59	120	66	110
Travel & Meetings - Clerk	650	650	650	650
Travel & Meetings- Elections	650	650	-82	650
Machine Equipment/Supplies - Elections	3150	5,000	2460	5000
Operating Equipment Supplies Clerk	4500	4,500	422	4500
Professional Services	0	500	225	500
Total	102319	126763	68092	130812

Finance	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Acctg/Payroll/Book Wages	9820	10,125	-1269	22,113
FICA	765	795	-46	1,000
Bookkeeping Supplies	0	0	0	200
Payroll	3500	4,500	3864	0
Total	14085	15420	2549	23313

Auditing	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Auditor Wages	1900	1200	1200	1200
FICA	148	90	90	90
Travel & Meetings	0	0	0	0
Town Report	955	2500	2500	2500
Total	3003	3790	3790	3790

Delinquent Tax Collection	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
FICA	1300	1300	1300	1300
Supplies	500	500	73	500
Total	1800	1800	1373	1800

Treasurer Services	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Treasurer Salary	34907	36652	19735	38485
Assistant Treasurer	0	0	0	0
Bank Service Charge	660	150	150	3600
Billing Supplies	2000	2000	-345	2000
Other Services	250	100	30	100
FICA	2105	2877	1582	2945
Professional Audit	0	18000	7405	18000
Total	39922	59779	21153	65130

Assessor's Office	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Wages	36358	43062	23479	45211
FICA	2726	3380	1919	3458
Retirement Contribution	N/A	N/A	-4648	3280
Professional Services/Tax Maps	18260	18260	12618	18500
Tax Maps	2500	3000	-2237	3000
Computer Maintenance	500	500	500	400
Travel & Meetings	250	250	-298	250
Dues & Subscriptions	700	700	-438	700
Operating Supplies	200	200	194	150
Total	61494	69352	31089	74949

Public Safety	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Animal Control:				
ACO Wages	6615	6813	3668	7154
Monthly Stipend	0	0	0	0
FICA	506	545	304	547
Veterinary Expense	750	750	750	600
Tags/Miscellaneous	500	500	400	400
Kennel Expense	800	400	400	300
Total	9171	9008	5522	9001

Emergency Management	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Equipment Maintenance	800	800	-352	800
Travel & Meetings	200	200	200	0
Operating Supplies	400	400	400	0
Emergency Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0
Total	1400	1400	248	800

Libraries	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Bennington Free Library	N/A	N/A	N/A	19282
John C. McCullough Free Library	N/A	N/A	N/A	26000
Martha Canfield Library	N/A	N/A	N/A	2200
Total				47482

Fire Department	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
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Chiefs' Stipends	2600	2600	2600	2600
FICA	199	199	199	199
Insurance & Bond	2550	2550	2550	2550
Fire House Maintenance	5000	5000	3350	5000
Fire Truck Maintenance	8000	8000	6282	8000
Communications	4500	4500	3723	4500
Training	2000	2000	-118	2000
Operating Supplies	750	750	-563	750
Utilities	10000	10000	3244	10000
Firehouse Heating Fuel	11016	11000	8611	11000
Gas, Oil & Diesel	4000	4000	3615	4000
Extrication Equipment	2000	2000	2000	2000
Equipment Replacement	20000	22500	20736	32500
Total	72615	75099	56229	85099

Fire Warden	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Operating Supplies	250	250	-563	250
Vehicle and Equipment	1500	1500	1500	1500
Total	1750	1750	937	1750

Law Enforcement	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Constable Wages	0	0	-1162	0
Sheriff Services	40000	80000	45112	90000
Total	40000	80000	43950	90000

Emergency Medical	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Bennington Rescue	27500	30250	5250	30250
Arlington Rescue	10388	11427	11427	11427
Total	37888	41677	16677	41677

Highway	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Highway Administration:				
Highway Wages - Regular	312628	318906	168378	337886
Highway Wages - Overtime	29820	30419	29584	30000
P/T Summer	9236	10000	1910	0

Employee Health Insurance - Premium	98309	97914	64026	117474
Employee Health Insurance- Deductable	16000	16000	11450	18000
Disability Insurance	0		0	0
AFLAC Short Term Disability	3000	3500	2008	3800
Dental Plan	3769	3882	2234	4000
Vision Plan	350	375	227	502
FICA	26844	27422	17001	28908
Retirement Contribution	22912	24452	13875	26680
Uniform Cleaning	0	0	0	0
Travel & Meetings	300	300	300	0
Steel Toe Footwear	750	750	651	750
CDL Physicals	800	1200	1200	1200
FT DPW CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	3307	3600	0	3600
Total	528025	538720	312844	569200

Highway Construction & Maintenance	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Subcontract Costs	0	0	-11550	30000
Signs	4000	6000	-5958	6000
Tree Removal	22500	22500	22500	22500
Bridges and Guardrails	0	0	0	0
Paving	0	2000	-3360	2250
Operating Supplies	8000	13000	8508	13000
Gravel	90000	115000	76955	115000
Chloride (Dust Control)	60000	62500	18299	63000
Winter Salt	51000	51000	40364	51000
Winter Sand	52000	58000	58000	58000
Level& Sealing	5000	5000	3996	5000
DI-Cleaning storm drain cleaning	0	0	0	0
Rentals	3000	5500	-1432	5500
Property Rental	0	0	0	0
Culverts	0	0	-9505	10000
Capital Improvement Projects	0	0	0	0
Highway Vehicle Purchase	0	0	-24927	0
Sidewalk Construction Maintenance	0	0	0	2500
State MRGP Fees	1600	2200	2200	2200
Total	297100	342700	174090	385950

Highway Equipment Maintenance					FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Truck 1	2021 IH	HV507			3700	4000	4000	3700
Truck 2	2023 IH	HV507			3700	4000	3084	4000
Truck 3	2015 IH	7600			3700	4000	2685	4000
Truck 4	2013 IH	7600			3700	4000	-1824	4000
Truck 5*	2024	F550			3700	4000	-308	3000
Truck 6	2000	CHLORIDE			3700	4000	167	3000
Truck 7	CHEV	5500			3700	4000	2235	3000
Truck 8*	2010	F350			N/A	N/A	-1250	2000
TRAILERS					1000	1500	1270	1000
TORO					800	1500	463	1500
Truck 9	A.M.	Dump			3700	4000	3387	2500
Truck 10	Dodge	3500			3700	4000	2045	3700
Backhoe		410			3700	4000	2038	3700
JD Loader		644E			3700	4000	3201	3700
CAT Excavator		307			3700	4000	3926	3700
Cat Grader		12G			3700	4000	2954	3700
JD Grader		672G			3700	4000	-2619	3700
Case	Mower	115MAX			3700	4000	2128	3700
Plows and Sanders					3700	4000	-36	3700
Whacker	Sidewalk				3700	4000	3715	3700
Communications					500	750	-2488	500
Gas, Diesel & Oil					70000	70000	48829	70000
Machinery & Equipment					14000	20000	15575	14000
Total					149200	161750	93177	149500

Highway Garage					FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Professional Services					2500	5000	4850	2500
Repair & Maintenance					1000	1500	1150	2000
Operating Supplies					4000	4000	2355	4000
Utilities					5200	8000	4092	8000
Heating Fuel					2500	3000	3000	3000
Machinery & Equipment		* now under mach/equip			3000	0	0	0
Total					18200	21500	15447	19500

<i>Solid Waste Facility</i>	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Attendant Wages	36649	36511	19197	41692
FICA	2749	3023	1557	3189
Professional Services	4000	5000	2927	4000
Management Contract	n/a	0	0	0
Methane Well Monitoring	400	400	400	400
Solid Waste Implementation Plan	30000	35000	31091	3000
Subcontract Costs	0	0	0	0
Groundwater Monitoring	25000	27500	6816	25000
Solid Waste Removal	n/a	0	0	0
Tire removal	n/a	0	0	
CASELLA SERVICES	104838	110000	62161	115000
Repairs & Maintenance	1000	1200	1200	1000
Operating Supplies	1000	1000	8	1000
Sticker Costs	1500	750	750	750
Transfer Station Utilities	400	400	42	400
Landfill Utilities	200	200	40	250
Gas, Diesel & Oil	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Waste Days	0	0	0	0
Total	207736	220984	126189	195681

<i>Streetlights</i>	FY24	FY 25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Hawks Avenue	500	500	443	500
S. Shaftsbury Village	11750	12000	4877	12000
Total	12250	12500	5320	12500

<i>Park & Recreation</i>	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Salaries & Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	3000	3250	3250	3000

Building Construction Maintenance Repair	2000	2500	393	2000
Equipment Maintenance	0	0	-69	0
Refund Key Deposit	0	0	0	0
Operating Supplies	500	500	-56	500
Equipment	0	0	0	0
Utilities	550	500	125	500
Reimbursement Gas	0	0	0	0
Capital Improvements	0	0	0	0
Total	6050	6750	3643	6000

<i>Cemetery Expenditures</i>	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Superintendent Salary	9181	15731	7468	13125
Cemetery Committee Assistant	4056	0	0	0
FICA	937	1258	635	1000
Contract Services	31200	31200	16475	38500
Repairs & Maintenance	3000	3000	-599	1000
Travel & Meetings	400	400	5	400
Corner Marker Installation	200	200	200	0
Corner Markers	1300	1300	767	1300
Cemify Maintenance	1359	9240	8287	1500
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0
Buy Back Lots	0	0	-1200	0
Total	51633	62329	32038	56825

<i>Planning & Development</i>	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Development Review Board				
Board Member Stipends	2500	2500	2500	2500
Meeting Recording clerk Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	500	1500	1500	1500
Travel & Meetings	250	500	500	0
Advertising & Legal	1000	1750	1750	1000
Operating Supplies	0	0	0	0
Town Clerk Recording Fees	0	0	0	0
Total	4250	6250	6250	5000

Planning Commission & Zoning	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Board Member Stipends	2500	2500	2500	2500
Meeting recording clerk	0	0	0	0
Zoning Administrator Wages	12,740	11162	5775	11232
FICA	975	876	463	876
Professional Services	750	1000	2636	750
Travel & Meetings	200	200	200	200
Advertising & Legal	500	500	500	500
Printing	0	0	0	0
Operating Supplies	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Planning Grant Fund	0	0	0	0
Total	17665	16238	12074	16058

County Taxes	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
County of Bennington	34299	36238	36238	38412

Transfers to Reserves	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Cole Hall	0	0	0	0
Equipment	125000	130000	130000	140000
Fire Warden truck	1000	2000	2000	2000
Fire Truck	95000	100000	100000	105000
Garage reserve fund	0	0	0	
Paving Reserve	45000	30000	30000	30000
Sidewalk Reserve	3000	2000	2000	2000
Cemetery Reserve	5000	5000	5000	5000
Park reserve	0	8000	8000	8000
Culvert Reserve	10000	15000	15000	15000
Audit Reserve	16000	0	0	
Veterans Memorial	0	0	0	
Class 3 Road Fund	50000	35000	35000	35000
Reappraisal Reserve Fund	0	0	0	
AIRPACK RESERVE FUND	10000	10000	10000	10000
Total	360000	337000	337000	352000

<i>Debt Service Expenditures</i>	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Interest Expense	1,000	1000	1000	1,000
Lease Payment 2010 JD Grader	0	0	0	0
Lease Payment 2012 IH & 2011 JD Backhoe	0	0	0	0
Lease 2013 IH Tandem 2013 IH Fire Truck	0	0	0	0
Lease 2014 IH Tandem	0	0	0	0
Lease 2013 Dodge & 2013 Excavator	0	0	0	0
492 North Street	0	0	0	0
510 North Road	0	0	0	0
2024 FORD F550	N/A	N/A	N/A	24927.27
Garage Bond Payment	77577	76310	12827	76310
2021 Mower State Loan	23320	23320	23320	23320
2021 Cat Excavator	11932	11932	0	11932
Total	113829	112562	37146	137489.27

<i>Community Appropriations</i>	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
Arlington Rescue Squad	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bennington Area VNA	5225	5225	2552	5225
Bennington Coalition for the Homeless	5000	5000	5000	5000
BCCD	475	475	3740	475
Bennington Free Clinic	1000	1000	1000	1000
Bennington Free Library	18630	18630	N/A	N/A
Bennington Little League	600	600	600	600
Bennington Project Independence	4500	4500	4500	4500
BROC	1700	1700	1700	1700
Center for Restorative Justice	600	600	600	600
Green -Up Vermont	200	200	200	200
John C. McCullough Free Library	25200	25200	25200	N/A
Martha Canfield Library	2000	2000	2000	N/A
Paran Recreations	2500	2500	2500	2500
Park McCullough House	1500	1500	1500	1500
PAVE	450	450	450	450
RSVP	950	950	950	950

Shaftsbury Historical Society	2500	2500	2500	2500
Sunrise Family Resource Center	1000	1000	1000	1000
SW Vermont Council on Aging	1100	1100	1100	1100
Tutorial Center	900	900	900	900
VNA & Hospice of S.V.H.C	5225	5225	5225	5225
VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	300	300	300	300
VT Center for Independent Living	1000	1000	1000	1000
Shires Media Partnership -WBTN	5000	5000	5000	5000
Shireskids	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation	n/a	1000	1000	1000
Total	87555	88555	89695	42725

	FY24	FY25	FY25 YTD	FY26
FY Year Total	2533824	2745159	1622944	2903841
				Increase of 5.8%
Increase	131528	279249		158682
Non tax revenue	422820	416780		419129
Raised by Taxes	2104226	2323301		2484712

Tax rate	0.5118	0.543	0.597
With local agreement adjust			
per 100G	\$511.80	\$550.10	\$597.00
with local agreement adjust			
per 100G			
increase per 100,000	\$29.80	\$38.30	\$46.90

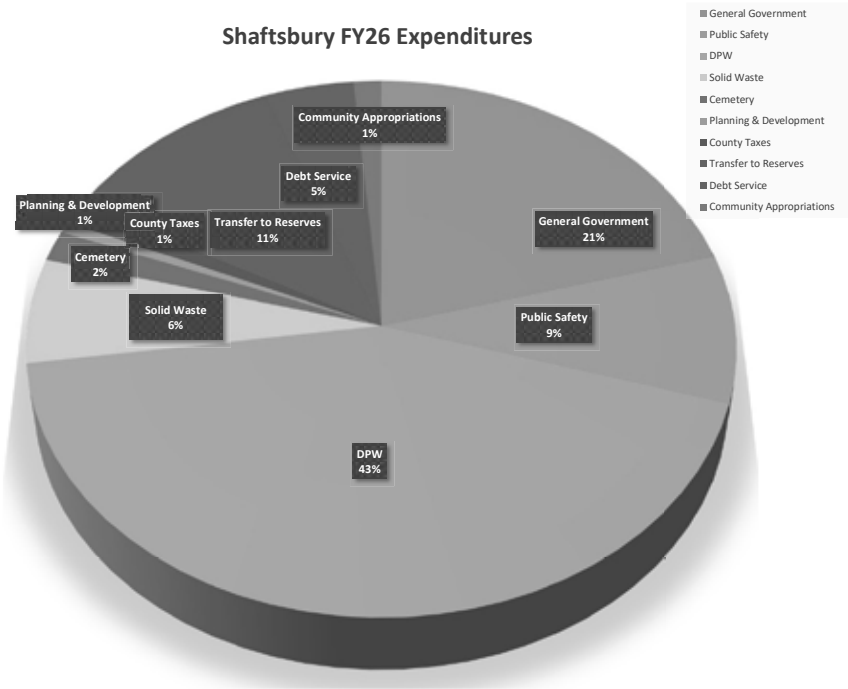
Tax figures for FY26 based on FY25 Grand List (4,273,019) and FY25 non-tax revenues of \$416,780

1,493 FY26 per 250,000 valuation
1,375 FY25 per 250,000 valuation
117 Increase

Proposed Expenditures

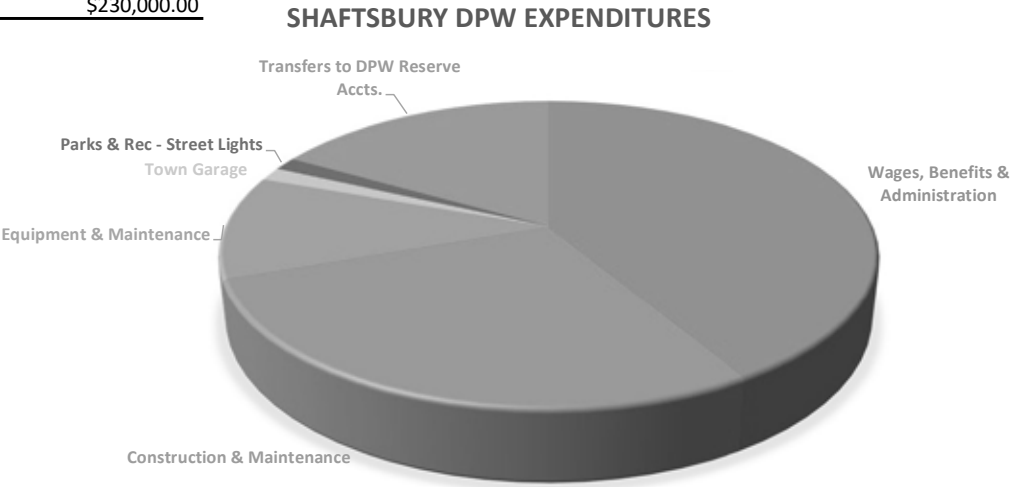
Shaftsbury FY26 Expenditures

Asset Type	Amount
General Government	\$641,192.00
Public Safety	\$275,809.00
DPW	\$1,338,331.00
Solid Waste	\$195,681.00
Cemetery	\$56,825.00
Planning & Development	\$21,058.00
County Taxes	\$38,412.00
Transfer to Reserves	\$352,000.00
Debt Service	\$137,489.27
Community Appropriations	\$42,725.00



DPW FY26 Expenditures

Asset Type	Amount
Wages, Benefits & Administration	\$569,200.00
Construction & Maintenance	\$385,950.00
Equipment & Maintenance	\$149,500.00
Town Garage	\$19,500.00
Parks & Rec - Street Lights	\$18,500.00
Transfers to DPW Reserve Accts.	\$230,000.00



Select Board Report – Annual Town Meeting 2025

A year of changes

This has been a year of many changes in the municipal employment of Shaftsbury. Several longtime employees retired -- Town Administrator David Kiernan, Bookkeeper Joan Vargo, and Zoning Administrator Shelly Stiles – leaving big shoes to fill. Our new Town Administrator, Paula Iken, has helped to keep the town on an even keel while creating new opportunities for growth. The presence of our new Bookkeeper, Tiffany Mays, has allowed us to make helpful changes including bringing payroll in-house. As of early January 2025, we are still looking for a new Zoning Administrator.

We combined several functions previously being performed by Jen Holley in part time roles into a one full-time position, Operations Coordinator. In this position, Jen continues to serve as webmaster and as cemetery superintendent, and additionally provides extensive administrative backup and practical assistance for the work of Cole Hall employees. With Jen's expertise dedicated full time to Cole Hall, we have made important strides in cyber security and have extended and professionalized our communications -- including Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and an e-newsletter. The website has been upgraded (visit it at shaftsburyvt.gov), and now provides easy access to everything from town records to town news to opportunities for involvement. In addition, Jen has leveraged both savings and upgrades on cell service and internet.

Budget

As Annual Select Board reports reflect, the peak period of the COVID pandemic were years of budget austerity: the Town was cautious because no one knew what might be just around the corner. Some of the things that were sensibly trimmed from the budget during those years have demanded our attention this year — including, most dramatically, the failing methane cap designed years ago by our own Bill Pennebaker to protect our landfill, the failing Cole Hall phone and internet systems, and the ongoing water and mold problems in Cole Hall's basement. These catch-up issues have combined with other large expenses — like necessary upgrades at the Transfer Station, having to retroactively update personnel benefit packages, and implementing last year's decision to double our allocation of money for Sheriff's Deputy time — to make for a busy and expensive year.

Some of these new expenses may temporarily extend into our upcoming year (for example, the rental of the trailer that now houses the Zoning Administrator and the Treasurer), while others will likely be with us indefinitely. One thing that is not going down in the foreseeable future is the cost of health insurance – which will increase in the next budget year by 10%. Similarly, we are responding to the clear directive from citizens in various parts of town by proposing to maintain a strong Sheriff presence—another service which will see an increase of 10% this coming year.

We propose a 5% increase to municipal salaries (just enough to get a tiny bit ahead of inflation). We also propose increases in the DPW budget to maintain the improved condition of our roads: while there is always room for improvement, our roads now regularly receive commendations from Shaftsbury drivers and visiting drivers alike, and we are continuing the determined work of the Select Boards over the last many years to build capacity and maintain reliability.

Shaftsbury is undergoing a wonderful transition: citizens are re-engaging with their municipal government. Participation on town committees has grown, and people feel more comfortable about asking for services. The Select Board is very heartened by this engagement. In this budget we have tried to make room for the services for which people appeal to us — like Sheriff's protections, well-maintained roads, and on-line access to town government--while keeping the increase within reasonable bounds.

Select Board Report – Continued

Cole Hall

Cole Hall is a treasured building, and an old one: it was built in 1834. Old buildings are very expensive to maintain, and for this reason there have been understandable lapses in the maintenance of Cole Hall over the years.

Mold and flooding issues have recently become critical in the basement of Cole Hall. The level of water entering the basement has significantly increased, due to a combination of two factors that are unlikely to change: the structure's age, and the significant increase in rainfall. We needed to move the Town Clerk's and Assessor's offices out of that space – urgently. We rented a trailer, and the Town Clerk and Assessor moved upstairs, while the Zoning Administrator and Treasurer moved outside to the trailer. With the help of the Community Center Development Committee (CCDC), the Select Board has explored several avenues for remediation of the immediate problem and preservation of the building.

The Town has long wanted to keep our town offices in that building, but some repairs to the structure itself (for example, repointing) have had to be postponed over and over as other budget priorities emerged. What the Select Board has come to understand from a variety of experts is that any feasible way of repairing the structure in a way that would reduce water flowing into the basement would need to be historically and architecturally appropriate. Cole Hall is an historic building, so any work on it needs to meet guidelines for historic structures. The expense of that will be far beyond the scope of our available budget surplus that has been earmarked for town offices and community space. As soon as we have secured new municipal offices, we will turn our attention to gathering citizen ideas about how to proceed in relation to Cole Hall.

For these reasons, the SB has endorsed the recommendation of the CCDC to purchase the Shaftsbury Medical Associates building at 677 Route 7A. This purchase would fall well within the scope of the money available for the project of creating both municipal offices and community center space – and the building we hope to purchase would easily fill both those needs. This expenditure will require the approval of the voters and will be put up for a floor vote in a special election on February 11th, 2025. An informational meeting will be held immediately prior to the vote.

Town green, community center, and downtown redevelopment

During the Spring of 2024 – with the use of ARPA funds — we completed the purchase and then the tear-down of 43 Buck Hill Road, immediately north of Cole Hall. We are now in the preliminary stages of exploring, with affordable housing developers, options for senior and/or workforce housing for that spot. The Sewer Feasibility Committee is continuing its work on exploring the possibilities for a community septic system. Early informal reports from the engineering studies underway have suggested that the entire area purchased two years ago by the Town for use as a Town Green is entirely appropriate for septic use (yes – a septic system can exist under a Town Green). This is excellent news for the future social and economic development of South Shaftsbury. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Art Whitman and David Kiernan for their leadership in putting into place the foundations for these opportunities.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Big changes are taking place at Cole Hall. All offices are now upstairs or in a trailer just outside the building. This is due to issues with the downstairs of the building. We are working very hard to make this as short a period as possible as we realize it isn't easy for everyone to get upstairs in Cole Hall. We will do our very best to be sure that everyone is able to get the services they need in the most convenient way possible during this time of transition.

This year we had 3 weddings take place right here at the town office. We are always excited to be part of such a special day.

Below is a report of various fees collected in 2024 at the Clerk's Office. These fees are collected by the town and help offset the Clerk's salary.

Fiscal Year	Dog Licenses \$3,621.00	Certified Copies \$270.00	Vault Copies \$3,194.00	Marriage Licenses \$1040.00
	Recording \$25,923.00	Miscellaneous \$710.00	- Fees to State (\$2,925.00)	Total \$31,743.00

If you are over the age of 62 or a veteran stop by and see me about a Green Mountain Passport. For \$2 you can get into all Vermont State Parks for life! Day pass only.

Marlene Hall, CVC
Town Clerk

VITALS REPORT

Births
15

Marriages
13

Deaths
22

SHAFTSBURY'S ASSESSOR'S OFFICE REPORT



What a year we have had. The Town Assessors Office has been busy and uprooted. We started with moving the office upstairs because of the mold issue downstairs at Cole Hall. We are now all settled in upstairs. We have begun, the reappraisal process. For anyone that doesn't remember, the State of Vermont has ordered Shaftsbury to start a town-wide reappraisal. This will be completed for the tax year due November 2026. Shaftsbury has contracted with NEMRC, which provides reappraisal services. With their knowledge and integrity, we do not doubt this will run smoothly. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. We will be mailing out postcards when NEMRC is working on your street. Once you have received your postcard please call if you need to make an appointment with the assessor.

The Assessor's office is still working with CAI to update our property tax maps. They can be viewed on our town webpage, shaftsburyvt.gov, under the information tab, Grand List, then, Interactive GIS property database. You may search for your property information and if you believe there is an error, please contact the Assessor's office so we can look at it for you.

Please remember to file your **HS-122 Homestead Declaration** each year when you file your state taxes. For more information: <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>.

Listers Cards online

You are now able to get a copy of the "As Billed" Grand List Listers Cards
online at the Town webpage:

shaftsburyvt.gov

Gina Jenks
Assessors Clerk



Town of Shaftsbury

153 Twitchell Hill Rd.
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
(802) 379-2299

Office of the
Delinquent Tax Collector
Holly Bahan

hollybahan@shaftsburyvt.gov

Fiscal Year 23/24 Delinquent Tax Collectors Report

Since I was appointed to the elected position of Delinquent Tax Collector, I have worked hard to establish relationships while collecting past due balances for the Town. Although it was quite the undertaking, I took the opportunity to transition Delinquent Tax accounting to the NEMRC reporting system that the Town uses.

In the Prior year's Town report, you will see that my father had an ending balance of \$76,033.67 and prior to his passing he was able to collect more, bringing the balance I started with to \$73,704.19. Below you will find a breakdown of the delinquencies collected since then and balances due as of June 30, 2024. These totals do not include town interest or penalty, and a more detailed report is available upon request.

11/16/23	Delinquent Taxes transferred to me	\$ 73,704.19
12/10/23	2023 Delinquencies added	+ \$ <u>304,879.72</u>
12/31/23	Balance to be collected	\$ 378,583.91
	Payments and adjustments through 6/30/24	- \$ <u>312,231.49</u>
06/30/24	Fiscal Year End balance	\$ 66,352.42

Year	# of Parcels	Amount Due
2017	2	\$60.14
2018	2	\$61.43
2019	3	\$549.61
2020	2	\$64.92
2021	4	\$969.59
2022	8	\$8319.72
2023	35	\$56,327.01
Total Delinquencies as of 6/30/24		\$66,352.42

Thank you for letting me serve you and I look forward to the coming year!



Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Bookkeeper, Payroll and Human Resources

Tiffany Mays

accounting@shaftsburyvt.gov

payroll@shaftsburyvt.gov

P.O. Box 409

61 Buck Hill Rd.

Shaftsbury, VT 05262-0409

(802) 442-4038 ext. 105

www.shaftsburyvt.gov

FY 2024 Human Resources and Bookkeeping Report

I was hired by the Town of Shaftsbury Select Board as fiscal year 24 was ending. Knowing that I have years of experience with the Town's financial system, NEMRC, the Select Board asked me to bring payroll in-house for processing. I familiarized myself with the third-party payroll system we were using and found many errors as well as the fact that they were costing the Town and our employees unnecessary money. The process of cleaning up the mess they made continued well through year end.

I took the remainder of fiscal year 24 to gather the information needed for input into NEMRC to start fiscal year 25 in good order. I made new forms and got updated information from all employees. I researched each benefit that the Town offers, which proved to be difficult because the previous administration was not as familiar with payroll or human resources as they should have been. This left room for errors such as the missing retirement contributions that I found, the excess taxes we were paying for uncovered employees that were not actually uncovered, and the extra taxes employees were paying because their deductions were not taxed properly.

I found that as a Town, we offer a competitive benefits package for our full-time employees including not only Vermont State retirement, health, dental and vision insurance but also an HRA to help with medical costs. A whole line of Aflac policies are offered through payroll deduction and employees have the option to contribute to FSA and 457b plans; all of which are now handled by the bookkeeper. I met each employee individually and went over the benefits available to them and answered any questions they may have had, to which they were very appreciative.

Over the last year the Town of Shaftsbury Bookkeeper position has exponentially evolved. Previously the Bookkeeper position did limited processing; payroll was entered onto a sheet that was submitted to an outside firm and invoices were provided for her to enter. Now the Bookkeeper has become the in-house payroll and Human resources department as well as Accounts Payable and support assistance for all departments as needed. All aspects of payroll are handled in house including information and benefit processing, time off accrual, payroll entry and submission, direct deposit processing, deduction administration, submission of withholdings, monthly and quarterly reporting to State and Federal entities and W-2 processing. There was a severe void in the human resources for the Town of Shaftsbury that has now been filled.

My extensive knowledge of our operating system has allowed me to help other departments to utilize that system. The Delinquent Tax Collector had some difficult adjustments to make, due to extended due dates and I was able to save the Town hundreds of dollars by assisting her with that system instead of being charged by NEMRC.

As the bookkeeper, I also enter all accounts Payable into our NEMRC system. I assist the Town Administrator in gathering and processing invoices in a timely manner. Occasionally, invoices need to be reviewed with department heads and addressed for accuracy and proper expense recording. It has been my pleasure to help with the extensive research and calculations for the budget this year and I am always available for our residents or staff when I can use my knowledge to assist. I look forward to the coming year with the Town of Shaftsbury!

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) is a partnership of 13 towns working together to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills through recycling, reuse, repair, and through other means of resource conservation. Since 2015, BCSWA has followed a solid waste implementation plan to assist residents, schools, businesses, and other organizations meet the requirements of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law.

Total spending for the Alliance in Fiscal Year 2024 (7/1/23 through 6/30/24) was \$228,330.72. Program costs are shared by the thirteen member towns of the alliance, and divided proportionally by each town based on their population. Additional funds are provided by grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets. Members of the public may visit [bcswa.org](https://www.bcswa.org), or reach out to the Program manager at sgrimmlyon@bcrvt.org for budget details.

From May through October of 2024, BCSWA operated a Household Hazardous Waste depot at the Bennington Transfer Station to collect paint, pesticides, cleaning products, flammable liquids, and other over the counter items that are banned from landfill disposal. The facility collected over 30 tons of waste from 327 households and 6 small businesses during its 2024 season.

During 2024 the Alliance provided training and/or assistance to 41 businesses 13 event organizers, and 4 schools. BCSWA also co-hosted two repair events with the Bennington Public Library, held a landlord compliance and training event, hosted a waste hauler training and compliance event, led composting and recycling events at local libraries, produced regular content for public access television stations, and hosted tables at several farmers markets.

The Alliance hosts a website at www.bcswa.org, and is present on social media at facebook.com/solidwastealliance, instagram.com/bcswa_vt, and youtube.com/@bcswa. Outreach on these channels provide resources and information to residents about:

- Scheduling a household hazardous waste drop off appointment
- Battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- Disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and select transfer stations
- Recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- Prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- Recycling of textiles by the Apparel Impact, Goodwill, and others
- Disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations and retail establishments
- Disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, Staples, and retail establishments
- Diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers
- Waste reduction resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions, and residents

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT

Hello fellow Shaftsbury residents!

Welcome to a new year and hopefully a better year for all of us! I come to you this year still as 1st Constable, and Animal Control Officer also. Thank you all for your support behind Fran Buck and myself as constables and myself as the Animal Control Officer. The main events for us as constables in Shaftsbury surrounded some of the misunderstanding of the fee structure for the town transfer station. My personal thanks to Fran, who picked up a lot of slack regarding the landfill issues that arose during this past year. I know he addressed the issue with many townspeople regarding how the transfer station functions as part of the town, and at the same time, the fact that Cassella owns the equipment and is responsible for transferring the garbage. We as a town are responsible for paying them for that service. Hence the fees for throwing our refuse away. The refuse removal in the town of Shaftsbury is not part of our tax privileges. The stickers we purchase for the use of the transfer station is how the town makes the money to be able to pay Cassella. There is also a charge per bag to throw away trash. You can purchase a sticker at the transfer station if you don't already have one. It's somewhat a losing proposition for the town as far as the cost of it, so it's important we get 100% compliance from everyone to take the burden off the town. Thank you for understanding.

From the Animal Control perspective, it was a busy summer and fall. A lot of the same things that plagued us in 2023, remained this past year, and that was mainly licensing of our dogs. Although 2024 was better than 2023 as far as sheer numbers of unlicensed dogs, it was still more than it should be. The importance of this remains the same in that it is a matter of safety for our citizens of Shaftsbury and for our dogs. Without licensing, we have no idea about the dogs that are licensed, whether they have the vaccination for rabies. There are also some other highly communicable diseases and viruses such as Parvo that spread rapidly through the dog community that is very harmful and/or lethal. These diseases are very bad for humans and dogs. Tractor Supply in Bennington has several weekends where there is a Vet available for a checkup and vaccinations at a reasonable price, if getting an appointment with your vet is a problem. Remember, any dog that bites another dog or a human may have to be seized and quarantined if a vaccination certificate cannot be shown to us. Vermont offers a Spay/Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP). This statewide program also can help defray costs of vaccination and licensing to our beloved pets. This is not only a town issue, but also a state issue, and is covered by specific Vermont Statutes. Please, please, please... Let's strive for 100% compliance this year. As a final reminder, unleashed and roaming dogs remains somewhat of an issue. We fielded several calls in 2024 about roaming and unleashed dogs. In one instance this summer we had two dogs running together that harassed some young kids getting off the school bus trying to get home. Although they didn't get bitten, they were terrified. Put yourself in their shoes, it's a scary situation for a young child. Get licensed, get vaccinated, and stay leashed! It's best for all of us.

Thanks to all, Robert Perry - 1st Constable/Animal Control and Fran Buck- 2nd Constable



www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall
Cemetery Department

PO Box 409
61 Buck Hill Road
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

For the year ending June 30, 2024, the Cemetery Department brought in \$16,375.00. The breakdown of this is \$125. in donations. \$14,550.00 in plot sales and \$1,700.00 in burial fees.

Burials in the Town cemeteries were as follows: Center (10), Grandview (7), Waite (1).

Cemify is now online and in use. While the project is not yet complete, a substantial amount of information has been entered into the system. The burial search feature on the Town website directs users to the appropriate Cemify website. Additionally, we have hung QR signs in each cemetery, to guide visitors to Cemify for locating burials while on-site. We have had excellent feedback from the public on this program, especially from; families, visitors to our town, and people researching their ancestry.

This year I began a new program called the 4th Sunday for Veterans. This initiative will focus on our five cemeteries, starting with Village Cemetery. Depending on the number of volunteers and the amount of work needed at each cemetery. On the 4th Sunday of each month - 9:00am-12:00pm (Weather Permitting). We will gather for a work party dedicated to cleaning and repairing the headstones of our military veterans. Once the work at Village Cemetery is complete, we will move on to Center Cemetery, followed by Waite, Maple Hill, and finally, Grandview Cemetery. The Cemetery Department has a Goal to finish this Project before Vermont's 250th Celebrations, when many tourists will be going through our beautiful cemeteries visiting our Revolutionary Soldiers' graves.

Over the course of this fiscal year, the Cemetery Department has made substantial progress, including the repair and leveling of 125+ headstones by the Superintendent and the DPW crew. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of everyone involved. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Cemetery Committee, Jay Coonradt; our cemetery maintenance service provider; and our dedicated Department of Public Works Crew. We all work together as an amazing team.

And again this year, a special thank you goes to Beth Pelczar, and Ron & Debbie Jennings for their consistent (year after year) assistance with the Veteran's flags and headstone cleaning. Without the hard work and support of all these individuals, our cemeteries would not have seen such improvements and wouldn't look as splendid as they do now. So, a heartfelt thank you to each one of you.

Warmest Regards,

Jen Holley, Cemetery Superintendent

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Shaftsbury Zoning Administrator year end summary

November 25, 2024

Official actions

The table below quantifies zoning administrator actions over the last several years.

Type of permit	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Houses	8	0	11	5	5
Accessory dwelling unit	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	2
Mobile home	0	0	0	0	0
Additions	13	15	5	7	10
Pools	0	0	0	0	0
Subdivisions or boundary line adjustments	1	3	2	7	4
Home occupations	1	0	0	2	2
Commercial buildings or uses	0	0	0	2	0
Camps	0	0	0	1	0
Signs	0	0	0	1	1
Accessory structure	22	31	37	26	22
Other	3	1	3	0	
Violation warning	0		0	7	6
Curb Cut	3	0	8	8	4
Zoning letters of compliance	55	63	39	37	43
Variance			3	2	1
Permit amendment			1	3	0
Cannabis cultivation permit				1	0
Totals	116	113	109	109	95

Applications

The receipt and processing of applications went smoothly.

Meetings

Meetings were held in person and/or remotely.

Violations

All violation warnings were quickly and, eventually, fully addressed by the property owners to which they were issued.

Random thoughts

1. The Planning Commission should be congratulated for its unflagging efforts to revise or build new bylaws (most recently new subdivision regulations) and for its timely and time-consuming response to citizen requests to craft an Enhanced Energy Plan. The EEP has been approved and adopted.
2. Planning Commission and Development Review Board members made every effort to attend meetings remotely when necessary. Only one PC meeting and no DRB meetings had to be cancelled for lack of a quorum.

Notes by ZA Stiles

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

All the road projects completed in FY 2024 represented improvements required by the State's Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). This statewide program was put in place to reduce the impact of roads on water quality.

Most of these projects were completed with substantial assistance from the State-sponsored grant programs called Better Roads, Grants in Aid and VTrans Structures or Paving grants. Projects were completed by contractors with assistance from the DPW.

- Funded by Grant in aid program. On Trumbull Hill Rd, a section from Oak Hill Road to Holly Smoke Road, 2500 ft. of new stone line ditching was installed on the steep slopes of Trumbull Hill for erosion control. Also, three 18" culverts were replaced, and one culvert at the intersection of Oak Hill. This project was granted to the town because it was an area that didn't meet standards and needed to be rebuilt to meet the MRGP road standards.
- At the Intersection of Shaftsbury Hollow and Granger Hollow Road, a culvert project was completed. Construction consisted of the removal of an old, failing, 3ft. diameter metal pipe that was undersized and constricting river channel width. The existing pipe length was not adequate, making a sheer drop off with erosion, causing an intersection to narrow for traffic. Installed was a new aluminum 12ft x 8ft x 50ft arch pipe and Stone Armoring on the inlet and outlet with 3ft sized stone for erosion control. Rebuilt the intersection and roadway with new gravel material. A guard rail was installed on both sides of the new culvert. This project was funded by the VTrans Structures grant program.
- Road Maintenance, grading, ditching, hazard tree removal, and culvert work were completed by DPW Crew to meet the Municipal Roads General Permit. All completed road sections were classified as high priority and needed drainage work to be brought back up to the MRGP standards, per the State of Vermont. Road drainage and culvert replacements will continue throughout the town during summer months every year, for routine maintenance.
- VTrans Class 2 Roadways awarded the town with a paving grant for Buck Hill Rd. Our DPW crew replaced 11 culverts on Buck Hill and cleaned all the drainage ditches ahead of the paving. Paving was awarded to contractor, Springfield Paving, in June of 2023 and it was paved in the Fall of 2023. Asphalt pavement was supplied by Peckham industries at the Shaftsbury plant.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Yannotti, Department of Public Works Foreman

Shaftsbury Fire Department

This year the Shaftsbury Fire Department responded to **100** emergency calls.

We are in the process of replacing our Station 2 heating system. We are exploring several options trying to establish what would be the most energy efficient. The furnace that we currently have is 40 plus years old and is showing its age. We are looking to Efficiency VT for help with the cost of a new system.

The Fire Department in conjunction with the Forest Fire Wardens are in the planning stages of replacing our current Wildland truck (brush truck). The vehicle we have now is over 20 years old and is showing signs of wear and tear. As you can see from this report and in previous years, we are seeing an increase in Wildland fires and this vehicle is an asset in our capabilities in fighting these types of fires. We also use it for weather-related calls and search and rescue. It can access places that our fire apparatus cannot. We are looking into grant money for help in purchasing this new vehicle.

This past year we lost longtime member former Chief Ron Lindsey. Ron was an exceptional Firefighter and Chief and will be greatly missed by the department and the Shaftsbury community.

Emergency Response Calls 2024

Structure Fires - **6**

Car accidents/ Extrication - **31**

Vehicle Fires - **1**

Hazardous Materials – **4**

Wildland / Mutual Aid Wildland - **8**

Weather Related – **6**

Search and Rescue - **5**

Chimney/Pellet Stove - **1**

Good Intent - **18**

Assist EMS - **4**

Mutual Aid – **18**

Total calls – **102**

Respectfully Submitted.

Chief Joseph Vadakin

Shaftsbury Fire Department

Legislative Report

The Vermont General Assembly passed new legislation in 2024 related to property taxes, land use and housing, PFAS, and public safety, among other subjects.

Last March, voters around the state passed school budgets that were up nearly 19 percent on average. The legislature stepped in to reduce the impact on property taxes, and in Shaftsbury the homestead rate ultimately increased by a more reasonable 3.9%. With another big jump in budgets expected this year, there is a growing consensus that the state's complex education funding formula needs to be revised. I am working with a bipartisan group of about two dozen House members committed to finding solutions.

For the first time since they were enacted in the 1970s, Vermont's Act 250 land-use laws have been updated. Act 250 has helped to contain sprawl and maintain the Vermont landscape, but today we face a widespread housing shortage. To encourage new housing construction, town and village centers with infrastructure will now be exempt from Act 250's permitting requirements, while the most environmentally sensitive areas will gain additional protections from development.

A decade after PFAS compounds were first detected in North Bennington well water, laws updated in 2024 will ban these "forever chemicals" from a growing number of consumer products (including cosmetics and cookware, as well as artificial turf). Meanwhile, the state is continuing to conduct random well testing, and has installed filters in some homes in the southeast section of town.

Our judicial system has become somewhat overwhelmed in recent years, with trial dates routinely scheduled for 12 months out as opioid-related arrests have increased. To address this backlog the legislature beefed up court resources in the 2025 budget, adding three new judges (who have recently been seated) along with more prosecutors and other court personnel. And to deal with the problem of defendants being charged with new crimes while awaiting trial, we removed the \$200 cap on bail when conditions of release aren't followed.

Amending Vermont's constitution is a lengthy process that requires four votes of the Legislature over three years, and ultimately ends with voter ratification at the ballot box. In 2024 the House concurred with two proposed amendments that were passed unanimously by the Senate. Proposal 3 would protect the right of Vermonters to form a union. Proposal 4 would add an equal rights clause to Vermont's constitution, joining 22 other states that have already done so. Both the House and Senate need to approve these amendments again before they would go before the voters in November 2026.

Vermont's economy remains strong, with historically low unemployment and rising wages. Using a consensus forecast developed by state economists, the Legislature builds a balanced budget each year based on anticipated revenues and expenses. Midway through the fiscal year, the state has a revenue surplus of about \$40 million.

The legislative session resumes after Town Meeting week and will run through mid-May. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss legislation, or if I can be of any assistance, at ddurfee@leg.state.vt.us or 802 828-2228 (Montpelier) or 802 442-4414 (home).

Respectfully submitted,

David Durfee, State Representative, Bennington 3

Community Center Development Committee Report

The Community Center Development Committee (CCDC) was formed as an ad hoc committee from the former Cole Hall Committee and the Town Green Committee. Comprised of citizen members and standing town committee members, the group was charged with making recommendations to the Selectboard regarding Cole Hall and planning for the newly purchased properties surrounding Cole Hall to create a Town Green and community center.

A little background:

- In 2022, the Shaftsbury American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee sent out a survey to Shaftsbury residents regarding how they'd like Shaftsbury's ARPA monies to be spent. The results showed clear desire for a Community Meeting Space and Center of Commerce.
- In 2023, the town's Economic Development Committee (EDC) conducted a survey of residents. The EDC issued the survey to follow up on the Shaftsbury ARPA Committee's recommendation that "money should be used to turn Cole Hall and its immediate surroundings into a Community Center/Town Green – one that can host community events both large and small, indoors and outdoors."

The full results of the above surveys can be found on the Shaftsbury town website.

In response to the above, the CCDC began meeting weekly in April 2024 with a focus on how to best construct a community center for the town using the remaining ARPA funds, which were transferred to the town's general fund in summer 2024. The group discussed stick-built options, modular options, and more. The projected cost of this building routinely came in far above the funds available – figures were often in excess of 1.5 million dollars.

In autumn 2024, the town offices on the lower level of Cole Hall were vacated due to ongoing water, mold, and electrical issues. Two employees moved to an office trailer in the parking lot of Cole Hall. In response, the CCDC began exploring the possibility of building a community center that could also incorporate town offices while Cole Hall underwent necessary renovations. Initial quotes for the work on Cole Hall came in as discussions continued. It became clear that building a structure to serve both functions was financially unattainable, as was immediate renovation of Cole Hall.

Another option was brought to the table: the purchase of an existing structure to house Shaftsbury's town offices, and the subsequent restoration of Cole Hall to serve as a community center. This two-prong approach would meet the immediate need for town offices and allow the possibility to fully vacate Cole Hall for a restoration and eventual re-use as a community center, a purpose for which the building is certainly more suited than that of as a municipal office.

At the time of this writing, the Selectboard had approved the purchase of the former Shaftsbury Medical Associates building located at 677 Route VT 7A. The proposal will go to vote at a Special Town Meeting on February 11, 2025, to be held at Shaftsbury Elementary School. However the vote goes, the CCDC will continue to work diligently and creatively to create a community space for the people of Shaftsbury.

Development Review Board (DRB)

The Development Review Board, authorized under Vermont State Law (24 V.S.A. Chapter 117), is the quasi-judicial or decision-making zoning function for the town. The five members of the Development Review Board are appointed by the Select Board for staggered three-year terms. The Board normally meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

The Board's primary goal, in determining the matters that come before it, is to ensure that all applications, of whatever nature, fully comply with the current Zoning By-Laws and Subdivision Regulations.

DRB activities July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024:

- Members are Mike Day (chair), Tedd Habberfield (vice-chair), Zoe Contros Kearn, Sarah Costin, and Denny Browe. The DRB annual reorganization meeting was held June 5, 2024.
- Reviewed and approved an application for the reopening of the Shaftsbury Country Store.
- Monitored an appeal of a DRB decision regarding short term rentals to the state Environmental Board. The appeal was withdrawn.
- Approved an application for a home occupation to bake bagels.
- Approved permit documents for a 2-lot subdivision on Horton Hill and a 2-lot subdivision on Tunic Road.
- Held a hearing on and approved a permit document for a 2-lot subdivision on Daniels Rd.
- Held a hearing and approved a permit document for a home occupation, a roofing business, on Buck Hill Rd.

The DRB members have clearly demonstrated their interest and dedication to the Town of Shaftsbury through their actions this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Day, Chair

SHAFTSBURY RECREATION COMMITTEE

Town of Shaftsbury Update for 2024

As always, we strive to offer recreational opportunities for residents and neighbors by developing our facilities for active community use. The committee gained two new members, but mourns the loss of longtime member, Barbara Marino, who passed away in 2024. A memorial to Barb is being planned.

This past year has seen an “art in the Park” gallery set up near the pavilion featuring themed artwork created by Emily Umphlett’s students from SES, adding a colorful visual for the park. Keep a lookout for changing themes as seasons change. Sarah Case continues to provide nature themed books for the storyboard walk along Tilgner Trail, enhancing a pleasant stroll through the woods.

We thank Peckham Industries for donating a replacement HOWARD PARK sign for the park’s entrance. This will be installed in early spring. Town Administrator, Paula Iken, has obtained a matching grant from the state to be used for park improvements. We are anticipating resurfacing tennis/pickleball courts and other much needed upgrades. A thank you also goes out to Cub Scout Troop 330 in Shaftsbury for their service projects at the park: weeding and mulching of trees along the walkway and bringing the horseshoe pits back to life. Plans for the dog park are progressing. We are hopeful that it will become a reality shortly.

We continue to participate in Vermont “Green Up Day.” This takes place annually on the first Saturday in May. If you are interested in taking an active part, please give our Town Administrator a call at the town office (802)442-4043).

Howard Park’s Pavilion and Fields can be reserved by contacting Deena Ruege, Chairperson. Upon your request, necessary forms will be emailed to you.

The Recreation Committee meets on the 4th Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at Cole Hall. If you have questions, need information on reserving the facilities, or would like to join us, contact Deena Ruege at gruege03@aol.com. All are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

Chairperson: Deena Ruege, gruege03@aol.com

Members: Sarah Costin, Tony D’Onofrio, Liz Duffy, Barb Marino

Historian member: Helen Olney

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (ECD)

The Economic Development Committee had two major efforts in 2024. Both relate to the overall business climate in Shaftsbury. The first project, based on grant funding and collaboration with the Bennington County Regional Commission, will create an economic inventory of buildings in the Shaftsbury Village Commercial Zone. The report, due in February 2025, will include suggested strategies for future business growth.

The second major effort is an online resource consisting of all businesses, freelancers and non-profit organizations within the town limits. Information is being gathered by the committee via questionnaires and outreach. Also expected to launch in early 2025, it will be a resource for local business as well as consumers. The resource will be available via the town website.

In addition, in 2025 the EDC will continue to focus on issues impacting residents including housing, employment and recreational space.

The Economic Development Committee generally meets the second Tuesday of each month. Check the town calendar to confirm and please join us in person or online.

Respectfully submitted,

The Economic Development Committee

Rick Bennett

Marita Cockburn

Andrea E. Bacchi

Shari Miller

John Verocchi

2024 TOWN TREE WARDEN REPORT

The emerald ash borer – an invasive, ash-tree-killing insect – was first detected in Shaftsbury a few years ago, and the damage is now apparent. The clock is ticking, and within 10 years, almost all the ash in town will likely be dead. One of the ways you can tell an infected tree from a distance is by noticing bark damage that was made by woodpeckers. Once you train yourself to see these holes and blond patches, you'll see them everywhere. Please notice, because we need everyone in town to recognize the extent of this problem and the enormous mitigation effort the problem is going to require.

Dead and dying ash along our roadways are about to become an unprecedented problem for the town. The road crew is proactively removing ash in areas where they're doing roadwork. But they're about to be overwhelmed. Shaftsbury has 70 miles of roads. There are thousands of ash trees that when they die will shed branches and trunks into the roads. Communities to our west who've experienced this already say that the beetle-killed trees don't decompose in an orderly, slow fashion. They tend to fail quickly and unpredictably once they're dead.

There's no solving this problem – it's too big. But we can get out in front of it and minimize its effects. As I write this, we're in the process of organizing a committee of volunteers to help identify hotspots on our roads this winter and spring. Please contact me if you'd like to volunteer. We'll provide ash-ID training if you need it. If we can get help from the community, it shouldn't be that hard to identify the worst trouble spots. We will need to contract outside help to take the trees down, and once the town gets this information it can start the budgeting and bidding process. The committee will also start working on the logistics of how we might deal with the influx of waste wood. Wouldn't it be cool to be able to chip some and use it to fuel local schools? Or create a firewood bank where residents could use some of the firewood? Or mill some of the wood and use it for a floor in a town building? Let's come up with some creative solutions to this mess.

It probably goes without saying, but if you haven't already walked around your land noticing ash trees, now's the time to do it. If you have any leaning towards buildings, or overhanging your driveway, or overhanging the road, deal with the problem now.

Please be in touch if you'd like to volunteer. If you have any questions, I'm happy to try to answer them. I'm also happy to field other tree questions from residents. My email address is dave@vermontalmanac.org

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Mance III

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

An update from the Shaftsbury Water Department:

We continue to work towards a start date for the first phase of our pipe replacement. This will cover 7A as well as Church Street, replacing the aging pipe with new ones. We will notify everyone with a start date once we have one.

Every 3 years Shaftsbury is required to take lead and copper samples throughout the town. We have 10 specific locations spread throughout the water system that represent the entire system. After sampling all locations, the results came back as less than 1ppb. This was the same as the previous Lead and Copper sampling 3 years before.

The Shaftsbury water department is currently seeking a higher allocation of water from North Bennington. We have been using a higher allocated amount of water for more than 10 years currently. The state is requesting we have a document from North Bennington with a higher allocated amount of water. The two towns have sat down as well as sent letters back and forth trying to resolve this issue. It hasn't come to fruition yet, but we hope to resolve the issue soon.

This summer the water department as well as an engineering firm will be going around continuing to add to our lead line inventory. The bulk of the work will be completing inspections of houses who have not yet been done. As well as documenting coordinates of pipe connections to the main and the house. We will send out mail again to set up times that work best for the customer.

As a reminder, please check toilets for leaks, this is usually the main cause of a high usage bill. Simply place a large amount of food coloring into the back of our tank. Wait a little while and check the bowl, if you see color you know you have a leak. This is usually caused by a flapper valve partially open allowing water to constantly run.

Thank you

The Shaftsbury Water Superintendent

ARLINGTON RESCUE SQUAD

More than 50 years ago, a small group of residents dedicated their time, energy, and resources to start the Arlington Rescue Squad (ARS). ARS is a non-profit organization which provides 24/7 365 days-a-year emergency medical services to your town. ARS now employs a small staff to provide daytime coverage, seven days a week. We continue to rely on volunteers to provide nighttime coverage. We are the only agency in the county who still relies on this "hybrid" model of paid staff and volunteers. We are sincerely grateful to all of our highly trained and dedicated providers who respond to 911 emergencies with up to Paramedic level capabilities. Our staff and volunteers engage in continuing education and training in order to maintain a high level of proficiency at their individual license level. We respond to nearly 700 calls a year.. We respond to medical emergencies and automobile accidents; we also assist the Arlington Fire Department with stand-by assistance for structure and brush fires. We respond to many calls in which we do not transport a patient; however, we incur the same expense for those calls.

We would like to sincerely thank the residents of Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate and North Shaftsbury for their continued financial support through the generous town appropriations. The financial support of these towns helps ARS remain financially solvent in order to respond to emergencies with a dedicated crew..

We are especially thankful to the members of the Arlington Fire department. They are there for us when we need extra help, whether it is driving an ambulance, assisting with a lift assist, or providing CPR support during a critical call. Thank you! Several members of the Department have completed the Vermont Emergency First Responder (VEFR) course, receiving their licenses at this level. Some of these members are considering pursuing an Emergency Medical Technician license.

We were very happy to meet and get-to-know many in our community during several events including Norman's Attic, Trunk-or-Treat at Arlington Memorial High School, the Lighted Tractor Parade, and several sporting events. In early spring, ARS members participated in a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training. This large-scale training was held at the Manchester Recreation Park and involved multiple rescue and fire agencies from the surrounding areas. This was an excellent training that provided our members the opportunity to hone their skills and work with other agencies in the area.

As we look to the future, we have ordered a new ambulance with an expected delivery date of 2027. We plan to fundraise in order to offset the significant cost of this necessary vehicle. We will continue to have a presence in the community; we will offer training to those who would like to become involved; and we will continue to provide exceptional emergency medical care to those in our community.

We are always eager to welcome volunteers who might be interested in becoming involved with ARS. There is nothing more satisfying than helping those in your own community. If you would like to learn more about ARS, please give us a call. Our non-emergency number is (802) 375-6589. We would love to hear from you!

Finally, please remember to post your house number clearly so we can find you in an emergency. We would like to thank you again for your continued support. We could not do the good work we do without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlington Rescue Squad Board of Directors



P.O. Box 4736 Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 440-2487

<http://www.bcchvt.org>

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) continues to operate 24/7, 365 days a year, to serve the needs of those in Bennington County experiencing homelessness. BCCH is grateful for the town of Shaftsbury's support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The winter months are upon us and both locations are most often full, with a waiting list for families. In addition to providing shelter, we serve many others experiencing homelessness through drop-in services for those in need. Our services range from the use of our kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms to providing a safe, warm space for those in need during the day or providing someone in need with toiletries, blankets, clothing, and takeout meals. Those who come in to warm up are also given the opportunity to meet with a case manager, apply for services, and receive housing and employment assistance.

In 2024, we provided shelter and services to over 300 people between our two locations. In addition, we have served well over 150 adults and children through our day services, donation rooms, and community outreach services.

In the past year we have further strengthened relationships with our community partners, including but not limited to: Shires Housing, Turning Point, Greater Bennington Community Services, Economic Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Sunrise, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Bennington Police Department, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and United Counseling Services. We were able to enhance safety measures at our congregate shelter location with additional support staff and have three full-time case managers assisting our individuals and families staying at our two locations. These positions are supported by an increased HOP grant through OEO. Furthermore, this grant has afforded us to hire an additional full-time Community Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager for those not sheltered by BCCH. These milestones enable us to increase the success rate of guests' employment, housing, and so much more.

While it is still a struggle to house adult individuals, we have had more success this past year, and we are thrilled at the number of families that we have been able to permanently house over the past year.

Revenue from Municipalities:

Shaftsbury - \$5,000 | Bennington - \$25,000 | Arlington - \$500 | Peru - \$500
Dorset - \$1,000 | Rupert - \$500

While so much good has been happening at BCCH, we need your continued support due to the many costs not covered under our HOP grant. While BCCH also pursues and obtains other grants and donations, they are just not enough to cover all BCCH's expenses. Your ongoing support is necessary with all the continued rising costs of food, necessities.... everything!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide anything else.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Roxanne M Carelli

Executive Director of Operational Development and Shelter Services.
roxanne.carelli@bcchvt.org | 518-577-4177



ANNUAL REPORT- November 2024 Cindy Luce, Executive Director

Bennington County Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, which has helped more than 40 million people achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance through safe, decent, and affordable housing. Our local Habitat affiliate has had the honor of providing affordable homeownership opportunities for 36 families to date, with four more families currently in the homeownership program.

We work in partnership with Bennington County residents who cannot otherwise become homeowners or afford needed home repairs. Applicants must have a need for better housing, the ability to pay, and the willingness to partner with us as we build and work **with** individuals and families, not **for** them. Once accepted into the homeownership program, each adult family member must complete 200 hours of sweat equity, half of which must be completed on the construction site(s). Homebuyers who become homeowners pay an affordable mortgage through monthly payments that include escrow for property taxes, insurance, and Homeowner Association fees, where applicable. Homebuyers' monthly payments do not exceed more than 30% of their income.

Bennington County Habitat is locally run and funded. With the exception of some contract services such as roofing, electrical, and plumbing, volunteers build Habitat houses. Businesses, subcontractors, and individuals help build, donate materials, and provide financial support. Town appropriations purchase building supplies and materials for our construction programs. With the costs of building a home continuing to rise, support from local towns and governments is more important than ever.

In Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024), Bennington County Habitat welcomed home two families in Manchester. So far this Fiscal Year, four more families have been selected for a Habitat home. This will mean **13 more** individual people will be in safe, adequate housing.

After over **100** homebuyer applications were sent out in March, four new families were accepted into our homebuyer program. In November of this year we broke ground on our **37th and 38th** homes, which are in Bennington on Greenview Drive, and will be building our **39th and 40th** home this coming year as well, one of which will be in Manchester.

In addition to our homeownership program, our home repair program has been growing as well. In Fiscal Year 2024 we completed twelve repair projects. In Fiscal Year 2025 we plan to continue this much needed program. Our home repair program continues to accept applications from local income-qualified homeowners who need minor home repairs, including ramps, to safely stay in or return to their homes from health care facilities.

Our Restore in Manchester continues to be a popular shopping destination. Through this we sell, at reasonable prices, new and gently used furniture, building supplies, art, housewares, tools, and home improvement products that have been donated to us. Not only does the Restore provide people with quality furnishings they can afford, it also keeps items out of the landfill. The proceeds from the Restore provide direct financial support for our construction programs.

Two Shaftsbury residents are homeowners through our Habitat Homeowner program, and we have completed a number of repair projects in the past. Additionally, our Executive Director is a resident of Shaftsbury.

None of our projects would be possible without the support we receive from the local community. Together, we make a difference in the lives of hard working people in Bennington County. For more information please visit our website at www.BenningtonCountyHabitat.org

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Luce, Executive Director, Bennington County Habitat for Humanity



Bennington Little League

P.O. Box 4603, Bennington, Vermont 05201



To the Shaftsbury Community Appropriations Committee,

The Bennington Little League program has been in continuous operation since 1957 offering a quality youth sports opportunity to Bennington County. We pride ourselves in providing a safe and educational environment for all of the 280 plus children we serve. We provide opportunities for players ranging from age 5 through 12 to play on one of 4 different divisions to ensure both safety and progression for each child, customizing our approach for the success of the individual as well as the team.

As many of you know, Baseball fields require more work than most youth playing fields. Our program currently manages 5 fields, 3 in Bennington, 1 in North Bennington and of course, Howard Park. This requires many hours of volunteer labor, but also a decent amount of outgoing funds to keep up. This facility is very important to our operations and we are excited to continue³ our partnership with Shaftsbury. As with every other year, our plan is to utilize this location for both practices and games from early April through mid July and sometimes beyond depending on post season needs.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Shaftsbury for their past and hopefully continued support. The money we receive goes directly to the maintenance and improvements necessary each season. We look forward to another great year in 2025

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Metcalfe
President
Bennington Little
League

Bennington Project Independence

Shaftsbury Town Report 2024

Thanks to the generous support from the Residents and Selectboard of Shaftsbury, the comprehensive and innovative Adult Day Services provided by Bennington Project Independence (BPI) continued to make a tremendous positive impact in the lives of many individuals and families caring for loved ones in Shaftsbury.

We had a 45% increase in the number of individuals and families from Shaftsbury who participated in our Adult Day program.

Bennington Project Independence is here to help family caregivers “share the care”. BPI helps make it possible for them to balance being able to care for their loved ones, raise their own families and continue to be able to maintain a job or career. Knowing that their loved one is safe, well-cared for and enjoying their day, gives the caregiver the break they need to recharge and can bring great peace of mind to families as well as special care for their loved ones.

BPI provides extensive on-site nursing and wellness care, personal care assistance (showers, hair and nail care, toileting assistance) and access to the wide range of meaningful and enriching activities that help members remain as independent as possible. BPI offers 18-20 activities a day that people can pick and choose from. The Staff, at BPI, engage people with mentally stimulating games, educational opportunities and presentations, physical activities, delicious, healthy meals and much, much more. They also help people make the essential human connections that are pivotal in reducing loneliness and the physical and emotional effects of social isolation so keenly experienced by so many.

Our “Families Together” monthly caregiver gathering and our full time Social Worker provides families with extra support and information whenever they need it. The additional support can help families prevent the emotional and financial cost of premature institutionalization of their loved one who may be at risk.

BPI impacts the greater community by helping to make Shaftsbury a wonderful place to grow older. As the Baby Boomer generation is growing older, the need for innovative, person-centered community-based services, like BPI, will only increase.

We have an exciting, new expansion project that will provide an even greater range of services and opportunities for Shaftsbury members, family caregivers and community in the coming year.

Bennington Project Independence, Adult Day Service, is honored to have the opportunity to serve Shaftsbury individuals and families.



To the Citizens of the Town of Shaftsbury,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low-income or living in poverty that we serve throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for supporting us over the years on Town Meeting Day. BROC Community Action assists families and individuals in crisis and help provide a sustainable path forward.

Over the past year, BROC Community Action has assisted **113** residents in the Town of Shaftsbury. Whether they need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget and credit counseling and resources and referrals; we are here.

People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your town appropriation helps ease the struggle for nearly 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward whenever possible.

Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming fiscal year remains \$1,700.00.

We truly value our collaboration with Shaftsbury as we assist those most in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", enclosed within a rectangular box.

Thomas L. Donahue,
CEO tdonahue@broc.org

Center for Restorative Justice

2024 Town Report

The Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) has been an integral part of Bennington County's criminal and juvenile justice systems for over forty years. As each year passes and our community evolves, so does CRJ's growth and impact on Bennington County.

This past year, over 1,300 Bennington County individuals were served in one of CRJ's 15 programs. CRJ's programs are based on the principles of restorative justice, bringing together those most affected by an incident – victims, community members, family – holding the offender accountable for making amends and repairing the harm caused.

CRJ's program offerings have grown over the past 40 years in response to the increased need to focus on public safety and to strengthen public/private partnerships to address the community's ever-changing needs. Growing from a single-program Court Diversion agency in the early 1980's to one now providing a full continuum of services ranging from assisting students to overcome barriers leading to truancy, supporting at-risk teens to secure employment, helping drivers with suspended licenses to get reinstated, to helping individuals successfully reenter the community from incarceration, CRJ is considered the model program in Vermont for full-service community justice programming. Please visit CRJ's web site www.bcrj.org for a full listing of the agency's programs and services.

Town support is essential in creating a true restorative community. With your town's support, CRJ is able to continue the important work of strengthening communities, holding people accountable, empowering victims, and supporting individuals to become positive members of the community. Thank you very much for your continued partnership and support.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Leitha Cipriano
Executive Director - Center for Restorative Justice



Matching people aged 55+ with service opportunities in Bennington, Windham & Windsor Counties
Green Mountain RSVP 160 Benmont Ave Ste 90 (South Entrance, Flr 2R), Bennington, VT 05201
www.rsvpvt.org • (802) 447-1546

Dear Shaftsbury Voters,

Thank you for approving \$950 in funding to Green Mountain RSVP at the 2024 Town Meeting.

Green Mountain RSVP is an AmeriCorps Seniors program that matches people aged 55+ with volunteer opportunities in non-profit organizations and also coordinates free, volunteer-led Bone Builder classes and the Sunshine Cards project, which distributes cheerful, hand-written notes to homebound seniors.

During the period funded, 13 Shaftsbury residents were active Green Mountain RSVP volunteers, serving in the areas of:

- Bone Builders Exercise Leader
- Meals on Wheels delivery drivers
- Food pantry helpers
- Tax Preparers
- Sunshine Card makers
- Friendly Visitors

Much of the volunteering takes place in Bennington at partner non-profits. The non-profits gather information (such as town of residence) about the people who benefit from the service of the volunteers, so we are unable to say with precision how many Shaftsbury residents are served by our volunteers.

Free, volunteer-led Bone Builders classes meet twice a week year-round and help participants improve their balance and muscle strength, which leads to fewer falls and improved bone density. These positive outcomes help people age in place and live independently for longer.

Voter-approved funds are essential for us to continue to support and develop programs that help Vermont seniors age-in-place.

We remain committed to reinvesting the talents of our seniors into local communities.

Thank you for your support.

John G. McCullough Free Library

2024 Report to the Town of Shaftsbury

Organization Information:

Address: 2 Main Street/ PO Box 339 North Bennington, VT 05257

Hours of Operation: Tuesdays 10-8; Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10-6; Saturdays 10-2.

Telephone: 802.447.7121

Website: www.mcculloughlibrary.org

Library Director: Jennie Rozycki (director@mcculloughlibrary.org)

Library Trustees Chair: Judy Crane (trusteeschair@mcculloughlibrary.org)

Mission: The McCullough Library entered its 103rd year of service to Shaftsbury residents in 2024. The library provides free access to a wide variety of materials through its physical and digital collections and interlibrary loan services. The library also provides speedy public WiFi, public computers, printing services, meeting space, reference services, and a robust schedule of events for all ages. Combined, these services inform and enhance civic engagement and private life, support literacy and lifelong learning, and foster community connection and resilience.

Membership: Shaftsbury residents are encouraged to activate their free McCullough Library accounts, and may do so at the library whenever it is open, by emailing help@mcculloughlibrary.org, or by completing the membership form on the library's website. In addition to books and DVDs for all ages, members enjoy access to passes to museums and other area attractions, tools, thousands of ebooks, digital magazines, and digital

audiobooks through Libby, and free video streaming through Kanopy. The library also offers online courses, standardized test prep, and career development resources.

Monthly E-Newsletters: The library's monthly e-newsletters are a great way to keep up-to-date on the latest developments, opportunities, and events. Email help@mcculloughlibrary.org to subscribe.

2024 Highlights: Use of the library's collections and door traffic reached an all-time high again this year. The library's WiFi equipment was updated and public bandwidth was increased. The library purchased Zinio, a collection of more than 5,000 different magazines this year. Members have unlimited access to this collection through Libby. The library's video streaming service grew to include content from major production studios.

With the library's help, young people participating in our Summer Reading Program kept their reading skills sharp and tracked 174,996 minutes of reading. Books on Wheels, a book delivery service for homebound seniors, has grown in popularity this year. The Table of Contents, a fundraiser gala, returned this year and was well attended. A fundraiser play presented in partnership with the Bennington Free Library in November, was a success, with all tickets sold.

Plans for 2025: The library secured a \$20,000 Libraries Transforming Communities grant from the American Library Association in 2024, which will be used to purchase new, uniform, accessible shelving for the adult collection new light fixtures to brighten the first-floor lobby and hallway. Funding for additional accessibility upgrades, energy efficiency, and preservation work will be pursued. The library will take further steps toward completing a Sustainable Libraries Certification from the American Library Association. Based on feedback from young people and their caregivers, upgrades and repairs to the Bonnie Dundas Youth Room will be completed this year.

Respectfully Submitted, -Jennie Rozycki, Library Director

The Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library

The Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library (MCMFL) serves the communities of Arlington, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, and Sunderland; over 145 of our patrons reside in Shaftsbury. This has been a transition year for our library with the retirement of Phyllis Skidmore after 44 years of dedicated service. The new director, Kyrra Howard, started in June and is excited to embark on this new chapter at the MCMFL.

During 2024, the library welcomed 10,535 patrons and hosted over 100 free programs. The MCMFL stepped out of the uncertain times the COVID-19 pandemic brought and began hosting more programs for patrons, and looks forward to more in the new year. The library is committed to the towns and communities it serves, striving to provide the best service possible. Plans have begun for new programs for all ages, including a cookbook club and a book making program with Vermont children's book illustrators.

Programming is only a piece of what this library has in store for patrons. The MCMFL Canfield Gallery will showcase a variety of local artists and themes for patrons to experience and learn about. From upcycled art to mining, there will be a lot to see in the gallery this coming year. Also, available are computers, a copier, printers, and a 3D printer. For kids, there are learning kits and book express boxes for families and local schools to check out for their classrooms. These are available to help kids learn about gardening, building circuits, tools and machines, and so much more!

The Russell Vermontiana Collection and MCMFL's curator Bill Budde have a wealth of local and state history to share. Whether you are looking for information about family genealogy, a local residence, or a general history of Bennington County or Vermont, Bill can work with you to search for more information. 2024 was a busy year for the Russell Collection. The major activity was preparing and installing the Main Street: Past and Present exhibit at Arlington Common. Three presentations related to the exhibit were given: "Main Street, Past and Present," "Arlington Industries," and "Mill History of Arlington, Sandgate, and Sunderland." Other recordings and interviews included eight "History Minutes" for radio, and video segments for GNAT-TV on the Hawley/Croft House, the History of the Intersection of Rtes. 7A and 313, and the Ira Allen House. Other presentations included one on the Carthusian Monastery, and participation in promoting and follow up Q and A for the Les Craven movie "Lost Nation." Preparation for the 250th anniversary event of the March to Fort Ticonderoga focused on identifying the Arlington residence and purchases of Ethan Allen. Preservation work included the completion of a finding aid for the USS Bennington Collection, as well as scanning important early ledgers, including the early Arlington Masonic Lodge Ledger (1799, Newton Lodge), the Mallory/Brownson Ledger (1757-1820), and a general store ledger from Williston, Vermont (1812-1815).

To help support all of these community programs, events, and services, the Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library is requesting \$2,200 from the Town of Shaftsbury for the fiscal year 2025.

Thank you all for your support and we hope to see you at the library soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Kyrra Howard, Library Director Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library
528 East Arlington Rd, PO Box 267 Arlington, VT 05250
martha_canfield_lib@hotmail.com www.marthacanfieldlibrary.org



Long time Annual Report reader, and first-time writer, as this will be the first time folks will be seeing Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation on the town appropriation ballot.

My name is Karen E. Rose and I run Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation right here in Shaftsbury, VT. I have been licensed for wildlife rehab since October 2018, and my current permit is for non-rabies vector mammals. Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation has been an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code since October 2020.

The wildlife that I typically intake are the smaller mammals including squirrels, chipmunks, cottontail rabbits, opossums, woodchucks, and porcupines. I am the only rehabber of any kind in southwestern Vermont, and in that vein, I will be applying for my federal permit for songbird rehab in early 2024 to be to assist with the influx of bird calls that I receive throughout the season rather than having to transfer them to another rehabber further away.

In 2023, Monty's House had 73 intake incidents, meaning 73 times people brought wildlife here for care, and in most cases, there is more than one critter within each intake incident; from Shaftsbury specifically, I had 15 intake incidents that resulted in 37 critter intakes. The 2023 release numbers are listed below by species along with the current overwinterers at the time of this writing. Overwinterers are those critters that were either too small to meet proper release protocol prior to winter setting in, or, arrived injured over the winter and required time to heal from those injuries (* below are non-protected species).

2023 Releases

Grey squirrels – 15
Red squirrels – 14
Cottontail rabbits – 40
Opossums – 6
Chipmunks – 1
Deer mice – 5*
House sparrows -1*
Starlings – 2*

2023/2024 Overwinterers

Opossums - 2
Grey squirrels - 1
Porcupines - 1
Deer mice – 5*

Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation is seeking \$1,000.00 in town appropriation funding to offset the cost of running the rehab operation, specifically the food cost of feeding the intakes during the season. While all wildlife rehabbers are licensed by the state of Vermont, through the Department of Fish & Wildlife, there is no stipend, reimbursement, or financial support that comes from the state or the department to service the needs of the wildlife in rehab care. On behalf of all the critters at Monty's House, and myself, we thank you in advance for your consideration of our funding request.

Checked for accuracy and approved by current overwinterers Basil & Irving the opossums, Greyson the squirrel, Silas the porcupine, Pumpkin, Spice, Morticia, Gomez & Fester the deer mice, and respectfully submitted by Karen E. Rose, Licensed VT Wildlife Rehabilitator.



Silas the porcupine



Greyson the squirrel



Basil (top) & Irving (below)

Park-McCullough, Historic Governor's Mansion

Report to the Town of Shaftsbury

The Park-McCullough staff and board of trustees jumped into the 2024 season to reach new audiences and re-engage old friends. We fostered an events schedule that spoke to special interests (croquet, yoga, afternoon teas, wine & cheese, cigar & bar, movie nights, etc.), intending to become a regular destination on our neighbors' calendars.

Along with ticketed events were plenty of free gatherings that offered history, arts, entertainment, and recreation for all. Whether as a partner, host, or organizer, we were honored to be a part of: Winterfest24, the Zem Benn Road Race, NorShaft Lions Easter Egg Hunt; free admissions to the museum on opening day; the North Bennington Village Block Party; free theater performances of *Pillows All the Way Down* by The Vermont Suitcase Company, *Junie B. Jones*, *The Musical* by Weston Theater's Young Company, and *Twelfth Night* with Hubbard Hall's Summer Shakespeare in the Park; two free movies on the lawn; a new exhibition featuring the life and work of Sister Mary Veronica; an all-ages concert by *Annie and The Natural Wonder Band*; a visit from Santa and crew; and a candle lighting ceremony for the Jewish community and friends. We were proud to participate in those activities that fostered engagement through community enrichment.

The grounds are open year-round from dawn to dusk, offering the community a park-like setting to walk their dogs, meet friends for coffee on the veranda, have a picnic, snowshoe, and gather for adjacent adventures. Park the car and gain quick access to the public Highland Hall Garden and The Mile Around Woods and associated trails, then stroll into the center of town to visit the library, market, a great meal, and much more. Thank you for valuing the Park-McCullough for respite and as a resource.

Of course, the home, formal garden, grounds, and carriage barn remain a cherished venue for your private events. We appreciate celebrating with our neighbors for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and retirements, business meetings, and retreats. These celebrations, the museum and its collection (open June – October), and opportunities for the public to gather, draw new friends to the area who make good use of the local accommodations, amenities, restaurants, shopping, and recreational opportunities that surround. We are proud to send visitors to our favorite local places and spaces.

The Park-McCullough House Association continues to seek a cadence of operations that will allow it the stability a nonprofit requires. A large part of this goal is always to strengthen community partnerships while serving the individuals in that community. *We are committed to preserving, conserving, and restoring our buildings, grounds, and collections to share with the public for education and enjoyment.* Thank you for learning, engaging, and growing with us. We hope to see you often in 2025!

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Raine, Museum Director



Park • McCullough
Historic Governor's Mansion



PO Box 393,
North Bennington VT 05257
(802) 442-8457

www.LakeParanVT.org
www.facebook.com/lakeparan

Mission: Paran Recreations is a not-for-profit recreational facility located in historic North Bennington, Vermont that is lovingly maintained and operated by a volunteer board of directors and local nature lovers. Our mission is to be stewards of the local environment and to bring the natural beauty of Southern Vermont to people of all backgrounds while also providing healthy, outdoor fun! We are one of only 2 lakes in the state of Vermont that is neither operated by a state/municipal entity or a home-owners association. Shaftsbury residents, on average, account for about 22% of our visitorship annually.

Conservation: In 2023, we raised over \$100k to purchase our own mechanical harvesting boat to manage the weeds that grow in Lake Paran. These weeds pose a safety threat for recreators, increase mosquito presence, and disrupt the ecological balance of the lake. This year we made headway in removing the weeds from the lake when we received our 10-year Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation.

Community: We distributed over **25** free memberships to families in our community thanks to the Fund for North Bennington. We hired 14 dedicated and hardworking employees to support camp, concessions, maintenance, and lifeguarding. We received a Vermont Humanities grant to host a second year of our Me N' U Meals. We were able to serve over 100 -150 people in the community a free, home-cooked meal during an eight-week Friday night dinner series featuring guest chefs from the community in May and June.

Special Events: In January, we held our first Paran Plunge in several years, where 40 individuals jumped in the icy lake to support Lake Paran and kick off the greater North Bennington Winterfest. We held our annual 3rd of July Fireworks celebration. Finally, we held our 11th Annual Stone Skipping Festival in September, bringing professional stone skippers from all over the country to compete for the prize of fudge.

In 2025, we will focus on:

1. Safe Swimming & Boating: We are working with safety professionals to put in policies and procedures to address safety. We are in the process of becoming an American Red Cross Training facility. We are seeking funds to offer Free Swim Lessons at the lake for adults and children. We plan to offer boating & water safety classes and other Red Cross trainings for community members. In collaboration with veterans, aging and disability organizations we plan to raise funds to make Lake Paran more accessible for people with disabilities.

2. Save Lake Paran: Lake Paran is a vital reservoir that prevents flooding. Protecting this body of water from filling in is essential to our well-being and our safety. After raising over \$100,000 to purchase a work boat to remove invasive species from our lake, we will continue to raise funds to further our Aquatic Nuisance Control efforts.

3. Wellness-Based Events: We plan to develop more health and wellness programming with an emphasis on combining outdoor recreation, nature based therapy practices, nutrition and community.



PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

Mailing: P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201
Physical: 102 Dewey St, Bennington, VT 05201
Office: 802.442.2370 | Hotline: 802.442.2111
www.pavebennington.org

Town of Shaftsbury;

PAVE has spent the last year building community with the survivors we support in hopes of creating a strong, resilient group of people with lived experience who have broken the cycle of abuse. We have been blessed to be able to continue to provide emergency support, housing and advocacy and also long-term support with survivors after the crisis of fleeing has ended.

Our 24/7 emergency hotline is often the open door for survivors looking to flee from violent relationships need to leave. Powered by PAVE Advocates and dedicated volunteers the hotline fielded over 1000 calls. Our Emergency Shelter, the first stop for many survivors who are working to rebuild their lives, provided over 110 individuals with safe, free housing. Ongoing case management was able to aide 25 individuals with obtaining long term housing support vouchers.

PAVE's collaboration with local law enforcement generated approximately 100 referrals and led to 60 protection orders for survivors. Our work with local early childhood centers, schools and other youth organizations allowed us to reach close to 300 youth with a message of healthy relationships.

As we move forward into the new year, we are happy to announce we will be hiring a new Advocate to our team. This Advocate will focus on providing support to those who have been sexually assaulted. This support will especially focus on the outlying towns in Bennington County, where accessing medical care in Bennington maybe a challenge. Support and financial assistance will be made available through this new Advocacy position to help survivors of Sexual Assault access the services they deserve.

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is requesting level funding this year from the Town of Shaftsbury in the amount of \$450.00. We greatly appreciate the support the town provides to PAVE.

With Gratitude,

Lindsay

Lindsay Brillon, M.Ed. LSW
Executive Director

Suzanne Kirkpatrick
Board President

PAVE Budget Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Income

Contributions - Indiv, Bus, Group	66,553
Contributions - Towns	9,000
Grant Income	636,137
Total Income	711,690

PAVE is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and your donation is fully tax deductible, less the value of any goods or services received. PAVE does not appraise the value of gifts. Our tax ID number is 03-0285583.

SHAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Shaftsbury Historical Society (SHS) had an extremely active year in 2024. We would again like to thank all members, volunteers and the Town for allowing us to be the stewards of Shaftsbury's history.

The generous distribution we received from the Shaftsbury ARPA funds was matched from our own resources and scheduled work was completed on both the Baptist Meeting House and the Galusha Homestead. Many thanks to the Town of Shaftsbury for considering the importance of maintaining these historically significant buildings.

In May we held a Living History Day Program and hosted the 4th graders from the Shaftsbury Elementary School and their teachers. The students met with impersonators representing Ethan Allen and Governor Jonas Galusha and participated in musket drills followed by a musket volley. The month of May also saw an open house for the Genealogy Society of Vermont as well as a display of our 1888 Shaftsbury Signature Quilt along with a presentation by Joyce Heald on The Witch of Pownal.

On June 8th the SHS revived the annual Ordinary Heroes Day event and presented the award to Shaftsbury resident Mike Taylor for his service to the community and the Shaftsbury Volunteer Fire Department. We would like to thank Representative David Durfee for his efforts in obtaining Mike's resolution from the Secretary of State's office.

On August 17th SHS volunteers attended the Liberty Pole event in Bennington as well as the 250th Gala in Manchester. We will also be participating in upcoming events next year with Jonah Spivak and the 250th Committee celebrating Ethan Allen's capture of Fort Ticonderoga.

September saw an open house with the 1888 Shaftsbury Signature Quilt. That same month we also held our annual tag sale at the Galusha Homestead.

On October 5th we held an open house and Chicago Fire presentation by SHS member Walt Klinger in addition to a dedication of the antique fire hose pumper reel on loan to us from the Shaftsbury Volunteer Fire Department.

We are grateful and honored to be the stewards of Shaftsbury's history and remain open to new ideas and volunteers in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Cassidy, President for the Board

Rutland Office
143 Maple St
Rutland VT, 05701
(802) 786-5990



Bennington Office
160 Benmont Ave, Suite #90
Bennington VT, 05201
(802) 442-5436

November 5th, 2024

Town of Shaftsbury
c/o Paula Iken and/or Marlene Hall
P.O. Box 409
61 Buck Hill Rd
Shaftsbury, VT 05262

Dear Town Officials,

This is a request from the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for \$1100.00 in funding in your FY26 budget. This is the same level of funding we requested and received last year. If approved, this funding will be used to help support the work we do on behalf of Shaftsbury residents.

The enclosed document provides a brief description of the services the Council on Aging provided to older Vermonters in your community over the last year and is designed for use in your town report. Please contact me if you have any questions about any of this information.

We sincerely appreciate the past support that we have received from the town of Shaftsbury, and we hope that we can, once again, count on support from your community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Greene, Executive Director
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Sunrise Family Resource Center

Sunrise Family Resource Center is Vermont's Parent Child Center in Bennington County. We offer a broad range of educational and support services to families throughout the county. All our programs are designed to promote lifelong learning, healthy growth and development. Our mission is to "Strengthen Families" and we strive to help families reach their full potential. We believe all families have unique strengths, that families and providers lean together as partners and that Hope makes change possible.

We do this through both our targeted services-programming which are supported by contracts with guidelines to access. These services include but not limited to a wide variety of home visiting programs, including parenting and family preservation, homeless families, youth and individuals, early childhood education programs, our on-site high school program for pregnant and parenting young adults, childcare subsidy services and Youth Development Services. All these programs include Shaftsbury Residents.

Our universal programs, activities and events, that can be accessed by all families, don't have adequate funding attached. These are things like our family activities including cooking with your child(ren), coffee club, Parents as Teachers monthly events, workshops for teens and adults together, our food pantry, meal kits, diaper bank, formula, transportation supports, Welcome Baby Bags, playgroups, parenting education classes, our community wide Summer Jam event, and so much more. 47 Shaftsbury families accessed at least one, often more of these particular services-for a total of 73 adults and 86 children.

Sunrise is also home to the Warm the Children Program. All the donations made to this program go directly to the purchase of warm clothing for children-Sunrise does not take any of these funds for the work that is being done. We took on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library this fall and need to raise \$30,000 annually to get free books mailed to enrolled children each month until age 5. We are currently mailing 812 children, of which 62 are Shaftsbury residents.

Sunrise will continue to provide Shaftsbury Residents with a wide range of both targeted services and universal activities and events for families, especially those with young children but not limited to that population. Our teen and adult workshops have Shaftsbury residents on a regular basis, where they create beautiful, hand-crafted items to take home. Our diaper bank and food pantry will be better stocked, and children will be able to receive monthly books, all free of charge. Sunrise also employs Shaftsbury residents with livable wages.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Main

Executive Director

Sunrise Family Resource Center



VERMONT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
HELPING ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE IN A VISUAL WORLD SINCE 1926

Report of Services for Town of Shaftsbury

During the 2024 Fiscal Year, The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired saw continued success in client services, innovative programs, and community outreach initiatives. Moving forward, it is exciting to imagine the strides we will make in enabling blind and visually impaired Vermonters to be more independent, develop adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

SMART Device Training Program: 584 Vermont residents received SMART training in FY24, the highest number in the program's five-year history. In order to fully fund SMART, VABVI has launched the several-year Second Century Endowment Campaign.

PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning and Support) Group: PALS Groups, held throughout Vermont, are monthly meetings where members share coping strategies and discuss the practical, social and emotional challenges of vision loss. While many clients have been pleased with the reintroduction of in-person meetings in FY24, opportunities to join virtually remain available for maximum flexibility. 90 clients attended PALS meetings in FY24.

HAPI (Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence): The HAPI program enables Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists to work one-on-one with students to practice daily living skills.

IRLE Summer Camp (Intensive Residential Life Experience): IRLE camp helps VABVI students develop social skills, meet fellow visually impaired peers, learn independent living skills, and improve self-advocacy skills. This June, IRLE brought 10 visually impaired students to Jay Peak Resort. Activities included beep baseball, disc golf, and ice skating. Fun was had by all!

Community Outreach

VABVI continues to innovate new projects which will connect the local community to our services and cause. After more than two years of development, an accessible tactile sign was installed in Burlington's Waterfront Park in June of 2024. Additionally, VABVI's New Americans Project has offered free vision screenings for local refugee community members.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the agency provided services to a total of 1,048 Vermont residents. This total includes 2 adults in Shaftsbury, and 32 adults and 10 students in Bennington County.

For more information about VABVI's services or volunteer opportunities, please contact Samantha Gougher, Development Associate, at sgougher@vabvi.org. Thank you very much for your support!

60 Kimball Avenue
So. Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 863-1358
(FAX) 863-1481

13 Overlook Drive, Ste. 1
Berlin, VT 05641
(802) 505-4006
(FAX) 505-4039

80 West Street, Ste. 202
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-6452
(FAX) 775-4669

www.vabvi.org

130 Austine Drive, Ste. 280
Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802) 254-8761
(FAX) 254-4802

So. Burl (800) 639-5861
Berlin (877) 350-8838
Rutland (877) 350-8839
Bratt (877) 350-8840



People with disabilities working together for dignity, independence, and civil rights

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, respectfully requests funding from the Town of Shaftsbury for our FY'25.

Annual support from over 140 cities and towns across the State helps VCIL assist Vermonters with disabilities achieve dignified and self-determined lives. VCIL works to serve individuals who can benefit from our direct services as well as to educate and inform members of the community about disability related issues and independent living. Direct services are available to residents of Shaftsbury in a number of ways. Peer counselors work with residents in their homes or other locations; small grants for adaptive equipment; Meals on Wheels for people with disabilities under the age of 60; Home Access modifications; individual and systems advocacy and programs for youth. Information, Referral and Assistance is available to all residents by calling VCIL's I-Line, at 1-800-639-1522 (Voice and TTY).

We are requesting \$1000.00 from the Town of Shaftsbury to continue supporting people with disabilities in the coming year. Enclosed you will find a summary of VCIL's programs and services for the town and a copy of our FY'25 budget.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Launderville". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sarah Launderville
Executive Director
slaunderville@vcil.org

11 East State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602
802-229-0501, 800-639-1522 (voice & TTY), fax: 802-229-0503
email: info@vcil.org • website: www.vcil.org

VNA & HOSPICE

of the Southwest Region

Serving Bennington, Franklin, & Rutland Counties

To the Officers and Citizens of Shaftsbury:

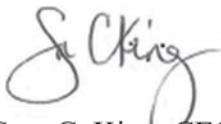
In 2023, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Shaftsbury residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From children with intensive medical needs, to seniors who wish to remain independent at home, to those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue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

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

Last year VNAHSR's skilled and dedicated staff made more than 119,829 home visits to 2,915 patients. **In Shaftsbury, we provided 1,465 visits to 74 individuals.**

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

Sincerely,



Sara C. King, CEO
VNA & Hospice of the
Southwest Region



Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors

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

Pursuant to: 20 VS.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 per 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 “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 over population 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!

FROM:

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall
61 Buck Hill Road, P.O. Box 409
Shaftsbury, VT 05262

Please bring this report to Town Meeting. When finished with report, please recycle by depositing in designated receptacle at Landfill.