

**2024-2025
Annual Report
of the
Officers of the
TOWN of BENSON**

Town Meeting:

Please bring this report with you at 10:00 AM to the Floor Meeting on:

February 28, 2026

Australian ballot Voting:

March 3, 2026

NOTICE TO VOTERS
BENSON TOWN MEETING
February 28, 2026 & MARCH 3, 2026
BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

VIEW SAMPLE BALLOTS posted at the Wheel Inn, Benson General Store, and the Town Office. Checklists are posted at Benson General Store and the Town Office.

VOTER REGISTRATION is now open up to and including **Town Meeting Day**. If you are not sure if you are already registered to vote in Benson or need more information about voter registration, phone the Town Clerk at 537-2611 or visit mvp.sec.state.vt.us.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots in person, in writing, by telephone, email or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us up until the close of the Town Clerk's office (3:00PM) on Monday, March 2, 2025 . (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- **Voter** may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail. Drop box available.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

ON ELECTION DAY:

February 28, 2026: Floor Meeting begins at 10:00AM at the Community Hall (2760 Stage Road).

March 3, 2026: Polls open at the Community Hall for Australian Ballot Voting at 10:00AM and close at 7:00PM.

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

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice.

If you cannot get from the car into the polling place, ballot(s) may be brought to your car by two election officials.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

- Enter through the rear (handicapped) entrance and go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will hand you the ballots.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing each voted ballot in the appropriate "Voted Ballots" box.

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.

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

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

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

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

Please remember to bring you Annual Town Report to the floor meeting.

DEDICATION OF THE 2025 TOWN REPORT TO GUY CHARLTON

With deep appreciation and admiration, the Town of Benson dedicates the 2025 Town Report to Guy Charlton, who is starting his 50th year on the board. After half a century of service on the Town Board Guy has been instrumental in the guidance of many new board members and office staff. For many of those years Guy served as Chairman, and his tenure exemplifies the highest ideals of public service, marked by professionalism, impartiality, and an unwavering commitment to our community.

A lifelong resident of Benson, Guy's journey of service began decades ago, following in his father's footsteps of service to his community. Guy has served as the Chief Operator of the Benson Wastewater Plant, Transfer Station Attendant, and all-over handy man wherever expertise and patience was required. Over the years, he has become a cornerstone of our town, someone who not only understands the intricacies of municipal governance but also embodies the spirit of Benson. Guy's door has always been open to residents seeking guidance, whether on local regulations, farming advice, plumbing or any other area of his expertise – which as a lifelong farmer is extensive. Guy's contributions extend far beyond the Town Government. He was a foster parent for many years, mentor to many young people, active in his church, and continues to be a caregiver for many of his family members and friends. The word no, has never been a word in his vocabulary. One of his favorite sayings is "there is no such thing as can't."

Thank you, Guy, for everything you have done to make Benson a better place. You will always be a part of our town's heart and history.

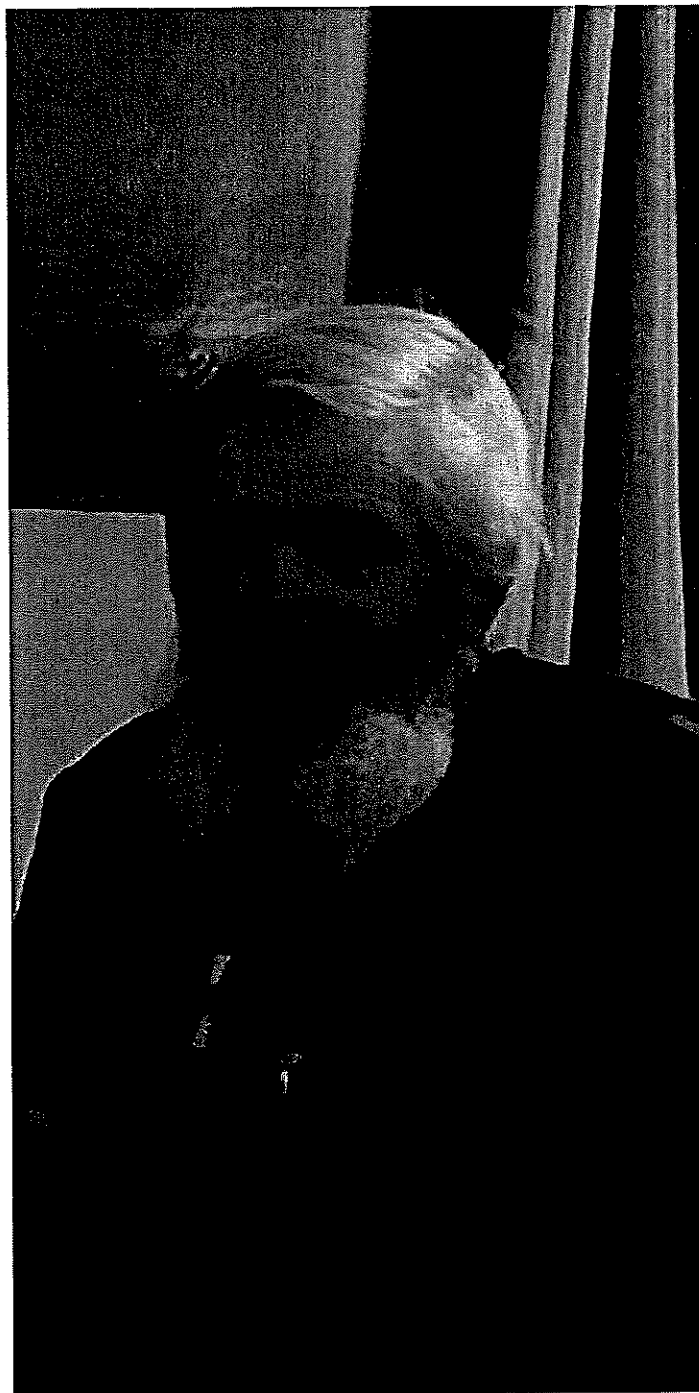


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**WARNING 2026
FOR THE 240th BENSON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Benson in the County of Rutland and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Community Hall at 2724 Stage Road in said Town on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. to act on Articles 2-24 and Tuesday, March 3, 2026, between the hours of 10:00 A.M and 7:00 P.M, to vote by Australian ballot on Article 1.

- Article 1:** To elect all Town Officers as follows:
- 1 Town Moderator for a term of one year
 - 1 Selectboard Member for a term of three years
 - 2 Selectboard Members for a term of one year
 - 1 Lister for a term of three years
 - 1 Auditor for a term of three years
 - 1 Delinquent Tax Collector for a term of one year
 - 1 Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three years
 - 1 Library Commissioner for a term of five years
 - 1 Library Commissioner for two years remaining of a five year term
 - 1 Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years

Voting under Article 1 will be by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026,


Polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

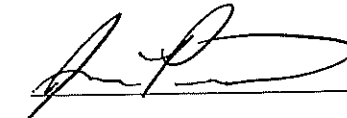
Voting on Articles 2-20 will be on Saturday February 28, 2026 at 10:00A.M.

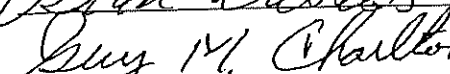
- Article 2:** Shall the Town of Benson adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680 (c)?
- Article 3:** Shall the Town of Benson adopt all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680 (d)?
- Article 4:** Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$829,735 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways of which \$693,735 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 5:** Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$420,730 for the General Fund Budget of which \$248,047 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 6:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$33,000 for the operating budget of the Benson Volunteer Fire Department and the sum of \$35,000 for the Fire Department Reserve Fund?
- Article 7:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate \$2,000 for the Benson First Response for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to help defray the cost of major expenses?
- Article 8:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$69,154 for the support of Fair Haven Rescue Squad to provide services to residents of the Town?
- Article 9:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the operating expenses of the Town Library?
- Article 10:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the maintenance and care of the Town cemeteries?
- Article 11:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate \$1,000 for the Community Scholarship Fund?

- Article 12:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$2,500 to support the Family Day Committee?
- Article 13:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate \$1,250 for the Benson Youth League for the support of their program?
- Article 14:** Will the Town of Benson vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000 in support or Slate Valley Cares to provide support to the residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 15:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate the sum of \$600 for the support of ARC-Rutland Area to provide services to residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 16:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000 in support of BROCC Community Action?
- Article 17:** Shall the town vote to appropriate, the sum of \$1,400 for the support of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, to provide services to residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 18:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate and the sum of \$900 for the support of Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging to provide support to the residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 19:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate and the sum of \$150 in support of RSVP and The Volunteer Program to provide support to the residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 20:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,000 for the support of Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County to provide services to the residents of the Town?
- Article 21:** Shall the Town of Benson vote to condemn racism and welcome all persons regardless of race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community?
- Article 22:** Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes in two installments, with the due dates being September 15, 2026 and March 15, 2027?
- Article 23:** Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791, to collect current taxes?
- Article 24:** To transact any other business proper to be done at the Annual Town Meeting.

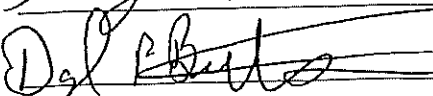
Dated at Benson, Vermont this 22nd day of January, 2026 by the Selectboard members of the Town of Benson;

 Brad Barrett

 Jim Pritchard

 Guy Charlton

Daric Brown

 Daryl Birllett

Annual Letter from the Selectboard

As we close another year and look ahead to the next, the Selectboard would like to share an update on our community's progress, challenges, and goals.

Highlights from the Past Year

- **Infrastructure & Public Works** – Upgraded the roadside mower to a newer model, added a generator to the town garage, worked on getting storm drains cleaned out, approved internet and phone upgrades for the town buildings.
- **Fiscal Responsibility** – Cancelled the administrative contract with RRPC for handling the MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) grant and provided services in house, saving the town thousands of dollars. The MERP grant improvements have been started in the Town Office. Supported the Town Clerk in changing accounting software to municipal centered software, worked diligently on a budget to maintain current services at the lowest cost possible.
- **Community Engagement** – Daryl Burlett was appointed to the selectboard for the reaming year of a vacant 3-year term, Hazard Mitigation Plan was updated, contracted for law enforcement services with the Town of Fair Haven, drafted and approved Ethics Ordinance, supported an individual who plans to bring back the Haunted Hay Ride as a scholarship fund raiser, continued working with RRPC for Village center improvements.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, we will focus on:

- Starting phase one of the construction of a new Salt Shed as mandated by the State of Vermont
- Continue renovations of the Town office
- Expanding opportunities for residents to share their voices in decision-making
- Looking to add a generator to the Town Office for a Centralized emergency center
- Increase disaster preparedness by acquiring materials such as cots and blankets
- Continue to seek ways to decrease municipal taxes
- The selectboard has decided to look to the future! The position of “Honorary” Mayor has been added, a 4th or 5th grade will now be elected to lead our town into the future.

Gratitude

We are deeply grateful for the dedication of our town employees, volunteers, and engaged citizens. Your input, energy, and care for our community make all the difference.

We encourage you to stay connected through [town website, newsletters, or public meetings] and to reach out with your ideas and concerns. Together, we can continue building a vibrant, welcoming, and resilient community.

With appreciation,

Brad Barrett (Chair)
Daric Brown
Daryl Burlett
Guy Charlton (Vice Chair)
Jim Pritchard

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS FOR 2025

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Moderator | John Hill | 2026 |
| Select Board Members | Brad Barrett (3 years) | 2027 |
| | Guy Charlton (3 years) | 2028 |
| | Jerod Glover (3 years) | 2026 |
| | Daric Brown | 2026 |
| | Jim Pritchard | 2026 |
| Listers | Edward B. Peltier | 2027 |
| | Gina Parker | 2028 |
| | Lois Trenn | 2026 |
| Auditors | Cheryl Murray | 2027 |
| | Robert Bizek | 2028 |
| | Lynn Bowen | 2026 |
| First Constable | Position Eliminated Per Town Vote | |
| Delinquent Tax Collector | Barbara Burlett | 2026 |
| Trustee of Public Funds | Jayne Van Noordt Purdy | 2027 |
| | Brad Barrett | 2028 |
| | Norma Phillips | 2026 |
| | Robin Wilson | 2029 |
| | Bonita Baldwin | 2030 |
| Library Commissioners | Vacant | 2026 |
| | Gina Parker | 2027 |
| | Vacant | 2028 |
| | Susan Brown | 2029 |
| | Donald Parker | 2030 |
| Cemetery Commissioners | Janet Ladd | 2026 |
| | Hannah Brown | 2027 |
| | Carrie Lynn LaFond | 2028 |
| | Lauren Mohan | 2026 |
| | Eric Shaw | 2026 |
| Justices of the Peace | John Hill | 2026 |
| | Lynn Bowen | 2026 |
| | Ed Peltier | 2026 |

2025 APPOINTMENTS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| 911 Coordinator | Edward B. Peltier | 2026 |
| Assistant 911 Coordinator | Heidi Chandler | 2026 |
| Animal Control Officer | Vacant | 2026 |
| Benson Youth League Coordinator | Sarah Daigle | 2026 |
| Community Hall Committee | Janet Ladd | 2028 |
| | Norma Phillips | 2027 |
| | Marcia Anderson | 2026 |
| Development Review Board | Brad Barrett | 2026 |
| | Wayne Simek | 2026 |
| | Cathy Gearwar | 2027 |
| | Ted Kellogg | 2027 |
| | Henry Daley | 2028 |
| | Alternates Tom Bartholomew | 2026 |
| | Brad Barrett | 2027 |
| Emergency Management Director | Brad Barret | 2026 |
| Emergency Management Coord. | Jim Pritchard | 2026 |
| FH Rescue Squad Rep. | Sam Bartholomew | 2026 |
| Family Day Coordinator (s) | Sue Brown/Amanda Bartholomew | 2026 |
| Inspector of Wood and Lumber | Vacant | 2026 |
| SWAC Representative | Greg Fontaine | 2026 |
| SWAC Alternate | Guy Charleton | 2026 |
| Newsletter | Cheryl Murray | 2026 |
| Otter Creek CUD Rep | Steve Murray | 2026 |
| | Alternate Lynn Bowen | 2026 |
| Planning Commission (Town) | Brad Barrett | 2026 |
| | J S Valois | 2027 |
| | Cheryl Murray | 2027 |
| | Ted Kellogg | 2028 |
| | Steve Murray | 2028 |
| Pound Keeper | Vacant | 2026 |
| Road Commissioner | Jim Pritchard | 2026 |
| Rutland Regional Planning Rep. | Cheryl Murray | 2026 |
| RRPC Alternate | John Hill | 2026 |
| Rutland Regional Transportation | Cheryl Murray | 2026 |
| Tree Warden | Robert St.Peter | 2026 |
| Zoning Administrator | Edward B. Peltier | 2026 |
| Assistant Treasurer | Lisa Daigle-Fontaine | 2026 |
| Assistant Clerk | Sarah Daigle | 2026 |
| Assistant Clerk | Lauren Mohan | 2026 |
| Town Health Officer | Darryl Kuehne | 2026 |
| Forest Fire Warden | Heath Perkins | 2026 |

2024-2025 Auditors Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Benson as of and for the year ending June 30, 2025 as listed in the Table of Contents. The financial statements are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 1681-1684, which among other things requires that we examine and adjust accounts of all Town offices and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the Town Treasurer.

Our objectives were to (1) validate the correctness of the Town accounts, (2) detect fraud or errors in these accounts and (3) verify the financial condition and results of operations of the Town for the year ended June 30, 2025.

To accomplish these objectives, we examined the operation of the Town government including internal controls over financial transactions. We interviewed Town officials to review Town operations and adherence to protocol, we reviewed the Town accounting systems, cash handling procedures, and segregation of duties.

We reviewed Cash Disbursement and Cash Reconciliation journals to ensure accuracy and that they balanced with the individual accounts contained therein. The disbursements for payroll and regular bills were reconciled with the amounts approved by the Selectboard per the meeting minutes for the year. We reviewed Town payroll records, randomly verified rates and wages paid and ensured that taxes for the same were both collected and properly paid. We audited randomly selected expenditures which included checking the invoice, invoice amount, Selectboard approval, check amount and payee's endorsement of the issued check. We compared the financial statements with prior year financial statements, and actions taken at Town meeting and by the Selectboard to assure accurate presentation and consistency.

We audited transactions pertaining to the Grand List and verified certain tax levies and penalties and interest for delinquent taxes were being properly

2.

applied, land transfer records were accurate, and that tax calculations were reflected on the Grand List at the approved rate.

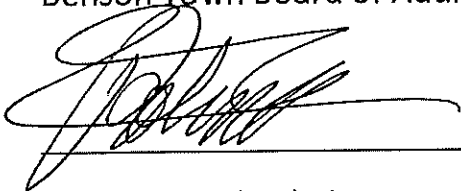
Our review of school funding and expenditures was limited to confirming the transfer of funds collected for school purpose by the Town to the School District. The District has an independent audit of financial statements and operations completed yearly.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Benson as of June 30, 2025.

The Town's auditors look forward to the conversion of Benson's financial accounting software to the NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center) system, which is currently underway with training and implementation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Benson Town Board of Auditors



01/19/2026

Robert J Bizek, Chair



Cheryl Murray, Clerk



Lynn Bowen

ANNUAL TOWN FLOOR MEETING MARCH 1, 2025
CONDENSED MINUTES

Called to order at 10:03 AM

ARTICLES DISAPPROVED

Article 2: \$569,206 for the General Fund Budget of which \$413,029 shall be raised by taxes
33 Yes, 35 No, by show of hand

ARTICLES APPROVED

Article 3: \$864,020 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways of which \$740,020 shall be raised by taxes
36 Yes , No 24, by show of hand.

Article 4: \$2,000 for the Benson First Response

Article 5: \$66,232 for Fair Haven Rescue Squad

Article 6: \$11,000 for the operating expenses of the Town Library

Article 7: \$20,000 for the maintenance and care of the Town cemeteries

Article 8: \$1,000 for the Community Scholarship

Article 9: \$2,500 to support the Family Day Committee

Article 10: \$1,250 for the Benson Youth League

Article 11: \$2,000 to support Slate Valley Cares (Fair Haven Concerned, Inc.)

Article 12: \$600 for the support of ARC-Rutland Area

Article 13: \$2,000 in support of BROCC Community Action

Article 14: \$1,400 for the support of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region

Article 15: \$900 for the support of Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

OTHER ARTICLES

Article 16: Authorized payment of real property taxes in two installments, with the due dates being September 15, 2025 and March 16, 2026

Article 17: Authorized Town Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791, to collect current taxes

Article 18: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Annual Town Meeting

Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN FLOOR MEETING June 14, 2025
CONDENSED MINUTES

Called to order at 10:00 AM

ARTICLES DISAPPROVED

Article 4: Town of Benson adopt its General Fund Budget Article and Town Highway Budget Article by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c).
Motion defeated 28 Yes, 30 No by a show of hands.

ARTICLES APPROVED

Article 1: \$504,960 for the General Fund Budget of which \$331,283 shall be raised by taxes,
44 Yes, 16 No by show of hand.

Article 2: \$864,020 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways of which \$740,020 shall be raised by taxes. Amended to read \$764,020 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways of which \$640,020 shall be raised by taxes.
44 Yes, No 19, by paper ballot.

Article 3: \$15,000 appropriated in 2025 to hire an accountant to conduct an audit of the town books for the purchase and implementation the NEMRC Fund Accounting System. Amended to correct typographical to read \$15,000 appropriated in 2023 to hire an accountant to conduct an audit of the town books for the purchase and implementation the NEMRC Fund Accounting System.
Motion passed by voice vote.

Article 5: \$25,000 for Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund, Amended to read \$15,000 for Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund.
Motion passed by voice vote.

OTHER ARTICLES

Article 6: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Annual Town Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM

Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk

**2024-2025
INVESTED FUNDS SUMMARY**

| | 6/30/2024 Balance | 2024-2025 Receipts | 2024-2025 Disbursement | 6/30/2025 Balance |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ARPA Funds | 54,616.46 | 6.94 | 54,623.40 | - |
| Benson Public Library | 4,554.68 | 243.56 | 430.00 | 4,368.24 |
| Benson Youth League | 8,242.31 | 1,333.10 | 750.00 | 8,825.41 |
| Building Maintenance Reserve | 63,310.28 | 4,638.34 | | 67,948.62 |
| Community Hall Savings | 8,840.05 | 1,354.57 | | 10,194.62 |
| Community Scholarship Fund | 771.67 | 1,158.90 | 1,000.00 | 930.57 |
| Eaves Scholarship | 2,039.49 | 20.24 | 1,000.00 | 1,059.73 |
| Equipment Fund | 258.87 | 25,020.40 | | 25,279.27 |
| Family Day Committee | 8,157.54 | 7,485.18 | 4,048.67 | 11,594.05 |
| Fire Dept. Savings | 51,421.25 | 4,751.28 | 1,797.12 | 54,375.41 |
| Fire Dept. Savings CD | 15,000.00 | 961.13 | | 15,961.13 |
| Fire Dept. Equipment Reserve | 26,363.03 | 25,292.47 | | 51,655.50 |
| Fire Dept. Equipment Reserve CD | 64,000.00 | 4,100.08 | | 68,100.08 |
| Grant Match Fund | 37,078.11 | 372.08 | 436.66 | 37,013.53 |
| H. Glenn Munger Scholarship | 142.84 | 1.43 | | 144.27 |
| History Project Fund | 9,728.39 | 253.01 | | 9,981.40 |
| Reappraisal Savings | 48,057.87 | 5,939.51 | 1,017.38 | 52,980.00 |
| Reappraisal Savings CD | 23,402.36 | 1,215.28 | | 24,617.64 |
| Veterans Monument Fund | 703.97 | 7.06 | | 711.03 |
| Salt/Sand Fund (CD) | 14,047.15 | 709.25 | | 14,756.40 |
| | 440,736.32 | 84,863.81 | 65,103.23 | 460,496.90 |

INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2025

Veterans Monument

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 703.97 |
| Interest | | \$ 7.06 |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 711.03 |

Grant Match Fund

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 37,078.11 |
| Interest | | \$ 372.08 |
| Expense - BRIC Grant 2022 | | \$ (436.66) |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 37,013.53 |

Community Hall Savings

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 8,840.05 |
| Rental Income | \$ 1,260.00 | |
| Interest | \$ 94.57 | |
| Total Deposits | | \$ 1,354.57 |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 10,194.62 |

Eaves Scholarship

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 2,039.49 |
| Donation | \$ - | |
| Interest | \$ 20.24 | |
| Total Deposits | | \$ 20.24 |
| | | \$ 2,059.73 |
| Scholarships Granted | | \$ (1,000.00) |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 1,059.73 |

Reappraisal Savings

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 48,057.87 |
| Interest | | \$ 482.51 |
| State Grant | | \$ 5,457.00 |
| | | \$ 53,997.38 |
| Lister Reappraisal Expenses | \$ 1,017.38 | |
| | | \$ (1,017.38) |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 52,980.00 |

Equipment Fund

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 258.87 |
| Receipts | | |
| 2024-2025 Appropriation | \$ 25,000.00 | |
| Interest | \$ 20.40 | |
| Total Deposits | | \$ 25,020.40 |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 25,279.27 |

INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2025

Benson Community Scholarship Fund

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 771.67 |
| 2024-2025 Appropriation | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| Donations | \$ 150.00 | |
| Interest | \$ 8.90 | |
| Total Receipts | \$ 1,158.90 | |
| | | \$ 1,930.57 |
| Scholarships Granted | | \$ (1,000.00) |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 930.57 |

Fire Department Saving

| | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 51,421.25 |
| Contributions | \$ 1,950.00 | |
| Interest | \$ 542.28 | |
| BBQ | \$ 1,535.00 | |
| Ice Out | \$ 724.00 | |
| Total Deposits | \$ 4,751.28 | |
| | | \$ 56,172.53 |
| Fundraising Expenses 2024-2025 | | \$ 536.56 |
| Fire Department Family Day BBQ | | \$ 362.00 |
| Ice Out | | \$ 898.56 |
| Total Expense | | \$ 55,273.97 |
| Transfer to General Fund in error | | \$ (898.56) |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 54,375.41 |
| Due from General Fund- Transferred in error from General Fund | | \$ 898.56 |
| Available Funds | | \$ 55,273.97 |

Fire Department Equipment Reserve

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 26,363.03 |
| Insurance payments | \$ 10.00 | |
| 2024-2025 Appropriation | \$ 25,000.00 | |
| Interest | \$ 282.47 | |
| | \$ 25,292.47 | |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | \$ 51,655.50 |

**INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2025**

Family Day Committee

| | | |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|
| <hr/> | | \$ 8,157.54 |
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 8,157.54 |
| Receipts | | |
| 2024-2025 Appropriation | \$ 2,500.00 | |
| Town Meeting 2025 Fundraising | \$ 250.00 | |
| Holiday Breakfast | \$ 373.00 | |
| Pampered Chef Event | \$ 1,264.00 | |
| Pie Bake Off | \$ 234.00 | |
| 2024 Family Day | \$ 2,747.35 | |
| Interest | \$ 116.83 | |
| Total Receipts | | <u>\$ 7,485.18</u> |
| | | <u>\$ 15,642.72</u> |
| Family Day Committee 2024-2025 Expenses | | <u>\$ (4,048.67)</u> |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>\$ 11,594.05</u></u> |

Benson Public Library

| | | |
|---|-----------|---------------------------|
| <hr/> | | \$ 4,554.68 |
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 4,554.68 |
| Contribution | \$ 200.00 | |
| Interest | \$ 43.56 | |
| Total Receipts | | <u>\$ 243.56</u> |
| | | <u>\$ 4,798.24</u> |
| Reimbursed to General Fund 2023-2024 expenses | | <u>\$ (430.00)</u> |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>\$ 4,368.24</u></u> |

H. Glenn Munger Scholarship Fund

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <hr/> | | \$ 142.84 |
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 142.84 |
| Interest | | <u>\$ 1.43</u> |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>\$ 144.27</u></u> |

History Project Fund

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <hr/> | | \$ 9,728.39 |
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 9,728.39 |
| Interest | | \$ 98.01 |
| Sale of Books | | <u>\$ 155.00</u> |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>\$ 9,981.40</u></u> |

Benson Youth League

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <hr/> | | \$ 8,242.31 |
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 8,242.31 |
| 2024-2025 Appropriation | | \$ 1,250.00 |
| Interest | | \$ 83.10 |
| Contribution | | <u>\$ -</u> |
| | | <u>\$ 9,575.41</u> |
| 2025 Season Expenses | | <u>\$ (750.00)</u> |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>\$ 8,825.41</u></u> |

**INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2025**

| | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Building Maintenance Reserve Fund</u> | | |
| Balance 6/30/2024 | | \$ 63,310.28 |
| Interest | | \$ 638.34 |
| 2024-2025 Appropriation | | <u>\$ 4,000.00</u> |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>\$ 67,948.62</u></u> |
| | | |
| <u>Salt Shed Certificate of Deposit</u> | | |
| FNB Orwell 3.75% Matures 6/13/2026 | | |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | \$ 14,756.40 | |
| | | |
| <u>Reappraisal Certificates of Deposit</u> | | |
| 2013 State Grant | \$ 6,605.56 | |
| 4.00% Matures 12/02/2026 FNB Orwell | | |
| 2018-2019 State Grants | \$ 12,288.50 | |
| 3.75% Matures 05/06/2026 FNB Orwell | | |
| 23/24 Reappraisal Grant | \$ 5,723.58 | |
| 4.75% Matures 6/13/2026 FNB Orwell | | |
| Total Reappraisal Funds in CDs | <u>\$ 24,617.64</u> | |
| | | |
| <u>Fire Department Savings Certificate of Deposit</u> | | |
| FNB Orwell 4.75% Matures 2/9/2026 | | |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | <u>\$ 15,961.13</u> | |
| | | |
| <u>Fire Dept. Equipment Reserve Certificate of Deposit</u> | | |
| FNB Orwell 4.75% Matures 2/9/2026 | | |
| Balance 6/30/2025 | <u>\$ 68,100.08</u> | |
| | | |
| <u>ARPA Funds (Community Bank Money Market Account)</u> | | |
| Balance 6/30/2024 | \$ 54,616.46 | |
| 2024-2025 Interest | <u>\$ 6.94</u> | |
| | \$ 54,623.40 | |
| Disbursements | | |
| New Garage | | |
| Construction - Freegaard | <u>\$ 54,623.40</u> | |
| Total Disbursements | <u>\$ 54,623.40</u> | |
| Balance on Hand 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>\$0.00</u></u> |

**General Fund Grants/Restricted Funds
2024-2025**

| | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| <u>SEWER FUND</u> | | |
| Due from General Fund 6/30/2024 | | \$ 81,569.68 |
| 2024-2025 Receipts | | \$ 38,744.27 |
| 2024-2025 Disbursements | | \$ (35,695.63) |
| | | |
| Due from General Fund 6/30/2025 | | \$ 84,618.32 |
| <u>LIBRARY (see Library report)</u> | | |
| Due to General Fund 6/30/2025 | | \$ (90.86) |
| <u>CEMETERY (see Cemetery report)</u> | | |
| Due from General Fund 6/30/2025 | | \$ 27,406.80 |
| <u>PLAYGROUND FUND</u> | | |
| Balance in General Fund 6/30/2024 | 2,155.85 | |
| Donations Received | 600.00 | |
| Town Office/Playground Plantings Disbursement | (466.42) | |
| | | |
| Balance in General Fund 6/30/2025 | 2,289.43 | |
| <u>RESTORATION FUND</u> | | |
| Balance in General Fund 6/30/2024 | 11,760.09 | |
| 2024-2025 Receipts | 1,784.00 | |
| Balance in General Fund 6/30/2025 | 13,544.09 | |
| <u>MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE GRANT</u> | | |
| Grant Award 2023-2024 | 4,000.00 | |
| Disbursements to Date | 0.00 | |
| Balance in General Fund 6/30/2025 | 4,000.00 | |
| <u>** 2023-2024 AUDIT APPROPRIATION (NEMRC)</u> | | |
| Disbursements to Date | 0.00 | |
| Balance in General Fund 6/30/2025 | 15,000.00 | |
| <i>**2025 Town Meeting voted to move to Nemrc Setup</i> | | |
| <u>Library VPLF GRANT</u> | | |
| 2024-2025 Disbursements | (4,088.41) | |
| Balance in General Fund 6/30/2025 | 20,911.59 | |

Town of Benson
Gross Pay Summary by Employee
 July 2024 through June 2025

| Employee | Position | Earnings |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Anderson, Marcia | Elections | \$ 136.26 |
| Barber, Karen | Elections | \$ 95.75 |
| Barrett, Brad L | Highway/Selectboard | \$ 64,133.32 |
| Bartholomew, Amanda | Elections | \$ 198.85 |
| Bartholomew, Benjamin | Highway | \$ 201.10 |
| Bartholomew, Daphne | Assistant/Clerk/Treasurer | \$ 1,819.37 |
| Bizek Jr, Robert J. | Auditor | \$ 300.00 |
| Bowen-, Lynn | Auditor | \$ 498.86 |
| Bowen, Ann M | Elections | \$ 206.22 |
| Burlett, Barbara S | Delinquent Tax Collector | \$ 7,547.35 |
| Chandler, Heidi M | Clerk/Treasurer | \$ 38,936.71 |
| Charlton, Guy | Selectboard/Elections/Transfer Station | \$ 2,480.51 |
| Cole, Dounta | Maintenance | \$ 653.63 |
| Daigle-Fontaine, Lisa | Assistant Clerk/Treauser/Elections | \$ 4,989.71 |
| Daigle, Sarah | Assitant Clerk/Elections | \$ 1,604.66 |
| Dunseath, Kerry | Department of Public Works | \$ 9,630.00 |
| Fletcher, Wayne A. | Highway | \$ 10,364.96 |
| Fontaine, Gregory P | Transfer Station/Elections | \$ 11,357.42 |
| Glover, Jerod | Selectboard | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Hall, Jim | Highway | \$ 358.71 |
| Hall, Lisa M | Elections | \$ 84.70 |
| Jordan, Jeff L. | Sewer | \$ 17,517.22 |
| Knight, Matthew J | Transfer Station | \$ 60.87 |
| Ko, Chea Marie P | Library | \$ 1,365.63 |
| LaFond Jr., Paul J | Mowing | \$ 2,220.00 |
| LaFond, Carrie L | Selectboard Assistant | \$ 5,122.01 |
| Lussier, Jacqueline | Library | \$ 6,880.35 |
| Mohan, Lauren A | Assistant Clerk/Elections | \$ 2,862.61 |
| Munger, Eileen A. | Elections | \$ 301.96 |
| Murray, Cheryl L | Auditor/Web Page/Elections | \$ 2,063.82 |
| Parker, Gina M | Lister/Library/Elections | \$ 9,336.61 |
| Peltier, Edward B | Zoning/Lister/Elections | \$ 4,470.70 |
| Peltier, Linda Rae | Selectboard/Elections | \$ 1,301.97 |
| Phillips, Norma | Elections | \$ 226.55 |
| Pritchard, James | Highway/Selectboard | \$ 1,043.48 |
| Purdy, Jayme | Elections | \$ 18.41 |
| Rocheleau, Tina L. | Town Office/Community Hall | \$ 2,503.68 |
| Shaw, Eric | Elections | \$ 213.59 |
| Trenn, Lois | Lister | \$ 12,312.50 |
| Washburn, Jeffrey M | Highway | \$ 52,608.69 |
| | | <u>\$ 279,028.74</u> |

Town of Benson
Expenses by Vendor Summary
 July 2024 through June 2025

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| A-1 Sewer & Drain Service Inc. | 875.00 | Facey Goss & McPhee | 30.00 |
| Adirondack 2-Way Radio | 25.00 | Fair Haven Auto Supply | 7,383.58 |
| Airgas USA, LLC | 138.00 | Fair Haven Rescue Squad | 62,336.00 |
| Allegiance Trucks LLC | 3,556.20 | Ferguson Waterworks # 576 | 12,060.80 |
| Allen Engineering & Chemical Corp. | 4,324.42 | Fire Tech. and Safety | 695.00 |
| Alphabet Signs | 101.95 | First National Bank of Orwell | 3,819.82 |
| Amanda Bartholomew- | 819.69 | Florence Crushed Stone | 15,402.33 |
| Apex Software | 495.00 | Foley Services, Inc. | 1,966.73 |
| ARC-Rutland Area | 600.00 | Fred Scott | 300.00 |
| Arctic Cooling | 1,908.00 | Freeguard Concrete LLC | 125,971.00 |
| Artistic Memorials Inc. | 1,900.00 | Fyles Brothers, Inc. | 3,318.88 |
| Aubuchon Hardware | 415.51 | G & L General Store | 18.48 |
| Avalanche Truck Services | 9,446.73 | Gary Gates | 350.09 |
| Bartholomew Brothers, Inc. | 476.56 | Gilmore Home Center | 3,216.58 |
| Benson First Response | 2,000.00 | Gina Parker ~ | 23.80 |
| Benson General Store | 38.00 | GMP | 15,769.75 |
| Best Buy | 1,898.94 | GODADDY.COM | 559.62 |
| Big Air Bounce, LLC | 370.00 | Goldstar Products Inc. | 502.34 |
| Bill Moore | 400.00 | GONETSPEED | 7,244.58 |
| Blue Cross and Blue Shield of VT | 39,410.25 | Good Point Recycling | 40.16 |
| Book Brothers, Inc. | 43.20 | Green Mountain Library Consortium | 300.00 |
| BROC | 2,000.00 | Green Up Vermont | 100.00 |
| Brown's Quarried Slate Products Inc. | 3,842.50 | Greg Fontaine | 21.26 |
| CAI Technologies | 900.00 | Hadeka Stone Corp. | 2,618.00 |
| Cargill Incorporated | 52,775.80 | Heidi Chandler - | 253.97 |
| Carrie Becker | 2,242.18 | Hicks Memorials | 2,950.00 |
| Carrie LaFond - | 105.99 | High Winds Leasing | 1,025.64 |
| Carrot-Top Industries Inc. | 783.27 | Howard P. Fairfield | 965.36 |
| Casella Construction, Inc. | 121,159.47 | Hubbard Brothers Inc. | 42,759.10 |
| Casella Recycling | 5,788.24 | Huestis Farm Supply | 748.40 |
| Champlain Valley Equipment, Inc. | 366.50 | IDS | 239.66 |
| Champlain Valley Fuels | 36,972.66 | Impact Fire | 628.00 |
| Chappell Tractor Sales | 2,559.69 | Initial Ideas | 127.40 |
| Clark's Glass | 590.00 | Innovative Municipal Products US INC. | 19,781.33 |
| Crazy Mojito | 390.00 | Interstate All Battery Center | 51.99 |
| Daphne Bartholomew- | 423.08 | Intuit | 2,428.69 |
| Demco, Inc. | 2,326.08 | Jaci Lussier | 182.00 |
| Doran Brothers, Inc. | 150.00 | James Pritchard- | 119.20 |
| Dundon Plumbing and Heating | 1,170.00 | James W. Barlow | 135.00 |
| Earle's Truck Repair Inc. | 8,661.05 | Jared Hathaway- | 1,907.50 |
| Eastern Systems Inc. | 144.00 | Jean McKeever- | 466.42 |
| Econo Signs | 877.97 | Jeff Jordan | 637.38 |
| Ed Peltier | 203.10 | John Stokowski & Sons Inc. | 745.73 |
| Elearning Green Mountain VT | 27.00 | Joseph Trenn | 1,017.38 |
| Endyne Inc. | 1,135.00 | Kathleen Bartholomew | 91.96 |
| Everyday Flowers | 45.00 | Kimball Midwest | 7,439.60 |

Town of Benson
Expenses by Vendor Summary
 July 2024 through June 2025

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---------------------|
| KOFILE Technologies | 857.25 | Shaw's Garage | 2,700.00 |
| Lane-Ballston Spa | 18,597.93 | Slate Valley Cares | 2,000.00 |
| Lauren Mohan- | 186.50 | Slate Valley Unified School District | 1,682,789.78 |
| Lemon Fair Enterprises | 61.85 | Southwestern Council on Aging | 900.00 |
| Lisa Fontaine | 27.00 | Staples | 2,657.08 |
| MacIntyre Services, LLC | 298.00 | State of Vermont | 1,750.00 |
| Magee Office Products | 293.28 | Sue Brown | 66.20 |
| Main Street Checks | 101.53 | Susan Brown- | 84.63 |
| Malwarebytes Corp | 37.09 | SWAC | 6,412.39 |
| Mark Balestra Building & Remodeling Inc. | 2,600.00 | Tax1099.com | 58.33 |
| Mark L. Norris | 4,967.39 | The Gunrunner LLC | 13,236.97 |
| McAfee | 105.99 | The Royal Group Inc. | 1,237.52 |
| Microsoft | 209.94 | Tim Charron | 300.00 |
| Midnight Express LLC | 6,027.34 | Tina Rocheleau (expense) | 25.64 |
| Miller's Screen Printing & Embroidery | 1,175.75 | Town of Benson | 2,625.56 |
| Milton Cat | 1,017.63 | Town of Fair Haven Police Department | 220.00 |
| Mitchell, Tees & Signs Inc. | 199.91 | T-quip Sales and Rentals Inc. | 3,950.00 |
| Municipal Emergency Services | 4,616.16 | Tractor Supply Credit Plan | 365.53 |
| NeighborWorks of Western Vermont | 535.31 | Transeastern Truck Centers | 37.87 |
| NEMRC | 9,365.98 | Treasurer, Rutland County | 8,373.72 |
| Norman Brown Jr and Susan Brown | 163.78 | Trend Business Solutions | 554.83 |
| Northern Tool & Equipment | 579.98 | Trustees of Public Funds | 4,000.00 |
| Norton.com | 68.89 | Tuttle | 405.50 |
| NSI Lab Solutions, Inc. | 304.05 | U. S. Postal Service | 3,607.67 |
| NYVT MEDIA | 725.00 | Ubiquiti Store USA | 4,356.24 |
| Old Hickory buildings, LLC | 7,896.50 | USABlueBook | 782.71 |
| Orwell Sand & Gravel | 24,230.00 | Vermont Dept. of Health | 23.00 |
| Orwell Youth League | 750.00 | Vermont League Of Cities & Towns | 2,455.00 |
| Pete's Tire Barns, Inc. | 3,175.74 | Vermont State Treasurer | 1,911.69 |
| Pike Industries, Inc. | 75,463.60 | Vermont State Treasurer's Office | 1,945.45 |
| Pump Control Solutions, LLC | 4,288.00 | Viking- Cives USA | 98,134.38 |
| R. C. Allen Communications | 365.00 | VLCT Employment Resource & Benefits Trust | 571.00 |
| Reed Door Solutions | 237.20 | VLCT Property and Casualty | 40,055.16 |
| Reynolds & Son Inc. | 26.26 | VMCTA | 90.00 |
| Robert St. Peter (Bob-A-Do-It and Sons Landscaping LLC) | 21,122.16 | VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region | 1,400.00 |
| Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Associatio | 1,700.00 | Wayfair | 659.98 |
| Rutland County Humane Society | 150.00 | Wayne Fletcher - | 235.00 |
| Rutland Herald | 525.93 | Wholesale Distributors | 7,863.75 |
| Rutland Printing Co., Inc. | 2,174.00 | Wiik Paving, Inc. | 239,378.48 |
| Rutland Regional Planning Commission | 1,000.00 | Winmill Equipment Co. | 12,243.35 |
| S P & F Attorneys, P.C. | 283.50 | | <u>3,012,931.56</u> |
| Sarah Daigle ~ | 105.00 | | |
| Scott Perron | 1,059.29 | | |
| Seedway | 1,159.90 | | |

HIGHWAY GARAGE CONSTRUCTION

Status as of June 30, 2025

DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Preconstruction 2020 Appropriation | 10,000.00 |
| Preconstruction ARPA | 37,249.65 |
| Construction ARPA | 245,423.40 |
| Balance of Construction | 236,033.85 |
| Total Disbursements | 528,706.90 |

SOURCE OF FUNDS

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 2020 Preconstruction Appropriation | 10,000.00 |
| ARPA Funds Preconstruction | 37,249.65 |
| ARPA Funds Construction | 245,423.40 |
| FNB Orwell Loan | 236,033.85 |
| | 528,706.90 |

HIGHWAY CONTRUCTION BREAK DOWN

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Asbestos inspections of VT | Highway Garage: Asbestos Testing | 907.00 |
| Book Brothers, Inc. | Storage Container Shelves | 331.00 |
| Charlton, Guy | Shelves | 384.00 |
| ClearSpan Fabrics Structures | Garage Blueprint | 1,668.75 |
| Gilmore Home Center | Material Shelves | 249.25 |
| M & W Soils Engineering Inc. | Highway: Soil testing of garage site | 4,550.00 |
| Paquette INC. | Storage Unit Rental | 1,700.00 |
| Town of Benson | Permit/Waiver | 210.00 |
| 2020 Appropriation. | | 10,000.00 |
| Construction - Loan Funded | | |
| Chris Stearns | Excavation | 14,460.00 |
| Dundon Plumbing and Heating | Bathroom | 270.00 |
| Freeguard Concrete LLC | Contractor | 203,597.60 |
| Fire Safety Division | Refund | (80.00) |
| Loan Funded | | 218,247.60 |
| Highway Office | | |
| Freeguard Concrete LLC | Contactor | 5,000.00 |
| Gilmore Home Center | Office, Material | 1,626.71 |
| Mark L. Norris | New office Shed Wiring | 3,263.04 |
| Old Hickory buildings, LLC | Office Building | 7,896.50 |
| Loan Funded | | 17,786.25 |
| Construction - ARPA Funded | | |
| Freeguard Concrete LLC | Contractor | 245,423.40 |
| ARPA Funded | | 245,423.40 |
| Preconstruction - ARPA Funded | | |
| ClearSpan Fabrics Structures | Garage Blueprint | 11,831.25 |
| Department of Public Safety | Permit Fees | 3,704.00 |
| Dundon Plumbing and Heating | Bathroom | 90.00 |
| Ferguson Waterworks # 576 | Culverts for New Garage | 4,310.40 |
| Landmark Engineering & Design | Design and permitting services | 3,564.00 |
| Orwell Sand & Gravel | Preconstruction: Demolition | 13,750.00 |
| ARPA Funded | | 37,249.65 |
| APRA & Appropriation Funded | | 292,673.05 |
| Loan Funded | | 236,033.85 |
| Total Highway Garage | | 528,706.90 |

LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS JUNE 30, 2025

HIGHWAY GARAGE CONSTRUCTION LOAN

First National Bank of Orwell

Interest Rate: 2%

Total Approved: \$450,000.00

Borrowed through 6/30/2025: \$236,033.85

Payment Terms: Payments of \$15,000 plus interest due on September 15, 2025, March 15, 2026, September 15, 2026, and the balloon payment of remaining balance due March 15, 2027.

Highway Garage Loan

| <u>Balance as of 6/30/2025</u> | <u>Payment</u> | <u>Remaining Payments</u> | <u>Interest</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| \$206,033.85 | \$15,000+Interest | 4 | 2% |

MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT LOAN (2025 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK)

State of Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund

Interest Rate: 2%

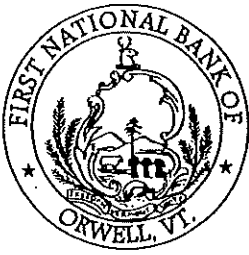
Total Approved: \$118,635.00 (revised to \$93,000 on 9/13/2024)

Amount Received 2024-2025: \$93,000.00

Payment Terms: Payments of \$18,600.00 plus interest due on June 30th beginning in 2025 and ending in 2029

Highway Truck Loan

| <u>Balance as of 6/30/2025</u> | <u>Payment</u> | <u>Remaining</u> | <u>Interest</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| \$74,400 | \$18,600+Interest | 4 | 2% |



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ORWELL

Traditional Banking Since 1863

Orwell Phone (802) 948-2811 • Fax (802) 948-2309
Shoreham Phone (802) 897-2265 • Fax (802) 897-5315

Board of Auditors
Benson, VT 05731


November 3, 2025

Dear Sir/Madame:

Our records reflect the following account balances as of the close of business on June 30, 2025:

| <u>Checking Accounts</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Town, Regular | \$ 226,242.71 |
| Town, Payroll | 7,240.48 |
| | |
| <u>Savings Accounts</u> | |
| Trustees of Public Funds | \$ 1.07 |
| Bicentennial Funds | 11,881.00 |
| H. Glenn Munger Scholarship Fund | 144.27 |
| Community Hall | 10,194.62 |
| Public Library | 4,368.24 |
| Veteran's Monument | 711.03 |
| Scholarship Fund | 930.57 |
| Equipment Fund | 25,279.27 |
| Escrow Account | 52,980.00 |
| Eaves Scholarship | 1,059.73 |
| Grant Fund | 37,013.53 |
| Fire Department | 54,375.41 |
| Family Day Committee | 11,594.05 |
| Fire Department Equipment | 51,655.50 |
| History Project Fund | 9,981.40 |
| Youth League | 8,825.41 |
| Building Maintenance Reserve | 67,948.62 |
| | |
| <u>Certificate of Deposit</u> | |
| Re-appraisal 2018-2019 | 12,288.50 |
| Re-appraisal 2013 | 6,605.56 |
| Trustees of Public Funds | 85,198.75 |
| Fire Department | 15,961.13 |
| Fire Department Equipment Reserve | 68,100.80 |
| Salt/ Sand Shed | 14,756.40 |
| Reappraisal 23/24 | 5,723.58 |
| | |
| <u>Loan</u> | |
| Municipal Loan | \$ 206,033.85 |

Very truly yours,


Lindsey Wing
Vice President

LW/ap



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ORWELL

Traditional Banking Since 1863

Orwell Phone (802) 948-2811 • Fax (802) 948-2309
Shoreham Phone (802) 897-2265 • Fax (802) 897-5315

Trustees of Public Funds
Benson, VT 05731

November 3, 2025

Dear Sir/Madame:

Our records reflect account activity and balances for the following Trustees of Public Funds Accounts:

Savings Account

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-------------|
| Balance June 30, 2024 | \$ | 1.07 |
| Deposits | | 0.00 |
| Interest thru June 30, 2025 | | 0.00 |
| Withdrawals | | 0.00 |
| Balance June 30, 2025 | \$ | <u>1.07</u> |

Certificate of Deposit

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|------------------|
| Balance June 30, 2024 | \$ | 81,380.06 |
| Deposits | | 4,000.00 |
| Interest thru June 30, 2025 | | 3,719.35 |
| Withdrawals | | <u>-3,900.66</u> |
| Balance June 30, 2025 | \$ | 85,198.75 |

Very truly yours,

Lindsey Wing
Vice President

LW/ap

2026-2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

| | | | 2024-2025 Adjusted Budget | 2024-2025 Actual | 2025-2026 Adjusted Budget | 2026-2027 Budget |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>GENERAL FUND</u> | | | | | | |
| | | General Selectboard Expenses | 126,350.00 | 113,914.14 | 135,900.00 | 141,800.00 |
| | | Town Office Expenses | 40,150.00 | 41,100.36 | 41,870.00 | 34,880.00 |
| | | Community Hall Expenses | 12,490.00 | 13,181.21 | 13,190.00 | 14,350.00 |
| | | Transfer Station Expenses | 79,900.00 | 79,902.20 | 91,000.00 | 87,250.00 |
| | | Town Officers | 82,850.00 | 86,292.56 | 92,800.00 | 102,400.00 |
| | | Payroll Expenses | 74,540.00 | 75,526.46 | 88,700.00 | 31,550.00 |
| | | Fire Department | 54,000.00 | 36,966.52 | 33,000.00 * | 0.00 |
| | | | 470,280.00 | 446,883.45 | 496,460.00 | 412,230.00 |
| | | Zoning Expenses | 2,250.00 | 2,438.43 | 8,500.00 | 8,500.00 |
| | | Total Expenses | 472,530.00 | 449,321.88 | 504,960.00 | 420,730.00 |
| | | Less Anticipated Income | 122,675.00 | 128,694.60 | 125,405.00 | 135,205.00 |
| | | Less Carryover | 20,584.00 | 39,772.00 | 39,772.00 | 37,478.00 |
| | | Transfer from savings Repair and Maintainence | | | 8,500.00 | |
| GENERAL FUND RAISE BY TAXES | | | 329,271.00 | 280,855.28 | 331,283.00 | 248,047.00 |
| <u>HIGHWAY FUND</u> | | | | | | |
| | | Personnel | 131,000.00 | 128,575.61 | 140,500.00 | 149,100.00 |
| | | Payroll expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 57,655.00 |
| | | Operating | 58,470.00 | 56,197.57 | 56,270.00 | 60,730.00 |
| | | Equipment Service/Parts | 73,500.00 | 59,953.67 | 75,000.00 | 75,000.00 |
| | | Road Work | 127,750.00 | 145,110.18 | 153,750.00 | 137,750.00 |
| | | Road Materials | 255,800.00 | 261,150.53 | 267,500.00 | 252,500.00 |
| | | Equipment Loans | 26,100.00 | 20,545.45 | 21,000.00 | 97,000.00 |
| | | Equipment Reserve Fund | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Total Expenses | 697,620.00 | 696,533.01 | 764,020.00 | 829,735.00 |
| | | Less anticipated State Aid | 120,000.00 | | 124,000.00 | 136,000.00 |
| | | Less carryover | 20,175.00 | | 0.00 | |
| HIGHWAY FUND RAISE BY TAXES | | | 557,445.00 | | 640,020.00 | 693,735.00 |
| TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES | | | 886,716.00 | | 971,303.00 | 941,782.00 |

2026-2027 Comparative Budget: GENERAL FUND

| | | | 2024-2025 Budget * | 2024-2025 Actual | 2025-2026 Budget * | 2026-2027 Budget |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| GENERAL FUND INCOME | | | | | | |
| | | Dog Registration | 3,000.00 | 2,443.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | | Town Clerk Fees | 11,000.00 | 7,520.80 | 10,000.00 | 8,000.00 |
| | | FP & FW Pilot Program | 18,000.00 | 18,391.03 | 18,000.00 | 18,500.00 |
| | | Current Use | 34,000.00 | 35,732.00 | 34,000.00 | 39,000.00 |
| | | Liquor licenses | 185.00 | 255.00 | 255.00 | 255.00 |
| | | School Share of Election 23-24 | 0.00 | 3385.53 | 0.0% | |
| | | School Share of Election 24-25 | 0.00 | 770.89 | 0.0% | 800.00 |
| | | Newsletter Ads | 800.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| | | Rent, Creamery | 1,800.00 | 1,750.00 | 1,800.00 | 1,800.00 |
| | | Transfer Station Income | 45,000.00 | 45,797.88 | 45,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| | | Civil Fines (Traffic tickets) | 0.00 | 482.00 | 0.00 | |
| | | Delinquent Tax Interest | 7,000.00 | 9,608.62 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| | | Zoning Fees | 1,000.00 | 1,750.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,500.00 |
| | | Listers Per Parcel Payment | 640.00 | 642.00 | 650.00 | 650.00 |
| | | Photocopies/Faxes | 200.00 | 165.85 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | | 122,625.00 | 128,694.60 | 125,405.00 | 135,205.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| General Selectboard Expenses | | | | | | |
| | | Building Maintenance Reserve | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Community Events | 2,000.00 | 947.47 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | | County Tax | 8,500.00 | 8,373.72 | 8,500.00 | 8,500.00 |
| | | Creamery Maintenance & Taxes | 1,000.00 | 721.50 | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| | | VLCT Dues | 2,500.00 | 2,455.00 | 2,750.00 | 2,750.00 |
| | | RRPC Dues | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | | Electricity: Street Lights | 2,000.00 | 1,968.75 | 2,000.00 | 2,200.00 |
| | | Emergency Management | 500.00 | 0.00 | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| | | Grant Match Reserve Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Green-Up | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| | | Humane Society | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| | | Liability & WC Insurance | 48,000.00 | 39,892.16 | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| | | Unemployment Insurance | 800.00 | 571.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | | Interest Expense | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| | | Professional Fees | 2,000.00 | 418.50 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | | Law Enforcement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 |
| | | Public Works Administraton | 15,000.00 | 10,556.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Selectboard Assistant | 6,800.00 | 5,182.85 | 12,000.00 | 8,000.00 |
| | | Telephone & Internet | 0.00 | 1,566.50 | 8,700.00 | 8,000.00 |
| | | Web Page | 1,500.00 | 2,190.87 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| | | Garage loan payment | 30,000.00 | 33,819.82 | 33,600.00 | 34,000.00 |
| | | Total General Select Board | 126,350.00 | 113,914.14 | 135,900.00 | 141,800.00 |
| | * | Post Town Meeting adjustments to budget per Selectboard | | | | |
| | * | Amount approved at Special Town Meeting. | | | | |

2026-2027 Comparative Budget: GENERAL FUND

| | | 2024-2025 Budget * | 2024-2025 Actual | 2025-2026 Budget * | 2026-2027 Budget |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Town Office Expenses | | | | | |
| | Ads | 800.00 | 725.00 | 800.00 | 800.00 |
| | Bank service charges | 200.00 | 48.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| | Cleaning | 1,880.00 | 2,013.05 | 2,000.00 | 2,200.00 |
| | Computer software & Support | 10,000.00 | 14,632.06 | 12,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| | Dog licenses | 1,800.00 | 1,683.66 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| | Electricity | 2,000.00 | 2,100.94 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| | Heating fuel | 5,000.00 | 2,786.83 | 5,000.00 | 2,500.00 |
| | Maintenance & Repairs | 1,500.00 | 1,455.41 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | Marriage Licenses | 300.00 | 455.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| | Mowing | 1,500.00 | 1,350.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | Newsletter postage | 500.00 | 718.65 | 500.00 | 750.00 |
| | Postage/envelopes | 3,500.00 | 2,902.67 | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| | Printing | 3,000.00 | 2,519.84 | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| | Record Books & Paper | 800.00 | 465.06 | 800.00 | 800.00 |
| | Restoration of Records | 1,000.00 | 415.19 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | Sewer | 370.00 | 370.00 | 370.00 | 430.00 |
| | Supplies & Equipment | 3,500.00 | 3,669.98 | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| | Telephone & Internet | 2,500.00 | 2,789.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Total Office Expenses | 40,150.00 | 41,100.36 | 41,870.00 | 34,880.00 |
| Community Hall Expenses | | | | | |
| | Cleaning | 1,600.00 | 1,144.26 | 1,600.00 | 1,700.00 |
| | Electricity* | 1,300.00 | 1,081.67 | 1,300.00 | 1,300.00 |
| | Heat* | 5,000.00 | 6,440.23 | 6,000.00 | 6,500.00 |
| | Inspection/Compliance | 1,000.00 | 741.96 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | Maintenance & Repairs | 2,000.00 | 2,473.15 | 2,000.00 | 2,500.00 |
| | Mowing | 720.00 | 870.00 | 720.00 | 720.00 |
| | Sewer | 370.00 | 370.00 | 370.00 | 430.00 |
| | Supplies | 500.00 | 59.94 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| | Total CH Expenses | 12,490.00 | 13,181.21 | 13,190.00 | 14,350.00 |
| | *Includes heat/electricity for the Library portion of the building. | | | | |
| Transfer Station Expenses | | | | | |
| | Dues | 7,000.00 | 5,064.80 | 5,500.00 | 5,500.00 |
| | Materials Disposal | 54,000.00 | 51,843.09 | 60,000.00 | 57,250.00 |
| | Payroll | 13,900.00 | 12,595.78 | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| | Repairs & maintenance | 1,000.00 | 5,982.47 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| | Stickers & Permits | 1,500.00 | 554.83 | 2,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | Supplies/Fuel | 500.00 | 1,466.89 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | Utilities | 2,000.00 | 2,394.34 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | Total Transfer Sta. Expenses | 79,900.00 | 79,902.20 | 91,000.00 | 87,250.00 |

2026-2027 Comparative Budget: GENERAL FUND

| | | | 2024-2025 Budget * | 2024-2025 Actual | 2025-2026 Budget * | 2026-2027 Budget |
|----|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | | Town Officers | | | | |
| | | Animal Control | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Assistant Treasurer | 4,000.00 | 4,768.36 | 7,000.00 | 7,500.00 |
| | | Assistant Clerk | 6,000.00 | 6,331.23 | 8,000.00 | 9,000.00 |
| | | Auditors | 900.00 | 900.00 | 900.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | | BCA/Elections | 2,600.00 | 2,857.64 | 2,600.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | | Conferences & Training, Mileage | 750.00 | 743.27 | 750.00 | 750.00 |
| | | Listers | | | | |
| | | Computer Expense | 1,400.00 | 1,605.84 | 3,200.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | | Listers' Mileage | 200.00 | 146.95 | 250.00 | 500.00 |
| | | Listers' Wages | 21,700.00 | 23,541.40 | 24,000.00 | 27,750.00 |
| | | Mapping | 900.00 | 900.00 | 1,300.00 | 900.00 |
| | | Listers' Education | 300.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 | 800.00 |
| | | Listers' Telephone | 400.00 | 446.74 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Select Board | 5,200.00 | 5,200.00 | 5,200.00 | 6,200.00 |
| | | Town Clerk & Treasurer | 38,000.00 | 38,851.13 | 39,000.00 | 43,000.00 |
| | | Total Town Officers | 82,850.00 | 86,292.56 | 92,800.00 | 102,400.00 |
| | | Payroll Expenses | | | | |
| | | Health Insurance | 40,000.00 | 39,410.25 | 52,000.00 | 18,000.00 |
| | | Medicare | 4,000.00 | 4,045.92 | 4,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | | Retirement Match | 13,300.00 | 13,621.91 | 15,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| | | Social Security | 16,100.00 | 17,299.80 | 16,500.00 | 7,000.00 |
| | | Child care financial asst program | 1,140.00 | 1,148.58 | 1,200.00 | 550.00 |
| | | Total Payroll Expenses | 74,540.00 | 75,526.46 | 88,700.00 | 31,550.00 |
| ** | | Fire Department | | | | |
| | | Utilities | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | |
| | | Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | | Building Maintenance & Supplies | 5,000.00 | 4,348.19 | 2,000.00 | |
| | | Dispatch and Communication | 1,000.00 | 290.91 | 3,000.00 | |
| | | Dues, Training, Membership | 4,000.00 | 1,600.00 | 4,000.00 | |
| | | Firefighting Equipment | 10,000.00 | 5,237.42 | 10,000.00 | |
| | | Vehicle Expense | 9,000.00 | 490.00 | 9,000.00 | |
| | | Equipment Reserve | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| | | Total Fire Department Expenses | 54,000.00 | 36,966.52 | 33,000.00 | |
| ** | | Fire Department budget to be voted on by Article 6 | | | | |
| | | Total General Fund Expenses | 470,280.00 | 446,883.45 | 496,460.00 | 412,230.00 |
| | | ZONING EXPENSES | | | | |
| | | Zoning Ads | 500.00 | 538.43 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| | | Zoning Administrator Fees | 1,000.00 | 1,150.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | | Zoning Administrators Stipend | 750.00 | 750.00 | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| | | Total Zoning | 2,250.00 | 2,438.43 | 8,500.00 | 8,500.00 |
| | | Total Expenses | 472,530.00 | 449,321.88 | 504,960.00 | 420,730.00 |
| | | Less Anticipated Income | 122,675.00 | | 125,405.00 | 135,205.00 |
| | | Less Carryover | 20,584.00 | | 39,772.00 | 37,478.00 |
| | | Transfer from savings Repair and Maintance | | | 8,500.00 | |
| | | Raise by taxes | 329,271.00 | | 331,283.00 | 248,047.00 |

2026-2027 Comparative Budget: HIGHWAY

| | | | | 2024-2025 Budget | 2024-2025 Actual | 2025-2026 Budget * | 2026-2027 Budget |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| HIGHWAY INCOME | | | | | | | |
| | | | State Aid Highway \$ | 120,000.00 | 132,279.27 | 124,000.00 | 136,000.00 |
| TOTAL ANTICIPATED HIGHWAY INCOME | | | | 120,000.00 | 132,279.27 | 124,000.00 | 136,000.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| | | | Personnel | | | | |
| | | | Highway payroll | | | | |
| | | | Day Labor | 15,000.00 | 10,713.25 | 24,000.00 | 24,000.00 |
| | | | Highway wages | 104,000.00 | 103,979.22 | 104,000.00 | 110,600.00 |
| | | | Highway overtime wages | 9,000.00 | 11,442.99 | 9,000.00 | 11,000.00 |
| | | | Training/Pre-Employment | 250.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| | | | Uniforms | 2,750.00 | 2,440.15 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | | | Total Personnel | 131,000.00 | 128,575.61 | 140,500.00 | 149,100.00 |
| | | | Payroll Expenses | | | | |
| | | | Health Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 34,500.00 |
| | | | Medicare 1.45% | | | | 2,125.00 |
| | | | Retirement Match 9.255 % | | | | 11,350.00 |
| | | | Social Security 6.2% | | | | 9,030.00 |
| | | | Child care financial asst program .44% | | | | 650.00 |
| | | | Total Payroll Expenses | | | | 57,655.00 |
| | | | Operating | | | | |
| | | | Building Maintenance | 1,500.00 | 5,576.57 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | | | Electricity | 2,000.00 | 2,599.42 | 2,000.00 | 2,300.00 |
| | | | Gas and diesel fuel | 35,000.00 | 25,495.72 | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 |
| | | | Heating fuel | 5,000.00 | 3,318.88 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| | | | Sewer | 370.00 | 370.00 | 370.00 | 430.00 |
| | | | State Permitting/Compliance | 1,700.00 | 1,550.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | | | Tools & Supplies | 10,900.00 | 15,430.14 | 10,900.00 | 15,000.00 |
| | | | Telephone & Internet | 2,000.00 | 1,856.84 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | Total Operating | 58,470.00 | 56,197.57 | 56,270.00 | 60,730.00 |
| | | | Equipment Service/Parts | | | | |
| | | | Service/repair | 30,000.00 | 15,675.89 | 25,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| | | | Parts | 20,000.00 | 21,693.57 | 20,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| | | | Grader Tires | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | New Plow | 8,500.00 | 8,489.34 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | Tires, chains, cutting edges, etc. | 15,000.00 | 14,094.87 | 15,000.00 | 20,000.00 |
| | | | Total Equipment Service/Parts | 73,500.00 | 59,953.67 | 75,000.00 | 75,000.00 |

Town of Benson Residents

From: Benson Fire Department

Subject: FY 2026–2027 Budget Information Letter (For March Vote)

Date: January 15, 2026

At the next Town Meeting Day, Benson residents will be asked to approve the Fire Department's FY 2026–2027 budget. This letter explains **how much funding is requested, where the money comes from, and how it will be used.** Over the years the Department's goal has been to maintain dependable emergency readiness that's aligned with nationally recognized standards, while also considering the fiscal constraints of our Town. This year is no different.

FY 2026–2027 Budget

| Expense Category | Amount |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Utilities | \$2,500 |
| Building Maintenance / Supplies | \$2,700 |
| Firefighting Equipment | \$30,478 |
| Membership Expenses | \$3,000 |
| Dispatch & Communication | \$1,500 |
| Vehicle Expense | \$10,000 |
| Equipment Reserve | \$35,000 |
| Total Expenditures | \$85,178 |

Budget summary and funding plan

Total Town funding requested: \$68,000

- **Operating (day-to-day readiness): \$33,000** *(same as last year)*
- **Equipment Reserve (long-term capital stability): \$35,000**

The **Equipment Reserve (\$35,000)** is a planned, responsible savings approach for major capital needs—especially **future apparatus (fire trucks) and major equipment replacement**.

This helps the Town:

- **Avoid sudden budget spikes** when a major replacement is due
- **Reduce reliance on borrowing** with interest payments for large purchases
- **Limit exposure to future interest rates** by saving steadily over time
- **Maintain stable, predictable planning** so the department can stay ready year after year

Put simply: **we are saving consistently now so the Town can avoid sharper increases later.**

Other revenue used to complete the plan: \$17,178

- Donations and fundraising: **\$1,500**
- Sale of obsolete equipment: **\$5,000**
- Transfer from Fire Department savings: **\$10,678**

This budget is balanced: total projected income equals total planned expenditures (**\$85,178**).

Closing

In plain language, this budget supports:

- **Responder safety and readiness** through essential firefighting equipment and protective gear
- **Reliable dispatch and communications** needed for emergency response
- **Vehicle and equipment readiness** through an annual allocation for ongoing needs
- **Basic station upkeep and utilities** to keep facilities operational
- **Member support (including volunteer recruitment)** to help sustain a capable volunteer service

The Benson Fire Department respectfully requests residents' support of the FY 2026–2027 budget proposal. This plan maintains day-to-day readiness, supports responder safety, sustains essential services, and strengthens long-term planning through the Equipment Reserve, while respecting our town's current financial constraints.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Stewart
Chief, Benson Fire Department

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES

| | Voted | Requested |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 |
| <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u> | | |
| ARC-Rutland Area | \$ 600.00 | \$ 600.00 |
| Benson Community Scholarship | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Benson Family Day Committee | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Benson First Response | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Benson Public Library | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| Benson Youth League | \$ 1,250.00 | \$ 1,250.00 |
| Boy and Girls Club of Rutland County | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 |
| BROC | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Cemetery | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Fire Department Budget | | \$ 33,000.00 |
| Fire Dept Equip Reserve | \$ 15,000 | \$ 35,000.00 |
| FH Rescue/Ambulance Services | \$ 66,232.00 | \$ 69,154.00 |
| RSVP and The Volunteer Program | \$ - | \$ 150.00 |
| Slate Valley Cares | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Southwestern Council on Aging | \$ 900.00 | \$ 900.00 |
| VNA & Hospice | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 1,400.00 |
| Total Appropriations | \$ 125,882.00 | \$ 183,954.00 |
| Highway Budget (Amended 2024-2025) | \$ 640,020.00 | \$ 693,735.00 |
| General Fund Budget (Amended 24-25) | \$ 331,283.00 | \$ 248,047.00 |
| Total Requested | \$ 1,097,185.00 | \$ 1,125,736.00 |

STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Delinquent June 30, 2024 | \$ 46,624.24 |
| Treasurer's Warrant March 2025 | <u>128,326.82</u> |
| | \$ <u>174,951.06</u> |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Collected 2024-2025 | \$ 100,106.14 |
| Adjustments | 205.14 |
| Delinquent June 30, 2025 | <u>74,639.78</u> |
| | <u>\$ 174,951.06</u> |

Collected July 1, 2024– June 30, 2025

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Delinquent | \$ 100,106.14 |
| Interest | 7,539.47 |
| Penalty | 10,454.66 |
| Total Collected | \$ <u>118,100.27</u> |

DELINQUENT AS OF January 19, 2026

| Tax Year | Principle | Interest | Penalty | Total |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2021-2022 | 89.63 | 64.81 | 7.18 | 161.62 |
| 2022-2023 | 1,133.26 | 597.91 | 90.67 | 1,821.84 |
| 2023-2024 | 15,354.07 | 3,223.82 | 1,228.35 | 21,838.69 |
| <u>2024-2025</u> | <u>40,296.97</u> | <u>7,519.95</u> | <u>3,223.82</u> | <u>51,040.74</u> |
| TOTAL | 56,873.93 | 13,438.94 | 4,550.02 | 74,862.89 |

TOWN OF BENSON DELINQUENT TAX REPORT
AS OF 01/19/2026

| Parcel | Name | Tax Year | Total | Parcel | Name | Tax Year | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 000006-114 | BARROWS WILLIAM JR | 24/25 | 2872.52 | 000006-1 | RASCO JASON A | 23/24 24/25 | 3496.53 7315.56 <u>10812.09</u> |
| 000015-15 | BENJAMIN REGINALD | 23/24 24/25 | 168.99 <u>4280.68</u> 4449.67 | 000002-8 | SCANLON STEPHEN G | 24/25 | 2.24 |
| 000010-70.2 | BOWEN ANN MARIE | 23/24 23/24 24/25 | 1420.36 938.93 <u>1317.66</u> 3676.95 | 000005-18 | SIMMES LEONARD & T | 23/24 24/25 | 564.29 <u>1180.94</u> 1745.23 |
| 000004-31.3 | CHAMPLAIN VT LLC | 24/25 | 142.13 | 000004-35.13 | SIMMONS ROBERT | 24/25 | 3211.78 |
| 000004-5 | CROCKER DAVID L | 24/25 | 111.82 | 000005-27 | SMEAD YAVONNE M & | 24/25 | 414.62 |
| 000007-25.6 | DISORDA ROBERT E | 24/25 | 28.78 | 000010-62 | TYLER DEBRA A | 23/24 24/25 | 7049.75 <u>14620.44</u> 21670.19 |
| 000006-115.1 | DIXON ALYSSA ET.AL | 23/24 23/24 24/25 | 160.34 2882.06 <u>2927.04</u> 5969.44 | | | | |
| 000004-35.16 | HGWH INC | 23/24 24/25 | 2459.89 <u>3267.88</u> 5727.77 | | | | |
| 000005-30 | LE FRANCOIS EDWARD | 24/25 | 2872.52 | | | | |
| 000005-38.501 000005-38.501 | MAHONEY HAROLD P | 21/22 22/23 23/24 24/25 | 161.62 241.14 226.81 <u>230.5</u> 860.07 | | | | |
| 000005-79 | MARTIN JESSE | 23/24 24/25 | 1187.39 <u>1242.16</u> 2429.55 | | | | |
| 000005-41.1 | MATTINO SHASTA | 23/24 24/25 | 1868.45 <u>1102.18</u> 2970.63 | | | | |
| 000003-8 | MILES JOHN & EILEE | 23/24 24/25 | 750.2 <u>1015.2</u> 1765.4 | | | | |
| 000004-37.2 | MUNGER EUGENE | 23/24 24/25 | 244.45 <u>2868.58</u> 3113.03 | | | | |
| 000006-83.2 | PALUBA CHESTER W | 23/24 24/25 | 0.11 <u>15.51</u> 15.62 | | | | |

STATEMENT OF SEWER FEES

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Delinquent June 30, 2024 | \$ 1841.54 |
| Billed December 2024 | 18,222.50 |
| Billed June 2025 | <u>18,222.50</u> |
| | \$ 38,286.50 |

Collected 2024-2025 36,953.01

Delinquent June 30, 2025 \$ 1,333.53

Delinquent Collected July 1, 2024– June 30, 2025

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Delinquent Fees | \$4,571.21 |
| Interest | 302.78 |
| Penalty | <u>381.72</u> |
| Total Collected | \$5,255.71 |

Delinquent Sewer Fees as of: January 19, 2026

| Tax Year | Principle | Interest | Penalty | Total |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 12-2023 | 185.00 | 69.49 | 14.80 | 269.29 |
| 06-2025 | 38.53 | 17.38 | 3.08 | 58.99 |
| 06-2024 | 185.00 | 54.67 | 14.80 | 254.47 |
| 12-2024 | 185.00 | 36.13 | 14.80 | 235.93 |
| 06-2025 | 185.00 | 19.45 | 14.80 | 219.25 |
| <u>12-2025</u> | <u>1,075.00</u> | <u>23.65</u> | <u>88.40</u> | <u>1,184.85</u> |
| TOTAL | 1,853.00 | 220.77 | 148.28 | 2,222.58 |

**TOWN OF BENSON DELINQUENT SEWER REPORT
AS OF 01/19/2026**

| Parcel | Name | Tax Year | Total |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 000010-16.4 | CULL KEITH & REGIN | 12-2025 | 236.5 |
| 000010-60 | LONGLEY EDWARD R | 12-2025 | 236.5 |
| 000010-70.2 | BOWEN ANN MARIE | 06-2023 | 58.99 |
| | | 12-2023 | 269.29 |
| | | 06-2024 | 254.47 |
| | | 12-2024 | 235.93 |
| | | 06-2025 | 219.25 |
| | | 12-2025 | <u>236.5</u> |
| | | | 1274.43 |
| 000010-70.4 | BOWEN MITCHELL H S | 12-2025 | 236.5 |
| 000010-71.4 | HUTCHINS MARTIN | 12-2025 | 236.5 |

Benson Bicentennial Funds (Museum)

January 1,2025-December 31,2025

| | | | | |
|------------|----------|--------------|---------|---------------------|
| 12/31/2024 | | | | \$11,722.34 |
| 1/15/2025 | Donation | Bruce Beldon | \$100 | \$11,822.34 |
| 3/31/2025 | Interest | | \$29.11 | \$11,851.45 |
| 6/30/2025 | Interest | | \$29.55 | \$11,881.00 |
| 9/2/2025 | Donation | | \$10.00 | \$11,891.00 |
| 9/30/2025 | Interest | | \$29.95 | \$11,920.95 |
| 12/31/2025 | Interest | | \$30.05 | Balance \$12,051.00 |

Benson Museum

Over this past year, the Benson Museum underwent a little bit of change, Sue Brown was appointed caretaker of the museum, taking over for Anne Munger. Anne has been a vital part of the museum for many, many years, working right alongside founder of the museum, Genevieve Trutor. Ann has put in countless hours working in there and opening the doors for people and sharing her vast amount of knowledge. For this, we would like to thank Ann for all she has done to keep our treasure going and taking care of it. With this being said, you will still see Anne around when time allows her.

The museum will be closed for February, March and April due to building construction going on. We will be packing up and moving items into the back room, while the town clerk uses the front room. This will also allow us time to do a deep cleaning.

We encourage everyone to come in (once it is opened back up), browse around, see if you can find yourself in the museum and share your stories! You can find us on Facebook under Benson Museum, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576692929633>

~Sue Brown

**CEMETERY REPORT
2024-2025**

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Available Funds 6/30/2024 | | 30,067.31 |
| <u>Receipts</u> | | |
| Town Appropriation | 20,000.00 | |
| Burial and Stone Fee | 350.00 | |
| Cemetery Lot Sales | 3,000.00 | |
| Trustee of Public Funds | 3,900.66 | |
| Donations | 250.00 | |
| | | <u>27,500.66</u> |
| Total Available Funds | | <u>57,567.97</u> |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | | |
| Annual Mowing Contract | 16,500.00 | |
| Perpetual Care | 4,000.00 | |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 9,472.16 | |
| Tools and Supplies | 189.01 | |
| Total Expenses | | <u>30,161.17</u> |
| Due from General Fund 6/30/2025 | | <u><u>27,406.80</u></u> |

Benson Youth League

Thank you Town of Benson, for your continued support with our Benson youth!

Another successful year in the books teaming up with Orwell baseball league in ages. We again were able to have one of our own baseball teams due to enough signups. With that we were able to use our local field here in Benson for practice and home games. We had about 35 youth again this year spread out between T-Ball, Midget League, Minor and Major League.

Thank you to all family members, community members, and volunteers who support the youth of Benson. We hope to see you at some games cheering on the teams in the upcoming year! Please reach out with any suggestions, questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Sarah Daigle

Greetings to our Community,

Fair Haven Rescue Squad (FHRS) proudly serves Fair Haven and the surrounding communities. We are the primary 911 ambulance provider for Fair Haven, West Haven, Benson, and Hubbardton. Operating on a fiscal year from July 1 through June 30, FHRS responded to more than 1,200 emergency calls during the most recent reporting year—and we are on track to surpass that total in the current year.

We have had a very successful year thanks to your community's support. With a dedicated staff, the amazing support from our community, and the board of directors, we have been able to meet our goals and create new ones. Board Chair Sam Bartholomew and Members Willem Leenman, Rick Grabowski, and Don Parker have donated countless hours to improving FHRS. We have recruited high-caliber, dedicated emergency responders. We continue to provide monthly training and provide the most up-to-date evidence-based pre-hospital emergency medicine available. Our staff are continually striving to improve the services to the community by increasing their certifications. We have been striving to stabilize our financial position and are managing the fleet on a rotating replacement schedule to control the maintenance costs of aging vehicles.

Our greatest asset is our staff, but we also look to our equipment and vehicles when providing emergency medical services. We rely on donations and the membership drive to fund updates and improvements to our equipment, our quarters, and our fleet. With funding from last year's membership drive and donations, FHRS is able to start the first phase of remodeling one of our bays into a classroom. This will enable FHRS to start teaching community CPR and First Aid classes. Along with the generous donations from Green Mountain Power and Carris Reels, targeted to community support, we were able to purchase new mannequins for teaching CPR classes. This year will also focus on educating staff to become quality American Heart Association CPR and First Aid Instructors. With your donations, we plan to continue our community engagement efforts this year.

The membership program is a win for everyone! It's the best way to eliminate out-of-pocket ambulance expenses and improve how we respond by allowing us to update our equipment, vehicles, and the station. The ability to fund last year's upgrades from the membership drive and donations saved a lot of tax dollars. We are here to help you, your family, and your neighbors during an emergency. Please help us to continue to improve these efforts. Fair Haven Rescue Squad has served this community for many years, and with your help, we will continue to serve for years to come. Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully,
Wendi Fitz-Gerald, EMS Chief, FHRS

Benson Family Day & Burdock Festival

We would like to thank everyone who came out and supported Family Day in one way or another during 2025! What had quite a busy year starting with another phenomenal Family Day in August, which kicked off with our "block" dance on Friday night which saw old and young alike dancing their hearts out! Our theme for Family Day 2025 was "Wild, Wild West." We had so many great burdock entries along with parade entries. We have to say...that once again the people of Benson did not disappoint! The ideas people had for their floats or burdock creations were pretty spectacular. Thank you to everyone who helped on this day and to the dedicated ones at the fire department doing the traditional BBQ! It was a delicious meal!

In the fall, we paired up with our local apple orchard, Cobble Knoll Orchard, for our 3rd annual apple pie contest. Bakers entered pies to be judged and the top 3 winners were awarded great prizes for their efforts! Cobble Knoll is a great place to be on a gorgeous fall day, tasting pie and enjoying the beautiful views they have. Be sure to join us this year and enter a pie, date to be determined.

New this year, Family Day paired up the Benson Fire Department to host our first trunk or treat, called "Let the Ghouls Times Roll". Trunk or treat was moved to the town office lawn with many happy kids and smiling parents. There were many laughs for all the participants.

November brought our annual Deer Hunting Widows Pampered Chef Bingo! This is a big fundraiser for us while providing fun entertainment and great prizes. We grew in size as far as the turnout and we were happy to see people come out and support this great event. Our Pampered Chef leader is very local to the area, right out of Orwell. We appreciate Carol Murphy for helping us out and leading us in a night of fun! Mark your calendars for November 14, 2026 for this event.

December brought Breakfast with Santa. All we can say is WOW! Our numbers doubled as far as guests for Santa. The gym was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Guests dined on homemade pancakes, with sausage and local maple syrup. The children were so excited to see him. They were able to send him letters, sit with him to tell him what they wanted, do a Christmas craft and play Christmas games such as pin the nose on Rudolph and the Grinch ring toss. While this was not a huge fundraiser for Family Day, it was more about giving back to our beloved community and seeing the children's faces was worth more than any amount of money! A special thank you to Bartholomew Brothers Farm and Browns' Family Farm for the maple syrup, Donny Parker for always being there for us, and to all the elves who put on the show!

New for Family Day this year, we took part of the Benson United Church Memory Tree by handing out cookies and hot cocoa after the reading, but before the tractor parade. We felt it was such a great way to give back to the community and ending our year.

Family Day 2026 will take place on Sunday, August 2nd, (please note the weekend change!), with the theme being "Medieval Magic" as voted by you, the public.

BENSON FIRST RESPONSE REPORT

During the July 2024—June 2025 fiscal year, Benson First Response responded to many calls for assistance in Benson and occasionally also on mutual aid calls in our neighboring towns. Our strong partnership with the Fair Haven Rescue Squad makes both organizations stronger and helps our three members put their time and efforts where they will make the most difference.

Across the country rural EMS and Fire Departments are finding it nearly impossible to find volunteers with the necessary time and commitment. Under current regulations, the EMT course is 150-190 hours and takes approximately 6 months to complete followed by a national certification exam. An EMT is then required to take 40 hours of continuing education every two years and an AEMT is required to take 50 hours to maintain their certification. If you are someone who might be interested in starting down this path, please get in touch with one of our members.

This year, both Sam and Dave Bartholomew completed their recertification at the Advanced EMT level.

We would like to thank everyone who has given support to the Benson First Response. Without your donations of time and financial support we would not exist.

Finally, please make sure your house number is clearly visible from the road. The driver of the ambulance responding may not be a local resident.

Membership:

Tom Neumann, Paramedic

Dave Bartholomew, AEMT

Sam Bartholomew, AEMT

Daphne Bartholomew, Treasurer

| <u>Income</u> | | <u>Expenses</u> | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Town of Benson | 2,000.00 | Telephone | 796.59 |
| Donations | 667.00 | Supplies & Equipment | 645.32 |
| Savings and CD Interest | 750.92 | Training/Licensing | 794.92 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 3,417.92 | TOTAL EXPENSE | 2,236.83 |
| <u>Balances as of June 30, 2024</u> | | <u>Balances as of June 30, 2025</u> | |
| Checking | 22,496.62 | Checking | 22,259.79 |
| Savings | 5,033.15 | Savings | 5,755.41 |
| Certificate of Deposit | 10,000.00 | Certificate of Deposit | 10,695.66 |
| | <u>37,529.77</u> | | <u>38,710.86</u> |

Benson Public Library

Budget 2026-2027

Revenue:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Town Appropriation | \$ 12,000.00 |
| Fund Raising | \$ 500.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total Revenue: | \$ 12,500.00 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Payroll | \$ 8,000.00 |
| Book Purchases | \$ 1,800.00 |
| Equipment and Supplies | \$ 500.00 |
| Events | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Telephone and Internet | \$ 500.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total Expenditures: | \$ 12,300.00 |

Net: \$ 200.00

The Library Board respectfully requests: \$ 12,000.00

Carrie Becker, Chair
Gina Parker, Secretary & Treasurer
Robin Wilson
Bonny Baldwin

Lister Report 2025

Arm's Length (Fair Market Value) Sales January -- December 2025 Total Sales: \$ 5,647,999

- The good sales this year are between 1.5% and 2.8% times the current assessment
- Of the nine good sales, only one was to a resident of Benson
- Sales of single dwellings were between \$215,000 and \$975,000
- Three properties on Sunset Lake sold for between \$380,000 and \$1,699,000

Reappraisal:

An appraiser from NEMRC will be inspecting properties in Benson this spring. There will be more information available in the Benson Bulletin and on the Town website at Bensonvermont.org

This Year, for Grand List 2024-2025:

- Properties assessed as they existed on April 1; however, inspections continue into May
- Properties with changes will receive a Change of Appraisal, mailed the first week of June

Grievance:

- Any questions or concerns can be addressed at any time during the year by phone or email or in person at 802-456-4094 (note the new phone number), at listeners@shoreham.net, or by chance or appointment.
- Official grievance period is in mid-June: dates will be published on the Benson website, and posted in town.

ABSTRACT OF APRIL 1, 2025 GRAND LIST

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Taxable Parcels: 626 | Acres: 25,479.23 | |
| | | Less Current Use | (4,678,100) |
| | | Less Veterans Exemption | (90,000) |
| | | Less Special Exemptions | (1,904,050) |
| Real | 116,630,000 | Less Contracts | <u>(130,100)</u> |
| | | | (6,802,250) |
| | GRAND LIST | \$109,827,750 | (Total taxable property) |

2025 - 2026 TAX RATES

- The State sets the education rates
- The Selectboard sets the municipal rates, using the budget passed at Town Meeting
- The local agreement rate is the voted \$20,000 assessment reduction for disabled veterans

NON-RESIDENTIAL

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Education tax rate | 1.9191 |
| Municipal tax rate | .9693 |
| Local agreement | <u>.0013</u> |
| Total | 2.8897 |

HOMESTEAD

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Education tax rate | 1.5524 |
| Municipal tax rate | .9086 |
| Local agreement | <u>.0013</u> |
| Total | 2.8237 |

Town of Benson Wastewater Treatment Facility 2026

Hi everyone, 2025 was once again a good year for the wastewater collection system. The town's wastewater system ran well, and in compliance with all DEC permit regulations.

Through the continued support of the Select board and the sewer users, the facility remains in compliance with ANR, DEC discharge requirements. Reduction of inflow from sump pumps, and floor drains will also help to reduce the flow through the facility, ensuring room for more users to attach to the system. I would like to take a bit of your time and point out some things that homeowners on the wastewater system could do to make the system work better. One of the best ways to help is to make sure that what goes into the waste stream is free of all fats and grease. The fats and grease can cause many problems from plugging the sewer mains to fouling the operation of the wastewater facility.

In closing, please take the time to read the bottom "DON'T FLUSH IT" rules located on the DEC website, following these rules will help the environment and cut costs to the treatment plant, ensuring plenty of the user's fees could go towards much needed upgrades to the plant. The staff at the Wastewater Treatment Facility extends an invitation to any interested parties to tour the facility. Please call 1-(802)537-2611 for an appointment so that we may accommodate your visit.

SOLID MATERIALS
Your private or municipal system can process only toilet paper, which is designed to fall apart rapidly.
Never flush household solid waste such as paper, cloth, or plastic film, even if the package says it's "flushable." Those "flushable" wipes are a leading cause of serious clogs - never flush them!
These items don't dissolve. They mix with fats, oils, and greases, creating clogs that require costly repairs. They can also cause sewage overflows into rivers and lakes.

SOLID MATERIALS DISPOSAL
Toss household solid waste materials into the trash for pickup, or take them to your municipal drop-off. Don't try to burn or compost them (except food scraps!).
Food scraps also cause clogs - and in-sink disposals don't help! Compost them if you can. Vermont law requires that by July 2020, all food scraps be directed from landfills for uses like composting and biogas production. Your trash hauler will facilitate.

NEVER FLUSH
The following common household items should never be flushed:

- Paper towels
- Disposable diapers
- Tampons & applicators
- Sanitary napkins
- Hair
- Rags
- Dryer lint
- Cleaning/disinfectant wipes
- Cigarette butts
- Q-Tips
- Dental floss
- Bandages
- Condoms
- Cotton balls
- Facial tissues
- Flushable wipes
- Candy wrappers

DON'T FLUSH IT!
VOLUME 1
CLOGGERS!
Don't clog pipes and sewers and make the wastewater treatment plant run better by flushing what NOT to flush out into your collection and municipal sewer system.
NOTE: Wastewater treatment systems are small and designed to handle grey water and toilet paper. NEVER flush anything else down the sewer!

Respectfully,
Jeff Jordan (WWTF Chief Operator)

2025 Zoning Report

Zoning Permits Issued

- 1748 Howard Hill- new dwelling plus waiver
- 957 Pleasant Valley Rd- new dwelling
- 3280 Rte. 144- accessory structure plus waiver
- 2494 Lake Rd. - new dwelling
- 165 Shady Lane- new dwelling
- 1298 Stage Rd. - new dwelling
- 23 N Cross Rd-dwelling

Subdivisions:

- Cold Springs Rd parcel 14-19
- 1951 Parkhill Rd. parcel 15-4
- 1298 Stage Rd. parcel 15-6(13)
- 798 Root Pond Rd. parcel 10-113.6

| SEWER FUND 2024-2025 | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Due from General Fund June 30, 2024 | \$81,569.68 |
| Sewer Fund Receipts | | |
| | Current Fees | \$ 33,870.28 |
| | Delinquent Fees | \$ 4,571.21 |
| | Interest | 302.78 |
| | Total Sewer Fund Receipts | \$ 38,744.27 |
| | Total Available Funds | \$120,313.95 |
| Sewer Fund Disbursements | | |
| | Chemicals | \$ 4,628.47 |
| | Electricity | 5,661.86 |
| | Mileage | 545.60 |
| | Payroll | 17,517.22 |
| | Permits | 200.00 |
| | Repairs | 5,163.00 |
| | Supplies | 964.48 |
| | Testing | 1,015.00 |
| | Total Sewer Disbursements | \$ 35,695.63 |
| | Due from General Fund June 30, 2025 | \$ 84,618.32 |

ARC RUTLAND AREA 2025 -2026 ANNUAL REPORT YEAR IN REVIEW

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

PROGRAMS:

Our feature for this year was the ability to hire a new program director, Ginger Morrigan, due to being the recipient of a Bowse Health Trust grant. Having one person dedicated to developing and managing the program details has a direct impact on the current and future programs for our members and is already turning heads this year!

Life Skills: We began the Spring Session of Life Skills courses, Budgeting and Holistic Health, this May with six members in each course participating. At the end of five weeks, all twelve members received certificates of completion of the courses they took. The people who took these courses learned a lot of practical information and key skills that they have already begun using in their daily lives. The fall courses are How to Eat Well for Myself and Reading For Joy. The fall courses began in early September.

Events: As you know, the historical impetus of ARC has been to provide free social events for our members. Over the years, we have increased those to include outdoor events and now include events within the community. We are making glorious strides to be active and inclusive, with participating members in all towns of Rutland County. This year, we added the "Summer Splash" barbecue at Bomoseen State Park, which included contests and games to keep our focus on good health with activities that improve physical and mental health wellbeing with increased participation and interactions with peers and reduces loneliness.

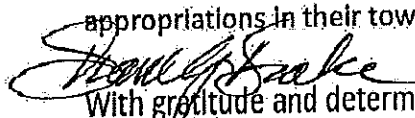
Representative Payee: We were fortunate to hire Jess Corey as our new Rep Payee Administrator. Because Jess was our Administrative Assistant, she has already built great relationships with members. We currently serve about forty individuals in managing their funds so that their shared living providers, rents, and all bills are paid timely, every month on the first and third. We are actively looking for individuals with DD to serve.

Self-Advocates & Aktion Club: This year we expanded our Self-Advocate Disability Acceptance presentations to include personal experiences as a disabled adult using a "stone theme" as the model. This is an interactive experience between our members and the audience. This is truly a learning experience for all. We have presented twice to VTSU at Castleton Campus, at the Free Clinic, Vermont Dept. of Health, and elsewhere. Under the guidance of Ginger, our Aktion Club members raised funds again at their Annual Car Wash, have made and are selling Sun Catchers from crystals and glass beads, and are embarking on showing their talents in an Art Show at Castleton Gallery. The show will last until Nov 1.

Transportation: For over twenty-five years, MVRTD has provided transportation for all ARC events and monthly meetings through the Older Adults & Disabilities Grant from VT Transit. We are pleased to say that despite so many federal cuts this year, we will still be able to have transportation to our events through MVRTD. This is a blessing given so many do not have access to transportation so they can participate.

We continue to seek members of the community to join our Board of Directors. We believe that talent at the table from all walks of life and professions is necessary to guide our organization.

We at ARC are so very grateful to the generosity of the voters of all of Rutland County who approve of the appropriations in their towns.


With gratitude and determination,
Diane Drake, Executive Director

12:38 PM
 09/30/25
 Accrual Basis

ARC Rutland Area Inc
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through August 2025

| | Jan - Aug 25 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Aktion Club | 462.76 | 425.00 | 37.76 |
| Cities & Towns Appropriations | 26,200.00 | 27,750.00 | -1,550.00 |
| Donations | 4,954.53 | 6,700.00 | -1,745.47 |
| Grants | 48,834.00 | 84,000.00 | -35,166.00 |
| Interest Income | 75.05 | 206.00 | -130.95 |
| Investment Income | 552.79 | 700.00 | -147.21 |
| Membership Dues | 665.00 | 980.00 | -315.00 |
| Program Service Fees/Net Incid | 12,695.00 | 13,300.00 | -605.00 |
| Self Advocacy Contributions | 0.18 | 250.00 | -249.82 |
| Total Income | 94,439.31 | 134,311.00 | -39,871.69 |
| Expense | | | |
| 1 Events | 2,759.46 | 2,000.00 | 759.46 |
| 2) Employees | 61,665.28 | 97,284.00 | -35,618.72 |
| Conferences, Conventions, Mtgs | 0.00 | 500.00 | -500.00 |
| Credit Processing Fees | 3.07 | 94.40 | -91.33 |
| Depreciation Bldgs & Equip | 400.00 | 400.00 | 0.00 |
| Dues / Subscriptions / Fees | 164.17 | 68.00 | 96.17 |
| Insurance Office | 3,953.00 | 4,000.00 | -47.00 |
| Major Property & Equip Acquis | 0.00 | 9,000.00 | -9,000.00 |
| Marketing Advertising | 289.36 | 1,333.36 | -1,044.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 333.32 | -333.32 |
| Office Supplies | 2,050.74 | 753.32 | 1,297.42 |
| Postage & Shipping | 622.50 | 553.00 | 69.50 |
| Printing & Publications | 1,258.97 | 1,860.00 | -601.03 |
| Professional Fees | 5,734.14 | 8,561.36 | -2,827.22 |
| Programs | 12,241.91 | 6,640.00 | 5,601.91 |
| Rent | 5,200.00 | 5,200.00 | 0.00 |
| Rental & Maintenance of Equip | 337.52 | 326.00 | 11.52 |
| Rep Payee Review | -270.86 | | |
| Telephone & Internet | 1,604.30 | 1,600.00 | 4.30 |
| Travel | 270.70 | 450.00 | -179.30 |
| VT SEC of State - ARC biennial | 0.00 | 20.00 | -20.00 |
| Wing Center | 60.68 | | |
| Total Expense | 98,344.94 | 140,976.76 | -42,631.82 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -3,905.63 | -6,665.76 | 2,760.13 |
| Net Income | -3,905.63 | -6,665.76 | 2,760.13 |



December 5, 2025

To the Citizens of the Town of Benson,

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 assisted 8 households with weatherization services as well as 57 residents with other services in the Town of Benson. Whether your residents need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, weatherization, 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 \$2,000.00.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@broc.org



"The biggest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."
~ Robert Swan, Explorer

Thank You Benson
for helping keep Vermont a beautiful
place to live, work & play! Your
contribution makes a difference.
#togetherwecan #greenupVT

25,351 VOLUNTEERS 14,307 TIRES! 426.7 TONS

down 11% up 6%

97.5% OF ALL ROADS CLEANED

Thank You!

TOGETHER WE MAKE VERMONT BEAUTIFUL

Town of Benson
2760 Stage Road
Benson, VT 05731

Green Up Vermont
P.O. Box 1191
Montpelier, VT 05601-1191
www.greenupvermont.org

Appropriation Request Letter

Sept. 29, 2025

Dear Residents of Benson

Thank you for your past appropriation to Green Up Vermont in support of Green Up Day. The stats above show the continued success of keeping litter off our roadways and out of waterways. Our businesses are more successful with clean streetscapes, our real estate more valued and our healthy way of life cherished.

Your help is crucial in sustaining this mission of clean environments and teaching our youth to get involved in their communities. Your annual contribution is so appreciated and makes a real impact in your community.

As Green Up rolls into our 56th year, we are again requesting the level funding support of a \$100.00 appropriation.

The amount requested is based on town population and funds go directly back into your town in the way of supplies, educational tools for your schools, and local promotion for Green Up Day.

| Population | \$ Request |
|----------------|------------|
| • 0-1,000 | \$50 |
| • 1001 - 2000 | \$100 |
| • 2001 - 3000 | \$150 |
| • 3001 - 4,000 | \$200 |
| • 4,001 up | \$300 |

For 2026 we are planning an innovation challenge called *greenSTEM* for all Vermont students grades 7 to 12. Our goal is to promote creative thinking and action for environmental solutions. We look forward to sharing results.

Mark your calendar for **Green Up Day May 2, 2026**

I am honored to serve your community and look forward to working with you. Thank you so very much!

Kate Alberghini, Executive Director
802-522-7245 • greenup@greenupvermont.org

Green Up's mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and raising public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment.

Green Up Vermont is a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit corporation.



Senior Volunteer Programs

RSVP of Rutland and Addison Counties/The Volunteer Center
The Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program
One-2-One



2026 REQUEST FOR TOWN FUNDING & Yearly Report for FY25

TOWN OF: Benson • AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$150.00

Brief Description of RSVP & The Volunteer Center

RSVP and The Volunteer Center is a volunteer program for people of all ages who want to meet community needs through volunteer service. RSVP/VC considers volunteering to be a key solution in responding to Rutland County's most pressing challenges. Needs are met in critical areas such as human services, elder care, health care, education, literacy, and the arts. RSVP/VC involves individuals in service that matches their personal interests and makes use of their varied life and professional experiences. RSVP/VC enables people to contribute to their communities while enjoying the personally satisfying and rewarding experience that community engagement offers.


RSVP also offers several free "Signature Programs" that benefit residents. These include RSVP Bone Builders, an osteoporosis prevention program which provides free strength and balance exercise classes offered twice per week at many locations in Rutland County; RSVP Rutland Reads a children's literacy and mentoring program; RSVP Veterans Connections Program, a program designed to reduce social isolation in veterans; and RSVP Operation Dolls & More, which distributes over 15,000 new and restored items to children. Last year approximately 8,142 items were distributed through RSVP Operation Dolls & More to 32 partner agencies and an estimated 1,014 children. We also partner with AARP to provide free income tax return services to low-income residents of Rutland County. Locally, RSVP & The Volunteer Center is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland and Addison Counties with 500 volunteers. From April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, RSVP/VC volunteers provided 65,294.25 hours of community service. Based on the Independent Sector National Value of a volunteer hour, this equates to \$2,271,586.96 in service to the community.

Services Provided to Benson Residents

In FY'25, Benson residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as free income tax return preparation, and our free Bone Builders osteoporosis prevention exercise classes. Benson RSVP volunteers donated their services to the following non-profit organizations: Benson Community Center, Castleton Community Center, Slate Valley Cares, Young at Heart Senior Center, RSVP Bone Builders, and RSVP Operation Dolls & More.

The monies we are requesting this year will be used to help defray the increased costs of providing volunteer placements, support, insurance, transportation, and recognition. As financial constraints affect non-profit organizations, the need for volunteers increases. With your help, RSVP & The Volunteer Center will continue to respond to this need.

On behalf of RSVP & The Volunteer Center and our non-profit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Wells for their continued support of RSVP. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs, please feel free to call us at 468-7056.

Sincerely,

Maryesa White
RSVP Director

16 North Street Ext., Rutland, VT 05701
Office: 802-468-7056

Website: volunteersinvt.org Email: maryesarsvp@gmail.com



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) turned planning into action in FY25—advancing the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan under Act 181 with an update to the Regional Future Land Use Map, delivering clean-water projects as the South Lake Champlain CWSP, and improving municipal building energy efficiency through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). We strengthened coordination across all 27 towns through new Town Manager and Administrator Meetings and Selectboard Meet-Ups, ensuring every community has a voice in shaping regional priorities. Our mission remains clear: to provide cost-effective and value-added community and economic development that helps to make the Rutland Region a vibrant, resilient, and forward-looking place to live, work, and grow. Learn more and sign up for our newsletter at www.rutlandrpc.org and see a detailed annual report at www.vapda.org.

Planning and Zoning – Advanced the comprehensive update of the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan, emphasized by locally-led, flexible, outcome-driven, deep public engagement. Created the Town Plan Toolkit, assisted 21 Planning Commissions, and supported town plan and bylaw updates in Benson, Castleton, Clarendon, Middletown Springs, Pittsford, Tinmouth, Wells, and West Haven. Hosted training courses on Act 181 and the Open Meeting Law and supported new designations in Brandon, Fair Haven, and Sudbury.

Housing – Supported Brandon and Fair Haven on Neighborhood Development Area eligibility, advanced Brownfields assessments for housing in Brandon, Rutland City, and West Rutland, updated the Housing Resource Guide and set municipal housing targets from regional and state housing assessments.

Economic and Workforce Development – Completed Phase 3 of the Rutland Asset Mapping Project (RAMP) and merged it with CEDRR's Real Rutland initiative. Supported Rutland City's TIF District. Through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP), advanced community improvements in Benson and wastewater upgrades in West Pawlet. Revitalized the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board (RRWIB), co-hosted the Bring Back the Trades with 2,200 students, and launched the WORC6 Bridge Program, by investing nearly \$1 million into job training and career pathways for high school students and adults in the Rutland Region.

Emergency Planning – Coordinated the REMC and strengthened the formal partnership with the Rutland Regional Disaster Cooperative (RRDC) to improve emergency preparedness, communication, and recovery capacity across municipalities. RRPC also advanced hazard mitigation plans for Middletown Springs, Rutland Town, Fair Haven, and Rutland City, and supported a federally funded flood resilience study in Mount Tabor.

Energy and Climate – Administered MERP implementation grants, assisted towns with RFPs and project design, completed four Enhanced Energy Plans, and finalized the 2026 Regional Enhanced Energy Plan with municipal energy targets. Conducted a Prime Resource Map analysis through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to align renewable siting with regional land use goals.

Clean Water and Infrastructure – As CWSP for the South Lake Champlain Basin, advanced 23 natural infrastructure projects in 11 towns totaling \$325,000 to reduce phosphorus and erosion. Collaborated on the Sunset Lake Road design, updated the Watershed Projects Database, and supported wastewater upgrades in Poultney, Pittsford, and Pawlet.

Brownfields Redevelopment – Advanced assessment and cleanup planning for 10 sites in Rutland City, Rutland Town, Pittsford, and Proctor, including the Former Berwick Hotel, Lynda Lee Factory, Vermont Marble Company, and Vermont Farmers Food Center, turning underused sites into community assets supporting agriculture, business, childcare, housing, and workforce.

Transportation and Mobility – Worked with VTrans to enhance transportation safety and connectivity in all towns. Led the TOD Masterplan in Rutland City. Served as Municipal Project Manager for projects in Brandon, Rutland Town, West Rutland, Wallingford, and Proctor. Launched the Rutland Airport Committee, completed sidewalk inventories, and held the Road Foreman Rodeo.

Governance and Collaboration – Created a new RRPC Board of Commissioners Handbook. Assumed fiscal management of the Otter Creek Communications Union District and launched quarterly Town Manager and Administrator Meetings and Regional Selectboard Meet-Ups to strengthen coordination and shared services.

We thank our dedicated commissioners, municipal leaders, and community partners whose collaboration drives progress in our region. Together, we are building a more healthy, equitable, resilient Rutland Region.

Devon Neary, Executive Director

Slate Valley Cares

FY 2024–2025 Annual Benson Town Report

Board of Directors

Simon Wethered (President), Norman Williams, Janet Carini, Jane Lobrutto, Linda Peltier, Carrieann Wolcott, Melanie Combs, Lynn Stack

Staff

Jasmin Durkee, Executive Director

Overview

During FY 2024–2025, Slate Valley Cares experienced continued growth and organizational strengthening. We achieved key strategic goals and remained resilient despite external challenges, including a government shutdown and uncertainty surrounding SNAP benefits for our clients.

Community Impact & Key Achievements

- Supported an average of **290 households per month**, serving approximately **1,500 individuals monthly**
 - Strengthened partnerships with local businesses and schools to increase food donations
 - Launched new fundraising efforts, including **drive-through meals** and a **basket raffle**
 - Invested **\$50,000** in food purchases through the Vermont Food Bank and local retailers
 - Contracted **\$23,000** in fresh produce from local neighborhood farms
 - Expanded cold storage capacity with new freezers and refrigerators
 - Upgraded checkout technology to improve efficiency and client experience
-

Funding Impact

The Town of Benson's **\$2,000 contribution** played a vital role in supporting essential services. These funds directly supported our food program, which accounted for **over 70% of total expenditures** benefiting our community.

Looking Ahead (FY 2025–2026)

Slate Valley Cares plans to:

- Expand community programs and partnerships
 - Collaborate with neighboring towns on shared resources and programming
 - Develop systems to reach community members unable to travel to the Right to Food Center
-

Closing

Slate Valley Cares remains committed to meeting community needs with compassion and innovation. We thank the Town of Benson for its continued support and partnership.

Contact:

Jasmin Durkee, Executive Director

hello@slatevalleycares.org | (802) 265-3666

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



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

Report to the Citizens of Benson

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older Vermonters in Benson during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/01/2024 through 9/30/2025.

Nutrition Support

In 2025 SVCOA supported 84 older residents in your community through both our home delivered meal program known as "Meals on Wheels" as well as through monthly in-person luncheon gatherings. A total of 1,608 meals were delivered and served this past year directly to Benson residents. Additionally, SVCOA provided 8 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments, resource connections and referrals to residents of Benson.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA Case Management and Outreach Staff helped older Vermonters in your community for a total of 290.25 hours. Case managers meet with older residents in Benson, privately in their home, or at another agreed upon location and assess their individual situation. They worked with the resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the older resident desired, the case manager linked the client to appropriate services, coordinated and monitored services as necessary, and provided information and assistance to the resident's caregivers. Case managers also help older residents in Benson connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to older residents of Benson facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

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

VNA & HOSPICE

of the Southwest Region
Serving Bennington, Franklin, & Rutland Counties

Town of Benson

To the Officers and Citizens of Benson:

In 2024, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Benson 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 Benson's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's skilled and dedicated staff made more than 116,288 home visits to 3,989 patients. **In Benson, we provided 587 visits to 27 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,



Jessica Boutin, CEO
VNA & Hospice of the
Southwest Region



Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors

The Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) is a non-profit organization with a mission to develop programs to facilitate the conservation of healthy soil and clean water. PMNRCD has been providing environmental support, education, and outreach to the 14 towns in the District watersheds for over 70 years. In addition to a five-member board, seven employees staff the District: District Manager, Hilary Solomon; Agricultural Outreach Professional, Jennifer Alexander; Native Plant Nursery Manager and Environmental Planner, Sadie Brown; Agricultural Outreach Specialist, Whitney Hier; Project Technician and Nursery Co-Manager, Averie Noble; Project and Community Outreach Specialist, Jaden Groff; and Project Manager and Community Outreach Officer, Vicki Pattison-Willits.

Stormwater Management The District is currently working with several towns on planning and implementing 'green stormwater' projects. We worked this past season in Castleton, Poultney, Fair Haven, Wells, and Pawlet to identify and design stormwater projects, develop scoping studies, and implement green stormwater infrastructure with grant funds, and are planning on continuing this work in other local towns.

This past year, we worked with lakes in the watershed and installed small shoreline plantings through our Lake Education and Action Program (LEAP). In addition to implementing buffer plantings and small stormwater treatment practices, we completed LakeWise Assessments along Lake Bomoseen and Lake St. Catherine, resulting in recommendations for homeowners to implement lake friendly practices. We plan to continue both programs with shoreline homeowners on other waterbodies in the coming year. The District completed the Lake Watershed Action Plan for Lake St Catherine to identify stormwater runoff issues, assess natural resources, and propose high priority mitigation projects.

Waterways The District planted approximately 6,000 native trees and shrubs within the Poultney River and Mettowee River watersheds. Projects were focused along waterways within the riparian zone with the goal of stabilizing stream banks and reducing erosion, restoring native plant communities and habitat, improving water quality, and increasing flood resilience. Funded through DEC, PMNRCD led invasive water chestnut pulling in Southern Lake Champlain and its tributaries.

Agricultural Programs The District assists farmers applying manure and fertilizer to their fields through farm-specific, nutrient management plans via a statewide partnership program. The District provides agronomic and water quality guidance to local farms, writes grants to implement water quality improvement projects on farms, and assists in developing long-range plans to continue sustainable conservation practices. PMNRCD provides rental of a no-till seed planter and soil aerator to farmers, which help to improve soil health.

Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery PMNRCD collaborates with Poultney's Champlain Valley Nursery and area residents to make improvements to water quality. Many restoration plantings were completed in the District to create habitat and to control erosion. The Nursery also serves as an educational center, providing field trip opportunities for elementary students and internships for high school and college students. Plants are available to local landowners through our tree sale or on-site. Visit our website for more information.

Clean Water Service Provider PMNRCD, in partnership with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, provides funding and technical assistance to local towns as the local CWSP. This Clean Water Funding through DEC supports non regulatory projects such as green infrastructure stormwater practices, natural resources restoration projects on farm and forestland, and stream restoration projects including conservation easements and floodplain reconnection.

The Poultney-Mettowee watershed consists of all the lands that drain to the Poultney or Mettowee Rivers and their tributaries.

- SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE COMMUNITIES -

www.rutlandcountyswac.org

Steve Sgorbati, Chair – Sudbury
John Garrison, Vice Chair – West Haven
Gail Fallar, Secretary - Tinmouth
Linda McGuire, Treasurer, Shrewsbury

Pamela Lavoie Clapp, Administrator
Telephone: (802) 342-5701
Email: solidwastealliancecommunities@gmail.com
Website: www.rutlandcountyswac.org

SWAC represents the towns of Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven, serving a combined population of approximately 14,000 residents. These towns collaborate to ensure compliance with state mandates, managing solid and hazardous waste in a responsible and cost-effective manner.

In 2025, SWAC held two Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events in partnership with Republic Services, collecting 8.18 tons of hazardous waste from 136 households. Materials included flammable solvents, aerosols, pesticides, oxidizers, mercury compounds, propane tanks, and other regulated substances. An additional 2.09 tons of latex and oil-based paint were collected and sent through the PaintCare stewardship program, which covers disposal costs at no charge to towns.

In 2026, SWAC will hold two Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events in partnership with Republic Services: **Saturday, April 25 at the Rutland Town Transfer Station and Saturday, October 3 at the Fair Haven Transfer Station, both from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Accepted materials include flammable solvents, aerosols, pesticides, oxidizers, mercury compounds, propane tanks, and other regulated substances. Visit the SWAC website for full details and updates.

Between Events: Residents outside the Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD) may purchase a non-district permit to access the Gleason Road transfer station and hazardous waste depot. This permit allows for HHW drop-off, trash disposal at current rates, and access to recycling services. Permits can be purchased at the scalehouse or hazardous waste depot at the transfer station, or at the RCSWD offices at 1 Smith Road, Rutland (Monday–Friday, 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.). Call 802-775-7209 for additional information and current rates.

To help reduce HHW costs and environmental impact, residents are encouraged to Repurpose, Reuse, Repair, Refuse, Reduce, and then Recycle. Choose less-toxic products when possible, use them up for their intended purpose, or share leftovers with neighbors or community groups. For year-round disposal of electronics, paint, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and waste oil, residents can access free drop-off locations throughout the region. Visit the “What Do I Do With...” page on the SWAC website for current locations and details.

In 2025, SWAC also finalized and adopted its updated Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP), approved by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). Implementation begins in 2026. The plan outlines expanded strategies for managing solid and hazardous waste across all SWAC towns and is available on the SWAC website.

SWAC’s continued success reflects the dedication of town staff, representatives, volunteers, town clerks, and administrators. Each contributes countless hours to ensure operations remain efficient, compliant, and cost-effective, even amid ongoing challenges.

Your town was represented by:

Benson: Greg Fontaine, Guy Charlton, Heidi Chandler
Fair Haven: Joe Gunter, Sam Lucci
Kenyon
Pawlet: Lenny Gibson
Shrewsbury: Bert Potter, Linda McGuire
Tinmouth: Chris Martone, Gail Fallar

Chittenden: Elmer Wheeler, Alyssa Reynolds
Middletown Springs: Amanda McGill, Terry Redfield, Patty
Town of Rutland: Larry Delveneri, Steve Canney, Bill Sweet
Sudbury: Steve Sgorbati (Chair)
West Haven: John Garrison (Vice Chair)

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), a statewide program, is currently administered by VT Economic Services. Income challenged Vermonters can print an application from their website (VSNIP) or call for an application: 802-241-0589

In October 2025, the state began a wait list for vouchers, lacking funds. Vouchers issued for VSNIP is now determined according to the funds appropriated for the program for that fiscal year. Vermonters called Governor Scott asking for \$300,000.00. As one senator said, "that was a pittance amount". When our (VT Volunteer Services for Animals; VVSA) statewide program was moved to the state to assure viability, a \$4.00 fee added to the registration of dogs funded VSNIP. Currently, if there are no available VSNIP vouchers at the time the Department receives an application, the applicant is placed on a waitlist. However, our animals can't wait.

PLEASE CONSIDER: LOW COST SPAY NEUTER CLINICS IN VT & NH

Feline & Friends Foundation 802-323-4793: Schedule on FFFVT.org
Community Pet Clinic: Humane Society of Chittenden County 802-923-9028
Feline & Friends Foundation 802-323-4793 Schedule on FFFVT.org
Homeward Bound: Addison County Humane Society "Taxi Cat" 802-388-1100
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society: in West Windsor: 802-484-5829
Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter Orleans: 802-754-2228 Cats only
Riverside Rescue, Lunenburg: 802-524-9550
Rutland CTY Humane Society: 802-483-6700; Spay the "Mom" for free, kittens adopted.
Second Chance Animal Center: Shaftsbury 802-375-2898
Second Chance Animal Rescue Inc: Littleton, NH 603-259-3244
Springfield Humane Society: Springfield 802-885-3997
Sullivan CTY Humane Society: Claremont, NH 603-542-3277
Upper Valley Humane Society: Enfield NH 603-448-6888
Windham CTY Humane Society: Brattleboro 802-254-2232
VT-CAN: Middlesex 802-223-0034
N.E. Kingdom Spay Neuter Program: Orleans Essex CTY 802-334-7393
** Community Animal Aid Wellness Clinic: (No surgeries) Exams, vaccinations, parasite treatment, minor illnesses, wounds & injuries. 1X monthly: E. Barre Fire Station 2nd Saturday of the month. 10 AM – Noon animalaidvt@gmail.com 802-734-025

VVSA drafted modifications to help serve VSNIP applicants: adding rabbits, slightly increasing the co-payment and the dog registration fee to VSNIP running. We now know there was never an intention of passing this bill. One senator said, very frankly, "no one was going to support this bill, that they were telling us to your face they would, but would not".

Economic Services Commissioner: Miranda Gray, VT-CAN: Pamela Krauz, owner, and Dept of Agriculture spoke to the Committee objecting to these changes, supported by applicants and VSNIP veterinarians. Senators Alison Clarkson, Joe Major and Becca White knew the bill Clarkson "sponsored" was pre-determined to die. Politics at its worst. Hopefully VSNIP will survive. VVSA Humane Society, former administrator and originator, thanks to Lynn Murrell, DVM and the 80 initial participating offices that changed the euthanasia "solution" to the overpopulation in our state. You are the backbone of this program. Thank you all, sincerely.

VITAL RECORDS

January 1, 2025– December 31, 2025

Births

Quinn Wilder Danger Stuart to Donavan Jerome Stuart and Beccalyn Stuart
Rosemary Jo Piontek to Keith Anthony Piontek and Dana Lee Piontek
Eli Karl Sbardella to Matthew Karl Sbardella and Jenna Mae Sbardella
Jason David Yendell Jr. to Jason David Yendell Sr. and Alexis Maddison Yendell
Jace Cole Guimonds to Jacob Robert Guimonds and Nadine Lee Charron
Augustus Dee Gundersen to David Thomas Gundersen and Michaela Beck Bicknell
Lainey Kay Elizabeth Stewart to Adam Samuel Stewart and Makayla Elizabeth Tomczak
Riley Grace Frew to Cody Forrest Frew and Daisy Sue Ambrozaitis

Marriages

Kylee Elizabeth Phillips to Anthony Scott Krouse
Victoria Paige Flynn to Scott William Messer
Jillian A. Davis to Michael A. Giglio Jr.
Amy May Blanchard to Kenneth Earl Generess Jr.

Deaths

Wilmer Lee Lawrence
Earl William Ritchie
Denise Marie Cournoyer
Gary Steven Audy
Betty Ann Manley
Elizabeth Jane Ingleston
Louis Charles Peck
Mark A. Aubin
William John Hoyenski
Daniel Kenneth Boyce
William David Owens
Barbara Mae Gearwar
Carole Lee Griffin
Jennifer Whitehurst
John L. Penwarden
Timothy Jay Wisell
Michelle Ada Brown

2025 BENSON SCHOLARSHIPS

Benson Community Scholarship

In recognition of the fact that small rural communities thrive most effectively when citizens are involved, the Town of Benson honors a qualifying senior who has made a significant contribution to our community with a \$1000 scholarship. This year, the awards went to Amelia Munger, daughter of Brent and Amy Munger.

Eaves Memorial Scholarship

Funded by a private donation, this scholarship awards \$1000 grants to two young women from Benson planning to pursue further education. This year's scholarship went to Amelia Munger, daughter of Brent and Amy Munger.

For information about applying for the 2026 scholarships, please contact the FHUHS guidance office or the Benson Town Clerk (537-2611 or benсонclerk@myottmail.com)

2025 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

During 2025, the Town Clerk's Office:

- Processed 11 Vehicle Registrations
- Issued 4 Marriage Licenses
- Registered 8 Births and 17 Deaths
- Issued 13 Green Mountain Passports
- Sold 301 Transfer Station Permits
- Registered 200 Dogs
- Recorded 437 pages of documents in the Land Records
- 4 new Survey Maps
- Added 25 new voters to Benson's checklist

Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk

Benson Transfer Station

Open Wednesday 12PM-4PM Saturday 8AM-4PM

The Transfer Station may be used for disposal of household waste generated in Benson by residents or taxpayers who purchase an annual permit (by April 1st) at the Town Office. Stickers, which may be purchased at the Town Office or G & L General Store are required for the disposal of all items except recycling and food scraps. Annual permits cost \$35.00 (now includes a \$20 recycling surcharge) and bag stickers are \$2.00 each. The fee schedule below is an estimate based on volume and may be adjusted for unusually heavy items since the town pays disposal fees by weight. It is also subject to change at any time as the requirements of Act 148 continue to impact the Town's disposal costs and options. Please check with the Attendant for current pricing and space availability before bringing large amounts of material for disposal.

| Type of Item | No. of Stickers |
|--|--|
| Electronics | Most currently may be recycled free of charge. Many are banned from the landfill. |
| Major household appliances, including stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, humidifiers, and large fans (classified as "white goods") | Free of Charge in Dumpster for Metal |
| **Refrigerators, freezers & air conditioners | 10 Stickers each |
| Upright Chairs | 3 Stickers each |
| Sofas, Loveseats | 5 Stickers each |
| Hide-a-Bed | 10 Stickers each |
| Box springs, mattresses Twin Size | 3 Stickers each |
| Box springs, mattresses Queen Size | 5 Stickers each |
| Box springs, mattresses King Size | 10 Stickers each |
| Easy chairs, bookshelves, sideboards, dressers or tables | 3-6 Stickers each Depending on size |
| Screens, doors, windows up to 80 lbs in weight (wood) | 5 Stickers per bundle |
| Carpeting, rolled up | 5 Stickers per bundle |
| Area carpeting (fits in plastic bag) | 1 Sticker each |
| Construction and Demolition Debris, Loose | Accepted on a space available basis and priced by the attendant. Heavy/dense materials such as shingles or sheetrock will be charged at a higher rate. |
| Household Trash, standard 34 gallon bag | 1 Sticker |
| Recycling | Free of Charge |

****Doors must be removed from refrigerators & freezers before acceptance.**

July 1, 2026 Sticker prices will increase to \$2.50 a sticker. Full sheets will be \$25 dollars, half sheets will be \$12.50.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
DIAL 911
FIRE, BENSON FIRST RESPONSE, STATE POLICE

Public Services Hours

Town Office*:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday... 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Wednesday..... 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
*Please Note: the Town Office is closed on Federal Holidays

Transfer Station:

Wednesday.....12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Saturday.....8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Library:

Saturday.....10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday.....4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Tuesday.....10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Senior Luncheon10:30am – 1:30 pm

Museum (May through October)

Call for hours and appointments.....802-456- 4094

Contact Information & Websites

Benson School 802-537-2491
802-537-2492
High School802-265-4966
Library.....802-456-4094X-3
Lister (listers@shoreham.net).....802-456-4094.....X-4
Town Garage (benzonroads@gmail.com)..... 802-456-4094.....X-2
Town Office..... 802-456-4094..... X-1
Fax.....802-456-4094..... X-07
Selectboard Assistant (benzonselectboardasst@gmail.com)
Zoning Administrator (benzonzoning@gmail.com) 802-456-4094....X-4
Benson Town website.....www.BensonVermont.gov
Slate Valley U. U. School District website.www.SlateValleyUnified.org