

Town of Shrewsbury, Vermont



2023 Annual Report



CCC Road Rainbow

IN MEMORIAM

We note the passing of two elders who contributed much to Shrewsbury. Al Ridlon Sr. was a charter member of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department, founded in 1952, and was an active firefighter for 63 years. He also supported the Shrewsbury Historical Society, serving as President for two years and a Trustee for eight years. David Rice served on the Shrewsbury Planning Commission for 22 years, from 1995 to 2017, and on the Cemetery Commission for 13 years, from 2005 to 2018. He also represented Shrewsbury on the Rutland Regional Planning Commission for over a decade and served as Emergency Management Coordinator for the Town.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board of Auditors wishes to thank Marc Cimonetti for his service as interim town clerk during 2023. Marc performed those duties in addition to serving as a member of the Selectboard and the town's emergency management coordinator (as well as managing his own business and caring for his family). We are grateful to him for helping the Town during a tough period.

PHOTO & ARTWORK CREDITS: Grace Brigham - Artwork pg 3, Kristin Cimonetti - pg 31 and Inside Back Cover, Jonathan Gibson - (Betsy Jesser photo in Dedication) Betsy Jesser - (Sharon Winnicki photo in Dedication), Chryl Martin - pg 36, Marisa Orlich – Inside Front Cover, Lavinia Seide - pg 28, Gina Stewart - Front Cover, pgs 22 and 39.

Front cover: The Cuttingsville bridge standing up to a surging Mill River during the floods of July 2023.

2023 DEDICATION

Shrewsbury has benefited over the years from strong commitments from those willing to devote their time and talents. This year we recognize two women who have been staunch supporters of the community: Betsy Jesser and Sharon Winnicki. They have served the Town in multiple roles, both official and informal, spanning three decades. If you add up all the Town roles they have performed, they have collectively served a total of 84 years (many roles served concurrently, juggling as many as three at once).

Betsy Jesser embodies the community spirit that has made Shrewsbury so special. Not only does she pitch in to fill a large and diverse set of Town roles, but she has gone above and beyond, finding ways to nurture our sense of community. For many, she is synonymous with Shrewsbury, acting as a driving force for Shrewsbury Day, alerting residents to Town activities through her extensive email list, and serving the Town in multiple roles. Betsy was a Town Lister for 11 years (2003 through 2013), a Town Constable for four years (2014 through 2017) and a member of the Development Review Board from 2002 through 2004. In 2023 she continued to serve as both Assistant Town Clerk (for 18 years so far) and Justice of the Peace (11 years so far).

After teaming up with Grace Brigham in 2019 to organize a 'Snow Day' festival at Shrewsbury Mountain School that included food, music and a magic show, Betsy advocated an even grander vision: Shrewsbury Day. With Grace, Betsy actualized the dream in 2021, creating a spectacular late summer celebration of Shrewsbury in all its diversity. In Grace's words: "Betsy is just so dynamic and into the important stuff. She's such a source of inspiration and energy."



Sharon Winnicki came to Shrewsbury in the early 1980's and quickly became immersed in the community. She served on the Planning Commission from 1985 through 1990. When the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission was formed in 1991, she was a charter member, functioning as the Chair for many of the 14 years she served. Sharon was also Shrewsbury's Green-Up Day Coordinator for four years. Most recently she was a Town Lister for 13 years, from 2010 until stepping down at the end of 2022. Sharon has also helped to plan for town emergency shelters and served as deputy public health officer in 2021 and 2022. Like Betsy, Sharon is an experienced volunteer during elections, checking in voters and performing other tasks to ensure all goes smoothly.

Sharon has enriched Shrewsbury in other ways beyond her distinguished resumé of Town roles. As a key member of the Shrewsbury Day Committee, she has been instrumental in planning Shrewsbury Days. She is an active contributor to Rutland Regional Medical Center's Patient and Family Advisory Council, which provides community input for the hospital's strategic planning, serving on both the Council's diversity and education committees. Many miss

the tasty marinades and sauces offered through her Vermont Hills Teriyaki label, a long-time fixture at the Rutland Farmers Market and other venues.

We thank Betsy and Sharon for their many years of service to Shrewsbury – the Town has been enriched by their contributions.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

*WARNING NUMBER	REPORTS	*PAGE NUMBER
	ELECTION	
1	2023 Elected Town Officers	1
	Justices of the Peace Elected at General Election	1
	2023 Officers Appointed by the Selectboard	1
	Other Town Officers and Employees	3
	Warning for the 243 rd Annual Town Meeting, March 5, 2024	4
	Minutes of the 242 nd Annual Town Meeting, March 7, 2023	6
	Results of the 242 nd Annual Town Meeting, March 7, 2023	7
	FINANCIAL	
	Board of Auditors Report	9
	Town Treasurer's Report	10
	Balance Sheet	11
3 - 8, 10	Restricted or Designated Town Funds	12
	Statement of Revenues and Expenses	13
	Payroll for Town Officials, Appointed Officers, and Employees	15
	Notes to Financial Statements	16
	TAX	
	Statement of Taxes Raised	19
	Tax Comparison	20
	Delinquent Tax Collector's Report	21
	Board of Listers	22
	REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS, & COMMISSIONS	
	Selectboard Report	23
2	Statement of Revenues – General and Roads Budgeted and Actual	24
2	General Expenses – Budgeted and Actual	25
2	Road Expenses – Budgeted and Actual	27
	Emergency Management Report	28
	Road Commissioner	29
	Inventory of Town Equipment	29
	Town Clerk	30
	Justices of the Peace	31
	Zoning Administrator	32
	Development Review Board	32
	Planning Commission	33
	Town Health Officer	34

* To reference the relevant report associated with a warned item, find the warned article number in the left column above and then the associated page number in the same row in the right hand column.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

*WARNING NUMBER		*PAGE NUMBER
	Cemetery Commission	34
	Conservation Commission	35
	Tree Warden	36
	Forest Fire Warden	37
	REPORTS OF SHREWSBURY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING TAX DOLLARS	
8 & 10	Volunteer Fire Department Report	37
	Volunteer Fire Department Financial Statements	38
	Volunteer Fire Department Special Accounts	39
9	Shrewsbury Community Meeting House Report	40
	Shrewsbury Community Meeting House Financial Statements	41
11	Shrewsbury Library Report	42
	Shrewsbury Library Financial Statements	43
12	Shrewsbury Historical Society Report	45
	Shrewsbury Historical Society Financial Statements	46
	OUT-OF-TOWN ORGANIZATION REPORTS	
2	Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)	47
2	Rutland Regional Planning Commission	48
2	Rutland Regional Ambulance Service	49
13	Rutland Natural Resource Conservation District	50
14	VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region - formerly RAVNAH))	51
15	Green Up Vermont	51
16	Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	52
17	Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	53
18	Rutland Mental Health	54
19	NewStory	55
20	BROC Community Action	54
21	Rutland County Parent Child Center	55
22	Vermont Family Network	56
23	Rutland County Humane Society	56
24	Vermont Center for Independent Living	57
25	Child First Advocacy Center	58
26	AmericanRed Cross of Northern New England	59
27	Vermont Adult Learning	60
28	Vermont Farmers Food Center	61

* To reference the relevant report associated with a warned item, find the warned article number in the left column above and then the associated page number in the same row in the right hand column.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS *as of December 31, 2023*

Elected Office	Term	Elected officer(s)	Term Expires
MODERATOR	1 Year	Eldred French	2024
TOWN CLERK ¹	3 Years	Marc Cimonetti (Interim)	2024
TOWN TREASURER	3 Years	Linda McGuire	2024
SELECTBOARD	3 Years	Marc Cimonetti Francis Wyatt Aaron Korzun	2025 2026 2024
AUDITORS	3 Years	Michelle Greene Rich Biziak Sanford Bragg	2026 2025 2024
LISTERS	3 Years	Rebecca Bates Scott Ryan Clara Krueger	2024 2026 2025
MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS	3 Years	Cindy Van Dien Steve Abatiell (interim)	2025 2024
1 ST CONSTABLE	1 Year	Aaron Haupt	2024
2 ND CONSTABLE	1 Year	Vacant	2024
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES	3 Years	Steven Nicholson	2024
CEMETERY COMMISSION	3 Years	George Brigham Jr. Benny Carrara Eric Carrara	2024 2024 2024

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ELECTED AT GENERAL ELECTION

Justices of the Peace are elected for two-year terms every other year. Current justices were elected November 8, 2022, to serve from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2025.		Adrienne Raymond	2025
		Barry Griffith	2025
		Betsy Jesser	2025
		Taffy Maynard	2025
		Trish Norton	2025
		Lee Wilson	2025

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTBOARD⁽²⁾ *as of December 31, 2023*

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		Adrienne Raymond	2024
COMMUNITY MEETING HOUSE TRUSTEES	3 Years	Steve Spatz Mark Youngstrom Liesbeth Van der Heijden	2025 2026 2024

¹ Former town clerk Megan LaChance resigned effective September 1, 2023. The position was filled on an interim basis by Marc Cimonetti until January 17, 2024 when Rebecca Rice was appointed by the Selectboard until the results of the 2024 Town Meeting Day election.

² All appointments expire on the date of Town Meeting in March of the year shown unless otherwise indicated.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTBOARD *as of December 31, 2023*
(continued)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION	4 years, or as determined by the Selectboard	Pam Darrow Louise Duda Peter Grace Connie Youngstrom Carrie Clancy Christina Clarke Michelle Greene Cynthia Thornton Linda Shelvey	2027 2027 2027 2027 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD	3 years, or as determined by the Selectboard	Alan Shelvey Dany Cote Greg McGown Bruce Bullock Mark Youngstrom Ryan Fitzbeauchamp	2026 2026 2026 2024 2024 2026
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		Aaron Korzun	2024
EMERGENCY MGMT. COORDINATOR		Marc Cimonetti	2024
ENERGY COORDINATOR		Davis Terrell	2024
FENCE VIEWERS		Steven Nicholson Bert Potter Adrienne Raymond	2024 2024 2024
GREEN UP DAY COORDINATOR		Connie Youngstrom	2024
HEALTH OFFICER		Kathy Felder ³	
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER		Sharon Winnicki	2024
INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES, & WOOD		Greg Miller	2024
LIBRARY BOARD		Elijah LaChance	2024
PLANNING COMMISSION	3 years, or as determined by the Selectboard	Laura Black Connor Self Vacant Melissa Reichert Ryan Fitzbeauchamp	2026 2026 2023 2024 2024
POUND KEEPER		Vacant	
REGIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE		Gerry Martin	2024
REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		Jack Perry	2024
ROAD COMMISSIONER		Jamie Carrara	2024
RUTLAND REGION TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE		Marc Cimonetti	2024
RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION		Laura Black Aaron Korzun - alternate	6/30/24 6/30/24
SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE COMMUNITIES		Bert Potter	2024

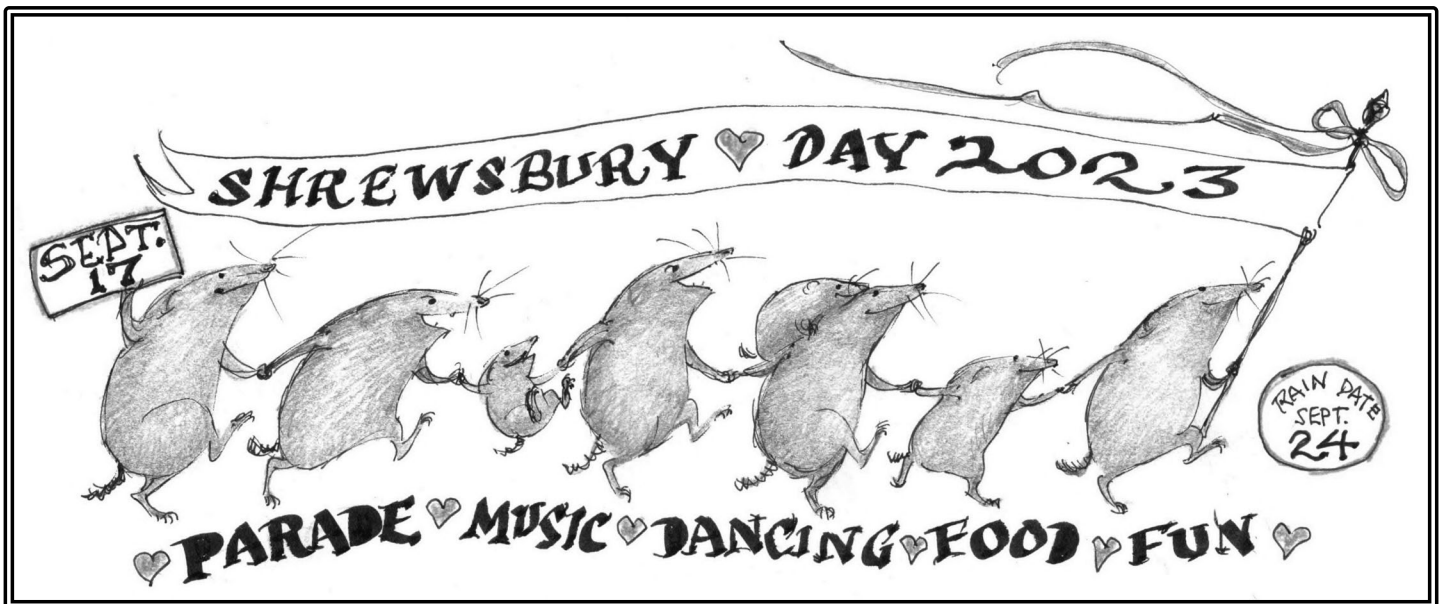
³ Date of appointment was not available.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTBOARD *as of December 31, 2023*
 (continued)

TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN ⁴		Kevin Brown	6/30/28
DEPUTY FOREST FIRE WARDEN		Alan Ridlon Jr.	6/30/28
TRANSFER STATION ADMINISTRATOR		Bert Potter	2024
TREE WARDEN		Eldred French	2024
WEIGHER OF COAL		Greg Miller	2024
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	3 Years	Adrienne Raymond	2024

Town of Shrewsbury
OTHER TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES *as of December 31, 2023*

TOWN ROAD CREW (hired by road commissioner)	Dan Cavoto, Nate Webster	
TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANTS (hired by selectboard)	Paul Young, Jeremiah St. Pierre	
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK (Appointed by town clerk for the town clerk's term unless changed by the town clerk.)	Betsy Jesser	2024
ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER (Appointed by treasurer for the treasurer's term unless changed by the treasurer.)	Christina Clarke	2024



⁴ State appointment to a 5-year term.

Town of Shrewsbury
WARNING for 243rd ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Shrewsbury in the County of Rutland are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to take action by Australian Ballot on the following matters:

1. To elect all town officers as required by law:

One Moderator	1-year term
One Selectboard Member	3-year term
One Town Clerk	3-year term
One Treasurer	3-year term
One Auditor	3-year term
One Lister	3-year term
One Lister	2 years of a 3-year term
One 1st Constable	1-year term
One 2nd Constable	1 year term
One Cemetery Commissioner	3-year term
One Cemetery Commissioner	2 years of a 3-year term
One Mill River Unified Union	3-year term
School Director	
2. Shall the Town approve a total general fund expenditure of **\$1,401,732** of which **\$971,027** shall be raised by taxes and **\$430,705** by non-property tax revenues and surplus funds and reserve funds?
3. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,500** for the Town Office Reserve Fund?
4. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,500** for the Town Garage Reserve Fund?
5. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund?
6. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$85,000** for the Town Road Equipment Fund?
7. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund?
8. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund?
9. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$17,000** for the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House?
10. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Operating Fund?
11. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$7,500** for the Shrewsbury Library?
12. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,500** for the Shrewsbury Historical Society?
13. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District?
14. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,526** to help support VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?
15. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support the Green Up Vermont organization?
16. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$130** to help support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)?

Town of Shrewsbury
WARNING for 243rd ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024

17. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$700 to help support the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?
18. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$1,192 to help support Rutland Mental Health Services?
19. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$150 to help support NewStory (formally the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter)?
20. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$600 to help support BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?
21. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$400 to help support the Rutland County Parent Child Center?
22. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$250 to help support the Vermont Family Network?
23. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$150 to help support the Rutland County Humane Society?
24. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$170 to help support the Vermont Center for Independent Living?
25. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$400 to help support the Child First Advocacy Center?
26. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$500 to help support the American Red Cross of NH/VT?
27. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$500 to help support Vermont Adult Learning?
28. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$500 to help support Vermont Farmers Food Center?
29. Shall the taxes be postmarked on or before, or in the hands of the Treasurer no later than 7:00 P.M., **Friday, October 4, 2024.**

Dated: **January 29th, 2024**

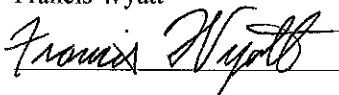
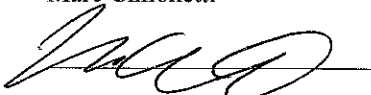
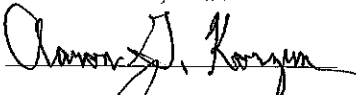
Shrewsbury Selectboard

/ss/

Aaron Korzun, Chair

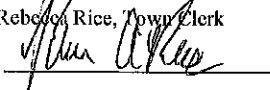
Marc Cimonetti

Francis Wyatt



/s/

Attest: Rebecca Rice, Town Clerk



The informational meeting for the annual Shrewsbury Town Meeting will be held at the **Shrewsbury Community Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road at 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 2, 2024.**

Early / Absentee Ballots are available by contacting the Town Clerk at the Shrewsbury Town Office - 492-3511 or shrewsburyclerk@vermontel.net or [My Voter Page - Vermont](#)

Town of Shrewsbury
242ND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, March 4, 2023

The informational meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Moderator Eldred French. Present were: Selectmen Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, and Francis Wyatt; 30 members of the public and members of the 6th grade class from the Mountain School.

Moderator French went through the articles one by one and asked for comments and questions. A question was asked about¹ and the selectboard went over the breakdown of the \$548,608 of non-property tax revenues, surplus funds and reserve funds mentioned in article 2.

Discussed the need to increase the Town Road Equipment Fund due to higher costs for plow trucks. Same comment regarding increasing costs for fire trucks.

Discussed open Town positions. For example: In need of Listers and Fire Department volunteers.

Sharon Winnicki was acknowledged for her good work as Lister for many years.

Comment made that the hourly rate for Listers is not high enough to attract people to the job.

Request was made that more advance notice be given for the details of the Informational Meeting.

Steven Nicholson was acknowledged for his contributions from his many years on the Selectboard.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM. Voting by Australian ballot was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 beginning at 10:00 am at the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House.

Francis Wyatt - Selectman

¹ *Editor's note of clarification: A question was asked about non-tax revenues and the Selectboard went over the breakdown of the \$548,608 of non-property tax revenues, surplus funds and reserve funds mentioned in article 2.*

Town of Shrewsbury
RESULTS FOR 242nd ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 7, 2023

1. To elect all town officers as required by law
 - One Moderator **Eldred French 1 Year Term**
 - One Selectboard Member **Francis Wyatt 3 Year Term**
 - One Selectboard Member **Marc Cimonetti 2 Year Term**
 - One Auditor **Rich Biziak 2 Year Term**
 - One Auditor **Michelle Greene 3 Year Term**
 - One Lister **Scott Ryan 3 Year Term**
 - One Lister No write-in with the requisite number of votes 2 Year Term
 - One Lister No write-in with the requisite number of votes 1 Year Term
 - One Delinquent Tax Collector **Steven Nicholson 3 Year Term**
 - One 1st Constable No write-in with the requisite number of votes
 - One 2nd Constable No write-in with the requisite number of votes
 - One Cemetery Commissioner No write-in with the requisite number of votes 1 Year Term
 - One Cemetery Commissioner No write-in with the requisite number of votes 2 Year Term
 - One Director MRUUSD **Cindy Van Dien**
2. Shall the Town approve a total general fund expenditure of **\$1,259,844** of which **\$711,236** shall be raised by taxes and **\$548,608** by non-property tax revenues and surplus funds? **YES – 214 No – 33**
3. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,500** for the Town Office Reserve Fund? **YES – 215 No – 31**
4. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,500** for the Town Garage Reserve Fund? **YES – 214 No – 33**
5. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund? **YES – 215 No – 32**
6. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$75,000** for the Town Road Equipment Fund? **YES – 216 No – 31**
7. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund? **YES – 208 No – 34**
8. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund? **YES – 212 No – 34**
9. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$17,000** for the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House? **YES – 213 No – 35**
10. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Operating Fund? **YES – 221 No – 28**
11. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$7,500** for the Shrewsbury Library? **YES – 213 No – 38**
12. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,500** for the Shrewsbury Historical Society? **YES – 204 No – 40**
13. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District? **YES – 199 No – 43**
14. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,526** to help support VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region? **YES – 214 No – 41**
15. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$150** to help support the Green Up Vermont organization? **YES – 215 No – 31**
16. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$130** to help support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)? **YES – 209 No – 36**

Town of Shrewsbury
RESULTS FOR 242nd ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 7, 2023

17. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$700** to help support the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?
YES – 202 No – 43
18. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,192** to help support Rutland Mental Health Services?
YES – 208 No – 39
19. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support New Story (formally the Rutland County Women’s Network and Shelter)?
YES – 211 No – 34
20. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$600** to help support BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?
YES – 192 No – 51
21. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Rutland County Parent Child Center?
YES – 195 No – 47
22. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Vermont Family Network?
YES – 190 No – 49
23. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support the Rutland County Humane Society?
YES – 213 No – 31
24. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$170** to help support the Vermont Center for Independent Living?
YES – 197 No – 47
25. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Child First Advocacy Center?
YES – 194 No – 46
26. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support the American Red Cross of NH/VT?
YES – 293 No – 42
27. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support Vermont Adult Learning?
YES – 190 No – 52
28. Shall the taxes be postmarked on or before, or in the hands of the Treasurer no later than 7:00 P.M. **Friday, October 6, 2023**?
YES – 224 No – 17

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 BOARD OF AUDITORS REPORT

The Board of Auditors is pleased to present this Annual Report as required by Vermont statutes. We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Shrewsbury for the year ended December 31, 2023, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the town officers and organizations submitting the reports. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Based on the records available to us, in our opinion the financial statements included in this report present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Shrewsbury and the organizations it supports financially as of December 31, 2023, as well as the results of their operations for the year.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 24 V.S.A 1681-1684, which, among other things, requires that we examine and adjust the accounts of all town officers 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 errors or fraud in these accounts and 3) verify the financial condition and results of operations of the Town as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023. Town auditors are also expected to review the internal controls practiced by the Town.

To accomplish these objectives, we examined the Town's financial records on a quarterly basis to verify that expenditures were supported by invoices that were approved on selectboard and road commissioner orders and documented on bank statements. For each quarter including year end, we tracked tax payments, reconciled monthly bank statements for the Town's general fund and performed proof of cash to tie bank statements back to the Town's general ledger.

We also reviewed the Town's year-end financial statements, including the budget prepared by the selectboard, as well as the financial statements of town organizations which appear in this report, the transfer station punch card revenues and the grand list. On a quarterly basis as well as for year-end financial reports we used established sampling techniques to verify the accuracy of the statements.

Our audit of Transfer Station tickets was not completed at the time of this report. We expect it to be completed prior to the Town's informational meeting on March 2, 2024, where any significant findings will be discussed.

In 2022, the Town engaged an independent auditor to review the 2021 town financials, based on our recommendation and guidance from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Results of the audit were made available in 2023. The audit firm provided an opinion that the 2021 financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town. The firm also made suggestions for improvements in practices and controls, some of which have been adopted.

We appreciate the cooperation of everyone who submitted reports this year, and for providing well organized financial records for review. The cooperation and assistance of the Selectboard, and the Board of Listers throughout the year is much appreciated. We especially wish to thank Treasurer Linda McGuire for her assistance during the quarterly audits and review of the year-end financial statements.

Richard Biziak

Sanford Bragg

Michelle Greene

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Office is responsible for overseeing all financial records as required by State statutes and performing a variety of cash management functions. These include the collection and processing of tax payments, as well as payments for fees, programs, and receivable invoices.

Taxes are due once a year in Shrewsbury, the voters set the date by Australian ballot. Payment must be received by the date due; U.S. Postal Service postmark is accepted. If the payment is not received in a timely manner, a warrant is issued to the collector of delinquent taxes and an eight percent penalty is levied on the unpaid balance. Current tax payments are accepted at any time before the due date and may be mailed to Town of Shrewsbury, Treasurer's Office, 9823 Cold River Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, placed in the drop box, or paid online and in person.

As required by the Government Accounting Standards Board our town is using the modified accrual system for accounting procedures. The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements.

Refer to the town website at www.shrewsburyvt.org to make online payments by credit card or electronic check, and to find answers to your questions about property taxes or how to contact town departments and services.

Please review the Vermont State Income Tax package for the Homestead Declaration, or online filing is available at <https://tax.vermont.gov>. For questions on these forms or filing, please call the State of Vermont at (866) 828-2865.

Please call if you have questions or need a copy of tax records. As always, it is my pleasure to be your treasurer and I look forward to serving you; and I would appreciate your vote in March to be re-elected.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McGuire

Telephone (802) 492-3558

Town of Shrewsbury
Balance Sheet
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General Fund	Restricted and Designated Funds ⁽⁹⁾	Total Governmental Funds
Assets			
Cash ⁽²⁾	82,270	928,355	1,010,625
Prepaid Expenses	21,842		21,842
Receivables ⁽³⁾⁽¹⁶⁾			
Delinquent Tax Receivable	43,050		43,050
Other Receivables	2,317		2,317
Capital Assets ⁽⁶⁾			
Land and Buildings	696,638		696,638
Machinery and Equipment	444,690		444,690
Infrastructure	3,453,681		3,453,681
Total Assets	4,744,487	928,355	5,672,842
Current Liabilities			
VMBB Garage Bond ⁽¹²⁾	20,000		20,000
Accounts Payable ⁽⁴⁾	27,467		27,467
Other Current Liabilities	6,158		6,158
Long-Term Liabilities			
VMBB Garage Bond	60,000		60,000
Equity			
Restricted Funds		928,355	928,355
Unrestricted Equity	4,686,411		4,686,411
Excess Revenue/(Loss)	(55,548)		(55,548)
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	4,744,487	928,355	5,672,842

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 RESTRICTED OR DESIGNATED TOWN FUNDS ⁽⁹⁾

Fund Name	Beginning Balance	Transferred from General	Disbursed	Interest	Ending Balance
ARPA Funds	\$288,349	\$0	\$50,350	\$435	\$238,434
Conservation Commission Reserve	\$2,501	\$244	\$220	\$5	\$2,529
Brown Bridge Grant	\$3,065	\$0	\$0	\$4	\$3,069
Townwide Reappraisal Sinking Fund	\$86,846	\$6,650	\$0	\$148	\$93,644
Cemetery Reserve Fund	\$1,319	\$0	\$0	\$2	\$1,321
Energy Grant	\$1,123	\$0	\$0	\$2	\$1,125
Garage Reserve Fund	\$22,887	\$2,500	\$0	\$38	\$25,425
Highway Supplement Funds	\$22,812	\$0	\$0	\$37	\$22,849
Road Equipment Reserve Fund	\$118,595	\$75,000	\$126,447	\$87	\$67,235
Records Restoration Fund	\$37,430	\$3,376	\$1,130	\$60	\$39,736
SVFD Equipment Reserve Fund	\$364,998	\$35,000	\$0	\$606	\$400,603
Smith Brook Culvert Fund	\$4,407	\$0	\$0	\$7	\$4,414
Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund	\$9,481	\$1,000	\$3,929	\$13	\$6,565
Town Office Reserve Fund	\$19,874	\$1,500	\$0	\$32	\$21,405
TOTALS	\$983,685	\$125,270	\$182,076	\$1,476	\$928,355

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
Year Ending December 31, 2023

RECEIPTS:

Property Tax Receipts

Taxes: Education Current	\$	2,185,721	
Taxes: Town Current		774,391	
School Reconciliation Taxes		25,553	
Delinquent Tax		126,829	
Total Property Tax Receipts			\$ 3,112,494

Other Tax Receipts

Land Use		63,260	
State in Lieu of Tax		38,213	
Federal in Lieu of Tax		13,649	
Railroad Tax		480	
Total Other Tax Receipts			115,602

Road Commission Receipts⁽¹⁶⁾

State Aid		216,018	
Weight Permits		270	
Total Road Commission Receipts			216,288

Other Receipts

ARPA		0	
Act 60 Funds		6,650	
Conservation Commission		244	
DRB Hearing Fee		300	
Dog Licenses		372	
Fines		2,017	
Insurance Reimbursement		0	
Interest		1,860	
Leased Land		60	
Liquor License		370	
Marriage License		190	
Miscellaneous		112	
Recycling		6	
Restoration Fees		2,376	
Transfer Station Card Income		14,138	
Zoning Permits		1,110	
Total Other Receipts			29,805

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$ 3,474,189

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
Year Ending December 31, 2023

DISBURSEMENTS:

School Account	\$ 2,198,113
Selectboard's Orders (Net*) ⁽¹⁰⁾	329,214
Road Commissioners Orders (Net)	1,027,298
Depreciation ⁽⁷⁾	335,764
Capitalized Improvements ⁽⁶⁾ & Liability ⁽¹²⁾	(546,720)

Warned Items

American Red Cross	\$ 500
Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council	600
Child First Advocacy Center	400
Garage Reserve Fund	2,500
Green Up	150
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	130
Road Equipment Sinking Fund	75,000
Rutland County Humane Society	150
Rutland Mental Health	1,192
Rutland Area Visiting Nurse & Hospice	2,526
New Story	150
Rutland Natural Resources Conservation	250
Rutland Parent/Child Center	400
Shrewsbury Community Meeting House	17,000
Shrewsbury Historical Society	2,500
Shrewsbury Town Library	7,500
Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department	35,000
SVFD-Equipment Reserve Sinking Fund	35,000
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	700
Town Office Sinking Fund	1,500
Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund	1,000
Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund	1,000
Vermont Adult Learning	500
Vermont Family Network	250
Vermont Center for Independent Living	170
Total Warned Items	<u>186,068</u>

186,068

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$ 3,529,737

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$ (55,548)

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McGuire, Treasurer

* Contains asset from 2022

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 PAYROLL FOR TOWN OFFICIALS, APPOINTED AND EMPLOYEES

<u>Department</u>		<u>Amount</u>
Selectboard Salaries	\$	4,900.00
Town Officers Salaries, Administrative & Fees**		64,522.65
Delinquent Tax Collection Salary**		12,475.05
Transfer Station Attendant and Administration Salaries		30,565.00
Lister Salary		10,369.25
Road Salaries		162,797.25
Total Salaries and Fees		<hr/> 285,629.20
Social Security/Medicare Matching Expense (less deductions)		<hr/> 21,776.74
Total Town Payroll Expense/Calendar Year	\$	<hr/><hr/>307,405.94

Payroll reporting for calendar year.

** Based on fees collected

Pension information available in Note #13

Town of Shrewsbury – Treasurer’s Report

2023 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Basis of Accounting. In 1999 the Government Accounting Standards Board issued Statement 34, introducing revised financial reporting. The new reporting required for a clean audit could impact bonds and federal grants and will provide improved accountability and comparability across municipalities.

Our town is incorporating expenditures for capital assets in excess of the \$2,500 value limit and infrastructure and has begun reporting using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. In addition, land, buildings, machinery, and equipment, have been valued for the balance sheet, as well as depreciation.

2. Cash. At year-end the Town’s bank balance was \$1,010,625, which is covered by federal depository Insurance, or was collateralized with securities held by the financial institution’s agent in the Town’s name. No values were unsecured or uncollateralized.

3. Accounts Receivable. Amounts receivable at year-end, as reported in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

Accounts Receivable	
Delinquent tax receivable	\$ 43,050
Other Receivables	<u>2,317</u>
Total Receivables	<u>\$ 45,367</u>

4. Accounts Payable. Amounts payable at year-end as reported in the Balance Sheet:

Accrued Payroll	\$ 8,404
Miscellaneous Vendors	<u>19,063</u>
Total Payables	<u>\$ 27,467</u>

5. Fixed Assets. Capital acquisitions are reflected in the related assets account group. All purchased fixed assets are valued at cost where historical records are available and at estimated historical costs where no historical records exist. Donated fixed assets are valued at their estimated fair market value on the date received.

6. Capital Assets. Capital asset activity for year-end was as follows, (includes equipment item from 2022)

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital Assets not being depreciated:			
Land	<u>\$293,361</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 293,361</u>
Capital Assets being depreciated:			
Buildings and Improvements	1,088,713	15,400	1,104,113
Vehicles and Equipment	1,567,109	145,432	1,712,541
Roads, Bridges, & Culverts	<u>5,502,107</u>	<u>365,888</u>	<u>5,867,995</u>
TOTALS	8,157,929	526,720	8,684,649
Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Buildings and Improvements	677,949	22,887	700,836
Vehicles and Equipment	1,177,449	90,402	1,267,851
Roads, Bridges & Culverts	<u>2,191,839</u>	<u>222,475</u>	<u>2,414,314</u>
TOTALS	<u>4,047,237</u>	<u>335,764</u>	<u>4,383,001</u>
Total Capital Assets being depreciated	<u>4,110,692</u>	<u>190,956</u>	<u>4,301,648</u>
Government Activity Capital Assets, Net	<u>4,404,053</u>	<u>190,956</u>	<u>4,595,009</u>

Town of Shrewsbury - Treasurer's Report 2023 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. Depreciation. Depreciation was applied as follows to the corresponding Capital Assets:

Buildings	\$ 22,887
Vehicles and Equipment	90,402
Roads, Bridges & Culverts	<u>222,475</u>
Total Depreciation	\$ 335,764

8. Risk Management. The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to theft, damage, destruction of assets, errors and omission, injuries to employees and natural disasters. The Town maintains commercial insurance coverage covering each of those risks of loss. The Selectboard believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured loss.

The Shrewsbury Meeting House maintains insurance coverage independently. The Meeting House Committee annually provides a copy to the town of the insurance policy covering the meeting house.

9. Restricted/Designated Funds.

ARPA Reserve Fund	American Rescue Plan Act funds provided by the U. S. Department of the Treasury for recovery from the needs created by the Coronavirus.
Brown Bridge Grant	Funds received from the Preservation Trust to be used for the Brown Bridge.
Cemetery Reserve Fund	Funds designated for town cemetery maintenance.
Conservation Commission Fund	Funds to be reserved for conservation projects.
Energy Grant	Funds from NeighborWorks of Western Vermont designated by agreement of March 21, 2013, for specific use.
Garage Reserve Fund	Funds designated for Town Garage.
Highway Supplement Fund	Funds designated for Roads.
Records Restoration Fund	Fees collected (\$4 per page for recorded documents) at Town office for restoration of Town documents.
Road Equipment Reserve Fund	Funds designated for replacement or purchase of road equipment.
SVFD Equipment Reserve Fund	Funds designated for Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department vehicles.
Smith Brook Culvert Fund	Funds designated for costs associated with a review of the Smith Brook culvert on Town Highway #4.
Town Office Equipment Fund	Funds designated for replacement or purchase of town office equipment.
Town Office Reserve Fund	Funds designated for improvements/repairs to the town office.
Town-wide Reappraisal Fund	Includes funds to be used for reappraisal costs and funds designated for the purpose of maintaining and updating our equalized grand list.

Town of Shrewsbury – Treasurer’s Report

2023 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Transfer Station Costs. It is estimated that 30 hours of road crew hours were spent working at the transfer station, resulting in \$840 of additional expenses directly attributed to the transfer station.

11. Meeting House. The meeting house building is a town asset. The meetinghouse committee is a separate corporate entity.

12. Vermont Municipal Bond Bank. The town applied for a bond of \$410,000 for the new garage and borrowed \$550,000 in a bond anticipation note. The following is the remaining payment schedule for the 20-year bond, at net interest cost of 4.51 percent.

	Principal	Interest	Debt Service
2024	20,000	3,708	23,708
2025	20,000	2,787	22,787
2026	20,000	1,862	21,862
2027	20,000	933	20,933
	\$ 80,000	\$ 9,290	\$89,290

13. Pension Funds. Town employees eligible for the Vermont Municipal Employees’ Retirement System are required to pay 3.75% of wages and the Town contributes 5.25% which are expenses in the financial statements. These rates are expected to increase in July of 2024, but they have not been determined by the legislature at this time. The town currently has three members. Vesting occurs upon reaching 5 years of creditable service. Additional information is available at the Vermont State Treasurer’s website.

14. Lease Purchase. The town has entered a Lease Purchase Agreement on November 16, 2020, for a John Deere loader, payments will be \$47,446.94 per year for 3 years, due July 16. Total amount \$142,341 including interest. These payments will be a transfer from the Road Equipment Sinking Fund.

15. Line of Credit. Because of the flooding in July, the Town obtained on August 3, 2023, a line of credit of \$750,000 at 3.99% interest for one year period from the Community Bank.

16. Federal Emergency Management Administration. Projects are currently being compiled for submission on the various areas damaged in July. Marc Cimonetti is our administrator for this work and has addressed progress in the Emergency Management Report. It is expected that the Town will be reimbursed within one year with FEMA reimbursing 75% and the State of Vermont the remaining 25% of costs for the various projects.

17. Glebe Lots. Two 100-acre lots were set aside by the Legislature (or Governor) when the town was originally chartered. The revenues from these leases are to be set aside for the purpose of supporting the school, colleges, and churches of the Town. The Selectboard is currently reviewing the leases.

TOWN OF SHREWSBURY - Treasurer's Report
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Year Ending December 31, 2023

GRAND LIST

Real Estate and Equipment	\$ 167,422,300
Less Exemptions	<u>11,359,900</u>

TOTAL GRAND LIST

\$ 156,062,400

TAXES BILLED

Municipal Grand List	1,560,624	
Tax Rate	<u>0.4557</u>	
Municipal Taxes Billed		711,176.15
Education Grand List-Non-Resident	692,916	
Tax Rate-Statewide Share	<u>1.599</u>	
Education Non-Resident Taxes Billed		1,107,972.72
Education Grand List-Homestead	876,019	
Tax Rate-Local Share	<u>1.5689</u>	
Education Resident Taxes Billed		1,374,386.18
Municipal Grand List	\$ 1,560,624	
Local Agreement Tax Share	<u>0.0015</u>	
Local Agreement Taxes Billed		2,341.14
Municipal Grand List	\$ 1,560,624	
Appropriations	<u>0.1192</u>	
Local Agreement Taxes Billed		186,026.34

TOTAL TAXES BILLED

3,381,902.53

TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR

Taxes Collected	3,265,915.63
Delinquent Taxes	126,828.95
Accounts Receivable 2024	2,316.75
Adjustments/Changes	(1,056.55)
Refunds/Overpayments	<u>(12,102.25)</u>

TOTAL TAXES ACCOUNTED

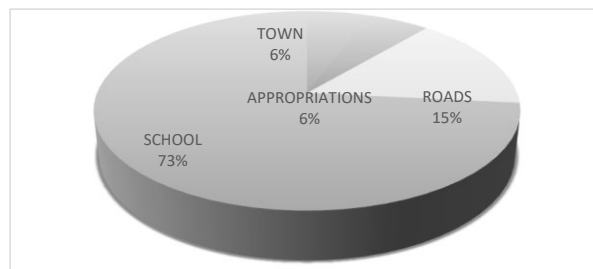
3,381,902.53

TAX RATE PERCENTAGES

The 2023 Tax Rate as follows:

General Town	0.4557	711,176.15
Appropriations	0.1192	186,026.34
Local Agreement Rate	0.0015	2,341.14
Schools Residential	1.5689	1,374,386.18
Schools Non-Residential	1.599	<u>1,107,972.72</u>
		<u>3,381,902.53</u>

Resident	2.1453
Non-Resident	2.1754



Town of Shrewsbury - Treasurer's Report
2023 TAX COMPARISON

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GRAND LIST</u>		<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>TAXES BILLED</u>
2023	1,560,624	Residential	2.1454	3,381,903
		Non-Residential	2.1755	
2022	1,666,176	Residential	2.0452	3,234,576
		Non-Residential	2.1355	
2021	1,668,192	Residential	2.0596	3,233,533
		Non-Residential	2.118	
2020	1,670,863	Residential	1.8745	2,920,396
		Non-Residential	1.8912	
2019	1,664,196	Residential	1.914	2,969,470
		Non-Residential	1.9311	
2018	1,657,498	Residential	1.9366	3,013,767
		Non-Residential	1.9878	
2017	1,655,868	Residential	1.9122	2,956,890
		Non-Residential	1.9428	
2016	1,625,801	Residential	1.7791	2,739,762
		Non-Residential	1.8793	
2015	1,618,198	Residential	1.7589	2,725,958
		Non-Residential	1.9266	
2014	1,621,270	Residential	1.8063	2,766,744
		Non-Residential	1.9372	

Reappraisal complete in 2010.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES REPORT
For the year ending December 31, 2023

Delinquent Tax Collections and Balance

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023*	58,328.85
Warrant to Collect, October 20, 2023	126,889.45
1st Amendment to Warrant, 11/21/2023	(60.50)
Total taxes delinquent	185,157.80
Less delinquent taxes collected in 2023	(142,107.96)
Balance outstanding December 31, 2023	43,049.84
2nd Amendment to Warrant, 01/17/2024	1,709.81
Payments received up to 2/06/2024	(8,656.10)
Taxes in Arrears as of 2/06/2024	36,103.55

Delinquent Taxes still due as of 2/06/2024 (18 accounts)

Tax year Name	Tax Balance	Notes
2023 FELION GREGORY M	2,569.33	payment plan
2017 CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE	1,258.38	
2022 FRYDEL IRENE	3,367.68	payment plan
2023 FRYDEL IRENE	3,430.60	payment plan
2023 GAYLORD MERCEDES	2,287.96	payment plan
2022 GREGORY JOHN O III	143.08	
2023 HUNTER PAM, WILLIAM JR., HAROLD, GEORGE	243.65	
2023 LEES, RICHARD & ADRIENNE	3,054.27	
2023 MCWILLIAMS, MARK	267.58	
2023 PAILING LAWRENCE MONA	850.58	payment plan
2023 PAUL HILARY ADAMS	3,217.26	payment plan
2023 PEER CHRISTOPHER	63.95	
2022 RANTANEN DONNA	121.04	
2023 RANTANEN DONNA	317.09	
2023 SCHIERMEYER SARAH	1,709.81	
2023 VERMONT PROPERTY VENTURES, INC	897.02	
2023 WALLACE HARRY & CHARLOTTE	1,986.34	payment plan
2023 WELLENIUS JOHN	10,317.93	
Balance of Taxes in Arrears	36,103.55	

Delinquent Taxes and Fees collected in 2023

	Taxes collected	Fees collected	NSF Fees
Edmund Hemmer	29,064.90	2,325.18	
Steven Nicholson	113,043.06	8,994.82	
Totals for 2023	142,107.96	11,320.00	18.00
Reimbursements for postage received in 2023	70.95		

*The difference between the 2022 ending balance and the 2023 beginning balance is (148.85). The amended warrant for (148.85) was received on 1/1/2023 but was booked in the General Ledger in 2022.

I want to thank Ed Hemmer for his help getting me started as the new Collector of Delinquent taxes

Steven Nicholson
Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 LISTERS' REPORT

2023 was a year of change for the Shrewsbury Board of Listers. Three new listers formed the board. Scott Ryan was elected chair and Clara Krueger was elected clerk with Becki Bates coming on to fill out the Board.

Lisa Wright was hired this year to be contract assessor and guide our new board through their positions. She has been an invaluable asset, and we plan to have her as our contract assessor for 2024.

Our CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) for 2023 is 78.4%, which is down from last year's 86.99%. Our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) for 2023 is 19.83%, which is up from last year's 15.423%.

As the state updated requirements for reappraisal in 2023, we again have just missed the cut off for an order from the state of Vermont for reappraisal for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Ryan, Chair



July 2023 flooding in Cuttingsville along the Mill River.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SELECTBOARD REPORT

The Town accepted the 2023 Local Emergency Management Plan and Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement in April.

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department continues to work for the Town, enforcing speed limits in Town and Cuttingsville and serving other law enforcement needs for Shrewsbury. In 2024, we will increase the hours worked by the Sheriff's Department.

In December, VTTrans again recommended that the Cuttingsville speed limit revert to previously posted limits. The final decision by the Vermont Traffic Committee was tabled until the next meeting. The meeting will take place in the summer of 2024. The Town will continue to utilize the speed cart, concentrating on speeding in Cuttingsville and other locations in Town. The Sheriff's Department will increase its presence in Cuttingsville in 2024.

The Town has used ARPA funding to digitize Shrewsbury's Land Records; this is an essential accomplishment towards modernization for our Town.

The Selectboard has decided to increase compensation for all Town employees in 2024, primarily to obtain and secure talent for the Town. Employee compensation for our Town employees needs to keep up with the times. The Town Road Crew should be at four full-time members by spring which is necessary to keep up the service we have appreciated for years.

The State of Vermont continues to put more responsibility on our Town both fiscally and in human resources, which will continue in the future.

The need for individuals to step up to serve in our community is more significant than ever. Our Town needs people to serve in the Town office and the Volunteer Fire Department. Serving our community is a privilege and a responsibility we hope you recognize.

Aaron Korzun, Chair



Francis Wyatt



Marc Cimonetti



Town of Shrewsbury
STATEMENT OF REVENUES-GENERAL AND ROADS
BUDGETED AND ACTUAL
Year ended December 31, 2023

	ACTUAL 2022	BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024
REVENUES				
TAXES:				
Current Property Taxes	694,771	711,236	774,391	971,027
Delinquent Tax	119,848		126,829	
Property Tax Receipts-Other				
Less: Warned Items	(174,068)		(186,068)	
Current Property Taxes for General & Roads	640,551	711,236	715,152	971,027
Federal in Lieu of Taxes	12,739	12,739	13,649	13,649
State In Lieu of Taxes	38,213	38,213	38,213	38,213
Land Use Taxes and Release of Land Use	61,227	45,000	63,260	60,000
Railroad Tax	480	480	480	480
Total Other Tax Receipts	112,659	96,432	115,602	112,342
ROADS:				
Paving Grant				
Grant in Aid: Shunpike Rd.	12,928		-	
Grants in Aid				27,000
State Aid to Roads	139,344	141,207	216,018	144,000
Highway Supplement, Restricted Use Funds	7,608		-	
Services Rendered - Roads	5,185		-	-
Weight Permits	255	255	270	300
Total Road Receipts	165,320	141,462	216,288	171,300
OTHER RECEIPTS:				
ARPA Funds, Restricted Use Funds	146,991	-		-
Act 60 Funds, Restricted Use funds	6,650		6,650	6,650
Conservation Commission, Restricted Use Funds	143		244	-
Dog Licenses	356	350	372	375
Fines Received	1,289		2,017	1,500
Interest Income, General Fund	419	400	1,860	500
Leased Land	60	30	60	30
Liquor Licenses	370	370	370	370
Misc. income, Misc. fees	26	100	302	100
Recycling	111	100	6	-
Restoration Fees, Restricted use funds	4,812		2,376	-
School Tax Reconciliation-previous year	19,896		25,553	-
Transfer Station Punch Cards	13,324	13,300	14,138	14,000
Zoning Permits/DRB Hearing Fees/Subdivision Permits	2,583	2,400	1,410	1,400
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Grant				-
Worker's Comp. Insurance Reimbursement	383			-
Total Other Receipts	197,413	17,050	55,358	24,925
TOTAL REVENUE	1,115,943	966,180	1,102,400	1,279,594
Cash Beginning Balance General Fund	286,720	224,493	224,493	82,270
Less Restricted Use Funds Received	(166,204)	-	(9,270)	(6,650)
Available Receivables & Pre-Paid less Payables	(65,132)	(28,075)	(74,456)	13,584
Transfers from Reserve and Restricted Funds	81,224	97,247	181,856	40,800
Cash Available for Expenses General Fund	1,252,551	1,259,844	1,425,023	1,409,598

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL EXPENSES-BUDGETED AND ACTUAL
Year ended December 31, 2023

	ACTUAL 2022	BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024
GENERAL EXPENSES				
TRANSFER STATION				
Tipping Fees	10,318	11,000	11,466	11,000
Hauling	7,490	7,500	9,200	7,500
Tipping-Plastic, Cardboard		3,600		3,600
Hauling- Plastic, Cardboard		2,400		2,400
Salary-Transfer Station Attendants	25,258	27,456	25,579	37,752
Salary- Transfer Station Administrator	1,132	1,092	1,050	1,500
Payroll Expenses	2,143	2,184	3,127	3,003
Maintenance	2,699	3,000	3,750	3,000
Solid Waste Dues	5,064	5,085	5,085	5,085
Equipment/Facilities	1,313	1,300	15,460	1,300
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal	1,263	1,300	1,405	1,300
Supplies	655	700	519	700
Workers Compensation	1,555	1,708	1,647	2,100
Solid Waste Closing Implementation Plan	-	2,000		2,000
Electricity	1,411	1,411	1,222	1,700
Phone	623	623	636	650
Composting	3,445	5,980	4,290	6,000
Electronics Recycling	47	500	4,146	500
Total Transfer Station	64,414	78,839	88,582	91,090
TOWN OFFICERS EXPENSE				
Planning Commission Expense	-	550	42	3,300
Emergency Management	76	-	-	
Building/Property/Liability Insurance	2,999	3,740	1,912	4,500
Law Enforcement Liability Insurance	375	542	240	750
Public Officials Liability Insurance	1,113	1,664	2,648	1,800
Emp. Practices Liability Insurance	939	1,262	1,853	1,500
Crime Insurance		519	117	519
Workers Compensation	286	270	264	300
Office Heat/Electric	5,807	6,800	1,838	6,800
Training/Education	430	650	256	650
Postage	2,756	2,600	1,240	3,500
Supplies & Equipment	9,137	3,800	3,824	5,000
Elections	2,501	2,370	1,698	7,500
Software	1,116	1,800	2,235	1,800
Selectboard Salary	3,000	3,900	3,900	3,900
Other Town Officers Salary	52,529	70,460	55,541	97,400
Payroll Expenses	6,062	7,341	6,968	9,402
Retirement	1,965	1,890	965	2,205
Office Communications	7,537	3,800	5,078	3,900
Mileage Reimbursement	890	1,000	706	1,500
Building Maintenance/Repair	4,321	23,000	4,130	23,000
Warnings	337	500	178	500
Town Report	2,088	1980	2203.01	2500
Total Town Officers Expense	106,262	140,437	97,834	182,226

Continued

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL EXPENSES-BUDGETED AND ACTUAL (Continued)
Year ended December 31, 2023

	ACTUAL 2022	BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024
LISTERS				
Lister Salaries	22,979	47,500	10,009	29,500
Payroll Expenses	1,736	1,760	766	1,800
Supplies and Software	1,272	2,700	612	6,000
Upgrade Parcel Mapping	1,885	1,500	1,600	1,500
Tax Appeal Legal/Consulting Fees	3,505	3,500	14,663	3,500
Training & Training Mileage	50	100	266	1,000
Total Listers Expense	31,426	57,060	27,915	43,300
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS				
Animal Damage and Control	92	300	-	300
Audit	7,000	4,800	4,800	10,000
Conservation Commission	1,249	1,250	1,250	1,250
County Court Tax	12,581	15,367	12,279	16,000
Garage Bond Principal and Interest Payment	24,085	24,635	23,216	25,000
Interest expense, other	6			
Law Enforcement	17,349	10,294	9,928	20,000
Legal Fees	70	2,000	200	2,000
Miscellaneous expenses	59	-	1	
Regional Ambulance Service	4,224	4,224		4,384
Rutland Regional Planning Commission Dues	1,000	1,025	1,000	1,050
Town Events	100	500	310	500
Vermont League of Cities & Towns Dues	2,462	2,500	2,542	2,750
Total Other Disbursements	70,276	66,895	55,526	83,234
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	272,378	343,232	269,857	399,850

Town of Shrewsbury
ROAD EXPENSES-BUDGETED AND ACTUAL
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	ACTUAL 2022	BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024
ROAD EXPENSES				
ROADS				
Chloride	8,480	9,000	10,175	12,000
Floodwork			225,446	
Grant in Aid - Frank Lord Road			1,540	
Gravel and Stone	44,947	60,000	42,889	60,000
Salt	31,664	40,000	39,814	50,000
Winter Sand	40,165	65,000	57,778	70,000
Erosion Control	255	500	40	500
Stormwater Municipal Rds. General Permit	1,350	1,990	1,765	1,800
Culverts & Bridges	34,392	8,000	8,026	8,000
Tree Removal	2,730	3,000	1,800	3,000
Paving	121,240	160,000	132,416	160,000
Equipment Rental	928	7,000	1,818	7,000
Salaries	145,679	196,000	162,857	274,620
Payroll Expenses	11,112	14,994	11,643	21,008
VT State Retirement	6,391	10,290	8,001	14,761
VLCT Workmen's Compensation	7,344	7,011	9,753	16,477
Health Insurance/Dental Insurance	44,632	82,312	49,498	96,567
VLCT Unemployment	528	572	572	600
Training	55	100	3,250	150
Other	273	100	-	100
Total Roads	502,165	665,870	769,081	796,583
TOWN EQUIPMENT				
Parts & Repairs	45,981	55,444	68,966	55,000
Tires & Repairs	5,470	9,000	12,611	15,000
Fuels & Lubricants	75,076	80,000	55,237	60,000
Lease payment	47,447	47,447	47,447	-
New Equipment	8,944	5,000	5,418	10,000
Misc. Supplies	390	500	453	500
Signs	3,979	3,000	1,785	3,000
Safety Equipment & PPE	214	500	778	2,500
Vehicle Insurance		6,091		
Total Town Equipment*	187,501	206,982	192,695	146,000
TOWN GARAGES				
Equipment	366	1,550	132	1,550
Heating Fuel	4,814	6,000	9,660	7,500
Maintenance & Supplies	2,180	1,500	1,281	1,500
Electricity	2,008	3,000	2,452	3,000
Communications	3,287	4,000	3,913	5,740
Buildings & Repair	1,862	25,000	3,178	25,000
Property & Casualty Insurance	11,755	8,802	13,355	15,009
Total Town Garages	26,272	49,852	33,969	59,299
TOTAL ROAD EXPENSES	715,939	922,704	995,745	1,001,882
TOTAL GENERAL & ROADS EXPENSES	988,317	1,265,935	1,265,603	1,401,732

*Vehicle insurance was omitted from the 2023 budget for Total Town Equipment in the 2022 Annual Report as well as subsequent 2023 budget totals.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

This year we saw two major flooding events in Shrewsbury on July 6th, 2023 and July 10, 2023. There was extensive damage to many of our roads and culverts.

Special recognition should be given to the Shrewsbury Road Crew who worked extensively during the storm to mitigate further damages by the significant volume of water. Our road crew and well as several independent contractors were immediately working to repair the damages to our roads after the storms. Special thanks to the independent contractors that assisted. Beardmore Excavating, Cold River Enterprises, C.N. Webster Excavating, Markowski Excavating, PVF Services, Irsa Trucking were critical in the effort to timely and efficiently repair our town roads.

The most extensive damages occurred on the Cold River Road, Upper Cold River Road, Crown Point Road, Russellville Road, Eastham Road in several locations, Bailey Road, Tabor Road, Kieffer Road, Town Hill Road as well as the village of Cuttingsville.

We have been continuing to work with FEMA for reimbursement for the damages. We anticipate receiving funds during 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Cimonetti, EMC
Aaron Korzun, EMD



Flood damage to Cold River Road
(above) and some of the rocks needed to
repair it (right).

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Town received \$27,000 from the Municipal Grants in Aid program for 2023, which brought high priority portions of Frank Lord Road and Eastham Road into compliance with the state's Clean Water Act. Due to the July flooding, only part of the work has been completed, with the remainder to be completed in 2024. Eight tenths of a mile of Eastham Road was repaved, and three tenths were reclaimed, with gravel added to improve the base. The July flooding was our main focus during the summer to get the roads back in shape. Thank you again to the numerous contractors that helped the Town get all the roads fixed quickly. Thank you to all the people that offered to help in any way that they could, and thank you to Shrewsbury residents for your patience and support.

Normal road maintenance continued the rest of the year and included:

- a. Eight culverts were replaced.
- b. 4,050 tons of gravel and stone were used on various roads.
- c. 5,087 tons of sand were stockpiled for winter use.
- d. 0.8 miles of Eastham Road were paved.

Respectfully submitted,
James Carrara
Road Commissioner

2023 Inventory of Town Equipment Estimated Value	
2020 International HV513 with plow and sander	\$145,000
2017 International 7600 with plow and sander	\$85,000
2015 Caterpillar 12 M 3 Grader	\$250,000
2015 International 7600 with plow and sander	\$45,000
2014 Ford F-550 with plow and sander	\$25,000
2010 International 7600 with plow and sander	\$10,000
2015 Massey Ferguson 5710 Tractor with mower	\$75,000
2009 John Deere 5065E tractor with mower, broom	\$15,000
2005 Caterpillar 307C Excavator	\$25,000
2020 Cam Trailer	\$18,000
2019 John Deere 544L Loader	\$135,000
2013 Caterpillar 430F Backhoe	\$35,000
1995 Woodchuck Brush Chipper	\$4,000
Chloride tank with spray bar	\$1,000
Miscellaneous Tools	\$10,000
Goosen Bale Chopper	\$4,000
Total	\$882,000

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk is elected for a three-year term and is required by statute to receive, record, and maintain the Town's land records. Other statutory responsibilities include registering voters and maintaining the voter checklist in conjunction with the Board of Civil Authority, and serving as the presiding officer for all elections. The Town Clerk also serves as the clerk of the Board of Civil Authority in matters related to appeals of lister grievances, and as the clerk of the Board of Abatement in matters related to appeals of tax assessments. Additional responsibilities include recording town proceedings and maintaining the agendas and minutes of various town boards and commissions on the Town website (www.shrewsburyvt.org) in accordance with Vermont Open Meeting Law.

The Town Clerk maintains Vermont Department of Health vital records for the Town which includes births, deaths and civil marriages, and issues civil marriage licenses and certified copies of other vital records. The Clerk also issues and maintains a record of animal licenses for the Department of Public Safety. Town clerks are often asked to disseminate information from various State agencies to local constituencies. Town clerks also take on responsibilities that are specific to their particular municipality. In Shrewsbury, the Clerk issues and maintains transfer station vehicle permits and punch cards and coordinates addresses with the statewide E-911 board.

In 2023 Shrewsbury had one election: the Town Meeting.

This year was challenging for the Town office. Megan LaChance resigned her position as the Town Clerk as of September 1st, 2023. Selectboard member Marc Cimonetti filled in as an interim clerk until another person could be found or elected in March of 2024. The Selectboard was fortunate to appoint Rebecca Rice as Interim Town Clerk on January 17, 2024. I would like to add a special thanks to Mark Goodwin and Betsy Jesser who will be assisting with the election process. I would also like to thank the residents of Shrewsbury for their patience during this transition process.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Cimonetti, Interim Town Clerk

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE REPORT

Every two years in November, Shrewsbury elects seven justices of the peace (JP). That number is the maximum allowed by the Vermont Constitution for a town Shrewsbury's size. JP's elected in November 2022 with terms beginning February 1, 2023 were Sally Deinzer, Barry Griffith, Betsy Jesser, Taffy Maynard, Trish Norton, Adrienne Raymond and Lee Wilson. JP's are not compensated for their services. The following JP responsibilities are prescribed by Vermont statutes:

1. Elections - Justices are members of the Shrewsbury Board of Civil Authority (BCA). The BCA is charged with the conduct of all elections that occur in town. Upon request, JPs are also responsible for delivering absentee ballots to voters who are ill or physically disabled. The BCA periodically reviews the voter checklist for accuracy.
2. Tax Appeals - As BCA members, JP's hear and decide town property tax assessment appeals when local property owners do not agree with the final decision of the listers. In addition to a written determination, every appeal requires a site visit, which results in a property description report.
3. Tax Abatements – JP's are members of the Shrewsbury Board of Abatement. This board determines if certain legally defined circumstances exist to forgive property taxes in whole or in part.
4. Marriages - Justices may also solemnize marriage in Vermont.
5. Oaths and Notary - Justices may administer oaths in all cases where an oath is required, unless a specific law makes a different provision. JP's may also perform notarial acts. To do so they must have applied for and renewed their notary commission through the Secretary of State's office.
6. Magistrate – JP's may also serve as a magistrate when so commissioned by the Supreme Court.

There were no property tax appeals or abatement requests in 2023. Justices met once to review the voter checklist.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Wilson
Vice Chair, Board of Civil Authority



Shrewsbury Mountain School Pre-K Students enjoy story time with their teacher Ms. Hollinger

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There were a similar number of permits this year, but the Zoning Office did not feel as busy because not as many properties were purchased with all the resulting questions. This feels like a welcome slowdown. Eighteen building permits were issued. Of these, two were for a new home and a camp, and the others were for various decks, sheds, tent platforms, solar arrays, and garages. Notice of two agricultural buildings was given.

As I say every year, please call before starting any building project to check on whether it needs a building or other town permits. Even if a permit is not required, setbacks to your neighbors' property line and to the road need to be followed.

If you are assuming that a structure does not need a permit because it has no foundation and is temporary, please consider that temporary means it is in place less than half the year. How many of us and our neighbors have "temporary buildings" on their property for far longer? How many of us have storage containers and plastic covered storage structures that should have a permit?

So again, please call me if you are building and might need a permit or have already built something that may have needed a permit. You will need to submit an application showing that your structure follows the property line setbacks and other zoning requirements, pay the fee, and I can likely issue a permit. It is far easier to make sure everything is proper on your property before you decide to refinance or sell and everything is rushed.

As always, thank you all for your good humor in the face of regulations and fees. Following the rules helps us all live together more amicably.

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Raymond, Zoning Administrator

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD REPORT

The Shrewsbury Development Review Board (DRB) reviews applications for subdivision of land, variances from the town's zoning regulations, conditional uses, development in overlay zones and appeals from decisions of the zoning administrator.

The DRB meets as required, based on the applications received. All hearings are publicly warned and open to the public. In addition, we notify all adjacent landowners of applications in accordance with state statute. All records of applications, hearings and decisions by the DRB are retained at the town office and are a public record.

Applications to the DRB may be obtained from the zoning administrator, who will inform the applicant about the information needed by the board to conduct a hearing. The DRB's decisions are made in accordance with the town's duly adopted unified zoning and subdivision ordinances.

During 2023, the DRB held five hearings, which consisted of: one conditional use application, one subdivision, one appeal of the zoning administrator's decision and two boundary line adjustments.

Applicants are reminded to review the town's zoning and subdivision regulations in preparation for an application to the board. In addition, applicants are reminded that there are strict State regulations regarding development near wetlands and flood-prone areas, as well as State requirements for design of wastewater disposal systems. Questions can be addressed to the zoning administrator.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Youngstrom, Chair

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

The duties of the Shrewsbury Planning Commission (SPC) are varied and include the following:

- Prepare a town plan and amendments to the town plan for consideration by the legislative body (selectboard);
- Prepare and present land use regulations;
- Undertake capacity studies and make recommendations on matters of land development, economic development, wetland protection, historic and scenic preservation, etc.;
- Hold public meetings that relate to the work of the SPC with other departments of the municipality;
- Participate in a regional planning program.

Some years, the Shrewsbury Planning Commission initiates significant changes to town regulations or our town plan. However, 2023 was a year of mostly behind-the-scenes work for the SPC. Some of this work included collecting updated 2020 census data in preparation for updating the town plan. The SPC also began looking into a number of changes to town zoning regulations. These will require small updates to keep our zoning in compliance with new state statutes such as Act 47, which was signed into law on June 5, 2023 and amends existing law to provide more opportunities for housing development within state, regional, and local planning and development regulations. With the help of our zoning administrator, the SPC also began looking into creating a separate building permit application for FEMA mapped flood hazard zones to simplify the application process.

The SPC also took on a big piece of work at the request of the Selectboard in drafting a Class 4 Highway Policy with the input of the Highway Commissioner, and drawing from other towns' existing policies. As this draft becomes finalized it will be presented to the Selectboard for review, before being adopted by the Selectboard at a publicly warned meeting.

The SPC is planning a town-wide Community Values Mapping event that will take place in April 2024. This will be a fun community event in which community members will mark on a town map, areas of particular value to them. Some examples of such values include - recreational, historic, wildlife, scenic, and working lands. It will be a unique opportunity to map out parts of Shrewsbury that are important to us, and the information will be aggregated on a single map to show the parts of our town that are valued for different reasons. This can be a valuable tool, among others, for helping our town to preserve what we love about Shrewsbury for future generations. The information will inform the revision of the Town Plan, a task which the SPC will begin in 2025.

SPC was delighted to welcome a fourth member, Connor Self. The SPC currently has four members of a maximum five-member body. Reach out if you would like to learn more about the valuable work of serving on the planning commission. The SPC meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. We welcome input and dialogue from everyone in our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Fitzbeauchamp

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Summer of 2023 brought flooding from two storms. Water may not be safe to use for drinking, cooking, or cleaning after a flood. Going forward, remember private water systems can become contaminated. Free drinking water test kits are available. Call 802-338-4724 to order a kit.

In July, the way that the Town Health Officer (THO) would issue a notice of intent to seek a health order changed. This change affects the appeal rights provided to a person or party against whom a health order or emergency health order has been issued pursuant to 18 V.S.A. 126 & 127.

Procedural changes have also changed for the THO declaring a property "condemned to be destroyed." Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. 11, a condemnation order cannot cause the occupants of the property to be evicted.

In August, changes were made in the Rental Housing Health Code, to go in effect January 1, 2024. The Division of Fire Safety will begin administering the new Rental Housing and Safety Program. This may be viewed at <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/rentalhousinghealthandsafety>.

One dog bite incident was reported. The dog was up to date on rabies vaccination.

I have also had the pleasure of speaking with Shrewsbury residents and have been able to direct them to various Vermont Health department resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Felder, RN

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The responsibility of the Shrewsbury Cemetery Commission is to oversee and maintain the small family cemeteries that were created during the settlement of the town in the late 1700's and early 1800's. Normally two or three families living near each other would select a piece of property that they would share for the burial of family members. Therefore, these cemeteries are important historically because they reflect the early settlement patterns and families in the town. Now, in 2024, these cemeteries are almost all located on private property. Occasionally commission members are asked for genealogy information.

We are very grateful to the property owners and neighbors who care for these cemeteries. We thank the Tabor family for maintaining the Colburn Cemetery in East Shrewsbury, Leonard Page and his son Leonard Jr. at the Plumley-Page Cemetery on the Upper Cold Road, Red and Judy Landon at the First Cuttingsville Cemetery, Donna Smith and son Jeff at the Shrewsbury Center Cemetery and the Mitchell and Haley families for the maintenance of their family plots.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bennie Carrara

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

In 2023 the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission met our goals for the year and then some. Green Up Day continues to be a day that brings a sense of pride and community in working together. This year 98 volunteers picked up 88 bags of litter and covered 57 miles of roads.

As always, our Invasive Czarina Pam Darrow and many volunteers and landowners were hard at work identifying and removing harmful invasive plants throughout the year.

The SCC also had a very full year of educational programs, starting with a special program for the whole Mountain School community with educator and naturalist Michael Caduto, followed by a blue bird box building workshop attended by 28 different students and families.

There was a fuller than usual line up of Walks and Talks, beginning with a tour of the Stewart Maple Sugar operation, followed by a bird call identification walk led by Linda Shelvey and Connie Youngstrom, a fern walk with author Lynn Levine, a walk and talk on mushroom biodiversity and ecology by Meg Madden, and a night with Moths led by JoAnn Russo.

The SCC and friends finished planting additional trees and shrubs in the new bend in the Cold River Road that Gary Salmon had started. The purpose of this area, now known as Gary's Grove in his memory, is to encourage land stabilization of a fragile area overlooking a steep bank.

Under the leadership of Linda Shelvey, the Wildlife Road Crossing Project completed its first full winter. The purpose of the project is to identify wildlife road crossings in our town to create data about the number and variety of animals whose travel corridors intersect our roadways. This will be with an eye toward educating landowners and town management on ways to conserve and protect these areas and understand the importance of conserving forested land on each side of the roadway. This first winter 16 volunteers identified 329 tracks belonging to 16 different species, including fisher, otter, bobcat, and ermine. More volunteers received training for the winter of 2024 and are providing even more data. We have begun to record bear corridor data as well.

Lastly, coordinating efforts and a grant from VT Fish and Wildlife and Vermont Coverts, the SCC put together a collection of information, maps, and gifts into a welcome bag for new landowners. We hope it will not only welcome them to our town but provide them with contact information if they wish to manage their land to provide healthy habitats for all kinds of wildlife. We encourage new landowners to contact the SCC if they would like a bag.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Duda, Chair

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT

I would be remiss to report anything without first mentioning what a wonderful job Gary Salmon did as tree warden. His dedication, thoroughness, wit, and obvious joy in doing the job will not be matched by me. That said I will be working closely with the Shade Tree Commission as we inventory all "shade trees" in the town right-of-way. We have been fortunate for years having a skilled road crew who are able to save the town thousands of dollars by removing dead and dangerous trees without contracting it out. I also will be investigating grants available for tree planting. There are several locations in all the town centers that would benefit from new plantings. Trees grow fast. I will try to be open and available to any suggestions or concerns regarding our trees.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eldred French, Tree Warden



The Shrewsbury Historical Society celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 2023 Shrewsbury Day Parade.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Your Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department responded to 24 emergency calls in 2023 – 20 in town, and 4 mutual aid calls assisting neighboring departments. Leading the list by category were motor vehicle accidents (6), followed by alarm activations (5), trail rescues (3) and chimney fires (2). An appliance fire, brush fire, downed power line and propane tank emergency complete the list. We were particularly busy during July's high waters, as we monitored a flooded section of the Cold River Road, opened our Cuttingsville Station as a temporary shelter, and checked in on homes in Cuttingsville village and elsewhere to ensure that townspeople were safe.

We train throughout the year to make sure that we are ready for any emergency. In 2023, in addition to in-house drills, members attended the Regional Fire School and an informative training session regarding lithium-ion battery fires. Junior Firefighter Ethan Severy completed the weeklong Cadet Academy in Pittsford. We also monitor our equipment and vehicles to make sure they will work properly when needed. In 2023 we acquired new "AED" defibrillators, following extensive research by member Jeff Dayton. We also replaced our obsolete thermal imaging cameras (to detect fires hidden in walls) with the help of generous donations received in response to our annual mailer. Thank you.

In May we mourned the loss of our last surviving charter member – Alan G. Ridlon, Sr. Al joined SVFD at age 16 and spent a remarkable 70 years in the fire service – in Shrewsbury and Clarendon and with the Vermont State Firefighters Association. We were honored to host a largely attended celebration of Al's life at Cuttingsville Station. He was a role model and inspiration for all of us. Al will be missed, but not forgotten.

At SVFD's 71st Annual Meeting in October, Fire Chief Phil Severy presented our longtime President Jack Perry and new Secretary Mark Goodwin with well-deserved awards in recognition of their exemplary service over the past year. With help from neighbors Mark Youngstrom and John Berryhill we continued to investigate solutions for our undersized fire station in Cuttingsville. That time-consuming research will continue in 2024.

The Fire Department's funding requests on the 2024 Warning remain the same as in past years. Our volunteer members appreciate your continued support. Be smart and stay safe in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Perry, President

Bob Snarski, Vice President

Phillip Severy, Chief

Mark Goodwin, Secretary

Barry Griffith, Treasurer

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 FOREST FIRE WARDENS' REPORT

This year we did not have any brush fires. Again, we would like to remind you that if you are going to burn, burn only natural wood and call for a PERMIT from Al Ridlon Jr. or Kevin Brown.

Thank you and be fire safe!

Kevin Brown

(802) 775-6194 (H) (802) 775-5518 (W) (802) 345-8668 (C)

Al Ridlon, Jr.

(802) 492-3722 (H) 282-3642(C)

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
 Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
RECEIPTS				
Town of Shrewsbury	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Raised by SVFD	\$10,642	\$15,000	\$16,253	\$15,000
Total Operating Income	\$45,642	\$50,000	\$51,253	\$50,000

EXPENSES				
New Equipment	\$5,604	\$7,500	\$15,187	\$7,500
Operating	\$4,687	\$5,000	\$6,190	\$5,000
Maintenance	\$5,280	\$7,000	\$4,061	\$7,000
Stations	\$8,095	\$7,500	\$3,141	\$7,500
Insurance	\$8,665	\$8,800	\$8,648	\$8,800
Communications	\$2,961	\$3,200	\$3,371	\$3,200
Heating	\$3,523	\$4,400	\$3,350	\$4,400
Electric	\$2,132	\$2,500	\$2,615	\$2,500
Dues/Training	\$560	\$1,000	\$1,562	\$1,000
Fundraising	\$2,929	\$3,000	\$4,238	\$3,000
Miscellaneous				
Bank Charges	\$60	\$100	\$60	\$100
Total Operating Expense	\$44,496	\$50,000	\$52,422	\$50,000

GENERAL FUND **Beginning Balance January 1, 2023** **\$35,806**

Receipts

Town of Shrewsbury	\$35,000	
Transfer from Replacement Fund	\$15,000	
Ridlon Sr. Memorial Donations	\$950	
Refunds	\$291	
Interest Income	\$11	
Total General Fund Receipts		\$51,253

Expenditures **-\$52,422**

GENERAL FUND Ending Balance December 31, 2023 **\$34,636**

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Special Accounts for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

Replacement Fund

Opening Balance 1/1/23	\$115,926	
Transfer to Operating Account	-\$15,000	
Break Open Ticket Proceeds	\$26,285	
Mailer Donations	\$12,155	
Other Misc. Donations	\$3,125	
Interest Income	\$45	
Certificate of Deposit Purchase	-\$60,000	
Certificate of Deposit as of 12/31/23	\$61,376	
Ending Balance 12/31/23		\$143,912

Minnie Shaw Endowment Fund

Opening Balance 1/1/23	\$302,162	
Change in Investment Value	\$31,383	
Paid Investment Advisor Fees	-\$3,082	
Ending Balance 12/31/23		\$330,463

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS Ending Balance December 31, 2023	\$474,375
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On the SVFD department's Thursday night meeting following the passing of Al Ridlon Sr., the SVFD, Clarendon and Mt Holly Fire Departments marched to Al's residence, lined the driveway and came to attention while an announcement of his passing was broadcast on the Rutland County Mutual Aid Radio system.

(From *The Times of Shrewsbury*.)

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY MEETING HOUSE REPORT

The Trustees of the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House are responsible for the management and maintenance of our treasured and historic Town Hall, constructed in 1852. The Meeting House is used by the community and church, as originally intended, for town meetings, voting, dances, hearings, church services, committee meetings, receptions and parties, concerts, weddings, funerals, food divides, quilting classes, exercise classes and other community functions. It is truly one the most important buildings in town and the centerpiece of Shrewsbury Center. For the fourth year in a row, the Meeting House served as the venue for a series of wonderful outdoor community concerts, as well as the festive Shrewsbury Day.

The Shrewsbury Meeting House Trustee Board is available for any town or church function, general community or civic group gathering, and it can be reserved for private functions by town residents. For functions or events that are not free and open to the entire community, a reasonable usage fee is required and rental can be arranged through Julianne Sharrow. Appropriate use of the sanctuary must be arranged through the Shrewsbury Community Church (Karen Lorentz) and Meeting House Trustees (Julanne Sharrow), since generally only one gathering in the building is desired at the same time. Our policy is to allow use of the building by only Shrewsbury residents since the Meeting House is such a historic, fragile, and important building to the community. The building also serves as an emergency shelter since it is equipped with emergency power, internet services and has the capacity to shelter many persons.

All planned major capital improvements have been completed. The focus for the next few years will be on maintenance: replacing the Sunday School room windows and the east emergency exit and repairing the storage shed (old outhouse). Over the past 15 years, we have made well over \$100,000 in necessary improvements and repairs to this building, generally without increasing the assessment significantly to Town taxpayers or the Church. We have been able to do this largely through a few generous contributions from persons who recognize the importance of this historic building to the Town, as well as a few small grants and events such as the concerts mentioned above. Remembering the Shrewsbury Meeting House in your estate plan or year-end giving will help ensure this building is well maintained and preserved for generations to come. Contact Mark Youngstrom for more information. This year we are not requesting an increased assessment from the Town or Church with the hope of perhaps receiving some Federal funds from the Town to make the anticipated improvements.

We offer a sincere thank you to those who regularly care for the building and to all who leave the building in good condition after use. Please contact the Meeting House Trustees with any suggestions for improvements or if you are interested in helping us preserve this wonderful building.

Respectfully submitted,
The 2023 Shrewsbury Meeting House Trustees

Appointed by Town: Mark Youngstrom, Steve Spatz, Liesbeth van de Heijden; Appointed by Church: Sue Kelley, Julianne Sharrow, Karen Lorenz; Appointed by Committee: Richard Davis

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY MEETING HOUSE
Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2023 **\$8,888**

RECEIPTS

Town of Shrewsbury	\$17,000
Shrewsbury Community Church	\$5,700
Hall Rental	\$1,850
Interest	\$1
Donations	\$1,075
Other	

Total Receipts **\$25,626**

EXPENDITURES

Electricity	\$1,173
Propane	\$2,019
Telephone	\$2,074
Custodial	\$2,500
Maintenance	\$3,891
Insurance	\$7,327
Supplies	\$331
Capital Improvements	\$0

Total Disbursements **\$19,315**

ENDING BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2023 **\$15,199**

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS

	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>
RECEIPTS				
Town of Shrewsbury	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
Shrewsbury Community Church	\$5,500	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700
Hall Rental	\$450	\$500	\$1,850	\$1,000
Interest	\$0	\$3	\$1	\$1
Donations	\$3,135	\$1,500	\$1,075	\$1,000
Total Receipts	\$25,085	\$24,703	\$25,626	\$24,701
EXPENDITURES				
Electricity	\$1,207	\$1,200	\$1,173	\$1,200
Propane	\$4,376	\$4,000	\$2,019	\$2,500
Telephone	\$1,906	\$1,800	\$2,074	\$2,000
Custodial	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Maintenance	\$3,608	\$3,500	\$3,891	\$3,800
Insurance	\$6,913	\$7,276	\$7,327	\$7,244
Supplies	\$49	\$50	\$331	\$300
Capital Improvements	\$0	\$4,377	\$0	\$3,000
Miscellaneous	\$895	\$0	\$0	\$0
To Cash Reserves	\$3,632	\$0	\$0	\$2,157
Total Disbursements	\$25,085	\$24,703	\$19,315	\$24,701

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY LIBRARY REPORT

In 2023 the Library continued its 2022 return to regular hours and in-person programming. Despite some challenges of weather and contagious illnesses, we were able to maintain a reliable schedule for Library and Community Food Shelf patrons, thanks to the dedication of our trustees and remarkable volunteer staffers. The Library is open for visits, check-outs, and public computer use as follows:

Mondays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Community Food Shelf, maintained by the Shrewsbury Community Church, is located in the front entryway and is accessible whenever the Library is open.

Last year the Library circulated 3,026 books, videos, e-books, music recordings, inter-library loans, state park passes, and even snowshoes to adults and children. We welcomed 2,500 patrons and visitors and provided free WIFI and computer access.

We presented a number of outstanding programs that appealed to a wide range of adult audiences: Roberta Hemmer, DVM on Yellowstone's wildlife; Lily French on the impact of plastic; Cabot Spatz on his term as a State House page; Martha Molnar on invasive plants; poet Sarah Audsley; Tom Giffin on the VT Old Cemetery Association; George Woodard with his film, "The Farm Boy"; Stephen Abatiell on the Vietnam Friendship Village; Joan Aleshire on her new novel; and Scott Garren on the coming solar eclipse. For parents and kids, we hosted an Ice Cream Social; Sandglass Theater with their puppet show, *Oma*; the Haunted Library Halloween party; several Story Hours, and Lindsay Courcelle reading from her new children's picture book. Our continuing programs include the Famous Books Book Club, the Science Book Club, and the revived Writers' Group.

The Street Dance with Marcos Levy and the Neighbors' Band, always a highlight of our fund-raising events, was accompanied by the popular hot dog dinner. Trish Norton made a beautiful "Trees" quilt, which was raffled off to raise funds to buy books on forestry to honor our dear friend Gary Salmon, who died last year. The Annual Book Sale lasted two weeks on the honor system under the tent, and was even more successful this year. AND we were thrilled to hold our Cookie Share and Silent Auction again after several years of COVID caution! Our annual fund-raiding letter brought in revenue, replenishing several designated memorial funds, thanks to the generosity of patrons near and far.

As we have since 2005, we are requesting level funding of \$7,500. Town tax support helps cover basic operating costs: heat, electricity, telephone/internet service, and insurance. Our fund-raising pays for everything else: books, DVDs, programs, repairs, maintenance, and supplies. For 2024, we have budgeted \$23,165 for operating expenses, and have carry-over and reserve funds to cover any unexpected increases. We intend to continue to be a vital community resource for the Town and are grateful for your support over the past 48 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Aleshire & Lisa Sharrow, Co-Presidents
Donna Swartz, VT Librarian

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY LIBRARY REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE, January 1, 2023		\$ 92,261.00
RECEIPTS:		
Operating	23,192	
Capital Fund		
Restricted	2,065	
Total Receipts		25,257
EXPENDITURES:		
Operating	18,760	
Capital Fund	500	
Restricted	1,805	
Total Expenditures		(21,065)
ENDING BALANCE, December 31, 2023		<u>\$ 96,454</u>
<u>Capital Fund - Beginning January 1, 2023</u>		\$ 16,820
Receipts		
Board designation of funds		-
Expenditures		(500)
<u>Capital Fund - Ending December 31, 2023</u>		<u>\$ 16,320</u>

Restricted Revenue and Expense:

	Beginning Balances	Receipts	Expended	Ending Balances
Allan YA Book Fund	21	275	214	\$ 82
Ben Perry Fund	1,445	250	637	1,058
Childrens Program	1,209		338	871
Claire Hooper	683	-		683
Freeman Grant	40	-	-	40
Joyce Wilson Memorial	272	470	156	586
Large print books	100	-	-	100
Liz Jeffords Fund	3,500	-	-	3,500
Lorna MacDougal-Cohen Fund	(3)	20		17
Spencer Fund	631	1,000	460	1,171
Viola Parker	238	50		288
	<u>8,136</u>	<u>2,065</u>	<u>1,805</u>	<u>\$ 8,396</u>

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY LIBRARY REPORT
COMPARATIVE OPERATING REPORT

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<u>Operating Revenue:</u>				
Town	\$ 7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Donations & Unrestricted Grants	13,134	6,500	7,331	6,500
Fundraising	3,417	4,000	7,272	4,000
Interest Earned	70	50	144	50
Other income	905	900	945	800
Total Operating Revenue	<u>25,026</u>	<u>18,950</u>	<u>23,192</u>	<u>18,850</u>
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>				
Advertising	225	225	225	225
Materials: Adults	2,222	3,300	2,739	3,300
Materials: Children & YA*	478	1,600	883	800
Children's Program Expense	125	100	149	150
Equipment & Repairs	1,092	1,750	1,760	2,200
Electricity	1,340	1,500	1,130	1,500
Fuel*	3,275	3,200	1,515	2,500
Fundraising expense	875	1,000	746	1,000
Insurance	1,839	1,900	2,114	2,200
Librarian Expense	-	100		100
Maintenance	3,931	2,240	2,357	2,500
Miscellaneous	131	150	212	200
Septic	600	1,200	600	1,200
Postage	-	50		50
Postage-Interlibrary loan	189	300	314	400
Program Expense	1,912	2,100	1,526	2,100
Supplies	355	350	443	400
Telephone	1,997	2,100	2,047	2,300
Total Operating Expense	<u>20,586</u>	<u>23,165</u>	<u>18,760</u>	<u>23,125</u>
Operating revenue over/(under) operating expenses	<u>\$ 4,440</u>	<u>\$ (4,215)</u>	<u>\$ 4,432</u>	<u>\$ (4,275)</u>

* Subsequent to printing of the Town of Shrewsbury 2022 Annual Report, the Library Board of Trustees voted to change the 2023 Budget value for this category to that shown in this report.

Town of Shrewsbury
2023 SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

The Historical Society theme this year was the 90th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Shrewsbury was one of 30 towns in Vermont to host a camp. The display at the Museum was brought to life by the many photos donated by Marjorie Pierce. John Davis' father volunteered for duty, but his artistic talent was more valuable to illustrate the daily camp life for newspapers. The book on Marshall Davis and his drawings is also on display. Many of us in town remember the stories told by our elders, who worked with the corpsmen on the various projects. The camp was built where our present school is now located, a dam and road were built for egress. Then the Corps built the CCC road from Northam to Plymouth, the wooden shelter near Russell Hill, the stone shelter for a summer ranger, and a ski area, all in the Coolidge State Park. Grace Brigham rounded up a hearty CCC crew dressed in pants, shirts and hats of the time, with shovels and pickaxe tools over their shoulders, to carry the Historical Society Banner in the Shrewsbury Day Parade!

In October, Martin Podscotch, award-winning author and historian, gave a lecture on the history and legacy of the CCC in Vermont. Jeff Monder taped the presentation for PEG-TV, which can be viewed on the PEG-TV site. Mr. Podscotch enjoyed his Shrewsbury treat of an overnight at Maple Crest B&B so he could visit with the 5th & 6th graders the next day to help them envision the camp. He said the best thrill of the trip was Grace Brigham & Karen Lorentz taking him on a hike to the stone house and where the shelter had been in the park.

This year, NINE graduating sixth graders were presented with the Shrewsbury book: "Our Town, As It Was" autographed by author Dawn Hance. They will have a remembrance of where they lived while growing up.

Many thanks to the Stewart Maple crew for posting the American Flags this summer. Cuttingsville was so patriotic!

The Historical Society treated the Vermont Old Cemetery Association crew to well-earned refreshments after a busy Saturday morning of resetting stones at Laurel Glen Cemetery. The Cemetery Association gave the workers tours at the Bowman Mansion.

The Historical Society has been collecting unique items from Shrewsbury homes for FIFTY YEARS! The building has maintenance issues: the roof will be repaired next summer, windows need glazing, more shelving, perhaps an air exchanger. The pandemic brought the museum to a halt, hence a plea for help was mailed to save the lovely building. Many thanks to those who came to our rescue.

The Museum is open 1 p.m - 3 p.m. Sunday afternoons, July through October. The Tap-to-Table Autumn Market was the busiest Sunday of the year! For off-season contact, Brian Winkler will gladly open for private tours. Call 802-492-3324

Many thanks to Gina Stewart for posting photos on the website, Betsy Jesser for a fantastic Shrewsbury Day, and Maynard Insurance Agency for the copier donation.

Julanne Sharrow, President

Officers as of October 29, 2023

President Brian Winkler V. President Grace Brigham
Secretary Pam Monder Treasurer Julanne Sharrow

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE

Checking Account Balance	\$ 2,744	
Money Market Acct	15,551	
Certificates of Deposit	25,975	
CASH BALANCE, January 1, 2023		\$ 44,270

Total Receipts	\$ 12,914	
Total Disbursements	10,826	
Excess Receipts over Expenditures		2,088

ENDING CASH BALANCE

Checking Account Balance	\$ 4,736	
Money Market Acct	15,557	
Certificates of Deposit	26,065	
ENDING CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2023		\$ 46,358

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATEMENTS

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
RECEIPTS				
Town of Shrewsbury (1)	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Membership Dues	200	500	700	500
Fund Raising	27	2,000	5,508	2,000
Contributions	500	1,000	1,612	1,000
Interest	82	130	94	100
Total Receipts	\$ 809	\$ 8,630	\$ 12,914	\$ 6,100
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
Building Repairs/Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,288	\$ 12,000
Insurance	2,329	1,200	1,258	1,400
Electricity	441	475	464	475
Heating Fuel	49	50	83	90
Archival Supplies	16	200	60	200
Supplies and misc	450	350	4,211	350
Postage	26	375	462	375
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 3,312	\$ 6,650	\$ 10,826	\$ 14,890
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	\$ (2,503)	\$ 1,980	\$ 2,088	\$ (8,790)

(1) The 2022 Town payment of \$2,500 was cashed in 2023.

2023 SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE COMMUNITIES (SWAC) REPORT

Funded in Town budget

SWAC is composed of the towns of Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven and serves a population of approximately 14,000 people. These towns work cooperatively to comply with State laws and mandates managing solid and hazardous waste issues in an environmentally responsible and cost effective manner. SWAC acts as a liaison to the State of Vermont representing the SWAC town's interests on issues pertaining to legislation, rule changes, SWIP requirements, and Product Stewardship.

In 2023, SWAC successfully complied with Year Three Act 148 / ANR Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) requirements. The SWIP meets the requirements of the State's Material Management Plan and outlines how solid and hazardous waste will be managed in the SWAC towns for a five-year period. All towns in Vermont are required to be included in a SWIP, and the requirements are extensive. The currently approved and adopted SWIP is available for review on the SWAC website.

SWAC is a member of the Vermont Product Stewardship Council and Product Stewardship Institute. These groups have been instrumental in getting Environmental Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation passed in Vermont. This year, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 58, which requires manufacturers of household hazardous waste products to set up programs to collect and pay for the disposal of their hazardous products. The new law will be phased in over a period of years and will help relieve the financial burden on the towns for hazardous waste disposal.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection is the most costly endeavor undertaken. SWAC contracted with US Ecology to hold three household hazardous waste (HHW) events in 2023. 5.25 tons of hazardous waste were collected from 138 households and 2 businesses. Products included oxidizers, acids, alkalines, reactives, pesticides, aerosols, flammable liquids, ammonia, mercury devices, latex, oil based and flammable paints, asbestos, and antifreeze..

To keep your community's HHW and solid waste collection costs down, remember to Repurpose, Reuse, Repair, Refuse, Reduce, and then Recycle. Consider buying less-toxic products. If you do buy a product, use it or give it to a friend, neighbor, or relative to use. Visit the SWAC website (What Do I Do With page) for locations where electronics, paint, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and waste oil are accepted for FREE year round. No need to wait for the HHW events.

2024 HHW Schedule: Saturday, April 27, Rutland Town Transfer Station, 218 Northwood Park; Saturday, October 5, Fair Haven Transfer Station, 175 Fair Haven Avenue. Both events will take place from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and are free to all SWAC residents. The SWAC website provides additional information on these events.

Between events: Residents of SWAC towns may purchase a non-district permit to utilize the Rutland County Solid Waste District Gleason Road transfer station. Permit purchase is available at the scalehouse or hazardous waste depot at the transfer station or at the RCSWD offices, 1 Smith Road, Rutland, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Telephone 802-775-7209 for additional information and current rates.

Special thanks to town staff and transfer station attendants. Shrewsbury was represented by Bert Potter.

Funded in Town budget

As we reflect on the past year, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) extends its deepest gratitude to the towns within our region for their unwavering support and collaborative efforts in advancing community and economic development, thoughtful planning, and sustainable growth.

- **Community and Economic Development:** We are actively engaged in community and economic development initiatives, such as Brownfields Redevelopment. Through strategic partnerships and public investment, we've worked to transform underutilized areas, like Pittsford Village Farm, into valuable community assets.
- **Town Planning and Zoning:** By providing guidance and support to towns modernizing and updating their municipal plans and zoning regulations, we aim to create balanced, sustainable, and resilient communities that meet the needs of residents and businesses.
- **Water Quality and Natural Resources:** Preserving our region's water quality and natural resources is a shared responsibility. Our work as the South Lake Champlain Clean Water Service Provider identifies and develops projects that safeguard our water sources and protect the richness of our natural landscapes.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Climate Resilience:** The RRPC led the charge responding and recovering from this summer's historic flooding. We are committed to training local emergency management directors, ensuring swift and effective emergency responses, and building resilient communities equipped to navigate evolving climate dynamics.
- **Multimodal Transportation:** Efficient and sustainable transportation is vital for the well-being of our communities. RRPC has worked toward developing multimodal transportation solutions, such as an analysis of the Rutland City Bus System, that prioritize accessibility and safety.
- **Energy Conservation and Efficiency:** Addressing the importance of energy conservation and efficiency, RRPC has supported initiatives aimed at reducing energy consumption and promoting the use of renewable energy sources. We are working with towns across the region to implement the Municipal Energy Resilience Program, aimed at saving energy and money for our critical town-owned buildings.
- **Affordable Housing:** Recognizing the need for diverse and affordable housing options, the RRPC has actively supported initiatives to address housing challenges. We worked closely with the Vermont Finance Housing Agency to complete the 2023 Rutland Region Housing Needs Assessment and created a new planning program to help towns navigate housing challenges and opportunities.
- **Equity:** Promoting equity is at the core of our planning efforts. We are dedicated to ensuring that our planning processes consider the needs and perspectives of all residents, fostering inclusive and equitable communities.
- **Regional Planning:** We are thrilled to initiate a three-year process to update the 2018 Regional Plan, aiming to make it a true reflection of local priorities. We encourage active participation from residents, businesses, and organizations in meetings, workshops, and surveys to ensure diverse perspectives shape the updated plan. Your insights are invaluable in creating a collaborative guide to shape a healthy, equitable and resilient region.

In closing, we want to thank all of the dedicated local volunteers and civil servants for their commitment to our region. Active participation in the local planning process ensures that diverse perspectives contribute to our shared vision. All are invited to join in helping shape our future as we look forward to another year of progress, innovation, and shared success.

Respectfully Submitted,
Devon Neary, Executive Director

2023 REGIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE REPORT

Funded in Town Budget

The Regional Ambulance Service (RAS) is pleased to present our 40th annual report to the residents we serve. Regional Ambulance Service has continually provided emergency and non-emergency ambulance service for 40 years. From 1983 to the end of the fiscal year, Regional has responded to 261,225 ambulance calls in our 12 communities, and an additional 120 “Medic One” paramedic intercept calls. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continuing to serve the public. **In 2023 RAS responded to 87 calls in Shrewsbury.**

Staff shortages have plagued healthcare including EMS throughout the country. Like all healthcare, RAS has experienced problems with staffing. Our employees deserve credit for their continued excellent response and commitment to the communities we serve. We thank them and encourage you to do the same for the work they do. All of our employees continue to serve and fulfill our motto of “Serving People First with Pride, Proficiency and Professionalism.”

In 2023 RAS started construction on a second facility in West Rutland. This facility will start to be used next year. It has the capacity to house four ambulances. When staffed it will be closer for calls on the west side, provide redundancy for dispatch, and will be available for use during any type of disaster that affects the main building in Rutland.

We thank the communities we serve, our co-workers, our fellow emergency service workers and everyone in the community who has been so gracious with their support, kindness and generosity. With the continued support of residents, our employees, and community governing bodies, we have successfully level funded or lowered the assessment rate for the past 39 years. Since 1990 the assessment rate has decreased by 36%. Our current assessment rate is \$4 per capita and remains unchanged for the next fiscal year. The public support of our membership program, direct donations, memorials and estate gifts has been vital to our continued success. Thank you.

Monthly CPR classes are taught at RAS. Last year, 1,755 people were trained in CPR. Tours, lectures, demonstrations and CPR classes are available for the general public. Child Car Seat inspections are performed at the Regional Ambulance building at 275 Stratton Rd. by appointment only. We completed 65 child car seat inspections this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Kulig, President

Gerry Martin, Treasurer & Town of Shrewsbury Representative

Funding Request: \$250

Here is sample of the activities the District was involved in during 2022/2023:

Local Work Group - District Supervisors participated in local work group meetings to assist USDA in setting local priorities for cost share programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Agricultural Outreach Specialist – The District in cooperation with the Poultney Mettowee and Bennington County NRCD's share staff who work with landowners to find solutions to water quality issues, assist with nutrient management planning and oversee shared equipment used by farmers to implement environmentally friendly field practices.

Conservation Planner - The District works with a conservation planner providing technical assistance to farmers for the development of comprehensive nutrient management plans, natural resource assessment, and conservation contract development and management.

Portable Skidder Bridges – The District has a portable skidder bridge available for rent to loggers and foresters. Skidder bridges reduce stream disturbance, minimizing the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

Outreach: Website – Please visit our website: <https://www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/rutland> for more information about District projects and programs.

Watershed Planning for the Upper Otter Creek and its Tributaries - With funding through grant sources, the District:

- Received a final design for a Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) at West Seminary Street Public Park in the Town of Brandon. This park includes a basketball court, playing field and dog park. The design was completed by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC.
- Hired an Engineering Consultant to develop a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) for the Town of West Rutland. The overall objective is to provide the Town with a strategic approach for meeting stormwater management needs in the Clarendon River watershed, to address pressing water resource concerns in a cost-efficient and targeted manner.
- Is continuing to work with the Town of Proctor to develop a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP). The overall objective is to provide the Town with a strategic approach for meeting stormwater management needs in the Otter Creek watershed, to address pressing water resource concerns in a cost-efficient and targeted manner.
- Worked to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation throughout the District. These projects have been identified in Stormwater Master Plans or other assessments/reports.
- The District will continue to work with the City of Rutland, Towns, and landowners to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation. These projects have been identified in Stormwater Master Plans or other assessment/plans.

For further information or to be added to our mailing list or list of volunteers, please contact Nanci McGuire at nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net

2023 VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION REPORT

Funding Request: \$2,526

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

In the face of shrinking government and state reimbursements and rising healthcare costs, VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services to Rutland County's most vulnerable individuals. In 2023 VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 127,393 visits to 3,043 patients. **In the Town of Shrewsbury, we provided 409 visits to 31 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara C. King, Chief Executive Officer
Dan DiBattista, President of the Board of Directors

2023 GREEN UP VERMONT REPORT

Funding Request: \$150

Green Up Day on May 6, 2023 was a wonderful success thanks to 23,500 volunteers statewide who picked up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires! We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. **Shrewsbury's 90+ volunteers picked up 88 bags of litter on 57 miles of town roads.** A special thank you to Connie Youngstrom, the town volunteer coordinator for Shrewsbury. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. Green Up Vermont initiatives are year-round and further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. Thank you for your support of this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns. Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Funding Request: \$130

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 services that match 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 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 15,188 items were distributed through RSVP Operation Dolls & More to 37 partner agencies and an estimated 1,200 children. We also partner with AARP to provide income tax return services to low-income residents of Rutland County. Locally, RSVP/VC is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland County with 557 volunteers. From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, RSVP/VC volunteers provided 92,293 hours of community service. The cost benefit to the communities of Rutland County in terms of cost of services provided equals \$2,934,917.

In FY23, Shrewsbury residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as free income tax return preparation, and our free Bone Builders osteoporosis prevention exercise classes. Shrewsbury RSVP volunteers donated their services to the following non-profit organizations: Meals on Wheels, Community Cupboard, One-2-One, RSVP Bone Builders, and RSVP Operation Dolls & More.

The monies we are requesting this year will be used to help continue to defray the cost of providing volunteer placement, support, transportation, and recognition. With your help, RSVP & The Volunteer Center will continue to respond to the increasing needs of our local communities.

On behalf of RSVP & The Volunteer Center and our non-profit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Shrewsbury 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryesa White
RSVP Director
volunteersinvt.org

Funding Request: \$700

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Shrewsbury during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/1/2022 through 9/30/2023.

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide **1,187 meals that were delivered to the homes of six elders** in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels."

In addition, **2 Shrewsbury elders enjoyed 22 nutritious meals** and the company of others at a luncheon site in your area.

Additionally, SVCOA provided **4 residents of Shrewsbury with 2.25 hours of one-on-one nutrition support**, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped **4 elders in your community for a total of 12 hours**. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to older Vermonters facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

1) "Senior Helpline" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior Helpline staff provide telephone support to elders and others who need information on available programs and community resources; 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program; 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Information about elder issues and opportunities via various agency articles and publications 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician; 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound elders; 7) Outreach services to elders dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland Mental Health; 8) Transportation assistance; 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to elders in need of assistance; 10) Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to elders and younger disabled individuals.

Rutland Office: 802-786-5990

Bennington Office: 802-442-5436

Helpline: 1-800-642-5119

2023 RUTLAND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Funding Request: \$1,192

In the year 2023, 28 towns in Rutland County supported the work of Rutland Mental Health Services through town giving. Our agency is committed to providing quality services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The generous support of towns such as the Town of Shrewsbury assures that quality services are available for their families, friends and neighbors. Services provided to town residents include individual counseling for children, adults and families, substance abuse treatment services, emergency and crisis services, and developmental disability services.

During fiscal year 2023, Rutland Mental Health Services provided 538 hours of services to 29 Shrewsbury residents.

We value our partnership with the Town of Shrewsbury in providing these much needed services and thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Courcelle, Chief Executive Officer

2023 BROCCOMMUNITY ACTION REPORT

Funding Request: \$600

To the Citizens of Shrewsbury, on behalf of BROCCOMMUNITY 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. BROCCOMMUNITY Action assists families and individuals in crisis and helps provide a sustainable path forward.

Over the past year, BROCCOMMUNITY Action assisted 40 residents of the Town of Shrewsbury. Whether they need food at the BROCCOMMUNITY 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 submitted,
Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@broccommunity.org

2023 NEWSTORY CENTER REPORT

Funding Request: \$150

For 44 years NewStory Center has been the single agency in Rutland County supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence by working to end the cycle of violence through support, education, prevention, and collaboration.

During FY23, NewStory Center served 674 survivors and their children through direct services such as emergency shelter, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, case management, clinical services, support groups, and the 24/7 crisis hotline. Additionally, we provide training and technical assistance to our community partners, including local law enforcement, to ensure a more effective community response to domestic and sexual violence.

The Board and Staff of NewStory Center thank the voters of Shrewsbury for their support of our agency. Your generosity allows us to not only provide survivors with necessities and ongoing advocacy, but also affords us the ability to grow and expand our services to better serve your community.

2023 RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER REPORT

Funding Request: \$400

The Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming lives with whole family services delivered through a unique and dynamic community framework of integrated programming. RCPCC serves children and families in Rutland County communities with programs such as: two Early Child Education centers (ECE), Children's integrated Services (CIS), educational opportunities and enrichment for at-risk youth (Learning Together and 7's Club), family navigation services (Parenting Class, Playgroups, etc.), and food insecurity support with our grocery store style food pantry. Our programming is family goal-oriented and provided at no cost or with substantial financial assistance available. Overall, RCPCC has served approximately 1,500 parents/caregivers and over 1,800 children in Rutland County. RCPCC continues to expand our services as the needs in our communities grow.

As the needs of the families we serve heighten, RCPCC is committed to expanding programming that supports our community. Many of the programs we offer exceed state-wide expectations in both capacity and volume. In order to meet the growing needs of our neighbors, friends and families, RCPCC is expanding. Our new 2-Gen campus, "One PCC Place," is a unique approach to delivering whole family programming. This space will provide a "one stop shop" environment where families can access all programming and case management services. At RCPCC "the coffee pot is always on."

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Rutland County Parent Child Center

2023 VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK REPORT

Funding Request: \$250

The mission of Vermont Family Network (VFN) is to empower and support all Vermont children, youth and families, especially those with disabilities or special health needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations, the Vermont Parent Information Center and Parent to Parent Vermont, merged, VFN has collectively served families across Vermont for more than 30 years. Vermont children, youth, and families are provided with a “one-stop shop” to help them reach their full potential. VFN gives a strong start, lifts family voices, and advances inclusive communities.

Traditionally primarily funded through state and federal grants, we find that waning funds threaten to slow our work and minimize the number of families we can support. We are reaching out to communities like Shrewsbury where we have served many families. Your appropriation will help ensure the work we do all around the state continues to happen with the same excellence and care that it has for the past 30 years.

We are proud to serve over 1,000 families yearly with expert information, referral, and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport, and Rutland, an annual conference, and more through our Family Support Program. Vermont Family Network is also home to Puppets in Education, an educational puppetry team that teaches children and parents about important issues like anxiety awareness, bullying, child abuse, and disability awareness through engaging performances that emphasize compassion, respect, effective leadership, and communication. Each year over 7,000 school children and adults benefit from these educational programs and workshops.

Thank you so much for your consideration. The funding received will go a long way to ensuring our ability to continue to provide the much-needed services to Vermont families.

Sincerely,
Clair Giroux-Williams, Development Manager

2023 RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Funding Request: \$150

The Rutland County Humane Society is dedicated to advocating for and working towards a responsible and humane community. We provide shelter and adoption opportunities for pets that are homeless and promote animal welfare through community programs that benefit both animals and people. We also serve our community by providing information and referral services to people dealing with animal issues. The RCHS shelter is the largest program of the agency, taking in more than 1,000 animals in 2023. **The Rutland County Humane Society took in 19 animals from the Town of Shrewsbury during 2023.**

Our agency is funded through fees for service, town funding, membership, donations and special events. No funding comes from the state or federal government or national organizations. We sincerely thank those who support our operations. We can only save lives with your help.

Please call us at (802)-483-9171 or visit our website at RCHSVT.org if you would like more information about the Rutland County Humane Society.

Funding Request: \$170

For over 44 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy, and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY 23 (10/2022-9/2023) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral, assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to 140 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and 4 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted 178 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 115 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided 73 individuals with information on assistive technology, and 41 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 379 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program which served 17 people and provided 7 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. During FY 23, **1 resident of Shrewsbury received services from the Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A) program.**

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office - along with so many others - was devastated in the July flood) and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at 1-800-639-1522, or visit our web site at www.vcil.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Lauderville, Executive Director

Funding Request: \$400

Dear Citizens of Shrewsbury, the Child First Advocacy Center (CFAC) serves as a central agency through which reports of suspected child abuse can be channeled for investigation and victim recovery. CFAC was established in 1995 and became a fully Accredited Member of the *National Children's Alliance (NCA)* in 2004. We share with NCA the passion to minimize the traumatic effect of child abuse upon the children and families of our community. CFAC is a non-profit organization serving Rutland County to assist families in the discovery, intervention, treatment and prevention of child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and children affected by violence. We provide a safe comfortable environment for the forensic quality and child appropriate interviews, training for professionals and collateral referral services for victims and their non-offending family members. Our agency serves families of all socio-economic levels and is committed to providing quality services regardless of the ability to pay.

In the calendar year 2023, the Child First Advocacy Center served 171 clients and 144 of their family members. **We were able to provide direct wrap around services and support to three (3) Shrewsbury families as they began their recovery from the effects of trauma.** In addition, we continue to provide community awareness and education at no cost, in an effort to provide adults with the ability to recognize, react and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse and increase each school district's ability to complete the legislatively mandated ACT 1 initiative also known as Child Sexual Abuse Awareness training for Educators, Community Members and Student's grades K-12.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Loomis, Executive Director
wendy.loomis@partner.vermont.gov

Funding Request: \$500

As we look ahead to the new year, we take a moment to reflect on our profound gratitude to the municipal partners who help us deliver our lifesaving mission in our community. With your support, we are able to ensure the health, safety, and preparedness of our friends and neighbors throughout Northern New England.

Last year, our staff and volunteer workforce provided an array of services throughout the region:

- We made 700 homes safer by installing smoke detectors and educating families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Last year in Rutland County we made 5 homes safer by helping families develop emergency evacuation plans.
- Trained 645 people in Rutland County in First Aid, CPR, Babysitting Skills and water safety skills.
- We collected over 133,000 units of blood. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over 3,400 service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department. **21** of Rutland County's service members, veterans and their families were assisted with emergency communications, counseling and financial assistance.

Your American Red Cross remains committed to providing relief and support. We do this with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors, including you, our friends in Shrewsbury. The funds we have requested for 2024 will directly benefit individuals and families right here in our region at no cost. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-464-6692 or go to supportnne@redcross.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Jordan, Development Coordinator

Funding Request: \$500

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL), is a non-profit, seven-county organization providing individuals 16 years of age and older confidential education and literacy services at no cost. We provide basic instruction in reading, writing, math, and technology. Vermont residents can access our services and earn a high school diploma from their town of residence, or a GED. We also offer citizenship classes for individuals wishing to become a U.S. citizen, as well as English instruction for speakers of other languages. We are the only official GED testing site in Rutland County.

Our flexible pathways provide students with the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma with many options and resources including dual enrollment at local colleges, technical classes at Stafford Tech, online classes, internships and other creative options.

In addition to our Adult Basic Education Programming, Vermont Adult Learning started EnergyWorks, a workforce training program for jobs in the weatherization, solar panel installation, and heat pump installation fields. Participants partake of technical training, job readiness training and coaching, and job shadowing opportunities.

Vermont Adult Learning served 1,180 students statewide in fiscal year 2023. 173 students were served in our Rutland Center where we provided approximately 5,262 hours of education. This was a 20% increase in the number of students served in Rutland County! **We served two students from Shrewsbury, one of whom was between the ages of 16 - 21.**

Classes are five days a week, Monday – Friday, with evening classes available. VAL staff have successfully adapted our classes to an online format following the COVID19 pandemic. This has lessened the transportation barriers many of our students faced but increased the need for technology support. In response, we have been able to supply our students with Chromebooks so they may remain engaged in their educational pursuits.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of the voters of Shrewsbury.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Etori, Regional Director

2023 VERMONT FARMERS FOOD CENTER

Funding Request: \$500

The Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) began as a grassroots, volunteer-led project, and is spearheading the rebuilding of infrastructure necessary for agriculture to serve as a regional economic engine through the development of 2.93 acres of industrially-zoned land with four existing buildings in the heart of downtown Rutland.

VFFC increases access and availability of locally produced food in the Rutland region through education, expanding markets and market access, and aggregation and distribution of locally produced and value-added agricultural products. For most of 2023, our main facility has been closed and unable to be used for programming and tenant rental income, including the Winter Farmers Market. This has been a hardship, and we are working on the steps necessary to complete the environmental cleanup of our site and reopen in 2024. However, VFFC's programs have continued! VFFC operates several programs:

- *Farmacy Project* is a "food as medicine" program that provides fresh produce from local farmers for at-risk individuals and families with health issues who have been prescribed 15 weeks of fresh, local produce.
- *Farm Based Experiential Learning (FABEL)* provides an experience of learning substantive life skills on the farm and in the garden through hands-on engagement.
- *Everyone Eats* was a food relief program that leveraged CARES Act funds to engage local restaurants in making to-go meals for anyone who has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis due to unemployment, underemployment, homelessness, or other challenges. Over 2,900 meals were delivered weekly at VFFC and at distribution partner sites throughout the county.
- When *Everyone Eats* ended, we started our own version of the program - *Rutland County Eats* – and have been distributing over 200 meals each week through this program.
- In response to those affected by the floods this summer, *Vermont Emergency Eats* ran from August through November 2023 and we were a distribution site for this program.
- *Online Market* began in April 2020 as a way for farmers to get their products to consumers when the farmers markets were not able to operate. It has continued to offer a weekly safe and convenient curbside pickup.

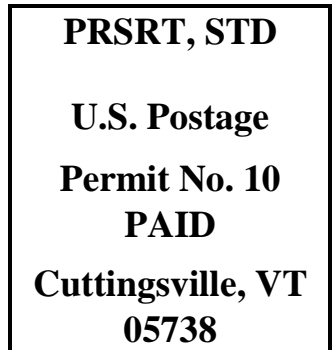
VFFC's efforts impact Shrewsbury as it works with local farmers/producers (i.e. Evening Song Farm, Smith Maple Crest Farm, and Spring Lake Ranch) who participate in the Online Market and Everyone Eats programs, and serve members of our community through those programs.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.



Shrewsbury Mountain School students, teachers, and staff celebrate the end of the 2023 school year.

*Town of Shrewsbury
9823 Cold River Road
Shrewsbury, VT 05738*



Informational Meeting
Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM
Shrewsbury Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road

Current Resident
Shrewsbury, Vermont 05738

Australian Ballot
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Shrewsbury Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM