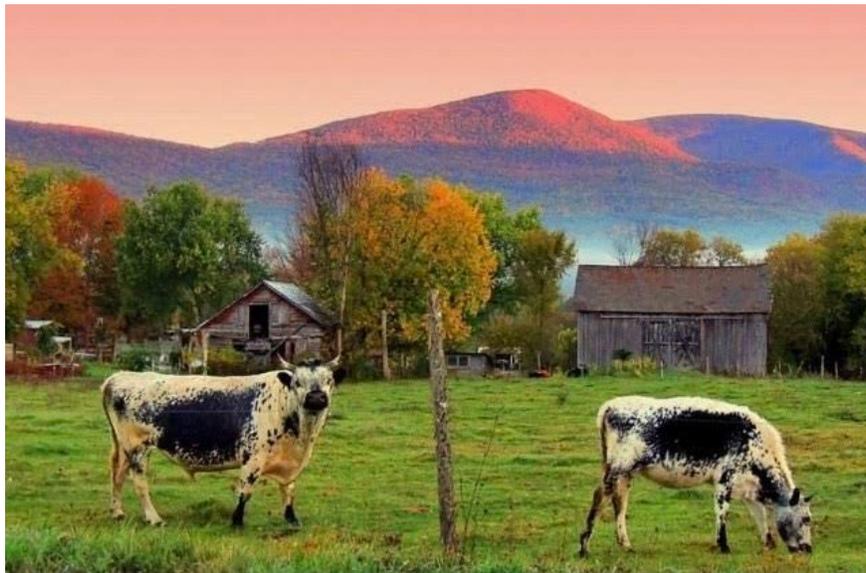


Sunderland Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30th 2025



Notice

Town Business Meeting:

Monday March 2nd 2026 at 7PM

Sunderland Elementary School

98 Bear Ridge Road, Sunderland VT

Ballot Boxes Open for Australian Voting:

Tuesday March 3rd 2026 from 10AM-7PM

Sunderland Town Municipal Building

104 Mountain View Road, Sunderland VT

TOWN OF SUNDERLAND CONTACT INFORMATION

SUNDERLAND TOWN WEBSITE		SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S OFFICE		802-375-6106
<i>Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm</i>		TOWN@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
	<i>(Subject to change)</i>	
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	KEVIN HEWES	802-379-4173
		DRHEWES@YAHOO.COM
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS	NEIL HUMPHREY	802-753-8265
	AVIS HAYDEN	802-375-1503
FIRE WARDEN/BURN PERMITS	KEEGAN HAWLEY	802-733-3240
LISTERS		LISTERS@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
SELECT BOARD		SELECTBOARD@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/GARAGE		802-375-2865
<i>Hours: Monday through Friday 6:00 am - 2:00 pm</i>		HIGHWAY@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE	JULIA HUTCHINSON-SMITH	914-263-8524
	LORENE ZEIF	ZEIFLOREE@GMAIL.COM
	VIRGINIA DEXTER	GINDEX78@GMAIL.COM
	SAMUEL LISS	SLISS_980@COMCAST.NET
		or 802-491-9057

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CALLS - RESCUE SQUAD - FIRE - POLICE		911
STATE POLICE (non-emergency)		802-442-5421
FIRE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency)		802-375-2323
TRANSFER STATION-CASELLA'S		802-375-7345
<i>Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 7:30 am - 2:00pm &</i>	<i>Sat. 7:30 am - 11:30am</i>	
BCRC	(Bennington County Regional Commission)	802-442-0713
ARLINGTON POST OFFICE		802-375-6904
MANCHESTER POST OFFICE		802-362-1170
MANCHESTER CENTER POST OFFICE		802-362-3070
MARTHA CANFIELD LIBRARY		802-375-6153
ARLINGTON TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE		802-375-2332
SANDGATE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE		802-375-9075
STRATTON TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE		802-896-6184
STATE FIRE SUPERVISOR	LARS LUND	802-777-4188
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	PATRICK LOWKES	802-747-8127

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Cover Photo: Provided by Kimberley Pinsonnault

**WARNING
TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Sunderland, Vermont in the County of Bennington are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Sunderland Elementary School at 98 Bear Ridge Road in said Town on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. to transact the following business: Articles 1 through 16 from the floor.

The legal voters of the Town of Sunderland, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Sunderland Town Municipal Building at 104 Mountain View Road in said Town on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. for voting by Australian Ballot: Articles 17 through 20.

To be acted upon on Monday, March 2, 2026:

Article 1. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote on all public questions by Australian ballot?

Article 2. Shall the voters of Sunderland authorize the payment of the personal and property taxes to the Town Treasurer in equal installments with the payments to be in the hands of the Treasurer by Thursday, October 15th 2026 and Thursday, April 15th 2027?

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Bridge Co-op Fund?

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Article 5. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the Guardrail Reserve Fund?

Article 7. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the Road Projects Reserve Fund?

Article 8. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Article 9. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.** (Happy Days Playschool) to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 10. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$1,500.00** for the support of **Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 11. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$5,000.00** for the support of the **Recreation Park in Arlington** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 12. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$10,510.00** for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 13. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging** to provide elder services to the residents of the town?

Article 14. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$150.00** for the support of the **Project Against Violent Encounters (P.A.V.E)** to provide victim services to the residents of the town?

Article 15. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$500.00** for the support of **WindowDressers** to provide services to the residents of the town.

Article 16. Discussion of other non-binding business that may come before this meeting.

The following articles will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026:

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$ 21,395.00** for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget?

Article 18. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$ 428,094.00** for the General Fund Budget?

Article 19. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$ 609,040.00** for the Highway Fund Budget?

Article 20. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

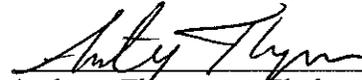
Town Moderator – 1 year term
Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year term
Cemetery Commissioner – 3 year term
Lister – 3 year term
First Constable – 1 year term
Second Constable – 1 year term

Selectboard Member – 1 year term
Selectboard Member – 1 year term
Selectboard Member – 3 year term
Auditor – 1 year remaining on 3 year term
Auditor – 2 years remaining on 3 year term
Auditor – 3 year term

DATED THIS 26 DAY OF JANUARY A.D., 2026
By the Select board members of the Town of Sunderland, VT

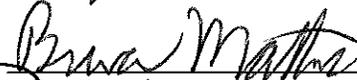


Todd Lawrence, Chair

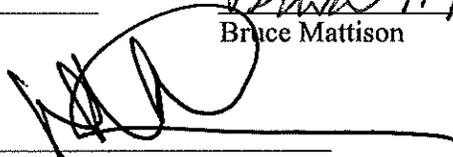


Anthony Thompson, Clerk

Rick Timmerman



Bruce Mattison



Martin Nadler

**TACONIC AND GREEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING WARNING**

The legal voters of the Taconic and Green Regional School District, consisting of the towns of Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Mt. Tabor, Peru, Sunderland and Weston, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Sunderland School at 98 Bear Ridge Road in Sunderland, Vermont on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 7:00 PM to consider and act upon the following articles and to discuss the articles to be voted upon by Australian Ballot.

To be acted upon on Sunday, March 1, 2026:

- Article 1: To elect a Moderator to serve from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
- Article 2: To elect a School District Clerk to serve from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
- Article 3: To elect a School District Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
- Article 4: To determine and approve compensation to be paid to School Board Directors.
- Article 5: To determine the date and time on which the 2027 Annual Meeting of the Taconic and Green Regional School District shall be held, and where such meeting shall be held.
- Article 6: To hear and act upon the reports of the School District Directors and Officers.
- Article 7: To discuss articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot.
- Article 8: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

To be voted by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026:

- Article 9: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027?
- Article 10: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$41,042,088, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Taconic and Green Regional School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$13,133 which is 3.6% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- Article 11: Shall the voters approve payment of the announced tuition rate of Burr and Burton Academy in the amount of \$23,050 for the 2026-2027 school year, which is 4.9% higher than the tuition rate for the current year, for resident pupils in grades 9 through 12 who attend any eligible Vermont independent school?
- Article 12: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to transfer any unassigned General Fund surplus existing on June 30, 2026, an amount estimated to be \$231,786, to the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund?
- Article 13: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$350,000 for the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund?
- Article 14: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Technology Equipment Reserve Fund?
- Article 15: To elect the following Officer and School Director positions:
- Danby – One (1) Director for a one (1) year term expiring March 2027
 - Dorset – One (1) Director for a three (3) year term expiring March 2029
 - Landgrove – One (1) Director for a three (3) year term expiring March 2029
 - Mt. Tabor – One (1) Director for a three (3) year term expiring March 2029
 - Peru – One (1) Director for a three (3) year term expiring March 2029
 - Sunderland – One (1) Director for a three (3) year term expiring March 2029
 - Weston – One (1) Director for a one (1) year term expiring March 2027

In person voting will be available at local polling places on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 as noted below. To request to have an absentee ballot mailed to you, please contact your Town Clerk, or use the "My Voter Page" online resource from the Secretary of State which can be found here: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>.

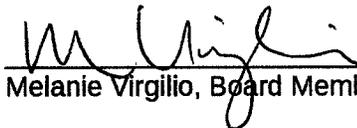
Please make your request for **mailed** ballots to your Town Clerk no later than Monday, February 23, 2026. Absentee ballots must be returned before the close of the Town Clerk's office on the day before the election, or to the polling place before 7:00PM on the day of the election, in order to be counted.

- Voters of the Town of Danby will vote at the Danby Town Clerk's Office at 130 Brook Road in Danby. The Polls will open at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Dorset will vote at the Dorset Town Office at 200 Raptor Lane in Dorset. The Polls will open at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Landgrove will vote at the Landgrove Town Hall at 88 Landgrove Road in Landgrove. The Polls will open at 8:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Londonderry will vote at the Old Town Hall at 139 Middletown Road in South Londonderry. The Polls will open at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Manchester will vote at the Manchester Town Hall at 40 Jeff Williams Way in Manchester. The Polls will open at 8:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Mt. Tabor will vote at the Mt. Tabor Town Office at 522 Brooklyn Road in Mt. Tabor. The Polls will open at 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Peru will vote at the Peru Town Office at 402 Main Street in Peru. The Polls will open at 9:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Sunderland will vote at the Sunderland Municipal Office at 104 Mountain View Road Sunderland. The Polls will open at 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.
- Voters of the Town of Weston will vote at the Walker Farm Theater at 705 Main Street in Weston. The Polls will open at 8:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

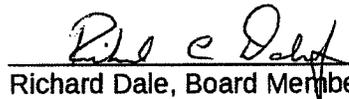
The legal voters of Taconic and Green Regional School District are further notified that voter qualification registration, and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026.

TACONIC AND GREEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS:



 Melanie Virgilio, Board Member, Chair

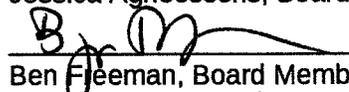


 Richard Dale, Board Member, Vice Chair

 David Chandler, Board Member, Clerk

 Jessica Agneessens, Board Member

 Ron Flynn, Board Member

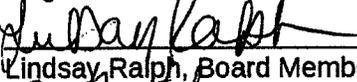


 Ben Fleeman, Board Member

 Rogan Lechthaler, Board Member

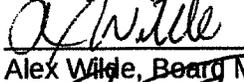


 Kelsey Moskowitz, Board Member

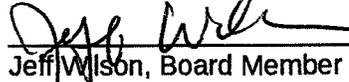


 Lindsay Ralph, Board Member

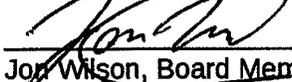
 Jim Salsgiver, Board Member



 Alex Wilde, Board Member



 Jeff Wilson, Board Member



 Jon Wilson, Board Member

Received for the record and recorded this 14 day of January 2026 by:



 Sandra Pinsonault, Clerk of the District

**SOUTHWEST VERMONT REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO V009
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 2'ND AND MARCH 3'RD, 2026**

The legal voters of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District Service Region (consisting of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glazenbury, Manchester, North Bennington, Pownal, Readsboro, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford) are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to meet at the Bennington Fire House, 130 River Street, Bennington, Vermont or to participate in the meeting by videoconference by joining Zoom Meeting Link <https://tinyurl.com/3knm7t6d>, on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6:30 o'clock in the evening (6:30 PM) to transact the following business from the floor:

- ARTICLE 1: To establish the annual salaries of the District Directors at \$1,500 each*.
*As long as they attend 50% of the meetings.
- ARTICLE 2: To establish the annual salary of the District Treasurer at \$15,000.
- ARTICLE 3: To establish the annual salary of the District Clerk at \$1,200.
- ARTICLE 4: To establish the annual salary of the District Moderator at \$100.
- ARTICLE 5: To authorize the School District Board to borrow money in anticipation of revenues to meet current operating expenses of the District for the 2026-2027 school year.
- ARTICLE 6: To hold a public informational hearing on articles to be voted upon by Australian Ballot on March 3, 2026.
- ARTICLE 7: To transact any other business found proper when met.

The legal voters of Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District #V009 are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED FURTHER to meet on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, when the polls will be open to transact business by Australian ballot as follows:

- ARTICLE A: To elect three (3) School Directors, who are legal residents of the Service Region as listed above in accordance with the bylaws of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District, each for a term of three (3) years.
- ARTICLE B: To elect a Clerk for the unexpired term of two (2) years of a three (3) year term.
- ARTICLE C: Shall the voters of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District approve the school board to expend \$5,437,438 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?
- ARTICLE D: Shall the voters of the Service Region of Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District increase the existing Reserve Fund for Capital Improvements and existing Reserve Fund for Equipment by the sums of \$60,000 and \$20,000 respectively?

Voting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 shall be at large by Australian ballot. The polls will be open as indicated below for each respective town, as follows:

Residents of Arlington vote at Arlington Memorial High School, 529 East Arlington Road, Arlington, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Bennington vote at Bennington Fire Department, 130 River Street, Bennington, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Dorset vote at The Town Offices, 200 Raptor Lane, Dorset, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Glazenbury vote at Shaftsbury Town Garage, 526 North Road, Shaftsbury, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Manchester vote at Manchester Town Hall, 40 Jeff Williams Way, Manchester Center, Vermont. Polls will be open from 8 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of North Bennington vote at North Bennington Village Trustees Office, 2 Depot Street, North Bennington, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Pownal vote at the Town Office, 511 Center Street, Pownal, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Readsboro vote at Readsboro Central School, 301 Phelps Lane, Readsboro, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Sandgate vote at the Sandgate Town Hall, 3266 Sandgate Road, Sandgate, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Searsburg vote at Searsburg Town Office, 18 Town Garage Road, Searsburg, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Shaftsbury vote at Town Garage, 526 North Road, Shaftsbury, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Stamford vote at Stamford Elementary School Community Room, 986 Main Road, Stamford, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Sunderland vote at Sunderland Town Municipal Building, 104 Mountain View Road, Sunderland, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Woodford vote at Woodford Town Hall, 1391 VT Route 9, Woodford, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Register to Vote! Residents of Member Towns may register to vote at their Town Clerk's Office or online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>. Eligible residents registering on Election Day must do so at the polling place where they will cast their Town Meeting ballot.

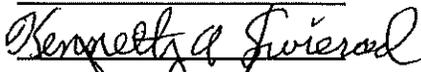
Interpreting services for this meeting will be provided upon request. If this service is required, please notify the SVRTSD at 447-0220, at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.

Signatures

Michael Cutler, Chair



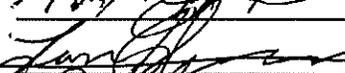
Kenneth Swierad, Vice Chair



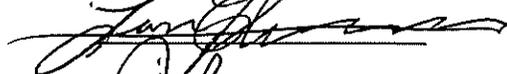
John Orzechowski, Clerk



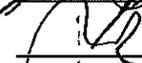
Asher Edelson



Leon Johnson



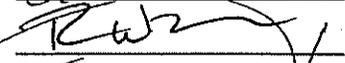
Timothy Kane



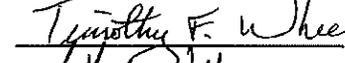
Francis Kinney



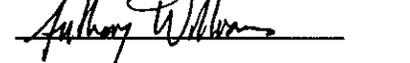
Glen Sauer



Thomas West



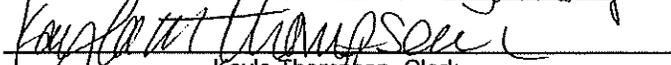
Tim Wheeler



Anthony Williams, Jr.



Received for recording this 21 day of January 2026.



Kayla Thompson, Clerk,
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District

NOTICE TO VOTERS For Local Elections

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by February 1st, 2026. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 21st, 2026.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to mvp.vermont.gov.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.vermont.gov. The latest you can request ballots for the Annual Town Meeting Election is by the close of the Town Clerk's office on Monday, March 2nd, 2026. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE OF TOWN OFFICIALS

(Unless otherwise warned)

Select Board

2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the Sunderland Town Office Building at 7:00PM

Cemetery Commission

2nd Wednesday of each month (excluding Winter months) at the Sunderland Town Office Building at 9:00AM.

Planning Board

4th Wednesday of each month at the Sunderland Town Office Building at 6:00PM.

Committee Meetings held as Warned.

**APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS
2025-2026**

(One year term unless otherwise noted)

ANIMAL CONTROL	drhewes@yahoo.com	Kevin Hewes
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	emergencymgmt@sunderlandvt.org	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT- COORDINATOR		Todd Lawrence
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-ASSISTANT		Morgan Kelley
GREEN-UP/ENERGY CHAIRMAN	jets1627@gmail.com	Jeff Dexter
HEALTH OFFICER	drhewes@yahoo.com	Kevin Hewes
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER		Vacant
POUND KEEPER		Vacant
SERVICE OFFICER	802-491-9057	Samuel Liss
TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN	802-430-3240	Keegan Hawley
TREE WARDEN	802-430-3240	Keegan Hawley
WEBMASTER	webmaster@sunderlandvt.org	Laura Hammler
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	zoningadmin@sunderlandvt.org	David Kiernan
PLANNING BOARD:	planningboard@sunderlandvt.org	
Term Expires 2026		Robert Zeif, Chair
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Benjamin Travis
Term Expires 2027	2 year appointment	David Kiernan
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Gordon Dossett
Term Expires 2026		Laura Hammler
ZONING BOARD:	zoningboard@sunderlandvt.org	
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Peter Van Vleck Jr.
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Martin Nadler
Term Expires 2026		Vacant
Term Expires 2026	2 year appointment	Vacant
Term Expires 2026		Vacant
TOWN GRAND JUROR		James Ayrey
BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES: (BCRC)		Rick Timmerman

**ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS
2025-2026**

TOWN MODERATOR

Alyson Grzyb

TOWN CLERK (3 year term) Expires 2028

Caroline Hartshorn

TOWN TREASURER (3 year term) Expires 2028

Caroline Hartshorn

SELECT BOARD:

3 year term -Expires 2027

Martin Nadler

3 year term -Expires 2028

Todd Lawrence, Chair

3 year term -Expires 2026

Bruce Mattison, Road Liason

1 year term -Expires 2026

Rick Timmerman

1 year term -Expires 2026

Anthony Thompson, Clerk

FIRST CONSTABLE (1 year term)

Vacant

SECOND CONSTABLE (1 year term)

Kevin Hewes

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR (1 year term)

Richard Davis II

LISTERS:

3 year term -Expires 2027

Peter Van Vleck Jr.

3 year term -Expires 2028

Neil Humphrey

3 year term -Expires 2026

Robert Goodfellow

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS:

3 year term -Expires 2027

Avis Hayden

3 year term -Expires 2028

Neil Humphrey

3 year term -Expires 2026

Kathleen Johnston

AUDITORS:

3 year term -Expires 2027

Vacant

3 year term -Expires 2026 - Appointed

Theodore Rappahahn

3 year term -Expires 2026

Cathi Comar

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE-Elected November 2024. Term begins February 2025

2 year term -Expires February 2027

Samuel Liss

2 year term -Expires February 2027

Virginia Dexter

2 year term -Expires February 2027

Julia Hutchinson Smith

2 year term -Expires February 2027

Lorene Zeif

GENERAL FUND FY27 BUDGET

Account	Budget FY24/25	Actual FY24/25	Budget FY25/26	Anticipated FY25/26	PROPOSED BUDGET FY26/27
Payroll	93,000	90,438	98,000	98,000	98,000
Retirement	2,500	2,629	2,500	3,342	3,500
Fica/Medi/Emp Expense	9,300	9,075	9,800	9,800	9,800
Health Insurance	3,600	12,031	15,233	15,572	16,000
Dental Insurance	-	-	640	710	700
VT Child Care Tax	420	526	525	450	525
Office Equipment/lease	1,500	1,468	1,500	1,500	1,500
Software Maintenance/contracts	7,500	13,481	9,000	10,000	12,000
Office Supplies	5,000	3,538	5,000	5,000	5,000
Postage	2,000	1,585	2,000	2,000	2,000
Planning Expenses	200	-	200	200	200
Zoning Expenses	800	48	800	800	800
Town Meeting	500	-	250	250	250
Tabulator Programming	2,000	1,017	2,000	1,500	1,500
Town Reports	2,000	1,065	2,000	1,600	2,000
Electricity	1,500	1,714	1,600	2,000	1,800
Telephone/Internet	3,300	3,198	3,400	3,400	3,400
Heat	2,500	1,208	2,500	2,100	2,500
Office Maintenance	1,200	4,398	1,200	1,500	4,000
Technology Expense	2,000	291	1,700	2,000	2,000
Office Building Alarm Sys	1,700	2,922	2,000	2,000	3,000
Janitorial	3,250	3,000	3,250	3,000	3,250
Office Bldg Debt Service	24,025	24,021	23,420	23,420	22,724
Dues	2,600	5,266	2,625	5,266	5,000
Benn County Court	17,900	17,972	18,500	18,500	18,500
BCRC	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Insurance	14,000	14,317	14,000	14,000	15,000
Ambulance/Rescue	26,750	26,750	26,750	26,750	26,750
Animal Control	500	136	500	500	500
Green Up Appropriation	100	100	100	100	100
Fire Protection	72,882	72,882	74,366	74,366	80,000
Fire Warden	50	-	50	50	50
Landfill/Recycling	8,500	6,710	8,500	8,500	8,500
Solid Waste Fees	8,000	6,821	8,000	8,000	8,000
Hazardous Waste	2,000	1,063	1,000	1,000	1,000
Law Enforcement	35,000	29,253	38,605	38,605	40,530
Legal	7,000	2,015	7,000	8,000	9,000
Legal Warnings	1,000	502	1,000	1,000	1,000
Public Communications-GNAT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,915	2,915
Training/Workshops	500	290	500	500	500
Audit	9,750	-	6,000	9,000	9,000
Employee Appreciation	200	183	200	200	200
Miscellaneous	100	-	100	100	100
General Fund Budget Subtotals	383,627	368,915	403,314	412,496	428,094
VOTED ARTICLES					
Appropriations	28,150	28,150	18,560	18,560	19,060
Tech Reserve-Transfer	-	-	-	-	-
Town Office Bldg-Transfer	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Special Projects Reserve-Transfer	65,000	65,000	-	-	-
Voted Articles Subtotals	94,650	94,650	20,060	20,060	20,560
Total General Fund Budget with Separately Voted Articles	478,277	463,565	423,374	432,556	448,654

**GENERAL FUND (NON-PROPERTY TAX) REVENUE/INCOME BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1ST, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2027**

Account	Budget FY24/25	Actual FY24/25	Budget FY25/26	Anticipated FY25/26	Budget FY26/27
Revenue-Beverage Licenses	115	115	115	115	115
Revenue-Dog Licenses	1,000	842	950	950	950
Revenue-Copier/Supply Reimbursement	5	0	5	5	5
Revenue -Zoning Fees	2,000	3,832	2,500	2,500	2,000
Revenue -Hauler Permit Fees	50	50	50	50	50
Revenue-Dog Fines	0	290	0	30	0
Revenue-Traffic Fines	500	1,405	500	800	500
Revenue-Checking Interest	2,000	9,082	2,000	2,000	2,000
Revenue-Delinquent Taxes Interest	0	4,078	0	5,000	0
Revenue -Late Taxes Interest	0	2,838	0	1,500	0
Revenue-Current Use Tax Adjustment	21,500	27,288	21,500	21,500	21,500
Revenue-State Property Tax Adjustment	0	23,694	0	35,293	0
Revenue-Fish & Wildlife Tax Adjustment	963	963	963	963	963
Revenue-Railway Tax Adjustment	275	276	275	275	275
Revenue-State Cannabis Control Bd. Fees	100	0	0	0	0
Revenue-Delinquent Taxes Collected	0	43,035	0	17,584	0
Revenue-Miscellaneous	0	95	0	0	0
Total Revenues (EXCLUDING TAXES)	28,508	117,883	28,858	88,565	28,358

Proposed FY26/27 General Fund Expense Budget

428,094

Services included in the General Fund Budget:

<i>Arlington Fire Protection</i>	<i>80,000</i>
<i>Arlington Resue Squad</i>	<i>26,750</i>
<i>GNAT</i>	<i>2,915</i>
<i>Green Up Vermont</i>	<i>100</i>

FY26/27 Articles to be Voted Upon:

Town Office Building Reserve Fund	1,500
Arlington Area Childcare Inc.	700
WindowDressers	500
Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Services	1,500
Arlington Recreation Park	5,000
Martha Canfield Memorial Library	10,510
Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)	150
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	700

SUBTOTAL

20,560

Proposed FY26/27 General Fund Expense Budget with Articles

448,654

HIGHWAY FUND FY27 BUDGET

Account	Budget FY24/25	Actual FY24/25	Budget FY25/26	Anticipated FY25/26	PROPOSED BUDGET FY26/27
Payroll	197,000	179,310	196,200	197,200	205,000
Retirement	9,900	6,285	9,800	9,075	10,000
Fica/Medi	15,825	14,198	15,750	15,750	15,825
Health Insurance	32,250	20,542	35,105	35,105	35,105
Dental Insurance	1,800	2,004	1,950	2,000	2,200
VT Childcare Tax	915	816	910	910	910
Electric	1,500	1,700	1,600	1,895	1,800
Telephone/Computer	1,550	1,937	1,800	2,742	2,000
Heat- Propane	5,600	5,037	5,600	5,000	6,000
Garage Maint/Supplies	4,500	7,451	4,500	5,000	5,500
Insurance	21,000	10,454	21,500	21,500	21,500
Storm Wtr Runoff St Permit	2,250	1,350	2,250	2,250	2,250
Sublet Services	3,000	2,100	3,000	3,000	3,000
Trash	1,000	588	1,000	1,000	1,000
Training/CDL/Testing	500	210	500	500	500
Uniforms	2,500	2,415	2,500	2,500	3,000
Tools/Safety	1,000	336	1,000	1,000	1,000
Road Signs	800	432	800	800	1,000
Culverts	5,500	1,571	5,500	5,500	5,500
Equipment/Truck Maintenance	55,000	81,531	55,000	55,000	75,000
Diesel & Gas	30,000	23,258	35,000	35,000	35,000
Radio Maint/Service	1,800	3,218	1,800	1,800	1,800
Erosion Control	2,000	302	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sand	25,500	0	25,500	27,000	27,000
Salt	60,000	62,050	55,000	60,000	65,000
Road Material-gravel/stone	35,000	37,352	40,000	45,000	45,000
Cold Patch	1,200	0	1,200	1,200	1,200
Chloride	16,000	14,214	16,000	16,000	16,000
Pavement Marking	8,750	13,275	13,000	17,805	17,500
Employee Appreciation	200	0	200	200	200
Miscellaneous	250	150	250	250	250
Highway Fund Budget Subtotals	544,090	494,087	556,215	573,982	609,040
VOTED ARTICLES					
Bridge Co-op Fund-Transfer	-	0	0	0	5,000
Equip Reserve Fund-Transfer	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Paving Reserve-Transfer	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Guardrail Reserve-Transfer	-	85	0	0	5,000
Road Projects Reserve-Transfer	-	522	0	0	15,000
Special Projects-Transfer	200,000	200,000	-	0	0
Voted Transfers Subtotals	340,000	340,607	140,000	140,000	165,000
Total Highway Fund Budget with Separately Voted Transfers	884,090	834,694	696,215	713,982	774,040

**HIGHWAY FUND (NON-PROPERTY TAX) REVENUE/INCOME BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1ST, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2027**

Account	Budget FY24/25	Actual FY24/25	Budget FY25/26	Anticipated FY25/26	Budget FY27/28
Revenue-Overweight Permits	200	240	200	200	200
Revenue-Interest earned	400	4,194	1,500	1,500	1,500
Revenue-State Aid to Hwys	89,000	94,745	90,000	90,000	90,000
Revenue-Road Cut Permits	40	50	50	50	50
Revenue-National Forest	64,000	73,038	69,000	75,430	70,000
Total Revenues (EXCLUDING TAXES)	153,640	172,267	160,750	167,180	161,750
Proposed FY26/27 Highway Fund Expense Budget					609,040
FY26/27 Articles to be Voted Upon:					
Bridge Co-op Fund					5,000
Equipment Reserve Fund					70,000
Paving Reserve					70,000
Guardrail Reserve					5,000
Road Projects Reserve					15,000
SUBTOTAL					165,000
Proposed FY26/27 Highway Expense Budget with Articles					774,040

CEMETERY FUND FY27 BUDGET

Account	Budget FY24/25	Actual FY24/25	Budget FY25/26	Anticipated FY25/26	PROPOSED BUDGET FY26/27
Payroll	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Fica/Medi	230	230	230	230	230
VT Childcare Tax	15	9	15	9	15
Sublet Mowing & Maint	13,000	14,300	13,000	10,610	13,150
Cornerstones/Foundation	-	-	-	500	-
Supplies	1,000	220	500	500	500
Headstone cleaning/repair	2,000	-	4,500	4,500	4,500
Mapping Services	2,000	3,390	-	-	-
Cemetery Fund Budget Totals	21,245	21,149	21,245	19,349	21,395

2025 Cemetery Commission Report

* Commissioners visited the small burial ground along Kelley Stand Road. Cleared debris. Noted that fencing is intact. Had sign made and will post in 2026.

* Rule changes for cemeteries include: dogs must be leashed, dog owners must pick up waste, trash barrels have been removed, so visitors must carry out trash.

Upcoming for 2026:

1. 30-minute presentation on state of Sunderland's cemeteries
2. Green up day to include Ira Allen Cemetery, 9am - noon, first Saturday in May. Volunteers needed. Contact town office.
3. Lawrence Cemetery Restoration Day to be held sometime in spring 2026 (date TBD). Volunteers needed. Contact Avis Hayden -- haydenak@myfairpoint.net

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Johnston
 Avis Hayden
 Neil Humphrey

2026-2027
Proposed Schedule of Salaries, Wages and Allowable Expenses

Animal Control Officer		\$ 225.00	Monthly
Auditors		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Board of Civil Authority		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Cemetery Commissioners		\$ 1,000.00	Annually
Constables		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Delinquent Tax Collector			Fees Collected
Emergency Management-Coordinator		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Emergency Management-Assistant		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Health Officer		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Health Officer Deputy		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Listers		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Listers-Chairman		\$ 30.00	Hourly
Moderator		\$ 100.00	per Meeting
Planning Board Member		\$ 700.00	Annually
Recording Secretary		\$ 21.00	Hourly
Road Foreman	<i>Current FY26 Rate:</i>	\$ 31.00	Hourly
Road Worker	<i>Current FY26 Rate:</i>	\$ 27.00	Hourly
Road Worker	<i>Current FY26 Rate:</i>	\$ 27.00	Hourly
	<i>Road Dept. budgeted increase to be distributed based on performance reviews:</i>	\$ 3.00	Hourly
Select Board- Chairperson		\$ 2,000.00	Annually
Select Board- Member		\$ 1,500.00	Annually
Service Officer		\$ 20.00	Hourly
Town Clerk		\$ 21,000.00	Annually <i>plus fees collected</i>
Town Clerk/Treasurer Assistant		\$ 25.00	Hourly
Town Treasurer		\$ 16,000.00	Annually
Webmaster		\$ 2,400.00	Annually
Zoning Administrator		\$ 32.00	Hourly
Zoning Board - Chairperson		\$ 350.00	Annually
Zoning Board - Secretary		\$ 300.00	Annually
Zoning Board - Member		\$ 200.00	Annually
Mileage Reimbursement			Federal Rate per Mile

Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Cash Balance for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Bank of Bennington	6/30/2025 Statement Balance	1,207,404.73
Bank of Bennington	Cemetery Reserve CD	90,000.00
Petty Cash on Hand	6/30/2025	100.00
Subtotal Cash Balance as of June 30th, 2025		1,297,504.73
Less Outstanding Checks		(29,888.45)
(Payments Remaining Uncashed as of 6/30/2025)		
Total Fund Balance as of June 30th, 2025		1,267,616.28

General Fund Cash Balance 6/30/2025	45,305.69	
Highway Fund Cash Balance 6/30/2025	162,549.27	
Cemetery Fund Cash Balance 6/30/2025	2,109.31	
Reserve/Savings/Trust Funds Cash Balance 6/30/2025	749,046.23	
ARPA (American Rescue) Fund Cash Balance 6/30/2025	7,901.50	
MERP (Grant-Energy) Fund Cash Balance 6/30/2025	42,764.30	
Special Projects Fund Cash Balance 6/30/2025	257,939.98	
Total Balance on Hand by Fund as of June 30th, 2025		1,267,616.28

Town Auditors' Statement of Opinion

The accompanying financial statements of the Town of Sunderland for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 were supplied by the Town Treasurer. The Auditors' responsibility is to review these financial statements and offer an opinion of the accuracy of the information contained therein.

Based upon the review, it is our opinion that the financial position of the Town of Sunderland as of June 30, 2025, has been presented fairly and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Catherine Comar
Theodore Rappahahn

Town of Sunderland Auditors

Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025
GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2024	\$ 121,608.85
Fiscal 24/25 Revenues:	
Tax Revenues-Current	\$ 259,629.58
Tax Revenues-Delinquent Collected	\$ 43,034.72
State of VT-Property Tax Adjustments	\$ 23,694.23
State of VT-Current Use Tax	\$ 27,288.00
State of VT-Railway Tax	\$ 276.03
State of VT-Fish & Wildlife Tax	\$ 962.61
Interest Earned	\$ 9,082.25
Interest-Delinquent Taxes	\$ 4,078.23
Interest-Late Paid Taxes	\$ 2,837.52
Dog Licenses & Penalties	\$ 1,132.00
Beverage Licenses	\$ 115.00
Hauler Permits	\$ 50.00
Zoning Fees	\$ 3,832.28
Traffic Fines	\$ 1,405.39
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 94.78
ARPA Transfer	-
Total Revenues	\$ 377,512.62
Fiscal 24/25 Disbursements:	
Orders PR 1- PR 52 Paid:	
Payroll - Wages & Retirement	\$ (93,067.85)
Payroll - Expenses	\$ (9,601.85)
Payroll - Health & Dental Insurance	\$ (12,030.90)
Orders GF 1- GF 25 Paid:	
Office Building Debt Service	\$ (24,021.01)
Services, Insurance & Dues	\$ (191,258.42)
Operational Expenses	\$ (38,934.74)
Voted Appropriations	\$ (28,150.00)
Subtotal Disbursements	\$ (397,064.77)
Voted Transfers to Reserve Accounts:	
Special Projects Reserve Fund	\$ (65,000.00)
Town Office Building Reserve Fund	\$ (1,500.00)
Subtotal Inter-Fund Transfers	\$ (66,500.00)
Grand Total Disbursed	\$ (463,564.77)
Ending Balance- 6/30/2025	\$ 35,556.70
Plus Outstanding Payables	\$ 9,748.99
Cash On Hand (Bank & Petty)-6/30/2025	\$ 45,305.69

Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025
HIGHWAY FUND

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2024	\$ 272,180.79
Fiscal 24/25 Revenues:	
Tax Revenues	\$ 458,269.00
Interest Earned	\$ 4,194.22
Overweight Permits	\$ 240.00
Road Cut Permits	\$ 50.00
State Aid to Highways	\$ 94,744.75
National Forest Revenue	\$ 73,038.00
Highway Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 94,526.40
Total Revenues	\$ 725,062.37
Fiscal 24/25 Disbursements:	
Orders PR 1- PR 52A Paid:	
Payroll - Wages & Retirement	\$ (185,595.12)
Payroll - Expenses	\$ (15,014.84)
Payroll - Health & Dental Insurance	\$ (22,546.26)
Orders HF 1- HF 25 Paid:	
Equipment Maintenance & Supplies	\$ (104,789.81)
Road Maint. Materials & Supplies	\$ (129,531.25)
Operational Expenses	\$ (36,609.46)
Subtotal Disbursements	\$ (494,086.74)
Voted Transfers to Reserve Accounts:	
Bridge Co-op Reserve Fund	\$ -
Equipment Reserve Fund	\$ (70,000.00)
Paving Reserve Fund	\$ (70,000.00)
Road Projects Reserve Fund	\$ (522.17)
Special Projects Reserve Fund	\$ (200,000.00)
Guardrail Reserve Fund	\$ (84.98)
Subtotal Inter-Fund Transfers	\$ (340,607.15)
Grand Total Disbursed	\$ (834,693.89)
Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2025	\$ 162,549.27

**Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025
CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND**

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2024	\$ 2,134.63
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Fiscal 24/25 Revenues:

Tax Revenues	\$ 19,110.00
Interest Earned	\$ 17.01
Investment Interest Earned	\$ 1,996.27
Total Revenues	\$ 21,123.28

Fiscal 24/25 Disbursements:

Orders CEM 1- CEM 6 Paid:

Payroll - Wages	\$ (3,000.00)
Payroll - Expenses	\$ (238.30)
Mowing and Maintenance	\$ (14,300.00)
Mapping Services	\$ (3,389.92)
Supplies	\$ (220.38)
Total Disbursed	\$ (21,148.60)

Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2025	\$ 2,109.31
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Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025
RESERVES-INVESTMENT, SAVINGS & TRUSTS

Account	Beginning Balance 7/1/2024	Interest Earned	Transfers In & Other Revenues	Transfers Out & Expenses	Ending Balance 6/30/2025
Orders SF 1 - SF 16 Paid					
Record Preservation	\$ 23,214.67	\$ 792.29	\$ 4,638.00	\$ (1,200.00)	\$ 27,444.96
Landfill Litigation	\$ 13,394.77	\$ 415.55			\$ 13,810.32
Municipal Building	\$ 3,026.20	\$ 123.20	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,649.40
Technology	\$ 5,789.70	\$ 179.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,969.31
Tri-centennial	\$ 300.90	\$ 9.41			\$ 310.31
Cemetery Trust ¹	\$ 107,826.08	\$ 3,187.92	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 114,514.00
Highway Equipment	\$ 204,436.03	\$ 3,332.77	\$ 70,000.00	\$ (155,964.00)	\$ 121,804.80
Paving	\$ 134,138.15	\$ 3,896.97	\$ 252,728.00	\$ (230,757.44)	\$ 160,005.68
Bridge Co-op	\$ 39,078.83	\$ 864.70	\$ -	\$ (17,725.07)	\$ 22,218.46
Housing Re-hab	\$ 6,570.46	\$ 203.78			\$ 6,774.24
National Forest	\$ 67,732.62	\$ 2,100.70			\$ 69,833.32
Guardrails	\$ 15,411.86	\$ 477.98	\$ -		\$ 15,889.84
Reappraisal	\$ 142,972.02	\$ 3,869.80	\$ (27,981.36)		\$ 118,860.46
Road Projects	\$ 43,127.26	\$ 1,269.13	\$ 16,672.75	\$ (9,998.76)	\$ 51,070.38
Sunderland Hill Rd. Safety ²	\$ (31,861.15)	\$ 370.16	\$ 48,726.53	\$ (2,376.00)	\$ 14,859.54
Grants	\$ 3,084.32	\$ 88.87	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (3,141.98)	\$ 1,031.21
	\$ 778,242.72	\$ 21,182.84	\$ 370,783.92	\$ (421,163.25)	\$ 749,046.23

Please Note:

1.- Cemetery Trust fund includes Bank of Bennington Account and CD

**Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30,2025
ARPA (American Rescue Plan) FUND**

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2024	\$	7,665.76
Fiscal 24/25 Revenues:		
Grant Revenues	\$	-
Interest Earned	\$	235.74
Total Revenues	\$	235.74
Fiscal 24/25 Disbursements:		
Orders ARP 1- ARP 4 Paid & Transfer Journal Entries:		
Tech Services and Devices-Grant	\$	-
Voted Transfer to General Fund	\$	-
Voted Transfer to Highway Fund	\$	-
Tech Services - local funds (from interest earned)	\$	-
Total Disbursed	\$	-
Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2025	\$	7,901.50

**Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30,2025
MERP (Grant-Energy) FUND**

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2024	\$	-
Fiscal 24/25 Revenues:		
Grant Revenues	\$	44,468.46
Interest Earned	\$	369.68
Total Revenues	\$	44,838.14
Fiscal 24/25 Disbursements:		
MERP Grant Paid & Transfer Journal Entries:		
Professional Services-Grant	\$	(2,073.84)
Building Services-Grant	\$	-
Building Supplies-Grant	\$	-
Building Equipment-Grant	\$	-
Total Disbursed	\$	(2,073.84)
Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2025	\$	42,764.30

**Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
 Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30,2025
 SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND**

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2024	\$ -
Fiscal 24/25 Revenues:	
Transfer from General Fund Revenues	\$ 65,000.00
Transfer from Highway Fund Revenues	\$ 200,000.00
Interest Earned	\$ 7,358.96
Total Revenues	\$ 272,358.96
Fiscal 24/25 Disbursements:	
Special Projects Fund Paid & Transfer Journal Entries:	
Signs & Materials	\$ (14,418.98)
Total Disbursed	\$ (14,418.98)
Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2025	\$ 257,939.98

F/Y 2025/2026 TAX RATE

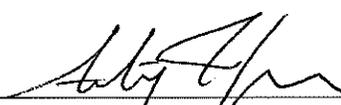
<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>		<u>RATE</u>
GENERAL FUND	\$302,728.31 ÷	\$1,641,988.96	=	\$0.1844
MUNICIPAL BUILDING	\$23,420.00 ÷	\$1,641,988.96	=	\$0.0143
HIGHWAY FUND	\$516,701.84 ÷	\$1,641,988.96	=	\$0.3147
CEMETERY FUND	\$1,7466.74 ÷	\$1,641,988.96	=	\$0.0106
LOCAL AGREEMENT	\$6,185.97 ÷	\$1,641,988.96	=	\$0.0038

By the authority duly granted by Title 17 Sec. 2664 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, we do hereby establish the foregoing rates of taxation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year which concludes June 30, 2026

TODD LAWRENCE



BRUCE MATTISON



ANTHONY THOMPSON



RICHARD TIMMERMAN

MARTIN NADLER

Sunderland Town Loan # 556 Series 2017-4
Vermont Municipal Bond Bank
Series 2013-1 Loan #21 Original Principal \$351,000

Date	Principal	Interest	Rebate	TTL Due
2013-11	0	3,947	0	3,947
2014-05	0	5,872	0	5,872
2014-11	17,550	5,872	0	23,422
2015-05	0	5,802	0	5,802
2015-11	17,550	5,802	0	23,352
2016-05	0	5,699	0	5,699
2016-11	17,550	5,699	0	23,249
2017-05	0	5,561	0	5,561
2017-11	17,550	5,561	-875	22,236
2018-05	0	5,392	0	5,392
2018-11	17,550	5,392	-238	22,704
2019-05	0	5,188	0	5,188
2019-11	17,550	5,188	-224	22,514
2020-05	0	4,955	0	4,955
2020-11	17,550	4,955	-248	22,257
2021-05	0	4,698	0	4,698
2021-11	17,550	4,698	-243	22,005
2022-05	0	4,416	0	4,416
2022-11	17,550	4,416	-245	21,721
2023-05	0	4,112	0	4,112
2023-11	17,550	4,112	-244	21,418
2024-05	0	3,793	0	3,793
2024-11	17,550	3,793	-782	20,561
2025-05	0	3,460	0	3,460
2025-11	17,550	3,460	-702	20,308
2026-05	0	3,110	0	3,110
2026-11	17,550	3,110	-686	19,974
2027-05	0	2,750	0	2,750
2027-11	17,550	2,750	-673	19,627
2028-05	0	2,380	0	2,380
2028-11	17,550	2,380	-663	19,267
2029-05	0	2,000	0	2,000
2029-11	17,550	2,000	-762	18,788
2030-05	0	1,610	0	1,610
2030-11	17,550	1,610	-660	18,500
2031-05	0	1,215	0	1,215
2031-11	17,550	1,215	-661	18,104
2032-05	0	813	0	813
2032-11	17,550	813	-573	17,790
2033-05	0	408	0	408
2033-11	17,550	408	-365	17,593
	351,000	150,415	(8,844)	492,571

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
TOWN CLERK'S STATEMENT OF
DOG LICENSE SALES
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 2025**

2024 - July 1st Through December 31st

1 New Neutered/Spayed	@ \$9.00	\$	9.00
1 New Neutered/Spayed	@ \$11.00	\$	11.00
1 New Neutered/Spayed	@ \$13.00	\$	13.00
1 New Neutered/Spayed	@ \$19.00	\$	19.00
3 Late Neutered/Spayed	@ \$17.00	\$	51.00
1 New Males/Females	@ \$17.00	\$	17.00
1 Late Males/Females	@ \$23.00	\$	23.00
4 Late Fines	@ \$10.00	\$	40.00
			2024 Subtotal \$ 183.00

2025 -January 1st through June 30th

110 Neutered/Spayed	@ \$15.00	\$	1,650.00
19 Males/Females	@ \$19.00	\$	361.00
24 Late Neutered/Spayed	@ \$19.00	\$	456.00
1 Late Males/Females	@ \$25.00	\$	25.00
25 Late Fines	@ \$10.00	\$	250.00
			2025 Subtotal \$ 2,742.00

July 1st, 2024 through June 30th, 2025 Grand Total \$ 2,925.00

Less Town Clerk Fees 163 @ \$4.00 \$ (652.00)

* Less State of Vermont Fees 163 @ \$7.00 \$ (1,141.00)

Total General Fund Revenue \$ 1,132.00

All dogs are required to be licensed by **April 1st** of each year.

The licenses for the new year are available beginning January 1st.

A copy of a current (non-expired) rabies vaccination certificate is **required** for licensing.

Second Chance Animal Center organizes a low-cost rabies vaccine clinic each March to help you comply with dog registration requirements. Watch their Facebook page or call 802-375-2898 to find out this year's schedule. They also offer a fee-waived pet food pantry, low-cost spay/neuter clinic, and other programs to assist Bennington County residents to care for their pets.



Town of Sunderland Delinquent Tax Report
Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/2025

Parcel	Property Owner	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
0921-PP	BGB Holdings LLC						434.26	434.26
0497	Blackmer, Fred & V						408.47	408.47
0262	Bonini, Jean A & R						248.31	248.31
0166	Boylan, Rosemary						2252.44	2252.44
0318	Caruolo, William F						3774.74	3774.74
0509	Chila, Lance J						96.17	96.17
0567	Cole, Gene			982.34	1363.45	1385.06	1277.00	5007.85
0397	Danforth, Tammy M					2257.29	1525.72	3783.01
0646	Donatelli, Valerie	5523.03	5093.52	4568.88	3929.50	3991.70	3680.04	26786.67
0267	Dunn Herrick, Phyllis						9595.43	9595.43
0350	Hill Farm Property						25.44	25.44
0292	Housman, Russell						131.84	131.84
0475	Livingston, Donna				467.71	1497.23	1380.36	3345.30
0632	Marzec, Richard						446.29	446.29
0832	Porcaro, Barbara						3425.71	3425.71
0923	Randell, Wayne						1188.21	1188.21
0883	Simonds, Harry						267.09	267.09
0544	Sweeney, Christopher						408.00	408.00
0709	Sweeney, Christopher						1743.97	1743.97
0952	Vanorman, Glenn						2414.96	2414.96
0138	Wabisky, Stanley					3443.04	4812.29	8255.33

2025 VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Name	Date of Event
Aguilera Piedra, Cesar	March 2025
Blair, Fayston Mansfield	January 2025
Donovan, Eleanor Rose	February 2025
Goodrich, Phineas Atticus	March 2025
Kelley, Keir Charles	October 2025
Kershaw, Ava Wren	March 2025
Kutzer, Peter Dennis	April 2025
Lewicki, Lorelei Marie	September 2025
MacDonald, Rhyker John	May 2025
Wilkins, Tanner James	November 2025

DEATHS

Name	Date of Event
Battaglia, Vincent	October 2025
Bowen, Albert W.	March 2025
Crandall, Annina Joan	July 2025
Ross, Merrill K.	April 2025

MARRIAGES

Names	Date of Event
Lefebvre, Heather Marie Ross, Daniel Aaron	July 2025
Walsh, Linda Susan Dillon, David Searles	August 2025
Dajani, Katherine Christine Nussbaum, Jeremy Steven	September 2025
Klinge, Lindsey Elizabeth Goodfriend, Alexander Jude	November 2025
Rose, Katherine Mary Brace, Joshua Aaron	December 2025

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES AND RESULTS**

MARCH 3RD AND 4TH, 2025

Select Board Chair, Richard “Dixie” Zens called the Town of Sunderland Annual Meeting to order at 7:00PM with an audience of approximately 50 in attendance. Chair Zens introduced the select board members, Todd Lawrence, Andrew McKeever, Bruce Mattison, Martin Nadler as well as Town Clerk Susan Whitney.

Article 1. To elect a Town Moderator. Andrew McKeever nominated Alyson Grzyb. No other nominations were received. Martin Nadler seconded the nomination. All in favor, Alyson Grzyb was declared Moderator.

Moderator Grzyb welcomed everyone and provided a brief outline of the rules to be followed for the meeting.

Article 2. Shall the voters of Sunderland authorize the payment of the personal and property taxes to the Town Treasurer in equal installments with the payments to be in the hands of the Treasurer by Wednesday, October 15th 2025 and Wednesday, April 15th 2026?

Harriet Welther moved the question, seconded by Virginia Dexter. No discussion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Joe Boutin moved the question. Jared Bianchi seconded. Joe Boutin stated we need equipment. No further discussion. Article 3 passed with all in favor.

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Motion made by Joe Boutin, seconded by Rick Timmerman. Joe Boutin asked if there is a plan for which road would be paved next? As no one from the highway department was in attendance, Select Board Road Liaison, Bruce Mattison responded that he had not received an indication of which road may be next and noted that with the price increases to paving there may not be sufficient funds to pave next fiscal year. David Traver Adolphus thanked the road crew for their work and noted the difference between our roads and other towns. No further discussion. Motion approved.

With the arrival of state representatives, Kathleen James and Rob Hunter, Moderator Grzyb recessed the meeting to allow them to address their constituents. The meeting resumed at approximately 7:48 PM.

Article 5. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Motion made by Colleen York, Joe Boutin seconded. Clarification as to the use of the fund was provided- it is used for repairs and maintenance to the municipal building. No further discussion, article passed with all in favor.

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland establish a reserve fund to be called the Audit Reserve Fund to be used for the engagement of professional auditing and financial services?

Article moved by Virginia Dexter, seconded by Rick Timmerman. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty of finding auditors and the increase in price for their services, and the funding for those services. As a result of discussion, Rick Timmerman made the motion to amend the article to transfer any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year in the current budgeted audit line item to the new Audit Reserve Fund. Joe Boutin seconded the amended motion. Article as amended was approved by majority vote, one nay.

Article 7. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.** (Happy Days Playschool) to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article moved by Harriet Welther, seconded by Mia Smith. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

Article 8. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$500.00** for the support of **WindowDressers** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Motion made by Marie Litowinsky, seconded by Timothy Knell. Jeff Dexter provided an explanation of what WindowDressers is and how funds are needed to support window inserts for low income residents. No further discussion, all in favor. Article approved.

Article 9. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$1,500.00** for the support of **Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article moved by Michael Welther, seconded by Patricia Rutins. No discussion. All in favor, article approved.

Article 10. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$5,000.00** for the support of the **Recreation Park in Arlington** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Motion made by Colleen York, seconded by Alex Rutins. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article 11. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$10,010.00** for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Moved by Mia Smith, seconded by Phyllis Warren. Rob Zeif asked is the \$10.00 was a typo? Clarification given that it was a 10 percent increase from \$9100.00 the previous year. No further discussion, all favor. Article approved.

Article 12. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging** to provide elder services to the residents of the town?

Article moved by Michael Welther, seconded by Patricia Rutins. No discussion, all in favor.
Article approved.

Article 13. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$150.00** for the support of the **Project Against Violent Encounters (P.A.V.E)** to provide victim services to the residents of the town?

Motion made by Harriet Welther, seconded by Colleen York. No discussion, all in favor.
Article passed.

Article 14. Discussion of other non-binding business that may come before this meeting.

Phyllis Warren asked candidates for office to introduce themselves. Rick Timmerman, Anthony Thompson, and Richard “Dixie” Zens all introduced themselves as one year select board seat candidates, and Todd Lawrence as a candidate for the three year select board seat. Alyson Grzyb mentioned she was on the ballot for moderator.

Chair Zens thanked retiring board member, Andrew McKeever for his service on the select board. Andrew McKeever thanked retiring Town Clerk and Treasurer, Susan Whitney on behalf of the select board and shared some “fun facts” about her.

Marie Litowinsky asked for input on continuing to pursue grant funding to extend the bike path. The majority in attendance responded positively to continue the bike path.

Jeff Dexter discussed the MERP (energy) Grant the town received and the items to be installed or improved. He also reminded everyone that Green Up day will be in May and to check the website for more information about the WindowDressers schedule.

Todd Lawrence introduced himself as Emergency Management and recommended folks sign up for VTAlerts to get emergency updates. Also to sign up for the CARES program which could assist residents with disabilities or other issues in an emergency.

Andrew McKeever spoke about the Community Visit meal with the folks from Rural Development scheduled for this spring. The dinner would be an opportunity to come together and discuss town improvements.

Richard Zens suggested a potluck dinner at future annual town meetings. Many in attendance responded positively to the suggestion.

With no further discussion, Moderator Grzyb reminded everyone that voting would continue by Australian ballot the next day March 4th from 10 AM until 7 PM.

Joe Boutin made the motion to adjourn this portion of the meeting, seconded by Marie Litowinsky. With no further discussion, this portion was adjourned at 8:42PM.

Polls were declared open on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at 10:00AM by Town Clerk, Susan Whitney and closed at 7PM. Balloting results are as follows:

Article 15. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$ **21,245.00** for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget?

YES	137
NO	15
BLANK	8

Article 16. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$ **403,314.00** for the General Fund Budget?

YES	138
NO	16
BLANK	6

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$ **556,215.00** for the Highway Fund Budget?

YES	136
NO	17
BLANK	7

Article 18. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

(* DENOTES ELECTED)

<u>Cemetery Commissioner</u> – 3 year term		<u>Delinquent Tax Collector</u> – 1 year term	
Neil Humphrey	148*	Richard A. Davis II	149*
Write-ins	0	Write ins	0
Over votes	0	Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Blank</u>	<u>11</u>
TOTAL	160	TOTAL	160

First Constable – 1 year term

Wayne M. Godfrey	129*
Write-ins	1
Over votes	1
<u>Blank</u>	<u>29</u>
TOTAL	160

Auditor – 3 year term

Theodore Rappahahn	132*
Write-ins	1
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>27</u>
TOTAL	160

Selectboard Members (2) - 1 year term

Anthony Thompson	86*
Richard "Rick" Timmerman	95*
Richard "Dixie" Zens	72
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>67</u>
TOTAL	320

Town Treasurer – 3 year term

Caroline Morse Hartshorn	147*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>13</u>
TOTAL	160

Auditor – 2 years remaining of a 3 year term

Write-ins	4
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>156</u>
TOTAL	160

Second Constable – 1 year term

Kevin R. Hewes	134*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>26</u>
TOTAL	160

Lister – 3 year term

Neil Humphrey	145*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	160

Selectboard Member – 3 year term

Todd Lawrence	140*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	160

Town Moderator- 1 year term

Alyson Grzyb	146*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	160

Town Clerk - 3 year term

Caroline Morse Hartshorn	154*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	160

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Whitney
Town Clerk

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard
Annual Report for 2025**

The Sunderland Selectboard would like to thank all those who have participated in town governance by attending town meetings, taking part in community visits, speaking during public comment, volunteering on committees or in official roles, and sharing praise or concerns. The work required to continuously strive for a well-managed town is substantial, and it would not be possible without the dedication of our resident volunteers and the small group of committed town employees who serve our community. We are sincerely grateful for your time, effort, and engagement.

2025 was a challenging, yet ultimately productive year for the Selectboard and the Town of Sunderland. The spring months were focused on laying the groundwork for several long-term plans, grants, and projects that will continue to benefit the town in the years ahead.

Through the dedicated efforts of Jeff Dexter, with assistance from Avis Hayden, Sunderland received state approval for a new historical roadside marker honoring Lucy Prince. The marker has been approved by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and is currently awaiting production and installation.

In collaboration with the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, and the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC), Sunderland was awarded a Municipal Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development. These funds are being used by the Planning Commission and BCRC to undertake a comprehensive update of the Town Plan.

In early 2025, Sunderland was also awarded a Municipal Energy Resilience Program grant to improve energy efficiency at the Town Hall and Town Garage. Work associated with these grant-funded improvements will take place throughout 2026. The Selectboard extends its thanks to the Energy Committee for their continued commitment, expertise, and hard work in advancing these projects.

Late spring through the summer months saw the Town of Sunderland advance several important improvements, as well as engage in a small but meaningful partnership with Sunderland Elementary School.

Through a program administered by the Bennington Rescue Squad, the town was able to purchase two Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units. One unit is located inside the Town Hall, and the second is installed in the Town Garage, improving emergency preparedness at both municipal facilities.

The town also purchased a radar speed sign, which has been deployed on various roadways throughout Sunderland. In addition to providing real-time speed feedback to drivers, the data collected by the sign assists law enforcement partners in targeting enforcement efforts and making more efficient use of limited public safety resources.

A significant portion of North Road, between Kelley Stand Road and Cobbs Road, was repaved and restriped, improving both driving conditions and roadway safety.

With support from the Selectboard, the town participated in a three-month community engagement process known as Sunderland Shines. This initiative brought community members together to examine key issues, identify top priorities, and develop community-driven action plans for the future of the town. The Vermont Council on Rural Development provided overall structure and neutral facilitation throughout the process. The final report is available online and at the Town Office.

Sunderland Elementary School also partnered with the town to identify a permanent location for its "Wish Tree," a project intended to welcome residents and visitors alike. The young red oak tree is now planted near the Town Hall sign along Sunderland Hill Road, where it will serve as a visible symbol of community for many years to come.

As fall progressed into winter, the town shifted its focus toward ensuring a safe and successful winter season.

The Town of Sunderland welcomed Brian Hawley as its new Road Foreman. Brian brings significant experience at both the municipal and state levels, as well as his continued service as Arlington Volunteer Fire Chief. The town also welcomed Matthew Quinn as a member of the road crew. Matthew joins the Highway Department with experience in both the private sector and municipal road work. Brian and Matthew join Keegan Hawley and have quickly integrated into the department, working to ensure Sunderland's roads remain safe and well maintained.

The town also received its newest dump truck, an International HV. This vehicle replaces a smaller, aging truck and provides increased hauling capacity, allowing for fewer trips, greater efficiency, and expanded operational capability for the Highway Department.

Finally, we acknowledge Sunderland Elementary School and its final year of operation. As many are aware, the Taconic and Green School District has decided to close the elementary school at the conclusion of this school year. The consolidation process and planned closure of SES have been long and difficult for many in our community.

Public education has a deep and lasting history in Sunderland, dating back to the 1800s, when small schoolhouses served areas such as Chiserville and Mount Pleasant. The closing of Sunderland Elementary School marks the end of a significant chapter in the town's history.

Looking ahead, the Selectboard has established communication with the Taconic and Green School Board regarding the future status of the property and the terms of prior legal agreements that may allow the Town to repurchase the school property for \$1. While there are both opportunities and challenges associated with this possibility, the future of the site will be among the Selectboard's most important priorities in the coming year. Additional information and opportunities for public involvement will be shared as this process moves forward.

The Sunderland Selectboard meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. The public is always encouraged to attend meetings held at the Town Hall or to join virtually via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Lawrence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Lawrence

Sunderland Selectboard Chair

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT 2025

Seventy-eight zoning applications were received in 2025 including eight new single-family homes, and nineteen short term rental applications.

Please contact me with any concerns regarding the application of the Land Use Bylaws and your project. During 2025 many proposals were reviewed with landowners, engineers, surveyors, and architects during early-stage planning. This allows for a quicker permitting process.

Office hours for 2026 will be Monday and Thursday 9AM – 11AM at Town Hall. I can be contacted at zoningadmin@sunderlandvt.org , emails are preferred, phone messages will only be checked during office hours. During office hours I can be reached at 802-430-7146.

Thank you

David Kiernan
Sunderland Zoning Administrator

For nearly 60 years Arlington Rescue Squad (ARS) has been providing exceptional pre-hospital care and transportation for the residents of Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate, and North Shaftsbury. As well, we provide mutual aid support for our northern neighbors--Northshire Rescue--and our southern neighbors--Bennington Rescue. Our dedicated staff and volunteers complete countless hours of training to retain certification and remain up-to-date on the latest medical protocols and procedures. We respond to nearly 600 emergency calls a year.

The members of Arlington Fire Department continue to provide support to us during critical medical calls, lift assists, or driving the ambulance. We sincerely thank you! Thank you to the residents of Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate and North Shaftsbury for their continued financial support through the generous town appropriations. The financial support of these towns helps ARS remain financially solvent in order to respond to emergencies with a dedicated crew. We are not seeking an increase in appropriations this year.

Community involvement is a focus for us at Arlington Rescue. Participating in Norman's Attic, standing by at the John Werner Soccer Tournament, AMHS Trunk-or-Treat, the Lighted Tractor Parade, and participation in a joint Mass Casualty Incident in Sandgate with the Arlington Fire Department have been highlights for us. We are looking forward to collaborating with the Martha Canfield Library on an Advance Directive program scheduled for January 2026 and our annual Open House in May 2026.

Looking forward, we will continue to offer training to those in our community who would like to become involved; and we will continue to provide exceptional emergency medical care to those in our community. In 2027, we are expecting delivery of a new ambulance. Our ambulances accrue significant wear-and-tear between mileage, weather, and daily use. We plan to fundraise to offset the significant cost of this necessary vehicle.

Volunteers are always welcome at Arlington Rescue! There is nothing more satisfying than helping those in your own community. If you are interested in becoming involved or would like to learn more about us, please reach out to us. Our non-emergency number is (802) 375-6589. We would love to hear from you!

Finally, please remember to post your house number clearly in order to find you in an emergency. For your continued steadfast support, we thank you. We could not do the good work we do without you.

Respectfully submitted,
The Arlington Rescue Squad Board of Directors

Arlington Fire Department would like to thank the towns of Arlington, Sandgate, and Sunderland for their continued support as we responded to 190 calls for assistance during 2025. We ran 72 calls in the town of Arlington, 64 calls in the town of Sunderland, and 15 calls in the town of Sandgate. The remainder were mutual aid calls to our neighboring towns. Throughout 2025, we were able to coordinate training with our mutual aid partners. We focused on interior fire attack and water supply. This was additional training outside of our regular training needs throughout the year. The department members completed a total of 1291.25 training hours. We would like to remind everyone the importance of having working smoke and CO detectors as well as reminding everyone to change the batteries in their detectors. Please stop by the firehouse anytime to see what we do as we are always looking for volunteers.

Respectfully submitted
Chief Brian Hawley



Strengthening Communities Through Local Independent Media

GNAT-TV Service Territory:

- Arlington
- Dorset
- Londonderry
- Manchester
- Peru
- Rupert
- Sandgate
- Stratton
- Sunderland
- Weston
- Winhall

WAYS TO WATCH

- GNAT-TV.ORG
- COMCAST CABLE CHANNELS:
1074 (PUBLIC)
1084 (GOVERNMENT)
1094 (EDUCATION)
- YOUTUBE
- ROKU & APPLE TV
- LISTEN VIA PODCAST

Thank you for your past support of GNAT-TV. Residents rely on GNAT-TV for clear and consistent access to local government, and our gavel-to-gavel coverage makes that possible. We document local decision-making, follow the discussions that shape public policy, and keep civic life transparent and accessible on cable and online platforms.

As the region’s only nonprofit community media organization, we understand that our community is shaped by public service, neighbor-to-neighbor support, and creative expression. It comes to life in town and school meetings, public celebrations, challenging issues, parades, performances, and the moments people remember for years. GNAT-TV helps make these moments visible.

GNAT-TV Operating Revenue / Expense Summary Year Ending 9.30.2024

Operating Revenue	
Mandated Cable Funding	\$386,180
Municipal Contributions (7 Towns)	\$14,000
Program Services, Contributions, Grants	\$113,704
Investments / Other	\$27,561
Cable Capital Funding:	\$38,617
Total Operating Revenue	\$580,062
Operating Expenses	
Program / Production	\$532,289
General / Management	\$99,825
Fundraising	\$4,104
Total Operating Expense	636,218

Full financial reports available at gnat-tv.org

GNAT-TV is a trusted, independent source of local information and a platform for diverse community voices. We deliver essential communication through our community event calendar, news and information programming, election coverage, youth summer camps, and media literacy education. These services strengthen civic engagement and preserve the public moments and local stories that define our region.

As cable-based funding continues to decline, the sustainability of community media depends increasingly on local support. Your partnership ensures that these services remain available to everyone. Thank you for helping sustain government transparency, strengthen civic engagement, and preserve our community’s story for years to come.

2025 Local Impact

- 824 local programs produced
- 342 public events and meetings streamed
- 957 community calendar events
- 206 bulletin board notices
- 110 media-education sessions for 149 participants
- 251 studio and equipment reservations

FY2025 GNAT-TV Services to Sunderland

Government Meeting Coverage

GNAT-TV streamed and archived 25 Sunderland government meetings, with an estimated service value of \$3,829. This includes 24 Select Board meetings and 1 Town Meeting.

Community Programming

GNAT-TV provided Sunderland-focused programming including news updates, community event coverage, and public announcements, with an estimated service value of \$2,016.



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

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

down 19% from 2024 **25,351 VOLUNTEERS**

down 11% from 2024 **14,307 TIRES!**

'24 up 6% from 2024 **426.7 TONS**

97.5% OF ALL ROADS CLEANED

Thank You!
TOGETHER WE MAKE VERMONT BEAUTIFUL

Town of Sunderland
104 Mountain View Road.
Sunderland, VT 05250

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

Appropriation Request Letter **Sept. 29, 2025**

Dear Residents of Sunderland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



426 E. Arlington Road Arlington, VT 05250

802-375-6039

Email: executivedirector@arlingtonareachildcare.org

Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.

Annual Report | Year in Review

Arlington Area Childcare, Inc. (AACI), I am proud to share this annual report highlighting a year of growth, collaboration, and deepened community impact. This past year reflects not only the strength of our program but also the power of strategic grant writing, leadership development, and meaningful partnerships that support children and families across our region.

Who We Serve

During the past year, 88 children from Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate, and neighboring towns were enrolled in AACI programs either part-time or full-time. We serve children from six weeks through twelve years of age through our Early Education Program, Afterschool Program, and Summer Camp, supporting working families while nurturing children during their most critical developmental years.

Program Quality & Organizational Strength

- Maintained our 4 STARS designation with the State of Vermont.
 - Maintained our SEED and SEW accreditation, strengthening internal systems and sustainability.
 - Successfully implemented Frog Street Curriculum, providing a research-based foundation while allowing teachers to scaffold learning through play-based and emergent curriculum practices.
-

Staff Development & Workforce Investment

Investing in educators remains a cornerstone of AACI's success.

- 11 staff members enrolled at CCV in college coursework or the Fundamentals for Early Childhood Professionals.
 - All teaching staff are qualified and working within their credentialed roles.
 - AACI provides 30 hours of professional development annually through in-house trainings, conferences, and workshops, including the VTAEYC annual conference.
 - Increased wages, benefits, and time off, supporting retention and educator well-being.
-

Family Support & Advocacy

AACI continues to serve as a trusted support hub for families:

- Operated a diaper and wipes bank.
 - Maintained connection with food shelves and worked with them to help families.
 - Supported families through our Christmas Wish Program, assisting three local families with essential holiday needs
 - Prioritized inclusive access, dignity, and partnership with families
-

Grant Writing & Fund Development

Strategic grant writing played a critical role in strengthening AACI programs this year.

- Awarded a \$90,000 in grants to enhance our programs, completed by our own administration.
- Continued successful annual fundraisers supported by staff, families, and board members
- Engaged in sustainability planning with First Children's Finance and other statewide partners

These efforts allowed AACI to expand programming, invest in staff, and maintain access for families.

Community Connections & Enrichment

Summer Camp & Enrichment

Our Summer Camp served approximately 20 campers per day and remains the only local summer camp with a consistent waiting list, underscoring its importance to working families. Campers participated in enrichment experiences such as an interactive animal program with the Utica Zoo, expanding learning beyond the classroom.

Deepening Community Roots & Leadership Engagement

Farm to School Institute – Shelburne Farms

This year, AACI participated in the Farm to School Institute at Shelburne Farms, with administration, board members, and teaching staff learning together. This shared experience strengthened our collective vision for integrating local food systems, nutrition education, and hands-on learning into classrooms and community programming.

By bringing this learning back to AACI, we are deepening connections with local food systems, enhancing curriculum, and strengthening family and community engagement around health, sustainability, and food access.

Board Growth & Governance

AACI intentionally focused on growing our Board of Directors, increasing membership, and strengthening governance capacity. A larger, engaged board brings diverse perspectives and plays an active role in strategic planning, advocacy, fundraising, and long-term sustainability.

Community Giving & Partnerships

Giving back remains central to AACI's mission. This year, AACI:

- Volunteered at local church dinners
- Supported other nonprofits through donation drives and transportation support
- Assisted organizations such as Second Chance Animal Shelter by helping deliver supplies and resources

These efforts reflect AACI's belief that strong early childhood programs are rooted in strong, connected communities.

Facilities & Ongoing Needs

Despite these outstanding achievements, the cost of living and operating expenses continue to rise, impacting utilities, insurance, maintenance, and staffing. Like many community-based nonprofits, AACI must carefully balance these increasing costs while working to keep tuition as accessible as possible for families in the communities we serve.

For the past two years, AACI has consistently worked to increase our municipal funding request through the required signature process. Despite these efforts, securing the necessary number of signatures has proven a significant challenge, and each year we have fallen short of the threshold needed to request an increase. As a result, we continue to submit our request at \$700, the same amount AACI has received since Sunderland town appropriations were first awarded.

While the need for additional funding is clear, the current process makes it out of reach at this time. Continued partnership and investment from the towns we serve, even at existing levels, remain essential to sustaining high-quality early childhood services, supporting a stable and professional workforce, and ensuring our facility remains a safe, welcoming environment for Sunderland children and families.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of the towns we serve and for the opportunity to be part of a community that values children, families, and early childhood education. Arlington Area Childcare remains committed to transparency, collaboration, and thoughtful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

If additional information would be helpful, or if a representative from Arlington Area Childcare could join a meeting or discussion, we welcome the opportunity to connect. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or to learn more about our programs, partnerships, and ongoing needs.

With appreciation,

Ginelle Hunter
Executive Director / Co-Director

Kayla Croft
Assistant Director / Co-Director

Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.

Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 62
Arlington, VT 05250

December 15, 2025

Town of Sunderland Select Board
104 Mountain View Rd.
Sunderland, VT 05250

Dear Members of the Select Board,

On behalf of the Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, I am writing to express our appreciation for the continued financial support of the board and the citizens of Sunderland. The Nursing service is respectfully requesting that the board consider funding for the year 2026 in the amount of \$1500. The cost of care to our residents in need continues to rise as well as various other medical assistance needs that are appropriately funded as they arise in our community. Our scholarship program continues each year as well, with four scholarships in place to four worthy graduating students who receive it for their entire four years depending on their diligently continuing their studies. We sincerely hope you are able to grant our request, so we may continue to provide these important services.

On behalf of the thirty citizens that make up our board we thank you for your service to our town and for your support of our missions.

Sincerely,

Donna Gunther, Interim President
Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.

Annual Report 2025

A Year in Review

Thank you for a wonderful year!



Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library
528 East Arlington Road
Arlington, VT 05250
(802)375-6153

Programs Offered

183

Physical and Digital
Items Checked Out
This Year

16,929

Library Collection

30,825

Total Physical Items

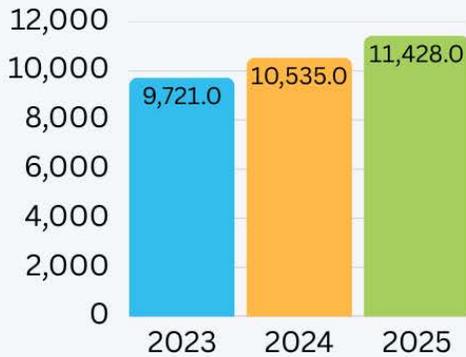
Interlibrary Loan-
Materials Borrowed

720

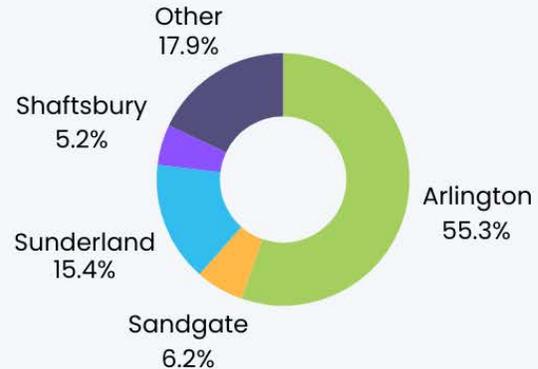
Interlibrary Loan-
Materials sent

579

Library Visits



Registered Borrowers- 1,138



Libraries Transforming
Communities Grant
Award Recipient

Major Achievements



Country Barn Dance
Community Event
and Fundraiser



Increased part-time
employee hours by
5 hours every week
starting 01/01/2026



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



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

Report to the Citizens of Sunderland

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older residents in Sunderland during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/1/2024 through 9/30/2025.

Nutrition Support

In 2025 the council supported 12 older residents in your community through both our home delivered meal program known as “**Meals on Wheels**” as well as through monthly in-person luncheon gatherings. **A total of 485 meals were delivered and served this past year directly to Sunderland residents.** Additionally, SVCOA provided **2.75 hours** of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals directly to residents of Sunderland.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA Case Management and Outreach Staff supported older residents in Sunderland for a total of 16.5 hours. Case managers meet with an older resident privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assess their individual situation. They will work with the older resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the older resident 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 residents connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail older Vermonters facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

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

Taconic and Green Regional School District – Annual Board Report

This is the ninth annual report of the Taconic and Green Regional School District (T&G), which was formed in 2017 as a result of Act 46, a statewide legislative initiative intended to improve efficiencies in school governance across Vermont. Since that time, T&G has worked collaboratively to unify curriculum, improve equitable access to educational opportunities, and create efficiencies through shared resources.

We have benefited from years of productive collaboration among representatives from each of our nine towns: Weston, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Dorset, Danby, Mount Tabor, Manchester, and Sunderland. While our members reside in each of these communities, we approach our work as representatives of the entire district, rather than as advocates for individual towns. One of our original board members, Deb Lyneis, captured this philosophy simply and powerfully: *“All our kids are all our kids.”* This guiding principle continues to shape our decisions as we work to ensure that all students, regardless of town of residence, have access to equitable, high-quality educational experiences.

This philosophy has allowed us to examine our district as a whole, revealing both exciting opportunities and very difficult choices. At the formation of T&G, the seven unifying boards, Danby, Mt. Tabor, UD 23, Manchester, Sunderland, Dorset, and Mountain Towns RED, recognized the opportunity to strengthen educational offerings for middle school students across the region. While conversations about a regional middle school long predated T&G, meaningful progress was only possible after establishing a unified governance structure.

Over the past three years, under the leadership of our Superintendent and with support from the Supervisory Union, we have engaged extensively with our communities to gauge support, explore opportunities, and thoughtfully develop a vision for a regional middle school. Our goal is to expand learning opportunities, strengthen community connections, and better meet the social-emotional and academic needs of middle school students.

Next year, we will begin Phase One of this initiative by bringing together our valley communities, Danby, Mount Tabor, Manchester, Dorset, and Sunderland, into a unified middle school environment intentionally designed to meet the unique developmental needs of adolescents. Phase Two will include construction of a facility large enough to integrate our mountain communities, Weston, Londonderry, Landgrove, and Peru, into the new regional middle school experience. In the coming months, district voters will be asked to consider a bond to support this work once architectural plans, financial impacts, and curricular commitments are finalized. The board is confident that this project will significantly benefit both students and communities for generations to come.

As we envisioned this future, it also became clear that inequities existed within our current system. Like much of Vermont, our district is experiencing declining enrollment while operating costs continue to rise. For our smallest schools, Sunderland Elementary and Currier Memorial declining enrollment has increasingly limited students' access to robust and equitable educational opportunities.

This year, the board faced a difficult choice: maintain the status quo or pursue changes that would better serve our students. We engaged deeply with our communities, held public meetings, and listened carefully to families. While communities understandably expressed strong attachment to their local schools, many families also recognized the benefits that expanded educational environments could offer—more comprehensive services, broader curricular offerings, increased extracurricular opportunities, and stronger peer communities.

Following non-binding referendum votes in Mount Tabor, Danby, and Sunderland, each of which supported keeping schools open, the board nonetheless voted to close Sunderland Elementary School and Currier Memorial School. This decision was not taken lightly and was very difficult for board members. However, guided by our core belief that *all our kids are all our kids*, we concluded that maintaining the current structure would not allow us to deliver on our commitment to equitable, high-quality education for every student. We are working closely with the Superintendent as she builds out the next steps towards achieving our districts' vision for the future of public education in our region.

While cost was not the primary driver of this decision, the upcoming budget reflects cost savings that have resulted from the consolidation of our schools. However, rising healthcare costs, reduced grant funding, and continued enrollment declines contribute to an overall district budget increase of 3.2%. It is important to note, this increase is significantly lower than the statewide projected increase. The board has also allocated a portion of the district's reserve funds to the overall budget to further mitigate tax impacts.

Taxpayers' individual rates will vary considerably across our nine towns due to Vermont's education funding structure, which are determined by the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), which adjusts for differences in property values among towns as a statewide mechanism to ensure equitable education funding statewide. This variability is outside district control. Additional information is available in the Frequently Used Terms section of this Annual Report.

This report represents only part of the work undertaken by the T&G Board this year. The enactment of Act 73 has introduced significant changes to education funding and governance, with additional proposals under consideration that may further reshape district structures and school choice policies. These developments could have substantial impacts on our communities.

The board has remained active and vigilant in monitoring these changes and advocating at the state level. We extend sincere thanks to Jim Salsgiver for representing southern Vermont on the Vermont School Boards Association board, which works closely with legislators to ensure that policy decisions reflect real-world district impacts. Continued community engagement, from taxpayers, with local legislators will remain critical in ensuring that education reform recognizes both fiscal realities and the needs of our students.

It has been an honor to serve on the Taconic and Green Regional School Board. I hold the deepest respect for my fellow board members who have approached this work with care, openness, and a willingness to make difficult decisions in the best interest of all students.

Respectfully,
Melanie Virgilio
Chair, Taconic and Green Regional School Board



January 7, 2026

Dear Sending Town Voters:

The Burr and Burton Academy (BBA) Board of Trustees has set BBA's per-pupil tuition rate at \$23,050, a 4.9% increase, for the 2026-2027 school year. Please find below an explanation of the thought process:

- Our educators are our greatest strength. Like most schools, BBA salaries and benefits constitute 75% of our total costs. A 4.9% increase is necessary for salaries to keep pace with inflation while providing healthcare benefits.
- We continue to maintain affordability to our sending towns while providing the highest quality education. Over the past five years, BBA tuition has increased by 19%. In comparison, statewide education taxes have increased by 42%.
- Per-pupil tuition only covers approximately 80% of our costs. Each year, we raise \$1.5 million in annual fund donations, draw over \$1.0 million from our endowment, and generate \$2 million in supplemental revenue from international and private pay students.
- We raise funds privately to support and expand BBA infrastructure, resulting in facilities that are top notch without any cost to taxpayers. Since 2020, BBA has raised and invested almost \$30 million in capital projects, including Founders Hall, a 25,000 ft.² building that integrates English, social studies and humanities, a design studio, and library; the Smith STEM Center; Friendship Field, our newest turf field with lights and stands; state-of-the-art LED lighting in our theater; and more.

We appreciate your partnership and are committed to providing high-quality education while maintaining affordability.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster

Charley Stevenson
Chair, Board of Trustees

2025 Legislative Report

The 2025 session of the Vermont General Assembly enacted new legislation to reform the state's education system and rein in property tax growth, passed a significant package of new and expanded tax credits, took steps to address growing food insecurity, created new incentives to incentivize housing growth in town centers, and passed a balanced, bipartisan budget.

Spending on K-12 education has jumped by 36% over the last five years, putting the state 2nd in the country on spending per pupil, and sparking new calls to reform how schools are paid for. Act 73, which passed with bipartisan support, aims to consolidate the state's smaller school districts and create a new, more consistent funding formula with spending growth tied to inflation. The local school budgets have grown relatively little in recent years compared with the state as a whole, but the byzantine nature of the statewide education financing system and growth in property values have contributed to the unsustainable spikes in tax bills.

The Legislature expanded the popular child tax credit first adapted four years ago so that it now covers children up to age six. The tax bill also expands the Earned Income Tax Credit for individuals without dependents, so that working people can keep a larger share of their earnings. Social security recipients, veterans, and military retirees also saw new or expanded exemptions beginning in 2025.

Vermont has not been immune from the national housing shortage, and in recent years the state has made substantial investments, overhauled restrictive zoning, and loosened permitting requirements in town centers. In 2025 the legislature approved new CHIP (Community Housing Investment Program) incentives that are expected to jumpstart housing projects by building water and wastewater infrastructure and forgiving property taxes on new private investment.

Other legislation banned harmful PFAS chemicals from household cleaning products, phased out cell phone use in schools, lowered driver's license fees for social security recipients, and strengthened protections on water quality.

The House and Senate both affirmed previous votes on a proposed amendment to the state constitution. Changing the constitution requires approval in consecutive legislative bienniums as well as voter ratification at the ballot box. Proposal 3, as it's known, would protect the right of all citizens of Vermont to form a union and collectively bargain. The amendment will be on the ballot this November.

After a string of consecutive years with revenue surpluses, Vermont's tax receipts have leveled off. For the first time in recent memory the state's economists have made a modest (0.3%) downward projection in revenue for the balance of the fiscal year, along with reductions for the five years looking forward.

The legislature meets in Montpelier from January to May, with a break during Town Meeting week. I am often home on weekends during the session, and can be reached by email at ddurfee@leg.state.vt.us, or by phone at 802 828-2228 (Montpelier) or 802 442-4414 (home). Please reach out at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

David Durfee, State Representative, Bennington 3

2026 TOWN MEETING REPORT: Reps. Kathleen James and Rob Hunter

The Vermont General Assembly's 2026 legislative session kicked off on January 6, marking the second and final year of the 2025–2026 biennium.

Rep. James serves as chair of the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee. This panel considers matters relating to energy, utilities, telecommunications, broadband, information technology and cybersecurity. Rep. Hunter serves on the House Education Committee. This panel covers education, libraries, and literary and scientific subjects.

The legislature meets in person at the State House in Montpelier every Tuesday through Friday during the five-month session, January through May. At the General Assembly website (legislature.vermont.gov), you can see legislator bios (including voting records), follow committee agendas, read bills and testimony, and watch all committee hearings and floor debate (both live and recorded).

Reps. James and Hunter will hold regular constituent coffee hours during the session. These informal get-togethers are open to all residents of the Bennington-4 district, which includes Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate and northwest Sunderland. Coffee hours are held on Saturday mornings from 9 to 10:30 am following the schedule below. We also attend town and school meetings in the communities we represent.

January 3: Charlie's Coffee House (Manchester)

January 24: Arlington Common (Arlington)

February 7: Wayside Country Store (West Arlington)

February 28: Charlie's Coffee House (Manchester)

February 28 through March 3: See you at town and school meetings!

March 14: Arlington Common (Arlington)

April 4: Wayside Country Store (West Arlington)

April 25: Charlie's Coffee House (Manchester)

May 16: Arlington Common (Arlington)

June 6: Wayside Country Store (West Arlington)

This legislative report was due to town clerks on December 31, 2025, before the 2026 session had started. Still, it's clear that broad and urgent issues around affordability will dominate our work this year. We need to build a more sustainable Vermont — a place where families can afford housing, healthcare and childcare, pay their monthly bills, and set aside savings. We also need to build a more sustainable education system, with schools that deliver excellence at a price that taxpayers can afford. In our region, that means supporting both our public schools and the approved independent schools, like BBA and Long Trail, that serve a vital and longstanding public mission.

In 2025, the legislature passed a controversial and sweeping education reform bill. Act 73 sets up a multi-year, step-by-step process to overhaul the way Vermont funds and governs its schools. In 2026, we'll be focused on these critical next steps, including how to mitigate property tax increases, how to tackle the real drivers of education spending (ex: healthcare, school construction), and — front and center — whether to

support the forced consolidation envisioned in Act 73 or the voluntary approach proposed by the Redistricting Task Force. As of late December, Kath had written quite a bit about this bill, her position and possible next steps: <https://kathjamesforstaterep.com/news-events/newsletter-archive/>

The issues facing Vermont are complicated and hard to fix. We encourage constituents to reach out to us by email, to attend our coffee hours, and to stay engaged. We need everyone at the table.

To receive regular legislative updates by e-mail, please join Kath's mailing list (sign up at kathjamesforstaterep.com). At her website, you can also read current and previous issues of this regular newsletter.

Rep. Kathleen James: KJames@leg.state.vt.us, 802.733.1435, kathjamesforstaterep.com

Rep. Rob Hunter: RHunter@leg.state.vt.us, 802.683.8945, hunterforrep.com

Bennington County Regional Commission

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) works with and on behalf of its member municipalities to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, to foster economic prosperity, and to promote a high quality of life for residents of the region. The BCRC plays an important role in coordinating work among local governments, state and federal agencies, regional public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private interests. The organization is governed by local appointees from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrvvt.org).

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials, the BCRC is a regional center for programs in community and economic development, transportation, energy, environmental conservation, water quality, public health, solid waste management, and emergency management. BCRC staff is available to provide direct assistance in these areas and to serve as a liaison with state and federal agencies.

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning at the BCRC is conducted by dedicated staff and supported by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation. The goal of this BCRC program is to support workforce development and business retention, growth, and recruitment. Related BCRC planning and community development initiatives support redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers, grant assistance for local businesses, and have produced reuse planning studies for key properties throughout the region. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property from damage. Other important activities have included: an assessment of land use regulations affecting housing in each town and village, expanded staff capacity to assist with implementation of local energy plans, village center and neighborhood development area designations, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan and the development of a new permanent hazardous waste facility in the region, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, and public transportation improvements.

In the coming year, the BCRC will continue to provide information and resources to assist business and local governments to take advantage of opportunities created through a variety of state and the federal programs. We expect to see continued focus on infrastructure (including broadband) improvement projects, housing creation, business support services, and resilience.

Our downtown Bennington offices are located at 210 South Street, but staff work remotely at times, so it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at www.bcrvvt.org).

Respectfully submitted,



William Colvin
Director



Southern Vermont
Communications
Union District
sovtcud.net

January 2026

To our Member Towns and their Residents:

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had another busy and successful year.

It has now been more than two years since Fidium, formerly Consolidated Communications, Inc. (CCI), completed construction of the fiber network, which continues to perform well and provide Southern Vermonters with fast, reliable broadband service. SoVT CUD continues to play an oversight role, meeting with Fidium on a regular basis to discuss quarterly network performance reports, and issues that occasionally arise, of which there have been very few.

This year, SoVT CUD successfully completed its FY24 audit which included a Federal Single Audit as required by state and federal regulations. The audit was performed by Mudgett, Jennett, & Krogh-Wisner, a Vermont accounting firm that was selected via a competitive RFP process. The audit was completed and accepted by the governing board in July 2025 and the fee for auditing services came in under budget. The audit report is available on the CUD's website.

Sustainability planning with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs was temporarily paused this year while the other two CUDs completed their network construction in partnership with Fidium. During this pause, SoVT CUD completed individual strategic planning for 2026 and beyond.

SoVT CUD secured a \$220,000 Preconstruction Grant in 2024 to support the operation of SoVT CUD over the following several years, until a longer-term funding arrangement (through at least 2034) is expected to be put in place via a sustainability agreement with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs, and Fidium.

Beginning in 2026, the SoVT CUD governing board will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the following months at 6:00 PM: February, May, August, October, November. Please join us and learn more at sovtcud.net. Public documents can be accessed at public.sovtcud.net.

Sincerely,

Terrence Dorsey, Chair
Southern Vermont Communications Union District



Date: January 9, 2026

Subject: 2026 Town Report Update

Dear Town Clerks, Selectboard Members and local residents:

Each year the employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. The GMNF is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve. The following is a brief summary of a few things that happened on your National Forest throughout the past year:

On June 13, 2025, Chris Mattrick, Rochester / Middlebury District Ranger signed the Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project. The project area is located on the Green Mountain National Forest, Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts within Rutland, Windsor, and Addison Counties, Vermont including the towns of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Killington, Mendon, Pittsfield, Pittsford, and Stockbridge. The project proposal includes management activities on National Forest System lands to achieve multiple resource benefits as provided by direction in the 2006 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Alternative C was selected for implementation after considering the analysis documented in the Telephone Gap project final environmental assessment, public feedback received during project development and analysis, and supporting information found in the project record. It was determined that this alternative will best move the forest landscape toward desired resource conditions within the project area while addressing concerns identified through public involvement. Alternative C includes management activities to provide resource and public benefits. These include improved wildlife habitat, restored soils and wetlands, a sustained network of roads and trails, increased recreation opportunities, and timber harvesting to provide wood products for the local and regional economy while enhancing forest health and diversity.

In 2025 the U.S. Forest Service approved the designation of approximately 72 miles of National Forest System roads and trails on the Manchester Ranger District within the Green Mountain National Forest as part of the Velomont Trail -- a future, state-wide, hut-supported mountain bike and multi-use trail running from Massachusetts to Canada. This work will be accomplished and coordinated with Vermont Huts & Trails (VHT) and the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA). The designated section will include a mix of new trail construction, upgrades to existing routes, and targeted relocations to improve sustainability and user experience. Once complete, it will expand mountain bike access to areas where limited or no opportunities currently exist, increase connectivity between rural towns, and open new points of entry to the outdoors -- designed to be adaptive-friendly wherever possible.



Vermont suffered moderate to severe drought conditions last fall. In response to these conditions, the Green Mountain National Forest issued fire restrictions on the national forest beginning on September 22, 2025. The decision to implement fire restrictions was based on various factors, including the prevalence of unattended fires, unfavorable weather conditions and the availability of firefighting resources. At the time, moisture level of forest trees and other vegetation was deceptively low with autumn leaves falling which added to dry fuels on the forest floor. We are extremely thankful to each and every local, state and federal partner who supported our outreach and response efforts to these abnormal conditions.

Over the past year, we have worked diligently to keep our social media accounts and website up-to-date with substantive content. We encourage members of the public to visit our website (www.fs.usda.gov/r09/gmfl) which can be used as an on-line tool for up-to-date information. In addition, we strive to collaborate with towns, schools and other organizations to provide issue-based content for Forest Service presentations. If you know of an event that is happening in your town and would like to invite the Forest Service to participate, please reach out. Again, thank you for your support of your National Forest. Together, we will continue to maintain and improve this valuable resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,



JOHN A. SINCLAIR
Forest Supervisor

Digitally signed by JOHN
SINCLAIR
Date: 2025.12.04 10:05:14 -05'00'

Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests
802-747-6700

MARTINA BARNES

MARTINA BARNES
District Ranger
Manchester Ranger District
802-362-2307

Digitally signed by MARTINA
BARNES
Date: 2025.12.04 10:22:47 -05'00'

**CHRISTOPHER
MATTRICK**

CHRISTOPHER MATTRICK
District Ranger
Rochester / Middlebury Ranger Districts
802-767-4261

Digitally signed by CHRISTOPHER
MATTRICK
Date: 2025.12.04 10:13:38 -05'00'

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

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

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

Feline & Friends Foundation 802-323-4793: Schedule on FFFVT.org

Community Pet Clinic: Humane Society of Chittenden County 802-923-9028

Feline & Friends Foundation 802-323-4793 Schedule on FFFVT.org

Homeward Bound: Addison County Humane Society "Taxi Cat" 802-388-1100

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society: in West Windsor: 802-484-5829

Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter Orleans: 802-754-2228 Cats only

Riverside Rescue, Lunenburg: 802-524-9550

Rutland CTY Humane Society: 802-483-6700; Spay the "Mom" for free, kittens adopted.

Second Chance Animal Center: Shaftsbury 802-375-2898

Second Chance Animal Rescue Inc: Littleton, NH 603-259-3244

Springfield Humane Society: Springfield 802-885-3997

Sullivan CTY Humane Society: Claremont, NH 603-542-3277

Upper Valley Humane Society: Enfield NH 603-448-6888

Windham CTY Humane Society: Brattleboro 802-254-2232

VT-CAN: Middlesex 802-223-0034

N.E. Kingdom Spay Neuter Program: Orleans Essex CTY 802-334-7393

** Community Animal Aid Wellness Clinic: (No surgeries) Exams, vaccinations, parasite treatment, minor illnesses, wounds & injuries. 1X monthly: E. Barre Fire Station 2nd Saturday of the month. 10 AM – Noon animalaidvt@gmail.com 802-734-025

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

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

Bennington Local Health Office Annual Report: 2025

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The Bennington Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Bennington County. Some highlights of our work in 2025 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/bennington

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact Kathleen.oreilly@vermont.gov

Improve Family and Child Health



- Our WIC staff completed 1,673 total appointments and served 1,017 WIC participants.
- WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors provided information and hands on support for 30 prenatal and breastfeeding families.
- 55 infant sleep sacks and 10 Pack and Plays were distributed to families through 7 community partners including DCF, Early Intervention, Sunrise Family Resource Center, Head Start, and SVMC.
- Our office supported and served 65% of the Medicaid eligible population in Bennington County.

Protecting Community Health



Our team investigates reports of infectious diseases and outbreaks and works closely with long-term and residential care facilities to keep residents safe and healthy.

We vaccinated uninsured or underinsured individuals with COVID, Flu, Tdap, Meningococcal, HPV and other important immunizations. We provided 80 vaccines to individuals through our office clinic times and off-site Equity clinics.

Creating Resilient Communities

- Our EP coordinator led Stop the Bleed (STB) in-person training with the teachers and staff in 12 schools and provided them with STB kits, covering over 3,000 students. All public schools in Bennington have completed the training.
- Our MRC Unit has trained 12 MRC members and 38 community members in Heartsaver and CPR.
- Senior Preparedness is a new focus of our MRC unit. We distributed over 165 Go-Bag starter kits to seniors and a senior event is in the planning stage for November-December of 2025.
- Be Bright at Night reflectors were distributed to all elementary schools in Bennington County.
- In 2025, our MRC unit received the highest award from the National MRC Office.



HealthVermont.gov/local/bennington
802-447-3531

