



BERLIN, VT
Community Members

2023 Annual Report

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BERLIN TOWN OFFICE
108 SHED ROAD
BERLIN, VERMONT 05602
www.berlinvt.org



TOWN CONTACT INFORMATION

TOWN CLERK 802-229-9298 berlintownclerk@berlinvt.org
Assistant Town Clerk 802-229-9657 assistanttownclerk@berlinvt.org

TOWN OFFICE: 802-223-4405 FAX 229-9530

Town Administrator /
Zoning Administrator 802-552-8801 townadministrator@berlinvt.org
Assistant Town Administrator/ Zoning
/ Health Officer 802-229-2529 zoning@berlinvt.org
Assessor 802-229-4880 listers@berlinvt.org
Treasurer/Tax Collector treasurer@berlinvt.org
Assistant Treasurer 802-229-9380 assistant.treasurer@berlinvt.gov
Water & Sewer 802-552-8806 publicworks@berlinvt.org
Highway Department 802-223-7337 highway@berlinvt.org
Historical Society 802-552-8804 historicalsociety@berlinvt.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT **Emergency: 911** or 802-223-4400 www.berlinvt.org/police.htm
Other Business: 802-223-4401 facebook: Berlin Police Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT **Emergency: 911** or 802-223-5555 www.berlinfiredepartment.org
Other Business: 802-223-5531 facebook: Berlin Volunteer Fire Department

BERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BES) 802-223-2796 www.berlinschool.org
Pre K – 6th grade FAX 802-229-0222

U-32 HIGH SCHOOL 802-229-0321 www.u32.org
7th – 12th grade FAX 802-223-7411

WASHINGTON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION 802-229-0553 www.wcsuonline.org
(WCSU) FAX 802-229-2761

SCHOOL BUS DISPATCH 802-229-4404

**TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT
MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday March 4, 2023
Pre-Town Meeting**

Moderator Paul Gillies called the meeting to order at 10AM and then led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Moderator stated that there were several in attendance that are not Berlin residents and asked if anyone objected to them speaking to Articles. No one objected.

Town Meeting Warning:

Article 1: Elect the Officers

Town Clerk for a three (3) year term – Rachel Giroux introduced herself running for election.

Selectboard member for a three (3) year term – Florence Smith introduced herself running for re-election.

Two (2) Selectboard members for a one (1) year term each – Joe Staab introduced himself running for re-election. Ture Nelson introduced himself running as a write-in candidate for a one-year term for selectboard.

Article 2: Town Budget

No one spoke to the budget. Moderators asked if there were any questions. Ture Nelson asked if Chief Pointbriand if he was happy with the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Chief said he was.

Article 3: Grange tax exemption

Tim Swartz spoke to this article requesting support and invited everyone to visit the Grange. Mr. Swartz outlined some fun events coming up and suggested everyone view his display in the gym for more details.

Mike Stridesberg spoke in support of the Grange Hall.

Article 4: \$387,109 Berlin Volunteer Fire Department

Joe Staab, president and fire chief, spoke to this article. He stated the increase in budget is not just due to inflation but to cover weekend duty shifts, a new to-us truck, and dispatching for a growing department. Mr. Staab also discussed the Riverton Station revival.

Article 5: \$34,188 Kellogg Hubbard Library

Dan Greene, Berlin resident and trustee for the library, spoke to this article requesting level funding from last year. Carolyn Brennan was also present and mentioned that KHL had the 2nd highest checkout level in the State last year.

Article 6: \$10,000 Berlin Corner Cemetery Association

Jeff Mugford, President, spoke to this article. Being a privately owned cemetery, the funding is needed due to the increasing costs to keep it operating. Mr. Mugford noted this is Berlin's only active cemetery.

Article 7: \$7,150 Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice

Pat McDonald, Berlin resident and board member, spoke to this article. Mrs. McDonald spoke of her own positive experience with CVHHH.

- Article 8:** **\$3,000 Central Vermont Council on Aging**
No one present to speak to this article. Moderator asked for any comments, no discussion followed.
- Article 9:** **\$2,000 Washington County Mental Health**
Heather Slayton, Communications Coordinator, spoke to this article and outlined services provided to Berlin residents. Peg Monley offered her comments of support.
- Article 10:** **\$1,200 Central Vermont Adult Basic Education**
No one present to speak to this article. Moderator asked for any comments, no discussion followed.
- Article 11:** **\$1,000 Downstreet Housing and Community Development**
Angie Harbin, Executive Director, spoke to this article and outlined services provided to Berlin residents. She also thanked everyone for their support. Downstreet will soon be opening Fox Run, an affordable housing in the Berlin Mall Town Center area.
- Article 12:** **\$975 CIRCLE**
Tim Shea, Board Member and Berlin resident, spoke to this article. Mr. Shea spoke to the services CIRCLE offers to Berlin residents.
- Article 13:** **\$800 Family Center of Washington County**
No one present to speak to this article. Moderator asked for any comments, no discussion followed.
- Article 14:** **\$700 Capstone Community Action**
No one present to speak to this article. Moderator asked for any comments, no discussion followed.
- Article 15:** **\$600 Good Samaritan Haven**
Rick DeAngelis, Co-Director, spoke to this article. Mr. DeAngelis outlined services provided to Berlin residents and thanked the town for all their support.
- Article 16:** **\$500 Community Harvest of Central Vermont**
Tim Shea spoke to this article and shared their mission.
- Article 17:** **\$500 Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired**
No one present to speak to this article.
- Article 18:** **\$500 Mosaic Vermont**
No one present to speak to this article.
- Article 19:** **\$500 Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation**
No one present to speak to this article.
- Article 20:** **\$300 Good Beginnings of Central Vermont**
No one present to speak to this article.
- Article 21:** **\$250 O.U.R. House of Central Vermont**
No one present to speak to this article.

Vince Conti, town administrator, spoke on behalf of the Montpelier Senior Center in regard to their late request for appropriations. Mr. Conti stated the selectboard is working with the Montpelier Senior Center to organize a special request for funding in the near future. WCMH Communications Coordinator, Heather Slayton (a Barre resident) asked to speak to her experience with late appropriation requests in Barre City.

Joe Staab asked to speak in regard to the lunch provided at Town Meeting.

Mike Stridesberg asked to speak to the town report, requesting that future publications include color printing to make graphs and charts easily visible to those with visual impairments.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55AM

**TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT
MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday March 4, 2023
Berlin's 233 Annual Town Meeting**

Moderator Paul Gillies called the meeting to order at 1PM and then led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Gillies also spoke to his history as moderator and willingness to help any future successor learn the ropes

Article 22: Elect Moderator

Paul Gillies was nominated for Moderator by Robert Wernecke. There were no other nominations. Selectboard Chairman Brad Towne ran the election and Paul Gillies was elected moderator for the coming year by voice vote.

Article 23: Report of Town Officers

Matt Levin spoke to ask what items on the budget are the most interesting Brad Towne mentioned the increased cost in the budget is one of the more significant changes this year. Most of the increases are driven by external costs uncontrollable to the town like insurance, fuel costs, etc. Florence Smith spoke in agreement and also mentioned the board is looking at the local options tax to help alleviate property tax burden for residents. Joe Staab also spoke in agreement but pointed out that increased staffing naturally comes with an increase in expenses. Vince Conti spoke briefly to this article and also stated the Audit Report will be available soon.

Pat McDonald requested that formal presentations be available regarding the budgets in the future, as had been done in the past.

Matt Levin asked the Chief to speak about the police reports to point out any interesting items.

Chief Pointbriand spoke briefly to this article stating that staffing increases are a major cause to the increase in budget.

Pat McDonald asked about calls related to the hospital. Chief states the hospital has asked for an increased presence with more routine patrols on property.

Robert Wernecke asked the Chief about the Hilltop, to which the Chief stated they are having more frequent meetings with hotel staff in an effort to curtail the number of calls needed to be made there.

Pat McDonald asked why information about the Town Center was not included in the Town Report. Berlin's Zoning administrator was not present at the meeting to comment. Vince Conti spoke in regard to the Town Center and the requirement for some sort of Town presence within the new Town Center. Mr. Conti will gather a posting for the website in regard to the Town Center.

Matt Levin asked to have all representatives from the town present at the Town Meeting next year to review their own reports and respond to questions.

Mr. Levin also asked about the relationship between the Fire Department and the Town. Joe Staab responded to this question, indicating the Fire Department would like to be taken over by the Town at some point down the road to improve coverage and response time.

Robert Wernecke indicated some documents from the Fire Department funding was not included in the town report. Mr. Staab said he would work with Town Staff to get those documents added to the website.

Article 24: Set tax collection dates

The article was moved by Robert Wernecke, seconded by Pat McDonald, and passed by voice vote with no discussion.

Article 25: Other business

The Moderator pointed out Article 25 is not printed in the Town Report but asked if it was warned on the printed ballot. The Clerk clarified that it is.

Pat McDonald voiced her concern over the lack of funding for the Montpelier Senior Center. Vince Conti explained they are working with the Montpelier Senior Center to see if anything can be done.

Peg Monley brought up the discussion of the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday versus Tuesday.

Matt Levin spoke to the concern over how we could draw more attention to Town Meetings to get a larger crowd in attendance. The Moderator suggested we add articles to the warning that would require the voting of the townspeople.

Ann Donahue and Ken Goslant spoke to current legislation.

Vince Conti announced the Economic Development Committee has recently been reestablished and welcomed all to attend those meetings. Mr. Conti also invited feedback from the townspeople about the Fire Department merging with the Town.

He also discussed the need for childcare in Berlin. And finally, the Town is trying to pass the local option tax again.

The polls will be open from 10AM – 7PM on Tuesday March 7th at the Municipal Town Office.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00PM

**TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT
WARNING AND NOTICE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Saturday March 2, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Berlin are hereby warned and notified to meet at 10:00 AM at the Berlin Elementary School on Saturday March 2, 2024. A pre-town meeting to discuss all articles to be voted by Australian ballot is scheduled for 10:00 AM, followed immediately by the Annual Town Meeting to vote on **Articles 27 through 31**.

Articles 1 through 26 shall be voted by Australian ballot at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the municipal town office building.

Residents may register to vote prior to the election at the Town Clerk's Office or on-line at the Secretary of State's website. Residents may also register to vote at the election site on March 5th. A voter may obtain an Absentee Ballot by contacting the Town Clerk (802-229-9298) or coming into the office before 3:30 PM on Monday, March 4, 2024. Absentee Ballots must be received by the Town Clerk no later than the close of the polls at 7 PM on March 5, 2024. Voters wishing to vote absentee should request ballots early.

All annual reports of the Town Officers appear in the Berlin Annual Report which will be available at the Municipal Offices and the Elementary School. Information regarding articles on the ballot is available at the Municipal Offices.

The articles to be voted by Australian ballot are as follows:

Article 1: To elect the following Town Officers, for the terms specified:

One (1) Selectboard member for a three (3) year term;
Two (2) Selectboard members for a one (1) year term each;

Article 2: Shall the Town appropriate \$4,558,276 for necessary Town expenses for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

Article 3: Shall the Berlin Town Charter be hereby amended as follows:
Section 3-2 Powers of the Town addition of paragraph (d) as follows:
The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent sales tax.
The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent room tax.
The Town of Berlin Selectboard may assess a one percent meals and alcohol beverage tax.
(d.2) A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the department of taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
(d.3) Revenues received through the imposition of a tax imposed under this section shall be designed for capital projects within the town.

Article 4: Shall the Town sell 1.5 acres of town owned property located at 108 Shed Road to Giri Montpelier Inc for a purchase price of \$1,000,000?

- Article 5:** Shall the Voters authorize required local match for July 2023 flooding repairs in the amount not to exceed \$400,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed five years?
- Article 6:** Shall the Town appropriate \$424,296 to the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department for payment of necessary expenses from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025?
- Article 7:** Shall the Town appropriate \$39,886 to the Kellogg Hubbard Library?
- Article 8:** Shall the Town appropriate \$21,600 to the Montpelier Senior Activity Center?
- Article 9:** Shall the Town appropriate \$10,000 to the Berlin Corner Cemetery Association?
(Cemetery Not Town Owned)
- Article 10:** Shall the Town appropriate \$7,150 to Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice?
- Article 11:** Shall the Town appropriate \$3,000 to the Central Vermont Council on Aging?
- Article 12:** Shall the Town appropriate \$2,000 to Washington County Mental Health?
- Article 13:** Shall the Town appropriate \$1,200 to Central Vermont Adult Basic Education?
- Article 14:** Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center?
- Article 15:** Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to Downstreet Housing and Community Development?
- Article 16:** Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to Washington County Diversion?
- Article 17:** Shall the Town appropriate \$975 to CIRCLE?
- Article 18:** Shall the Town appropriate \$800 to Family Center of Washington County?
- Article 19:** Shall the Town appropriate \$700 to Capstone Community Action?
- Article 20:** Shall the Town appropriate \$600 to Good Samaritan Haven?
- Article 21:** Shall the Town appropriate \$500 to Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation?
- Article 22:** Shall the Town appropriate \$500 to Community Harvest of Central Vermont?
- Article 23:** Shall the Town appropriate \$500 to Mosaic Vermont, formerly the Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County?
- Article 24:** Shall the Town appropriate \$500 to Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?
- Article 25:** Shall the Town appropriate \$300 to Good Beginnings of Central Vermont?
- Article 26:** Shall the Town appropriate \$250 to O.U.R. House of Central Vermont?

The following articles will be voted at the traditional Town Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2024 immediately following the informational pre-town meeting:

Article 27: To elect a Town Moderator for the year ensuing

Article 28: To hear the reports of the Town Officers for 2023

Article 29: Shall the Town collect its real and personal property taxes, to defray the expenses of the Town for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in installments? One-fourth of the taxes to be due, by **delivery** or by **U.S. Postal Service postmark** (no private postal meter postmarks), on or before August 15, 2024, one-fourth of the taxes due on or before November 15, 2024, one-fourth of the taxes due on or before February 15, 2025 and one-fourth due on or before May 15, 2025, with an eight percent (8%) penalty and one percent (1%) interest per month (or portion thereof) to be charged for late payment of any installment?


Article 30: Shall the Voters of the Town of Berlin call upon the United States Postal Service to establish a post office and zip code within the town to service its residents and businesses?

Article 31: To discuss any other business that may legally come before the meeting

Dated at Berlin, Vermont, this 29th day of January, 2024.

TOWN OF BERLIN SELECTBOARD

s/Bradley Towne, Chair

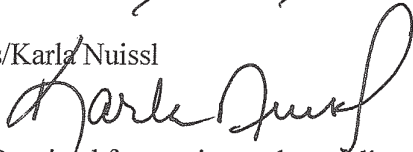

s/Florence Smith, Vice Chairman


s/Ture Nelson

s/ John Staab



s/Karla Nuissl



Received for posting and recording this 29th day of January, 2024.

Attest:



s/Rachel Giroux
Berlin Town Clerk

**WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING**

The legal voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District, a municipal corporation consisting of the Towns of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in their respective towns at the polling places hereinafter named on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, to vote by Australian ballot on Articles 1 through 8 as outlined below.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 3. To elect a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 4. To elect the following School Directors:

Berlin	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
Calais	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	One (1) School Director	One (1) Year of a Three (3) Year Term
East Montpelier	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	One (1) School Director	Two (2) Years of a Three (3) Year Term
Middlesex	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
Worcester	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	One (1) School Director	Two (2) Years of a Three (3) Year Term

ARTICLE 5. To fix the annual compensation of the Union School District officers.

Clerk	\$1000.00
Treasurer	\$6,700.00
Directors	\$1,200.00 each
Chair	\$2,400.00

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$43,810,548 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

ARTICLE 7. Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors of Washington Central Unified Union School District to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2024 in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

ARTICLE 8. Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of the receipt of revenues for the 2024-2025 school year?

Polling Places and Times:

Berlin Municipal Office 108 Shed Rd. Berlin 10:00 AM-7:00 PM

Calais Elementary School 321 Lightening Ridge Rd. in Calais 7:00 AM-7:00 PM

East Montpelier Elementary School 665 Vincent Flats Rd. in East Montpelier 7:00 AM-7:00 PM

Rumney Elementary School 433 Shady Rill Rd. in Middlesex 7:00 AM-7:00 PM


Doty Elementary School 24 Calais Rd. in Worcester 10:00 AM-7:00 PM

A public hearing will take place on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30 PM to provide information on the articles to be voted by Australian Ballot at the municipalities' respective Town Meetings on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The public hearing will be at U-32 Middle & High School 930 Gallison Hill Rd., Montpelier, VT 05602 in Rm 128/131. There will be a virtual option as well. <http://tinyurl.com/r2z4jr6v> Meeting Id: 89926779447 Password: 738737 Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots shall be transported and delivered to the East Montpelier Elementary School on Wednesday March 6, 2024 at 6:15 PM at 665 Vincent Flats Road in the Town of East Montpelier where they will be commingled and counted by members of the Boards of Civil Authority of district towns under the supervision of the Clerk of the Washington Central Unified Union School District.


The legal voters of Washington Central Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Sections 553 and 706 (u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated

SCHOOL DIRECTORS


Flor Diaz-Smith, Chair (East Montpelier)

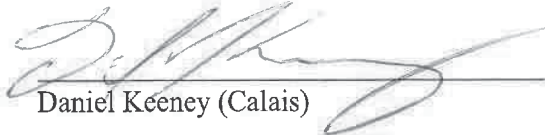

Kari Bradley, Vice-Chair (Calais)


Diane Nichols-Fleming (Berlin)


Kealy Sloan (Berlin)

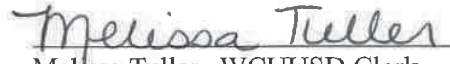

Jonathan Goddard (Berlin)



Margrette "Maggie" Weiss (Calais)



Daniel Keeney (Calais)

Amelia Contrada (East Montpelier)


Zach Sullivan (East Montpelier)


Melissa Tuller, WCUUSD Clerk


Ursula Stanley (Middlesex)


Chris McVeigh (Middlesex)


Joshua Sevits, Board Clerk (Middlesex)


Mckalyn Garrity LeClerc (Worcester)


Natasha Eckart (Worcester)

VACANT

DEDICATION

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

When the flood came in July, the town would not have recovered without the hard work and dedication we saw immediately put into action from these four gentlemen. From fixing roads and replacing culverts, to plowing snow and putting down sand, the Highway Department is an integral piece of our Town, and we are all grateful.



Pictured (right to left): TJ , Tim , Mike , Tim Davis (Highway Superintendant)

DEDICATION

DIANE ISABELLE

The Town of Berlin would like to thank Diane for her decade of service. Diane came on in 2013, and in her time kept tight controls on the Town's finances through meticulous records and masterful organization. Diane was also a bright light in the office and the fun that often follows her will be greatly missed.



Berlin Town Officers

MODERATOR, Paul Gillies.....2024
TOWN CLERK, Rachel Giroux.....2026

SELECTBOARD

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month

Bradley Towne, Chair	3-year term	2025
Florence “Flo” Smith, Vice Chair	3-year term	2026
Ture Nelson	1-year term	2024
Karla Nuisl (interim)	3-year term	2024
John “Joe” Staab	1-year term	2024

WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) includes the towns of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex (Rumney), and Worcester (Doty), each of these towns having an elementary school along with U-32 High School, which is located in East Montpelier.

Berlin representatives on the WCUUSD Board:

Diane Nichols-Fleming	3-year term	2026
Vera Frazier	2-year term	2025
Jonathan Goddard	1-year term	2024

GRAND JUROR, Vacant

APPOINTED

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Vincent Conti
Ture Nelson, Interim

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR/ ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Tom Badowski

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDANT

Chelsea Magwire
Tim Davis

FIRE WARDEN HEALTH OFFICER POLICE CHIEF

Nick Garbacik (5-year term)
Bradley Towne
James Pontbriand

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR/ DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR ASSISTANT TREASURER

Callie Streeter

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Matt Levin - 2024

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

Robert Wernecke - 2024
Karla Nuiszl, Alternate - 2024

CENTRAL VT REGIONAL PLANNING TAC

Robert Wernecke - 2024

TREE WARDEN

Dave Wilcox - 2024

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Randy Herring, Chair - 2027
Jim Ryan - 2025
Michael R. Baginski - 2024
Gerald "Jerry" Stauff - 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month - 4 year terms

Ren Dillion	2028
Amanda Smith	2024
Polly McMurtry	2027
Tony Snow	2025
Therron Lay-Sleeper	2025

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month - 4 year terms

Robert Wernecke, Chair	2027
Karla Nuisl, Vice Chair	2024
John Friedrich	2024
Polly McMurtry	2025
Richard Boltax	2028
Carla Preston, Recording Secretary	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meetings every other month on the 3rd Thursday, 2pm at Town Office

Wendelyn Bolles, Chair	2027
Phil Gentile	2024
Ellen Sulek	2026
Sister Laurian Seeber	2027
Thomas Willard	

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Currently meeting with Conservation Commission

Tim Shea	2024
Mike Noyes	2027
Geoffrey Farrell	2027
Hannah Conner	2024
Krysta Zabriskie	2024

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month 6:30pm at the Fire Station

Ture Nelson
Bruce Richardson
Val Cyr
Kaden Giroux
David Beatty
John Askielaszek, CVDART Liaison
Jennifer Lucas, CVMC Liaison

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Roberta Haskin	2027
Wayne Lamberton	2026
Pete Kelly	2025
Pat McDonald	2025
Diane Isabelle	2024

PUBLIC WORKS BOARD

Rob Allen, Chair	2024
Ted Long	2027
Bob Mongeon	2024
Ture Nelson	2025

CV FIBER GOVERNING BOARD

Jerry Diamantides	2027
Jeremy Hansen, Alternate	2027

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Matthew Levin	mlevinvt@gmail.com	802-229-4281
Marilyn Miller	marilynmillerm@aol.com	802-223-5560
Margaret Monley	pegemonley8@gmail.com	802-229-1252
Muriel Morse	muriel.morse24@yahoo.com	802-223-3670
Guy Page	newclips@msn.com	802-505-0448
Colette Page	adventuresoul@myfairpoint.net	802-279-9210
Zachary Cockrum	zcockrum@gmail.com	802-272-3885
Sue Rich	srichvt1@aol.com	802-223-6755
Judith Wernecke	judiwernecke@hotmail.com	802-485-8793
Robert "Joey" Conner	conner.joey@gmail.com	802-498-5561

2023 Annual Report of the Town Clerk's Office

- 222 Total Birth Certificates filed
 - 10 Berlin babies born at other hospitals
 - 5 Berlin Babies at born at Central Vermont Medical Center

- 227 Total Death Certificates filed
 - 56 of these were Berlin residents
 - 14 were at home
 - 9 were at CVMC
 - 7 were at Berlin Health & Rehab
 - 12 were at Woodridge
 - 5 were at Chestnut Place
 - 9 were outside of Berlin

- 10 Marriage Licenses issued

- 779 Certified copies of birth, death, and marriages certificates issued

- 5 First Class Restaurant liquor licenses
- 8 Second Class liquor licenses (stores)
- 3 Third Class Restaurant liquor licenses
- 3 Requests for a catering liquor licenses
- 5 Tobacco licenses
- 3 Tobacco Substitute endorsements
- 5 Special Event Permits

- 103 Excess Weight Permits

- 226 Dog Licenses

- 642 Documents received for recording into the Land Records

- 125 Property Transfers recorded (35 are Mobile Home Transfers)
 - 16 Survey mylars

- 256 Researchers signed to use the vault records

Voter Checklist as of December 31, 2023 = 2,193

BERLIN RESIDENTS BORN IN 2023

2/21	Lettieri Moulton-Corliss	Morgan Moulton & Steven Corliss	in Randolph
3/14	Amari Busano	Rileigh Kirby	
3/19	Charles Mack	Megan & Joseph Mack	
3/28	Wyatt Piette	Elizabeth Ziering & Jarrett Piette	in Randolph
5/22	Esther Timm	Sarah & Daniel Timm	in Burlington
5/22	Lillian Timm	Sarah & Daniel Timm	in Burlington
6/14	Milo Garand	Phyllicia & Connor Garand	
7/31	Zackary Dodge Rivera	Tiffany Dodge	in Burlington
8/19	Elida Fuller	Lindsay & Adam Fuller	in Burlington
9/11	Logan Rouleau	Abbey & Jason Rouleau	
10/11	Hazen Garrison	Emma Garrison & Will Hibbs	in Burlington
11/9	Leila McGrath	Christine & Steven McGrath	in Burlington
12/7	Bijou Boye	Michelle Leirer & Andrew Boye	
12/18	Mila Black-Deegan	Lindsey Gray & Jordan Black-Deegan	in Burlington
12/30	Conor Tansey	Emily Swint & Matthew Tansey	in Randolph

BERLIN RESIDENTS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2023

1/7	Miller, Shirley B	Berlin Health & Rehab	
1/14	Blaise, Patrick Paul	Woodridge	
1/19	Pasquarella, Michael John Jr	Woodridge	
1/27	Taylor, Tracy L	Paine Turnpike South	
2/2	Whitcher, Arola D	Woodridge	
2/8	Foster, Betsy G	Route 12	
2/11	Premont, Mabel Lena	First Street	
2/17	Robie, Kenneth John Jr	Airport Road	
2/19	Sherman, Anson A Sr	Brookfield Road	
2/28	LaPan, Alan Ray	Addison Drive	in Burlington
3/17	Greenslit, Jilda May	Woodridge	
3/21	May, Harry E	Chestnut Place	
3/24	Mullen, Peggy Ann	Birchwood Drive	
4/2	Dukette, Henry Richard	Chandler Rd	
4/12	Kelley, Roy Sibley	Coos Trail	in Burlington

4/15	Taft, mark C	East Road	
5/99	Leonard, Jasen P	Third Street	
5/10	Barranco, Augustine Peter Jr	Mansfield Lane	in Northfield
5/11	Dalton, James E Jr	Weston Street	
5/25	Potter, Inga Marta	Spruce Street	
5/29	Naramore, David	Berlin Health & Rehab	
6/8	Gallagher, Francis Joseph III	Woodridge	
6/21	Burns, Catherine Howard	East Road	
6/23	Pulsifer, James Milton	Crossing Manor Dr	
7/1	Condict, Marguerite Lewis	Woodridge	
7/4	Bulloch, Andrew Craig Jr	Woodridge	in Burlington
7/8	Keeney, Elinor Randall	Woodridge	
7/14	Matheson, Robert Neil	Route 12	
7/15	Stacy, Richard Henry	Vine Street	in Barre City
7/17	Barber, Randall G Jr	Poplar Street	
8/1	Arnold, William R Jr	Chestnut Place	
8/7	Warren, Elizabeth Lee	Crosstown Road	in Northfield
8/17	Vasseur, Theresa M	Weston Street	
8/28	Tucker, Oscar W Jr	Berlin Health & Rehab	
8/30	Meserve, Donna Lee	Berlin Health & Rehab	
9/3	Lavin, Esther A	Woodridge	
9/4	Flanders, Colleen L	Berlin Health & Rehab	
9/8	Gross, Harry C	Woodridge	
9/11	Towne, John Lawrence	Partridge Farm Road	
9/13	Nanna, Catherine R	Chestnut Place	
9/13	Woodard, Marcia J	Chestnut Place	
9/13	Klinger, Lloyd Edwin	Chandler Rd	
9/26	Foster, Janet B	Chestnut Place	
10/9	Medeiros, Candace Lee	Dog River Road	
10/20	White, Mary Eleanor	Woodridge	
10/24	Fall, Leroy J	Highland Avenue	
11/6	Packert, Richard D	Mansfield Lane	
11/8	Grenier, Pierre J	Chandler Rd	
11/9	Levin, Marty	Woodridge	
11/13	Paul, Ora Hutchinson	Chestnut Place	
11/28	Crone, Patricia A	Berlin Health & Rehab	
11/28	Fowler, Sandra	Walker Road	
11/30	Nieusma, Harris Dean Jr	Berlin Health & Rehab	
11/30	Emmons, Douglas C	Paine Turnpike	
12/14	Garvey, James Patrick	Scott Hill Road	
12/16	Morse, Spencer H	Berlin Health & Rehab	
12/18	Perry, Nolan Scott	Second Street	in Barre Town
12/19	Badeau, Robert M	Paul Avenue	
12/25	Breer, Betty	Berlin Health & Rehab	

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF ABATEMENT

Town of Berlin, 2023 Report

The Town's **Board of Civil Authority (BCA)** is comprised of the Town's ten Justices of the Peace, the Town Clerk, and the five members of the Town Select Board. The BCA's primary responsibilities involve reviewing the voter checklist, serving as election officials, and hearing grievance appeals of property assessments.

The Town's **Board of Abatement (BOA)** consists of the BCA plus the Town Treasurer. The BOA hears property tax abatement and refund requests. An abatement is a full or partial cancellation of taxes owed to the Town.

Berlin's **BOA** met five times during the year to consider 37 requests for abatements and/or refunds.

Seven of these requests were not related to the flood. Of these, one was withdrawn, one was for a tax payer who was deceased insolvent, and five were for properties which were abandoned. The Board granted abatements in the six active cases, which totaled \$7,927.49 in property taxes and \$4,800.53 in sewer fees.

The Board heard 30 requests from Berlin taxpayers for abatements and/or refunds that were related to the July floods. Most of the cases related to houses or mobile homes that were uninhabitable after the flooding. In the vast majority of these cases, the Board granted a full abatement and/or refund. In one case the Board declined to take action in order for the applicant to submit more information (which they did not do).

Note that in many of these flood-related cases taxpayers had paid their property taxes just before the flooding, or had to pay their taxes in order for their mobile home to be moved or destroyed.

In these 30 cases, the Board abated a total of \$8,603.51 in taxes, fees, and interest, and refunded a total of \$14,222.62.

The Vermont Legislature has passed legislation that will result in the Town being reimbursed for some of the financial impacts for the flood-related abatements and refunds.

Minutes for the meetings where these decisions were made, including details about the applicants and the specific amounts in each case, are public records and can be requested from the Clerk.

Berlin's **BCA** met several times throughout the year to review the Town checklist for accuracy and review changes made by the Clerk. These routine meetings occurred in conjunction with elections and are part of the usual responsibilities of the Board.

Thanks to the BOA and BCA members, Town Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Town Treasurer for their work on these important Town matters. If you have any questions about the Boards and the issues we are responsible for, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Matt Levin, Justice of the Peace
802-229-4281

Chair, Berlin BCA and BOA
mlevinvt@gmail.com

Account	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
ADMNISTRATION				
WAGES - Clerk	\$55,000	\$50,938	\$59,400	\$61,182
WAGES - Treasurer	\$62,300	\$66,566	\$67,300	\$63,415
WAGES - Asst Clerk	\$38,584	\$31,282	\$41,670	\$42,920
Assistant Treasurer	\$0	\$0	\$49,420	\$53,560
WAGES - Selectboard	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$3,750
WAGES - Assist Town Admin	\$47,735	\$67,719	\$51,560	\$53,106
WAGES - Town Administrator	\$81,090	\$81,651	\$87,580	\$87,580
WAGES - Board of Civil Auth	\$500	\$0	\$500	
Zoning Enf Officer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Office Supplies	\$10,000	\$11,233	\$10,000	\$12,000
CLERK/TREAS - Training	\$500	\$506	\$500	\$500
CLERK: COPIER	\$936	\$1,293	\$1,000	\$1,200
RECORDS RESTORATION	\$2,500	\$8,623	\$2,500	\$2,500
POSTAGE - ALL DEPTS	\$9,000	\$6,794	\$9,000	\$9,500
POSTAGE METER RENTAL	\$800	\$782	\$800	\$800
TELEPHONE - ALL DEPTS	\$3,000	\$4,402	\$4,000	\$4,500
CLERK/TREAS Software/Supp	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$316,695	\$335,540	\$389,980	\$399,013
Assessing Department				
CONTRACT - Assessor	\$20,800	\$20,340	\$20,800	\$20,800
SUPPLIES	\$400	\$2,242	\$400	\$500
COMPUTER SUPPORT	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$250
Legal Fees	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100
Tax Maps	\$2,500	\$1,980	\$2,000	\$2,200
CAPTAP Fees State License	\$1,500	\$2,131	\$2,000	\$2,200
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$25,550	\$26,692	\$25,550	\$26,050
TOWN MEETINGS & ELECTIONS				
MEET & ELECT: BALLOTS	\$5,000	\$1,414	\$3,000	\$5,000
Wages: Meetings & Electi	\$2,500	\$3,277	\$2,000	\$3,200
Town Reports	\$1,750	\$1,189	\$1,750	\$1,750
Advertising (Notices)	\$1,000	\$2,025	\$750	\$3,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$10,250	\$7,905	\$7,500	\$12,950
Insurances				
Workers Comp - General	\$1,414	\$1,994	\$3,029	\$3,200
Health Ins - General	\$42,730	\$47,974	\$66,600	\$73,260
FICA/MEDI Expense	\$21,325	\$26,019	\$27,600	\$30,000
FUTA/SUTA Expense	\$300	\$306	\$400	\$400
Accrued FICA/MEDI	\$0	\$160	\$0	\$0
Disability Insurance	\$1,600	\$1,742	\$1,650	\$1,900
Life Ins. - General	\$800	\$952	\$870	\$1,000
Health Ins Buy Back	\$9,750	\$9,375	\$9,750	\$9,750

Account	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,400	\$957	\$1,400	\$1,400
Pension - General	\$18,820	\$20,876	\$21,000	\$21,210
General Insurance	\$16,313	\$17,082	\$17,850	\$24,774
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$114,452	\$127,436	\$150,149	\$166,894
Zoning				
Training	\$350	\$0	\$350	\$350
Inspection Mileage	\$350	\$263	\$500	\$500
ZONING - Telephone	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,900	\$0
ZONING - Legal fees	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$2,000	\$263	\$2,850	\$950
DRB				
WAGES - DRB Secretary/PT	\$1,500	\$2,490	\$2,000	\$2,000
DRB -Legal Fees	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
DRB - Advertising	\$2,000	\$170	\$2,000	\$2,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$4,500	\$2,660	\$5,000	\$5,000
Planning Commission				
Supplies/Mileage/Training	\$500	\$303	\$500	\$500
PLANNING - Advertise/Prin	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
PLANNING - Consultant	\$40,000	\$109,991	\$40,000	\$28,500
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$41,000	\$110,294	\$41,000	\$29,500
Other Boards/Commissions				
Recreation Board	\$5,000	\$2,953	\$3,000	\$10,000
Conservation Commission	\$2,000	\$35	\$7,500	\$4,400
GREEN UP DAY	\$400	\$428	\$500	\$500
Berlin Economic Development	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,750
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$8,600	\$4,616	\$12,500	\$20,150
Cemeteries				
Maint - Cemeteries	\$10,000	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$10,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$10,000	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$10,000
Taxes & Assessments				
Animal Control/Constable	\$1,000	\$530	\$1,000	\$1,000
County Tax	\$40,000	\$40,613	\$41,000	\$42,000
Ambulance Service (Both)	\$129,950	\$122,032	\$131,000	\$141,000
Humane Society	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
Central Vt Solid Waste	\$2,850	\$2,849	\$2,900	\$2,900
Central VT. Economic Deve	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
VLCT - Dues	\$4,700	\$4,688	\$4,856	\$5,005
CV Regional Planning	\$3,800	\$3,789	\$4,000	\$3,789
	-----	-----	-----	-----

Account	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025
	\$183,300	\$174,501	\$185,756	\$196,694
Town Offices				
Janitorial Services	\$8,500	\$7,143	\$9,600	\$9,600
Supplies	\$2,500	\$472	\$2,500	\$2,500
ADMIN - Training	\$1,500	\$50	\$1,500	\$1,500
Copier	\$1,550	\$1,894	\$2,050	\$2,100
ADMIN - Advertising	\$1,500	\$5,143	\$1,500	\$1,500
ADMIN - Supp/Soft/IT Serv	\$11,500	\$36,383	\$15,000	\$15,000
WEB PAGE	\$4,900	\$4,900	\$4,900	\$4,900
Maintenance	\$10,000	\$14,860	\$12,000	\$16,000
Heat & Utilities	\$5,500	\$7,406	\$6,000	\$7,000
INTERNET	\$2,900	\$3,746	\$6,000	\$6,000
Equipment Contracts	\$10,201	\$8,577	\$19,820	\$19,820
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$60,551	\$90,536	\$80,870	\$85,920
General Expenses				
Legal Services	\$20,000	\$14,192	\$25,000	\$25,000
CPA Services / Audit	\$20,000	\$28,770	\$29,000	\$30,000
Payroll Services	\$2,500	\$3,039	\$2,800	\$3,100
Select Board Minutes	\$1,500	\$147	\$0	\$0
Emergency Generator	\$2,000	\$741	\$2,000	\$2,000
Tax Refunds/Abatements	\$5,000	\$14,340	\$5,000	\$5,000
Misc/Other - General Exp	\$1,000	\$825	\$1,000	\$1,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$52,000	\$62,055	\$64,800	\$66,100
Police Services				
WAGES - POLICE FT	\$349,865	\$458,734	\$479,100	\$500,700
WAGES - POLICE NIGHT SHIF	\$280,000	\$222,182	\$259,800	\$271,500
WAGES - POLICE PT	\$22,000	\$14,642	\$20,000	\$20,000
WAGES - POLICE CLERICAL	\$48,204	\$51,029	\$52,700	\$54,020
WAGES - POLICE OVERTIME	\$20,000	\$93,227	\$15,000	\$15,000
WAGES: POLICE ON CALL	\$7,500	\$14,689	\$12,500	\$12,500
WAGES - POLICE EDUCATION	\$1,650	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$2,000
WAGES- POLICE LONGEVITY	\$1,000	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Workers Comp - Police	\$94,599	\$89,704	\$85,727	\$90,000
Health Ins - Police	\$205,930	\$234,212	\$262,000	\$300,000
FICA/MEDI Exp - Police	\$55,900	\$67,166	\$64,600	\$67,567
FUTA/SUTA - Police	\$1,500	\$1,124	\$814	\$1,200
Accrued FICA/MEDI	\$0	-\$5,542	\$0	\$0
Disability Insurance	\$2,920	\$3,193	\$3,900	\$3,900
Life Ins - Police	\$1,610	\$1,919	\$1,650	\$1,750
Health Ins Buy Back-Polic	\$5,200	\$4,800	\$5,200	\$5,200
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS-PD	\$4,300	\$1,173	\$4,400	\$4,400
Pension - Police	\$44,800	\$58,616	\$57,000	\$62,000
Vehicle & Liab Ins-Police	\$24,414	\$19,314	\$29,761	\$46,289
Supplies - Police	\$1,500	\$5,269	\$1,500	\$2,000

Account	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025
UNIFORMS - P.D.	\$9,000	\$12,097	\$4,000	\$4,000
GUNS/AMMO	\$3,000	\$2,575	\$0	\$6,000
EQ: CAMERAS/COMPUTERS	\$0	\$749	\$0	\$5,000
COPIER LEASE - PD	\$1,560	\$1,705	\$1,560	\$1,600
Police-Equipment	\$7,800	\$16,360	\$7,800	\$7,800
Police Uniform Allowance	\$0	\$0	\$5,800	\$5,800
ADMIN - POLICE	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
VIBRS - DBase - PD	\$5,800	\$695	\$7,000	\$7,000
MEDIA/DATA EXP	\$6,000	\$22,648	\$3,000	\$6,000
Advertising - PD	\$200	\$0	\$500	\$300
Training - Police	\$9,000	\$10,977	\$9,000	\$9,000
Telephone - PD	\$6,000	\$9,767	\$7,500	\$7,500
Legal - Police	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
Equip Maint - Police	\$13,000	\$22,038	\$13,000	\$15,000
Gas/Oil - Police	\$22,000	\$22,953	\$30,000	\$32,000
Lodging/Prisoners-Police	\$500	\$100	\$500	\$0
WAGES-PD GRANT	\$0	\$8,817	\$0	\$0
FICA-GRANT #9252	\$0	\$587	\$0	\$0
Special Investigative Uni	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300
Other/Misc Exp - Police	\$500	\$46	\$500	\$500
BERLIN COMMUNITY FUND	\$0	-\$3,089	\$500	\$500

 \$1,260,052 \$1,468,027 \$1,456,612 \$1,576,326

Highways

Summer Roads

WAGES - SUMMER RDS	\$97,820	\$111,273	\$109,210	\$112,486
WAGES - SUMMER OVERTIME	\$4,635	\$862	\$2,040	\$2,500
Roadside Mowing/Tree Trim	\$11,000	\$9,447	\$11,500	\$10,000
Chloride - Summer Roads	\$29,000	\$34,645	\$30,000	\$35,000
Culvert/Materials	\$10,000	\$10,770	\$15,000	\$11,000
Summer EQ-Maint/Repairs	\$32,000	\$28,565	\$35,000	\$35,000
EQ FUEL - SUMMER	\$22,000	\$35,585	\$30,000	\$33,500
Storm Water Planning Gran	\$0	\$15,697	\$0	\$0

 \$206,455 \$246,843 \$232,750 \$239,486

Winter Roads

WAGES - WINTER RDS	\$101,970	\$90,124	\$111,210	\$114,546
WAGES - WINTER OVERTIME	\$35,329	\$28,830	\$48,250	\$49,697
WAGES- ON CALL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,600
Sand - Winter Roads	\$80,000	\$79,679	\$80,000	\$80,000
Salt - Winter Roads	\$90,000	\$53,674	\$90,000	\$90,000
Winter EQ-Maint/Repairs	\$40,000	\$40,010	\$40,000	\$40,000
EQ FUEL - WINTER	\$35,000	\$31,429	\$45,000	\$48,500

 \$382,299 \$323,745 \$414,460 \$425,343

Account	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025
Highway General				
Asphalt/Marking/Sealing	\$150,000	\$87,636	\$160,000	\$75,000
Resurface/Gravel	\$150,000	\$110,198	\$150,000	\$155,000
Bridge Maint	\$1,500	\$302	\$1,500	\$1,500
Road Signs	\$4,000	\$813	\$4,000	\$4,000
Guard Rails	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
Unreimbursed Flood Damage	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$315,500	\$198,949	\$325,500	\$635,500
Highway Other				
Workers Comp - Highway	\$17,237	\$18,812	\$23,719	\$24,000
Health Ins - Highway	\$107,770	\$90,293	\$110,700	\$121,770
FICA/MEDI Exp Highway	\$18,350	\$18,351	\$20,710	\$22,710
FUTA/SUTA - Highway	\$300	\$306	\$305	\$310
Accrued FICA/MEDI	\$0	\$2,330	\$0	\$0
Disability Insurance	\$1,100	\$949	\$1,100	\$1,100
Life Ins - Highway	\$720	\$848	\$720	\$800
Health Ins Buy Back-HWY	\$0	\$2,625	\$0	\$2,625
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,400	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400
Pension - Highway	\$16,200	\$15,487	\$18,270	\$18,500
General Ins - Highway	\$11,729	\$21,320	\$17,850	\$20,616
Stormwater - state permit	\$3,600	\$4,767	\$3,600	\$3,600
Erosion Control	\$10,000	\$2,165	\$5,000	\$5,000
Municipal Road Permit	\$1,350	\$0	\$1,350	\$1,350
Supplies	\$6,000	\$16,186	\$6,500	\$7,000
Advertising - HWY	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
Training - Highway	\$1,000	\$522	\$1,000	\$1,000
Telephone - Highway	\$2,550	\$4,428	\$3,600	\$4,000
Garage Maint/Utils	\$16,000	\$16,974	\$20,000	\$22,000
Garage - Energy Improv.	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Trash Removal - Highway	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Street Lights	\$10,500	\$13,730	\$12,000	\$12,500
Traffic Lights	\$5,000	\$1,265	\$2,000	\$2,200
Miscellaneous - HWY	\$500	\$11,443	\$500	\$500
Uniforms	\$10,500	\$9,458	\$10,500	\$10,500
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$252,306	\$252,257	\$271,324	\$293,981
	-----	-----	-----	-----
CAPITAL BUDGET				
Highway Equipment & Struc	\$277,000	\$166,136	\$232,000	\$253,000
Highway Equipment	\$205,000	\$0	\$70,000	\$0
Police Equipment	\$45,000	\$30,000	\$55,000	\$56,000
Police Radios	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000

Account	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025
DEBT SERV: 06 BOND PRIN	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
DEBT SERV: 06 BOND INT	\$2,300	\$1,019	\$2,300	\$2,300
Debt Service Int loan gra	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Serv: Fisher Road Cu	\$20,000	\$30,661	\$30,950	\$31,118
Culvert Loan Int	\$0	\$10,375	\$10,100	\$10,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$562,300	\$248,191	\$410,350	\$368,418
			FY2025 TOTAL:	<u><u>\$4,558,276</u></u>

DELINQUENT TAXES

Delinquent Taxes December 31, 2023

Adam Lash Trust	Hock, Nathan	Royer, Anthony
Adapthealth LLC	Huntington Technology	Savard, Sandra
Alcide, Ivan	Jancaitis, Joseph*	Sayers, Austin
Allen, Derek	Kelley, Roy	Sears Authorized
American Dream Restaurant*	Kew, Dale*	Shepard, Gloria
Aurelio Simonetta	Kinne, Jessica	Sikora, Sara*
Bilodeau, Michael	Lagerstedt, Robert*	Smith, Joanne
Boswell, Ray Estate	Lannen, Margaret*	Snap Fitness
Brusoe, Tonya	Lapan, Alan*	Staab, John Joseph
Bushey, Reed	Lavallee, Paul	Stridsberg, Timothy
Buska, Barbara	Lawrence, Betty	Thomas Group
C2B LLC	Leonard, Jason	Thomas Properties
Calmont Beverage*	Lowe, Samatha	Thomson, George III
Campbell, Clint	Lucas, Wendy	Tonne, Ed
Churchill, Fred*	Luce, Richard	Torres, Cameron
Coca Cola Beverage	Lussier, Mar	Tullos, Jeffrey
Collins, Seth	Manges, Mark	Twin City Lanes II
Context Media LLC	Manning, D	Vaupel, Michael
Courage, Nathan	Marshall, Todd	Vilbrin, Michael
Cremins, Micheal	Maxfield, Joshua*	Waldie, Amanda
City of Montpelier*	May, Tracy	Ward, Allen*
Deschamps, Annette	McCulloch, Robert	Weinbrecht, Helen
Diedrich, Nicholas	McGee US 302	Wellman, Andrew
Dion, Mark*	Meher Lodgings LLC	Weston, Scott
Dodson, Stephen	MGH Holdings LLC	Wheaton, Mark*
Dukette, Patricia	Miller, Kasey	Zabriskie, Benjamin
Dunkling, Peggy	Moody, Kathy	
Durga Enterprises	Morway, Scott	
Emmons, Richard*	Moyer, Charles	
Estes, George III	Northern Traditions*	
Fletcher, Harold	NUCO2 Supply LLC	
Fleury, James*	Olympia Sports	
Friedman, Ira*	Pearson Arliene	
GC Pizza Hut*	Philbrick, Colby*	
Gile, Frank JR*	Price, Tyler*	
Goodell, Robert	Pulsifer, James	
Gora, Peter	Richardson, Burton	
Herring, Micheal*	RL Properties LLC	

Accounts under \$200 (53), * made a payment in January.
Delinquent tax balance as of December 31, 2023, \$151,422.96

ASSESSORS REPORT

The sales activity over the past year indicates sales prices are still increasing, although at a slower rate than in the previous couple years. The result is that, for most properties, our assessments are much lower than sale prices. This will continue to be the case until the Town does a townwide revaluation. Berlin has not yet received a mandatory order to reappraise from the State, although more than half the towns in Vermont have received this order.

When a property does transfer, the paperwork is filed with the Town Clerk who notifies our office of the ownership change. In addition, if you have a name or address change, you should let our office know, preferably in writing or by email. This will ensure that you will receive all correspondence.

One of our major responsibilities is updating property values to reflect any new construction. We are notified by the Zoning Department when a building permit is issued, at which point we will request an inspection. If the construction work involves interior changes, we will request an interior inspection. For exterior work, this is not necessary.

Formal Grievances are usually held in June. However, if there was no change in the value of your property during the year, you will not receive notification by mail of the exact date of Grievance. Only those who have had assessment changes will receive formal notification. Grievance hearings dates are posted in 5 places in town, including the Town website. If there is no change in your assessment and you wish to appeal the assessment, you can contact us prior to mid-May and we will send you a notification letter. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the property owner to contact us in a timely manner if they wish to formally grieve the assessment of their property.

We are available to answer questions about your assessment at any time during the year. You do not have to wait until Grievances. If you have any questions or would like us to review the details of your assessment, please let us know, preferably prior to April 1st. Ideally it is most accurate to do interior inspections; however, we will accommodate any taxpayer concerns regarding these inspections.

The Assessors, Tom and Clarissa, are in the office on Wednesdays and can be reached by email at listeners@berlinvt.gov or by phone at (802) 229-4880. If you need to leave a message, we will get back to you as soon as possible. Property information is available any time even if we are not here. All property records cards are now on-line and can be found on the Berlin website under Town Clerk information.

Don't forget to file your Homestead Declaration. You must file even if you do not have to file Vermont Income Tax. You must declare a homestead in order to be eligible for an income sensitivity payment. We would be glad to help with homestead filings if needed.

Tom Cain
Clarissa Holmes
Ted Nelson
Assessors, Town of Berlin

BERLIN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway department is responsible for maintaining 60 miles of roads which $\frac{3}{4}$ of them are gravel across Berlin in all-weather situations throughout the year which affect the roads differently. The goal of the highway department is to keep our roads as safe as possible for all to travel.

We would like to remind everyone that on many of the roads there is a lack of space to accommodate large highway trucks or emergency vehicles and we appreciate citizens not parking in the Town's right of way. Even when the weather is nice there still may be roadwork happening like grading in the summer and moving snow in the winter.

In 2023 mother nature was not in our favor especially with the July 10th flood that caused significant damage to over half of the town's roads. After the flood the crew with help from Dirt Tech, Gillespie's, Ben Tucker Trucking, Amell Landscaping and Excavation and Lamson Trucking worked long hours and weeks through November rebuilding and repairing roads so they would be ready for plowing. As winter begins, we are still experiencing warm conditions and winter flooding and the crew is doing their best to keep roads in good condition.

All daily activities and projects could not be completed without members of the highway staff, I would like to thank Thomas (TJ) McDermott, Tim Emmons and Mike Dickinson. I would also like to thank Vince Conti, Berlin Town Administrator, for all his support and helping the highway dept get what we need to do our jobs to the best of our abilities.

And a final thank you to the citizens of Berlin for your cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Davis

Highway Superintendent

During the calendar year 2023, there were a total of 88 Zoning Applications acted on.

Zoning Permit Decisions 2023

<i>TYPE OF PERMIT</i>	<i>NUMBER OF ACTIONS</i>
Barns/Farm Structures	2
Boundary Line Adjustments	3
Commercial Building/ Additions/Conditional Uses	26
Curb Cut/Work In Right of Way	7
Deck/Porch	16
Fill Placement	0
Garages	4
Residential Additions	3
Residential Units	6
Sheds	6
Signs	12
Subdivision	2
Waivers/Variances	1
TOTAL:	88

During the past year, the Berlin Zoning Office processed applications for 9 single family homes, apartments and accessory dwelling units. The office also processed applications for new commercial or expanded development projects including Dunkin' Donuts, AMTRAK, Berlin Mall, Jolley Associates, 802 Toyota, McGee Auto to name a few. The July flooding resulted in assessing and aiding recovery for many adversely impacted properties.

The Zoning Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Berlin's Zoning and Subdivision Regulations and required development application forms can be accessed on-line at berlinvt.gov or at the Town Office. The Zoning Office can be reached at 229-2529, or by email at zoning@berlinvt.gov.

Thomas J. Badowski
Assistant Town Administrator / Zoning

FLOOD INSURANCE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

ABOUT THE MANDATORY PURCHASE OF FLOOD INSURANCE

The NFIP: The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase flood insurance on eligible buildings and contents, whether they are in or out of a floodplain. The Town of Berlin participates in the NFIP, making federally backed flood insurance available to its property owners. The NFIP insures most walled and roofed buildings that are principally above ground on a permanent foundation, including mobile homes, and buildings in the course of construction. Property owners can purchase building and contents coverage from any local property and casualty insurance agent. To find a local insurance agent that writes flood insurance in your area visit www.floodsmart.gov.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: Pursuant to the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory for all federal or federally related financial assistance for the acquisition and/or construction of buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). An SFHA is defined as any A or V flood zone on a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The mandatory purchase requirement also applies to secured loans from such financial institutions as commercial lenders, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions that are regulated, supervised, or insured by federal agencies, such as the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Comptroller of Currency, the Farm Credit Administration, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the National Credit Union Administration. It further applies to all loans purchased by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac in the secondary mortgage market. Federal financial assistance programs affected by the laws include loans and grants from agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Small Business Administration, and FEMA disaster assistance.

How it Works: When making, increasing, renewing, or extending any type of federally backed loan, lenders are required to conduct a flood zone determination using the most current FEMA FIRM to determine if any part of the building is located in an SFHA. If the building is in an SFHA, the federal agency or lender is required by law to provide written notification to the borrower that flood insurance is mandatory as a condition of the loan. Even though a portion of real property on which a building is located may lie within an SFHA, the purchase and notification requirements do not apply unless the building itself, or some part of the building, is in the SFHA. However, lenders, on their own initiative, may require the purchase of flood insurance even if a building is located outside an SFHA. Up to 25% of all NFIP flood losses arise from outside SFHAs (B, C, and X Zones). Under federal regulations, the required coverage must equal the amount of the loan (excluding appraised value of the land) or the maximum amount of insurance available from the NFIP, whichever is less. The maximum amount of coverage available for a single-family residence is \$250,000 and for non-residential (commercial) buildings is \$500,000. Federal agencies and regulators, including government-sponsored enterprises, such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, may have stricter requirements.

Questions? Please call the Zoning Office at 802-223-2529



Subject: Annual Report of the Police Department

Dear Select Board,

I am pleased to present the annual report of the police department. We are currently fully staffed on paper with one of the staff scheduled to attend the Vermont Police Academy in February to obtain his Level III certification. One of the challenges our department has been actively addressing is a surge in certain crimes, reaching levels not seen in over 12 years. It is not a phenomenon that Berlin alone is facing but a trend statewide.

The Berlin Police Department is fully committed to maintaining public safety and has taken steps to adapt to the evolving landscape of criminal activities. To achieve this goal, the department has prioritized ongoing training and officer development initiatives. These efforts aim to improve the capabilities of the team and ensure effective responses to the changing nature of criminal activities.

By investing in training and development, the police department aims to ensure that its officers are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to provide the best possible service to the community. The department recognizes the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest trends and techniques in law enforcement to ensure that the community's safety remains a top priority.

In conclusion, our police department is fully committed to ensuring public safety. We continuously adapt to emerging challenges through ongoing training and address those challenges while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and integrity. With your continued support, we strive to maintain a secure community for all.

Thank you.



Pictured above, Corporate Cup Race from right to left Officer Bazant, Corporal Rhoden, Chief Pontbriand, Jennifer Pontbriand, Sgt Monteith) Middle picture (Delta -department mascot and moral booster) and Chief with Officers Rhoden and Vosburgh participating in a team workout before shift.

Berlin Recreation Committee – 2023 Annual Report

The Berlin Recreation Committee mission is to support the Town Selectboard in their goals and efforts to provide recreation and program opportunities to all Berlin citizens and to acquire and maintain recreation facilities and open space.

The Committee is made up of five Berlin residents including Tim Shea, Hannah Conner, Geoff Farrell, Mike Noyes and Krysta Zabriskie. **We welcome new members and volunteers.**

2023 was a very busy year for the Committee including:

Signage at Parks and Berlin Pond – Signs were purchased and installed.

New Winter Volleyball – Berlin Elementary gym on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM for pick-up volleyball.

Ice Rink – Committee thanks Tom Willard for his continued management of the ice during less-than-ideal weather.

Summer Soccer – Mike Noyes is credited with establishing the summer program at the U-32 fields.

Summer Softball – Babe Ruth leagues were established. Volunteer work on playing fields completed. E.J. Prescott donated much needed fencing.

Swim Lessons: Berlin again participated in sponsoring students in Montpelier Rec’s swim program. Seven (7) students have signed up.

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative Grant: Applied for \$160K to purchase 94 acres in an effort to create a Municipal Park in the Northeast quadrant of Town. Grant award notifications are announced March 2024.

Recreational Trails Program Grant: Applied for \$35K towards a \$43.5K project to upgrade the Tower Trail that currently serves hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and ski traffic. It is a rugged trail that culminates at a local cellular telephone tower with no trail side amenities or scenic vista. Nearby to the culmination of the trail, there are a small number of high points that could offer spectacular views of Berlin Pond and/or the dog river valley that expands to views over the Northfield ridge and the center spine of the Green Mountains. These areas are within the Berlin Town Forest and could support light clearing and leveling for a picnic area with rustic seating to offer visitors a reward for making the visit to this gem of our community. Grant award notifications are announced March 2024.

Recreational Improvements to Ice Rink \$775,000 Berlin voters approved a November 7, 2023, Bond Vote to construct a canopy over the Town ice rink to generate 170 KW capacity of solar power while creating a 4-season community recreation space. The committee has solicited Requests of Qualifications from civil engineering firms.

BERLIN CONSERVATION COMMISSION - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Berlin Conservation Commission oversees Berlin's natural resources and is responsible for the administration of Irish Hill Conservation Area, Berlin's Town Forest, Dog River Natural Area and other public lands. We partner with other government and non-profit organizations on projects of common interest, and strive to follow best practices based on current research and state guidance. We serve in an advisory capacity to the Berlin selectboard, and other town boards and committees. We hope to increase public involvement in our work in the coming year. Please email berlin.vt.cc@gmail.com if you would like to be notified of our activities or learn more about our Commission. We invite you to visit our webpage at <https://www.berlinvt.gov/conservation-commission>.

This year the Conservation Commission began a multi-year project to reduce invasive plants on Irish Hill Conservation land and in Berlin's Town Forest to a low level. Invasive species are widely considered one of the five major threats to biodiversity. Initially, we consulted with the Washington County Forester about various options for invasive plant management. After flood-related delays, we held our first invasive plant day in early November. Under the guidance of a forestry consultant/contractor, a small group of volunteers removed buckthorn and honeysuckle between Darling Trail and Darling Brook, and from an acre of wetland south of Darling Trail. Plans to continue this work in 2024 include both invasive plant surveys and plant removal. We welcome community participation in this educational service project, and encourage you to contact us if you are interested in more information.

Working with the Town of Berlin Road Crew, VAST members and State of Vermont professionals, we repaired and upgraded the Darling Trail bridge that was damaged during the floods. The newly repaired bridge should be able to better withstand future extreme weather events.

We installed a gate at the Darling Trailhead that allows pedestrian, bike and emergency access to Irish Hill, but discourages unauthorized motorized vehicles thus protecting our trails, especially steep trails, from costly damage.

We supported the non-profit Berlin Pond Watershed Association in their successful effort to conserve Crandall Woods, a 33-acre wetland parcel just south of Mirror Lake Road. Along with state agencies, we are exploring the possibility of conserving another parcel on Irish Hill.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendelyn Bolles, Ellen Sulek, Phil Gentile, Sister Laurian Seeber, and Tom Willard

The Development Review Board held 8 warned meetings during calendar year 2023. A total of 8 applications were referred to the Board for review. The majority of the applications were for Major Site Plan and Conditional Use Reviews. Several of the applications required multiple hearings. The applications break down as follows:

- 4 Site Plan and Conditional Use Reviews
- 2 Subdivisions
- 1 Waiver Request
- 1 Sketch Plan Review

All of our hearings are conducted in person with the option of participating remotely. The agenda and the minutes of our meetings are posted on the Town of Berlin website. The Development Review Board regular meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are recorded by ORCA. The Hearings can be viewed on www.orcamedia.net

During 2023 we were joined by one new Board Member, Richard Boltax. We still seeking to add two Alternate Members. Anyone interested in serving on the DRB is asked to contact Ture Nelson, Acting Town Administrator or Tom Badowski, Zoning Administrator.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Carla Preston, Recording Secretary and Tom Badowski, Zoning Administrator for their good work. These professionals make our work much easier.

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Berlin Development Review Board

Robert J. Wernecke, Chair
Karla Nuissl, Vice-Chair
John Friedrich
Polly McMurtry
Richard Boltax

Berlin Volunteer Fire Department 2023 Town Report

Much like the vast majority of towns in Vermont, the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department is run by a handful of volunteers who donate their time each day to support emergency response operations within and around the Town of Berlin. Many of our volunteers wear multiple hats, often leaving their career jobs to respond to calls, becoming involved in administrative tasks, enrolling in classes, and much more. We are grateful for all the work that our volunteers have done, amassing thousands of volunteer hours throughout the year. We also welcomed five new members to the department in the previous year.

In 2023, our department decided to increase our focus on community outreach, including hosting our own events and joining forces with other community organizations. On top of these highly successful events, we also found success with two major fundraisers. In February, our local businesses donated a total of just over \$11,000 directly supporting the purchase of our new-to-us Quint. Just a few months later, in March, we hosted a Pie Breakfast Fundraiser. This was a great event with local musicians, a buffet of donated pies, and over a hundred generous community members which helped raise over \$1,000. Both fundraisers are incredibly important in supporting our department's functions and we hope to continue these for years to come.



With just five new members in the 2023 year, we find our number of active members to stay roughly the same, hovering around 20 active corporate members and just shy of 15 active responders. Though our number of volunteers remains roughly the same, our administrative workload has taken a sharp increase until newer members can be trained. Our handful of volunteer administrators totaled over 2,000 hours of volunteer work on top of their responder duties.

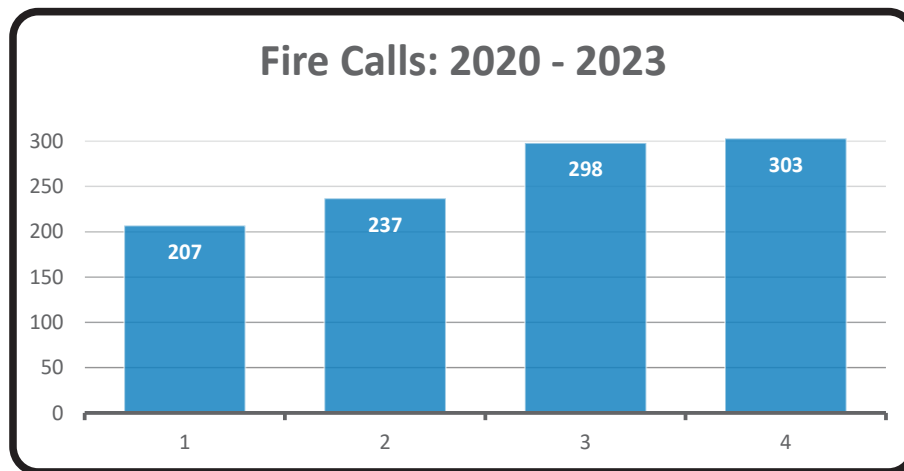
We are looking to increase our total budget by 9.61% with the most substantial increase in building costs, administration, and benefits. Our Four Corners firehouse was built in 1989, our Riverton Station was built in the 1960s. Both are beginning to show signs of age, thus resulting in a higher cost of building maintenance. An increase in the cost of heating also plays a big part in that rise. In our budget proposal, you will see an increase in insurance due to the increased presence of our firefighters during their four-hour weekend per-diem shifts. Lastly, our benefits are seeing the highest increase in our FY2025 budget proposal. We currently use a model of a year-end stipend check to reimburse our members for their time donated, money spent responding, and other potential expenses incurred throughout the year. This program has been a highly appreciated way to thank our members for the many volunteer hours they have dedicated to the Berlin community and only just begun to thank them and their families for the many sacrifices they have made. We hope to continue to grow this program and provide a greater level of support to our volunteers, in hopes that they can keep investing more time back into the community.



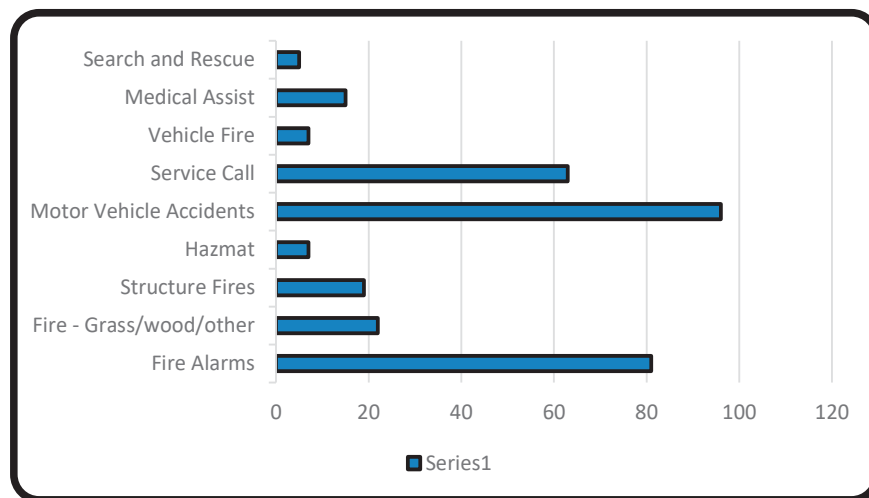
We must thank every member of our community for their support of our department. We are grateful for our community and couldn't be more proud to serve the Town of Berlin. We are always accepting new applicants for both emergency response and general support roles. Please call the station, reach out via Facebook, or utilize our website for more information on applying to become a member of the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

The Berlin Volunteer Fire Department has continued to make much-needed improvements to its fleet of trucks, such as replacing our 1979 aerial (refurbished in 1992) with a 2001 Quint. A quint is an aerial with the ability to pump water. This truck replaced not just the 1979 aerial but also our 1993 Engine. This truck is essential to the department due to the commercial growth in our community.

In 2023 we were dispatched to a total of 794 calls; 491 medical and 303 fire-service related. Although this total number is down from last year. Our medical calls have seen a decrease, while our fire-service-related calls saw a small increase of 1.6% from last year.



Some of the highest volume of fire calls are not actual fires. We responded to many motor vehicle accidents, alarm activations, and service calls (which could include elevator alarms and downed trees/power lines). The full spectrum of call types that are included in the fire call category in 2023 are search & rescue, medical assists (CPR), hazmat (fuel spills), service calls, motor vehicle accidents, alarm activations, and various fire types (including vehicle, structure, and wildland).



Fire departments have mutual aid agreements. This agreement between departments and communities allows for additional resources (manpower and equipment) when requested. In 2023 mutual aid was given 17 times to our neighboring communities, and we requested mutual aid *two* times last year. Once for a swift-water search and rescue, and once when we were busy with another call.

In 2022, we implemented 2 paid per-diem weekend shifts, which put 2 responders in the station 4 hours per day on Saturdays and Sundays. We have continued this through 2023 where we were able to accomplish several projects related to buildings and performing truck maintenance during these paid shifts, as well as perform hours of administrative work. At the same time, we cut our call response time by more than a minute and a half. We were able to accomplish this with the approval of our budget by the town residents, allowing us to pay for our members to be in the station.

Our bunk-in program was successful with our Norwich student members and has continued with some of our other members. When inclement weather is forecasted, we have members volunteering to stay at the station to respond without the need to travel to the station, again cutting our response time.

To continue with our fleet upgrade process, we will be pursuing the replacement of our 20-year-old Rescue truck. The last two trucks replaced have been well-maintained used trucks. This Rescue truck is the workhorse of the department considering the number of motor vehicle accidents we respond to. This replacement should not be a used truck. In this next year, we will be visiting neighboring departments to see what they are using and spec out a truck that will serve our community for up to 20 years to come.

This year the department has also continued to focus on training our responders. We have 2 firefighters currently enrolled in a Fire 1 course; we have sent many members (firefighters and officers alike) to multiple weekend fire schools around the state, as well as Officer training classes and special topic classes like Lithium-ion battery fires. Several of our Senior Officers have also attended a "Train the Trainer" course on Firefighting basics that are being utilized to provide ongoing internal training to our firefighters.



BERLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPOSED FY-24 BUDGET

Expenditures		Income	
Administration	\$25,250	Operational Carry Over	\$0
Insurance	30,000	B.E.M. Phone	1,200
Benefits	72,500	Interest Income	150
Utilities	18,150	Facility Rental	24,600
Communications	67,960	Donations	2,000
Building	40,600	Dues Income	100
Truck	35,100	Billable Calls	2,500
Training/Education	4,100	Diesel Fuel Tax Refund	0
Gear	15,000	Lock Box Sales	500
Equipment	30,000	General Refunds	0
Operational Support	900	Soda Machine Income	500
Loans	36,599	Sale of Dept. Equipment	0
Miscellaneous	500	Various Fund Raisers	3,000
Capital Replacement	40,000	Total Depart. Income	\$34,550
Contingency Funds	5,000	Town Account	\$387,109
Total Expenditures	\$421,659		

FY-23 Expenditures	\$365,276	FY-23 Depart. Income	\$28,850
FY-24 Expenditure Increase	\$56,383	FY-23 Town Account	\$336,426

FY-24 Expenditure Increase	13.37%	FY-24 Town Account Increase	13.09%
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Steering Committee Annual Report

In 2023 the Town of Berlin Selectboard formed a Steering Committee, comprised of members from across the spectrum of the town, to determine the most fiscally responsible way to transition the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department into a municipal department. This committee includes town residents, town businesses, Fire Department and Selectboard members. Our Mission Statement, Committee Members/Positions, and Agendas/Minutes can be found on the Town of Berlin website under Boards and Committees, Steering Committee.

The formation of this committee continues a conversation that has been several years in the making. Prior Selectboards have suggested it, town residents and business owners have been surprised to learn that the department is volunteer and not staffed 24/7, and it has been questioned and discussed at several prior Town Meetings.

The committee will be exploring topics such as staffing, benefits, assets and debts, and will utilize the experience of other area fire departments who have undergone similar transitions to help guide their recommendation to the Selectboard. The committee meets twice a month, on the first and third Thursday of each month, at 6pm at the Town Office. All meetings are open to the public, and we invite your participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Richardson

Chair

2023 Town Report

Over the past year Barre Town EMS has increased its full-time staff by 32%. We now staff 3 Paramedic level Ambulances 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, we are currently staffing a 4th ambulance on our statistically busiest days, Monday and Friday. Our primary service area covers the towns of Barre Town, Berlin, Orange, Topsham, Washington, Williamstown and Northern Brookfield. We also provide the largest number of Paramedic intercepts and back up aid service for Washington County, as well as the primary agency that transports patients in and out of Central Vermont Medical Center.

Barre Town EMS staff size ranges from 40-50 employees (19 full time). We currently have 21 Paramedics on the roster, seven of which are Board certified as Critical Care Paramedics. Over the past year we have had 2 retirements and added 6 full-time positions. We were able to promote all 8 new staff from within our per diem ranks and we continue to grow our per diem roster to ensure we have qualified staff to fill our full-time ranks to which we have added 13 per diem staff this past year.

Barre Town EMS had a very busy year. Our call volume decreased due to COVID it has rebounded and is significantly higher now. We ended the year with 4376 calls for service. This is a 2% increase over the previous year and an 8% increase over 2022. With the addition of the Town of Williamstown to our response area we will see an increase in call volume in the coming year, which is part of the reason we expanded to 3 staff Paramedic Ambulances 24/7.

We have expanded our fleet to six (6) Critical Care Ambulances to ensure we can continue to provide timely high quality pre-hospital care to the communities we serve. This past year we took delivery of two (2) new ambulances and are scheduled to take delivery of three (3) more in 2024. All our ambulances are equipped with power-load systems and power stretchers that assist our crews in keeping our patients safe.

Below you will find a chart of our responses broken down by community and the type of response needed. Note that not all calls for service end up being a transport, over 25% of our calls result in a cancellation, non-transport or refusal of care.

We would like to thank you for trusting us to care for your family, community and visitors. We look forward to the year ahead and are excited to continue to provide timely high quality pre-hospital care to all of those we serve.

Respectfully submitted,
David Danforth, NRP, FP-C
Director
Town of Barre
Department of Emergency Medical Services

Barre Town EMS	
2023	
911 Response(s)	
Barre Town	812
Berlin	1057
Brookfield	28
Orange	91
Topsham	83
Washington	63
Other Calls	
Mutual Aid	306
Paramedic Intercepts	286
Transfers	1650

BERLIN CORNER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Berlin Corner Cemetery Association was formed in 1857 and is the only active cemetery in Berlin. The Cemetery is managed by a 6 member board.

The Cemetery is located about ½ mile from the Town office, on Scott Hill Road just past the First Congregational Church of Berlin. The Cemetery is open from April 1st through early November each year. The Sexton, maintains the grounds, pours foundations, coordinates the burials and setting of monuments, and assists people with the selection and purchase of lots.

In 2012, the Berlin Historical Society indexed the Cemetery, updating the index developed in 1985 by the Society members. Pictures were taken of each stone and numbered according to the index and those pictures can be obtained by sending a request to historicalsociety@berlinvt.org.

In the last few years, the Cemetery invested in installing power and water on the property so on-site water eliminates the need for visitors to carry in water to maintain flowers.

In 2022, the Cemetery did land improvements to the back section of the cemetery. A surveyor was hired to plot out the side and back sections of the cemetery. In 2024, that process will be complete and will result in an additional 1,000+ lots available for sale.

Residents of the Town of Berlin receive a discounted rate on lot purchases.

BERLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report – 2023

The Berlin Historical Society is an all-volunteer 50(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1982. Our mission is: To bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Berlin, Vermont; to collect and preserve articles of interest pertaining to the town, and to maintain its historical archive library for public access. We continually work at preserving and sharing the story of Berlin.

On July 10, 2023, Berlin and Montpelier, along with many other Vermont towns, experienced historic flooding. In Berlin many people lost their homes, other homes were significantly damaged, Vermont Route 12 became impassable, businesses on Vt Rte. 12 and in the shopping center on U.S. Route 302 were heavily damaged. Downtown Montpelier businesses were wiped out and homes there were also flooded. Storms continued and further flooding was seen around Vermont. There continues to be media coverage as the recovery continues both for residents and businesses. The lack of housing, especially affordable housing, is extremely challenging for people to relocate themselves. On December 18th there was additional flooding in Vermont. Two floods in one year are not all that unusual, back in 2011 there were two floods, first in May and then Tropical Storm Irene in August and in 1973 there was a big flood the end of June and another flood in December.

Since the flooding in the summer, the Berlin Historical Society (BHS) has expanded their weather binder with more historic flooding information. This is an ongoing project which will continue to develop. When looking back at the history, keep in mind that until the annexation of land from Berlin to Montpelier (finalized February 1, 1899), the boundary between Berlin and Montpelier was the river and they shared the expenses of the bridges on the Onion River, now called the Winooski River. Bridges were lost on a regular basis because of flooding and ice up until the Red Arch Bridge was built by what is now Shaw's grocery store in Montpelier. Before flooding became the more prevalent word, the flood of a river from heavy rain or melted snow was called a "freshet". Let's look back at floods leading up to the Great Flood of 1927:

April 1807 - "very considerable damage has been by the late freshet" .. "a bridge was swept away over Onion river at Montpelier."

February 1824 - "On Onion River, we learn that no less than seven bridges, two of them belonging to the Turnpike Corporation, are swept away."

March 1826 - "...an unusually high spring flood swept away the old trestle-bridge leading across the river to Berlin ... and almost the entire river was turned through what is now Barre street and the lower part of Main street, in a body like a wall or large wave. The bridge across Onion River connected with Judge Paine's turnpike, and two or three other bridges in the vicinity were swept away."

July 1830 - "In Berlin, all the bridges with the exception of the one near Mr. Scoville are gone." David Grant, 22, died attempting to cross Dog River on a raft with someone.

January 1839 - "... on Onion river, within the space of six miles above this village, six bridges have been carried way; ... in Berlin, on Dog-river, two..."

January 1841 - "The ice swept down the Onion, carrying out the floom of the Grist mill on Berlin side, and doing some other slight damage."

June 1841 - "There were very heavy showers of rain on Thursday last, which occasioned some of the streams to rise with great rapidity. Mr. Clark's mill, on Jones' brook, was swept away and Mr. Eben Eastman, who was in the mill, was drowned. Mr. Clark barely escaped."

March 1865 - "Walton's Journal says that the Perno Bridge over the Winooski river, and the bridge on the Thompson Farm, between Barre and Montpelier, have swept away. The traveling eastward on the stage routes is so bad that the mails are carried by single teams – it being impossible to "get through" with double teams. Many cellars in this vicinity are filled with water, which is doing much damage. Our streets are muddy, and foot passengers are inconvenienced as well as those who travel by rail or team."

February 1866 - "Bridges Swept Away - The small arch bridge in Berlin, known as the Dodge Bridge, on the road between this village and Barre, was swept away by the freshet of Saturday, as was also the Benjamin Brook bridge in the same vicinity. A Prompt Highway Surveyor – On the breaking up of the Winooski, Saturday evening, the road in Berlin, just opposite Barre Street in this village, was flooded with ice for a distance of nearly a half mile. The huge masses of ice in many places were thrown up to a height of over four feet, and the road was rendered wholly impassible for man or beast. "

October 1869 - "The greatest Freshet since 1831, and perhaps even greater than that, occurred in this vicinity last Monday afternoon and evening.... Berlin. The town bridge at the mouth of Dog River was washed away, as well as one at least further up the stream. The roads and culverts are badly washed and gullied. The Gove saw-mill at Lanesville was completely carried away." (note: Lanesville was later called West Berlin / Riverton)

October 1872 - "A small bridge or sluice way on the river road between Montpelier and East Montpelier, between the East Berlin mills and "Muddy brook," gave way last Thursday just as a team drove by Mrs. Adeline French was crossing it. Result a broken vehicle belonging to L. T. Mallory, and a bad fright for Mrs. French." (note: East Berlin mills were where currently the Kubota dealership is on US Route 2)

February 1900 - "The Dog river branch was found to be a perfect lake near Montpelier Junction and the ice jam at its mouth completely filled the field at Lombard's farm. Two bridges have gone out, the Berlin and Dodge bridges. Tuesday's flood, which was severe in many sections of the state, assumed the aspect of a deluge at Montpelier, where the loss of property will reach \$150,000 and perhaps \$300,000." (note: \$150,000 in 1900 is worth \$5,477,607 in 2024)

April 1900 - "The annual spring freshet arrived last night, two months after the big flood of the year. The water in the Winooski was so high last night that Berlin street was flooded and impassable for teams, yet it was not high enough to prevent passage on the sidewalk, which is considerably higher than the highway. The water in the Winooski above Colton's dam was higher last night and today than during the February flood. Water has entered the basements of nearly all the stores on the west side of Main street from State street to the head of Barre street, and also on State street between the corner of Main and the Rialto bridge.

April 1909 - The Winooski river and North branch rose all night and both streams, fed by rain and a constant flow of melted snow from the mountains, rose rapidly during the morning and

much alarm was felt.... The merchant element of the city were out at 4 o'clock this morning, and have since worked like Trojans to prevent their goods from getting a serious wetting."

April 1912 - Between Benjamin Falls and the Dodge crossing the street car lines were afloat, the last car coming through from Barre at 2:15."

March 1913 - "The trouble began when a jam formed near the baseball grounds at Benjamin Falls, settling the water back to the highway and smashing down trees, telephone poles and fences. In this jam was much of the timber from the temporary trestle under the Central Vermont railroad tracks at Dodge bridge. When this jam gave way the rush of water and ice was too great to pass around the curves near the Pioneer and most of the damage was caused there. The end of the Gill shed was smashed, the Bertoli, Bonazzi and Columbian sheds and the Moody & Almon electric plant were flooded and the total damage cannot be estimated for a few days. The men in the stonesheds were in most cases caught without warning and some had to wade through water waist deep in order to reach safety. Those who remained to place tools above the reach of the water were in some cases rescued by their shopmates ... Below the city a big jam was reported at the Three Mile bridge and a large amount of damage was done in that vicinity by ice and water. Dynamite was used in several places below the city and prevented the water setting back into the streets."

March 1919 - "The night trains passed by safely but during the early hours of the morning the whole surface for a distance of 200 feet collapsed or weakened to such an extent that the northbound passenger train due at Montpelier at 9:12 was halted on the south side of the washout and passengers and mail were carried by to a waiting caboose on the north side of the hole, and the caboose was then snaked to Montpelier Junction. There the southbound passenger train was turned about and sent backward over the route it had just traversed, taking up the run which would ordinarily have been made by the train halted south of the washout."

October 1920 - "The most serious damage was reported from Montpelier, where merchants and the municipality lost thousands of dollars from high water.... In Montpelier it was called the worst rainfall since the flood of Oct. 4, 1869. Estimates of the losses sustained by Montpelier merchants ran as high as \$10,000, and there was probably a damage of \$2,000 to the streets, sidewalks and sewers. ... Trolley service between Barre and Montpelier was paralyzed during the busy morning hours by a washout of the track near the Marvin farm. The light Washington street one-man car passed safely over under the guidance of Motorman Barney McGuire, but the road had to be temporarily repaired before the heavy double truck main line cars could reach Barre. This work covered a period of more than an hour and it was nearly 7:30 before a line car reached the city. Blocks were placed under the tracks at supports until the proper work could be done and it was sufficient to permit service to begin for the day." (note: \$10,000 in 1920 is worth \$153,373 in 2024)

November 1927 – "The iron and steel railroad bridge at Montpelier Junction held but its approaches were swept away. Between Montpelier west of the Branch and Montpelier Junction wreckage of all kinds lined the river and the adjacent meadows. Many automobiles are thrown on the banks and mixed with wreckage.... Not a business house in Montpelier escaped and every store is a wreck.... The streets are patrolled by National Guardsmen and every

one not known who enters the city is questioned.” “The three mile bridge is gone. The barns and cattle on the farm at the end of the bridge are gone, the next house undermined and on the next farm the barns are gone.” In “Vermont in Floodtime” by Luther B. Johnson published in 1928, there was Berlin damage described on Vt Rte. 12 including the loss of the covered bridge on Lover’s Lane, damage at Brown’s Mills, and the loss at a Berlin farm was described as follows: “At the fine farm of Clayton D. Caustic, on the Montpelier road, a deplorable loss of livestock occurred. The flood came over the meadow, invaded the large barn basement, where were two pairs of horses, 41 Guernsey cows, one bull, 43 hogs and 175 hens and drowned them all, excepting one pair of horses that succeeded somehow in keeping their heads above the water until it subsided. Mr. Caustic worked in water to his neck, vainly trying to save this valuable stock. A wagon shed and henhouse were carried away. Water entered the dwelling and drove the family upstairs. Within a few years Mr. Caustic had lost a large barn and later his house by fire, and had rebuilt both handsomely before this heavy disaster overtook him.”

More floods - There was also local flooding in 1935, 1936, 1938, 1964, 1969, 1973, 1976, 1981, and 1989. Potentially other flooding that affected Berlin hasn’t yet come to light. The index of the flooding articles we have will soon be able to be found on our page on the Town website and will be updated as needed. The articles will all be in a binder in the BHS. Keep in mind there has been flooding in other parts of Vermont sometimes during the same storms we had, or other areas may have had major damage at times when our area was not affected.

PLEASE JOIN US – We welcome people who enjoy history to become members of BHS! Our collection needs some organizing, there are documents & photos to scan, and research to do. We’re looking for people who would like to become one of several directors of our organization. Please know that membership funds help support preserving and sharing the story of Berlin. Annual membership is just \$10 per person. Member or not, please join our email list to receive occasional emails regarding our programs as well as ones in the area and even links to programs available online. Send your request to join our email list to our email address below. The BHS collection includes files and binders on various topics and people, a wide variety of books, photographs, and maps, along with interviews and presentations that are available on CDs and DVDs, artifacts and more. Contact us to set up a time to come visit or to ask us to check our collection for information. Do you have some family genealogy connected with Berlin you’d consider sharing with us or maybe photos of people, places, or events that took place in Berlin? Old family diaries or recipes of Berlin residents could be of interest. Perhaps miscellaneous historic Berlin ephemera such as posters, Valentines, menus, newspaper clippings, maps, etc. to share? It doesn’t have to be the original to have it be of interest.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted:

Corinne Cooper, President

Berlin Historical Society, 108 Shed Road, Berlin, VT 05602

802-553-8804 or 802-324-6622 historicalsocietyberlinvt@gmail.com

Webpage with information & resources <https://www.berlinvt.gov/berlin-historical-society>

Berlin, Vermont Memories: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BerlinVermontMemories>

Report of Services for Town of Berlin

During the 2023 Fiscal Year, The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired saw continued success in client services, innovative programs, and community outreach initiatives. Moving forward, it is exciting to imagine the strides we will make in enabling blind and visually impaired Vermonters to be more independent, develop adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

SMART Device Training Program: 550 Vermont residents received SMART training in FY23, the highest number in the program's five-year history. Also during FY23, VABVI secured \$100,000 of partial program funding from the State of Vermont. In order to fully fund SMART, whose budget is more than twice that amount, VABVI has recently announced our several-year Second Century Endowment Campaign.

PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning and Support) Group: PALS Groups, held throughout Vermont, are monthly meetings where members share coping strategies and discuss the practical, social and emotional challenges of vision loss. While many clients have been pleased with the reintroduction of in-person meetings in FY23, opportunities to join virtually remain available for maximum flexibility. 42 clients attended PALS meetings in FY23.

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

IRLE Summer Camp (Intensive Residential Life Experience): IRLE camp helps VABVI students develop social skills, meet fellow visually impaired peers, learn independent living skills, and improve self-advocacy skills. This June, IRLE brought 13 visually impaired students to Rock Point by Lake Champlain. Activities included outdoor sports, nature walks, and living in cabins. Fun was had by all!

Community Outreach

VABVI continues to innovate new projects which will connect the local community to our services and cause. After more than a year of development, an accessible tactile sign is slated to be installed in Burlington's Waterfront Park by the end of 2023. Additionally, the New Americans Project will soon offer free vision screenings for local refugee community members.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the agency provided services to a total of 1,083 Vermont residents. This total includes 21 adults in Berlin, and 106 adults and 15 students in Washington County.

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

Berlin Economic Development Council Annual Report

The major project for the BEDC in 2023 was evaluating the configuration and space needs for the town offices. The town hall was last renovated in 2006 and many areas are undersized to meet current needs. The BEDC hired a consultant to review the layout and needs of the town departments. This consultant will provide options to the BEDC in 2024 as we look to move forward.

The BEDC did receive one application for Tax Stabilization in 2023. Giri Montpelier, Inc. is proposing a new hotel in front of the current Comfort Inn on Paine Turnpike. This hotel would be a national brand and contain about 100 rooms. The BEDC felt the project met all of the requirements for the tax stabilization program and recommended its approval to the select board.

Capstone Community Action Fall 2023 Report to the Citizens of Berlin

Since 1965, Capstone Community Action has served low-income residents of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington Counties and nine communities in Windsor, Addison, and Rutland Counties. We help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. This year, Capstone Community Action served 11,492 people in 6,334 Vermont households through Head Start and Early Head Start, business development, financial education, food and nutrition resources, housing counseling, tax preparation, teen parent education, emergency heating assistance, home weatherization, workforce training, transportation and more.

Programs and services accessed by 191 Berlin households representing 308 individuals this past year included:

- 106 individuals in 57 households accessed nutritious meals and/or meal equivalents at the food shelf.
- 23 households with 48 family members were able to keep heating their homes with help from our Crisis & Supplemental fuel programs as well as other utility costs.
- 26 individuals in 21 households worked with housing counselors to find and retain affordable, safe, secure housing.
- 7 homeless individuals with 7 homeless family members worked with housing counselors to find and retain affordable, safe, secure housing.
- 5 children were in Head Start and Early Head Start programs that supported 9 additional family members.
- 11 households received emergency furnace repairs and 3 household furnaces were replaced at no charge, making them warmer and more energy efficient for residents.
- 8 households were weatherized at no charge, making them warmer and more energy efficient for 22 residents, including 5 seniors and 3 residents with disabilities.
- 3 people attended classes or met one-on-one with a financial counselor to be better able to manage and grow family finances.
- 2 entrepreneurs received counseling and technical assistance on starting or growing a business.
- 37 residents had their taxes prepared at no charge by Capstone's IRS certified volunteers ensuring them all the refunds and credits they were due.
- 3 people participated in an intensive 9-week workforce training program for the food service sector.
- 10 households participated in the Mileage Smart program to purchase a used gas hybrid or electric vehicle from a local car dealer.
- 1 household attended workshops or met one on one with a Green Saving Smart Financial and Energy Coach to manage finances and connect with programs and resources to reduce energy usage.

Capstone thanks the residents of Berlin for their generous support this year!



Since the COVID pandemic, Circle has seen a rise in both the number of and the severity of domestic and sexual violence incidences in Washington County. Circle Staff and Volunteer Advocates have continued to meet these increased needs in our community by responding to a higher number of hotline calls - 76 more calls than last year; by providing more nights in our emergency shelter- 620 more bed nights than last year; and working with more individuals than last year – 3,251 this year compared to 2,200 individuals last year.

In addition to these essential services, Circle staff and volunteer advocates have provided the following services during FY23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023):

- Staff and volunteer advocates responded to 4,053 hot line calls.
- Shelter services were provided to 13 women and 15 children for a total of 3,364 bed nights.
- Our prevention based programs in schools reached a total of 35 students through 6 presentations.
- Circle provided community presentations to 346 individuals through the 16 trainings and workshops offered throughout Washington County.
- Advocates provided support to 89 plaintiffs during Final Relief from Abuse Hearings, and assisted 86 individuals file for temporary orders.
- Our Court Hour Program, which offers one-on-one support to plaintiffs as they prepare for their final hearings, was offered to 94 individuals.
- We assisted 260 individuals with other civil legal matters; 70 people received support from an attorney through our legal clinic referral program.
- Advocates supported 92 individuals whose (ex) partners were facing criminal charges.
- Circle held 90 support group sessions, which 41 unduplicated women attended.
- 3,251 people, of which, 515 were unduplicated, received direct services from Circle, which are maintained by trained staff and volunteer advocates.
- Our organization continues to rely heavily on the vast support of its many dedicated volunteers; Board Members, Hotline Advocates, and Shelter Support have all contributed 8,668 hours to the work of Circle.

P.O. Box 652, Barre, Vermont 05641  **24-Hour Toll-free Hotline: 1-877-543-9498**
Formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter



CHCV Helps Everyone Eat Local Through Gleaning

Community Harvest of Central Vermont (CHCV) brings our community together through gleaning to recover surplus food grown on area farms. This produce is then delivered to sites that serve those with limited access to nutritious fresh, local food. In the process, the community has the opportunity to gain a greater awareness and appreciation of the local food system, healthy eating, and waste reduction.

CHCV utilizes the generosity of local farmers and volunteers – many of whom are Worcester residents – to address hunger and reduce food waste in our community.

We work with 50 to 60 local farms, growers, and food producers to glean the extra food that can't be sold and would otherwise go to waste, all with the help of hundreds of volunteers each season. CHCV serves as a connector between the charitable and local for-profit food systems, to enhance the health and well-being of the Central Vermont community. CHCV is the only local program helping farms donate their surplus food to help increase food security, and this gleaned food reaches more than 12,000 Central Vermonters.

Over the past ten years, CHCV has recovered and donated more than 765,962 pounds of fresh, nutritious food, equivalent to almost 2.3 million servings. Our 37 Washington County recipient site partners – food shelves, after school and early childhood programs, senior and community meal sites – tell us the demand for food has remained high due to increased economic stressors. Our year-round food collection and our weekly donation deliveries to our recipient site partners enables them to help meet the community's need. In particular, CHCV partners with food shelves in Barre, Montpelier and Northfield that serve Berlin residents and all the senior meal programs that provide Meals on Wheels and other meals to Berlin seniors. CHCV also donates to and partners with Berlin Elementary School's Farm to School program, engaging students with local agriculture and serving their neighbors in need.

CHCV is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer powered community service organization. All our work is funded by individuals, area towns, foundations, partner contributions, and local business sponsors. As a small regional organization, we have limited access to grants or other funding from outside our local service area. Continued town funding is critical to preserving the services we've developed in order to meet the increased need in Central Vermont and Berlin in 2024.

Thank you for your continued support.

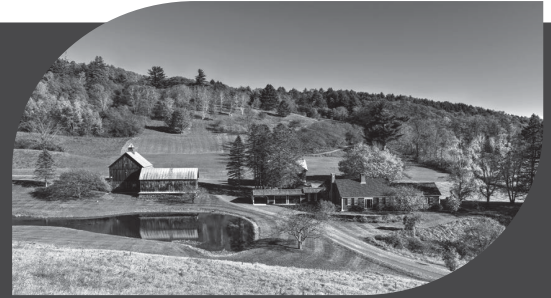
For more information or to become involved with CHCV please visit our website or contact Allison Levin, CHCV Executive Director.

*www.CommunityHarvestVT.org * 802-229-4281 * CommunityHarvestVT@gmail.com
146 Lord Road, Berlin VT 05602*



2023 Berlin

Town Annual Report



OVERVIEW

As a non-profit organization we are constantly reminded how lucky we are to call Central Vermont our home.

From the local legends and rolling mountains to the epic food and hidden trails, we all have a story on why we proudly call this state our backyard.

At CVFiber we believe that irrespective of location, everyone should have fair and equal access to fast, reliable, world-class Internet.

We set the bar high — and we aim to meet it.

In 2023, CVFiber...

- Started in some of the most **unserved** and **underserved** towns in Central Vermont to provide high-speed Internet to areas that either have none or minimal access.
- Constructed nearly **200 miles** of fiber making access to high-speed fiber internet available to more than **1,900 premises** in parts of Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Woodbury, and Worcester.
- Performed **design and make-ready work** in preparation for the 2024 construction season.
- Hired a professional staff to run the operation including an **Executive Director**, **Operations Manager**, and **Community Relations Manager**, with plans for a **Finance Manager** to join the team in early 2024.



In 2023, the CVFiber Community Network has gone live with our first subscribers.

Our Operations partner, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) began connecting CVFiber subscribers in October.

2024 FORECAST

(Pending Funding)



240 miles of fiber

Construction scheduled for 2024 will include constructing another **240 miles of fiber**.



2,100 premises

Network design and make-ready which includes pole licenses and tree trimming are coming to completion in preparation for stringing fiber in 2024.

As a result, we will be offering high-speed Internet to an additional **2,100 premises**.


Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Diamantides

Governing Board Chair,
Town of Berlin Delegate,
CVFiber

Jeremy Hansen

Town of Berlin Alternate,
CVFiber



“The fiber is great! I’m so happy to finally be hooked up, it’s all I had hoped for, and more! A far, far cry from the old days of dial-up, then satellite Internet, most recently “high-speed” DSL from another provider, which I have now canceled.”

-CVFiber customer



jdiamantides@cvfiber.net
jhansen@cvfiber.net



CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION IN BERLIN

Local Partnerships in Learning

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVABE), a community-based nonprofit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Berlin residents for fifty-eight years.

CVABE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16 - 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Berlin is served by our learning centers in Barre and Montpelier. The sites have welcoming learning rooms with computers, laptops and internet access to support instruction. CVABE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

Last year, 11 residents of Berlin enrolled in CVABE's free programs. In addition, 3 volunteers from Berlin worked with CVABE's professional staff to deliver and support literacy services. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more.

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels. By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Berlin residents for generations to come.

CVABE provided free instruction to 446 people last year in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVABE \$3,726 per student to provide a full year of instruction. *Nearly all students are low income.* Over 70 community volunteers work with CVABE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Berlin's voter-approved *past* support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information regarding CVABE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Barre Learning Center
46 Washington Street- Suite 100
Barre, Vermont 05641
(802) 476-4588

Montpelier Learning Center
100 State Street- Suite 3
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-3403

www.cvabe.org

Message from the CVCCSD Board

We are pleased to be writing to our Central Vermont Career Center communities on behalf of the Central Vermont Career Center School District Board. We are delighted to report that our students continue to excel across all of our programs as they develop the skills they need to embark on successful careers.

At CVCC, we are training students to become the next generation of mechanics, graphic designers, chefs, plumbers, contractors, hair stylists, EMTs, nurses, and much more. These are high-demand, well-paying careers. Just as important, we are giving them the opportunity to find those rewarding careers right here in Vermont. Many go on to earn college or graduate degrees before returning to the communities that raised them, while others enter their chosen careers directly. Regardless of the paths they choose, CVCC students see the real possibilities beyond what they're learning. Each day they acquire new skills that bring them closer to the career or degree programs they can't wait to embark on. In the past, while career and technical education has often been an afterthought, we are seeing more and more that it is a critical part of a high quality PreK-12 education — especially in the middle and high school grades.

To that end, the CVCC school board has set three overarching goals which guide our work toward fulfilling the mission and vision of the school, bringing more awareness to the importance of career and technical education. Embedded in each goal, and every decision that we make, is our commitment to equity and inclusion.

The first goal is to oversee the long term plan of building a centrally-located, state of the art facility fully dedicated to serving the needs of our school and the broader community. In order to reach our goal, we have assembled a facilities committee made up of board members and interested community members to guide the work to bring our vision to fruition for the fall of 2029. This new facility will allow the center to expand its programs and serve more students across the board.

Our second goal is to ensure that CVCC is providing an equitable, safe and rigorous program by strengthening inclusive curriculum, instruction, and professional development across the center. Many of our programs incorporate a nationally-recognized certification program, providing our students the ability to earn advanced credentials, positioning them for even greater success in their chosen fields.

Finally, the CVCCSD board is committed to increasing community involvement in all aspects of the school. We are working on an engagement plan to include all parents, industry partners and community members for the purpose of collaboration and to build a strong, supportive sense of community. We encourage all interested parties to get involved whenever possible through committee work, open houses and regular board meetings.

As we approach Town Meeting Day, we would like to express our appreciation for the support that we have received thus far. We serve 6 School Districts that represent 18 towns. There are no town lines or boundaries at CVCCSD. We all make up the Central Vermont Career Center School District. And that's important because it impacts how our annual budget is approved. While our district is technically a separate entity, our budget is still embedded in each town's annual school district spending just as it has

been in the past. In other words, we are seeking your continued support for the expenses you have been providing for years. Please remember to ask for a CVCCSD ballot.

It is a privilege to serve you as board members of the CVCCSD Board. We hope you will support your local school budget on Town Meeting Day, and in doing so, your Career Center.

Respectfully,

Jill Remick — Chair, Central Vermont Career Center School District
Lyman Castle - Vice Chair, Central Vermont Career Center School District
Flor Diaz Smith- Clerk, Central Vermont Career Center School District

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) 2023 Report for Town of Berlin:

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA services are available to those age 60 and up, caregivers, and families.

CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, free of charge. CVCOA utilizes town funding to provide individualized support to Berlin residents through case management, information and assistance, options counseling, resource and benefit enrollment (nutrition, transportation, mental health counseling, legal services, etc), long-term care planning, health insurance counseling, family caregiver support, connection to wellness and social activities, and more.

CVCOA supported 70 residents of Berlin. CVCOA case manager Bill Merrylees directly served older adults in Berlin.

CVCOA served 4,040 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2022 through 06/30/2023. CVCOA mobilized 497 volunteers through our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP and general volunteer programs. These volunteers served over 40,000 hours, providing direct service, delivering meals on wheels, supporting nutrition sites, leading wellness classes, offering companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of **Berlin for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Berlin community.**

Board of Directors

Jim Tringe, Chair

Agri-Mark, Inc./Cabot Creamery Coop.

Peter Hood, Treasurer
Town of Middlesex

Maureen Hebert, Secretary
University of Vermont

Marino Bartolomei, TD Bank

Rob Boulanger, Rock of Ages

Steven Dellinger-Pate, U-32 High School

Jody Emerson, Central Vermont Career Center

Kevin Eschelbach, Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Al Flory, Northfield Savings Bank

Lorraine Keener, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

Ed Larson, Larson Forestry Consulting

Kevin Lord, E.F. Wall & Associates

John Lyon, Wilkins Harley Davidson

Gunner McCain, McCain Consulting

Mark Nicholson, Nicom Coatings Corp.

Danielle Pelczarski, Norwich University

Bob Pope, Swenson Granite

Peter Ricker, Denis, Ricker & Brown Ins.

Dave Rubel, Community National Bank

Reuben Stone, Stone & Browning Property Management

Annemarie Todd, Sugarbush

Christian Meyer, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, Ex-Officio

Rachel Giroux
Town Clerk
Town of Berlin
108 Shed Road
Berlin, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Giroux,

CVEDC requests \$500 in level funding.

The Fiscal Year 2023 is already clouded by the events in the first days of Fiscal Year 2024, when devastating floods reached our community and harmed many people, homes, buildings, and businesses.

It is difficult to contemplate the twelve months preceding that given all we have been through. But nonetheless and in contrast to what was to come, Fiscal Year 2023 was strong in the Central Vermont Economy. Downtown businesses were finally seeing pre-pandemic levels of revenue and activity and there was hope that prosperity was returning post-Covid.

Melissa Bounty became Executive Director of CVEDC in March 2023, following a year and a half training with outgoing Executive Director Jamie Stewart.

The programming and three decades of wisdom Jamie had brought were all things Melissa worked hard to replicate, including the Central Vermont Job Fair, returning to its normal April date and with expanded hours and food offerings; great activity in our small business loan program with two new borrowers; and the conclusion of the second round of Covid-responsive Technical Assistance program, this time funded by the Small Business Administration under the umbrella of the Community Navigator Pilot Program. In the two rounds of RDC-led technical assistance, over 800 Vermont businesses have connected on federally-funded projects like website development, photography, legal assistance, bookkeeping and accounting, marketing support, and more.

In June, the State of Vermont passed legislation to fund a third round of this program, called the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange. 183 awards will be made to small business owners to complete similar projects, this time with no Covid-19 relationship required. The new version of the program is geographically equitable and will prioritize rural businesses, and businesses owned by New Americans, BIPOC, women, LBGTQIA+, justice-involved individuals, those with disabilities, veterans, Mature Vermonters and Young Vermonters.

In the spring and summer, CVEDC hosted a pilot program including UVM and the Patrick Leahy Rural Institute to fund and support Central Vermont Internships. 12 employers participated and hired UVM interns with whole or partial wage subsidies

made through the program. The employers and interns also received professional development support to make the most of this program.

CVEDC assisted many businesses with grant applications, many Covid-responsive. We saw over \$3million awarded to our region through ARPA-funded Community Resiliency and Recovery Program, the Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Program, and the Buildings and General Services RDC grants.

This June, CVEDC led the Governor's cabinet and the Washington County delegation on the final stop in the "ARPA Tour" which brought resources and eyes to projects in rural areas. We visited Plainfield, Berlin, Montpelier, Waitsfield, and Waterbury on this fun day of programming.

CVEDC is very active in Berlin specifically. We spend a good deal of time with Berlin's thoughtful Zoning Administrator who has been excellent at developing ideas for projects together. We were pleased to see Town of Berlin's Scott Hill Loop project rank high on the annual Regional Project Priority list and continue to work closely with the town on this project.

CVEDC counts three Berlin businesses as loan clients which are supported by our office through site visits, annual technical assistance awards, grant writing support and business counseling.

CVEDC offered three site tours for businesses interested in relocating to Berlin and hopes to continue this work.

Finally, CVEDC supported six grant applications for Berlin businesses in FY23. We were most proud to see a fitness center we worked with receive a retroactive grant that reimbursed them for the hard work and capital they invested in their business during Covid.

In Fiscal year 2023, CVEDC has worked hard to expand the reach of its services. We are focused on ensuring our tools and programs are available to all and have made special efforts to reach business owners in rural communities, and to be aware of best practices for a diverse and equitable client group. We have doubled our business membership and newsletter reach, and our newsletter continues to be an effective tool for communicating opportunities to our community.

We look forward to working with you in the future!

Regards,

Melissa Bounty, Executive Director

Melissa Bounty | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

@cvedc

cvedc.org

p. 802.595.3175

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

2023 ANNUAL SERVICE REPORT

BERLIN

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (CVHHH) is a full-service, not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Association that provides intermittent, short-term medical care, education, and support at home to help Central Vermonters recover from an illness, surgery, or hospital stay and manage their chronic disease. We serve 23 communities in Washington and Orange Counties and care for people of all ages. Our services include home care, hospice, and maternal-child health care. We also offer public foot-care clinics and flu vaccinations. In addition, we offer long-term care and private care services and free grief support groups.

CVHHH is guided by a mission to care for all Central Vermonters regardless of a person's ability to pay, their geographic remoteness, or the complexity of their care needs. CVHHH embraces new technology and collaborates with other local providers to ensure that central Vermonters' care needs are met. To learn more, visit www.cvhhh.org.

CVHHH Services to the Residents of Berlin Jan 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 *

Program	# of Visits
Home Health Care	2,153
Hospice Care	1,364
Long Term Care	1,091
Maternal Child Health	162
Palliative Care Consultative Service**	18
TOTAL VISITS/CONTACTS	4,788
TOTAL PATIENTS	198
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	279

**Audited figures are not available at the time of report submission. These preliminary figures are annualized based on the number of visits from January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023, and are not expected to vary significantly. **New service line as of April 1, 2023*

Town funding is imperative in ensuring that CVHHH will provide services in Berlin through 2024 and beyond. For more information contact Sandy Rouse, President & CEO, or Kelly Finnegan, Community Relations & Development at 223-1878.

CENTRAL VERMONT MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER

A Community Ice Rink and Sports Facility in Montpelier, Vermont

10 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier, VT 05602

802-229-5900 www.cvmcc.org <https://www.facebook.com/CVMCC>

The Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center (CVMCC) is a community run non-profit independent recreation center serving the Town of Berlin and other towns in Washington County since 1998. The Civic Center is open to all the public, schools, and residents. It is the only resource for indoor soccer, lacrosse, and golf in the spring. In the winter it provides indoor ice for public skating, broomball, and youth, adult, and high school hockey. The Civic Center is entirely supported by user fees, and municipal, business, and private donations.

For more information visit their website or facebook page or call 802-229-5900.



FY23 ANNUAL REPORT – TOWN OF BERLIN

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provides planning, development, and project implementation services to its 23 municipalities in Washington and western Orange Counties. Municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by a locally appointed member to the governing Board of Commissioners. CVRPC has no regulatory or taxing authority; each year, we request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to help offset costs and provide local matching funds needed for state and federal funding. Your continued support for local and regional planning is appreciated! CVRPC is your resource – please contact us at 802-229-0389 or cvrpc@cvregion.com for assistance.

Berlin Activities Through June 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023)

- Prepared and submitted Emergency Relief Assistance Fund information to town to facilitate elevated disaster relief aid.
- Provided funding opportunities to support potential ice rink solar project.
- Provided technical analysis, coordinated with utility, industry, school and public on fuel-switching and on-site generation and storage project development.
- Provided letter of support and mapping services for the municipal application to the Better Connections program to fund a town-wide master plan for active transportation.
- Participated in the project advisory committee Fisher Road Bike and Pedestrian study, including: reviewing procurement documents and project scope, participating in consultant selection process, reviewing alternatives, survey results, draft project reports.
- Supported town initiative to identify funding source to build new road alignment on the Mall Road.
- Supported town's participation in the VDH Healthy Communities Technical Assistance Pilot to create a four-season community recreation center and revitalize an existing town ice rink.
- Supported successful applications for \$4,000 MERP mini-grant for renewable energy and energy efficiency project development; investment grade energy assessments for the Town Clerk's Office, Town Garage, and Public Safety Building, making them eligible to apply for \$500k MERP implementation funds and State Energy Program Revolving Funds.
- Met with town staff to discuss options for conducting manhole survey and inspection and infrastructure asset planning.

**During and following the July Flood, CVRPC staff provided outreach and guidance on recovery efforts and tracking of damages to aid response and maximize FEMA reimbursements for town and individual damages (*Fiscal Year 2024)*

<p>Regional Commissioner Robert Wernecke Transportation Advisory Committee Robert Wernecke</p>
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CVRPC Projects & Programs

- ❖ *Municipal Plan and Bylaw Updates that focus on predictable and effective local permitting*
- ❖ *Brownfields environmental site assessments to facilitate redevelopment and economic growth*
- ❖ *Transportation planning, studies, data collection, traffic counts, and coordination of local involvement through the regional Transportation Advisory Committee*
- ❖ *Emergency planning for natural disasters and coordination with local volunteers and the State*
- ❖ *Climate and energy planning to support projects to reduce energy burdens and build resilience*
- ❖ *Natural resource planning to protect water resources, preserve forest blocks, enhance recreational opportunities and support agricultural and forest industries*
- ❖ *Regional Planning to coordinate infrastructure, community development, and growth*
- ❖ *Geographic Information System Services to support to municipalities*
- ❖ *Clean Water Service Provider to identify and fund water quality projects to achieve phosphorous reduction targets*
- ❖ *Special Projects such as recreation paths, farmland preservation, and affordable housing*
- ❖ *Grant support through project identification, scoping, and applications*

2024 Annual Report, December 2023

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents. CVSWMD's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and services for residents and businesses in reducing and managing their solid waste in order to protect public health and the environment. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates, and providing information and resources to our member communities. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.00 for fiscal year 2025.

Berlin's appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors is Matthew Levin.

CVSWMD continues to provide valuable programs and services to its residents, including:

- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC is located in Barre City, Vermont. We work with the State of Vermont to recycle TVs, computers and computer peripherals, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs and thermostats for free for Vermont residents. We also accept dozens of hard-to-recycle items that cannot be recycled in curbside recycling. In FY23, 352,978 lbs. of materials were collected and diverted from the landfill. ARCC operations came to an abrupt halt on July 10 when the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River surged through the facility, destroying most of our equipment and leaving up to three feet of mud in its wake. While simultaneously conducting emergency operations for our member towns, CVSWMD staff, with aid from FEMA and the State, began what would become a 5-month cleanup and refitting of the ARCC with a reopening on November 27.
- **Grants:** CVSWMD continues to offer several grant programs: the Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse Program (OWRRP); the Municipal Services Program (MSP); the Emergency Municipal Solid Waste Response Program (EMSWRP); and the School Zero Waste (SZW) program. In FY23, CVSWMD awarded \$23,312 in grant funding to towns, businesses, organizations and schools in our District. Green-Up Day grants totaling \$5,964 were also distributed.
- **Outreach and Education:** CVSWMD maintains its website with useful information on what can (and can't) be recycled, what is landfill banned (and how to dispose of those), what can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, and an A-Z Guide providing guidance to dispose of all types of waste. CVSWMD provides monthly newsletters and is active on social media, communicating waste management information and program updates to residents. Our knowledgeable staff provides guidance to residents and local businesses regarding all their waste management questions and concerns. CVSWMD's Outreach program continues to offer Waste Warrior trainings and composting workshops to District residents and event organizers.

- **Household Hazardous Waste:** In FY23, CVSWMD held five one-day collections throughout the District and helped 533 resident households dispose of 43,593 lbs. of hazardous waste. CVSWMD is currently working to open a year-round collection facility in Berlin that will collect wastes that are labeled for and sold for home use. The District has reached a host-town agreement with the Town of Berlin for siting our “Eco-Depot,” and is in the process of acquiring permitting and purchasing the property with a goal of opening in January 2025. Vermont’s Department of Environmental Conservation has provided a generous grant to facilitate the project. In time, CVSWMD hopes to consolidate all its operations on the 5.2-acre site.
- **School Program:** In FY23 the CVSWMD School Zero Waste Program reached 4600 students, grades K-12, through 165 classroom/schoolyard programs, cafeteria visits, etc. Topics presented and initiatives supported included living more sustainably, engaging in the “Rs” (recycling, repurposing, reusing, etc.), utilizing food scraps as a natural resource, classroom worm composting, special recycling initiatives, etc. Support was also provided to school food services departments in reducing cafeteria waste, and school custodial in proper disposal of books, batteries, mercury-containing bulbs, and electronic waste through the CVSWMD ARCC, as well as the management and proper disposal of school-generated hazardous waste, including via District collection events.
- **Compost and Zero Waste:** CVSWMD sells Green Cone food digesters, Soil Saver composting bins, recycling bins, and kitchen compost buckets to District residents at discounted rates. We will also continue to offer our Event Kit and Bin Loan programs on a first-come, first-serve basis to help reduce and manage waste at events held within the District. These programs have been put on hold due to our inventory being destroyed by the July flooding, but we plan to re-establish them as soon as possible.
- **Emergency Operations:** In the aftermath of the July flood, CVSWMD teams cruised the streets of Montpelier and Barre, pulling paint cans, fluorescents, motor oil, batteries and a slew of other items that had been mixed with regular trash, in order to prevent their transport to the landfill. The District also called all member towns to offer organized collection events. These were provided in Barre City and Barre Town (who generously accepted drop-offs from neighboring Williamstown, Orange and Washington), where we partnered with Department of Environmental Conservation staff to ensure that collected items were handled and packaged correctly. Additionally, CVSWMD played a major role in connecting towns with vital State and Federal subsidized debris remediation programs.

CVSWMD posts useful information on what can (and can’t) be recycled, what items are banned from the landfill (and how to dispose of those), what items can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, Act 148, details about our special collections, and an A-to-Z Guide listing disposal options for many materials. For specific questions, call (802) 229-9383.

Washington County Diversion Program

Washington County Diversion Program Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2023 (ended 6/30/2023)

Serving the Communities of Washington County since 1982.

Who We Are and What We Do:

The Washington County Diversion Program (WCDP) is a local non-profit organization that provides a range of restorative justice programs for the communities within Washington County. WCDP addresses unlawful behavior, supports victims of crime, and promotes a healthy community. We follow a balanced and restorative justice model that strives to put right the wrongs that have been done and address the needs of all stakeholders, including the victim, the community and those who violated the law, holding the latter accountable in a manner that promotes responsible behavior.

WCDP runs six separate programs: Court Diversion (adult and youth), the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program, the Balanced and Restorative Justice Program, the Tamarack Program, Pretrial Monitoring and the Driving with License Suspended Program. During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP worked with 485 participants across those programs.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30

Court Diversion

This restorative justice program is for youth with a delinquency petition and adults charged with a crime. Recognizing that people and relationships have been harmed when someone commits an offense, Diversion empowers all stakeholders to collectively address the needs of the victim, the community and the person who violated the law. Participants must take responsibility for their actions and engage in a restorative process aimed at repairing the harm. Completion of the Diversion Program results in a dismissal of the delinquency/criminal charge. **During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP's Diversion Program worked with 241 diversion participants, 58 of whom were Berlin residents.**

Youth Substance Awareness & Safety Program (YSASP)

YSASP provides an alternative to the civil court process for youth who violate Vermont's underage alcohol or marijuana laws. YSASP helps young people understand the impact on themselves and others of using substances and to lower their risk of future use, while connecting those identified as using at high-risk levels to professional substance use clinicians. YSASP follows an approach known as Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). **During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP's YSASP Program worked with 91 youth, 19 of whom were Berlin residents.**

Balanced and Restorative Justice Program (BARJ)

These services are provided to youth who are charged with a delinquency, have been adjudicated delinquent or are at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system. BARJ services vary depending on each individual, but consist of restorative interventions that reduce and eliminate further involvement in the juvenile justice system such as: restorative panels, restitution services, risk screening, and restorative classes/skills development. **During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP's BARJ Program worked with 35 youth, 4 of whom were Berlin residents**

Tamarack

This restorative justice program is for adults charged with a crime who have substance use or mental health treatment need regardless of their criminal history. Pretrial Service Coordinators quickly connect those referred to substance use, mental health and other supportive community-based services. Participants must take

322 North Main Street, Suite 5, Barre VT 05641

Telephone: 802-479-1900 Web: www.wcdp-vt.org

responsibility for their actions and engage in a restorative process aimed at repairing the harm. Completion of the Tamarack Program results in a dismissal of the criminal charge. **During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP's Tamarack Program worked with 24 participants, 6 of whom were Berlin residents.**

Pretrial Monitoring

Pretrial Monitoring is for adults with substance use or mental health treatment needs who are going through the court process and awaiting case resolution. Monitoring may be ordered by the court. Individuals may also choose to engage with pretrial services. Pretrial Service Coordinators quickly connect people to substance use, mental health and other supportive community-based services. They also support individuals to meet conditions of release and attend scheduled court appearances. **During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP's Pretrial Services program worked with 94 individuals, 14 of whom were Berlin residents.**

Driving with License Suspended

The Civil DLS Diversion Program works to restore people's privilege to drive by helping people to determine requirements for driver re-licensing and by providing alternative affordable means to satisfy those requirements whenever possible. Among other forms of assistance, staff file motions, including proposed reductions and payment plans, on behalf of participants with the Vermont Judicial Bureau (VJB) and collect payments for the VJB. **During Fiscal Year 2023, WCDP's DLS program worked with 21 individuals.**

We greatly appreciate your support!

The people we serve have complex lives. They arrive at WCDP with multiple barriers to success: mental health issues, substance misuse problems, low educational attainment, challenging work histories, poverty and/or homelessness. As a result, our engagement and case management with them is more intense as we work to connect them with the resources they need.

The town funds we receive from you allow us to keep offering the level of services we do. Thank you!

Meg Rizzo

322 North Main Street, Suite 5, Barre, VT 05641
802-479-1900 or meg@wcdp-vt.org



Downstreet is grateful to the citizens of Berlin for their generous support this year.

Downstreet strengthens the communities of Central Vermont by creating permanently affordable homes, promoting equity and inclusion, and connecting people to the resources and services they need to thrive. Since 1987, we have served Washington, Lamoille, and Orange Counties. We currently serve more than 2,400 people with low- and moderate-incomes each year through affordable rentals, homeownership programs, and supportive services including the nationally recognized SASH® (Supports and Services at Home) program.

We currently provide homes to more than 900 people through our affordable apartments and mobile home lot rentals. **We currently have 39 new units of housing in development in Berlin** and Barre, and are exploring opportunities to create new housing in Waterbury, Waitsfield, and Montpelier.

Our NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center offers a wide range of services and resources to support individuals and families in their journey toward homeownership. Downstreet's comprehensive programs include homebuyer education, financial counseling, and down payment assistance – all designed to empower prospective homeowners with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate the complexities of the housing market. Through workshops, one-on-one counseling, and access to various resources, the HomeOwnership Center strives to make the dream of owning a home a reality for those in Vermont. **Downstreet currently stewards four Berlin homes in our shared equity homeownership program**, with a total of 162 homes across central Vermont. In addition to these homeownership programs, our HomeOwnership Center team administers several financing programs, including the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP) and the Green Mountain Home Repair (GMHR) Program.

SASH® Support and Services at Home is an innovative housing and care-coordination model for Medicare recipients who live at home. SASH brings together nonprofit housing providers, social service agencies, hospitals, and community health providers to coordinate care and provide individualized support to older Vermonters and people with disabilities, enabling them to age in place. SASH has been available statewide since 2011 and is implemented locally by designated regional housing organizations (DRHOs) throughout Vermont. The development of the model was led by Cathedral Square in 2009, with Downstreet as an early adopter, acting as the DRHO for Central Vermont since the piloting phase of 2009. The SASH program serves more than 600 older people and people with disabilities in Washington, Orange and Lamoille counties.

For more information, visit our website at www.downstreet.org or call 802-476-4493

22 Keith Avenue, Suite 100
Barre, Vermont 05641
downstreet.org | 802.476.4493





**FAMILY CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
....serving families in Berlin**

The Family Center provides services and resources to all children and families in our region. In FY'23 we offered services for children, youth and families, including: Early Care and Education, Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention, Family Support Home Visiting, Child Care Financial Assistance, Child Care Referral, Welcome Baby Outreach, Family Supportive Housing Services, Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project, Specialized Child Care Supports, Reach Up Job Development, Food Pantry, Diaper Bank, Parent Education, and Playgroups for children from birth to five. We are grateful for the support shown by the voters of Berlin. For more information about Family Center programs and services, please visit: www.fcwcv.org.

Among the 141 individuals in Berlin who benefited from the Family Center's programs and services from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 were:

- * **6 children** who attended our **5 STARS Early Childhood Education** program.
- * **5 families** who received **Information & Referral**, including consulting our **Child Care Referral services**, receiving assistance in finding child care to meet their needs, answering questions related to child care and child development, and receiving information about other community resources available.
- ***17 families** who received **Child Care Financial Assistance**.
- * **7 children and *7 caregivers** who participated in our **Playgroups**. Playgroups are free, open to all families with children birth to five, and have no eligibility requirements. Children have a chance to play with others in a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment. Parents talk to other parents, draw upon each other for support, learn new skills from Playgroup Facilitators and get information about community resources.
- ***17 individuals** who were served by one of our **Home Visiting** services, providing parent and family education and support or Early Intervention with a child aged birth to 3.
- ***23 children and caregivers** who received food and household items delivered to their residence by our home visitors from our **Food Pantry** to help supplement their family's nutritional and basic needs and ***22 children** who received diapers from our **Diaper Bank**.
- * **5 children and parents** who attended our **Community Events** or received activity bags.
- * **3 adults** who participated in one of our **Family Support Groups**, such as Cooking with Heart or Tuesday's Together.
- * **2 young parents** who received wrap around support in our **Families Learning Together** program.
- * **4 individuals** who received **Reach Up Job Development** skills and hands-on work experience.
- ***16 children and adults** who received assistance moving into and maintaining permanent housing as well as assistance with life skills development through our **Family Supportive Housing Services** for homeless or at-risk-families with minor children in Washington County.
- * **7 children and young adults**, aged 0 – 24 years, who received assistance with obtaining and maintaining housing as well as life skills development through our **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Building resourceful families and healthy children to create a strong community.

Jamie Smith
Director of Planning and Marketing
Green Mountain Transit
101 Queen City Park Road
Burlington, VT 05401
jamie@ridegmt.com
802-540-1098

October 19, 2023

Hello,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of Green Mountain Transit, the provider of essential public transportation services in our region. As we continue to work tirelessly to serve our communities, we are reaching out to you, the valued members of our rural community, to highlight the significant benefits that public transportation brings to our region.

Our rural communities are the backbone of our state, and we understand the unique challenges and opportunities that come with living in such a beautiful, yet often isolated, setting. We take great pride in the role we play in connecting our residents to vital services, job opportunities, educational institutions, and cultural experiences. The benefits of accessible public transportation extend far beyond mere convenience; they are essential to the well-being and vitality of our region. Here are some key points to consider:

- **Accessibility:** Public transportation often means that community members, including those without access to a private vehicle, can reach their desired destinations. This includes getting to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, and social gatherings.
- **Economic Development:** A robust public transportation system can attract new businesses to the area and support the growth of existing ones. By connecting people to jobs and markets, we contribute to the overall economic health of our region.
- **Environmental Impact:** Public transportation reduces the number of individual vehicles on the road, leading to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. This is an important step toward a more sustainable future for Vermont.

- Quality of Life: Access to public transportation enhances the quality of life for residents by reducing traffic congestion, promoting community engagement, and offering an affordable alternative to the high costs associated with car ownership.

While we receive funding from various sources, including grants, the financial sustainability of our services is an ongoing challenge. It is with this in mind that we kindly request your support in the form of an annual contribution. Your financial support will directly benefit our rural communities and help ensure the continued availability and expansion of our transportation services.

It is with recognition and appreciation for all levels of support that Green Mountain Transit (GMT) would like to submit a funding request for FY25 in the amount of **\$11,466.00** be placed before voters for consideration. The requested funding directly supports GMT's ongoing operations and the amount is based on a fair share calculation applied to the municipalities GMT serves.

We would be delighted to meet with you to discuss our organization's mission in more detail and answer any questions you may have. Your involvement, whether as an individual or on behalf of your organization, would be a vital step toward securing the future of public transportation in our region.

Please feel free to contact me at 802-540-1098 or jamie@ridegmt.com to arrange a meeting or if you have any questions or concerns. Your consideration of this request means the world to us and to the rural communities we serve.

Thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to working together to ensure a brighter, more connected future for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Smith
Director of Planning and Marketing
Green Mountain Transit



Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

Our mission is to bring community to families with new babies. Our Postpartum Angel Family Support Program matches families with a trained volunteer for up to 12 weeks of postpartum support and respite. Journey Into Parenting workshops prepare expectant parents for the postpartum period, and the Nest is a welcoming and developmentally-appropriate drop-in space for parents with infants and toddlers. Low-income families can access assistance through our Perinatal Support Fund and Free Carrier Program. All programs are available at no charge to any local family with a new baby.

Last fiscal year, we served 204 families (570 individuals), including 8 Berlin families:

- 78 families received nearly 1020 hours of respite, support, and community connections from Postpartum Angel volunteers.
- 16 families received a total of \$7,025 in financial assistance and 14 low-income parents received high-quality infant carriers through our Free Carrier Program. **We continue to see increased need for financial support from our Perinatal Support Fund.**
- 30 families received hands-on support with babywearing, an important attachment strategy and coping technique for caregivers.
- 20 families attended one or more workshop in our Winter Wellness series of self-care offerings for parents and caregivers.
- 102 families attended our Nest space for support and community
- 8 families attended early parenting workshops.

Funding from the Town of Berlin supports our Postpartum Angel program and specifically, staff time devoted to recruiting and training volunteers, conducting outreach to referral sources, and matching families with volunteers. Town funding also covers expenses associated with our peer support groups and free early parenting workshops.

Contact Us:

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
174 River Street, Montpelier, VT 05602
director@goodbeginningscentralvt.org
www.goodbeginningscentralvt.org
802.595.7953

174 River Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 802.595.7953
www.goodbeginningscentralvt.org

Berlin Annual Town Report



Organization: Good Samaritan Haven

Address: 105 South Seminary Street, Barre, VT 05641

Phone: (802) 479-2294

Hours of operation: 24 hours a day, year-round

Co-Executive Directors: Rick DeAngelis & Julie Bond

Our Mission

Good Samaritan Haven provides emergency shelter and support services, and offers stability, safety, and hope for people experiencing homelessness.

Narrative Description of Programs & Activities

Good Samaritan operates a network of shelters located in four different areas: Berlin, Barre City, Barre Town and our seasonal, low-barrier, winter shelter in Montpelier. We also provide support to guests at the Hilltop Inn who are housed through the state's motel program.

In addition to our emergency shelter facilities, we maintain a continuum of care for people experiencing homelessness in Washington County. This includes:

Case Management: Our case managers work closely with shelter guests to address a range of life goals, including healthcare, employment, treatment enrollment, housing, family reunification, and legal system navigation.

Street Outreach: Our street outreach team helps individuals living out-of-doors stay safe by providing essential items like tents, sleeping bags, tarps, cookstoves, basic first aid, food and water.

Food Program: Housing and food insecurity are intrinsically linked. Our food program is an essential part of our work, as we strive to provide warm meals and nourishing food to our guests.

Health & Safety: Our health and safety officer helps people in shelters and on the streets access healthcare. Visiting nurses provide weekly check-ups, and vaccination clinics are held to keep everyone safe.

Recovery Program: Our recovery program employs a peer-mentorship approach to assist guests at all points of their recovery path, providing a range of resources from group meetings to sober living environments.

Our Annual Shelter Network Impact

- 15,014 annual bed nights provided in our shelters
- 274 individuals provided with shelter
- 86 people assisted by our street outreach program

- 17,000+ meals served
- 1604 Covid tests administered
- 11 Vaccination clinics held
- 52 Covid vaccines administered
- 20 families with children assisted
- 143 households in motels assisted
- 15 guests assisted in obtaining their own housing

Who we serve: Good Samaritan serves individuals who are 18 years old and above. Historically, our emergency shelters have served individuals whose average age is between 25 and 50. Currently, 40% of our guests across our shelter network are over the age of 55. The increase in age of our guests is anticipated to continue, matching national demographic trends.

We serve a beautifully diverse population including people with developmental or physical disabilities, people with extensive medical conditions, those with mental/emotional diversity, people who are, or have a history of justice system involvement, those who are refugees/immigrants or are of racial, ethnic or linguistic diversity, those who are neurodiverse, those who have served in the armed forces, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and those in recovery or with active substance use disorder.

Kellogg-Hubbard Library Town Report for Berlin, VT
2023 for Town Meeting 2024

Our mission is to empower community members to become lifelong learners by providing easy access to materials, online resources, programs and a welcoming place. Our vision is to be a resilient, inclusive and innovative library that continually learns and adapts to meet the changing needs of our community.

Library Lending was incredibly strong in fiscal year 2023 with 351,251 physical circulations (books, DVDs, CDs, magazines); and 37,348 digital circulations (e-books, audiobooks, streaming video and online magazines). We have 478 library patrons from Berlin who borrowed 7,287 items from our collection, plus digital library use, which we can't separate by town.

In FY23 we offered 200 **programs** for children and teens and 184 programs for adults. 7,224 of our community members attended those programs. We also record many of our programs and make them available on our YouTube channel. 19 children from Berlin completed our summer reading challenge and many more attended programs we held, including a StoryWalk at Berlin Elementary School, story time and crafts at the school, and weekly visits to two childcare centers.

At the KHL you can borrow from our physical collection of 66,802 books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, and more, our digital collection (available 24/7 online), including over 100,000 downloadable titles, and from libraries statewide. We deliver library materials to homebound patrons and to outreach sites in our member towns, including at The Welcome Center. For many, the library is a warm (or cool) space, a public bathroom, and a place to feel welcome.

In July 2023, the Library experienced severe damage from the **flooding** in Montpelier, with nearly eight feet of water filling the basement. Our book sale was a complete loss and all of our major building systems were damaged or destroyed. We suffered estimated damages of \$1.5 million. In spite of the damage, we reopened for curbside service just a week after the flood. We circulated over 40,000 materials in July and August (about 2/3 our normal volume) despite having no overhead lighting and limited electricity in the building. We reopened to the public on October 7th, but expect full restoration of the building to take several months.

We continue work toward our strategic plan, including efforts to increase the diversity of our materials and programs to represent our community, raise awareness of library services, reconfigure library spaces to effectively meet needs, and enhance staffing to meet evolving service demands.

The Library is funded annually through tax support from the municipalities we serve (53%), income from our endowment and reserves (28%), private contributions and fundraisers (18%) and other income (1%). Our funding requests are per capita based; the same way libraries across Vermont measure their municipal tax support. This year we are requesting increased funding from Berlin: \$39,886 or \$14 per capita. The increase is primarily due to inflationary pressures, including fair market salary adjustments for our staff. We did not request an increase last year. The \$2 per capita increase matches the requested increase in our other towns and compares to a \$20 per capita request in our other supporting towns and \$55 per capita (a \$4 increase) for our Montpelier request. The state *average* per capita support for Libraries is \$35.82. Our total FY '24 budget is \$1,082,179. Our Berlin representatives are Dan Greene and Tai Nixa-Peterson and our Executive Director is Dan Groberg. **Thank you for your continued support!**



MOSAIC

VERMONT

Healing Communities | Ending Sexual Violence

Mosaic Vermont's Annual Report for FY23

- Over **5,000** direct responses to harm were provided.
- **277** individuals were served due to incidents of sexual violence. **76** were children.
- Mosaic engages in community-wide culture-change efforts to connect, share resources, increase accessibility to programming for all people, and to help end violence. This year, advocates and educators engaged over **1,200** youth and **150** adults across **5** public schools in addition to others throughout Washington County.

"You were the only one willing to help me. That's all I needed... to talk to someone."

~Mosaic Client

Mosaic's work is led by the people who have been impacted by sexual harm. Through the provision of services such as our 24-hour helpline; safety planning; advocacy at Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations; support in court hearings or at crime related appointments or interviews; referrals to and support in accessing community resources; parent, friend, and caregiver support; and case management; we help people begin to heal. We provide additional, specialized services for people who have experienced sex trafficking, adult survivors of child sexual abuse, and children and youth who have experienced sexual violence.

Mosaic's services are highly confidential, and people are not required to disclose their town of residence to receive services. Many do not. We are deeply grateful to the cities and towns of Washington County for your continued support as our advocates undertake highly complex and confidential work. Your steady allyship and preservation of privacy have saved lives.

In hope and healing,

Anne Ward, MEd
Executive Director, Mosaic Vermont



OUR House of Central Vermont is a non-profit Children's Advocacy Center and Special Investigations Unit located in Barre and serving all of Washington County. OUR House's mission is to provide a safe and supportive setting for child victims of physical & sexual abuse, their non-offending family members as well as adult survivors of sexual assault.

OUR House (which stands for One Unified Response) implements a multidisciplinary approach to the issue of physical and sexual abuse. We work very closely with the Dept. for Children and Families, Law Enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, CVMC, and MOSAIC along with other local organizations to ensure investigations whenever possible are conducted in a child friendly environment, with staff who are trained in the area of trauma. We also offer therapy referral, case management, safety planning, training, and referral services to children and adult victims as well as their caregivers.

Every town in Washington County has used our services in one way or another in the year of 2023.

Within your town/city OUR House assisted with 7 cases and within Washington County:

- OUR House investigated 105 sexual abuse cases this calendar year.
- Out of those cases, 14 were children under the age of 6.
- 90% of those cases were abused by someone they KNOW or are even related to.
- 13 offenders were under the age of 17.
- Law enforcement took the extra time to review 59 cases that were ultimately not accepted.
- There was an increase in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness and an increase in people identifying within the LBGTQI community.

While it is difficult to monetarily quantify an abuse/assault investigation, national statistics show that on a per-case basis, these cases coming through the CAC/SIU **SAVES a local PD and Town \$1,000 per case.**

Because of these cost savings, OUR House asks all Washington County towns for financial support. OUR House provides its case management tools and law enforcement services free of charge, which in turn removes the need for the towns to directly provide the services via staff and training themselves.

We are thankful for the support of your town and request the same level of funding as in years past, \$250.00

Thank you for your support in our mission and your community!

Rebecca Duranleau, Executive Director

OURHouseBarreDirector@gmail.com / www.OURHouseCentralVT.com

802-622-0821 * 802-272-6312 *38 Summer Street, Barre VT 05641

Berlin Town Report

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center provides programming to everyone aged 50+ and promotes lifelong learning, healthy aging, socialization, falls prevention, and more. It is our organization's mission to enhance the quality of life for older adults in the greater Montpelier area through opportunities that develop physical, mental, cultural, social, and economic well-being in a welcoming, flexible environment.

MSAC is a vital resource for our Central Vermont community by providing Meals on Wheels deliveries, congregate lunches, referrals to area services, over fifty affordable weekly classes each quarter, and several free drop-in groups. MSAC offers financial aid, tech assistance, tax preparation, foot care clinics, and more to all our participants.

MSAC has an operating budget of \$740,099, and we are seeking level funding of \$21,600 from the town of Berlin to support our organization for FY25. Our request is based on two metrics. First, we serve at least 30 Berlin residents through our programming and other services. This figure only factors in Berlin MSAC members and is likely higher since many of our programs do not track town of residence data. Second, our FEAST Meals on Wheels program currently serves 18 Berlin residents with nutritious meals daily.

MSAC recognizes how important our community partners' services are to Berlin residents, and we believe in working collaboratively with area organizations to serve the vast number of older adults in our region. Despite many challenges in the past year, we strive to support our members and the public with quality service and programming. We appreciate Berlin voters' support of MSAC and look forward to serving you in 2024.

To contact the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, visit our office at 58 Barre Street, go to our website www.montpelier-vt.org/msac, call us at 802-223-2518, or email us at msac@montpelier-vt.org. Please subscribe to our newsletter to learn more about our programs and area events: www.montpelier-vt.org/MSACNewsletter. And visit our City of Montpelier's website to view our financial information: www.montpelier-vt.org.

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

Barre Local Health Office | 5 Perry Street, Suite 250, Barre VT
802-479-4200 | AHS.VDHBarre@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The Barre Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Washington and northeast Orange counties.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/barre



Central Vermont Flood Response

The historic flooding of 2023 devastated many of our central Vermont communities. We disseminated hundreds of free water test kits for central Vermont homeowners, critical health and safety information and protective equipment for cleanup. We collaborated with community partners including Montpelier Alive, Rainbow Bridge Community Center, Central Vermont Medical Center and People's Health and Wellness Center to provide tetanus and wound care clinics and participated in multiple local initiatives to address the public health concerns of immediate flood response and long-term flood recovery.



Nutrition Support for Families

The Barre Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program serves pregnant Vermonters, parents, and caregivers with children under 5 with healthy food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and counseling. In 2023, we were given a Premiere Level Breastfeeding Award of Excellence by the Federal Food and Nutrition Service. Notably, 83% of pregnant WIC participants breastfed, with 63% continuing beyond 6 months—surpassing the 25% national rate.



Protecting Central Vermonters

Our team of epidemiologists, public health nurses and public health specialists act every day to prevent the spread of disease. In 2023, we conducted nearly 200 reportable disease case investigations. With the help of community partners, we organized 23 vaccine clinics in locations such as farms, community events and flood recovery centers. In total, we provided 311 vaccines including COVID-19, flu, tetanus and Mpox.



TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to license. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) & Tractor Supply host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: VSNIP.Vermont.Gov. VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The "mom" cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. "Farm" cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be the inside a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not 'save' one, it 'enables' those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard "Snook" Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! ***Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!*** 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VVSA

WASHINGTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- *Town of Berlin Voter Approved Donation for **2022-2023**: \$2,000.00*
- *Total Budget for **2022-2023**: \$65,836,185*
- *Website Address: WCMHS.ORG*
- *Telephone Number for Services: 802-229-0591*
- *Physical Address: 885 South Barre Rd. Barre, VT 05641*
- *Written Report/Job Title by: Heather Slayton Communications Coordinator*

During FY 2023, WCMHS provided services to more than 3,300 individuals with 299,040 individual units of services across Washington County. In FY 2023, WCMHS provided 2,417 units of service which totaled 6,752 hours of services to 57 Berlin residents. We are very grateful for the \$2,000.00 granted by Berlin voters last year. WCMHS provides services to our communities that are beyond our standard services, and therefore are not funded, or are underfunded. We appreciate the past support from Berlin voters, as it is vital in helping us continue to do this work.

WCMHS provides services to adults with serious and persistent mental illness, substance use disorder, persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and children with serious emotional disturbances and their families. The agency is comprised of five primary divisions, with two additional agency-wide programs and a centralized administrative division. The Community Developmental Services (CDS) division serves people of all ages who have a developmental or intellectual disability. The Community Support Program (CSP) serves individuals above the age of 18 with a history of serious and persistent mental health challenges and co-occurring substance use disorders. Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) helps children and youth up to the age of 22 who are experiencing a serious emotional disturbance or autism spectrum disorder. The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CCPS) provides outpatient counseling and psychotherapy services for children and adults. Intensive Care Services (ICS) provides 24/7 emergency services and brief, urgent care through short-term, intensive case management for adults and youth. Agency-wide Nursing and Psychiatry programs support clients in every division, and our administrative services include Maintenance, Information Technology, Communications and Development, and other business-related components. Almost all of these programs also provide Employment Supports. At WellSpace in Barre, Wellness initiatives are available both to the populations we serve and to the greater community, many born in an effort to reduce wait times for people needing to access services for the first time.

For 56 years, WCMHS has served our community through education, support, and treatment of individuals living with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, or substance use issues. Whether we are working with a child in a school system, providing therapy to an individual in an office setting, meeting someone in their home for an appointment or support, or assisting with a crisis response in our local hospital, we work towards successful outcomes and wellness for each individual and family served.

We Can Reduce Our Tax Burden by \$600,000!

Berlin has around 2,900 residents, but during the daytime that rises to around 12,000. That's over 400%! This increase is due largely to the regional healthcare, retail, and institutional organizations we host. Each organization in town brings patients, customers, and employees who share in the use of our roads, water supply, and sewer system. Unfortunately, the burden to maintain these things falls mainly on the shoulders of Berlin property owners.

The Town of Berlin is committed to supporting our residents, and that includes stabilizing tax bills while continuing to provide essential services and infrastructure. To do this, we are proposing a 1% Local Options Tax (LOT). This will contribute to a tax rate reduction plan and to our Capital Improvement Fund. We estimate this will bring in an additional \$555,000 of a total of \$638,000 contributed by non-residents who share our Town resources, and will reduce our budget by approximately 17% (based on 2022 numbers).

The proposed Local Options Tax is a 1% tax on purchases already subject to the 6% State Sales tax. It will NOT be applied to:

- Food and beverages
- Clothes and shoes
- Drugs and medical supplies
- Motor vehicles
- Fuels (gasoline, diesel)
- Residential & farm utilities (electricity, oil, gas)

This fund is being considered for Berlin in order to generate revenue to support funding of Capital Improvement and Infrastructure projects. That includes highway repairs, culvert replacement, bridge work, and other necessary improvements to our town infrastructure. It will also help reduce tax rates from sources other than Berlin property owners. We have the capability to balance the cost of town services from non-residents who benefit from those services.

Based on past sales tax revenues collected by the VT Department of Taxes, the LOT fund would have generated these dollar estimations to the town (per financial year):

2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
\$638,076	\$668,222	\$623,813	\$649,779	\$558,010	\$545,034

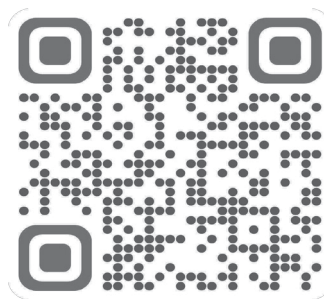
According to state tax information, it is estimated that **74 to 87%** of these dollars would come from non-residents.

To reiterate, the Town of Berlin could stabilize Town property taxes and increase our Capital budget from sources other than resident taxpayers, allowing us to purchase highway and police equipment and replace vehicles without borrowing money and paying interest.

The impact of 1%:

This chart outlines the reduction in Town property taxes and the Capital fund impact that could have occurred based on actual dollars the Town would have received, had we implemented the LOT sooner.

Total LOT	Capital Fund Impact at 20%	Overall % of Budget Reduction	Savings (in dollars)		
			150K Home	200K Home	250K Home
FY22					
\$638,076	-18%	17%	181	241	302
FY21					
\$668,222	-35%	21%	197	263	329
FY20					
\$623,813	-38%	21%	184	246	307
FY19					
\$649,779	-35%	22%	195	260	325
FY18					
\$558,010	-38%	19%	163	217	272
FY17					
\$545,034	-46%	20%	164	219	273



For more information, open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR Code above!

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PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024
AT THE BERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



BERLINV.T.GOV