

Town of **Ryegate** Vermont

2020 Annual Report



Please plan to vote via  
Australian Ballot  
from 10 AM until 7 PM  
**On Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

(Absentee/Early Voting is available  
by contacting the Town Clerk at  
584-3880 or [ryegateclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:ryegateclerk@yahoo.com))

# Dedication

Two years ago the Town Report was dedicated to Community Spirit. It's amazing to realize how quickly the concept of Community can change. On March 3, 2020 our typical Annual Town Meeting was held at the Town House in Ryegate Corner. Attendance was great, the room was full, and people laughed freely, shook hands with friends freely, and seemed happy to come together to discuss town issues, vote on important ideas, and elect town officers for another year. Little did we realize in that moment in history that in 2021 it would be unwise to hold a traditional Town Meeting, or even gather for a Select Board Meeting without masks and social distancing.

Yet, the idea of Community, even though greatly changed to accommodate the clearly unwelcome Covid-19 Virus, has continued to exist in Ryegate.

Soon after realizing that the Virus was here to stay for a while the Grange set up a Neighborhood Task Force and created a Telephone Hot Line that was monitored daily for anyone needing to call for any kind of help. Being the resilient Vermonters that Ryegate Folks are, even though post cards were mailed to all homes and posters were placed in strategic places, not a single call has been made to the Hot Line. Certainly these Ryegate Citizens, strong willed and independent, appreciated the idea that help was out there, should they need it.

Senior Meals in South Ryegate, as all Meal Sites across the State, had to adjust to the new protocol of delivering meals, when folks could not come together to share a meal and community fellowship. Meals have continued to be delivered to the homes of those wishing for one throughout the year.

The cover of this year's town report symbolizes the people of Ryegate's ability to work willingly in spite of the mask and the hardships and separations so many have experienced. The Town will remain strong by working together while physically apart, and looking forward to a day when we can greet each other again as community members, openly, without masks or physical barriers.

So once again, we dedicate this Town Report to Community, longing for it to return to normal, and holding on to the idea that with care and perseverance we will achieve it one day.



Winter  
Carnival

Note: Town logo created by Betsey Pelletier (Nelson)

The Report of the Officers of the

Town  
of  
**Ryegate**  
Vermont

In preparation for vote by  
Australian Ballot  
From 10am until 7pm  
On  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
(in lieu of our traditional  
Town Meeting, due to the ongoing  
Covid 19 Pandemic)

**2020**  
Annual Report  
Of Town Officers  
For the Year Ended  
December 31, 2020

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## Selectboard Narrative

2020 has certainly been an interesting year, both for all of us and for those of us charged with carrying out the essential services that the town provides. Just like our town, your town officers have worked hard to get our work done while at the same time watching out for each other. The board would like to thank Grant Nelson for stepping back into harness and filling the vacancy created by our loss of our friend Paul Keenan and we are pleased to welcome Steve Crandall to the board. Learning to conduct our virtual meetings via Zoom has been interesting, to say the least.

For the first time in the town's history we will be holding town meeting through Australian Ballot this year. The Town Clerk, Clerk of the Selectboard, our Moderator and your Selectboard are working hard to see that it goes well and that our little democracy emerges stronger than ever. We do look forward to seeing all of you at Town Meeting 2022!

Our efforts to improve the energy efficiency of the town buildings continued this year. We were able to remove an old, leaky, unused exterior door in the clerk's office. Rick Colby did a beautiful job on that project. The other achievement this year was the replacement of our very old oil furnace with a new propane fired one. Much thought was given to installing a wood pellet fired furnace but ultimately the modest cost of the propane furnace gave us the opportunity to make more progress on the energy efficiency of the building while possibly working towards a solar powered heat pump system. Energy efficiency at the town garage was improved through replacement and upgrades to the big overhead doors. The garage is remarkably well built and easy to heat when you consider the five big doors that are opened and closed every day as the crew goes about the work of maintaining our winter roads.

One item up for consideration this year is appropriating money to install a shared, renewable energy heating system for the town garage and the Corner fire station. If the article is approved we will be considering a wood pellet fired boiler, an outside, wood fired boiler and a solar powered heat pump system, among other possibilities. Each system has advantages and drawbacks and the board will be diligent in considering what system would work best for our town while balancing our desire to be environmentally responsible and responsible to our tax payers.

As a follow up to Town Meeting 2020 we can report that we were able to purchase the Zuccaro lot in Ryegate Corner. While we have no short term plans for this piece of land it would make a fine location for a multi use community building. In the short term it made sense to purchase the land while it was for sale and to hold it for future needs. Our intention to engage an engineering firm to develop a plan to upgrade the Ticklenaked Pond Dam ran into headwinds when we were told by the state that we needed to settle the ownership and access issues before we could apply for the permit to do any work on the dam. We moved the appropriation for this engineering project to a fund so that it will be available in the future. Stay tuned.

Unfortunately one issue the board is learning about is winding up owning property after no one else bids on it at a tax sale. One of the two properties we now unwillingly own will finally be through the process this spring and we'll be able to put it on the market.

Throughout the year we worked closely with our road crew to follow the governor's workplace guidelines so that they could continue to safely care for the roads that we all depend on. The routine work of the Highway Dept. went on, with a paving project on Creamery Road and our ongoing struggles with our hardworking beavers. Culvert and ditch maintenance as well as road grading has to continue, global pandemic or not. We welcome Andrew Nelson to the crew and bid a fond farewell to Jason Sulham.

We plan to do some upgrades and modernizing to the So Ryegate playground, with help from the Nicole Haynes fund. Thanks to the generosity of Gitta Weesner we are always looking for worthy projects to benefit the children of our town and area.

It has been a privilege to serve as town officers this year. We have been well placed to witness the independence and self reliance of our townsfolk while seeing their desire to reach out and help others anywhere they can. We are truly blessed to live here in our quiet little town.

## State Representative Narrative

To the Town of Ryegate:

As we are unable to meet this year for Town Meeting, I just wanted to take the time to say hi to everyone and let you know your concerns are important to me. My goal to you is “commonsense legislation that helps Vermonters, today and every day. This goal gets harder every year as so many in Montpelier have their own agendas as to what commonsense and for the entire state of Vermont means. We are expecting 600 or more bills to be introduced for the first year of this session.

Listed below are just a few of the bills that have been introduced:

H5 Wearing hearing protection while hunting.

H9 Definition of agricultural land for the purpose of use value appraisals.

H37 Excise tax on candy.

H43 Allowing individuals who have attained 16 years of age to consent to the administration of vaccinations.

H68 Requiring bicycle helmets.

H69 An act to the intentional release of a balloon.

H85 Requiring employment breaks.

As this note has to be sent to town clerks to get into your town report by January 25, you can only imagine what is in store for the next 500 plus bills for 2021.

The committee I serve on is Corrections and Institutions. There is still a lot of talk of how to deal with the women’s prison in Chittenden, as it needs lots of work and is in very poor condition. Woodside for juveniles has closed and they will be going to a facility in Newbury, later on. Woodside is going to be used to replace Therapeutic Residential being housed in Middlesex.

The Capitol Fund, which is bonded dollars, has taken another hit in available funds, with greater demands. We haven’t started trying to figure out how these funds will be spent as we will not be hearing the Governor’s Budget address until January 26, which is after this note to you all.

We are trying to figure out a way to get back to work in Montpelier---not zooming from home. On a personal note, I feel the state of Vermont isn’t being represented fairly while using zoom, as many of you know if you are working from home or have school age children on zoom every day, there is a lot being missed. Hands on is way more effective than looking at a camera.

I will continue to be there for you, and if you have any comments or concerns feel free to contact me, I am always here to listen.

Thank you for your continued support,

Rep. Marcia R. Martel 802-748-9134 [mmartel@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:mmartel@leg.state.vt.us)

# Towns Officers Appointed by the Selectboard

Road Foreman	Nelson Elder
Clerk for the Select Board	Marsha Nelson
Fence Viewers	The Select Board
Pound Keeper	Riverside-Lunenberg
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber & Weigher of Coal	Bruce Beauvais
Tree Warden	Darcy Nelson
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Dean Rowden
Town Service Officer	Vacant
Health Officer	Stephen Genereaux, MD
Animal Control Officer	Rachel Clough
Energy Officer	Carl Bayer
Green Up Chairmen	Makayla Perkins
NEK Waste District	Gene Perkins, Supervisor Andrew Smith, Vice Super

Planning/Zoning Commission:

Term expires 2021	Mary Dole
Term expires 2021	Catherine Davie
Term expires 2021	Fremont Nelson
Term expires 2021	Regina Hazel
Term expires 2022	Walter Bragg
Term expires 2022	Richard Colby II
Term Expires 2022	Nancy Peerkins
Term Expires 2023	Alice Allen
Term Expires 2023	Stephen Genereaux
Zoning Administrator	William Elder
Northeastern Vermont Develop Assoc.	Darryl Perkins
Connecticut River Joint Commissions	Mary Dole

APPOINTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk's Assistant	Marsha Nelson
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APPOINTED BY THE TREASURER

Treasurer's Assistant	Patricia Crocker
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# Town Officers 2020

MODERATOR	Regina Hazel
TOWN CLERK	Elizabeth Page
TREASURER	Cheryl Slayton

## SELECT BOARD

Term expires March 2021	Andrew Smith
Term expires March 2022	Darryl Perkins
Term expires March 2023	Steve Crandall

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR	Dale Wright
FIRST CONSTABLE	Vacant
TOWN AGENT	John Zampieri
FIRST GRAND JUROR	Dean Rowden

## LISTERS:

Term expires March, 2021	Betty Beauvais
Term expires March, 2022	Sally Wilson
Term expires March, 2023	Regina Hazel

## AUDITOR

Term expires March 2021	Richard Fraser
Term expires March, 2022	Richard Hodgson
Term expires March, 2023	Thomas Dole

## LIBRARY TRUSTEES:

Term expires March, 2021	Deanna Arnosky
Term expires March, 2022	Richard Fraser
Term expires March, 2023	Marsha Nelson
Term expires March, 2024	Jennifer Nelson
Term expires March, 2025	Mary Dole

## CEMETERY COMMISSIONER:

Term expires March, 2021	Bruce Nelson
Term expires March, 2022	William Nelson
Term expires March, 2023	Melissa Mann
Term expires March, 2024	Richard Colby II
Term expires March, 2025	Daniel LaCoss

## UNION SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Term expires March, 2021	Angeline Alley
Term expires March, 2022	Kristen Murray
Term expires March, 2022	Paul Hazel
Term expires March, 2023	Allana Page



# Auditors' Narrative

In accordance with Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 24, §1681, the board of auditors has verified the existence of cash balances, and examined the accounts and records of town officers. To the best of our knowledge, the financial statements, reports of receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities contained in this annual report present an accurate record of the funds handled in the year ending December 31, 2020

The auditors as a group verify bank accounts and paid bills on a monthly basis and fund balances on a quarterly basis. We were able to accomplish this work although we did have 2 months that we had to cancel the regular work session and take care of those reviews at our following months work session. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down our other individual reviews of financial activities conducted by the town commissions, departments, and officers.

The new accounting software we intended to assist the treasurer in setting up did not occur due to not receiving a formal contract proposal from the supplier.

The coronavirus and not getting the new accounting software resulted in our actual salaries being a great deal less than the budgeted amount. We have requested the same salary budget as was presented for the 2019 year and hopefully we will be able to get caught up with the reviews and verifications of the financial dealings we normally audit.

We wish to offer our sincere thanks to Town Clerk Liz Page for allowing to us meet at the town office even when it was officially closed and to Town Treasurer Cheryl Slayton for getting everything ready for our reviews and answering our questions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas Dole

Richard Fraser

Richard Hodgson



"Remember when we could gather as a Community?"

# Accounts Administered by SelectBoard and Treasurer 2020

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY SELECTMEN & TREASURER 2020					
	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Withdrawal	Interest Credited	Ending Balance
1) So. Ryegate Sewer					
#273086	\$1,589.37			\$0.80	\$1,590.17
2) Fire Dept Building Fund					
#634466	\$525.44			\$0.48	\$525.92
3) Fire Dept Eq. Repl.					
#632300	\$13,445.47	1) \$11,858.80		\$23.63	\$25,327.90
4) Machine Fund-Hgwy					
#612080	\$114,830.78	3) \$17,785.00	9) \$99,432.00	\$82.36	\$33,266.14
5) Ryegate History Committee					
#524317	\$7,694.32			\$7.72	\$7,702.04
6) Nicole A. Hayne					
#528494	\$18,928.25	5) \$5000.00	6) 601.88	\$18.61	\$23,344.98
#905929	\$9,767.09			\$68.63	\$9,835.72
7) M. Hall Library					
#195892	\$1,436.15		7) 1000.00	\$0.67	\$436.82
#905933	\$4,426.75		7) 1990.00	\$26.67	\$2,463.42
#909982	\$87,232.69			\$878.75	\$88,111.44
8) W. Sutton Memorial					
#552067	\$106.34			\$0.04	\$106.38
9) Fire Dpt Truck Repl					
#673078	\$67,137.29	8) \$15,500.00	4) 7500.00	\$65.91	\$75,203.20
10) E. Ryegate Library					
#9358817841	\$1,886.23	2) \$121.99		\$0.30	\$2,008.52
1) Budget to Actual Fire Dept Contribution			6) Winter Carnival, Pinwheels, S. Ryegate Playground		
2) From Ryegate Corner Library Fund			7) South Ryegate Library Donation & Repairs		
3) 2020 Budget Contribution			8) 2020 Contrib. Fire Truck Replacement Fund and Sale of International Fire Truck		
4) Purchase 1988 Sutphen Fire Truck			9) 2021 Truck and 2014 Ton Truck		
5) Donation By Gitta Weesner in Memory of John Weesner					

	Beginning Balance	Deposit	Withdrawal	Interest Credited	Ending Balance
11) John F. McColl Cemetery					
#810875	\$3,478.39			\$26.28	\$3,504.67
#905930	\$2,365.03			\$16.61	\$2,381.64
#234630	\$106.37			\$0.04	\$106.41
12) McDonald Cemetery					
#290409	\$320.98			\$0.16	\$321.14
13) Byrne-Buchanan Cemetery					
#304502	\$492.39			\$0.24	\$492.63
14) C A Park Cemetery					
#506625	\$699.19			\$0.36	\$699.55
15) E. Hall Cemetery					
#195915	\$1,425.22			\$0.72	\$1,425.94
#905932	\$7,510.65			\$52.75	\$7,563.40
16) M. Hall Cemetery					
#195928	\$1,452.43			\$105.86	\$1,558.29
#905931	\$4,010.96			\$28.17	\$4,039.13
146 Shares Bank of America	\$4,467.76				\$4,467.76
#909983	\$1,421.24			\$14.32	\$1,435.56
17) Ticklenaked Pond Checking					
#389315	\$6,158.90	\$1,532.00	\$1,109.47		\$6,581.43
18) BMU Little League					
#565393	\$664.49			\$0.32	\$664.81
19) Lind Homes Housing					
#565353	\$4,359.60			\$4.38	\$4,363.98

## 2020 Town Employee Compensation

Employee Name	2020 Pay Rate	Gross Wages	Retirement	Bonus	Health Insurance	FICA	Total Compensation
Nelson Elder	22.90 Hourly	52,755.57	4,021.34	100.00	10,841.40	3,998.59	71,716.90
Road Foreman							
Andrew Nelson	16.00 Hourly	19,936.00	1,538.39	100.00	3,640.36	1,514.61	26,729.36
Road Crew							-
Larry Welch	19.59 Hourly	44,931.45	3,426.63	100.00	10,841.40	3,416.63	62,716.11
Road Crew							
Bruce Boyce	18.75 Hourly	40,424.28	3,082.19	100.00	10,841.40	2,962.65	57,410.52
Road Crew							
Jason Sulham	18.25 Hourly	16,116.95	1,208.78		4,500.65	1,189.13	23,015.51
Road Crew							
Marsha Nelson	13.00 Hourly	3,544.75		100.00		271.20	3,915.95
AsstClerk/Sel. Clerk	3000.00 Annual						
Cheryl Slayton	406.90 Weekly	21,162.60		100.00	9,428.52	1,619.01	32,310.13
Treasurer							
Patricia Crocker	13.00 Hourly	1,218.00		100.00		93.17	1,411.17
Asst. Treas/ Clerk							
Elizabeth Page	445.22 Weekly	23,561.24		100.00	10,841.40	1,802.53	36,305.17
Town Clerk							
Richard Fraser	13.99 Hourly	164.38				12.57	176.95
Auditor							
Thomas Dole	13.99 Hourly	300.79				23.02	323.81
Auditor							
Richard Hodgson	13.99 Hourly	248.33				18.99	267.32
Auditor							
Dale Wright	8% Collection Fee	18,010.02				1,377.77	19,387.79
Tax Collector							
Regina Hazel	16.59 Hourly	2,890.00				221.07	3,111.07
Lister							
Elizabeth Beauvais	16.59 Hourly	2,646.14				202.42	2,848.56
Lister							
Sally Wilson	16.59 Hourly	2,256.26				172.60	2,428.86
Lister							
Gene Perkins **	10.96 Hourly	4,888.16				373.99	5,262.15
Recycling							
Andrew Smith	Annual	1,000.00				76.50	1,076.50
Selectboard							
Darryl Perkins	Annual	1,000.00				76.50	1,076.50
Selectboard							
Steve Crandall	Annual	1,000.00				76.50	1,076.50
Selectboard							
		<b>258,054.92</b>	<b>13,277.33</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>60,935.13</b>	<b>19,499.45</b>	<b>352,566.83</b>
		Additional Employer Costs:			Worker's Compensation Ins.		15,777.00
				Road Crew Uniforms/Laundry Service			5,933.19
**Town of Groton Reimbursed \$2444.08 for their share.				Unemployment Ins.			100.00
				<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION</b>			<b>374,377.02</b>

## Balance Sheet Comparison

	12/31/2017	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Wells River - Checking	15,159.54	214.47	2,276.08	8,936.75
Petty Cash	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Wells River Savings - Debit Card Acct	154.55	154.55	154.55	154.55
Wells River Savings - Money Market	344,622.31	409,667.79	445,499.35	655,337.75
Woodsville Savings - Money Market	162,855.86	163,350.10	163,840.83	164,335.66
Passumpsic Savings - Money Market	202,366.57	202,712.54	203,088.25	203,469.05
Property Tax - Delinquent	74,616.42	75,216.02	71,057.51	31,290.10
Property Tax - Current	124,859.52	112,476.00	116,249.00	65,571.50
South Ryegate Sewer Receivable	3,285.00	6,456.34	3,395.00	3,429.52
East Ryegate Sewer Receivable	3,372.96	1,946.27	1,516.14	1,281.90
Receivable, Town of Groton	2,110.44	2,715.50	2,050.50	2,746.95
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>933,433.17</b>	<b>974,939.58</b>	<b>1,009,157.21</b>	<b>1,136,583.73</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	410.00	1,692.00		
Aflac Withheld				
Ticklenaked Pond Grant-Milfoil			5,691.00	5,691.00
FICA Withheld	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.05)
State Withheld	(3.92)	(3.92)	(3.92)	(3.92)
Prepaid Property Tax	1,660.73	800.78	2,074.54	2,185.18
Zoning Admin Fees	1,166.00	1,191.00	1,166.00	1,241.00
Due to/(from) other accts	10,355.28	4,431.08	10,858.80	10,281.98
<b>Total Current Liabilities:</b>	<b>13,588.05</b>	<b>8,110.90</b>	<b>19,786.38</b>	<b>19,395.19</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
Fund Balance - Reappraisal	78,476.25	84,978.75	73,489.75	44,026.25
Fund Balance - Town Highway	27,567.27	33,643.29	77,839.75	155,493.93
Fund Balance - So. Ryegate Sewer	41,692.69	43,412.98	43,097.37	39,187.82
Fund Balance - Roads	91,995.51	66,872.93	61,168.93	31,819.77
Fund Balance - Creamery Road Bridge	42,633.77	42,633.77	42,633.77	42,633.77
Fund Balance - 68 Church St.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Fund Balance - External Audit	14,000.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
Fund Balance - Zoning/Planning Commission	7,023.08	2,109.33	2,109.33	2,109.33
Fund Balance - Accounting Software	5,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00	20,000.00
Fund Balance - Cemetery Restoration	5,000.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Fund Balance - Ticklenaked Dam				30,000.00
Fund Balance - Listers		5,700.00	9,556.49	9,556.49
Fund Balance - Energy Eff Town Bldgs			2,400.00	3,759.67
Fund Balance - Restoration	13,419.92	13,713.95	15,352.39	19,303.69
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities:</b>	<b>327,308.49</b>	<b>328,565.00</b>	<b>368,147.78</b>	<b>423,390.72</b>
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>340,896.54</b>	<b>336,675.90</b>	<b>387,934.16</b>	<b>442,785.91</b>
<b>Capital</b>				
Retained Earnings	547,883.98	592,536.63	638,263.68	621,223.05
Net Income	44,652.65	45,727.05	(17,040.63)	72,574.77
<b>Total Capital:</b>	<b>592,536.63</b>	<b>638,263.68</b>	<b>621,223.05</b>	<b>693,797.82</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Capital:</b>	<b>933,433.17</b>	<b>974,939.58</b>	<b>1,009,157.21</b>	<b>1,136,583.73</b>

## Understanding Your Property Tax Bill

Your property tax bill is broken down to show education, highway and town taxes and their respective rates. Your total tax rate is the sum of these rates.

The tax rate is per \$100 of your assessment; therefore, to figure the tax you owe, first move the decimal point in your assessment two places to the left, then multiply that number by the total tax rate.

Sample Tax Bill:

Your Assessment	Tax Rate (per \$100)	Tax Due
\$200,000.00 (Homestead)	2.2497	\$4499.40
\$200,000.00 (Non-Homestead)	2.3113	\$4622.60

## Comparative Budget REVENUES and EXPENSES

2020	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Property Taxes (minus BMU school pymts.)	958,061.00	902,933.94	905,719.00
PILOT (Paymt. In Lieu Of Taxes)	1,500.00	2,488.20	1,500.00
Property Tax Adj. from prior year		10,406.01	
Interest, Delinquent Taxes	10,000.00	31,322.95	10,000.00
Tax Collectors 8%		18,010.02	
Permits - Zoning & Planning	200.00	355.00	200.00
Marriage Licenses	200.00	480.00	200.00
State Aid for Highways	120,000.00	127,781.56	120,000.00
Current Use Transfer Tax		4,030.00	
Hold harmless - State of VT		54,982.00	
Town Clerk Fees	9,000.00	15,547.96	9,000.00
Dog Licenses	2,000.00	2,101.00	2,000.00
Interest Income	3,000.00	4,738.65	3,000.00
Traffic Control	200.00	931.66	200.00
Grant Revenue		33,135.61	
VLCT PACIF		462.00	
Town of Groton - Recycling Building	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Equal Education Grand List Maintenance		769.00	
<b>Revenues Total:</b>	<b>1,105,661.00</b>	<b>1,211,975.56</b>	<b>1,053,319.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Elected and Appointed Officials</b>			
Animal Care	500.00		500.00
Auditors Salary	2,500.00	713.50	1,500.00
Auditors Supplies	50.00		50.00
Ballot Clerk Salaries	1,000.00	1,526.16	700.00
Cemetery Appropriation	12,500.00	12,500.00	13,000.00
Dog Catcher Expense	1,500.00	722.43	1,500.00
Dog Catcher Supplies		0	
Health Officer Expense	50.00		50.00
Lister's Computer Support	4,500.00	3,707.77	4,500.00
Lister's Salaries	15,000.00	7,792.40	15,000.00
Lister's Supplies & Expenses	500.00	755.39	800.00
Lister's Telephone	450.00	478.98	500.00
Selectman's Salary	3,000.00	3000.00	3,000.00
Selectman's Clerk	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Tax Collector's 8%		18,010.02	
Tax Collector's Expense	275.00	110.00	275.00
Town Officer's - Conf/Mtgs	1,000.00	68.00	500.00
#REF!	12,000.00	9,734.23	12,000.00
Town Patrol Sheriff Contract	8,000.00	2,900.25	8,000.00
Zoning - Salaries	1,000.00	368.91	1,000.00

## Comparative Budget EXPENSES

Zoning Advertising	100.00		100.00
Zoning/Planning Comm.			1,000.00
Board Of Civil Auth. Expense		-	
Recycling Coordinator	2,500.00	2,444.08	2,700.00
Elected & Appointed Officials Total:	69,425.00	67,832.12	69,675.00
Town Offices	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Marriage License Fees	-	350.00	
Medical Benefits	20,400.00	20,269.92	21,250.00
Retirement Benefits	1,750.00	1,797.29	1,850.00
State Dog license Fees	1,200.00	1,015.00	1,200.00
Machinery & Equipment, Repair	200.00		200.00
Machinery & Equipment, Purchase	500.00	195.94	500.00
Town Officers - Dog Fees	460.00	406.00	460.00
Propane	2,200.00	1,767.64	2,200.00
Ground Work	2,300.00	1,395.00	2,300.00
Postage	1,200.00	1,075.45	1,200.00
Town Clerk Salaries	23,500.00	23,155.24	23,500.00
Assistant Town Clerk Salaries	1,500.00	844.75	1,500.00
Town Treasurer Salaries	21,500.00	21,162.60	21,500.00
Assistant Town Treasurer Salaries	1,500.00	918.00	1,500.00
Supplies	1,600.00	1,792.77	1,600.00
Telephone & Internet	1,100.00	1,245.14	1,300.00
Utilities	900.00	541.46	600.00
Computer Support	3,500.00	4,396.34	4,200.00
Website	169.00	170.15	175.00
Workers Compensation	582.00	582.00	508.00
	-	-	
Town Offices Total:	86,061.00	83,080.69	87,543.00
General	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Ambulance	25,967.00	25,967.00	31,598.00
Appraisal Consulting		0	
Beach Repairs & Maint.	1,000.00	1,084.22	1,000.00
Cemetery Flags	250.00	-	250.00
County Tax	14,709.00	14,709.00	14,900.00
Elections Advertising	100.00	-	300.00
Fast Squad - Groton/Ryegate	13,000.00	10,897.85	13,000.00
FICA - Employer	19,500.00	19,499.46	19,600.00
Fire Warden Expense	400.00	-	400.00
Legal Fees	1,000.00	1,814.85	1,000.00
Accounting Software Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Tax Sale Expense		528.94	-
Meeting/Bid Advertising	200.00	110.00	200.00
Recycling	6,000.00	5,936.97	6,300.00
Recycling Building & Maintenance	3,500.00	-	3,500.00
Ryegate Green Up	100.00	-	100.00
Ryegate Green Up - Disposal	500.00	609.55	500.00
Ryegate Historical Society	350.00	350.00	350.00

## Comparative Budget EXPENSES

Tax Maps	-	-	1,675.00
Town Bldgs – Energy Efficiency	2,400.00	2,400.00	3,400.00
Town Building Repair & Maintenance	5,500.00	5,305.70	5,500.00
Town Report	2,000.00	1,388.40	1,700.00
Town Report - Delivery	250.00	239.86	250.00
VLCT Dues	2,528.00	2,528.00	2,528.00
VLCT PACIF Insurance	18,562.00	18,798.00	17,596.00
Zuccaro Property Purchase	30,000.00	30,087.27	-
Tax Abatement/Reimbursement		1,510.86	-
Ticklenaked Pond Dam	30,000.00	30,000.00	-
Tax Sale Purchase		9,727.44	-
General Total:	182,816.00	188,493.37	125,647.00
Fire Department	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Fire Truck Replacement Fund	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Bldg - So. Ryegate	1,000.00	-	5,000.00
Bldg - Ryegate Corner	2,500.00	578.07	1,500.00
Diesel	1,500.00	997.30	1,500.00
Dispatch	2,300.00	2,745.00	3,000.00
Dry Hydrant	1,000.00	-	1,200.00
Dues	1,000.00	1,050.00	1,200.00
Dumpster	200.00	195.71	200.00
Equipment Replacement Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fuel Oil - Ryegate Corner	2,500.00	1,087.28	2,000.00
Fuel Oil - So.Ryegate	800.00	626.74	800.00
Gasoline	50.00	62.00	50.00
Insurance/Accident	2,000.00	1,921.00	2,000.00
Mach. & Equip.	10,000.00	6,682.15	10,000.00
Repairs	10,000.00	15,680.80	10,000.00
Supplies	1,500.00	461.10	1,500.00
Telephone/ Internet	1,000.00	915.88	1,000.00
Training	5,000.00	-	6,000.00
Utilities - Ryegate Corner	1,250.00	463.73	500.00
Utilities - So. Ryegate	400.00	251.74	300.00
Admin.	6,000.00	5,999.52	6,000.00
Workmans Comp	1,219.00	1,219.00	1,219.00
Fire Department Total:	65,219.00	54,937.02	68,969.00
Transfer to Fire Dept. Equip. Replacement Fund	-	10,281.98	
Fire Department Grand Total:	65,219.00	65,219.00	68,969.00
Highway Department	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
2011 Loader	5,000.00	875.39	5,000.00
2018 John Deere Grader	4,000.00	1,220.26	4,000.00
2011 Int'l Truck	6,000.00	2,680.24	-
2015 Kenworth Truck	3,000.00	540.42	3,000.00

## Comparative Budget EXPENSES

2016 Intl. Truck	3,000.00	3,524.80	3,000.00
2017 Freightliner Truck	3,000.00	1,897.10	3,000.00
2021 Freightliner Truck		219.99	3,000.00
2014 Ton Truck		542.90	2,000.00
2011 Int'l Truck Plow & Sander	2,000.00	-	-
2015 Kenworth Truck Plow & Sander	2,000.00	3,735.16	2,000.00
2016 Intl.Plow & Sander	2,000.00	2,676.54	2,000.00
2017 Freightliner Plow & Sander	2,000.00	1,977.46	2,000.00
2021 Freightliner Plow & Sander		-	2,000.00
2014 Ton Truck Plow & Sander		-	1,000.00
Wood Chipper	500.00	-	500.00
Culvert Steamer	250.00	-	250.00
Class IV Roads	4,000.00	3,509.90	4,000.00
Highway Depart – Computer/Printer	500.00	994.62	500.00
Cold Patch	1,000.00	543.97	1,000.00
Diesel Fuel	36,000.00	22,515.10	30,000.00
Equipment Rental	6,000.00	7,615.26	6,000.00
Heating Oil	3,700.00	2,425.29	3,700.00
Gasoline	1,000.00	425.07	1,000.00
Gravel	56,000.00	48,447.24	54,000.00
Hydroseeder	700.00	347.48	700.00
Guard Rails	3,500.00	632.00	3,500.00
Machine Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00
Highway Dept. Advertising	100.00	-	100.00
Medical Insurance - Roads	43,600.00	40,665.21	45,350.00
Motor Oil	2,000.00	1,309.98	2,000.00
Physicals - Road crew	500.00	-	500.00
Repairs - Other	1,000.00	302.57	1,000.00
Retirement - Town Highway	13,000.00	13,277.33	13,800.00
Road Repairs	15,000.00	1,078.55	15,000.00
Road Resurfacing	100,000.00	103,484.00	100,000.00
Road Signs	500.00	498.20	500.00
Roadside Mowing	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,800.00
Summer Road – Mg. Chloride	12,000.00	12,569.88	15,000.00
Summer Road - Culverts	5,000.00	7,128.08	6,000.00
Summer Road - Labor	68,000.00	71,866.94	70,000.00
Supplies	5,000.00	4,739.19	5,000.00
Telephone	900.00	900.47	900.00
Tires	7,000.00	6,907.00	7,000.00
Tools	1,500.00	1,974.72	1,500.00
Town Garage Upkeep	6,000.00	3,626.93	6,000.00
Training	250.00	-	250.00
Tree Removal/Brush Cutting	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Uniforms	5,600.00	5,933.19	6,000.00
Utilities	1,900.00	515.93	1,000.00
VLCT Unemployment	124.00	100.00	526.00
Winter - Labor	102,000.00	102,297.31	102,000.00
Winter Road - Salt	35,000.00	34,588.09	35,000.00
Winter Road - Sand	24,000.00	23,860.40	24,000.00
Workers Comp. - Road Crew	13,976.00	13,976.00	12,183.00



## Comparative Budget EXPENSES

Road Project – Storm Water Mgmt		1,350.00	
Project – East Road		5,285.27	
Highway Grant Revenue		(33,135.61)	
Highway Department Total:	691,700.00	614,045.82	690,559.00
Transfer to Highway Fund Balance		77,654.18	
Highway Dept. Grand Total:	691,700.00	691,700.00	690,559.00
Contributions	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
American Red Cross	200.00	200.00	500.00
Little League	100.00	100.00	100.00
Catamount Arts	400.00	400.00	400.00
4th of July Committee	200.00	0	200.00
Groton Food Shelf	500.00	500.00	500.00
Home Health Care	1,000.00	1000.00	1,000.00
Kingdom Animal Shelter	500.00	500.00	500.00
Libraries	200.00	200.00	200.00
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
NEK Human Services	500.00	500.00	500.00
NEK Learning Services	200.00	200.00	200.00
NEK Youth Services	250.00	250.00	250.00
Contributions- VT Rural Fire	100.00	100.00	100.00
No. VT Development Assoc.	500.00	500.00	881.00
Oxbow Senior Independence	300.00	0	-
Rural Community Transport	850.00	850.00	850.00
Umbrella	800.00	800.00	800.00
VT Cent. For Indep. Living	265.00	265.00	265.00
VT Green-Up	25.00	25.00	100.00
VT Office of Aging	300.00	300.00	330.00
VT Vet. Mem.	100.00	100.00	100.00
Baldwin Library	200.00	200.00	200.00
Community Restorative Justice Center	250.00	250.00	250.00
Groton Public Library	200.00	200.00	200.00
Senior Meals	500.00	500.00	500.00
		-	
Contributions Total:	10,440.00	9,940.00	10,926.00
		-	
Total Expenses:	1,105,661.00	1,106,265.18	1,053,319.00
		-	
Current Earnings:		105,710.38	
School Appropriation			
BMU School		1,816,942.99	
School Appropriation Total:		1,816,942.99	

## Capital Needs: Town Highway Machinery and Equipment

Capital Item	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022
2011 Loader—Trade 2001	55,500										
2004 Grader--Trade 1993											
2015 Truck –Trade 2006				132,464							
2016 Truck –Trade 2008					86,400						
2017 Truck --Trade 2009						110,637					
2011 Truck --Trade 2004											
2018 Grader – Trade 2004							258,400				
2020 Truck – Trade 2011									131,647		
2014 Ton Truck									25,000		
Wood Chipper	3,500										
Other- Equip Fuel Tank											
Welder		2090									
Warranty on Truck					3,146	3,590	5,848				
Hydro Seeder Contract						500					
Stone Plate Compactor								350			
Sale of Utility Trailer					200						
Balance in Savings Jan 1	180,428	196,636	264,740	340,005	282,809	268,684	229,193	40,136	114,831	33,266	108,366
Annual Deposit	75,000	70,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Annual Expense	(59,000)	(2,090)	-	(132,464)	(89,346)	(114,727)	(264,248)	350	(156,647)	-	
Annual Interest Earned	208	194	265	268	221	236	191	45	82	100	100
Balance in Savings Dec 31	196,636	264,740	340,005	282,809	268,684	229,193	40,136	114,831	33,266	108,366	183,466

## Town Property & Equipment Inventory

### Real Estate

Town House & Contents	\$388,769.00
Town Office & Contents	293,028.00
4.9 Acres Land at East & Bayley Hazen Rd	30,000.00
Storage Shed	20,183.00
Corner Fire Station	292,383.00
South Ryegate Fire Station	202,712.00
Town Garage & Contents	604,817.00
Whitelaw Hall (Historical)	371,723.00
Recycling Building	147,896.00
Ballfield (Property in the Open)	52,595.00
Playground Equipment	51,263.00
<b>TOTAL REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>\$2,455,369.00</b>

### Highway Equipment

2011 John Deere 524 Loader	\$95,500.00
2019 John Deere 672 Grader	317,400.00
2021 Freightliner Truck & Plow	128,765.00
2015 Kenworth Truck & Plow	132,464.00
2016 International Truck & Plow	85,685.00
2017 Freightliner Truck & Plow	110,437.00
2014 Chevrolet 1-Ton Truck & Sander	25,000.00
Wood Chipper	3,500.00
Culvert Thawer & Trailer	8,000.00
<b>TOWN HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$906,751.00</b>

### Fire Equipment

2005 International Tanker	\$250,000.00
1997 Ford Pumper	125,000.00
1980 Forestry Equipment Truck (South Ryegate Station)	60,000.00
1988 Sutphen Fire Truck	7,500.00
1988 Ford Mini Pumper	30,000.00
1992 International Pumper	9,000.00
<b>TOTAL FIRE EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$481,500.00</b>

**TOTAL ALL PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT \$3,843,620.00**



# Fund Balance Changes

Fund	Entry	Start of Year	Increase	Decrease	End of Year
<b>Reappraisal</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 73,489.75</b>			
	FY20 per parcel payment from State of VT:		\$ 6,536.50		
	Reappraisal Contract			\$ 36,000.00	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 44,026.25</b>
<b>Town Highway</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 77,839.75</b>			
	"Budget to Actual" transfer from Highway Fund		\$ 77,654.18		
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 155,493.93</b>
<b>S. Ryegate Sewer</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 43,097.37</b>			
	Sewer Charges:		\$ 10,000.00		
	Repairs and Maintenance:			\$ 13,658.27	
	Utilities:			\$ 251.28	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 39,187.82</b>
<b>Roads</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 61,168.93</b>			
	Road Resurfacing			\$ 29,349.16	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 31,819.77</b>
<b>Creamery Rd. Bridge</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 42,633.77</b>			
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 42,633.77</b>
<b>68 Church Street</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$ 500.00			
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>External Audit</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$ 17,500.00			
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 17,500.00</b>
<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 15,352.39</b>			
	Percentage of Town Clerk Fees Collected:		\$ 4,664.00		
	Town Land Record Books:			\$ 712.70	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 19,303.69</b>
<b>Zoning &amp; Planning</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$ 2,109.33			
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 2,109.33</b>
<b>Accounting Software</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>			
	2020 Contribution:		\$ 5,000.00		
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
<b>Cemetery Restoration</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>			
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>
<b>Listers</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 9,556.49</b>			
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 9,556.49</b>
<b>Energy Eff- Town Bldg</b>	<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>			
	2020 Budget to Actual Transfer:		\$ 1,359.67		
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$ 3,759.67</b>
<b>Ticklenaked Pond Dam</b>	2020 Budget to Actual Transfer:		\$ 30,000.00		<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>Begin</b>	<b>\$638,263.68</b>			
	2019 Earnings/Loss:			\$ 17,040.63	
	<b>Ending balance:</b>				<b>\$621,223.05</b>

## List of Vendors

Vendor	Amount	Vendor	Amount
646 Fairpoint Communications	3,381.58	## Elizabeth Beauvais	46.60
Aaron W. Newton	285.36	Elizabeth Page – Supplies, Retirement	2,066.23
Aflac	3,625.47	Endyne, Inc	410.00
All Around Power Equip	1,185.64	Everett J. Prescott, Inc	7,603.60
American Rock Salt	14,046.92	F W Webb	616.92
American Red Cross	200.00	Fisher Auto Parts	1,862.51
Apex Software	215.00	F F R S	300.00
B & T Equipment Repairs	200.00	Flanders Signs	600.00
B – B Chain, Inc	2,419.00	Foggs Hardware	119.20
BDS Waste Disposal, Inc	2,736.50	Fred's Energy	1,243.44
Baldwin Library	200.00	Fremont Nelson Lawns	675.00
Bergeron Protective Clothing	220.86	G & B Electric	82.50
Blue Cross Blue Shield of VT	55,403.73	Gene Perkins- Fire Dept.	563.76
Blue MedicareRx-VT	2,061.00	Gene Perkins-Fire Dept Supplies	98.00
Blue Mountain Little League	100.00	Grafton County Sheriff's Dept	1,500.00
Blue Mountain Trucking & Exca	680.00	Green Mountain Kenworth	454.44
Blue Mountain Union School	1,816,942.99	Green Mountain Power	1,901.82
Breann Electric	50.00	Greg Murray - Fire Dept	723.84
Bruce Beauvais	35.00	Groton - Ryegate Fast Squad	10,897.85
Bruce Boyce-Town Hgwy Supplies	125.00	Groton Library	200.00
Burroughs Builders LLC	2,590.00	Groton Food Shelf	500.00
C. Ainsworth Trucking	6,505.00	Hill & Smith	85.20
Caledonia County NRCD	200.00	Howard P. Fairfield, LLC	10,846.68
CALCO, Inc	822.80	IDS	128.94
Caledonia County Sheriff's Department	2,900.25	Innovative Municipal Prod	12,569.88
Caledonia Home Health	1,000.00	J D's Repair	40.00
Caledonian-Record	110.00	J. Hutchins,, Inc	129,349.16
Calkins Portable Toilets	565.00	Jared S Field	479.99
Capital Fire Mutual Aid	250.00	Jeffrey Taylor Law	325.57
Cargill, Inc.	20,541.17	Jordan Equipment	1,220.26
Catamount Arts	400.00	Journal Opinion	604.50
Vermont Center for Independent Living	265.00	Justin Danforth – Fire Dept	556.80
Cheryl Slayton –Medicare Reimbursement	3,483.05	K&T Environmental Equipment, Inc.	1,792.77
Chief Crushing & Excavation	34,171.45	Keith Trischman Truck Repair	165.45
Chimney Scrubber	249.00	Christine Elder	454.35
Christopher Chartier	748.75	Kingdom Animal Shelter	500.00
Charlebois, Inc.	75,193.37	Kofile Preservation, Inc	623.64
Cintas	5,933.19	Kimball Midwest	1,095.22
Clark's Truck Center	14,254.54	Lauren Nelson	438.40
Copies & More	890.64	Levi Welch – Fire Dept	779.52
Community Restorative Justice	250.00	Little River's Health Care	2,000.00
County Treasurer	14,709.00	Lowell Mcleods, Inc.	1,079.78
CVC Paging	1,647.90	Lucas Welch – Fire Dept	285.36
Dads 4 By Tool and Supply	1,120.19	Lyndon Truck Center	1,838.03
Danville Highway Dept	784.52	ME O'Brien & sons	51.88
Darlings AutoRepair	450.00	Maine Oxy	165.00
Dave's Plumbing & Heating	3,900.00	Manchester Brook Materials	26,539.80
Dept. of Public Safety #7	9,734.23	Marsha Nelson	648.20
Dufresne & Associates	1,161.25	Matthew R. Danforth – Fire Dept	779.52
		May & Davies	29,768.27
		McCullough Crushing, Inc.	18,954.75

## List of Vendors

Vendor Expense- continued	Amount	Vendor	Amount
Myers Container Corp	10,497.92	State of Vermont	1,350.00
Napa Auto Parts/FMS Auto	4,598.20	State of Vermont- Wastewater Testing	200.00
Needham Electric Supply	81.44	Steve Kimball Repair	1,095.00
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	200.00	SC Lawn Care	875.00
Northeast Kingdom Waste Management	6,763.80	Tenco New England	57,215.00
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	250.00	Thomas Cole - Fire Dept	465.68
NEMRC	42,564.21	Thomas Fadden- Fire Dept	591.60
Nelson Elder – Town Hgwy Supplies	665.30	Tim Scott Real Estate	2,000.00
New England Truck Tire	5,114.00	Todd Colby – Fire Dept	466.32
New England Water System	11,117.47	Tom Powley	790.00
NEK Mental Health	500.00	Town of Ryegate	51,770.94
NVDA	500.00	Town of Passadumkeag	7,500.00
Oakes Brothers	540.21	Town of Newbury	1,950.00
O'Reilly Automotive	654.08	Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Assoc.	800.00
PIK.Comm	518.95	Trend	89.06
Paul Thomas	4,086.47	U I Insurance Services Inc.	1,921.00
Patricia Crocker	454.35	Umbrella	800.00
Perry's Oil	215.13	United Ag & Turf NE	127.57
People's United Bank	559.55	United States Postmaster	1,403.86
Pete's Rubbish	1,196.80	Vt Rural Fire (VACD)	100.00
Prevent Child Abuse	100.00	Vermont Area Office on Aging	300.00
Pike Industries, Inc	4,027.97	Vt Department of Motor Vehicles	59.00
Power Plan	699.78	Vermont Door Company	3,366.40
Powers Plumbing & Htg	109.53	Vermont Fire Extinguisher	87.00
Rachel Clough	722.43	Vermont Green Up	25.00
Regina Hazel-Lister Supplies	590.51	Vermont Fire Technology	1,194.78
Repro Digital/Champlain Valley	950.00	Vermont State Treasurer	1,365.00
Reed Supply	93.05	Vermont Department of Taxes	5,598.75
Rick Colby	496.00	Veterans Memorial	100.00
Rowden Bros. Co., Inc.	3,100.00	Viking – Cives USA	3,109.27
Ryegate Winter Festival	450.00	Village of Wells River	25,000.00
Ryegate Cemetery Commission	12,500.00	VLCT	2,596.00
Ryegate Historical Society	350.00	VLCT Prop & Casualty Intern. Fund, Inc.	34,575.00
Rural Community Transportation	850.00	VLCT Employment Ins Trust Inc	100.00
Sally Wilson	297.60	VMERS DB	31,344.14
Scott Stuart	150.00	Walter E. Jock Oil Co., Inc.	28,292.07
South Ryegate Library	600.00	William Elder	843.91
South Ryegate Lighting Distr	600.30	West Barnet Meal Site	250.00
South Ryegate Senior Meals	250.00	Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank	5,868.39
		Woodsville Fire District	25,967.00
		Work Safe	1,130.20
		Woodsville Power Equipment	205.26
		Various- Tax and Payable Overpayments	10,026.57
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,816,506.80</b>

## Justices of the Peace

Justices of the Peace elected to office November 3, 2020, make up the Board of Civil Authority. The new term begins February 1, 2021 and continues to February 1, 2023

Todd Colby

Catherine Davie

Michael Murray

Darcy Nelson

Lauren Nelson

Nancy Perkins

Robert Rowden

# Listers' Report

## & Town-Wide Reappraisal Update

The Listers determine all property values within the Town of Ryegate. Additionally, we maintain an accurate Grand List by reviewing and updating all property transfers, tax maps, permit work, deeds, surveys, and the Current Use Program.

As of January 2021, Ryegate's CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) is 100.42%. (2020: 100.25%). Our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) is at 16.05% (2020: 18.21%).

Beginning this year, NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center) began the town-wide reappraisal process on all Ryegate properties. Due to COVID-19, no interior inspections were made. The initial data collection is done; you may have seen or talked to the reappraisers as they visited all the town parcels. Next, sales reviews will be conducted, schedules put in place, and a sales ratio study completed. A complete field review will then be conducted on all parcels. All property owners will be notified of their parcel's value in June, and hearings will be conducted for property owners to discuss their property values with the reappraisers. The work will be completed and take effect for the 2021 tax year. The purpose of a reappraisal is NOT to raise taxes. The purpose is to create an equitable distribution of the tax load. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

April 2019 tax maps are on display at the Town Office along with orthophoto aerial maps. We strongly recommend that you check your property location and acreage on the tax map; let us know if you feel there is any incorrect information. Tax maps will be updated April, 2021.

**IMPORTANT: Taxpayers must file a Vermont Homestead Declaration every year by April 15<sup>th</sup>.** The state form is HS-122 and also contains the Property Tax Adjustment Claim. Forms can be obtained online ([www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov)), or from the Income Tax Return booklet or your tax preparer. Property owners can also file their homestead directly online.

REMINDERS:

**Property changes:** Please notify the Listers of any change of address, or any changes to your property—including new construction, or major renovations to basements, attics, or unfinished areas. In addition, let us know of any removal of property including tear downs and blow downs or fires.

**Surveys:** Certified surveys are important in creating accurate tax maps and are considered the strongest determinant of parcel ownership, i.e., exact location, size, acreage, etc. Please file any surveys you have for your property with the Town Clerk.

**Building Permits:** A building permit is required for any structure 64 square feet or larger. Permits are obtainable from the Town Clerk, the town website: [www.ryegatevt.org](http://www.ryegatevt.org), or Bill Elder, Zoning Enforcement Officer.

**Current Use:** The Current Use Program has changed their application form and process. New applications are available in the Town Office or online at <http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-use>. Questions about the program can be directed to Property Valuation and Review at 802 828-6637.

**9-1-1 Program:** Please notify the Listers office to obtain a 9-1-1 number for new construction.

Listers Office hours are Tuesdays, 9 am – 3 pm. Due to COVID, please call rather than visit the office. Messages left on 584-4247 are monitored daily. We welcome emails at [ryegatelisters@fairpoint.net](mailto:ryegatelisters@fairpoint.net).

Ryegate Listers: Betty Beauvais, Regina Hazel, Sally Wilson

## Delinquent Taxes

SOUTH RYEGATE SEWER USERS TAX DUE			2020 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES		
<b>2020 SOUTH RYEGATE SEWER TAXES</b>			<i>Beaulieu, Priscilla</i>		
<i>Cody Stearns</i>			<i>Bell, Josh</i>		
Total Due by Report Printing	\$	<b>429.52</b>	<i>Bickel, Donna</i>		
Total Paid Since 12/31/20	\$	<b>3,000.00</b>	<i>Blood, Brian</i>		
Total Due 12/31/20	\$	<b>3,429.52</b>	<i>Broughan, Richard</i>		
<b>PROPERTY TAXES DUE</b>			<i>Brower, Gregory A</i>		
<b>2017 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES</b>			<i>Champion Mortgage</i>		
<i>Koski, Hope Reverend</i>			<i>Collins, Michael B</i>		
Total Due by Report Printing	\$	<b>910.89</b>	<i>Davis, Robert L.</i>		
Total Paid Since 12/31/20		-	<i>Esposito, Jerry P. Jr.</i>		
Total Due 12/31/20	\$	<b>910.89</b>	<i>Farley, Daniel &amp; Barbara</i>		
<b>2018 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES</b>			<i>Gibson, Charles Jr</i>		
<i>Johnson, Robert</i>			<i>Gibson, William &amp; Martha</i>		
<i>Khedouri, Sarah</i>			<i>Hansen, Joshua S</i>		
<i>Koski, Hope Reverend</i>			<i>Haskell, Elizabeth</i>		
<i>Laundry, Marshall Life Lease</i>			<i>Hencler, Andrew</i>		
Total Due by Report Printing	\$	<b>7,821.60</b>	<i>Houde, Mark &amp; Paula</i>		
Total Paid Since 12/31/20	\$	<b>153.38</b>	<i>Jackson, Mark &amp; Brenda</i>		
Total Due 12/31/20	\$	<b>7,974.98</b>	<i>Johnson, Robert C. Jr.</i>		
<b>2019 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES</b>			<i>Karpuska, Ryan</i>		
<i>Beaulieu, Priscilla</i>			<i>Khedouri, Sarah</i>		
<i>Blood, Brian</i>			<i>Koski, Hope Reverend</i>		
<i>Brower, Gregory A</i>			<i>Laundry, Marshall Life Lease</i>		
<i>Davis, Robert L.</i>			<i>McLure, Jared &amp; Katherine</i>		
<i>Haskell, Elizabeth</i>			<i>Minard, Susan</i>		
<i>Johnson, Robert C. Jr.</i>			<i>Mitchell, Leslie</i>		
<i>Karpuska, Ryan</i>			<i>Muhammad, Adrian</i>		
<i>Khedouri, Sarah</i>			<i>Murphy, Judy A</i>		
<i>Koski, Hope Reverend</i>			<i>Phelps, Tracy &amp; Sherri</i>		
<i>Laundry, Marshall Life Lease</i>			<i>Ricker, Harvey</i>		
<i>Murphy, Judy A</i>			<i>Robertson, Walter J</i>		
<i>Phelps, Tracy &amp; Sherri</i>			<i>Touchette, James</i>		
<i>Ricker, Harvey</i>			<i>Tramell, Shaniece</i>		
<i>Touchette, James</i>			<i>White, Kimberly</i>		
<i>White, Randy &amp; Barbara</i>			<i>White, Randy &amp; Barbara</i>		
<i>Zwicker, Leon P.</i>			<i>Wright, James &amp; Patti-Jo</i>		
Total Due by Report Printing	\$	<b>22,016.22</b>	Total Due by Report Printing	\$	<b>60,668.07</b>
Total Paid Since 12/31/20	\$	<b>388.01</b>	Total Paid Since 12/31/20	\$	<b>4,903.43</b>
Total Due 12/31/20	\$	<b>22,404.23</b>	Total Due 12/31/20	\$	<b>65,571.50</b>

Due to the Vermont Supreme Court decision on the disclosure of confidential tax bill information, we have not included the amount of the delinquency for any individual property.

## Delinquent Taxes

### South Ryegate Village Lighting District, South Ryegate, VT 05069

Carolyn Adams	2005-2020	Angela Paye	2006-2020
Donna & Karen Bickel	2020	Douglas & April Paye	
Gregory Brower	2017-2020	Hall Road Parcel	2007-2020
Keith Colburn & Margaret Florentine	2020	Creamery Road Parcel	2013-2020
Priscilla Darling	2020	Tracy & Sherri Phelps	2012-2020
Robert Davis & Robin Gilleland	2005-2020	Cody Stearns & Laura Paquette	2020
Daniel & Mary Florentine	2013-2020		
Christine Hannaford	2020		
William & Loren Hosmer	2019-2020		
Dennis Hurley	2020		
Casey Johnson	2018-2020		

## Ryegate Fire Department Report

We have good working equipment but few firefighters to operate them during the day, much like many rural departments. Members work out of town where they can find a job. We have 22 active firefighters. But, it still does not help a lot for daytime responses as only 5 of us are sometimes available during the day . Ryegate is not alone in daytime response issues . Our only course is to have neighboring departments respond with us.

Anyone interested in joining a great organization of men and women that run into danger rather than away from it, give us a call Station 584-4300 Chief@ 584-3611 or [ryegatefire@yahoo.com](mailto:ryegatefire@yahoo.com).

The Ryegate Fire Department thanks you for your support.

Respectfully submitted, Gene A. Perkins Chief



## Ryegate Fire Warden Report

If you wish to burn please contact me for a permit.

A permit is required for any outside burning of clean wood that is unfinished and unpainted. No manufactured wood, plywood, particle board and the like and no trash of any kind can be burned. A permit to burn can be obtained from the Fire Warden Gene Perkins 584-3611 or Fremont Nelson, 584-3667. We will in turn notify our dispatch of the permit with your address so that if someone calls in a 911 report of smoke or fire, they have your address and know it is a permitted burn and Ryegate Fire and Neighboring town fire departments will not be called to a false alarm and you will not have a yard full of fire apparatus. If I don't answer leave a message and I will return ASAP or call 584-3667. Thank You.

Respectfully submitted, Gene A. Perkins, Fire Warden



# Cemetery Commissioners Narrative

Our Commission was not able to meet on a regular schedule due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. We kept our elected officers the same as they were in 2019 with Rick Colby as Chair, Bruce Nelson as Vice Chair, Bill Nelson as Treasurer, Dan LaCoss as Clerk and Mellissa Mann as Member at Large.

This year we contracted with Rouleau's Property Maintenance of Groton. They kept the cemeteries beautifully mowed and trimmed during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The board would also like to thank our cemetery attendants Tony Dennis, (Blue Mt.) and Sam Ricker (Pinehurst and Hillside) for their efforts in handling burials and requests in a timely manner.

We had a dedication ceremony planned for the Pinehurst Cemetery in 2020, however due to the pandemic we postponed the event until a later date. We are looking forward to the possibility of being able to meet on a more regular basis in 2021 and picking up where we left off in 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryegate Cemetery Commissioners

Rick Colby, Chairman 802-584-3159

Bruce Nelson, Vice Chairman 802-584-3487

Bill Nelson, Treasurer 802-584-3296

Dan LaCoss, Clerk 802-584-3120

Melissa Mann, Member at Large 802-274-1181



## Cemetery Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand 1/1/20.....	\$1,739.13
<b>Income for 2020</b>	
Town of Ryegate.....	\$12,500.00
Sale of Lots.....	\$325.00
American Funds.....	\$410.97
Ameriprise Financials.....	\$836.64
	<u>\$14,072.61</u>
Total Income for 2020	\$15,811.74

Savings/Investments 12/31/2020	Interest Earned in 2020	
CD#907623.....	\$52,250.69	\$365.36 12 mos. @ .70%
Ameri-Vest.....	\$50,452.00	\$836.64 12 mos. @ 1.15%
CD#811855.....	\$10,893.65	\$76.16 12 mos. @ .70%
Savings Acc't 566388.....	\$908.44	\$.44 3 mos. @ .05%
American Funds.....	\$23,794.33	\$410.97 12 mos. @ 1.15%
Total Investment Income:		\$1,689.57

**Expenses for 2020**

Lawn Care.....	\$9,400.00
Electricity at Pinhurst.....	\$191.06
Gandin Bros- Sign for Hillside Cem.....	\$1,672.00
Holiis Munson- video at Hall Cemetery.	\$60.00
Service charge/WRSB.....	\$18.00
Total Expenses for 2020	<u>\$11,341.06</u>
Balance on Hand 12/31/2020 (Checkbook Balance)	\$4,470.68



## Planning Commission/ Zoning Board Report

It was another a quiet year for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board. Although a number of Ryegate citizens have apparently been using their COVID sequestration for home improvements, most of the construction projects were relatively small in scope and met all requirements.

The Commission would like to thank Fremont Nelson for his many years of devoted service in the role of Chairperson. Richard Colby II agreed to take on that role, probably before he realized that it would involve learning how to run a Zoom® meeting.

Alison Low of the Northeastern Vermont Development Agency devoted a great deal of time and expertise to the town's application for Village Center Designations, which would provide tax advantages for building owners who wish to make improvements to buildings in Ryegate's "downtown" areas. The Commission helped to fine tune the maps, and Ms. Low agreed to shepherd the application through the NVDA Board acceptance process.

The Commission has been working with, or at least consulting with, the Energy Committee, in pursuit of the energy goals of the Town Plan, although outreach to homeowners has been somewhat stifled in the current environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Davie, Secretary, for Richard Colby II, Chairperson; Regina Hazel, Vice Chairperson; Alice Allen; Walter Bragg; Mary Dole; Stephen Genereaux; Fremont Nelson; and Nancy Perkins. Zoning Administrator Bill Elder.

### 2020 Report of S Ryegate Public Library, Inc (to account for Revenue Sharing Funds only)

Revenue Sharing Funds in Treas. 1-1-20.....	\$0.00
Received Town of Ryegate Nov 2020.....	\$200.00
Expended toward operating expenses (2020)..	\$200.00

Revenue Sharing Funds in Treas. 12-31-20.....\$0.00

### 2020 Report of Marion Hall Trust Fund S Ryegate Public Library, Inc

Balance in Treas. 1-1-20.....	\$597.21
Received Town of Ryegate 2020.....	\$400.00
Total Receipts.....	\$997.21
Books Purchased.....	(\$479.78)
Balance in Treas. 12-31-20.....	\$517.43

# Baldwin Memorial Library

33 N. Main, P.O. Box 337, Wells River, VT 05081 (802)757-2693

*librarian@baldwinlibraryvt.org*

Monday 10-5, Wednesday 12-6, Friday 12-7

## **Sad Farewells, and a Warm Welcome**

We've lost to cancer a remarkable woman who was a cornerstone of this library for more than 30 years. Nancy Ranno was a Trustee, our Treasurer, and my go-to person whenever I needed help. She loved reading and sharing book recommendations with anyone she met at the library. She usually knew the answers to my questions about local history. And she provided so much behind-the-scenes support in maintaining the building and our services.

Another big change – Joyce Powers has stepped down from the board after an equally long and valued run of service. A librarian herself, Joyce could always offer wise counsel, and I hope she will still do so! Her grounded perspective and wry sense of humor kept the Trustees' meetings lively. To fill Joyce's place on the board, we welcome Sandy Parker, another avid reader and a reading specialist at Blue Mountain School.

## **Your Library in the time of COVID..... Flexible, Responsible, Creative**

We listened to the Governor's Office and the VT Department of Health and closed our doors in mid-March to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. We immediately implemented curbside lending and home deliveries, extended due-dates to two months, and maintained a protocol for sanitizing and quarantining materials as they returned. We hosted a remote program on owls from VT Institute of Natural Science. We offered Chromebook computers for loan or use outside the library. We answered LOTS of questions and did outreach by phone and e-mail. We packaged free books & treats for kids for Halloween and books & toys for Christmas. We made room for the weekly "Share the Harvest" food table organized by the Rowe Community Garden, Newbury United, and Willing Hands. We again offered our winter coat exchange. The VT Department of Libraries continued to keep us informed of new research and guidelines for safety.

Vermont's pro-active approach to prevention worked, and on July 1 we felt we could safely re-open by requiring (and providing) masks, encouraging safe distancing, and limiting building capacity. Thank you to everyone for your gracious compliance. With colder weather, fewer ventilation options, and the threat of renewed COVID spikes, we played it safe by asking our visitors to come by appointment and even pivoted back to curbside service as needed. The library received COVID relief funding in the form of a \$4600 PPP grant as well as \$974 to improve the building's ventilation. We now have a long-overdue exhaust fan in the bathroom.

## **Gratitude**

Thank you to our volunteers for standing by; we look forward to putting you back to work when it's safe! Thank you to "mask angels" Vicky Farrell, Lucretia MacKenzie, Bill O'Malley, and Wendy Buhner who sewed and/or secured a steady supply of masks to give out at the door. Thank you to the donors of 41 adult books, 7 children's books, 105 movies, and 22 audiobooks for the collection and to those who gave magazine subscriptions. Our annual appeal received a heartwarming and generous response during this challenging year, and we also received memorial gifts in honor of Nancy Ranno, Pat Ottina, and Al Stevens.

## **Looking at the numbers**

Visitors: 2,728 adults and 406 children (60/week)	Reference Questions: 627 (12/week)
New Members: 21 adults and 6 children	Computer Use: 481 (9/week)
Home Deliveries: 48	Interlibrary Loans Supplied: 85
Curbside Loans: 260	Interlibrary Loans Received: 331
Outreach: 57	Total Circulation: 6,243 (120/week)
(Not recorded: # of free e-books & audiobooks downloaded through Listen Up VT)	

**Library Trustees:** Karen Kreis (Chair) and Sandy Parker (terms end 2023)  
Chip Conquest and Chris Buhner (terms end 2022)  
Kim Goody and Ann Fredella (terms end 2021)

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Hewes, Librarian

## Town Clerk's Dog License Report

Total dog licenses sold: 203 licenses Total Receipts: \$2101.00

Less Fees Paid town Clerk: \$406.00

Less Fees Paid State of Vermont: \$1015.00

Net Revenues: \$680.00

All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies. The Town Clerk is required to see evidence that all dogs are currently protected against rabies. The law requires that a dog of less than 2 years of age shall have been vaccinated within the past 12 months. After its second rabies shot, an adult dog should be vaccinated every 36 months (3 years). A dog must wear its tag. Due date: License fees may be paid after January 1 and are due April 1 and subject to a 50% penalty after April 1. Fee: Due to State regulations licensing fees are \$13 for males, females and wolf hybrids. \$9 each for a neutered dog or wolf hybrids. \$5 from each license is forwarded to the State Treasurer. Ryegate enforces a Civil Dog (Leash Law). Rachel Clough has been appointed as the Animal Control Officer in Ryegate. She can be reached at 802-588-2020

## Vermont VSNIP Program

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services, helps income challenged care-providers of cats & dogs neutered for \$27.00. The balance is paid ONLY by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, and put into a designated account. VSNIP is now at "0" funding due to dogs not being registered at least by six months of age. Required by law, a rabies vaccination enables your dog to be licensed. While town offices may not be open to the public, dogs *can* be licensed. Call, provide the rabies certificate, include a check for that amount, and a SASE. **Rabies IS in Vermont and IS deadly.** Tractor Supply Stores are now holding monthly rabies clinics again! Call for their schedule.

**Licensing a dog: 1)** identifies your dog if lost, **2)** provides proof that your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but would still need immediate medical attention}, **3)** bites another animal/person, which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanasia to test for rabies if your current vaccination isn't proven, **4)** helps support VSNIP to address the over-population of cats and dogs in VT, and **5) §3590. List of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed states, in part ...** "the municipal clerk shall notify the owners or keepers of all dogs and wolf-hybrids named on the list that have not already been licensed or inoculated, and after May 30 shall furnish to the legislative body a list of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed or inoculated as required by law. **Owners shall also be notified that unlicensed or uninoculated dogs or wolf-hybrids may be destroyed.**" (No one want this, so vaccinate & register – for the protection of your animals and people!

For an application for VSNIP, send a SASE to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if this is for a cat/dog or both. 802-672-5302

VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society has held a "DRIVE UP & POKE! RABIES CLINIC" for several years now. This type of clinic allows us to maintain a safe distance from people while vaccinating dogs and cats. All people stay in cars, masks are required. Pre-registration is encouraged. If you would like the

## Kingdom Animal Shelter

From November 2019 through October 2020, we took in 130 cats and adopted out 127 cats. We work with the community to raise awareness of the importance of spay/neuter programs and the responsibilities of pet ownership. Each cat that comes to the shelter costs roughly \$300-500 for vaccinations, testing, Spay/neuter, other medical treatments, food and lodging. Our volunteers work tirelessly To raise the funds necessary to meet our annual operating expenses of approximately \$88,000. We are asking for a contribution of \$500 (unchanged from last year's request) to assist us in our mission of finding homes for unwanted or abandoned cats.

# Northeastern Vermont Development Association

The NVDA- the State's only regional planning commission and economic development corporation- has been serving Ryegate for more than 70 years. We continue to assist local officials with land use, transportation, and emergency planning, and we serve the businesses of the Kingdom, promoting sustainable economic growth.

How is this relevant Ryegate? Staff met with town officials on developing multiple Village Center Designations and provided the supporting maps. Our transportation manager worked on traffic counts on town roads and worked with the town on a Grants in Aid project. This project helps the town to set best management practices to reduce stormwater related erosion of the town's roads. Annual Request Amount- \$881.00

## Ryegate Historical Society

TOWN REPORT. - RYEGATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Ryegate Historical Society

As everyone is well aware, the year of 2020 was like no other. The historical society was limited in its ability to have large group gatherings and therefore had to cancel the programs that we had planned for the summer season. However, we have already arranged with the speakers to engage them for the season of 2021 and hope that conditions will be favorable to hold these meetings. Stay tuned!

Members of our committee did take up the job of Paul Keenan, placing the flags, before Memorial Day, on the cemetery markers of those who had served our country in the military. We were also able to finally complete the edited reprinting of Dwight White's history, The Down of the Thistle. This paperback edition is \$30; copies are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Our Open Houses were cancelled, due to COVID-19, but we were able to work on the collections and conducted our Annual Meeting, outdoors, with masks, on the lawn of Whitelaw Hall.

Throughout the year we received many donations of historical interest to the town of Ryegate. We are always so grateful when people remember the historical society, not only with artifacts and memorabilia, but with monetary contributions from individuals and the town.

We have missed seeing you and look forward to a healthy and successful 2021.

Board Members: Tom Dole, Molly Fisher, Dover Ford, Linda Libuda, George Murphy, Marsha Nelson, Melvin Nelson, Ginny Ross, Peter Sinclair, Tim Wilson.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership: Individual : \$10      Family: \$15  
Lifetime Membership: Individual: \$100      Family: \$125

Dues Payable by May 1<sup>st</sup> (or first summer meeting) for membership Jan.1<sup>st</sup>-Dec.31<sup>st</sup>.

Please make checks payable to:

Ryegate Historical Society

c/o Tim Wilson, Treasurer  
979 Boltonville Road  
Wells River, VT. 05081

## Ryegate Energy Committee

Climate Change is the crisis that affects all of us, today, tomorrow, and will be with us long after the end of the current pandemic. Every year is warmer than the last, and each change for the worse prompts another negative outcome. In Vermont we are affected by increasing rainfalls, floods, ice, mini-storms and, because of the way rain now falls, droughts. In addition, second in the nation in incidences of tick borne disease, and have to contend with other invasive species, like the Emerald Ash Borer. Our critical logging, farming, tourist and ski industries are negatively impacted. Other places deal with increasingly devastating and frequent climate events like fires, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, and earthquakes that threaten or devastate whole communities and have created the largest and growing number of refugees since World War 11. CO2 passed 300ppm in 1950, (350ppm is considered the upward level to sustain the planet), and is close to 420ppm now. Going back 800,000 years CO2 has never been above 300ppm, and that was due to volcanic eruptions. There is a lag before heat increases as the level of CO2 rises, and the temperature will rise faster in the near future. It is too late to stop the climate change crisis, but we can mitigate it and plan for it.

The United States will rejoin the Paris Agreement to plan what each nation can agree to do. The Vermont Climate Council in response to Act 153 (Global Warming Solutions Act) has begun to focus on what the state can do. The Ryegate Town Plan adopted in 2018, made recommendations for the town. The Energy Committee reporting, to the Planning Commission and the Select Board, discusses and takes on projects to mitigate climate change at the Town level.

But most important, we as individuals need to think about what we can do in our personal behavior to mitigate climate change. Everything we do or don't do has a small impact, but collectively a large one. How much energy and what kinds we use in our homes, how we travel, what we eat and drink, what we consume and how we use it all contribute. In addition, we must use our citizenship and voting rights to promote pro-environmental change. Like the Great Depression, World War 11, the pandemic, we are in this together.

Vermont has fallen behind on our Green House Gas emission goals. Heating/cooling our buildings and use of vehicles produce about 88% of our GHG/year. In 2019, the town voted for a solar array and, in 2020, a weatherization budget for the town buildings. From October 2018 thru September 2019 the town buildings used 14,240KWH that cost \$4585.62 compared to October 2019 thru September 2020 when the building used 15,273KWH at a cost of \$2354.87, a difference of \$2230.85, in spite of using 1,330 more KWH and any higher charges.

The town participates in the Button Up/Efficiency Vermont campaign to promote weatherization in our homes. Information tables at town events, information in various media and an Efficiency Vermont workshop, have focused on promoting weatherization and energy efficiency strategies in our buildings. The first floor of the Town Offices has new storm doors and a new weatherized wall, but more needs to be done in the basement and second floor. The town garage has done another energy upgrade. The Select Board is considering an Advanced Wood Heating system for the town garage and fire station.

We have much to do. A group of residents has begun meeting, calling ourselves, Ryegate and Climate Change to advise the Energy Committee and Select Board on projects that we should pursue. Please join us with your ideas, energy and support.

Energy Committee,

Carl Bayer [pinecone@kingcon.com](mailto:pinecone@kingcon.com) 592-3318

Alice Allen, [kurganbc@gmail.com](mailto:kurganbc@gmail.com)



# Ticklenaked Pond Association Report

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation released this statement to the press:

RYEGATE, VT – While its name may conjure up a humorous scene, water quality issues on Ticklenaked Pond in Ryegate Vermont have been no joke. After many years of suffering from algal blooms, poor water clarity, and invasive species, Ticklenaked Pond’s water quality has now significantly improved, enabling this pond to be removed from Vermont’s impaired waters list. As a result of a DEC-funded lake treatment in 2014 and the dedication and hard work of volunteers from the Ticklenaked Pond Association to reduce runoff and nutrient pollution from the lakeshore and the watershed, the pond has seen five straight years of total phosphorus concentrations lower than the target established in 2009, as well as improved water clarity, demonstrating that these restoration efforts are paying off. Ticklenaked Pond now becomes the first water body in Vermont with an established and EPA-approved “Total Maximum Daily Load” pollution control plan to meet its phosphorus reduction target for five straight years and consequently be removed from the impaired waters list; now there’s something to smile about.

We are very excited to be the first body of water in Vt. to be removed from the impaired lakes list! Thanks to so many Ryegate residents that helped to make this happen. The beach and playground area were very busy this year, it appears that our residents are taking advantage of this Town treasure.

The issue with the lake’s failing dam has been put on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to all of you that voted to have \$30,000.00 from the 2020 tax base committed to the engineering study. We hope to move forward on this in the future. In the meantime we will keep our fingers crossed that the dam will continue to hold. The water levels were extremely low this past summer.

The Association continues to battle the invasive species Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), which chokes and clogs our waterways, crowding out native plants and entangling propellers, fishing lures and the arms and legs of swimmers. In 2020 the Town of Ryegate was awarded \$6,512.00 from the State of Vermont (Department of Environmental Conservation) for an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aide grant to manage and remove EWM, which first appeared at Ticklenaked Pond in 2010. We were not able to employ a Suction Harvesting company and had to forfeit our award.

In 2020 we had only one outbreak of Cyanobacteria (Blue/Green Algae that effect many lakes in Vermont). It is most likely due to the efforts of the Lake Assoc. and local farms to keep the excess phosphate out of the lake. The weather patterns also affect outbreaks and the conditions were favorable this year.

## **The Ryegate community can help the health and enjoyment of Ticklenaked Pond in several ways;**

- 1. Wash off your boat before putting it in the lake and after taking it out.** This will ensure the invasive plants are not being transported to or from another body of water.
- 2. Remove any floating pieces of Eurasian Water Milfoil you see on the lake.** Fragments that are not attached to the stemmed plant will reestablish themselves as a new plant. A picture and information about EWM is at the State boat launch.
- 3. Pick up any EWM plants on the shoreline.** The plants need to be removed from the beach area, composted or bagged and thrown away.
- 4. Please do not take a motorboat or paddle through a dense patch of EWM.** If the plants have surfaced they will fragment and drop to the bottom of the lake, root and become another plant.

## Vermont Center for Independent Living

Since 1979, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. In FY'20 (10/2019-9/2020) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability.

During FY'20, **7** residents of **Ryegate** received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (HAP)  
(over **\$6,600.00** spent on modifications)
- AgrAbility Program
- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

**Request Amount: \$265.00**

To learn more about VCIL, please call: **1-800-639-1522**, or, visit our web site at **www.vcil.org**.

## Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging

The NEK Council on Aging serves as a central guide for older Vermonters to gain services and assistance in their communities. We remain a critical resource for the COVID-19 emergency response. In FY 2020, the Council aided over 4,486 residents of the Northeast Kingdom and with our home-delivered meals program, delivered 207,546 meals—an annual increase of 79,462 meals. We also offer a Helpline, Medicare counseling and Bootcamp, exercise and mobility programs, specially-trained staff who help people develop long-range planning as they age, family and caregiver support programs and grants, case management for those who need a bit more support with aging in place, as well as support to apply for fuel, food, and pharmacy programs. Our nutrition programs partially fund meal sites and home delivered meals under the guidance of our registered dietitian. Working with RCT and Legal Aid, we provide for the complex challenges people face while living in a rural community. Our work is supplemented by over 370 volunteers who serve as home-delivered meals drivers, wellness program leaders, and home-based caregivers.

As a private, 501c (3) non-profit corporation, we have been serving older Vermonters for over 41 years. This year, we are requesting the amount of \$330.00 from the residents of the town of Ryegate. We have enclosed a brief letter in support of this request for inclusion in your town report and a copy of our 2020 Annual Report.

## Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

The RFP helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and Natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations and find financial support to cover the costs of construction. During the 22+ years of the program, over 110 grants totaling \$2.6 million have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems as well as for replacements and repairs. We are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. Since last years appropriation request, we have received nearly \$10,000 in town appropriations from almost 100 towns. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing support.

## The Community for Restorative Justice

The Community Restorative Justice Center holds restorative justice panel meetings for cases referred directly from law enforcement as well as cases referred from the Department of Corrections. Cases that go through the CRJC have a 32% reduction in recidivism. In the past 12 months, the CRJC heard 3 restorative justice cases involving Ryegate resident as well as serving as a navigation resource for 2 residents and Free Legal Clinic to twomore.. Appropriations from the Town of Ryegate would also give technical support to neighborhood associations as requested. The CRJC mission states that we are committed to providing a safe environment for neighbors and parties to resolve conflict in our communities, to restore relationships, and to take responsibility to repair harms caused.

Request- \$250.00



# Caledonia County Sheriff Annual Report

Good bye 2020 is all I have to say about that year. We completed another audit for our office in 2020 and it resulted in no findings or problems of any kind. The state of the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department is very good. We have kept our rates for service the same for the past few years and have a slight increase with construction and traffic. This increase is do to the fuel prices. We continue to add vehicles to our fleet, replacing cars that have served us well. We have ten marked cars, a 2014 van for prisoner transports, one unmarked car being used for civil process service. The radar cart is working well and in many towns. That purchase was with the use of Governors Highway Safety Grant funds. We have a large enclosed trailer that we use as an office at the fair and other security details. This trailer may be utilized as a command post at a mass casualty incident as well. We have an ATV and two golf carts. With project (ROAD), Responsible Operators Against Distractions, we want to continue to educate operators about phone use and texting while driving. We continue to do town patrols and we feel that the towns that we patrol are a safer place to live & drive in because of our presence. The patrols are community based. Which means each town is different, so the patrols may be different. We are taking a proactive response instead of a reactive response. This effort has helped with both fighting crime and communications with the towns. The Sheriff's Department has 14 Law Enforcement Officers to start the new year, with hopes to send a couple new hires to the academy in the spring. Our goal is to have 20 to 25 deputies to cover all details. We have become more active with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We have been involved with drills and evacuation plans and will continue to assist as needed. We continue to look at 24 hour dispatching for the county, but are unable to do that right now. Our new location is wonderful and working as it should. We've had a lot of visitors and people stopping by with question. We are more visible and easier to reach. Plus the savings on the tax payers went from \$62,000, down to \$30,000. In 12 years, that expense will go away and the county will own the building.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please call me or stop by the office. My door is always open. I look forward to serving this county as the Sheriff. We have continued with our great relationship with Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital and are helping them make certain that their patients and staff feel safe while in the hospital. We will again do snowmobile patrols throughout the county. Doing our best to keep the trails as safe as possible, and we will again answer snowmobile related complaints.

Please check out our Facebook page. Thank You. Sincerely, Sheriff Dean Shatney

## Vermont State Police

The Vermont State Police continues to be the primary law enforcement for Ryegate. Throughout the Year, Troopers responded to a broad range of calls and the total number of cases generated by the VT State Police was 186. We also have a patrol contract with Ryegate to provide dedicated hours to patrol and call response. We provide approximately 5-7 hours of coverage per week. Throughout 2020, we made 204 motor vehicle stops. A complete breakdown of this number can be found at the Town Clerk's office.

## American Red Cross

Our mission at the Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. Last year, we provided the following service throughout the region-

- Trained almost 31,400 people in CPR, first aid and water safety skills
- Collected 1,073 pints of blood in Caledonia County.
- Helped in 2 disaster incidents in Burke and St Johnsbury, and helped 9 individuals during those responses
- Assisted 16 of Caledonia county's service members, veterans and their families

We respectfully request an appropriation of \$500.00. These funds will stay right here in our region, so that we can continue to serve your friends and neighbors during their hours of greatest need.

[www.redcross.org/nhvt](http://www.redcross.org/nhvt)

## Northeast Kingdom Youth Services

NEKYS has been offering vital supportive services for youth and families since 1975. In 2020, NEKYS served 470 individuals throughout Caledonia and Essex Counties, including 4 people in Ryegate. NEKYS is a private, non-profit agency governed by a community based, volunteer Board of Directors. We rely on grants, contracts, and appropriations from the towns we serve to continue our mission. Please call our office at 802-748-8732 if you have any questions or concerns. Request= \$250.00

## Northeast Kingdom Learning Services

It is our mission to inspire and empower learners, birth and beyond. In FY 2020, 35 students earned their high school diploma through our HSCP program. Also in 2020, 18 students earned their GED through our testing centers. We served 5 ESOL students in our tri county area in 2020. NEKLS has a staff of 61 dedicated professionals committed to serving the needs to the Northeast Kingdom. Please contact us at 1-844-GO NEKLS (466-3557). Request- \$200.00

## Umbrella

Since 1976, Umbrella has ensured that communities in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties have access to services that make for strong women, supported families and safe homes. Umbrella operates 4 multi-faceted, client- centered programs and plays a crucial role in decreasing the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual violence. Services offered include:

**The Advocacy Program-** In 2020, 519 individuals served, 101 people housed in emergency shelter.  
**Kingdom Child Care Connection (KCCC)-** In 2020, 560 families were connected with the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

**Social Change-** In 2020, 171 youth were served through 73 sessions, 258 adults were trained in 24 workshops.

**Cornucopia-** In 2020, Cornucopia empowered 8 women through hands-on culinary and hospitality training and produced over 37,276 meals nutritionally-balanced meals to homebound.  
Request- \$800.00

## Little Rivers Health Care

Little Rivers Health Care would like to request appropriations funding from the Town of Ryegate again this year to help support the primary care services we provide the community. As in past years, we are asking for \$2,000 for the upcoming year. Little Rivers provided services for 333 Ryegate residents last year which represents ~30% of the town inhabitants. As the only safety net health care provider in our area, Little Rivers is likely the only option for many residents who are Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured. We provide a sliding fee scale for those under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, making deeply discounted medications available to those who can't afford them otherwise. We are very grateful to the Town of Ryegate for its part support of our mission and health care services and we hope that you will continue to support us in the future. Thank you very much.

## West Barnet Senior Meal Site

In 2020, the site has continued to provide meals throughout the COVID19 pandemic. We continue to enjoy many friends from Ryegate, including our chef Jan Warner, who volunteers at our meal site, regularly picking up our meals or receive meals at home. By the end of the year, we will have provided over 12,000 meals, with many being delivered to the homebound, but the majority furnished as take out. We greatly appreciate your support again this year for our non-profit organization and thank you in advance for that support in 2021.

## Woodsville Area Fourth of July Committee

The parade, day long events on the Woodsville Community Field and evening fireworks display create the only full day and evening celebration in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire. As you can well imagine, the event is very costly, averaging close to \$25,000 in costs every year. The plans for the 2021 celebration are still being completed, but at present there are plans to make this event as big, or bigger than ever. Your donation allows us to continue to offer local residents and visitors a safe, exciting place to celebrate our nation's birthday. Request= \$200.00

## Northeast Kingdom Human Services

Thank you Town of Ryegate voters, for your appropriation support last year. Annual appropriations are a vital funding source supporting community members who otherwise cannot afford care to improve their lives through confidential program services for Emergency/Crisis Services, mental health, addiction, and/or developmental/intellectual disabilities. Our mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities by promoting hope, healing, and support. Summary data for July 2019 through July 2020:

- 3,663 = Total number of individuals of all ages in our service area that utilized support services in the past year.

- 27 = Number of individuals from the Town of Ryegate who accessed supportive care at Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.

- Over 100 hours = Employees provided community consultation, education, and outreach in community meetings, events, and trainings in Northeast Kingdom Human Services offices, area schools, and businesses. Training examples include QPR Gatekeeper and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

- 512 total, 1 from the Town of Ryegate = Dedicated professional employees who support community members in the Derby or St. Johnsbury offices, the satellite office in Hardwick, telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, in homes, in schools, and throughout Northeast Kingdom communities.

- 18% = There was an increase of 18% in unanticipated expenses not reimbursed by the state or other grants for technology, cleaning supplies, and personal protective equipment needed to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Good mental health is important for everyone. As a Designated Agency serving the Vermont's system of care, NKHS has a responsibility for assuring that a comprehensive range of services are available regardless of an individual's ability to pay. A sliding fee scale is available for those in financial need. Northeast Kingdom Human Services is asking the Town of Ryegate voters to consider helping neighbors, family members, and friends receive the supports they need to live a happy, fulfilling life and be an active and contributing member in your community. The 2021 appropriation request of \$500 is the same amount voted on at the 2020 Town Meeting. This represents 0.52% of appropriation requests from 48 towns.

Thank you so much for your support!

## Rural Community Transportation, Inc.

RCT has been providing service in your community for over 25 years and must reach out again for community support in order to maintain the quality of service that is needed for the members of our community. RCT is a non profit corporation providing transportation to the elderly and disabled, Medicaid and the general public through a van/bus and volunteer service. RCT transports people to adult day services, senior meal sites, necessary medical treatments, and other appointments In 2020 RCT provided 14 Ryegate residents with 835 trips, travelling 21,748 miles at a cost of \$13,199.00. RCT is requesting an appropriation of \$850 from the town of Ryegate. RCT can be reach at 802-748-8170.

## NEK Waste Management District Executive Report

The NEKWMD finished 2020 by processing less recycling compared to 2019 – 2,211 tons in 2020 compared to 2,615 tons in 2019. Significant drops in mixed paper and plastic were responsible for most of the decline. A few items, including food scraps, tires, and cardboard saw increases in tonnage. E-Waste, glass, and battery tonnages were approximately the same as 2019. Recycling markets remained stable but low throughout most of 2020.

The District ended 2020 with a deficit of \$8,338.22. Revenues in 2020 were 5% above projections. While budgeted expenses were 6% above projections. The COVID19 pandemic did disrupt our work schedule for several weeks in the spring, but it does not appear to have impacted the District significantly over the course of the entire year. Legal fees and truck repairs were the primary drivers of the deficit in 2020. The pandemic will impact our budget process for 2021. The 2021 budget will be approved by the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors and not a direct vote by District members. This is a temporary one-year change directly related to changes in Town Meeting Day. There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2020. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3rd in the state behind only Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

The NEKWMD is entering 2021 with a proposed budget of \$809,527 – an increase of 1.85% compared to 2020. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the District's 2021 budget will be acted upon by the District Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2021. The District sought and received a one-time legislative remedy in order to act on the budget internally. There will be 2 additional public hearings to receive input on the 2021 proposed budget. These meetings will be held via ZOOM on February 18 and 25, 2021 at 6pm.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and three part-time employees in 2020. Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principal authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly with the District's Executive Director to set the direction of NEKWMD policy. Since the surcharge on trash is based on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

We would like to express our appreciation to our able staff for their continuing commitment to our mission. The 47,600 residents of 49 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured that the NEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

*NEKWMD Executive Committee*

# NEK Waste Management Supervisors Report

## 2021 Hazard Waste Collection

**SATURDAY, MAY 8** 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Ryegate Transfer Station**

**\*\*HHW Collections are free and open to residents of all DISTRICT TOWNS\*\***

**The NEKWMD reserves the right to terminate any collection event if storage capacity is reached.**

**Please limit HHW disposal at listed events to 30 gallons.**

**HHW Collection events are limited to District Households.**

**If you have more than 30 gallons, or need to dispose of business' HHW,**

**please call our office for an appointment at our Lyndonville facility May 4 – Oct. 2, 2020.**

**Not going to be able to make any of these dates? NOT A PROBLEM!** The NEKWMD will be accepting these materials by appointment at our Lyndonville facility from **May 4, 2021 to October 5, 2021**. Due to regulatory handling requirements, hazardous wastes will not be accepted without an appointment. Scheduling ahead ensures that a qualified individual will be on-site ready to accept your hazardous waste.

What are *Household Hazardous Products*? They are consumer products that contain ingredients that **may be:**

**Toxic-** poisonous if eaten, breathed, or absorbed through the skin

**Corrosive-** can burn or destroy living tissue if spilled on skin

**Reactive-** creates fumes, heat, or explosion hazards if mixed with certain materials such as water

**Explosive-** can explode with exposure to heat or pressure

**Flammable/Ignitable-** can easily be set on fire

To determine if a product in your home is hazardous, check the label for the following words:

Danger indicates that the substance is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic.

Poison means that the substance is highly toxic.

Caution/Warning is put on all other hazardous substances that are a somewhat lesser hazard, but are still dangerous if the directions are not followed closely.

Conditionally Exempt Generator businesses can also use the Lyndonville collections for the actual cost of the disposal of their materials. Please call ahead for pricing and an appointment.

**CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY 802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org)**

## Groton/ Ryegate Recycling Attendants Report

OPERATING HOURS                      FRIDAY 3 pm to 6 pm                      SATURDAY 8 am to 12 noon

Again this year we have seen an increase in your recycling efforts, there seems to be no end to the amount of card board, plastics and electronics. Our glass now goes to Canada and is made into insulation.

Plastic containers Numbers 1 thru 5 only

NO coat hangers, yogurt containers (they are a #06), any item that will break when bent, any unclean containers, peanut butter jars, toys, dressing jars, salad greens containers .

If you don't clean them they will be trashed

Respectfully Submitted, Gene Perkins

**Vermont Green Up Inc.**

Thank you for your past appropriation for Green Up Vermont, your help is crucial to sustain our mission of cleaning up our roads and waterways. As Green Up rolls into our 51<sup>st</sup> year, we are again requesting your continued support for 2021. In 2020, we had nearly 14,000 volunteers, 241 tons of litter and over 9,000 tires were collected. Most importantly, amidst a global pandemic, Vermonters felt Green Up Day was the one event that shouldn't ever be cancelled and found safe ways to continue this civic service to their communities. Mark your calendar for Green Up Day 2021, May 1<sup>st</sup> and help us celebrate 51 years of keeping Vermont green!

# NEK Waste Management District Budget Vote



NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 1075 LYNDONVILLE, VERMONT 05851  
(802)626-3532 OR (800)734-4602 FAX (802)626-3519  
[www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org)

January 14, 2021

NEKWMD  
Member Towns

**RE: NEKWMD PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET**

Dear Member:

Due to the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic on Town Meeting Day. The Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) has petitioned the legislature to allow the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors to approve the proposed 2021 budget. This was a difficult decision on our part, but is considered necessary for two reasons.

- (1) House Bill H48, once signed by the Governor, will allow towns to move the date of their Town Meeting. This is problematic for the District because it could potentially delay our budget vote until the end of May. We have already been notified by a couple of towns that they are moving their town meeting to the end of May 2021. If Towns move the date of Town Meeting, they risk disenfranchising their voters by holding our budget vote when the outcome may already be predetermined.
- (2) The same bill will also allow towns the ability to mail ballots directly to all of their registered voters. While we support this idea, the District is in no position to be able to mail ballots and/or receive them. We have always relied on our member towns to include the ballots as part of their Australian Ballot process. Coordinating mailed ballots with 49 members towns would be a daunting task. We understand that most towns will probably not do this, but even if we miss one town, we run the risk of disenfranchising the electorate in that one town.

H48 contains a provision that allows the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors to approve the 2021 budget. This provision would only apply to the budget for 2021. The legislature considered this proposal because all of the other Waste Districts in Vermont allow their Board of Supervisors to approve their budgets. The NEKWMD Board approved this action at their January 12, 2021 meeting.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND WASTE MANAGEMENT AT THE LEAST COST TO OUR CITIZENS  
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

# NEK Waste Management District Budget Vote

Once H48 becomes law this week, you should make any necessary adjustments to your tabulator for the Australian Ballot process. There will be no need for your Town to include our Budget Article on your Ballots or Warning and/or to have us send you ballots if you do not use a tabulator. Towns will not be responsible for legally posting the any warning or ballot for the NEKWMD 2021 budget.

In order to allow greater public participation in the NEKWMD budget approval process for 2021, the NEKWMD Board has initiated the following procedures for 2021:

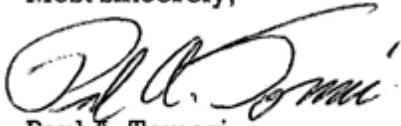
- (1) There will be 2 additional public hearings regarding the 2021 proposed budget. Those hearings will be held via ZOOM on Thursday, February 18, 2021 and Thursday, February 25, 2021. Both meetings will begin at 6pm.
- (2) The NEKWMD Board has moved our Annual Meeting to Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. That date is the regularly scheduled meeting of the NEKWMD Board for the month of March. At this meeting, the NEKWMD will take action on the 2021 budget.

This allows towns more time to consider the District's 2021 proposed budget. This also allows the NEKWMD Board additional time to make changes to the proposed budget. I will be reviewing the proposed budget and informing the Board of any potential changes that could be made in an effort to lower the impact on our member towns. The Board will be presented with an updated budget at their February 9, 2021 meeting. We will notify members immediately following the meeting if there are any changes to the budget. Any changes to the 2021 budget would be to lower the budget – not increase it.

We hope our member towns understand the reasons for this action. I would like to emphasize that this action is only for 2021. We will resume the budget process outlined in our charter for subsequent years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Most sincerely,



Paul A. Tomasi  
Executive Director

# NEK Community Broadband

Activities through December 7, 2020

NEK Broadband Communications Union District (NEK CUD/ CUD) was formed through affirmative Town Meeting votes on March 3, 2020 by 27 NEK towns: Albany, Barnet, Barton, Brighton, Burke, Concord, Coventry, Craftsbury, Danville, East Haven, Glover, Greensboro, Groton, Hardwick, Kirby, Lowell, Lyndon, Newark, Peacham, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Stannard, Sutton, Waterford, Westfield and Wheelock. Within two weeks, Vermont and much of the country, and world, entered a state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus.

The safety measures instituted to protect public health exacerbated and laid bare existing deficiencies in our region's broadband infrastructure. Since then, additional attention and funding has been made available to begin to tackle the problem. In addition, all our meetings have been conducted via the online video conferencing application Zoom, following emergency open meeting rules provided by the Vermont Secretary of State.

On April 30, 2020, NEK CUD held its organizational meeting with Governing Board members and alternates appointed by each member town. We adopted bylaws and established an Executive Committee and elected seven members to serve. The CUD was officially recognized by the Vermont Secretary of State on May 6, 2020. By our June meeting, we established a regular meeting time, the second Thursday of each month between 5:30 and 7 p.m. as well as a website where we post agendas and minutes: [nekbroadband.org](http://nekbroadband.org) Highlights of the past year include:

- (May) Created standing Finance and Technology Committees with appointed members. These two committees are open to both Governing Board members and members of the public.
- (June) Adopted a Statement of Mission, Service Goals, Operating Principles and Immediate Priorities. Approved a Hybrid Public-Private Operator as a preferred operating model, which means the CUD would not be an Internet Service Provider (ISP), but would strive to own assets that would be leased to one or more private operators.
- (July) Recommended Tilson Technology Management, Inc. as the communications consultant to conduct our feasibility study and business plan. Partnered with Tilson Technology Management, Inc., VELCO (Vermont Electric Power Company), Green Mountain Power and the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) to prepare for the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction. Joined an Interlocal Agreement with other Vermont Communication Union Districts to explore collaboration.
- (August) Approved a 2020 Budget which included contract positions: a part-time Project Manager, Bookkeeper/Clerk and Administrator/Treasurer. Hired Christine Hallquist of Hyde Park as part-time Project Manager for the months of August and September.
- (September) Approved COVID-Response Connected Community Resilience Program grant-funded broadband project with Kingdom Fiber, which will fund the customer portion of fiber connections for up to 100 underserved addresses in Albany, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick and Irasburg by the end of the year. Hired Jami Jones of Hardwick as part-time Bookkeeper/Clerk.
- (October) Hired Christine Hallquist as Administrator/Treasurer. Adopted draft 2021 budget and annual report. Approved applying for a second COVID-Response Connected Community broadband project with Tilson Technology Management, Inc. in Concord, VT. This project is conditional upon Tilson moving forward with their Lunenburg, VT project and funding may be reallocated to other projects elsewhere in the CUD.
- (November) Tilson completed the feasibility study highlighting 8 strategic projects that would cash flow positive in three years. Study also presented multiple sources for financing the initial projects including Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) loans, grants and private equity.
- (December) FCC announced RDOF awards for Vermont. Significant awards were given to 3 ISP's who will be required to provide service speeds of at least 100mbps.

In 2020 thus far, membership has grown to 31 towns. Wolcott and Irasburg joined on May 29. Westmore joined on July 9. Brownington joined on November 12, 2020. Walden joined December 10th.

Respectfully,

Evan Carlson, Chair



# BMU School District #21 Warning and Notice

## BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21 ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 (the "District"), comprising the legal voters, respectively, of the Towns of Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River, are hereby NOTIFIED AND WARNED to meet at their respective polling places, Groton Community Building, Ryegate Corner Town Hall and Wells River Village Garage, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 10:00 AM (when the polls will open) to 7:00 PM (when the polls will close) to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

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

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

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$8,328,091, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,974.41 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .203% less than spending for the current year.

A public informational hearing will be held on the above Australian ballot articles on March 1, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM by Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92004799541?pwd=ei9mQkE2dGgwNGpnRGx3am1SeHJKdz09>

Meeting ID: 920 0479 9541

Passcode: 191741


OR Join by phone

(US) +1 563-293-5428 (PIN: 501759604)

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.


Dated at Wells River in the County of Orange and State of Vermont this 13th day of January, 2021


  
Angeline Alley

  
Sara Dennis

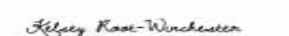
  
E. Paul Hazel

  
Allison Ingerson

  
Judy Murray

  
Kristen Murray

  
Alana Page

  
Kelsey Root-Winchester

  
Sarah Sanders

Recorded on this date prior to posting, January 13, 2021.

  
Janet Page  
Clerk

## Synopsis of March 3, 2020 Town Meeting

- ARTICLE 1: Regina Hazel was elected Moderator.
- ARTICLE 2: Elizabeth Page was elected Town Clerk.
- ARTICLE 3: The reports of the Town Officers were accepted.
- ARTICLE 4: The Town authorized a total general and highway fund expenditure for 2020 operating expenses of \$1,045,661.00.
- ARTICLE 5: The Town voted to raise money by taxation to meet the 2020 General Fund and Road Budget and authorized the Select Board to set a tax rate to provide the same.
- ARTICLE 6: The Town authorized payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer in one installment, due September 10<sup>th</sup> and becoming delinquent on October 10<sup>th</sup>
- ARTICLE 7: The Town elected Dale Wright as the Collector of Delinquent Taxes, with fees being handled as in the past.
- ARTICLE 8: Allana Page was elected as a School Director for a three year term.
- ARTICLE 9: The following people were elected by voice vote to serve in the various offices:  
Treasurer: Cheryl Slayton, Select Board: Steven Crandall, Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Dale Wright, Town Agent: John Zampieri, First Grand Juror: Dean Rowden, Lister: Regina Hazel, Auditor: Tom Dole, Library Trustee: Mary Dole, Cemetery Commissioner: Dan LaCoss.
- ARTICLE 10: A proposed amendment to approve to fund 10% of the original amount of \$30,000 for a proposed DuBois & King Engineering Study of the dam at Ticklenaked Pond was declared not germane to the original article. Following a call for a Division of the House, the original article passed with a standing vote of: Yes: 64 and No: 20.
- ARTICLE 11: The Town voted to join the Communications Union District (CUD) to be known as NEK Community Broadband with a voice vote.
- ARTICLE 12: The Town voted to purchase 4.9 acres at the corner of East Road and Bayley Hazen at the purchase price of \$30,000.00. After discussion, a Division of the House was called for resulting in a standing vote of: Yes: 64 and No: 34.  
Paragraph B: To appropriate said money, and direct the Select Board to assess a sufficient tax rate passed on a voice vote.
- ARTICLE 13: Representative Marcia Martell was given permission to speak.  
The meeting was properly adjourned at 2:55 PM.



Grange



## Vital Statistics

<b>Civil Marriages</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>		
16-May	Paula D. Achilles and Richard W. Brooks		
5-Jul	Laura J. Paquette and Cody R. Stearns		
19-Jul	Aaron W. Newton and Leslie Walker		
25-Jul	Sarah J Brooks and Cody A. Flood		
5-Sep	Timothy P. Crowley and Stephanie L. Pleasant		
26-Sep	Brendon A. Winchester and Carissa N. Stevens		
31-Oct	Ashley M. Florentine and Micheal N. Chamberland		
<b>Births</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Parents</b>	
1-Apr	Isabel Nancy Rowden	Ryan and Allison Rowden	
3-May	Jamesin Frederick Paye	Felicia Germain and Joseph Paye	
26-May	Aiden James Nelson	Heather F. and James F. Nelson	
28-Aug	Angelica Ann Hallock	Ashley Hallock	
23-Dec	Callum Daniel LaCoss	Daniel and Lindsey LaCoss	
<b>Deaths</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	
12-Feb	Earlene J. Wetherbee	76	
12-Mar	Howard K. Page	72	
19-Apr	Robert L. Davis	61	
30-May	Marjory Cassidy	78	
21-Jun	Gerald H. Gadapee	80	
6-Sep	Madeline Chaffee	100	
9-Sep	Virginia E. Sulham	87	
30-Oct	Harold "Hal" Newton Ellis	84	
21-Dec	Gordon Grant	84	

## Vital Records Law

### **The New Vital Records Law (Act 46) and What It Means for You. The changes went into effect on July 1, 2019.**

The most notable changes are:

Only family members (as defined in Act 46), legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or legal representatives of any of these parties can apply to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. In the case of a death certificate only, the funeral home or crematorium handling disposition may apply for a certified copy.

An individual must complete an application and show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.

An individual who refuses to complete the application or cannot provide valid identification will be ineligible and referred to the Vital Records Office.

Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town, not just where the birth or death occurred or where the person was a resident.

Certified copies will be issued on anti-fraud paper.

Access to noncertified copies (previously called "informational" copies) is not significantly changed by the new law or rules.

Marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificate copies and processes are not affected by the new law or rules.

VERMONT HEALTH DEPT, HEALTH RECORDS- Phone: 800-439-5008 [VitalRecords@Vermont.gov](mailto:VitalRecords@Vermont.gov)

### **Vermont Recording Fees will increase on July 1, 2019.**

Document Recording Fees \$15 per page

PTTR (property transfer tax return) \$15 per document

Survey plat recording fees \$25 per sheet

Certified copy of records (no change) \$10 per page

Examination of records (vault time) \$4 per hour

# Warning Annual Town Meeting- Tuesday, March 2, 2021

The citizens of the Town of Ryegate who are legal voters in the annual town meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town House in Ryegate on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to transact the following business by Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Town Moderator for a term of one year

ARTICLE 2: To elect all Town Officers required by law:

- Town Clerk for a term of one year
- Town Treasurer for a term of one year
- Select Board Member for a term of three years
- Lister for a term of three years
- Auditor for a term of three years
- First Constable for a term of one year
- Collector of Delinquent taxes for a term of one year
- Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years
- Library Trustee for a term of five years
- School Director for a term of three years

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,053,319.00, of which \$905,719.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$146,600.00 by non-tax revenues?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes in one installment, due October 10<sup>th</sup> and becoming delinquent on October 11<sup>th</sup> with interest assessed on delinquent taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 4873?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the town vote that overdue taxes will bear interest at a rate of one percent per month for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 5136?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the town vote to establish the amount of the penalty charged by the collector of delinquent taxes for payments made after the due date for payment to eight percent of the tax collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A.1674?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the town vote to expend a sum, not to exceed \$50,000, to install a renewable energy system in the Town Garage and Corner Fire Station and direct the Select Board to assess a tax sufficient to raise the same.

Polls open for Australian Ballot voting from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Ryegate Town House at 134 Witherspoon Road, Ryegate Corner, Vermont. Absentee/Early Vote Ballots will be available at the Town Office beginning February 10, 2021. Call: 802-584-3880 or email: ryegateclerk@yahoo.com

Dated this 25th day of January, 2021

By the Select Board members of the Town of Ryegate:

Recorded Before Posting

Attest: *Elizabeth Page*  
Elizabeth Page, Town Clerk

*Andrew Smith, Darryl Perkins, Steven Crandall*  
Andrew Smith, Darryl Perkins, Steven Crandall

Ryegate Town Clerk's Office  
Received for record  
January 26, 2021 at 11:15 A.M.  
Attest: *Elizabeth Page*  
Town Clerk

# Notes

# Notes

# Important Telephone Numbers and Information

## ***Emergency or Fire 911***

RYEGATE TOWN WEBSITE- [WWW.RYEGATEVT.ORG](http://WWW.RYEGATEVT.ORG)

Building Permits	584-3612 Bill Elder
	802-584-3880 Town Office
Cottage Hospital	603-747-9000
E Ryegate Fire District #2	802-757-3983 Hoyt Darby
Fire Permits	802-584-3611 Gene Perkins
	802-584-3667 Fremont Nelson
Historian	Fremont Nelson, Ryegate Corner
	George Murphy, South Ryegate

## **Ryegate Selectboard**

Steve Crandall	802-274-9471
Darryl Perkins	802- 584-4710
Andy Smith, Chair	802-633-2260
Town Clerk, Elizabeth Page	802-584-3880 Phone and Fax
Clerk to Select Board, Marsha Nelson	802-584-3667
Town Garage/Road Crew	802-584-3002
Dog Officer- Rachel Clough	802-588-2020
United Ways Agencies for VT 211	
VT Center for Independent Living	802-639-1522
NEK Waste Management	800-734-4602
NEK Youth Services	802-748-8732

## **State Legislators**

Sen. Joseph Benning- R	802-626-3600 office
Sen. Jane Kitchel- D	802-684-3482 home
Rep. Marcia Martel- R	802-748-9134 home

## **US Legislators**

Sen. Patrick Leahy- D	800-642-3193 Action Line
Sen. Bernie Sanders- I	800-339-9834 VT office 202-224-5141 DC office
Rep. Peter Welch- D	888-605-7270 VT office 202-225-4115 DC office

***Selectboard Meetings*** – Online via Zoom until further notice  
(non covid times- 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7pm Town Office Building)

***Town Clerk***- Mon 1-5, Tues 1-5, Weds 1-5, Fri 9-1

***Recycling Center*** Friday 3-6 pm Saturday 8- noon

## ***Photo Driver's License***

Every Thursday (except holidays)  
8:45am- 3:30pm Green Mountain Mall, St. Johnsbury, VT

Town of

# Ryegate

18 South Bayley- Hazen Rd  
Ryegate Corner, VT 05042

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