

*Town of
Shrewsbury, Vermont*



2024 Annual Report

2024 DEDICATION

If you live in Shrewsbury there is an individual who for decades has helped you get to work, school, stores, doctors' offices, homes of family and friends, and wherever else your car might take you. That individual is Jamie Carrara, Shrewsbury's Road Commissioner, who is retiring April 30, 2025. For the past 16 years he has led the road crew with a dedication and competence that may never be matched. It is with much appreciation for his years of service that the 2024 Shrewsbury Annual Town Report is dedicated to Jamie Carrara.

Jamie is a Shrewsbury native, born into a family tradition of maintaining the Town's roads that spans nearly a century. Jamie's grandfather, Bennie Carrara, also born in Shrewsbury, started work on the road crew in 1930 and became commissioner in 1947. After Bennie's untimely death on the job, Jamie's great uncle, Con Cyr, became commissioner, followed in 1990 by Jamie's father, Herb Carrara, who served until 2009.

Bennie, Herb, and Jamie are related not just by family ties, but also by character. They each approached the job with an extraordinary commitment combined with integrity, humility, and approachability. The dedication to Bennie in the 1970 Town Report, Herb's dedication in the 2009 Town Report, and this dedication to Jamie speak to a 95-year work ethic across three generations. It is an exemplary picture of one family's service to Shrewsbury.



Jamie began working for the Town in the winter of 1983 plowing roads while still in high school. In the summer months he worked with his father excavating. He started full time work with the Shrewsbury road crew in 1989 and his dad became his boss and mentor in 1990. Selectman Steven Spatz wrote in the 2009 Town Report, "It's a great thing to see a father and son work together committed to a job that means so much to so many people. It was always clear by the looks on their faces that they saw this opportunity to work together every day as a blessing, and one to be enjoyed."

In 2011, two years after assuming the road commissioner position, Jamie's leadership was tested by Tropical Storm Irene. Bridges, culverts, and roadbeds were washed away. There was massive damage to every road in town and constant calls for help. The road crew, led by Jamie, worked around the clock to rebuild roads and install temporary culverts in the days immediately after the flooding. In the months following on top of his normal responsibilities, he worked with project engineers and contractors to ensure the rebuilding work was properly completed. Eight major bridges and culverts were replaced because of the destruction.

During the July 2023 flooding, Jamie worked through two days on Town Hill Road to make it serviceable. According to Selectman Aaron Korzun, Jamie not only saved the road but also saved the Town significant expense because no contractor needed to be hired. During mud seasons, he has worked through the night to rebuild town roads like Eastham which had become impassable axle-deep morasses. By morning, when folks had to get to work and children to school, the roads were safe and drivable.

These are just a few examples of Jamie's work. For most of us, his daily commitment to the job goes by without notice. He is regularly out by himself in the middle of the night engaged in plowing, clearing a ditch, or cutting up a tree to make a road passable. Each hour of the day may present something different like fog, rain, ice, snow, sleet, hail, wind, thaws with mud up to axels, plugged culverts and



even occasional beaver problems. The demands of the job regularly mean starting to plow the 52 miles of Shrewsbury roads at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning to ensure workers can drive to their jobs and school buses can pick up children. Then he and his crew may plow again in the afternoon to make sure everyone can get home. The long hours mean seeing his family only briefly for days at a time.

Town resident Mark Youngstrom, who before retirement regularly travelled many of Vermont's roads wrote: "In my

experience in dozens of communities, I have not seen anyone as dedicated to road maintenance as Jamie. He takes incredible pride in his work and the quality of his work is extraordinary. I have never seen anyone who can grade a road as well. His annual schedule of cleaning ditches to avoid flood damage, replacing culverts, topdressing roads through the summer, filling potholes, all goes unnoticed by the typical resident. Just drive into any other town to see the difference."

Quoting Selectman Aaron Korzun: "Jamie is all about taking care of the town 24/7. His work ethic is off the charts. He has stepped up as a leader. Everyone regards Jamie with the highest regard. There is no employee we could hire who could excel his personal commitment to the job."



Despite the demands of being road commissioner, Jamie has also been an active member of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department for decades. He currently serves as an SVFD lieutenant, attending weekly meetings, maintaining the fire trucks, and assisting with repairs when needed. The SVFD needs volunteers so hopefully Jamie's example, and that of the entire SVFD membership, will spur others to step forward.

After 42 years working on Shrewsbury roads, Jamie's decision to retire will mean more regular time with his family: wife Catherine and daughter Kayla. Catherine is an active member of the Shrewsbury PTO and Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, while Kayla is a Mountain School fourth grader and an intrepid Girl Scout. If you see Jamie in the days, weeks, and months ahead, offer him thanks for his work. We have all benefited from it and he deserves our gratitude.

CREDITS

Dedication – Written by Lee Wilson

Photos Front Cover – A Canadian Lynx visited Shrewsbury and other neighboring towns this summer. Photo by Charlie Stout. Dedication: Photo of Jamie Carrara: Nils Eriksen; Road Grader: Sandy Bragg; Jamie's family: Catherine Carrara. Photo on Pg. 3: Pastor Karen Braeutigam; Pgs. 6, 22, and 31 Chryl Martin; Pg. 26: Ed Sawyer; Pgs. 40 and 59: Kristin Cimonetti; Pg. 33: Uncredited; Pgs. 36 and 53: Louise Duda; Inside Back Cover: Erin Rice

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 ANNUAL REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

*WARNING NUMBER	REPORTS	*PAGE NUMBER
	ELECTION	
1	2024 Elected Town Officers	1
	Justices of the Peace Elected at General Election	1
	2024 Officers Appointed by the Selectboard	1
	Other Town Officers and Employees	3
	Warning for the 244 th Annual Town Meeting, March 4, 2024	4
	Minutes of the 243 rd Annual Town Meeting, March 5, 2023	6
	Results of the 243 rd Annual Town Meeting, March 5, 2023	7
	FINANCIAL	
	Board of Auditors Report	9
	Town Treasurer's Report	10
	Balance Sheet	11
4-10	Restricted or Designated Town Funds	12
	Statement of Revenues and Expenses	13
	Payroll for Town Officials, Appointed Officers, and Employees	15
	Notes to Financial Statements	16
	TAX	
	Statement of Taxes Raised	19
	Tax Comparison	20
	Collector of Delinquent Taxes Report	21
3	Board of Listers Report	22
	REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS, & COMMISSIONS	
	Selectboard Report	23
2	Statement of Revenues – General and Roads Budgeted and Actual	24
2	General Expenses – Budgeted and Actual	25
2	Road Expenses – Budgeted and Actual	27
	Emergency Management Report	23
	Road Commissioner Report	28
	Inventory of Town Equipment	28
	Town Clerk Report	29
	Vital Statistics and Animal Licensing	30
	Justices of the Peace Report	31
	Zoning Administrator Report	32
	Animal Control Officer Report	33
	Development Review Board Report	32
	Planning Commission Report	34
	Town Health Officer Report	35
	Cemetery Commission Report	35
	Conservation Commission Report	36
	Transfer Station Report	37

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

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 ANNUAL REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

*WARNING NUMBER	REPORTS	*PAGE NUMBER
	Tree Warden Report	37
	Forest Fire Warden Report	38

REPORTS OF SHREWSBURY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING TAX DOLLARS		
12	Volunteer Fire Department Report	38
	Volunteer Fire Department Financial Statements	39
	Volunteer Fire Department Special Accounts	40
11	Shrewsbury Community Meeting House Report	41
	Shrewsbury Community Meeting House Financial Statements	42
13	Shrewsbury Library Report	43
	Shrewsbury Library Financial Statements	44
14	Shrewsbury Historical Society Report	46
	Shrewsbury Historical Society Financial Statements	47

OUT-OF-TOWN ORGANIZATION REPORTS		
Healthcare		
2	Rutland Regional Ambulance Service	48
16	VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region – (formerly RAVNAH)	49
20	Rutland Mental Health Services	49
Environment		
2	Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)	50
2	Rutland Regional Planning Commission	51
15	Rutland Natural Resource Conservation District	52
17	Green Up Vermont	53
Community Support		
18	Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	54
22	BROC Community Action	55
28	American Red Cross of Northern New England	55
30	Vermont Farmers Food Center	56
25	Rutland County Humane Society	56
Senior and Adult Services		
19	Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	57
26	Vermont Center for Independent Living	58
29	Vermont Adult Learning	59
Family and Child Support Services		
21	NewStory	60
23	Rutland County Parent Child Center	60
24	Vermont Family Network	61
27	Child First Advocacy Center	61

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

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS *as of December 31, 2024*

Elected Office	Term	Elected officer(s)	Term Expires
MODERATOR	1 Year	Eldred French	2025
TOWN CLERK	3 Years	Rebecca Rice	2027
TOWN TREASURER	3 Years	Linda McGuire	2027
SELECTBOARD	3 Years	Marc Cimonetti Francis Wyatt Aaron Korzun	2025 2026 2027
AUDITORS	3 Years	Michelle Greene Rich Biziak Sanford Bragg	2026 2025 2027
LISTERS	3 Years	Rebecca Bates Scott Ryan Clara Krueger	2025 2026 2027
MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS	3 Years	Kim Williams Steve Abatiell (interim)	2025 2027
1 ST CONSTABLE	1 Year	Aaron Haupt	2025
2 ND CONSTABLE	1 Year	Vacant	2024
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES	3 Years	Steven Nicholson	2027
CEMETERY COMMISSION	3 Years	George Brigham Jr. Benny Carrara Eric Carrara	2025 2027 2025

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ELECTED AT GENERAL ELECTION

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

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTBOARD¹ *as of December 31, 2024*

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		Adrienne Raymond	2025
COMMUNITY MEETING HOUSE TRUSTEES	3 Years	Steve Spatz Mark Youngstrom Liesbeth Van der Heijden	2025 2026 2027

¹ All appointments expire on the date of Town Meeting in March of the year shown unless otherwise indicated.

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTBOARD *as of December 31, 2024*
(continued)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION	4 years, or as determined by the Selectboard	Pam Darrow Louise Duda Peter Grace Connie Youngstrom Carrie Clancy Christina Clarke Michelle Greene Cynthia Thornton Linda Shelvey	2027 2027 2027 2027 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD	3 years, or as determined by the Selectboard	Alan Shelvey Dany Cote Greg McGown Bruce Bullock Mark Youngstrom Ryan Fitzbeauchamp	2026 2026 2026 2027 2027 2026
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		Aaron Korzun	2025
EMERGENCY MGMT. COORDINATOR		Marc Cimonetti	2025
ENERGY COORDINATOR		Davis Terrell	2025
FENCE VIEWERS		Steven Nicholson Bert Potter Adrienne Raymond	2025 2025 2025
GREEN UP DAY COORDINATOR		Connie Youngstrom	2025
HEALTH OFFICER		Kathy Felder	2031
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER		Sharon Winnicki	2026
INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES, & WOOD		Greg Miller	2025
LIBRARY BOARD		Elijah LaChance	2025
PLANNING COMMISSION	3 years, or as determined by the Selectboard	Laura Black Connor Self Vacant Melissa Reichert Ryan Fitzbeauchamp ²	2026 2026 2023 2027 2027
POUND KEEPER		Vacant	
REGIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE		Gerry Martin	2025
REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		Jack Perry	2025
ROAD COMMISSIONER		Jamie Carrara	2025
RUTLAND REGION TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE		Marc Cimonetti	2025
RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION		Laura Black Aaron Korzun - alternate	6/30/25 6/30/25
SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE COMMUNITIES		Bert Potter Linda McGuire - Alternate	2025

² This Planning Commission appointment became vacant on January 1, 2025.

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTBOARD *as of December 31, 2024*
 (continued)

TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN ³		Kevin Brown	6/30/28
DEPUTY FOREST FIRE WARDEN		Alan Ridlon Jr.	6/30/28
TRANSFER STATION ADMINISTRATOR		Bert Potter	2025
TREE WARDEN		Eldred French	2025
WEIGHER OF COAL		Greg Miller	2025
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	3 Years	Adrienne Raymond	2027

Town of Shrewsbury
OTHER TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES *as of December 31, 2024*

TOWN ROAD CREW (hired by road commissioner)	Dan Cavoto, Nathan Webster, Anthony White (Part-time)	
TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANTS (hired by selectboard)	Jeremiah St. Pierre, Margo Tabor	
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK (Appointed by town clerk for the town clerk's term unless changed by the town clerk.)	Betsy Jesser	2025
ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER (Appointed by treasurer for the treasurer's term unless changed by the treasurer.)	Christina Clarke	2027



Workers at the Annual Pancake Breakfast held at the Meeting House on Spring Maple Open House Weekend. Proceeds helped to support the Shrewsbury Community Church Community Sharing Project.

(L to R) Standing: Steven Nicholson, Julianne Sharrow, Sue Ransom-Kelley, Anussa Park, Tiffany Dayton, Abbie Dayton, Alyssa DaSilva, Roxanne Ramah, Seated: Cortney Allard and Crystal Kelley. Not shown are: Earl Sharrow, Phillippe Ducrot and Shrewsbury Pastor Karen Braeutigam.

³ State appointment for a 5-year term.

Town of Shrewsbury
WARNING for 244th ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Shrewsbury in the County of Rutland are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to take action by Australian Ballot on the following matters:

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

One Moderator	1 year term
One Selectboard Member	3 year term
One Auditor	3 year term
One Lister	3 year term
One 1st Constable	1 year term
One 2nd Constable	1 year term
One Cemetery Commissioner	3 year term
One Cemetery Commissioner	1 year term
One Mill River Unified Union School Director	3 year term

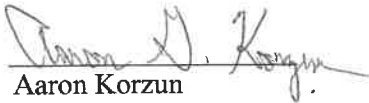
2. Shall the Town approve a total general fund expenditure of **\$1,909,730** of which up to **\$1,036,801** shall be raised by taxes and **\$872,929** by non-property tax revenues and surplus funds and reserve funds?
3. Shall the Town replace the board of listers with a hired professional assessor?
4. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,500** for the Town Office Reserve Fund?
5. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,500** for the Town Garage Reserve Fund?
6. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund?
7. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$85,000** for the Town Road Equipment Fund?
8. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund?
9. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund?
10. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,000** for the Solid Waste Closing Implementation Plan Reserve Fund?
11. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$18,500** for the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House?
12. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Operating Fund?
13. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$7,500** for the Shrewsbury Library?
14. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$3,000** for the Shrewsbury Historical Society?
15. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District?
16. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,526** to help support VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?
17. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support the Green Up Vermont organization?
18. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$130** to help support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)?

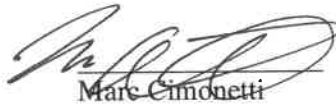
Town of Shrewsbury
WARNING for 244th ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025

19. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$700** to help support the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?
20. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,192** to help support Rutland Mental Health Services?
21. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support NewStory (formally the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter)?
22. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$600** to help support BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?
23. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Rutland County Parent Child Center?
24. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Vermont Family Network?
25. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support the Rutland County Humane Society?
26. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$170** to help support the Vermont Center for Independent Living?
27. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Child First Advocacy Center?
28. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support the American Red Cross of NH/VT?
29. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support Vermont Adult Learning?
30. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support Vermont Farmers Food Center?
31. Shall the taxes be postmarked on or before, or in the hands of the Treasurer no later than 7:00 P.M., **Friday, October 3, 2025.**

Dated: 1/29/25


Shrewsbury Selectboard


Aaron Korzun


Marc Cimdonetti


Francis Wyatt

Attest:


Rebecca A. Rice
Town Clerk

The informational meeting for the annual Shrewsbury Town Meeting will be held at the **Shrewsbury Community Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road at 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 1, 2025.**

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

Town of Shrewsbury
243RD ANNUAL TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, March 2, 2024

The informational meeting was called to order at 11:02 A.M. by Moderator Eldred French. Present were: Selectman Aaron Korzun and Francis Wyatt. 38 members of the public and members of the 6th grade class from the Mountain School.

Moderator French went through the articles one by one and asked for comments and suggestions.

Questions were asked about certain discrepancies in the Town Report as well as the use of the ARPA funds. Concerns were raised about the transparency of the use of the funds which had been used and what the balance of the funds would be used for. The importance of showing what had actually been spent is listed in the Town Report. The selectboard acknowledged certain errors and agreed to restate those in next year's actual report. A request for an actual breakdown of the use of the ARPA funds was requested as well as a request for community involvement in determining the use of the ARPA funds.

A request was made that a list of road projects be provided including what will be done, who will do it, how it will be done, what is to be done and by when it will be done, as well as a cost estimate.

Discussion was had as to whether the Fire Department should be an appropriation item in the Town Budget rather than as an individual separate appropriation.

Discussion was had as to the FEMA funds which may be coming in and a suggestion was made that the request in the town budget be up to a certain amount if the Town believes certain funds may be coming from FEMA grants.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca A. Rice, Town Clerk



Shrewsbury Mountain School students participating in the Shrewsbury Day Parade

Town of Shrewsbury
RESULTS OF THE 243RD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024

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

One Moderator	Eldred French 1 Year Term	
One Selectboard Member	Aaron Korzun 3 Year Term	
One Town Clerk	Rebecca Rice 3 Year Term	
One Town Treasurer	Linda McGuire 3 Year Term	
One Auditor	Sanford (Sandy) Bragg 3 Year Term	
One Lister	Clara Krueger 3 Year Term	
One Lister	No write-in with the requisite number of votes 3 Year Term	
One Delinquent Tax Collector	Steven Nicholson 3 Year Term	
One 1st Constable	Aaron Haupt 1 Year Term	
One 2nd Constable	No write-in with the requisite number of votes 1 Year Term	
One Cemetery Commissioner	Bennie Carrara 3 Year Term	
One Cemetery Commissioner	No write-in with the requisite number of votes 2 Year Term	
One Cemetery Commissioner	No write-in with the requisite number of votes 1 Year Term	
One Director MRUUSD	Stephen Abatiell 3 Year Term	

2. Shall the Town approve a total general fund expenditure of **\$1,401,732** of which **\$971,027** shall be raised by taxes and **\$430,705** by non-property tax revenues and surplus funds? **YES – 262 NO – 93**

3. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,500** for the Town Office Reserve Fund? **YES – 282 NO – 74**

4. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,500** for the Town Garage Reserve Fund? **YES – 305 NO - 52**

5. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund? **YES – 286 NO – 69**

6. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$85,000** for the Town Road Equipment Fund? **YES – 305 NO – 50**

7. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund? **YES – 271 NO – 81**

8. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund? **YES – 298 NO – 56**

9. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$17,000** for the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House? **YES – 273 NO – 84**

10. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Operating Fund? **YES – 312 NO – 44**

11. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$7,500** for the Shrewsbury Library? **YES – 277 NO – 75**

12. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,500** for the Shrewsbury Historical Society? **YES – 250 NO – 98**

13. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District? **YES – 250 NO – 98**

14. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,526** to help support VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region? **YES – 281 NO – 105**

15. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$150** to help support the Green Up Vermont organization? **YES – 273 NO – 68**

Town of Shrewsbury
RESULTS OF THE 243RD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024

16. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$130** to help support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)? **YES – 286 NO – 75**
17. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$700** to help support the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging? **YES – 270 NO – 78**
18. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,192** to help support Rutland Mental Health Services? **YES – 263 NO – 83**
19. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support New Story (formally the Rutland County Women’s Network and Shelter)? **YES – 277 NO – 70**
20. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$600** to help support BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont? **YES – 235 NO – 112**
21. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Rutland County Parent Child Center? **YES – 245 NO – 101**
22. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Vermont Family Network? **YES – 224 NO – 116**
23. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support the Rutland County Humane Society? **YES – 276 NO – 72**
24. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$170** to help support the Vermont Center for Independent Living? **YES – 252 NO – 94**
25. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Child First Advocacy Center? **YES – 251 NO – 92**
26. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support the American Red Cross of NH/VT? **YES – 266 NO – 82**
27. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support Vermont Adult Learning? **YES – 241 NO – 104**
28. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support Vermont Farmers Food Center? **YES – 263 NO - 82**
28. Shall the taxes be postmarked on or before, or in the hands of the Treasurer no later than 7:00 P.M. **Friday, October 4, 2024?** **YES – 318 NO – 28**

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 BOARD OF AUDITORS REPORT

The Board of Auditors is pleased to present this year's town report, as mandated by Vermont statutes. We have audited the financial statements contained herein, which are the responsibility of the town officers and organizations submitting the reports.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements we have reviewed. Based on the records available to us, in our opinion the financial statements included in this report present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Shrewsbury and the organizations it supports financially as of December 31, 2024, as well as the results of their operations for the year.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 24 V.S.A 1681-1684, which, among other things, requires that we examine and adjust the accounts of all town officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer. Our objectives were to 1) validate the correctness of the relevant accounts, 2) detect any errors (or fraud) in these accounts and 3) verify the financial condition and results of operations of the Town for the year ended December 31, 2024. Town auditors are also expected to review the internal controls practiced by the Town.

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

We also reviewed the Town's year-end financial statements, including the budget prepared by the selectboard, as well as the financial statements of town organizations which appear in this report, the transfer station punch card revenues, and the grand list.

In 2024, the Town engaged an independent accounting firm to examine the 2024 town financials, a review which is still ongoing. The Treasurer plans to post the results of the review on the town website when it is completed.

Rich Biziak, who has been a town auditor since 2006 and chair of the Board of Auditors for most of that time, decided not to stand for re-election this year. Rich has served with outstanding diligence and skill, bringing patience, humor, and conscientious thoroughness to the role. Reflecting his own attention to detail, he instituted significant improvements to the town's auditing practices, establishing audit task forms for the various duties, with accompanying Excel-based templates and cloud-based digital records of all auditing tasks. He leaves big shoes for us to fill.

In our roles we are privileged to see in detail the work of Shrewsbury's citizen government. We are grateful for all the support and cooperation from the Selectboard, Board of Listers, Delinquent Tax Collector Steven Nicholson, Assistant Treasurer Chris Clarke, Town Clerk Becca Rice, representatives from all the town-supported organizations and especially that of Treasurer Linda McGuire, who interacts with us throughout the year. We see first-hand all the work they do, which is prodigious and often thankless.

Michelle Greene

Rich Biziak

Sanford Bragg

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Residents,

The Treasurer's Office is responsible for overseeing all financial records as required by State statutes and performing a variety of cash management functions. These include the collection and processing of tax payments, as well as payments for fees, programs, and receivable invoices. As required by the Government Accounting Standards Board our Town is using the modified accrual system for accounting procedures. The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements.

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

Please review the Vermont State Income Tax package for the Homestead Declaration, and online filing is available at <https://tax.vermont.gov>. The due date is April 15th.

The 2024 financial reports are currently being audited by RHR Smith and Company, Buxton, Maine and that information will be available on our website when complete.

Please feel free to reach out by email or phone if there are questions regarding your property tax bill, Homestead declaration, or need a copy of tax records. As always, it is my pleasure to be your treasurer, and I look forward to serving you. I would like to express my appreciation to all those elected officials that serve our Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McGuire

Telephone (802) 492-3558

Email: Shrewsburytreas@vermontel.net

Website: www.shrewsburyvt.org

Town of Shrewsbury
Balance Sheet
For The Year Ended December 31, 2024

	General Fund	Restricted and Designated Funds ⁽⁹⁾	Total Governmental Funds
Assets			
Cash ⁽²⁾	414,138	767,689	1,181,827
Prepaid Expenses	17,754		17,754
Receivables ⁽³⁾			
FEMA	90,027		90,027
Grant- Northam Culvert	20,773		20,773
Delinquent Tax Receivable	60,835		60,835
Other Receivables	2,470		2,470
Capital Assets ⁽⁶⁾			
Land and Buildings	687,142		687,142
Machinery and Equipment	587,497		587,497
Infrastructure	3,535,743		3,535,743
Total Assets	5,416,380	767,689	6,184,069
Current Liabilities			
VMBB Garage Bond ⁽¹²⁾	20,000		20,000
Accounts Payable ⁽⁴⁾	73,888		73,888
Other Current Liabilities	4,982		4,982
Long-Term Liabilities			
VMBB Garage Bond	40,000		40,000
Equity			
Restricted Funds		767,689	767,689
Unrestricted Equity	4,876,360		4,876,360
Excess Revenue/(Loss)	401,149		401,149
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	5,416,380	767,689	6,184,069

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 RESTRICTED OR DESIGNATED TOWN FUNDS ⁽⁹⁾

Fund Name	Beginning Balance	Transferred from General	Disbursed	Interest	Ending Balance
ARPA Funds	\$238,434	\$0	\$238,667	\$237	\$4
Conservation Commission Reserve	\$2,529	\$608	\$0	\$13	\$3,150
Brown Bridge Grant	\$3,069	\$0	\$0	\$13	\$3,082
Townwide Reappraisal Sinking Fund	\$93,644	\$6,660	\$8,940	\$412	\$91,775
Cemetery Reserve Fund	\$1,321	\$0	\$0	\$7	\$1,328
Energy Grant	\$1,125	\$0	\$0	\$5	\$1,130
Garage Reserve Fund	\$25,425	\$2,500	\$0	\$115	\$28,040
Highway Supplement Funds	\$22,849	\$0	\$0	\$133	\$22,982
Road Equipment Reserve Fund	\$67,235	\$93,000	\$41,994	\$330	\$118,571
Records Restoration Fund	\$39,736	\$4,360	\$19,079	\$169	\$25,186
SVFD Equipment Reserve Fund	\$400,603	\$35,000	\$0	\$1,807	\$437,410
Smith Brook Culvert Fund	\$4,414	\$0	\$0	\$20	\$4,434
Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund	\$6,565	\$1,000	\$0	\$30	\$7,595
Town Office Reserve Fund	\$21,405	\$1,500	\$0	\$96	\$23,002
TOTALS	\$928,355	\$144,628	\$308,680	\$3,386	\$767,689

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
Year Ending December 31, 2024

RECEIPTS:

Property Tax Receipts

Taxes: Education Current	\$ 2,384,979	
Taxes: Town Current	972,599	
School Reconciliation Taxes	13,875	
Delinquent Tax	188,609	
Total Property Tax Receipts	<u>3,560,062</u>	\$ 3,560,062

Other Tax Receipts

Land Use	62,042	
State in Lieu of Tax	38,213	
Federal in Lieu of Tax	14,517	
Railroad Tax	720	
Total Other Tax Receipts	<u>115,492</u>	115,492

Road Commission Receipts ⁽¹⁵⁾

FEMA	245,754	
Grant- Northam Culvert	20,774	
Miscellaneous Income	2,438	
Paving Grant	137,416	
Proceeds from Sale	8,000	
Services Rendered	2,470	
State Aid	149,781	
Weight Permits	270	
Total Road Commission Receipts	<u>566,902</u>	566,902

Other Receipts

2024 Budget Adjustment- Vermont	20,000	
Act 60 Funds	6,660	
Conservation Commission	608	
DRB Hearing Fee	450	
Dog Licenses	341	
Elections Grant	5,000	
Fines	1,235	
Interest	3,831	
Leased Land	60	
Liquor License	370	
Marriage License	65	
Miscellaneous	560	
Restoration Fees	3,360	
Transfer Station Card Income	12,760	
Zoning Permits	2,693	
Total Other Receipts	<u>57,992</u>	57,992

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$ 4,300,448

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
Year Ending December 31, 2024

DISBURSEMENTS:

School Account	\$	2,395,334
Selectboard's Orders (Net) ⁽¹⁰⁾		299,088
Road Commissioners Orders (Net)		1,243,663
Depreciation ⁽⁷⁾		358,817
Capitalized Improvements ⁽⁶⁾ & Liability ⁽¹²⁾		(594,190)

Warned Items

American Red Cross	\$	500
Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council		600
Child First Advocacy Center		400
Garage Reserve Fund		2,500
Green Up		150
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program		130
Road Equipment Sinking Fund		85,000
Rutland County Humane Society		150
Rutland Mental Health		1,192
Rutland Area Visiting Nurse & Hospice		2,526
New Story		150
Rutland Natural Resources Conservation		250
Rutland Parent/Child Center		400
Shrewsbury Community Meeting House		17,000
Shrewsbury Historical Society		2,500
Shrewsbury Town Library		7,500
Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department		35,000
SVFD-Equipment Reserve Sinking Fund		35,000
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging		700
Town Office Sinking Fund		1,500
Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund		1,000
Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund		1,000
Vermont Adult Learning		500
Vermont Family Network		250
Vermont Center for Independent Living		170
Vermont Farmers Food Center		500
Total Warned Items		196,568

196,568

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$ 3,899,279

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$ 401,149

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McGuire, Treasurer

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 PAYROLL FOR TOWN OFFICIALS, APPOINTED AND EMPLOYEES

<u>Department</u>		<u>Amount</u>
Selectboard Salaries	\$	3,900.00
Town Officers Salaries, Administrative & Fees**		77,555.39
Delinquent Tax Collection Salary**		13,263.53
FEMA Administration		6,531.25
Transfer Station Attendant and Administration Salaries		24,560.00
Lister Salary		5,188.25
Road Salaries		222,865.50
Total Salaries and Fees		<u>353,863.92</u>
Social Security/Medicare Matching Expense (less deductions)		<u>27,847.26</u>
Total Town Payroll Expense/Calendar Year	\$	<u><u>381,711.18</u></u>

Payroll reporting for calendar year.

** Based on fees collected

Pension information available in Note #13

Town of Shrewsbury – Treasurer’s Report
2024 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

2. Cash. At year-end the Town’s bank balance was \$1,181,827, which is covered by federal depository Insurance, or was collateralized with securities held by the financial institution’s agent in the Town’s name. No values were unsecured or uncollateralized.

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

Accounts Receivable	
FEMA	\$ 90,027
Delinquent tax receivable	60,835
Grant- State of Vermont	20,774
Other Receivables	<u>2,470</u>
Total Receivables	\$ 174,106

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

Accrued Payroll	\$ 4,740
Miscellaneous Vendors	<u>69,148</u>
Total Payables	\$ 73,888

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

6. Capital Assets. Capital asset activity for year-end was as follows,

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital Assets not being depreciated:			
Land	<u>\$293,361</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 293,361</u>
Capital Assets being depreciated:			
Buildings and Improvements	1,104,113	14,096	1,118,209
Vehicles and Equipment	1,712,541	245,894	1,958,435
Roads, Bridges, & Culverts	<u>5,867,995</u>	<u>314,201</u>	<u>6,182,195</u>
TOTALS	8,684,649	574,190	9,258,839
Less accumulated depreciation for:			
Buildings and Improvements	700,836	23,592	724,428
Vehicles and Equipment	1,267,851	103,086	1,370,937
Roads, Bridges & Culverts	<u>2,414,314</u>	<u>232,139</u>	<u>2,646,453</u>
TOTALS	<u>4,383,001</u>	<u>358,817</u>	<u>4,741,818</u>
Total Capital Assets being depreciated	<u>4,301,648</u>	<u>215,373</u>	<u>4,517,021</u>
Government Activity Capital Assets, Net	<u>4,595,009</u>	<u>215,373</u>	<u>4,810,382</u>

Town of Shrewsbury - Treasurer's Report
2024 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Buildings	\$ 23,592
Vehicles and Equipment	103,086
Roads, Bridges & Culverts	<u>232,139</u>
Total Depreciation	\$ 358,817

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

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

9. Restricted/Designated Funds.

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

Town of Shrewsbury – Treasurer’s Report
2024 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Transfer Station Costs. It is estimated that 30 hours of road crew hours were spent working at the transfer station, resulting in \$930 of additional expenses directly attributed to the transfer station.

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

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

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>
2025	20,000	2,787	22,787
2026	20,000	1,862	21,862
2027	20,000	933	20,933
	\$ 60,000	\$ 5,582	\$65,582

13. Pension Funds. Town employees eligible for the Vermont Municipal Employees’ Retirement System are required to pay 4.0% of wages and the Town contributes 5.50% which are expenses in the financial statements. These rates are expected to increase in July of 2024, but they have not been determined by the legislature at this time. The town currently has three members. Vesting occurs upon reaching 5 years of creditable service. Additional information is available at the Vermont State Treasurer’s website.

14. Line of Credit. Because of the flooding in July, the Town obtained on August 3, 2023, a line of credit of \$750,000 at 3.99% interest for one year period from the Community Bank. This was extended through December 30th with an interest rate of 5.79% and full paid in October of 2024.

15. Federal Emergency Management Administration. Projects are currently being compiled and submitted. Marc Cimonetti is our administrator for this work. It is expected that the Town will be reimbursed with FEMA reimbursing 75% and the State of Vermont the remaining 25% of costs for the various projects.

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

17. Audit. RHR Smith & Company are currently auditing our 2024 financial reports. The completed audit will be available on the website when completed.

TOWN OF SHREWSBURY - Treasurer's Report
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Year Ending December 31, 2024

GRAND LIST		
Real Estate and Equipment	\$ 169,592,486	
Less Exemptions	<u>12,269,986</u>	
TOTAL GRAND LIST		<u><u>\$ 157,322,500</u></u>
TAXES BILLED		
Municipal Grand List	1,573,225	
Tax Rate	<u>0.6172</u>	
Municipal Taxes Billed		970,994.47
Education Grand List-Non-Resident	728,477	
Tax Rate-Statewide Share	<u>1.7742</u>	
Education Non-Resident Taxes Billed		1,292,463.65
Education Grand List-Homestead	853,290	
Tax Rate-Local Share	<u>1.6644</u>	
Education Resident Taxes Billed		1,420,215.88
Municipal Grand List	\$ 1,573,225	
Local Agreement Tax Share	<u>0.0016</u>	
Local Agreement Taxes Billed		2,517.16
Municipal Grand List	\$ 1,573,225	
Appropriations	<u>0.1249</u>	
Local Agreement Taxes Billed		196,495.75
TOTAL TAXES BILLED		<u><u>3,882,686.90</u></u>
TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR		
Taxes Collected	3,693,562.67	-
Delinquent Taxes	186,899.42	-
Adjustments/Changes	14,956.16	
Refunds/Overpayments	<u>(12,731.35)</u>	
TOTAL TAXES ACCOUNTED		<u><u>3,882,686.90</u></u>
TAX RATE PERCENTAGES		
The 2024 Tax Rate as follows:		
General Town	0.6172	970,994.47
Appropriations	0.1249	196,495.75
Local Agreement Rate	0.0016	2,517.16
Schools Residential	1.6644	1,420,215.88
Schools Non-Residential	1.7742	1,292,463.65
		<u><u>3,882,686.90</u></u>
Resident	2.4081	
Non-Resident	2.5179	

Town of Shrewsbury - Treasurer's Report
2024 TAX COMPARISON

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GRAND LIST</u>		<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>TAXES BILLED</u>
2024	1,573,225	Residential	2.4081	3,882,687
		Non-Residential	2.5179	
2023	1,560,624	Residential	2.1454	3,381,903
		Non-Residential	2.1755	
2022	1,666,176	Residential	2.0452	3,234,576
		Non-Residential	2.1355	
2021	1,668,192	Residential	2.0596	3,233,533
		Non-Residential	2.118	
2020	1,670,863	Residential	1.8745	2,920,396
		Non-Residential	1.8912	
2019	1,664,196	Residential	1.914	2,969,470
		Non-Residential	1.9311	
2018	1,657,498	Residential	1.9366	3,013,767
		Non-Residential	1.9878	
2017	1,655,868	Residential	1.9122	2,956,890
		Non-Residential	1.9428	
2016	1,625,801	Residential	1.7791	2,739,762
		Non-Residential	1.8793	
2015	1,618,198	Residential	1.7589	2,725,958
		Non-Residential	1.9266	

Reappraisal complete in 2010.

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES REPORT
For the year ending December 31, 2024

Delinquent Tax Collections and Balance

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024	43,049.84
2nd Amendment to 2023 Warrant, 1/17/24	1709.81
Warrant to Collect, October 18, 2024	209,372.86
1st Amendment to Warrant, 10/23/2024	(23,363.10)
2nd Amendment to Warrant, 11/06/2024	(393.85)
3rd Amendment to Warrant, 11/13/2024	1,283.51
Total taxes delinquent	231,659.07
Less delinquent taxes collected in 2024	(170,824.27)
Balance outstanding December 31, 2024	60,834.80
Payments received up to 02/03/2025	(17,790.67)
Taxes in Arrears as of 02/03/2025	43,044.13

Delinquent Taxes still due as of 02/03/2025 (26 accounts)

Tax year	Name	Tax Balance	Notes
2024	Bennick, James & Deborah, B. Guillette	1,381.60	payment plan
2017	Chapter 13 Trustee	1,258.38	
2023	Citibank, as Trustee	1,709.81	
2024	Felion, Gregory	3,927.86	payment plan
2023	Frydel, Irene	316.78	payment plan
2024	Frydel, Irene	3,797.57	
2023	Gaylord, Mercedes	187.95	payment plan
2024	Gaylord, Mercedes	2,230.70	payment plan
2024	Geary, Michael	2,442.36	payment plan
2024	Goodwin, Karl	4,232.59	
2023	Hunter Pam, William, jr., Harold, George	243.65	
2024	Hunter Pam, William, jr., Harold, George	282.00	
2023	Lees, Richard & Adrienne	3,054.27	
2024	Lees, Richard & Adrienne	1,260.97	
2023	McWilliams, Mark	267.58	
2024	McWilliams, Mark	309.71	
2024	Pailing-Lawrencw Mona	984.50	payment plan
2023	Paul, Hillary Adams	3,217.26	
2024	Paul, Hillary Adams	3,829.73	
2022	Rantanen, Donna	121.04	
2023	Rantanen, Donna	317.09	
2024	Regimbald, Irene	1556.07	payment plan
2023	Vermont Property Ventures, Inc.	897.02	
2023	Wallace, Harold & Charlotte	226.14	payment plan
2024	Wallace, Harold & Abigail	2,376.79	
2024	Wendell, Harry & Michelle	2,614.71	payment plan
Balance of Taxes in Arrears		43,044.13	

Delinquent Taxes and Fees collected in 2024	Taxes collected	Fees collected in 2024	Tax Over-Payments
Totals for 2024	170,824.27	12,903.43	79.27
Postage reimbursements received in 2024	91.61		

Steven Nicholson, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 BOARD OF LISTERS REPORT

In 2024, in addition to our usual duties, the Board of Listers focused on updating the resources we have available to the public. The board has refreshed the lister card files that are available for viewing in the Town Office. The board has also begun the process of digitizing these records.

Our CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) for 2024 is 68.17%, which is down from last year's 78.4%. Our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) for 2024 is 22.76%, which is up from last year's 19.83%. This COD is over the 20% allowed by the state and requires that the town begin the process of reappraisal. The town has hired Tyler Industries to conduct this reappraisal in 2027.

AS A REMINDER, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT HS-122s (HOMESTEAD DECLARATIONS) NEED TO BE FILED ANNUALLY (BY APRIL 15) TO RECEIVE THE VERMONT RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE. Please be sure to file your Homestead Declarations on a timely basis to avoid late fees.

After much thought and discussion, the Board of Listers has voted to recommend that the Town abolish the Board of Listers. It has become clear that the job of Lister is much more complex and technical than it was in generations past. It is no longer a viable option for townspeople to take up the role of Lister as a part-time job. The tasks and knowledge required of Listers makes the job one that needs a professional to accomplish.

To replace the Board of Listers, we recommend that the Town hire a professional assessor. We also recommend that the Town hire a local townspeople to assist the assessor and perform clerical duties for them in the town office. A professional will be able to accomplish the job more quickly, consistently, and much more cost-effectively. We anticipate that the total cost to the Town would be similar to the current Lister budget. Hiring a local person to assist them will help further with cost reduction and will make sure that the local touch is still felt.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Ryan, Chair, Shrewsbury Board of Listers



Mill River High School Students serenading customers at Pierce's Store on Valentine's Day with a rousing rendition of Can't Help Falling In Love With You. Shrewsbury students participating were Allison Billodeau, Alaina Cimonetti, Miguel Levy, Claire Morris and Micah Patton.

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SELECTBOARD REPORT

In April, the Selectboard accepted the 2024 Local Emergency Management Plan and Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement.

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department continues to work for our Town, enforcing speed limits in Town and in Cuttingsville, and also dealing with animal control issues.

The Cuttingsville speed limit will remain at 35 mph. With the help of concerned townspeople, we convinced the Vermont Traffic Committee to keep the speed limit at 35 mph throughout Cuttingsville. We will continue to deploy the speed cart in Town and in Cuttingsville.

The Shrewsbury Listers have recommended that the Board of Listers be abolished, and a contract assessor hired in its place. This item is on the ballot for 2025.

The Town Garage is now serviced by an emergency standby generator.

The Town Office will see improvements to the heating system in 2025.

The Selectboard has adopted the Class 4 and Trails policy; this is a first step in de-classifying Town roads that are a risk to our Town.

The Selectboard would like to recognize Jamie Carrara for his many decades of service to Shrewsbury. In both of his positions as a road crew member and his leadership position as Road Commissioner, we have been fortunate to have him clearing and maintaining our roadways. We appreciate his extraordinary commitment and 24/7 work ethic. While most of us slept, Jamie kept our roadways clear and safe for our residents to travel. We thank him for his dedication and years of service to our town.

Aaron Korzun, Chair

Francis Wyatt

Marc Cimonetti

Town of Shrewsbury, VT
2024 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

This year we were fortunate to not have any new damage to report. We worked with FEMA for reimbursement for the damage from previous years and all reimbursement requests have been submitted. We are awaiting final approval from the State of Vermont and anticipate receiving the balance of funds soon.

Additionally, the Selectboard/Emergency Management started a Facebook page for the purpose of facilitating information in an emergency. Please consider liking or following the page, which is titled "Town of Shrewsbury, VT Select Board/Emergency Management," so that you may receive current information should an emergency arise. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095097699074>

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Cimonetti, EMC
Aaron Korzun, EMD

Town of Shrewsbury
STATEMENT OF REVENUES-GENERAL AND ROADS
BUDGETED AND ACTUAL
Year ended December 31, 2024

	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
REVENUES				
TAXES:				
Current Property Taxes	774,391	971,027	972,599	1,036,801
Delinquent Tax	126,829		188,609	-
Less: Warned Items	(186,068)		(196,568)	-
Current Property Taxes for General & Roads	715,152	971,027	964,640	1,036,801
Federal in Lieu of Taxes	13,649	13,649	14,517	14,517
State In Lieu of Taxes	38,213	38,213	38,213	38,213
Land Use Taxes and Release of Land Use	63,260	60,000	62,042	62,042
Railroad Tax	480	480	720	720
Total Other Tax Receipts	115,602	112,342	115,492	115,492
ROADS:				
Paving Grant			137,416	
FEMA			245,754	54,000
Grant - Northam Culvert			20,774	200,000
Grants		27,000		-
State Aid to Roads	216,018	144,000	149,781	
Misc			2,438	-
Services Rendered - Roads	-	-	2,470	-
Proceeds from sale of equip			8,000	-
Weight Permits	270	300	270	270
Total Road Receipts	216,288	171,300	566,902	254,270
OTHER RECEIPTS:				
Elections Grant			5,000	-
State of Vermont		-	20,000	-
Act 60 Funds, Restricted Use funds	6,650	6,650	6,660	-
Conservation Commission, Restricted Use Funds	244	-	608	-
Licenses	372	375	406	406
Fines Received	2,017	1,500	1,235	1,235
Interest Income, General Fund	1,860	500	3,831	1,000
Leased Land	60	30	60	30
Liquor Licenses	370	370	370	370
Misc. income, Misc. fees	302	100	560	100
Recycling	6	-		-
Restoration Fees, Restricted use funds	2,376	-	3,360	-
School Tax Reconciliation-previous year	25,553	-		-
Transfer Station Punch Cards	14,138	14,000	12,740	14,000
Zoning Permits/DRB Hearing Fees/Subdivision Permits:	1,410	1,400	3,143	1,400
Total Other Receipts	55,358	24,925	57,972	18,541
TOTAL REVENUE	1,102,400	1,279,594	1,705,006	1,425,104
Cash Beginning Balance General Fund	224,493	82,270	82,270	414,262
Less Restricted Use Funds Received	(9,270)	(6,650)	(15,268)	-
Available Receivables & Pre-Paid less Payables	(74,456)	13,584	13,584	47,364
Transfers from Reserve and Restricted Funds	181,856	40,800	307,791	23,000
Cash Available for Expenses General Fund	1,425,023	1,409,598	2,093,383	1,909,730

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL EXPENSES-BUDGETED AND ACTUAL
Year ended December 31, 2024

	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
GENERAL EXPENSES				
TRANSFER STATION				
Tipping Fees	11,466	11,000	14,418	14,850
Hauling	9,200	7,500	6,468	6,662
Tipping-Plastic, Cardboard		3,600	2,431	2,504
Hauling- Plastic, Cardboard		2,400	5,000	5,150
Salary-Transfer Station Attendants	25,579	37,752	19,604	39,187
Salary- Transfer Station Administrator	1,050	1,500	1,422	1,500
Payroll Expenses	3,127	3,003	1,873	3,117
Maintenance	3,750	3,000		3,000
Solid Waste Dues	5,085	5,085	5,557	5,650
Equipment/Facilities	15,460	1,300	9,109	5,000
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal	1,405	1,300	1,474	1,500
Supplies	519	700	836	900
Workers Compensation	1,647	2,100	2,250	2,180
Solid Waste Closing Implementation Plan		2,000		2,000
Electricity	1,222	1,700	768	1,000
Phone	636	650	683	700
Composting	4,290	6,000	3,015	5,000
Electronics Recycling	4,146	500	2,587	3,000
Total Transfer Station	88,582	91,090	77,493	102,899
TOWN OFFICERS EXPENSE				
Planning Commission Expense	42	3,300	711	2,783
Emergency Management	-			1,000
Building/Property/Liability Insurance	1,912	4,500	4,340	5,000
Law Enforcement Liability Insurance	240	750	15	500
Public Officials Liability Insurance	2,648	1,800	1,293	1,800
Emp. Practices Liability Insurance	1,853	1,500	1,050	1,500
Crime Insurance	117	519		519
Workers Compensation	264	300	1,111	300
Office Heat/Electric	1,838	6,800	4,479	6,800
Training/Education	256	650	424	650
Postage	1,240	3,500	2,330	3,000
Supplies & Equipment*	6,654	5,000	8,823	5,000
Elections	1,698	7,500	5,167	2,900
Software	2,235	1,800	2,745	5,400
Selectboard Salary	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900
Other Town Officers Salary	55,541	97,400	73,797	108,540
Payroll Expenses	6,968	9,402	8,462	12,446
Retirement	965	2,205		-
Office Communications	5,078	3,900	4,157	5,000
Mileage Reimbursement	706	1,500	1,006	1,500
Building Maintenance/Repair	4,130	23,000	2,524	30,000
Warnings - DRB	178	500	438	500
Town Report	2,203	2,500	2,576	2,800
Total Town Officers Expense	100,664	182,226	129,348	201,838

Continued

Town of Shrewsbury
GENERAL EXPENSES-BUDGETED AND ACTUAL (Continued)
Year ended December 31, 2024

	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
LISTERS				
Lister Salaries	10,009	29,500	5,263	34,100
Payroll Expenses	766	1,800	6	2,100
Supplies and Software*	1,711	6,000	747	300
Upgrade Parcel Mapping	1,600	1,500	1,600	4,500
Tax Appeal Legal/Consulting Fees	14,663	3,500	17,635	3,500
Training & Training Mileage	266	1,000	70	2,000
Total Listers Expense	29,014	43,300	25,321	46,500
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS				
Animal Damage and Control	-	300	185	300
Audit	4,800	10,000	5,250	10,000
Conservation Commission	1,250	1,250	945	1,300
County Court Tax	12,279	16,000	11,437	16,000
Garage Bond Principal and Interest Payment	23,216	25,000	22,319	23,000
Interest expense, other			5,123	
Law Enforcement	9,928	20,000	9,249	25,000
Legal Fees	200	2,000		5,000
Miscellaneous expenses	1			
Miscellaneous Disposal expenses			29	2,500
Regional Ambulance Service		4,384	8,768	4,384
Rutland Regional Planning Commission Dues	1,000	1,050	1,000	1,000
Town Events	310	500		500
Town Records Digitization*	51,480		31,564	
Town Reappraisal			8,940	
Vermont League of Cities & Towns Dues	2,542	2,750	2,621	2,750
Total Other Disbursements	107,006	83,234	107,430	91,734
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	325,266	399,850	339,591	442,971



Easter Egg Hunt Participants at Pierce's Store

Town of Shrewsbury
ROAD EXPENSES-BUDGETED AND ACTUAL
Year Ended December 31, 2024

	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
ROAD EXPENSES				
ROADS				
Chloride	10,175	12,000	10,451	12,500
Floodwork	225,446			
Grant in Aid - Frank Lord Road	1,540			
Guardrail Cold River			8,823	-
Northam TH2 Culvert			20,774	450,000
Gravel and Stone	42,889	60,000	46,109	60,000
Salt	39,814	50,000	44,637	55,000
Winter Sand	57,778	70,000	49,544	70,000
Erosion Control	40	500	80	500
Stormwater Municipal Rds. General Permit	1,765	1,800	1,350	1,350
Culverts & Bridges	8,026	8,000	5,576	10,000
Tree Removal	1,800	3,000	4,600	5,000
Paving	132,416	160,000	279,029	160,000
Equipment Rental	1,818	7,000		7,000
Salaries	162,857	274,620	220,763	257,763
Payroll Expenses	11,643	21,008	17,264	20,000
VT State Retirement	8,001	14,761	11,718	14,177
VLCT Workmen's Compensation	9,753	16,477	8,516	9,820
Health Insurance/Dental Insurance	49,498	96,567	66,593	87,087
VLCT Unemployment	572	600	351	600
Training	3,250	150	5,330	14,000
Other	-	100	1,000	1,000
Total Roads	769,081	796,583	802,506	1,235,797
TOWN EQUIPMENT				
Parts & Repairs	68,966	55,000	71,836	70,000
Tires & Repairs	12,611	15,000	12,812	16,000
Fuels & Lubricants	55,237	60,000	48,804	60,000
Lease payment	47,447	-		-
New Equipment*	84,418	10,000	249,416	10,000
Misc. Supplies	453	500	1,205	700
Signs	1,785	3,000	1,754	3,000
Safety Equipment & PPE	778	2,500	898	2,500
Total Town Equipment	271,695	146,000	386,725	162,200
TOWN GARAGES				
Equipment	132	1,550	987	9,850
Heating Fuel	9,660	7,500	6,966	7,500
Maintenance & Supplies	1,281	1,500	2,470	2,500
Electricity	2,452	3,000	4,168	3,500
Communications	3,913	5,740	5,915	6,000
Buildings & Repair	3,178	25,000	18,914	25,000
Property & Casualty & Vehicle Insurance	13,355	15,009	15,012	14,412
Total Town Garages	33,970	59,299	54,432	68,762
TOTAL ROAD EXPENSES	1,074,746	1,001,882	1,243,663	1,466,759
TOTAL GENERAL & ROADS EXPENSES	1,400,012	1,401,732	1,583,254	1,909,730

Town of Shrewsbury, VT
2024 ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORT

The Town received a highway class 2 paving grant, and a structures grant in 2024. The paving grant was in the amount of \$137,416, which paved 1.6 miles on the Cold River Road. This allowed the Town to pave .04 tenths of a mile on Eastham Road and .07 tenths of a mile on Mt Holly Road with our normal budget. The structures grant, in the amount of \$200,000, is for replacing a 6 ft diameter metal culvert on Northam Road just below the Mountain School Road. This culvert is severely undersized and in very poor condition with water washing around the culvert because the metal has rotted away. During flood events, or just high water, sinkholes appear mostly on the shoulder by the guardrail where we have to fill the hole in with rock frequently. During the 2023 flooding, sinkholes appeared in the tar. The estimate for this project is \$450,000. Nancy Bell is helping the Town by looking into different funding options for this project. Thank you, Nancy, for helping the Town out. The design, permitting, and bidding should be done by spring with construction possibly happening during school summer vacation. Thank you for your patience and support.

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

- a. 3,506 tons of gravel and stone were used on various roads.
- b. 3,405 tons of sand were stockpiled for winter use.
- c. 0.4 miles on Eastham Road and 0.7 miles on Mt Holly Road were paved.
- d. 1.6 miles of Cold River Road were paved.

Respectfully submitted,
 James Carrara – 2024 Road Commissioner

2024 Inventory of Town Equipment Estimated Value	
2020 International HV513 with plow and sander	\$130,000
2017 International 7600 with plow and sander	\$60,000
2015 Caterpillar 12 M 3 Grader	\$235,000
2015 International 7600 with plow and sander	\$30,000
2014 Ford F-550 with plow and sander	\$25,000
2010 International 7600 with plow and sander	\$25,000
2015 Massey Ferguson 5710 Tractor with mower	\$70,000
2009 John Deere 5065E tractor with mower, broom	\$10,000
2005 Caterpillar 307C Excavator	\$25,000
2020 Cam Trailer	\$15,000
2019 John Deere 544L Loader	\$120,000
2013 Caterpillar 430F Backhoe	\$35,000
1995 Woodchuck Brush Chipper	\$3,000
2024 F 600 with plow and sander	\$146,000
Miscellaneous Tools	\$15,000
Goosen Bale Chopper	\$3,000
Total	\$947,000

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 TOWN CLERK REPORT

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

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

In 2024 Shrewsbury had three elections: the Town Meeting combined with the Presidential Primary Election in March, the State of Vermont Primary Election in August and the General Election in November. Shrewsbury did not need to have a recount in any of the elections. The Board of Civil Authority did not meet to go over the registered voter list but is required by statute to do so in odd numbered years and will do so in 2025.

The Board of Abatement met in December 2024 to hear five tax appeals, four dealing with abatements of penalties for late paid taxes and one for a tax assessment on a home which had suffered a fire in January 2022, but which had not been reassessed by the listers until 2024.

I was appointed to the office of Town Clerk in January 2024 and was elected to the position at the Town Meeting in March. Although I was familiar with the land records operations of Town Clerk's offices, elections were a completely new process for me. Fortunately, Mark Goodwin and Betsy Jesser were more than willing to help bring me up to speed and all three elections ran quite smoothly. The Board of Civil Authority members and poll workers did an excellent job keeping the elections moving. After once going through the process of counting ballots by hand many years ago, having the tabulators certainly improves the efficiency of the process, except for the counting of write-in ballots.

The Town Records have all now been digitized and many, though not all of them, are indexed and available on-line. This was made possible by federal funds available through ARPA and has taken up a good deal of my time this year.

The Town Office still has a supply of COVID test kits available at no cost, so if you need some, feel free to come in while I am here and get them.

Folks should be aware that the state increased the amount it will now be getting from dog licenses by \$2.00, so the fee for Neutered/Spayed dogs is now \$11.00 per dog and the fee for an intact male or unspayed female is now \$15.00 per dog. The late fee for licenses issued after April 1, 2025, remains at \$4.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca A. Rice, Town Clerk

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
BIRTHS	9	8	8	6	6	6	10	4	7
DEATHS	13	11	15	7	12	9	9	9	9
CIVIL MARRIAGES	4	5	6	3	6	9	5	6	6

Upon recommendation of the Vermont Department of Health, no names are published in this report. The vital records are available at the Town Office and are public records. Note: The implementation date for Act 46 was July 1, 2019. Certified Copies of Birth & Death Vital Records will require the submission of an application from family member, legal guardian and certain other court related parties and legal representatives.

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 ANIMAL LICENSE REPORT

QUANTITY	TYPE	FEE	COLLECTED
49	Spayed Female	\$9.00 Each	\$441
49	Neutered Male	\$9.00 Each	\$441
4	Unspayed Female	\$13.00 Each	\$52
5	Un-Neutered Males	\$13.00 Each	\$65
0	Special Permit	\$30.00 Each	\$0
0	Pet Dealer License	\$25.00 Each	\$0
Total: 107			
17	Late Fees	\$4.00 Each	\$68
		TOTAL	\$1,067
Fees Retained by Town of Shrewsbury			\$341
Fees Retained by Shrewsbury Town Clerk			\$196
Fees Submitted to State Spay/Neuter Program			\$318
Fees Submitted to the State for Mandatory Assessment			\$212
TOTAL			\$1,067

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE REPORT

Shrewsbury has seven Justices of the Peace - the number based on the population of the town and Vermont law. Town justices serving in 2024 were Sally Deinzer, Barry Griffith, Betsy Jesser, Taffy Maynard, Trish Norton, Adrienne Raymond and Lee Wilson.

Justices constitute a majority of the Town Board of Civil Authority. The Justices serve on that body together with the selectboard members and the town clerk. Our most important responsibility is administering elections in town smoothly and accurately. In 2024 we had three elections to oversee: Town Meeting in March, party primaries in August, and the general election in November. Town justices worked closely with the town clerk on all three. In each case we spent hours testing the vote tabulator to ensure its accuracy, processing ballots submitted in advance, supervising the polling place on election day, and ensuring a correct final tally once the polls were closed.

Justices also serve on the Shrewsbury Board of Abatement (BoA), a board which also includes the listers and town treasurer. As BoA members your town justices received, scheduled, heard, and decided six requests for abatement in 2024.

Justices of the Peace are elected in November of even numbered years. Lee Wilson and Sally Deinzer decided not to run for reelection in 2024. We have lost track of how many town offices Lee has held over many years, but know that both Lee and Sally have aided – and continue to aid – our community in many ways. Thank you both for your years of service to Shrewsbury as Justices of the Peace.

The other incumbents named above were elected to serve another term. They will be joined in 2025 by Ludy Biddle and Bob Ferguson, Sr. These new terms begin February 1, 2025. We welcome Bob and Ludy to our ranks and look forward to working with them in the year ahead serving Shrewsbury.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Griffith, Justice of the Peace, and BoA Chair



The Shrewsbury Blues Band entertaining at the Shrewsbury Library's Haystack Dinner and Street Dance held at the Meeting House. (L to R) Paul Sgalia, Emmett Sirjane, Aaron Schneider, Miguel Levy, Marcos Levy, and Dirk Thomas

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

2024 was busy with many phone calls, but an average number of permits applications were submitted. Twenty permits were issued in total. Two new homes and three camps were permitted, as well as numerous garages, storage buildings, and additions of one sort or another.

Spring Lake Ranch has embarked on an ambitious project that includes a Main House expansion that involves rebuilding multiple spaces as well as what can best be described as a mini campus at the top of the hill behind the small green pond. There will be limited residential housing, meeting, and communal spaces, as well as a separate parking area to meet the needs of their clients that are ready to move on from residential Ranch services but want to stay connected to needed and familiar supports.

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

If you are assuming that a structure does not need a permit because it has no foundation and is temporary, please consider that temporary means it is in place less than half the year. How many of us and our neighbors have "temporary buildings" on their property for far longer? How many of us have storage containers and plastic covered storage structures that should have a permit? I asked this question last year and I am sorry to say that most of you did not take the opportunity to apply for permits after the fact. The offer is still there. Get your permits in order before you intend to sell or refinance since making things right in a time crunch is not a satisfying experience for anyone.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Raymond, Zoning Administrator

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD REPORT

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

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

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

During 2024, the DRB held five hearings, which consisted of: one conditional use application, one subdivision, three waivers from setback and one floodplain review.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Youngstrom

Town of Shrewsbury, VT
2024 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT

2024 was busy with many phone calls regarding animals in town. Some reported lost animals, some found, some about animals not being treated properly. All calls were returned, with various results.

To be clear, all dogs that reside in Shrewsbury - regardless of whether they leave your property - should be licensed. To be licensed they are required to be vaccinated against Rabies. Rabies is not a disease to be trifled with and it has been found in Rutland County in racoons. Your pets are in danger of getting Rabies from wild animal contact if they are outside. Please vaccinate your animals and license your dogs. If they get lost their license is the best way of getting them back. Betsy Jesser's email list which posts lost and found pets has also been very helpful in reuniting owners and pets in Shrewsbury and surrounding towns.

Some of the phone calls I have received involve dogs wearing GPS collars that were allowed to wander. The fact that you know where your dog is does not change Shrewsbury's requirement that you always have control over your dog - this means you should have your dog in view. Please remember this, as wandering dogs annoy neighbors and are in danger of getting hit by a car or causing an accident. There are fines that can be assessed on owners who repeatedly let their animals off their property with no oversight. Please do the right thing.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Raymond, Animal Control Officer



Docents preparing to give tours at the Bowman Mansion in Cuttingsville
Stepwise and from L to R starting at the top: Rachelle Patten, Ann Vanneman, Cathy Louttit, Freddie
Monder, Nancy Ellery, Alannah Severy, and Jeff Monder

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

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

- Prepare amendments to the town plan and to land use regulations for adoption by the Selectboard.
- Undertake studies and make recommendations on matters of land development, economic development, wetland and wildlife habitat protection, and historic and scenic preservation.
- Hold public meetings that relate to the work of the SPC with other town departments.
- Participate in the Rutland Regional Planning program.

Updated town census data from the SPC appeared in the July issue of the Times of Shrewsbury which showed little change in the town's population or housing stock, though it did alert us to the aging population!

A Class 4 Highway & Trails Policy was reviewed over several public Selectboard meetings and adopted on January 1, 2025.

The Planning Commission held a Community Values Mapping event in April. Over 40 townspeople from all over Shrewsbury came to the Community Meeting House to mark their favorite and most valued places on maps of Shrewsbury. The SPC is consolidating the markup data, and we will soon be publishing maps of the data results for townspeople to view. The map data will help to guide our town planning.

The SPC is currently deeply engaged in developing our plan of action for a 2027 Town Plan. We expect this project to take two years to complete. Shrewsberries can expect to see more public feedback processes such as surveys, or other in-person events. Along with input from townspeople, as well as from other town departments and commissions, the 2027 Town Plan will include all significant Vermont statutory changes made by the legislature.

We regret that Ryan Fitzbeauchamp is stepping down as a member of the SPC. However, Ryan plans to stay engaged in helping to develop the 2027 Town Plan - specifically around agricultural land use. Ryan has been and continues to be a valuable asset to our planning commission, and he continues to serve the Town of Shrewsbury as an alternate to the Development Review Board.

The SPC has two vacancies on our five-member body. Reach out to us if you would like to learn more about the valuable work of serving on the Shrewsbury Planning Commission. It is an opportunity to have input on how we can influence land use for agriculture, residential and commercial development, recreational opportunities, conserved habitat for wildlife, and support community in our beloved town.

The SPC meets at 7:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. We welcome input and dialogue from everyone in our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Black, SPC Chair

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 TOWN HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

In 2024 there were two dog bites, and one cat bite reported. One dog was up to date with rabies vaccination. Of note, three raccoons tested positive for rabies in Rutland. No domestic animals have been found with rabies in Rutland County. It has been many years since there was a positive result in Rutland County. Please continue to keep your pets up to date with vaccines and licensing.

In July I responded with the animal control officer to a complaint of many animals being housed in questionable conditions. Pigs were getting out into the road and onto a neighbor's property. Garbage and improper containment of animal waste was another concern. The owners of the property reduced the number of animals onsite and cleaned up the garbage and property.

Health officer training courses that were provided this year were THO 101 covering basic duties and enforcement tools, THO Role in Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Outdoor Air Quality, which included information on the THO's role responding to complaints of illegal open burning.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the town of Shrewsbury for the past eight years. My term expires 3/31/2026. I again will waive the fee budgeted for the Town Health Officer. I have no receipts to present to the treasurer for payment.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Felder, RN

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The responsibility of the Shrewsbury Cemetery Commission is to oversee and maintain the small family cemeteries in town. Occasionally commission members are asked for genealogy information.

During the settlement of the town in the late 1700's and early 1800's, two or three families living near each other would select a piece of property that they would share for the burial of family members. These cemeteries are important historically because they reflect the early settlement patterns and families in the town. Now these cemeteries are almost all located on private property.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Bennie Carrara

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

In 2024, the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission (SCC) spent most of our energies on the administration of numerous long-term goals we have set throughout the years. Green Up Day, a strong invasive plant program led by Pam Darrow, the distribution of welcome bags to new Shrewsbury landowners, continued input on the development of a Class 4 Road Policy, and several “Walks and Talks” kept our SCC members busy.

But of special interest this year was the visit a Canada lynx made to Shrewsbury. This gorgeous creature was seen and photographed by many as he hunted in our area. The Canada lynx has been on the Vermont endangered species list since 1972 and is also federally listed as a threatened species. What was particularly exciting for the SCC was that the lynx was following the wildlife corridors that our Wildlife Road Crossing Project has been documenting, and Vermont’s Agency of Natural Resources has been working hard to conserve. It is necessary to conserve connected pieces of unfragmented forested land to enable wildlife to migrate - not an easy task as human populations and development increase. The lynx had been traveling over 60 miles, from Rutland County into Addison County, which indicated success in Vermont’s land conservation efforts. He entered Shrewsbury through the recently conserved Town Farm Wildlife Management Area, which was a satisfying observation for those who worked hard to conserve that area!

In 2024 the Wildlife Road Crossing Project concluded its fourth year of data collection. Despite the unusually warm winter, volunteers logged an impressive number of wildlife tracks during the 2023-24 season. Under the guidance of Linda Shelvey and Michelle Greene, the program’s 17 volunteers logged 110 surveys of the Project’s 19 road sections throughout the Town this year. They were out there right after snowfalls to identify and map the tracks of animals crossing our roads to provide hard data on wildlife connectivity pathways. New this past year was the ability to include bear sign (such as scat and claw marks on wooden power poles) in the data collection during the early part of the season before bears began hibernation, and in early spring after hibernation. Also, the presence of multiple moose in the vicinity of Upper Cold River Road near Gilman Road and on Mitchell Road resulted in higher numbers of recorded moose tracks than in prior years. Other highlights included the identification of long-tailed weasel, bobcat, opossum, skunk, porcupine, and fisher tracks. Deer continued to be the species that cross Shrewsbury roads most frequently, followed by grey foxes, coyotes, and red foxes. And now we can add one male lynx to this collection!

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Duda, Chair



Participants in “A Naturalist’s Tour of a Path in the Woods” led by Diane Jakobsen and Linda Shelvey

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 TRANSFER STATION REPORT

In 2024 the transfer station continued to be a busy place on Wednesday afternoons and Sundays during the year. The transfer station is open:

Wednesdays - Noon till 6pm
Sundays - 8am till 4pm.

We appreciate the efforts of town residents and property owners in separating trash from recyclable items and food compost scraps and placing them in the appropriate areas and containers. The “Reading Room” continues to be an active area where useable items are made available free for reuse and thus kept out of the waste disposal stream heading toward the landfill. Please ask a transfer station attendant if you are unsure whether an item can be disposed of, or recycled, at the transfer station.

As a result of the town’s membership in the Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC), residents were eligible to participate in two household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal days which took place on April 27 at the Rutland Town transfer station and on October 5 at the Fair Haven transfer station. These days provided the opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that fall outside the scope of the Shrewsbury transfer station to collect. Please see the SWAC report located elsewhere in this report for more information on SWAC, the HHW disposal days for 2025, and solid waste disposal in general.

We appreciate your patience during the equipment malfunctions that occurred during the year, especially with the compacter for co-mingled cardboard, glass and plastic. We think that the problems have been resolved and look forward to smoother operation in the future.

We are grateful to the transfer attendants for their work at the transfer station; keeping it clean and organized and assisting customers with disposal of items and answering questions. We thank Paul Young for his service at the transfer station and wish him the best. We also thank Jeremiah St. Pierre for the time working as the sole attendant and for keeping the transfer station running smoothly. We also welcome Margot Tabor as the new transfer station attendant.

Please note: Effective April 1, 2025 transfer station punch cards will no longer be sold at the transfer station, but can be purchased at the town office and Pierce’s store during normal operating hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Bert Potter, Transfer Station Administrator

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 TREE WARDEN’S REPORT

The beauty and character of a town and its trees are joined at the hip. What makes Shrewsbury such a special place, in part, is the diverse collection of road trees. You should do yourself a favor one day and drive, walk or bike around and check them out. My job as tree warden is to ensure the safety and health of these trees. I do not have enough time to do this alone. The job is reactive as well as active. As homeowners and taxpayers, you can bring any questions regarding road trees on your property directly to me. If there is an imminent danger or treatable health issues, we can work on it together. I would also like to give a special shout out to Dirk Thomas and Melissa Reichert of the Shade Tree Commission for their continuous work in cataloging the Town’s trees. That document will be very useful for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Eldred French, Tree Warden

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Fire Department members responded to a remarkable 45 calls in 2024. Motor vehicle accidents (16) topped the list as usual, sadly including a fatality on the Cold River Road in November. We suppressed a brush fire and a car fire locally but happily had no structure fires in town last year. We responded to four carbon monoxide detector alarms, two of which alerted homeowners to dangerous levels of this deadly gas – make sure your house has one! Additional calls in Shrewsbury had us responding to other home alarms (4), utility line issues (5), and assisting ambulance crews (4). A nighttime search for a missing hunter off the Gaynor Road had a happy ending. We also responded to nine requests for assistance from neighboring departments – serious calls involving structure fires, a propane leak and more. It was a busy year for our volunteers.

Fire Chief Phil Severy has us training monthly. It pays off. One evening we practiced with our vehicle extraction tools and then used them the following day to rescue a trapped operator. Members attended the Vermont State Firefighters Association Regional Fire School in April. In October - Fire Prevention Month - we brought a Vermont State “Fire Safety House” trailer to the Mountain School, where our veteran Safety Officer Bob Snarski led an educational program for the students. Thank you, SMS, for having us. We want everyone in Shrewsbury to be fire safe.

We work every month to maintain our equipment so it will continue to be ready when needed. Our membership is stable but aging. Keith Patterson joined the Department in January and has been a welcome addition to our team. Keith was recognized by Chief Severy at our Annual Meeting for putting in the most recorded volunteer hours in 2024. We could use more new members.

In Cuttingsville our fire engine is now 25 years old and the tanker almost 35 years old. One or both likely will need to be replaced before the decade is out. The Town Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund will assist with that. We also know that most modern fire trucks will not fit in our current Cuttingsville Station – these vehicles were much smaller when that structure was built seventy years ago. Department members have been exploring our options in consultation with Mark Youngstrom, John Berryhill and NBF Architects. We will continue our research on this in the coming year. In the meantime, your Fire Department is requesting level funding from the Town in 2025 for our volunteer organization. Thank you for your continuing support.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Perry, President
Mark Goodwin, Secretary

Bob Snarski, Vice President
Barry Griffith, Treasurer

Phillip Severy, Chief

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 FOREST FIRE WARDENS' REPORT

This year we had one brush fire that was extinguished quickly by Shrewsbury firefighters. Again, we would like to remind you that if you are going to burn, burn only natural wood and call for a PERMIT from Al Ridlon Jr. or Kevin Brown.

Thank you and be fire safe!
Kevin Brown, (802) 775-6194 (H) or (802) 775-5518 (W) or (802) 345-8668 (C)
Al Ridlon, Jr., (802) 492-3722 (H) or (802) 282-3642(C)

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
 Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
RECEIPTS				
Town of Shrewsbury	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Raised by SVFD	\$ 16,253	\$15,000	\$ 15,500	\$30,000
Total Operating Income	\$51,253	\$50,000	\$50,500	\$65,000
EXPENSES				
New Equipment	\$15,187	\$7,500	\$9,906	\$9,000
Operating	\$6,190	\$5,000	\$4,386	\$4,400
Maintenance	\$4,061	\$7,000	\$5,048	\$5,500
Stations	\$3,141	\$7,500	\$6,116	\$20,000
Insurance	\$8,648	\$8,800	\$9,012	\$9,300
Communications	\$3,371	\$3,200	\$4,157	\$4,500
Heating	\$3,350	\$4,400	\$2,571	\$3,000
Electric	\$2,615	\$2,500	\$2,524	\$2,700
Dues/Training	\$1,562	\$1,000	\$1,896	\$1,600
Fundraising	\$4,238	\$3,000	\$5,015	\$5,000
Bank Charges	\$60	\$100	\$60	
Total Operating Expense	\$52,422	\$50,000	\$50,691	\$65,000
GENERAL FUND	Beginning Balance January 1, 2024			\$34,636
Receipts				
Town of Shrewsbury			\$35,000	
Transfer from Replacement Fund			\$15,500	
Reimbursement			\$167	
Interest Income (Operating MM account)			\$9	
Total General Fund Receipts				\$50,676
Expenditures				-\$50,691
GENERAL FUND Ending Balance December 31, 2024				<u><u>\$34,621</u></u>

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
 Special Accounts for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS Beginning Balance January 1, 2024	\$474,375
Replacement Fund	
Opening Balance 1/1/24	\$82,536
Transfer to Operating Account	-\$15,500
Break Open Ticket Proceeds	\$34,014
Mailer Donations	\$11,330
Other Misc. Donations	\$1,900
Interest Income	\$4
Transfers to Certificate of Deposit	-\$85,000
Ending Balance 12/31/24	\$29,285
Certificate of Deposit	
Opening Balance 1/1/24	\$61,376
Transfers from Replacement Fund	\$85,000
Interest	\$6,760
Ending Balance 12/31/24	\$153,136
Minnie Shaw Endowment Fund	
Opening Balance 1/1/24	\$330,463
Change in Investment Value	\$23,838
Investment Advisor Fees	-\$3,312
Ending Balance 12/31/24	\$350,989
SPECIAL ACCOUNTS Ending Balance December 31, 2024	<u><u>\$533,409</u></u>



Shrewsbury Mountain School Students cooling off with the help of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY MEETING HOUSE REPORT

The Trustees of the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House are responsible for the management of our historic Town Hall, constructed in 1852. The Meeting House is used by the community and church, as originally intended, for town meetings, voting, dances, hearings, church services, committee meetings, concerts, weddings, funerals, and many other community functions. The building also serves as an emergency shelter since it is equipped with emergency power and internet services. It is truly one of the most important buildings in town and the centerpiece of Shrewsbury Center.

The Shrewsbury Meeting House Trustee Board is comprised of seven trustees, with three trustees appointed by the Selectboard, three appointed by the Shrewsbury Community Church, and one member appointed by the Trustees. The building is available for any town or church function, general community or civic group gathering, and it can be reserved for private functions by town residents. For functions or events that are not free and open to the entire community, a reasonable usage fee is required, and rental can be arranged through Meeting House Trustee Julanne Sharrow (julanne@vermontel.net). Appropriate use of the sanctuary can be arranged through Pastor Karen Braeutigam (braeutigamkaren@gmail.com) and Julanne Sharrow, since generally only one gathering at a time is desired in the building. Our policy is to allow only Shrewsbury residents to use the building since the Meeting House is such a historic, fragile, and important part of the community.

We continue to maintain the building as needed to avoid large one-time assessments to the taxpayers and church. This past year, the four Sunday School room windows were replaced with efficient units, the east emergency exit from the hall was replaced, and the entire west side of the building was scraped and repainted. The shed (old outhouse) structure needs leveling and drainage work so it can continue to be used for storage. But these improvements would not be possible without a few generous donations, as well as proceeds from hall rentals and events such as the outdoor concerts. Remembering the Shrewsbury Meeting House in your estate plan or year-end giving will help ensure this building is preserved for generations to come. Contact Mark Youngstrom for more information. This year we are requesting a modest increased assessment from the town and church.

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

Sincerely,

The 2023 Shrewsbury Meeting House Trustees

Appointed by Town

Mark Youngstrom
Steve Spatz
Liesbeth van de Heijden

Appointed by Church

Sue Kelley
Julanne Sharrow
Karen Lorentz

Appointed by Committee

Richard Davis

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY MEETING HOUSE
 Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2024		\$15,199
RECEIPTS		
Town of Shrewsbury	\$17,000	
Shrewsbury Community Church	\$5,700	
Hall Rental	\$950	
Interest	\$1	
Donations	\$800	
Other		
Total Receipts		\$24,451
EXPENDITURES		
Electricity	\$1,229	
Propane	\$4,031	
Telephone	\$1,633	
Custodial	\$2,500	
Maintenance	\$6,050	
Insurance	\$7,140	
Supplies	\$94	
Capital Improvements	\$5,178	
Secretary of State	\$45	
Total Disbursements		\$27,900
ENDING BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2024		\$11,750

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
RECEIPTS				
Town of Shrewsbury	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$18,500
Shrewsbury Community Church	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$6,200
Hall Rental	\$1,850	\$1,000	\$950	\$1,000
Interest	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Donations	\$1,075	\$1,000	\$800	\$800
Total Receipts	<u>\$25,626</u>	<u>\$24,701</u>	<u>\$24,451</u>	<u>\$26,501</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Electricity	\$1,173	\$1,200	\$1,229	\$1,200
Propane	\$2,019	\$2,500	\$4,031	\$3,000
Telephone	\$2,074	\$2,000	\$1,633	\$2,000
Custodial	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Maintenance	\$3,891	\$3,800	\$6,050	\$4,000
Insurance	\$7,327	\$7,244	\$7,140	\$7,800
Supplies	\$331	\$300	\$94	\$200
Capital Improvements	\$0	\$3,000	\$5,178	\$2,000
Secretary of State	\$0	\$0	\$45	\$45
To Cash Reserves	\$0	\$2,157	\$0	\$3,756
Total Disbursements	<u>\$19,315</u>	<u>\$24,701</u>	<u>\$27,900</u>	<u>\$26,501</u>

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY LIBRARY REPORT

In 2024, as it has for the past 49 years, the Library maintained a reliable schedule for Library and Food Shelf patrons, thanks to the dedication of our trustees and remarkable volunteer staffers. The Library is open for visits, check-outs, and public computer and printer use as follows:

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

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

Last year the Library circulated 3,152 books, videos, e-books, music recordings, inter-library loans, state park passes, and even snowshoes to adults and children. We welcomed 2,698 patron visits and provided free WIFI and computer access.

We offered a number of programs: Sally Deinzer with her father's films of Admiral Byrd's second Antarctic expedition; Shrewsbury Library Writers; Tim Stout on resilient forests; Scott Garren on the solar eclipse; Jon Clinch on his novel, *The General and Julia*; George Woodard with his film, "The Summer of Walter Hicks;" Becki Bates on her recent trip to Israel; Randell Barclay on Rotary International's humanitarian work; Freddie and Jeff Monder on the street art of Valencia, Spain; and Scott Garren on AI. For children and parents, we hosted George Woodard with his children's book, *The Christmas Calf*; Sandglass Theater's "Isidor's Cheek;" and the Haunted Library at Halloween. The Communication Committee offered a Tech Open House. Monthly programs included the Famous Books Book Club, the Science Book Club, and the Writer's Group.

The Taco Salad Dinner and Street Dance with Marcos Levy and the Community Band was a highlight of our fund-raising events. The Annual Book Sale was very successful, lasting two weeks under the tent on the honor system. We were thrilled to hold our December Cookie Share and Silent Auction and to see so many friends there. Our annual fundraising letter raised revenue and replenished memorial funds.

As we have since 2005, we are requesting level funding of \$7,500. Town tax support helps cover basic operating costs: heat, electricity, telephone/internet service, and insurance. Our fund-raising pays for everything else: books, DVDs, programs, repairs, maintenance, and supplies. For 2025, we have budgeted \$24,625 for operating expenses and have carry-over and reserve funds to cover any unexpected increases. We are grateful for your support over the past 49 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Norton & Lisa Sharrow, Co-Presidents
Donna Swartz, Vermont Librarian

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY LIBRARY FINANCIAL REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE, January 1, 2024		\$ 96,454.00
RECEIPTS:		
Operating	21,908	
Capital Fund		
Restricted	2,025	
Total Receipts	23,933	23,933
EXPENDITURES:		
Operating	19,755	
Capital Fund	9,504	
Restricted	768	
Total Expenditures	(30,027)	(30,027)
ENDING BALANCE, December 31, 2024		\$ 90,360
<u>Capital Fund - Beginning January 1, 2024</u>		\$ 16,320
Receipts		
Board designation of funds		-
Expenditures		(9,504)
<u>Capital Fund - Ending December 31, 2024</u>		\$ 6,816

Restricted Revenue and Expense:

	Beginning Balances	Receipts	Expended	Ending Balances
Allan YA Book Fund	82	25	17	\$ 90
Ben Perry Fund	1,058	1,450	495	2,013
Children's Program	871		200	671
Claire Hooper	683	-		683
Freeman Grant	40	-	-	40
Joyce Wilson Memorial	586	500	31	1,055
Large Print Books	100	-	-	100
Liz Jeffords Fund	3,500	-	-	3,500
Lorna MacDougal-Cohen Fund	17			17
Spencer Fund	1,171		25	1,146
Viola Parker	288	50		338
	8,396	2,025	768	\$ 9,653

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY LIBRARY FINANCIAL REPORT
COMPARATIVE OPERATING REPORT

	2023 Actual	2024		2025 Budget
		Budget	Actual	
<u>Operating Revenue:</u>				
Town	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Donations & Unrestricted Grants	7,331	6,500	7,670	6,500
Fundraising	7,272	4,000	5,739	4,000
Interest Earned	144	50	99	50
Other income	945	800	900	800
Total Operating Revenue	<u>23,192</u>	<u>18,850</u>	<u>21,908</u>	<u>18,850</u>
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>				
Advertising	225	225	225	225
Materials: Adults	2,739	3,300	2,470	3,600
Materials: Children & YA	883	800	162	700
Children's Program Expense	149	150	88	150
Equipment & Repairs	1,760	2,200	1,599	3,000
Electricity	1,130	1,500	1,470	1,600
Fuel	1,515	2,500	1,764	2,500
Fundraising Expense	746	1,000	710	1,000
Insurance	2,114	2,200	2,196	2,300
Librarian Expense	-	100	-	100
Maintenance	2,357	2,500	3,248	3,300
Miscellaneous	212	200	237	200
Septic	600	1,200	1,200	1,200
Postage	-	50	47	50
Postage-Interlibrary Loan	314	400	360	400
Program Expense	1,526	2,100	1,399	2,100
Supplies	443	400	422	400
Telephone	2,047	2,300	2,158	2,400
Total Operating Expense	<u>18,760</u>	<u>23,125</u>	<u>19,755</u>	<u>25,225</u>
Operating Revenue Over/(Under)				
Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 4,432</u>	<u>\$ (4,275)</u>	<u>\$ 2,153</u>	<u>\$ (6,375)</u>

Town of Shrewsbury
2024 SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

The Shrewsbury Historical Society had a busy year! The museum in the former Cuttingsville Church welcomed many new visitors over the summer and during the October Tap-to-Table extravaganza across the street.

The 50th anniversary of the Shrewsbury Mountain School was the theme for the Shrewsbury Day Parade on September 17 which was led by present and former students, teachers, staff, parents and the World's Only Moose and Drum Corps! The children spent weeks painting the drums and making their costumes. During the day, a collection of school construction photos and class pictures from 1974 to 2024 were on display in the Meeting House. Writing and drawing materials were available for stories and drawings to be added to the exhibit and the resulting pictures are now in the permanent collection at the Museum. Parade photos from the past three years taken by Gina Stewart, Brian Winkler and Chryl Martin are also part of the collection. Please come help us identify folks.

In May the 6th grade Mountain School students were presented copies of "*Shrewsbury, Vermont: Our Town as It Was*" by Dawn Hance. Also included was a current map of the town by Alan Shelvey. Sadly, Dawn passed away in September.

A special exhibit created by Brian Winkler and others honored Al Ridlon Sr., B. J. Stewart, and Larry Carrara as exemplary Shrewsbury citizens. Their families assisted by providing photographs and relevant artifacts for the display.

Long time museum building supervisor John Elwert oversaw the repair to the shingling on the church spire. A super fundraising effort helped complete this massive undertaking. Vermont Roofing of Rutland did the work and were able to reattach the decorative copper finial that had blown off years before. Planning is now underway to repair the windows. Hopefully, the Preservation Trust of Vermont will reward us with a grant.

Special thanks to Ann Ridlon and Carol (Cook) Hass for weeding and planting flowers in front of the Museum. Lawns are mowed by Paul Stewart, and in summer Mark & Gina Stewart's family decorate the Main Street with flags. Gorgeous!

The Historical Society hosted volunteers from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) to repair, reset and clean cemetery stones. This year the village and the Shrewsbury center cemeteries were worked on. Work is only for four hours, then we treat them to lunch.

For at least 20 years several examples of ingenious antique farm implements belonging to the museum have been stored in a barn in Clarendon. We would like to find a place to store these items while we decide how best to display them. Could you help?

We are a sturdy skeleton crew of longtime members who treasure our town's past and current history. Please join us!

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Winkler, President
Grace Brigham, Secretary
Julanne Sharrow, Treasurer

Town of Shrewsbury
SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE

Checking Account Balance	\$ 4,736	
Money Market Acct	15,557	
Certificates of Deposit	26,065	
CASH BALANCE, January 1, 2024		\$ 46,358

Total Receipts	\$ 7,782	
Total Disbursements	15,950	
Excess Receipts over Expenditures		(8,168)

ENDING CASH BALANCE

Checking Account Balance	\$ 11,594	
Money Market Acct	-	
Certificates of Deposit	26,596	
ENDING CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2024		\$ 38,190

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATEMENTS

	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
RECEIPTS				
Town of Shrewsbury (1)	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000
Membership Dues	700	500	820	500
Fund Raising	2,800	2,000	228	500
Contributions	1,612	1,000	1,358	500
Shrewsbury Day Income	2,708		2,343	1,000
Interest	94	100	533	500
Total Receipts	\$ 12,914	\$ 6,100	\$ 7,782	\$ 6,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
Building Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 4,288	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,660	\$ 8,000
Insurance	1,258	1,400	1,338	1,400
Electricity	464	475	446	500
Heating Fuel	83	90		90
Archival Supplies	60	200	-	100
Supplies and misc	2,791	350	-	300
Office/Postage	462	375	314	300
Shrewsbury Day Expenses	1,420		1,193	1,500
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 10,826	\$ 14,890	\$ 15,950	\$ 12,190
Excess Receipts over Expenditures	\$ 2,088	\$ (8,790)	\$ (8,168)	\$ (6,190)

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

2024 REGIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE REPORT

Funded in Town Budget

The Regional Ambulance Service (RAS) is pleased to present our 41st annual report to the residents we serve. Regional Ambulance Service has continually provided emergency and non-emergency ambulance service for 40 years. From 1983 to the end of the fiscal year, Regional has responded to 272,506 ambulance calls. This past year, ending July 30, 2024, the service responded to 11,281 ambulance calls in our 12 communities, and an additional 118 “Medic One” paramedic intercept calls. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continuing to serve the public. **In 2024 RAS responded to 83 calls in Shrewsbury.**

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

RAS has completed construction on a second facility in West Rutland and we have begun operating out of it. This facility has the capacity to house four ambulances. It enables us to more quickly serve the western part of our territory and is a backup to our Rutland facility in the event of a disaster. With the completion of the West Rutland facility, we are beginning upgrades and modifications to the Rutland facility to continue to serve you in the coming years at the level you expect.

We thank the communities we serve, our co-workers, our fellow emergency service workers and everyone in the community who has been so gracious with their support, kindness and generosity. With the continued support of residents, our employees, and community governing bodies, we have successfully level funded or lowered the assessment rate for the past 40 years. Since 1990 the assessment rate has decreased by 36%. Our current assessment rate is \$4 per capita and remains unchanged for the next fiscal year. Community funding represents just 2.9% of our budget. The public support of our Membership Program, direct donations, memorials and estate gifts have been vital to our success. Thank you.

Last year, 1,478 people were trained in monthly CPR classes offered by RAS. Tours, lectures, demonstrations and CPR classes are available for the general public. Child Car Seat inspections are performed at the Regional Ambulance building at 275 Stratton Rd. by appointment only. We completed 68 child car seat inspections this past year. The public is encouraged to visit and talk to our employees at our Stratton Road facility. Please feel free to contact Jim Finger, Chief Executive Officer, or your Representative, if you have any questions concerning the service.

We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to serving you in the future. The Board of Directors, Administration and employees of Regional Ambulance Service Inc. will continue working to provide the highest quality of emergency ambulance care at the lowest possible cost to all of the citizens we serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Kulig, President

Gerry Martin, Treasurer & Town of Shrewsbury Representative

2024 VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION REPORT

Funding Request: \$2,526

In 2024, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Shrewsbury residents with exceptional home care, hospice, and community health services. From children with more intensive medical needs to seniors who wish to remain independent at home, and those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring medically necessary health care wherever it is needed, regardless of the location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking government and state reimbursements and rising healthcare costs, VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services to Rutland County's most vulnerable individuals. In 2024 VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 119,829 visits to 2,915 patients. **In the Town of Shrewsbury, we provided 586 visits to 23 individuals.**

Thank you for your continued support. With your vote of confidence, we will continue to fulfill our promise to your community to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

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

2024 RUTLAND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Funding Request: \$1,192

In the year 2024, 28 towns in Rutland County supported the work of Rutland Mental Health Services through town giving. Our agency is committed to providing quality services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The generous support of towns such as the Town of Shrewsbury assures that quality services are available for their families, friends and neighbors. Services provided to town residents include individual counseling for children, adults and families, substance abuse treatment services, emergency and crisis services, and developmental disability services.

During fiscal year 2024, Rutland Mental Health Services provided 569 hours of services to 37 Shrewsbury residents.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Courcelle, Chief Executive Officer

Funded in Town budget

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

In 2024, SWAC successfully complied with Year Four Act 148 / ANR Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) requirements. The SWIP meets the requirements of the State's Material Management Plan and outlines how solid and hazardous waste will be managed in the SWAC towns for a five-year period. All towns in Vermont are required to be included in a SWIP, and the requirements are extensive. The currently approved and adopted SWIP is available for review on the SWAC website.

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

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection is the most costly endeavor undertaken. SWAC contracted with Republic to hold two household hazardous waste (HHW) events in 2024. 8.19 tons of hazardous waste were collected from 139 households. Products included oxidizers, acids, alkalines, reactives, pesticides, aerosols, flammable liquids, ammonia, mercury devices, latex, oil based and flammable paints, asbestos, and antifreeze.

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

2025 HHW Schedule: Saturday, April 26, Rutland Town Transfer Station, 218 Northwood Park; Saturday, October 4, Fair Haven Transfer Station, 175 Fair Haven Avenue. Both events will take place from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and are free to all SWAC residents. The SWAC website provides additional information on these events.

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

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

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is deeply grateful for the continued partnership and collaboration with the towns in our region. Our top priority remains supporting and empowering our municipalities to foster community and economic development.

- **Planning and Technical Assistance:** As the go-to resource for all 27 municipalities in the Rutland Region, we are often the first call for regulatory, planning, and development questions. We help towns navigate state and federal regulations, share important updates on new rules and funding opportunities, and support the development and management of key projects. In addition, we assist in securing grant funding, creating town plans, zoning bylaws, feasibility studies, and designation areas. We also provide hands-on support and training to municipal officials and staff, helping ensure success across the region.
- **Economic Development:** The RRPC is committed to fostering strong local economies through initiatives like Brownfields Redevelopment. In 2024, we supported assessments and redevelopment planning for 10 projects across five towns, including the former Berwick Hotel and Lynda Lee Factory in Rutland City. These efforts are driving transformative housing, mixed-use, and manufacturing developments while enhancing regional collaboration through an expanded Brownfields Steering Committee.
- **Energy Efficiency:** The RRPC is working closely with towns across the region to implement the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP), which is designed to reduce energy costs and improve the efficiency of town-owned buildings. In FY24, the RRPC secured \$2.5 million in funding for nine municipalities, supporting a range of energy-saving upgrades, weatherization efforts, and other essential improvements. These investments are helping towns lower their energy costs, reduce burdens for local taxpayers, and enhance the sustainability of municipal operations. MERP plays a crucial role in strengthening energy resilience, advancing climate goals, and creating long-term savings for communities throughout the region.
- **Housing:** In 2024, the RRPC developed a comprehensive Housing Resource Guide featuring over 30 funding opportunities and 45 resources for developers. Widely regarded as a statewide model, this guide has played a pivotal role in helping local developers create new housing units and advance vital projects across the region.
- **Workforce Development:** In 2024, the RRPC revitalized the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board (RRWIB) to encourage regional collaboration. The RRPC also secured a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to create a bridge program for high schoolers in Rutland County, offering pathways to careers in the trades and addressing workforce needs in the region.
- **Regional Planning:** In 2024, the RRPC began a comprehensive update of the Rutland Regional Plan. Recognizing the importance of community input, the RRPC focused on expanding public engagement to ensure the plan reflects the priorities and needs of all towns in the region. This effort included town presentations, pop-up events, open houses, and a public survey, all aimed at gathering diverse perspectives. The feedback received has been instrumental in shaping the first draft of the updated plan, which will continue to guide local planning and investment decisions for a more equitable, healthy, and resilient Rutland Region.

In closing, we thank the dedicated volunteers and civil servants whose commitment drives progress in our region. Your involvement ensures that diverse perspectives continue to shape our future. As we look ahead to 2025, we encourage all to get involved and help contribute to the success and growth of our Region!

Devon Neary, Executive Director

Funding Request: \$250

Here are some of the activities the District was involved in during 2024:

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

Agricultural Outreach Specialist – The District shares staff with the Poultney Mettowee and Bennington County districts who work with landowners to find solutions to water quality issues, assist with nutrient management planning and oversee shared equipment to implement environmentally friendly field practices.

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

District Manager - The District hired a new district manager after the prior district manager retired.

Portable Skidder Bridge – The District has a portable skidder bridge available for rent to loggers and foresters. Skidder bridges minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation of streams.

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

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

- **Received a preliminary design for a floodplain restoration project in the Otter Creek watershed along the Sargent Brook and Cold River in the town of Shrewsbury** as identified in the 2013 Cold River Watershed River Corridor Plan. The design was completed by Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, LLC.
- Is continuing work with the engineering consultants at Fitzgerald Environmental Associates to develop a Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP). The overall objective is to provide a strategic approach for meeting stormwater management needs in the Clarendon River watershed, and to address pressing water resource concerns in a cost-efficient and targeted manner.
- The District will continue to work with the City of Rutland, towns, and landowners to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation. These projects have been identified in Stormwater Master Plans or other assessment/plans.

For further information or to be added to our mailing list or list of volunteers, please contact Katie Stiles at rutlandnrkd@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, Katie Stiles

Funding Request: \$150

Green Up Day on May 4, 2024 saw a 30% annual growth in volunteers, who picked up over four tons of litter and 15,813 tires. In flood clean-up projects we took care of an additional 10,000 tires. We also attempted a Guinness World Records® title and succeeded! The record is: “The Most Pledges Received to Pick Up Trash in 24 Hours.” Vermont is the only State in the nation that can boast this achievement and the only State that offers a program like Green Up Day. As one of Vermont’s favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, and keep residents civically engaged.

Shrewsbury’s amazing town coordinator, Connie Youngstrom, reported 94 volunteers picking up 101 bags of litter and 16 tires on 60 miles of town roads. Volunteers also worked to separate returnables and recyclables to keep landfill load to a minimum. There were a number of items like building materials and tires that volunteers had to deal with, unfairly at their own expense. The town is looking for a positive solution.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives. We received a special flood recovery donation from Subaru of New England and have been able to rally volunteers and pay for many flood clean-up projects across the State.

Support from the Town of Shrewsbury is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2025.

Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of where we all get to live, work and play. Green Up Vermont is a 501c3 nonprofit. Be an Environmental Hero – Donate on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or at www.greenupvermont.org. 2025 Green Up Day is May 3rd.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Alberghini



Connie Youngstrom (front) Shrewsbury Green Up Day Coordinator working with (L to R) Rita Gyls and Pam Darrow on one of the many projects that benefit Shrewsbury’s natural beauty

Funding Request: \$130

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

RSVP also offers several free "Signature Programs" that benefit residents. These include RSVP Bone Builders, an osteoporosis prevention program which provides strength and balance exercise classes offered twice per week at many locations in Rutland County; RSVP Rutland Reads, a children's literacy and mentoring program; RSVP Veterans Connections Program, a program designed to reduce social isolation in veterans; and RSVP Operation Dolls & More, which distributes over 15,000 new and restored items to children. Last year approximately 11,243 items were distributed through RSVP Operation Dolls & More to 31 partner agencies and an estimated 1,349 children. We also partner with AARP to provide income tax return services to low-income residents of Rutland County. Locally, RSVP/VC is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland County with 507 volunteers. From July 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, RSVP/VC volunteers provided 66,488 hours of community service. The cost benefit to the communities of Rutland County in terms of cost of services provided equals \$2,226,683.

In FY24, Shrewsbury residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as free income tax return preparation, and our free Bone Builders osteoporosis prevention exercise classes. Shrewsbury RSVP volunteers donated their services to the following non-profit organizations: Meals on Wheels, Community Cupboard, One-2-One, RSVP Veterans Connection, RSVP Bone Builders, and RSVP Operation Dolls & More.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Maryesa White
RSVP Director
volunteersinvt.org

2024 BROCCOMMUNITY ACTION REPORT

Funding Request: \$600

To the Citizens of Shrewsbury, on behalf of BROCCOMMUNITY ACTION and the thousands of people with low-income or living in poverty that we serve throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for supporting us over the years on Town Meeting Day. BROCCOMMUNITY ACTION assists families and individuals in crisis and helps provide a sustainable path forward.

Over the past year, BROCCOMMUNITY ACTION assisted 22 residents of the Town of Shrewsbury. Whether they need food at the BROCCOMMUNITY FOOD SHELF, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, weatherization, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget and credit counseling and resources and referrals, we are here.

People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your town appropriation helps ease the struggle for nearly 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward whenever possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@brocc.org

2024 AMERICAN RED CROSS NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND REPORT

Funding Request: \$500

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

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

- We made 626 homes safer by installing 1,907 smoke detectors and educating 730 families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Trained 39,492 people in First Aid, CPR, and water safety skills.
- We collected over 131,800 units of blood. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over 3,400 service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

Your American Red Cross remains committed to providing relief and support. We do this with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors, including you, our friends in Shrewsbury. The funds we have requested for 2025 will directly benefit individuals and families right here in our region at no cost. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-464-6692 or go to supportnne@redcross.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Jordan, Development Coordinator

2024 VERMONT FARMERS FOOD CENTER

Funding Request: \$650

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

VFFC increases access and availability of locally produced food in the Rutland region through education, expanding markets and market access, and aggregation and distribution of locally produced and value-added agricultural products. We have completed the environmental cleanup of our site and reopened Farmers Hall in 2024. We look forward to your support as we continue to expand our programs and services in 2025.

- *Farmacy Project* is a “food as medicine” program that provides fresh produce from local farmers for at-risk individuals and families with health issues who have been prescribed fresh, local produce by their healthcare providers. **Nine people in three households in Shrewsbury received food under this program. Through our Rutland County Eats program we provided two 65+ residents in Shrewsbury two meals per week.**
- *Farm Based Experiential Learning (FABEL)* provides an experience of learning substantive life skills on the farm and in the garden through hands-on engagement.
- Through our Online Market and hosting of the Winter Farmers Market **we impact Shrewsbury farmers/producers, including Evening Song Farm, Stones Throw Farm, Gina’s Fresh Produce, Smith Maple Crest Farm, Spring Lake Ranch, and Maya Zelkin Pottery.**
- **We collaborate with Shrewsbury Agricultural and Arts Foundation (SAGE) in the creation of educational activities.**
- **The VFFC provides healthy, locally produced produce to Shrewsbury children at the Shrewsbury Mountain School as well as serving other Mill River School District schools.**
- **We provide fresh, local food to all Shrewsbury residents through Pierce’s Store.**

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully submitted, Heidi Lynch

2024 RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Funding Request: \$150

The Rutland County Humane Society is dedicated to advocating for and working towards a responsible and humane community. We provide shelter and adoption opportunities for pets that are homeless and promote animal welfare through community programs that benefit both animals and people. We also serve our community by providing information and referral services to people dealing with animal issues. The RCHS shelter is the largest program of the agency, taking in more than 1,110 animals in 2024. **The Rutland County Humane Society took in 1 animal from Shrewsbury during 2024.**

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

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

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Perrigo

Funding Request: \$700

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older residents in Shrewsbury during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/1/2023 through 9/30/2024.

Nutrition Support:

The Council helped provide **1,386 meals that were delivered to the homes of 8 elders** in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels." In addition, **3 older Shrewsbury residents came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy nutritious meal and the company of others on a recurring basis. In total, 188 meals were provided to them.**

Additionally, SVCOA provided **6 residents of Shrewsbury with 6 hours of one-on-one nutrition support**, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped **14 elders in your community for a total of 40.25 hours**. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They work with the older resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the client desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older Shrewsbury residents connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to older Vermonters facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

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

Rutland Office: 802-786-5990

Bennington Office: 802-442-5436

Helpline: 1-800-642-5119

2024 VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORT

Funding Request: \$170

For over 45 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy, and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY 24 (10/2023-9/2024) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral, assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to 293 individuals to help increase their independent living skills. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted 233 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 115 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided 149 individuals with information on assistive technology, and 43 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 320 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program served 38 people and provided 31 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. During FY 24, **2 residents of Shrewsbury received services from Meals on Wheels (MOW) and the Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A) program.**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Lauderville, Executive Director

2024 VERMONT ADULT LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT

Funding Request: \$500

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

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

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

Vermont Adult Learning served 1,388 students statewide in fiscal year 2024. 203 students were served in our Rutland Center where we provided approximately 5,675 hours of education. This was a 17% increase in the number of students served in Rutland County! **We provided 11 hours of instructional service to 1 student from Shrewsbury, who was between the ages of 16 - 21.**

Classes are five days a week, Monday – Friday, with evening classes available and a robust online learning center. This has lessened the transportation barriers many of our students faced but increased the need for technology support. In response, we have been able to supply our students with Chromebooks so they may remain engaged in their educational pursuits.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Etori, Regional Director



Students at the Shrewsbury Mountain School line up for a group portrait on SMS Field day

2024 NEWSTORY CENTER REPORT

Funding Request: \$150

For 45 years NewStory Center has been the single agency in Rutland County supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence by working to end the cycle of violence through support, education, prevention, and collaboration.

During FY24, NewStory Center served 789 survivors and their children through direct services such as emergency shelter, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, case management, clinical services, support groups, and the 24/7 crisis hotline. Additionally, we provide training and technical assistance to our community partners, including local law enforcement, to ensure a more effective community response to domestic and sexual violence. **We provided services for at least 2 residents of Shrewsbury this past year.** As our services are confidential, in some cases we might not be informed as to where our clients live.

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

Respectfully submitted, Avaloy Haynes Lanning

2024 RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER REPORT

Funding Request: \$400

The Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing accessible, educational, and dignified services to families throughout Rutland County. Our mission is to remove barriers that prevent families from reaching their goals by offering a range of services, including early childhood education, developmental intervention for young children, educational and enrichment programs for at-risk youth, family education, employment guidance, playgroups and a welcome baby program. Additionally, our unique grocery store-style food pantry is an invaluable resource in the county. In the last fiscal year, we served approximately 2,000 families and 1,400 children through our four sites across the county. The ongoing housing crisis and the increasing demand for comprehensive, whole-family services highlight the critical need for our work.

In June we opened our 2Gen Campus, expanding our reach and providing a one-stop shop for community services. This new campus strengthens our ability to serve families by offering a centralized location where they can access a variety of essential resources. At RCPCC, we follow a two-generation (2Gen) whole family approach, ensuring that both children and parents receive the support necessary for lasting success. By focusing on the needs of the entire family, we aim to create sustainable outcomes that empower individuals and strengthen communities. All our services are offered at no cost or with substantial financial assistance, guaranteeing that every family can access the resources they need to thrive.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Corissa Burnell, Co-Executive Director
Rutland County Parent Child Center

2024 VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK REPORT

Funding Request: \$250

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

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

We are proud to serve over 1,000 families yearly with expert information, referral, and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport, and Rutland, an annual conference, and more through our Family Support Program. Vermont Family Network is also home to Puppets in Education, an educational puppetry team that teaches children and parents about important issues like anxiety awareness, bullying, child abuse, and disability awareness through engaging performances that emphasize compassion, respect, effective leadership, and communication. Each year over 7,000 school children and adults benefit from these educational programs and workshops. Thank you so much for your consideration. The funding received will go a long way to ensuring our ability to continue to provide the much-needed services to Vermont families.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kessler, Director of Operations and Planning

2024 CHILD FIRST ADVOCACY CENTER REPORT

Funding Request: \$400

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

In the calendar year 2024, the Child First Advocacy Center served 121 clients and 118 of their family members. **We were able to provide direct wrap-around services and support to one (1) Shrewsbury family as they began their recovery from the effects of trauma.** In addition, we continue to provide community awareness and education at no cost, in an effort to provide adults with the ability to recognize, react and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse and increase each school district's ability to complete the legislatively mandated ACT 1 initiative also known as Child Sexual Abuse Awareness training for Educators, Community Members and Student's grades K-12.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nichols, Executive Director, Mary.Nichols@partner.vermont.gov



Fall Foliage along a quiet road.

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

PRSRT, STD
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 10
PAID
Cuttingsville, VT
05738

Informational Meeting
Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 11:00 AM
Shrewsbury Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road

Current Resident
Shrewsbury, Vermont 05738

Australian Ballot
Tuesday, March 4, 2025
Shrewsbury Community Meeting House
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM