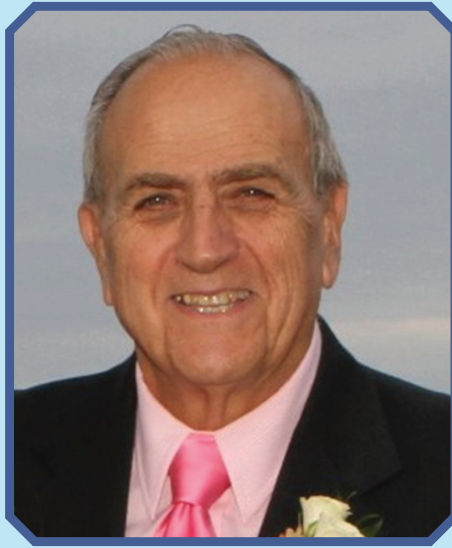


Colchester

103rd Annual Town Report

July 1st, 2023 - June 30th, 2024





Richard “Dick” T. Mazza

September 4, 1939 – May 25, 2024

Vermont House of Representatives: 1973-1976

Vermont Senate: 1985 - April 9, 2024

Lifelong Colchester resident

Throughout his lifetime, Dick Mazza made significant contributions to the citizens of Colchester through his strong work ethic, dedication to public service, and care for his community.

As an employer at Dick Mazza’s store, he provided first-time employment to hundreds of Colchester youth who had the opportunity to learn first-hand the value of a good work ethic when serving others.

Dick generously supported the Town of Colchester, local organizations, charities, and individuals, with broad unassuming donations of time, money, and goodwill, all of which were offered with humility, grace, and quiet dignity.

Through his time serving in the Vermont Legislature and the Senate, he mentored, advised and nurtured legions of people, and was a champion, advocate, friend and statesman, leader and stalwart supporter of all people in Colchester, and throughout Vermont.

In recognition of Dick Mazza’s selfless life of meritorious service, the 2024 Annual Report is dedicated to Richard “Dick” Mazza.

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WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Monday, March 3, 2025, 7:00 PM
VOTE BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
COLCHESTER, VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town of Colchester, Vermont are notified and warned to meet at the Colchester High School Auditorium, Laker Lane, in said Town on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 PM to act on the following articles not involving voting by Australian ballot (Articles 1-5):

ARTICLE 1

To choose a moderator, if elected moderator is not present.

ARTICLE 2

To act on reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 3

To set compensation, if any, to be paid to the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 4

To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

ARTICLE 5

To adjourn said meeting and to reconvene at the Colchester High School, Laker Lane, in said Town on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for voters in District 19 and District 20 to vote for Town Officers and to transact any other business involving voting by Australian Ballot with voting to begin at 7:00 a.m. and to close at 7:00 p.m. (Early voting information below.)

ARTICLE 6 - Town Municipal Services Budget

"Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester approve total general fund expenditures of Sixteen Million, Nine Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$16,936,693) of which Fourteen Million, Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$14,248,439) shall be raised by taxes and Two Million, Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars (\$2,688,254) by non-tax revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026?"

ARTICLE 7 - Information Technology Reserve Fund


"Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester reauthorize the Selectboard to maintain a reserve fund accumulating annually in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for a period of five years, for the purpose of financing technology replacements and upgrades?"

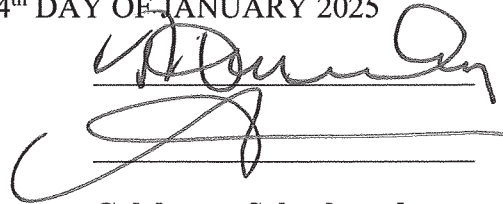
ARTICLE 8 – Communications Reserve Fund


"Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester reauthorize the Selectboard to maintain a reserve fund accumulating annually in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$25,500) for a period of five years, for the purpose of financing telephone and radio replacements and upgrades?"

Early/Absentee Voting: You may request a ballot be mailed to you through the Vermont's Voter Registration system at "My Voter Page" at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>, pick one up at the Town Clerk's Office, or request one by phone to the Town Clerk's Office at (802) 264-5520. Completed ballots can be deposited into the drive up drop box or mailed using the provided return envelope. **If mailing, be sure to allow time for postal transit! Ballots must be received in the Town Clerk's Office by 12:00 PM or Drop Box by 4:30 PM on Monday, March 3, 2025 or brought to the polling location at Colchester High School on Election Day, March 4, 2025.**

DATED AT COLCHESTER THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY 2025


Suzanne Murphy
Maurice P. Loken


Colchester Selectboard


Town Clerk

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

77 Barre Street
P.O. Box 947
Montpelier, VT 05601
802/223-2352
www.sullivanpowers.com

Richard J. Brigham, CPA
Chad A. Hewitt, CPA
Jordon M. Plummer, CPA
VT Lic. #92-000180

January 10, 2025

Selectboard
School Board
Town of Colchester
Colchester, Vermont 05446

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Colchester, Vermont and the Colchester School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024.

The financial statements, our reports, and the management discussion and analysis are available for public inspection at the Town and School District offices and web sites.

Sullivan, Powers & Co.



MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Aaron Frank, Town Manager	802.264.5509
Renae Marshall, Deputy Town Manager	802.264.5509
Bob Vickery, Assessor	802.264.5671
Kathi O'Reilly, Economic Development	802.264.5508
Lara Alemy, Finance Director	802.264.5653
Chad Bouvier, Human Resources	802.264.5504
Glen Cuttitta, Parks & Recreation	802.264.5640
Cathyann LaRose, Planning & Zoning	802.264.5606
Norm Baldwin, Public Works	802.264.5620
Julie Graeter, Town Clerk	802.264.5520
Kelly McCagg, Burnham Library	802.264.5661
Town Office Fax	802.264.5503

POLICE | FIRE | RESCUE

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency, Colchester Police	802.264.5556
Peter Hull, Chief of Police	802.264.5555
Scott Crady, Fire & Rescue Chief	802.264.4415
Michael Cannon, Tech. Rescue Chief	802.264.5590
Steven Gutierrez, Harbor Master	802.264.5555
Stephanie Gingras, Animal Control	802.264.5556

WATER SERVICE

District # 2 (Mallets Bay)	802.264.4621
Champlain Water District	802.864.7454
Town of Essex (Fort Ethan Allen)	802.878.1344

COLCHESTER SCHOOLS

Colchester School District	802.264.5999
Amy Minor, Superintendent	802.264.5999
Colchester High School	802.264.5700
Colchester Middle School	802.264.5800
Malletts Bay School	802.264.5900
Porters Point School	802.264.5920
Union Memorial School	802.264.5959

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Dig Safe VT	811
GMT - Green Mountain Transit	802.264.2282
SSTA - Special Services Transportation	802.878.1527
Colchester Post Office	802.655.1376
Cemetery Lots, Clerk's Office	802.264.5520

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Age Well (Meals on Wheels)	www.agewellvt.org
Scouting America	
Cub Scouts Pack 655	www.pack655.org
Troop 658 (Winooski)	www.bsatroop658.org
Girl Scouts	www.mygs.girlscouts.org
Colchester Community Chorus	www.facebook.com/colchestercommunitychorus
Colchester Community Food Shelf	www.colchesterfoodshelf.org
Colchester Historical Society	https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society
Colchester Lions Club	www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colchestervt
Colchester-Milton Rotary Club	www.cmrotary.org
Fellowship of the Wheel	www.fotwheel.org
Lake Champlain International	www.mychamplain.net
Malletts Bay Lakers Snowmobile Club	www.vtvast.org/malletts-bay-lakers

HOURS, DAYS, FEES & MEETINGS

COLCHESTER SELECTBOARD

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd
Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd Floor
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd
Champlain Room, 2nd Floor
Meet as warned or noticed

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd
Champlain Room, 2nd Floor or location per agenda
3rd Monday at 6:00 p.m. or per agenda

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd
Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd Floor
2nd (& 4th as needed) Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Burnham Memorial Library
898 Main St
3rd Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd
Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd Floor
1st (& 3rd as needed) Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Town Offices, 781 Blakely Rd
Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd Floor
2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

TOWN MEETING AGENDAS

<https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Colchester High School Library
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

For school information, visit the Colchester School District website: www.csdvt.org

HOURS OF BUSINESS

Town Hall	Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Police and Fire	24/7
Rescue & Technical Rescue	24/7
Library	Varies

Please visit the library's website for current hours.

TOWN CLERK FEES

Amusement License (full year)	\$100.00
Catering Permit	No Fee
Certified Copy of Vital Record	\$10.00
Document Recording (per page)	\$15.00
Dog Licenses - Rabies certificate required	
By April 1st, Spayed or Neutered	\$20.00
Not Spayed or Neutered	\$25.00
After April 1st, Spayed or Neutered	\$25.00
After April 1st, Not Spayed or Neutered	\$30.00
Green Mountain Senior Passport	\$2.00
Liquor License 1st Class	\$115.00
Liquor License 2nd Class	\$70.00
Marriage License (incl. certified copy)	\$90.00
Mylar Recording	\$25.00
Notary Public Services	No Fee
Passport Processing	\$25.00
Passport Photo	\$20.00
Peddler License	\$80.00

TOWN OFFICE OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
Day After Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve (close at noon)
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve (close at noon)
New Year's Day

ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

BOARD OF ETHICS

Scott Perren, Chair	9.30.2024
Inge Schaefer	9.30.2026
Karen Richard	9.30.2025
Scott Barrett	9.30.2025
Betsy Terry	9.30.2025

CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Theresa Carroll, Chair	2.28.2027
Wanda Morin, Vice-Chair	2.28.2027
Jamie Balch	2.28.2026
William Glinka	2.28.2026

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

Jacki Murphy	6.30.2025
Pamela Loranger	6.30.2025

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Theresa Carroll, Chair	9.30.2024
Patrick Volz, Vice-Chair	9.30.2024
Lisa Halvorsen, Secretary	9.30.2027
Liz Hamlin-Volz, Treasurer	9.30.2027
Alyx Belisle	9.30.2025
Lauren Morlino	9.30.2027
Steve Signell	9.30.2026
Spencer Putnam (Youth Member)	9.30.2024
Dylan Tompkins (Youth Member)	9.30.2024

FIRE WARDEN *Term (4 yrs.) expires:*
Seth Lasker 6.30.2028

HEALTH OFFICERS

Seth Lasker	7.31.2024
Cathynn LaRose	1.31.2025

TREE WARDEN

Norm Baldwin	3.31.2025
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WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Susan Gilfillan	9.30.2026
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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Matthew Gamage, Chair	9.30.2025
Kathy Cawley	9.30.2024
Evan Fitzgerald	9.30.2024
Angela MacDonald	9.30.2024
Bert Severin	9.30.2024
Chris Gendron (Alternate)	9.30.2024

PLANNING COMMISSION

Richard Paquette, Chair	9.30.2025
Vladimir Smirnov	9.30.2025
Rebecca Arnold	9.30.2024
Sarita Austin	9.30.2024
Aimee Rutledge	9.30.2024
Wendy Critchlow	9.30.2024

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Adriane Martin, Chair	9.30.2025
Richard Pecor, Vice-Chair	9.30.2024
Ruth Blauwiekel	9.30.2025
Jim Neary	9.30.2024
Scott Perren	9.30.2025
Inge Schaeffer	9.30.2024

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Terms (5 yrs.) expire:

Toni Josey, Chair	3.2026
Leora Black, Vice-Chair	3.2028
Carol Anderson, Treasurer	3.2025
Rebecca McMahon, Secretary	3.2029
Brent Litterer	3.2027
Shabnam Saini (Youth Member)	9.2025



ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS

CONTINUED

LISTERS

Geri Barrows	<i>Terms (5 yrs.) expire:</i>	3.2027
Angela MacDonald		3.2026
Charlotte Gardner		3.2025

MODERATOR

Scott Barrett	<i>Term (1 yr.) expires:</i>	3.2025
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SCHOOL BOARD

	<i>Term Expires:</i>	
Lindsey Cox, Chair	2 yrs	3.2026
Nic Longo, Vice Chair	3 yrs	3.2025
Jennifer Fath	2 yrs	3.2026
Ben Yousey-Hindes	3 yrs	3.2025
Laurie Kigonya	3 yrs	3.2027

SELECTBOARD

	<i>Term Expires:</i>	
Pam Loranger, Chair	3 yrs	3.2027
Tom Mulcahy, Vice-Chair	3 yrs	3.2025
Jacki Murphy, Clerk	2 yrs	3.2025
Charlie Papillo	1 yr	3.2026
Maureen Dakin	3 yrs	3.2026

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

	<i>Terms (3 yrs.) expire:</i>	
Karen Richard		3.31.2027
James D. Piette (Alternate)		3.31.2025

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

All terms (1 yr.) expire 3.31.25

Carol Anderson	Peg Gillard
Sarita Austin	Julie Hulburd
Leora Black	Sarah Leeuw
Ruth Blauwiekel	Marie-Reine Pepin
Mary Brennan	Donald Sargent
Patrick Brennan	Curt Taylor
Wendy Critchlow	Tom Yasewicz
Maureen Dakin	



SELECTBOARD REPORT

Pam Loranger, Chair
Tom Mulcahy, Vice-Chair
Jacki Murphy, Clerk
Charlie Papillo & Maureen P. Dakin, Members



I have been honored to serve the Colchester community for another year as your Selectboard Chair. Tom Mulcahy remained our Vice Chair, Jacki Murphy was reelected as our Clerk, and Charlie Papillo and Maureen P. Dakin remained Selectboard Members.

Your Town Selectboard members run for office and make decisions without political party affiliations. We represent the community by making Town policy, coordinating with about eighty-five volunteers on Town policy boards, and overseeing the delivery of municipal services by your Town staff and volunteers.

Town Milestones

Colchester Recreation Center: The Town broke ground for the Colchester Recreation Center in October of 2023, and was more than halfway done with construction by June 2024. The citizens and voters gave approval for the Colchester Recreation Center in March of 2023. This project had been a community goal for over 20 years and will provide a new indoor recreational space with a full-size multi-purpose gymnasium, classroom and studio spaces, a cardio/weight room, locker rooms, a small kitchen, and an elevated walking/running track.



The new center will provide year-round recreational opportunities for all residents, opportunities to learn or share a new healthy skill or hobby, be active, and connect with their neighbors. Recreation opportunities are important for a community's health, economy, and social fabric, and this project helps meet the demand and need for more recreation facilities and group gathering spaces. The project will be paid entirely from the current and future proceeds generated from the existing 1% Local Option Tax (LOT), approved by voters in 2015 for financing of existing or future voter-approved capital projects, so no property taxes will be needed for its construction.

Malletts Bay Sewer Project: The project was designed to be constructed in smaller sections to provide maximum opportunity for multiple bids and to minimize disruption on the travelling public. The first part of the design goal was very successfully met with three Vermont contractors winning the first three contracts for work predominantly on Blakely Road and West Lakeshore Drive. Traffic disruption was not minimal but was minimized compared to a single project spanning a single year. Construction will continue and be more focused on off-road elements on West Lakeshore, on and off-road elements on East Lakeshore, and later on Goodsell Point. The project was approved by the voters in March 2022. When completed, this project will aid in addressing failing septic systems and human waste bacteria in Malletts Bay.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

CONTINUED

Renewable Energy Efforts: The Town's energy efforts are now in a separate section of this report, but four highlights include: installation of efficient LED light fixtures in all town-owned buildings and facilities; permitting and beginning construction of the 150-kW Fort Ethan Allen solar farm – the third Town-owned solar farm, which will save the Town \$405,000 over its lifespan; the Colchester Recreation Center which includes solar components on the roof and parking canopy, that will produce an additional 270 kW of electricity; and, installation of solar-powered pedestrian crossing signals at Blakely Road and Williams Road, and near Costco.

Affordable Housing: Considering the housing crisis in Vermont and especially Chittenden County, the Selectboard and Planning Commission have been receiving reports on the affordability of owned and rented housing in Colchester. Colchester has allowed more of its growth center at Severance Corners to become residential than is ideal for a new town center. This change was based on market conditions, but also considering the strong need for housing.

Colchester has spent almost twenty years of volunteer and staff time creating and maintaining Severance Corners' designation as a new town center/growth center so that greater densities can be achieved allowing more housing. The Town has designated over \$25M in water, wastewater, intersection and public bus service to its growth center.



Other efforts to make housing affordable in Colchester include:

1) reducing recreation impact fees for affordable housing by 50% in 2018; 2) raising the permit threshold for remodeling without structural or exterior changes from \$2,500 to \$15,000 in 2022; 3) eliminating overlapping permitting with the State of Vermont in 2022; and 4) elimination of an International Residential building code which was unique in Vermont to Colchester.

Housing costs are related to the cost of land, the cost and complexities of permitting, and construction labor and materials costs. The Town of Colchester has very little impact on these matters considering Colchester's water bodies and natural landscape substantially limit the areas available for development; that local permitting can often be done by an individual; that we have a shortage of willing working-age tradespeople; and that material costs have skyrocketed, especially in the last four years.

To continue to make Colchester an affordable place to live, the Town tries to keep the municipal services tax rate low. While this effort to maintain a relatively low municipal services tax rate limits the amount of services provided to the community, the restraint helps keep municipal services taxes, and therefore the costs of renting or owning a home, more affordable than in many neighboring communities.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts: The Town's staff, elected, and appointed officials have continued ongoing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts by completing trainings and pursuing opportunities to increase public awareness and practical knowledge on these topics. Two Selectboard members drafted a Statement of Inclusion, shared it publicly, and the Selectboard adopted it at a public meeting in 2022. Prior to this adoption, all Town staff attended trainings in diversity, racial justice, implicit and explicit bias, and privilege. These trainings continue annually for town staff with different trainers from

different perspectives to broaden cross-cultural understanding, cultivate respect in the workplace, and learn about legal requirements. Volunteer board chairs have attended trainings alongside staff and we have had special training for police, fire and rescue staff. The Town's Burnham Library and our Historical Society work to include a broad spectrum of voices in publications and offerings, from Women's History Month, Black History Month and the Native American influence in Colchester, to the impact and evolution of Immigration Law. The Library's collection includes items that discuss racial inequity and gender identity but also authors and publishers who represent a variety of ethnicities, orientations and cultural backgrounds.

Route 2 Safety Improvements: In response to the second tragic loss of life near the Clay Point intersection with Route 2, the Town: 1) installed advanced warning signs for the stop signs on the Clay Point Road approaches; 2) purchased and obtained state permits for larger stop signs and flashing beacons for side streets approaching US 2; and designed splitter islands on both Clay Point Road approaches, which were submitted to VTrans for their consideration. VTrans agreed to partner with the Town on a long-term scoping study of the US 2/Clay Point intersection and surrounding area. VTrans agreed to provide CCRPC with \$80,000 to study these improvements and the Town will actively engage in the process. It will likely to take 5-10 years from planning to construction of longer-term safety improvements.

Police Services Review: As your elected civilian oversight body, the Selectboard reviews and receives updates throughout the year on four critical areas of the Colchester Police Department: recruitment, leadership, policies, and training. This year the Selectboard publicly engaged with the department to review General Order #1 through which the Selectboard establishes the structure of the department, including guiding principles and rules of conduct. The 20-page General Order #1 includes 12 sections: Oath of Office, Code of Ethics, Legal Authority, Use of Discretion, Organizational Structure, Office of the Chief of Police, Chain of Command, Span of Control, Employment Records, Guiding Documents, Direction and Authority, and Departmental Rules. The rules contained within this order, unlike the other General Orders, are issued by the Selectboard and are thus unchangeable by the Police Department.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

CONTINUED

The Selectboard is a civilian board with oversight for the Colchester Police Department, including 1) creating the Police Department's rules and organizational structure; 2) employment of the Town Manager and Police Chief; 3) the charter-based authority to inquire into the conduct of any officer, commission or department, and investigate any and all municipal affairs; and 4) hearing appeals to the Department's civilian oversight board related to personnel matters.

The Department is heavily involved with partnerships, including the Colchester School District, the Colchester Fire Department, Colchester Rescue, Colchester Technical Rescue, the Howard Center, other local and federal law enforcement, and the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations. The Colchester Police contribute to the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations via donation of an officer and vehicle, which in return gives Colchester Police superior investigations for vulnerable populations.

Communications and Community Involvement: We have continued to improve our communication efforts to keep Colchester residents informed via the Town newsletter, social media, and physical notices or mailings. We encourage residents to attend board and commission meetings in person, but also have means to submit input in writing. Selectboard, Planning Commission, and Development Review Board Meetings are broadcast live and are available on cable and the internet.

Fiscal Responsibility: Your Selectboard is committed to using your resources wisely and ethically. We value a long-term sustainable approach to funding your municipal services. Our outside, independent audits are clean. The municipal services tax rate was just 11.8% higher than the rate of \$0.5714 set for the FY 2015 municipal services tax bills. For context, the Consumer Price Index in that same time period, has increased 28.2%. In FY 2025, an owner of a property valued at \$300,000 would pay just \$115 more in municipal services taxes than they did in FY 2015. The Town Manager's section of this report provides examples of how we stretch your resources.

Volunteer Appreciation: The Town of Colchester runs on engaged and involved volunteerism ranging from the eighty-five people who serve on boards and commissions, to the hundreds who volunteer in Fire, Rescue, Technical Rescue and Town events. Civic participation often starts at the grassroots, and here is the heart of the community at work. It is due to their dedication and commitment that our services are enhanced and augmented in more ways than we can count or give adequate credit.

Please join the Selectboard in our appreciation of those who help govern and operate your Town government in an inclusive and effective manner, making Colchester an enjoyable, safe and attractive place to live, work, play and learn.



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

AARON FRANK, TOWN MANAGER



"The mission of the Town of Colchester is to provide to its citizens the highest quality municipal services possible with the resources available."

Governance and municipal service delivery are the two major aspects of town government. First, there is governance related to municipal services delivery. Colchester has both direct democracy from individual voters, and representative democracy from elected and appointed officials. Municipal service delivery, or the business side of government, is operated by your Town staff and thankfully, many volunteers. We try hard to operate Town services efficiently, as if they were a private business, while respecting that the Town is owned by the community.

Colchester's governance relies on direct democracy—votes of the voters—for the most significant issues, including the Town Charter, which lays out how the Town operates; the annual municipal services budget; and the capital expenses requiring multi-year authorizations or use of the local option taxes. It also relies on representative democracy with 30 elected and 55 appointed officials that represent the community in the local governance of the Town of Colchester, and who develop policy and provide guidance to Town staff in providing services to the community.

Furthermore, the Town of Colchester's rights, responsibilities and authorities are granted to us by the State of Vermont. The Town Charter is developed and approved by the community through a vote by the voters. The Charter is not valid until it is voted into state law by the legislature. The State of Vermont holds all rights not specifically designated to local communities, as our rights flow from the State of Vermont, and there are significant limits to what the Town can do. It can take years to change the Town's rights and responsibilities, but this approach allows our elected state officials to consider local versus state responsibility, in a manner whereby duplication of services and duplication of taxation are avoided in favor of a fair and workable partnership in service delivery. The purpose of a town government is to provide services to residents and property owners that the private sector, state and federal government do not—and for which a majority of voters are willing to pay. Town staff takes pride in offering the best service possible with the available resources. Most Town services require old-fashioned "boots on the ground" work, and this requires people who are trained, dedicated, and consistently available in adverse weather; on nights, weekends and holidays; and sometimes in the most challenging situations. People are our greatest asset in providing services, and all Town departments serve our residents, but direct public services are provided by the following departments:

- **Assessor:** assessment data, ownership records, property sales information, tax maps, and more
- **Burnham Memorial Library:** books, E-books, periodicals, media, outreach and programs for all ages, public use of the Meeting House, and more

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

CONTINUED

- **Economic Development:** aids businesses in Colchester through outreach, information, and assistance with accessing state and federal funding
- **Parks and Recreation:** A.C.E. before-and-after school program, summer camps, parks maintenance, programs and events for residents of all ages, and more
- **Planning and Zoning:** planning, development review, building and zoning permits and inspections
- **Public Works:** stewardship of highway, stormwater, sewer, and vehicle/equipment/facilities projects from development through maintenance and replacement
- **Colchester Police:** community protection, emergency response, disaster response
- **Colchester Rescue:** emergency medical and disaster response
- **Colchester Fire:** fire prevention, firefighting, hazardous materials and disaster response
- **Colchester Technical Rescue:** emergency response in extreme situations requiring specialized training: flood, swift water, rugged terrain, tight spaces, disaster, etc.
- **Town Clerk/Treasurer:** vital records, licenses, passports, deed recording, collection of municipal service and State education taxes, elections, and more



A Town Manager serves multiple roles: providing policy support to the Selectboard (legislative and judicial branch of local government); a general manager of the staff providing the services and policies that are funded and authorized by the voters and the Selectboard; and a coordinator among staff and about 85 volunteers serving on 13 boards and commissions who all provide policy input to or from the Town.

Significant employee changes in FY 2023-24 include:

Welcomes: Lauren Pelletier, Paramedic, Colchester Rescue; Megan Severance, Communications Specialist, Police Department; Adam Magee, Operations Manager, Public Works; Kyle Smith, Career Firefighter, Fire Department; Derek Cronin, Paramedic, Colchester Rescue; Ramsey Blohm, Mechanic, Public Works; Benjamin Castor, Finance Officer, Finance; Michael Marciano, Police Officer, Police Department; Jacob Cunningham, Police Officer, Police Department; Denise Fortin, Human Resources Coordinator, Human Resources; Erik Short, Career Firefighter, Fire Department; Nicole Conley, Recreation Center Manager, Parks & Recreation; Addison Cook, Police Officer, Police Department; Norman Baldwin, Director of Public Works, Public Works; Sophia Marks, Library Associate, Burnham Memorial Library; Bryon Meyers, Police Officer, Police Department. Farewells: Craig Lamoureux, Communications Specialist, Police Department; Jordan Barriere, Police Officer, Police Department; Sidney Pollock, Paramedic, Colchester Rescue; Samantha Turner, Communications Specialist, Police Department; Reilly Grant, Library Associate, Burnham Memorial Library; Christian Mellen, Police Corporal, Police Department; Dale Newton, Career Fire Captain, Fire Department; Alicia Tebeau-Sherry, Communications Coordinator, Manager's Office. Retirements: Douglas Landry, Maintenance Technician, Public Works, retired after 34 years; Douglas Allen, Chief of Police, Police Department, retired after 39 years; Bryan Osborne, Director of Public Works, retired after 33 years.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

AARON FRANK

Improvements made in FY 2023-24 that will impact the future of Colchester include:

- A substantial increase in public safety funding in the FY25 Municipal Service Budget, including the following additional staff: 2 police officers, 1 rescue member, 1 police support services manager, 1 firefighter, and the transition of the assistant fire chief from half-time to full-time
- Construction of the Malletts Bay Sewer was begun with the first three contracts awarded by competitive bidding to in- state companies
- Construction of the Colchester Recreation Center commenced with a local contractor winning the competitive bid process
- Replaced air packs for Colchester Fire Department
- Signed a three-year contract with Saint Michael's Fire for fire response.
- Trained employees on claims reporting, Respectful Workplace Training, Best Practices for Management, DEI, and customer services
- Library strategic plan began, along with an expansion of the library digital collection
- Created Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan and received grant funding to begin removing Ash trees
- Updated Phosphorous Control Plan and Stormwater Management Plan to include Chloride Response Plan
- Installed solar-powered pedestrian crossing signals at Blakely Road and Williams Road, and at Costco
- Completed digitization project of permanent land records that date back from early 1700 to 1922, and which are now available to customers online
- Completed update of Town's Code of Ordinances
- Worked with VT Old Cemetery Assoc. and many volunteers for monument repair and cleaning at the Munson Cemetery in June 2024
- Upgraded Town-wide phone system
- Permitted and began construction of a third solar farm



TOWN MANAGER REPORT

CONTINUED

- Facilitated public hearings, elicited public input and advocated for plans and improvements for the intersection of U.S. Route 2 and Clay Point Rd. with VT Secretary of Transportation and CCRPC
- Planned for eclipse traffic which turned into a good exercise for our emergency operations planning and implementation. We influenced a reduction in local travel demand and did not have the disruptive traffic jams reported elsewhere in the country
- Supported what seems to be the largest Green Up Day effort in town history in terms of tons of material cleaned up, exceeding all other communities
- Researched and reported on improvements in broadband by the private sector in Colchester, leaving only 51 of roughly 7,000 properties without coverage

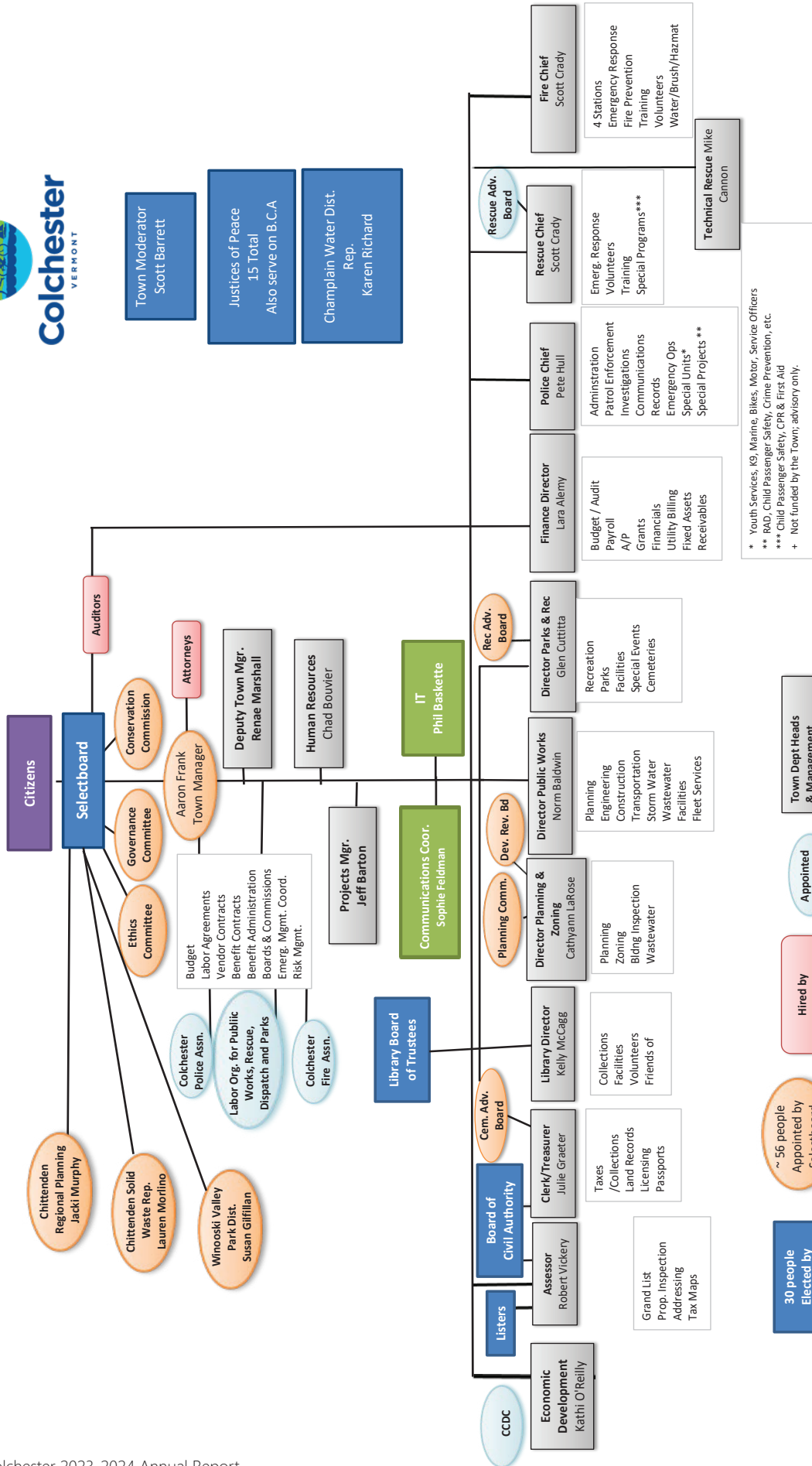
Town management and staff maintain their commitment to fiscal responsibility. In addition to the examples above, and by your Selectboard, other cost-saving measures include:

- Continually evaluated opportunities and cash flow across Town controlled funds and invested Town funds into Treasury Bills that had earnings of \$425,000
- Added additional banking security to safeguard against check fraud.
- Wastewater billing was handed to Champlain Water District (CWD) as of the end of FY24. Worked with DPW through the year to meet with CWD and review contracts.
- Installed energy efficient light fixtures in all town-owned buildings with majority of funding, approximately \$69,000, from pre-approved rebates.
- Reviewed and updated planning and zoning fees and indexed fee increases to the CPI so they keep up with costs
- Updated UVM Support Agreement (payment in lieu of taxes)
- Negotiated two financially significant settlement agreements on outstanding permitting violations: Sharrow Circle and Malletts Bay Campground
- Worked with the Assessor to issue Reappraisal Request for Proposals
- Arranged Malletts Bay Sewer financing so that it is unlikely to require loans for the first year of construction
- General Fund Capital Budget leveraged 53% by grants; Malletts Bay Sewer leveraged 68% by grants with the remainder financed by a 2% U.S. EPA loan.
- Colchester's municipal service tax per person is \$785 or 15% below average and the second lowest for inner Chittenden County.
- Completed disposition of two unneeded properties, increasing reserves by \$320,000 for future capital needs

With input from the public, staff boards and commissions, and Selectboard, the Town performs annual goalsetting and review of the prior year's goals and accomplishments, of which the above is a summary. The information is available on the Town Manager's web page.

I'd like to thank the Selectboard for their thoughtful and collaborative approach to governance, and you, our residents, for your continued support of our Town's ongoing efforts and our progress on goals for the future. It is my privilege to serve as your Town Manager!

2025 Town Organizational Chart



PUBLIC WORKS

NORM BALDWIN, DIRECTOR

In FY24, the Town of Colchester's Public Works Director Bryan Osborne retired after 33 years. His dedicated service to Colchester is admirable and very much appreciated.

As the new Director of Public Works, I want to share how much I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the Colchester community.

The Public Works Team continues their dedicated service to the community in maintaining 93.7 miles of roadway, 42 miles of sidewalks and bike paths, 900 street lights, 2700 stormwater and wastewater structures, 38 miles of sewer and stormwater conveyance systems, 13 wastewater pumping stations, 15 public buildings, and 117 pieces of equipment.

Highway Team: Our Highway team members worked hard this summer replacing 480 feet of culvert and stormwater pipe, pothole patching using 103 tons of asphalt, street sweeping and catch-basin cleaning collecting 655 cubic yards, roadside ditch reshaping, regrading dirt roads, mowing roadside shoulders, restriping pavement markings and many other miscellaneous tasks assigned to the team.

Fleet Team: Our Fleet Maintenance Team diligently provides routine preventative maintenance to the wide array of rolling stock. Preventative maintenance is necessary to extend service life of the fleet, minimize the cost of ownership, and keep our rolling stock in service.

In addition to planned, preventative maintenance, normal wear and tear on vehicles on occasion brings them into the shop, placing them out of service. In this situation work is reprioritized, problems are diagnosed, repairs are made, and the vehicle is placed back into service.



Construction of the First Phase of the Malletts Bay Sewer Service area along West Lakeshore and Blakely Road.



Engineering has been managing construction of the Recreation Center.

Engineering and Administration: Our Engineering and Administration Team is busy capturing public requests for service. Our team works diligently to route these requests as work orders to the appropriate team members and to address issues and answer questions.

The Team is also responsible for managing the Stormwater Program, Wastewater Program, Transportation Program, as well as performing a supporting role in the Development Review process with our Planning and Zoning Department, and working on the development and advancement of major Capital Projects.

COLCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SCOTT CRADY, FIRE CHIEF

The end of Fiscal Year 2024 marked the Colchester Fire Department's fourth full year of service to the Colchester community. The Fire Department provides emergency response services to fires, fire alarms, motor vehicle crashes, hazardous material spills, marine incidents, and medical incidents. We also provide community education in fire prevention and safety. The Fire Department works closely with the Vermont State Fire Marshal's division and Colchester Planning & Zoning on plans and requirements for new and existing building sites.

The Fire Department is comprised of over 40 volunteers and 6 full time staff, providing coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Recruiting and onboarding of new members is ongoing and we continue to onboard new volunteers regularly. The Fire Department is also in a mutual aid partnership with St. Michael's College Fire & Rescue. We continue to work closely with their officers and firefighters to respond to incidents around Colchester. We work closely with Colchester Rescue, Colchester Technical Rescue, and the Colchester Police Department on many incidents on a daily basis. We also have a close working relationship with surrounding fire departments receiving and providing fire related mutual aid as needed.

Our members continually train to enhance and learn skills to improve our services to the community. The Fire Department provides two hours of training every week, with many members completing much more training as their schedules allow. We are developing new training and qualification standards for our members to reflect the constant changes in technology and standards the fire service faces.

This fiscal year we replaced aging and mismatched Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs) with new SCBA equipment. We have continued to purchase and place into service new radios, both portable and mobile, to replace older radios that can not communicate with our mutual aid fire departments surrounding Colchester. We have also replaced other essential items such as hose, nozzles, lifting airbags, and tools that have come to their end of serviceable life.



Members of the Fire team at a training



POLICE DEPARTMENT

PETER HULL, CHIEF OF POLICE



In FY24, Chief Douglas Allen retired after 39 years of service to the Town of Colchester, the last five as Chief. His departure, coupled with the four retirements of senior staff in FY23, left a large void to be filled by new leadership.

In addition to the Chief's retirement, we had another experienced officer leave for a new employment opportunity. We had one new officer, Michael Marciano, complete his training at the Vermont Police Academy and we were able to hire three new officers, Jacob Cunningham, Addison Cook and Bryon Meyers, who are currently in training.

We also welcomed new leadership at CPD. Michael Akerlind was promoted to Lieutenant. Jeremy Wyskiel, David Dewey and Zachary Roy were promoted to Sergeant. Detective Michael West was promoted to Corporal. Communications Specialist Michael Nosek was promoted to Support Services Manager.

We are excited for the opportunity to bring new ideas and perspectives to the direction of the Department.

The Colchester Police Department responded to 10,966 calls for service in FY24. This was close to our number of calls in FY23, 22, and 21. In general, our calls have become more complex with a substantial increase in mental health related calls, overdoses and unresponsive calls.

The Colchester Police Department is Hiring!

We still have more positions to fill, including our communications staff. Hiring police officers continues to be a challenge for law enforcement across the state and the country. Policing is an honorable and rewarding career of service. If you or someone you know has an interest in joining our CPD family, please visit our website at <https://colchestervt.gov/policedept> and click the "Employment" tab.



COLCHESTER RESCUE

SCOTT CRADY, RESCUE CHIEF



Rescue Chief Crady leads a training with members of the Rescue team.

In FY24, Colchester Rescue's incident volume slightly increased over last year with 2,279 calls for service compared to 2,219 calls in FY23. Colchester Rescue responded to calls for service outside of our primary response area 375 times (16% of volume) and called upon mutual partners 202 times (9% of volume).

Calls for service included lifting assistance, medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, motor vehicle crashes, drug and alcohol related incidents, mental health crises, and cardiac arrests.



Colchester Rescue has continued to maintain a roster of over 50 active Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers, with various levels of certification and experience. Providers who have moved on from Colchester Rescue have done so to continue their education or have relocated to other states.

Colchester Rescue added one full-time position in FY24 and continues to have a wait list of volunteer applicants who wish to join our organization as openings become available.

Additionally, Colchester Rescue has continued to update our training programs and processes based upon new guidance in EMS education, technological advancements, and feedback from our members.

COLCHESTER TECHNICAL RESCUE

MICHAEL CANNON, CHIEF

Colchester Technical Rescue and its 25 members responded to a total of 24 emergency calls, the majority being water rescues.

Our team members completed over 1,600 hours of training and an additional 530 emergency call hours. The team remains fully staffed with all volunteers.

Call numbers for Colchester Technical Rescue have declined in the annual report. This is not necessarily reflective of a decrease in activity. When the members of Colchester Technical Rescue are called out as part of the State of Vermont's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team 1, for certain in-state and all out-of-state emergencies, the callouts of Colchester Technical Rescue members, Town equipment, and vehicles are no longer included in the annual report.

Fourteen of our members deployed as Colchester Technical Rescue for a ten day 24-7 operation, along with other state and national teams, in response to the July 9-10, 2023 flooding events across Vermont. The State of Vermont provided funding for replacement of one of our five boats, which should arrive in FY 25.

Members continue to perform outreach, training and education to other partner agencies and targeted groups with the emphasis on drowning and water safety. The team maintains its advanced certifications and instructors at all levels of water rescue.



Did you know?

The Parks Department is responsible for maintaining over 400 acres of parks/natural areas and 11 miles of bike/pedestrian paths. It includes: 13 parks, two beaches, six bike/pedestrian paths, four pump stations, one seasonal ice rink, Nordic ski trails, and the grounds of all municipal buildings (Library, Rescue, Police, Fire, Meeting House, and Town Hall).

Special events held in FY24:

- Winter Carnival
- Easter Egg Hunt (in partnership with Lion's Club)
- Touch-a-Truck
- Colchester Causeway 5, 10, 15K Race
- Fourth of July Fun Run, Parade, Concert, Food Trucks and Fireworks
- Bayside Park Summer Concert Series
- Fall Concert
- Fall Movie in the Park
- Colchester Corners Autumnal Market
- Dinner with Santa



Department Accomplishments in FY24:

- 73 summer camps
- Summer track program placed first in State Track Meet
- 142 winter programs offered
- 97 fall programs offered
- ACE before-and-afterschool program offered in three Colchester Schools with 185 students enrolled
- Youth basketball and lacrosse continue to flourish
- One new employee hired to replace outgoing staff: Nicole Conley, Recreation Center Manager
- Recreation Center is under construction

BURNHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

KELLY L. MCCAGG, DIRECTOR

We are a community that learns and grows together, collaborates for impact, and embraces possibility. We take pride in creating a welcoming space where people explore a world of ideas, share their stories, and dream of the future.

2024 Year in Review

- 92,185 Items Circulated (books, movies, music, magazines, passes)
- 21,737 Digital Items downloaded--this includes 13,629 audiobooks; 7,733 ebooks; as well as movies, television, comics, and music
- 712 Programs provided to patrons of all ages and 9,368 people attended these programs
- 26 Passive programs (e.g. seed library) offered with 1,339 patrons participating
- 170 Outreach sessions provided to 2,433 people
- 132 Storytime collections delivered to local schools & daycares
- 717 people able to obtain a library card thanks in part to our online registration form
- 84 Community meetings held in the Library Meeting House
- 1,939 Items shared via Interlibrary Loan
- Regular partners include: Colchester Food Shelf (regular donation site), Colchester Parks Department (Village StoryWalk®), Niquette Bay State Park (Poetry Walk), UVM Extension (Pollinator gardens & supporting programs), CSWD (programming), AARP (free tax preparation), and the Colchester/Milton Rotary Club (Fill the Truck, Holiday baskets)



We appreciate your continued support as we discover new ways to learn and grow together as one community.



The library offers many activities for children and adults alike, from puppy storytime and crafts to concerts and more.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KATHI O'REILLY, DIRECTOR

"Economic Development is the process of improving a community's economic well-being and quality of life by creating jobs, attracting new businesses, fostering innovation and utilizing resources effectively."

The Colchester business community is comprised of over 800 businesses that employ more than 9,800 people, with total wages exceeding \$167,000,000. The vast majority of these companies are small businesses. Our business community consists of agricultural family-owned farms, manufacturers, local artisans, eateries, gift shops and much more.

Colchester's Economic Development approach is to first help to maintain and assist existing businesses and second to attract additional businesses.

To assist existing businesses, Economic Development: 1) helped provide information about flooding and recovery resources especially to agricultural businesses; 2) spearheaded work with Water Tower Hill owners and potential tenants; 3) coordinated with VTrans on

communication to businesses regarding the construction of the Double Diamond Intersection at Exit 16 and the Exit 17 construction; 4) maintained relationships with local, state and federal partners in order to provide resources to businesses; and 5) served as a lead department hosting the second Colchester Autumnal Market on the Green at Severance Corners. This brought in residents and visitors to hear live music, participate in lawn games and kid crafts, visit food trucks and appreciate and purchase from local artisans and vendors which overfilled the Green.



Actions to assist existing, or add new businesses included: a) assisted in development of the Growth Center renewal application to the state, which allows Severance Corners to be exempt from Act 250; b) researched potential commercial tenants for Severance Corners quadrants; c) co-hosted a job fair at Colchester High School with dozens of Colchester businesses providing students the opportunity to learn about career options right in town; d) recruited students to serve on Town boards and commissions, which helps with professional development and has led to internships and interest in volunteer or career public service; e) participated in local business organizations to network, connect, engage and understand current needs; f) community branding and marketing; and g) advocacy with federal, state and local staff and officials for policies that promote business.

Outcomes of this work include new businesses locating at Water Tower Hill, the "Premier Office Park in the State," the retention of existing businesses and siting of new businesses in Colchester, and with 11,580 adults ages 19-54, a healthy balance of jobs to working age adults.

The best part of economic development is the ability to work with and meet so many business owners of all sizes, industries, and stages of their business models, and see the creativity, motivation, and inspiration they exude. Colchester has, and continues to see, slow and steady business growth which is exactly what we want to sustain our stability into the future.



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

JULIE GRAETER, TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

In FY 24, the Town Clerk's Office:

- Upgraded our Land Records software and created digital files of our land records back to the start of Colchester in the 1700s.
- Annual Town Meeting was held in March '24 with 27% voter participation.

Colchester Cemeteries

There were 23 burials and 12 lots sold.
Lots are available in the Munson, Champlain and Old Methodist Cemeteries.

Highlights

- Memorial Day was celebrated by the annual placing of flags for our Veterans buried in the six Town Cemeteries.
- Wreaths Across America continued their traditional ceremony in December. A wreath was placed on veteran's graves at the Fort Cemetery.
- With the help of VT Old Cemetery Assoc., Cemetery Advisory Board and many volunteers, the Munson Cemetery monuments are being cleaned and repaired.

Town Clerk's Office Statistics

Dogs Registered	868
Land Record Books Added	24
Mylars Added	48
Passports Processed	1249
Births	142
Deaths	476
Marriages	87
Registered Voters	12,354



Before and after restoration work.



The Colchester Cemetery Advisory Committee assesses the condition of aging gravesites.



This was a time of stability and, with no changes in staffing, the department was focused on continued development and efficiencies.

Insightful Numbers

- The Department issued 436 building and zoning permits. In addition to these permits, the department authored 240 Bianchi letters, assisting the community in the transfers of Colchester properties.
- While the number of permits decreased compared to the number issued the prior fiscal year, the value of these improvements increased significantly. More than \$62.98 million in land development was permitted in FY24, up by more than \$10 million over FY23, and generating more than \$491,000 in permit revenue, a substantial increase over the year prior.
- Permits for 141 new homes were issued; this includes 23 single family homes and 118 units in duplex and multi-unit arrangements.
- Town staff conducted 375 permit inspections and 7 health inspections.

Board, Commission, and Department Activity

- The Development Review Board maintained a robust schedule; over the course of 12 months, they reviewed 47 applications, including site plans, conditional uses, subdivisions, and appeals.
- The Planning Commission stewarded several comprehensive sets of amendments, including Supplements 46 and 47 to the Development Regulations, holding public hearings that were then approved by the Selectboard in the early spring and late summer of 2024 respectively. Supplement 46 included 17 updates, some of which were mandated by State-level legislation.
- Staff from the office were part of a collaborative team that hosted the Town's second Autumnal Market at the Town-owned Green at Severance Corners in October of 2023. Dozens of vendors, musicians, and artists together welcomed a hearty and happy crowd for food, sales, games and more.

Director's Note

I would like to highlight and thank the small but capable Planning & Zoning team. Zachary Maia, Kirk Dressing-Kirkorian, and Emily Johnson round out our full-time staff. We were joined part-time by inspector Seth Lasker and in the summer by UVM student intern Amelia Holmes. Due to permit reforms initiated by the Selectboard and an online permitting database, we have been able to reduce our staff to about half of what it was a decade ago. The department remains committed to delivering excellence in service, alongside consistent and objective permit and development review.

The efforts of our department are significantly enhanced by the hard-working volunteers who serve on the Development Review Board and Planning Commission, and whose selfless service to Colchester is immeasurable. I am infinitely grateful. Thank you members!

Lastly, to our treasured community members, I express a hearty and sincere "thank you!" for your continued support and graciousness. I am honored to serve this department and community. We will continue to work on behalf of the people and businesses here to sustain Colchester as a truly special place to live, work, and recreate.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

ROBERT VICKERY, ASSESSOR

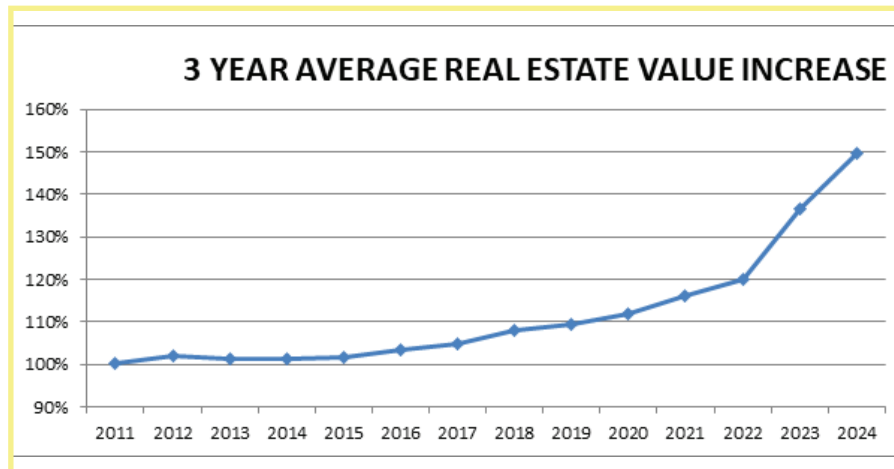
"Ensuring that no property owner pays more than their fair share"

YEAR IN REVIEW

- 253 Change of Assessment Notices mailed (does not include Current Use Notices)
- 202 increases in assessments
- 51 decreases in assessments
- Largest changes: 10th Cavalry Housing Limited Partnership purchased a parcel of land with 3 commercial buildings from St Michael's College. The property was part of a larger exempt parcel the college subdivided. The property is now partially taxable and has been added to the Grand List.

PROPERTY VALUE INCREASING

The chart below shows the increase in property values in Colchester since the last reassessment. The increases are based on yearly sales studies that use valid real estate sales in a 3-year period.



TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL INFORMATION

The State of Vermont has mandated that the Town conduct a town-wide reappraisal. The State mandates reappraisals if a town's Common Level of Assessment (CLA) decreases below 85%. Since 2020, the real estate market has increased significantly, and the Town's CLA has decreased to 66.8%, falling below the 85% threshold. The last town-wide reappraisal was completed in June 2011.

The Town has contracted with Vision Government Solutions (Vision) to complete the town-wide reappraisal. Vision will complete the reappraisal in June of 2026 with the appraisal date of April 1, 2026. The assessment changes will affect property taxes for the fiscal year 2027.

Reappraisals do not increase total revenues raised through property taxes; instead, reappraisals adjust property assessments to the fair market value. Assuming the same level of municipal service or State Education Tax funding needs, tax rates are lowered to yield the same amount of tax revenue. What happens in a town-wide reappraisal is an increase in property assessments decreases the tax rates, and tax revenues remain the same. However, some properties will see a lower tax while others will see an increase in tax. If a property's assessment is less than or equal to the Town's average assessment increase, then the taxes for that property will decrease or not change. If a property's assessment is greater than the Town's average assessment change, then that property's tax will increase. Assessment changes could be for an individual property or by property class, category, or neighborhood; for example, commercial versus residential properties.

Data Collectors from Vision will be going door to door collecting data for the reappraisal. Vision, with the help of the Assessor's Office, will also be sending out mailers to collect data. Cooperation in the reappraisal process will lead to fair and equitable assessment for all tax payers in Colchester. The goal of this reappraisal is to update the assessment data and assess all properties in the town to 100% fair market value so we can ensure that no property owner pays more than their fair share.

If you have any questions about the reappraisal, assessment practices, or your property's assessment, please visit the Town of Colchester Assessor's web page at <https://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or you can call or email the Town Assessor at (802) 264-5671 and rvickery@colchestervt.gov.

COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BONNIE L. POTTER, PRESIDENT

The Historical Society hosted wonderful events and programs this year that included presentations about the history of immigration law, harvest celebrations, a holiday concert at the historic brick church, a history trivia game, Colchester Fire Department history, a history of the Rutland Railway's Island Line, and a presentation about the history of plants and gardens. The season wrapped up with a barbecue, annual meeting, and a celebration of the Parsonage's 125th birthday.



- Women's History Month featured an article about Dr. Ruth E. Wright (1903-1971), who authored *Colchester Vermont From Ice-Cap to Interstate*, a detailed book about Colchester's history. She was also active in volunteer service to Colchester. We nominated her for inclusion in the Vermont Historical Society's Vermont Women's History Database.
- The Colchester Log Schoolhouse at Airport Park was open on weekends throughout the summer, garnering hundreds of visitors from around the United States and the world. It's a lovely museum and visitor center that highlights the early days of education. Volunteers Jack and Michelle Penca offered fun and educational "Make and Take" classes for children ages seven to ten.
- Since so many local towns were chartered in June 1763, including Colchester, we participated in an event hosted at the Essex Community Historical Society. The theme was "Happy 261st Birthday to us!"
- A dozen Colchester Middle School students participating in "CMS Days" with an interest in history, toured the Parsonage, the Log Schoolhouse, and took a bicycle ride on the historic Colchester Causeway. In addition, they learned about genealogy research and had a hands-on lesson in cleaning stone memorials at a local cemetery.
- We were proud to participate as the Town of Colchester received a Vermont Roadside Historic Marker commemorating the First Special Service Force (FSSF). The unveiling of the marker and a special dedication event was held August 12 at Ethan Allen Park.
- Under the guidance of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association trainers, several Colchester Historical Society members and others learned how to correctly clean old monuments at Munson Cemetery. We also participated in the festive Autumnal Market held at Severance Corners that was hosted by the Town.
- Congratulations to: Mazza's General Store, celebrating 70 years; Colchester Lions Club, celebrating 60 years; Mike's Auto Parts, celebrating 35 years; and Vermont Nut Free Chocolates, celebrating 25 years.

To learn more about the Colchester Vermont Historical Society, please visit our website at <https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society> and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterVermontHistoricalSociety>. New members are always welcome, and there are several interesting volunteer opportunities available.



The FSSF historic marker stands tall at Ethan Allen Park. The FSSF was formed in 1942 and trained at Fort Ethan Allen. It earned considerable honors from four nations for accomplishments during World War II, including a U.S. Congressional Gold Medal.



Now serving as headquarters for the Colchester Historical Society, the Parsonage turned 125 years old. Walkways were improved and a new accessible ramp was installed over the summer.



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

THERESA CARROLL, CHAIR

Highlights of FY24:

- Coordinated the Town's annual Green Up Day, held May 4, handing out 750 bags to 698 volunteers, including 450 high school students. Volunteers collected 6.79 tons of trash and 602 tires this year, which was the highest amount of any town in Chittenden County
- Green Up co-coordinators Theresa Carroll (current Commission chair) and Pam Loranger (former Commission member) were invited and made a presentation about Green Up Day to students at Porters Point School
- In June, assisted Town employees Karen Adams and Brett McCreary with storm drain stenciling in the South Bay Circle neighborhood to meet the town's MS4 grant requirements for stormwater management. The public event was organized and led by Macie Broussard, Rethink Runoff Stream Team Program Coordinator, and included a brief presentation about storm runoff and the importance of protecting waterways
- Conducted annual maintenance on the rain garden on Holy Cross Road including weeding, removal of invasive plant species, and cutting back perennials and bushes
- Worked with members of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, Town employees, and other residents to clean and reset headstones at Munson Cemetery as part of a town project to restore local cemeteries
- Visited the 8.5-acre Law Island on an annual site visit to assess changes and note potential issues to report to the Lake Champlain Land Trust
- Planted annuals at lower Bayside Park, the flagpole bed by the Pickled Perch, and the traffic islands across from Malletts Bay School through Colchester Blooms!, for a total of 32 volunteer hours
- Conducted a site visit to Wolcott Family Natural Area in October
- Commission member Lauren Morlino was appointed as Colchester's representative to the Chittenden Solid Waste District Board of Commissioners, taking over the position from Liz Hamlin-Volz, a former member of the Conservation Commission
- Two Colchester High School students, Spencer Putnam and Dylan Tompkins, continued serving as voting members of the Commission for the second year through the town's Get Engaged Program, designed to encourage student participation on Town boards and commissions



MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

Proposed FY26 Budget: The proposed FY26 municipal services budget represents a 6.3% increase in planned expenditures for maintaining our current level of Town services, and addresses: 1) Additional resource needs in the Assessor's Office necessitated by the state's requirement to conduct a town-wide reappraisal, as well as achieving the Selectboard's goal to reduce costs associated with the mass reappraisal by transitioning to a rolling reappraisal moving forward; 2) Retention of volunteer firefighters by increasing stipends when responding to calls; 3) Recognition of DPW-Highway staff that have gained the skill and ability to operate heavy equipment, creating a growth opportunity within the department, and providing a benefit to the Town by having more than one person able to operate our large equipment when needs arise; 4) Community programming needs within Colchester Burnham Library by transitioning one 35-hour/week library employee to 40-hours/week.

The FY26 Municipal Services budget, not including the additional resources listed above, represents a 5.49%, or \$875,325 increase compared with FY25.

Forty-two percent, or \$7,134,155 of the FY26 Municipal Services budget is dedicated to the Town's public safety services – Police, Fire, Rescue, Tech Rescue, and Public Safety Dispatch. This amount doesn't include the other municipal support services provided for public safety equipment, vehicle/building maintenance, information technology, human resource, finance/payroll, and general management needs. With those costs included, the Public Safety Services would represent well over half of our municipal services budget.

The decision to hire a Fire Chief that oversees both the fire and rescue departments has resulted in an efficient and effective way to manage those resources while increasing collaboration among the public safety departments.

Here is some additional perspective on the Town's public safety departments:

Colchester Rescue: This service continues to be a model that other rescue services in the area strive toward. The leadership within this department, past and present, have fostered a culture that continues to produce a waiting list of volunteers eager to become part of it, and to receive the quality training that Colchester Rescue provides.

The Town has been working diligently for over a decade to operate Town services that can produce their own revenue, more like a business, with the goal of having these services able to self-support. The revenue received by Colchester Rescue has resulted in a gradual decrease each year for the municipal services tax dollars required to support the operations of this service. In FY26, Colchester Rescue is expected to generate 100% of the revenue needed for its operating expenses.

Colchester Fire: Significant efforts have been made to recognize the service and commitment volunteer firefighters provide to the community. We have made changes that foster a positive culture within the department, and with our partners in St. Michael's Fire. We are ensuring that current and new members are receiving the training they need, and creating clear policies and procedures within the department to help guide their service.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

CONTINUED

Colchester Technical Rescue: This service, comprised of volunteers, is recognized throughout the state for its water and ice rescue and recovery efforts, as well as other hazardous terrain rescues within Colchester and throughout Vermont.

Colchester Police: Colchester Police have undergone significant change over the past several years with the retirement of long-serving members of the department, including its leadership. With change comes opportunity, so we hired a new chief that had grown through the ranks in this department, and promoted others into leadership positions, that each embody the high standards, ethic, and integrity the department holds dear. In addition, we have created civilian positions that are now responsible for evidence collection and the supervision and support of the Records clerks and Public Safety Dispatch staff, allowing our sworn officers more time to devote to community policing.

Colchester Public Safety Dispatch: Dispatch is a key function of public safety, connecting emergency calls with public safety responders. Colchester Public Safety Dispatch had previously been overseen by sworn police officers since its inception. As part of the reworking of leadership in the Police Department, we now have a dedicated manager of Dispatch and Records, who has served as a dispatcher, and who has more time to devote specifically to dispatch. We have a group of dedicated career dispatchers and others for whom dispatch is part of a lifelong work experience. We are especially thankful to have a core group of dispatchers who chose public safety dispatch as their profession.

Below is information regarding the municipal services budget, capital funding, estimated tax rate, and long-term fiscal constraint. The tax impact of the municipal service budget, along with previously approved capital items, represents a 4.86% increase to municipal services property taxes. Examples of the impact are noted below.

Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Increase (Compared to FY25)			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$64	\$96	\$128
Monthly	\$5.32	\$7.98	\$10.63
Weekly	\$1.23	\$1.84	\$2.45

Town Municipal Services Budget: The budget is comprised of twenty-five service areas. The planned expenditures for three of the service areas have been reduced, and four increased by \$5,000 or less. The municipal services budget increase in planned expenditures is 6.3%, but the overall municipal services tax rate increase is 4.86%.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

CONTINUED

Examples of increased costs for maintaining the same level of municipal service include:

- **Increased costs for Health Insurance: +\$322,543**
 - Health carrier raised its rates by 14%.
 - These costs would have been much higher had we not negotiated directly with multiple insurance companies and utilized a high deductible plan.
- **Increased costs for Capital Transfers: +\$66,000**
 - This amount will be used toward the replacement costs for the Creek Farm Bridge, that is offset by a \$66,000 decrease for Selectboard Contingency.
- **Increased costs for Services & Utilities: +\$62,562**
 - \$19,261 – Primarily due to increased costs for Howard Community Outreach program due to loss of \$160,000 in funding that was previously provided by the VT Department of Mental Health to support this program since its inception.
 - \$3,050 – Additional costs for personnel development for new DPW-Admin staff.
 - \$28,430 - Increased costs for utilities, including streetlights and associated maintenance costs, as well as for hazardous tree removal throughout the Town right-of-way.
 - \$11,821 - Increased costs for facility repairs and maintenance of overhead doors at the maintenance facility, as well as the fuel island, and the state required testing of fuel tanks.
- **Increased costs for Supplies & Parts: +\$27,255**
 - \$23,355 - Primarily due to increased costs for tires due to supply chain disruptions, as well as higher prices for the asphalt that is used to fill potholes and make small roadway repairs in DPW-Highway.
 - \$3,900 – Replacement of personal protective equipment/turn-out gear for Fire, as required by OSHA.
- **Increased Fees for Public Transportation Services: +\$18,678**
 - GMT ADA fees increased by \$16,531 due to increased usage.
 - GMT fixed-route services (Route 15 & Route 7) increased by \$2,147.

Capital Funding: The Municipal Services Tax rate is also impacted by previously authorized voter-approved taxes to support capital projects, which are funded by fixed dollar amounts, fixed tax rates, or long-term financing. These total \$1,463,319 for FY26. Local option taxes fund voter-approved bond/lease payments of \$308,708, leaving \$1,154,611 to be raised from property taxes. The certainty of capital funding through multi-year authorizations allows us to maximize grant revenues and minimize borrowing for planned replacements of vehicles, equipment, and capital repairs to parks, roads and buildings. The property tax funded capital is \$1,154,611 and increased by \$8,216 or a 0.72% increase from last year.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

CONTINUED

Tax Rate: The Town Municipal Services Budget and Capital Funding total \$15,403,051, net of non-property tax revenues. With an estimated 1.04% growth in the Grand List, the estimated municipal services tax rate for FY 2026 is \$0.6700. The tax rate is estimated to increase by \$0.0310 (just over three cents per \$100 of assessed property value) or a 4.86% increase over the prior year.

Tax Impact:

<i>FY26 Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Impact</i>			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$1,340	\$2,010	\$2,680
Monthly	\$111.67	\$167.50	\$223.33
Weekly	\$25.77	\$38.65	\$51.54

<i>Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Increase (Compared to FY25)</i>			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$64	\$96	\$128
Monthly	\$5.32	\$7.98	\$10.63
Weekly	\$1.23	\$1.84	\$2.45

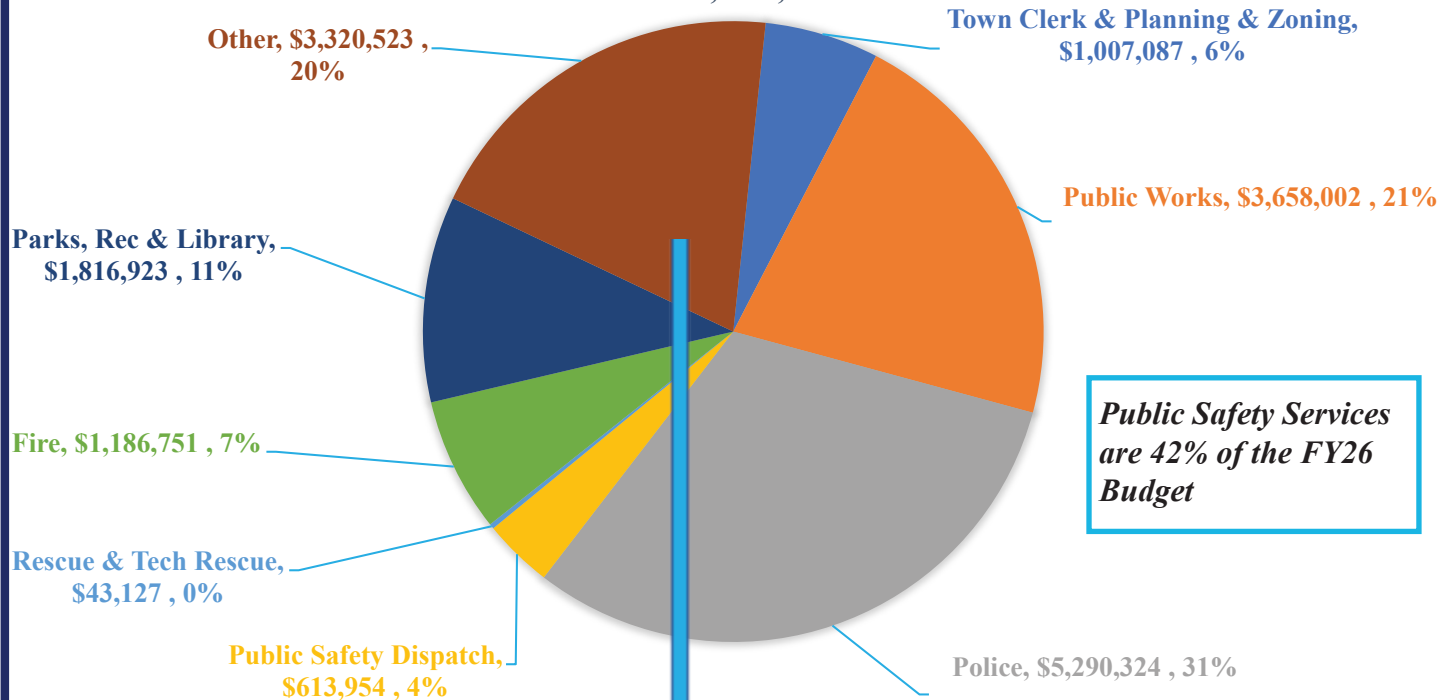
Long Term Fiscal Constraint: In June 2024, the Selectboard set the FY25 municipal services tax rate of \$0.6389 per hundred dollars of assessed property value. This rate was just 11.8% higher than the rate of \$0.5714 set for the FY 2015 municipal services tax bills. For context, the Consumer Price Index in that same time period, has increased 28.2%. Based on 2024-25 taxes, Colchester's municipal services taxes are the second lowest per resident among the seven inner Chittenden County communities.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

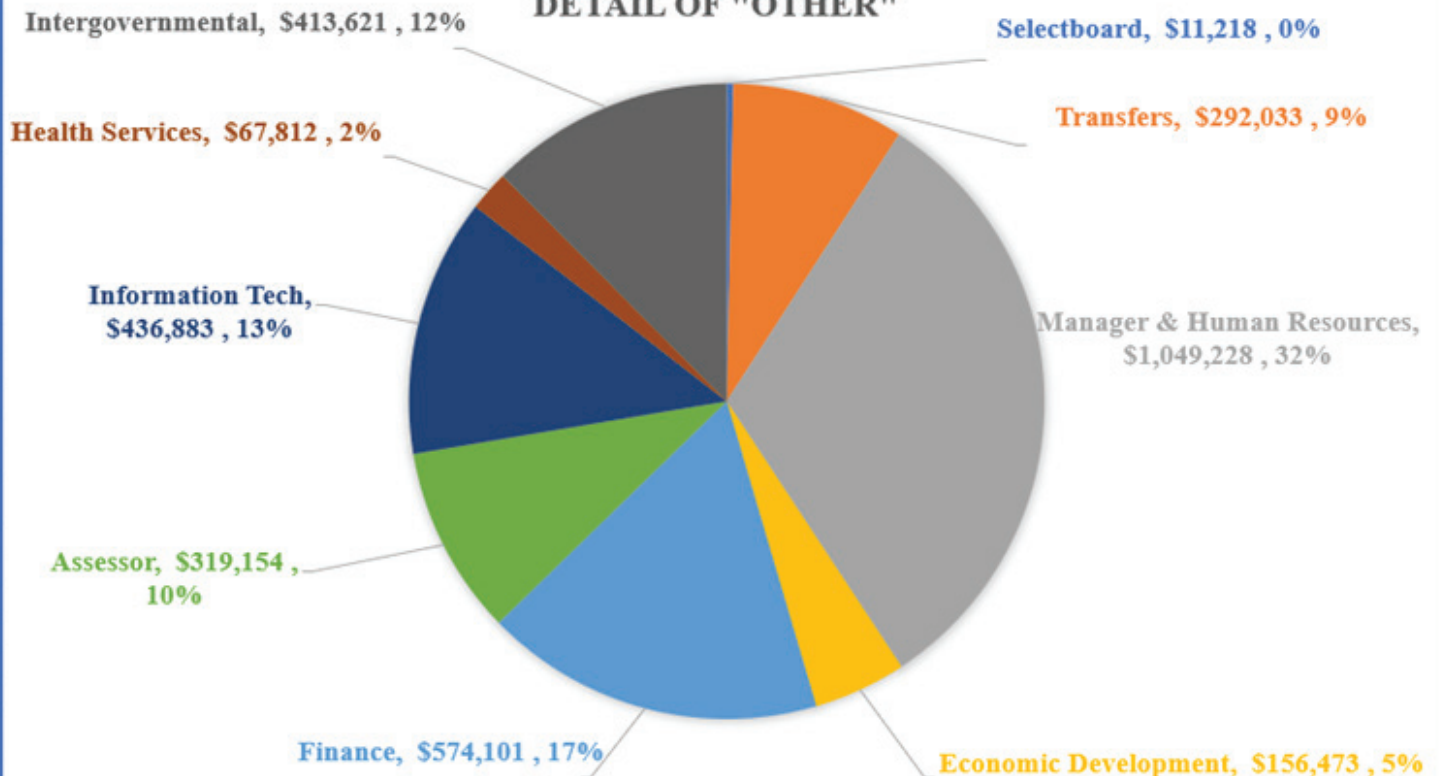
CONTINUED

FY26 BUDGET FOR YOUR TOWN SERVICES

\$16,936,693



DETAIL OF "OTHER"



MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

CONTINUED

COLCHESTER PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET

Account	FY24 Budget	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	\$ Inc/Dec from FY 25	% Inc/Dec from FY 25 Budget
REVENUES						
PROPERTY TAXES	12,623,202	12,561,793	13,394,194	14,248,439	854,246	6.4%
VETERAN EXEMPTION	(33,000)	(46,402)	(40,000)	(40,000)	0	0.0%
INTEREST DELINQ TAXES	55,000	71,536	55,000	55,000	0	0.0%
PENALTIES DELINQ TAXES	77,500	121,273	77,500	77,500	0	0.0%
RECORDING FEES	160,000	101,875	160,000	160,000	0	0.0%
CLERK FEES	72,300	89,800	66,200	76,000	9,800	14.8%
ADMIN REIMBURSEMENT		104,234				0.0%
STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	212,694	219,459	238,635	228,237	(10,398)	-4.4%
MISC PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE	28,100	29,572	27,900	27,900	0	0.0%
BUILDING/ZONING PERMITS	353,600	495,165	355,237	450,000	94,763	26.7%
PLANNING & ZONING FEES	114,600	126,138	145,010	69,000	(76,010)	-52.4%
MISC POLICE REVENUE	68,500	87,877	64,500	68,500	4,000	6.2%
MISC RECREATION REVENUE	18,000	22,900	18,000	20,000	2,000	11.1%
GRANT REVENUE	0	6,300	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER FROM RECREATION PROGRAM FUND				10,832	10,832	0.0%
TRANSFER FROM SEWER FUND	132,953	95,033	79,896	82,265	2,369	3.0%
TRANSFER FROM STORMWATER	157,812	157,812	168,523	165,457	(3,066)	-1.8%
TRANSFER FROM AARPA		5,352,977				0.0%
TRANSFER FROM CEMETERY FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
GENERAL REVENUE	215,090	522,236	245,483	290,268	44,786	18.2%
883 BLAKELY LEASE REVENUE	60,174	58,592	150,733	162,121	11,388	7.6%
PILOT & CURRENT USE	336,874	378,962	379,407	393,173	13,766	3.6%
REDUCTION IN FUND BALANCE	116,000	0	66,000	66,000	0	0.0%
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	260,000	0	285,000	326,000	41,000	14.4%
TRANSFER FROM RESERVE FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues	15,029,399	20,557,134	15,937,217	16,936,693	999,475	6.3%

0

SELECTBOARD

SALARIES & WAGES	8,500	8,500	8,500	9,000	500	5.9%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	650	650	678	718	40	5.9%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	67,500	0	67,500	1,500	(66,000)	-97.8%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Select Board	76,650	9,150	76,678	11,218	(65,460)	-85.4%

TRANSFERS

TRANSFER TO CREEK FARM BRIDGE FUND	0	0	0	66,000	66,000	0.0%
TRANSFER TO LEAVE TIME FUND FOR EXPENSES EXCEEDING BUDGET	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO STORMWATER	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO LEAVE TIME FUND DISPATCH	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO FIRE EQM CAPITAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO DISPATCH	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO PARK CAP PLAN	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO DISPATCH	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO FIRE CAPITAL	226,033	226,033	226,033	226,033	0	0.0%
TRANSFER TO CEMETERY FUND-SPENDABLE	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Transfers	226,033	226,033	226,033	292,033	66,000	29.2%

CIVIL BOARD

SALARIES & WAGES	25,835	17,528	27,647	28,405	758	2.7%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	7,424	2,772	7,671	8,433	762	9.9%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	2,500	1,670	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
EQUIPMENT	600	0	600	600	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	4,000	1,560	400	400	0	0.0%
Total Civil Board	40,359	23,530	38,818	40,338	1,520	3.9%

MANAGER

SALARIES & WAGES	501,798	550,675	590,452	618,114	27,662	4.7%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	213,768	188,692	244,652	269,314	24,663	10.1%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	134,800	5,458,672	134,300	124,800	(9,500)	-7.1%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	7,000	4,213	7,000	7,000	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	26,000	49,878	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%
Total Manager	883,366	6,252,131	1,006,403	1,049,228	42,825	4.3%

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

CONTINUED

COLCHESTER PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET

Account	FY24 Budget	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	\$ Inc/Dec from FY 25	% Inc/Dec from FY 25 Budget
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SALARIES & WAGES	87,076	92,688	97,750	102,175	4,425	4.5%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	45,965	37,175	41,465	46,098	4,633	11.2%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	14,500	6,941	14,500	8,200	(6,300)	-43.4%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	44	0	0	0	0.0%
TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Economic Development	147,541	136,848	153,715	156,473	2,759	1.8%

FINANCE

SALARIES & WAGES	279,966	274,924	307,363	317,272	9,909	3.2%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	119,304	127,399	143,357	165,529	22,171	15.5%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	84,700	81,969	86,900	87,800	900	1.0%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	3,000	3,790	3,000	3,500	500	16.7%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Finance	486,970	488,082	540,621	574,101	33,481	6.2%

ASSESSOR

SALARIES & WAGES	124,324	125,600	130,509	175,701	45,193	34.6%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	58,620	56,469	64,569	94,453	29,884	46.3%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	41,500	30,289	48,100	48,500	400	0.8%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	500	0	500	500	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Assessor	224,944	212,358	243,677	319,154	75,477	31.0%

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER

SALARIES & WAGES	244,826	269,109	275,575	287,944	12,369	4.5%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	120,304	112,178	119,898	121,034	1,136	0.9%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	22,250	20,449	22,250	22,250	0	0.0%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	14,000	16,181	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	600	1,090	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Total Town Clerk/Treasurer	401,980	419,007	433,723	447,228	13,505	3.1%

PLANNING/ZONING

SALARIES & WAGES	297,843	273,511	298,181	299,586	1,405	0.5%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	148,654	116,665	131,477	140,285	8,809	6.7%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	76,100	57,650	85,650	76,150	(9,500)	-11.1%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	3,500	3,462	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Planning/Zoning	526,097	451,290	518,807	519,521	714	0.1%

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SALARIES & WAGES	130,285	143,896	260,053	263,129	3,076	1.2%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	51,873	51,451	85,798	88,054	2,256	2.6%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	124,267	107,957	78,000	78,100	100	0.1%
EQUIPMENT	5,000	8,091	5,000	7,500	2,500	50.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	100	0	100	100	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CAPITAL & TRANSFER		30,000				
Total Information Technology	311,525	341,395	428,951	436,883	7,932	1.8%

POLICE ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES & WAGES	2,813,678	2,335,165	2,967,100	3,094,816	127,716	4.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	1,409,692	1,099,419	1,468,503	1,629,341	160,838	11.0%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	418,549	524,964	427,906	447,167	19,261	4.5%
EQUIPMENT	75,000	130,051	75,000	75,000	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	11,000	18,550	12,000	14,000	2,000	16.7%
MISCELLANEOUS	30,000	97,860	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%
Total Police	4,757,919	4,206,009	4,980,509	5,290,324	309,816	6.2%

0

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH

SALARIES & WAGES		\$ 358,599	\$ 409,927	\$ 414,464	\$ 4,536	1.1%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS		\$ 158,173	\$ 173,063	\$ 192,490	\$ 19,427	11.2%
SERVICES & UTILITIES		\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,500	33.3%
EQUIPMENT		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	559,087	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Public Safety Dispatch	559,087	516,772	588,491	613,954	25,463	4.3%

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

CONTINUED

COLCHESTER PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET

Account	FY24 Budget	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	\$ Inc/Dec from FY 25	% Inc/Dec from FY 25 Budget
FIRE						
FIRE RADIO TOWER LEASE	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
DAYTIME COVERAGE PILOT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
FIRE PREVENTION & SUPPRESSION	0	1	0	1	1	0.0%
SALARIES & WAGES	416,618	449,598	491,342	531,054	39,712	8.1%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	213,156	173,165	212,499	232,596	20,096	9.5%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	137,100	126,859	143,000	134,500	(8,500)	-5.9%
EQUIPMENT	164,609	112,255	152,500	150,100	(2,400)	-1.6%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	107,000	121,459	129,200	133,100	3,900	3.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	7,400	4,301	5,400	5,400	0	0.0%
CAPITAL AND TRANSFERS	0	500,000	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Fire	1,045,883	1,487,638	1,133,942	1,186,751	52,809	4.7%
RESCUE						
EXPENSES/TRANSFER TO RESCUE FUND	108,911	108,911	11,215	0	(11,215)	-100.0%
Total Rescue	108,911	108,911	11,215	0	(11,215)	-100.0%
TECHNICAL RESCUE						
SALARIES & WAGES	9,000	7,988	9,000	9,000	0	0.0%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	2,325	1,957	2,072	1,827	(245)	-11.8%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	27,000	19,228	28,000	28,000	0	0.0%
EQUIPMENT	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	300	0	300	300	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Technical Rescue	42,625	29,172	43,372	43,127	(245)	-0.6%
PUBLIC WORKS - ADMIN						
SALARIES & WAGES	506,952	637,836	619,359	658,152	38,793	6.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	193,678	208,509	250,780	290,747	39,967	15.9%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	45,672	91,141	46,272	49,322	3,050	6.6%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	1,450	2,103	1,450	1,450	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Public Works-Admin	747,751	939,590	917,860	999,670	81,810	8.9%
HIGHWAY DEPT						
SALARIES & WAGES	591,624	441,349	576,128	635,438	59,310	10.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	384,394	322,626	366,795	410,965	44,170	12.0%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	191,390	205,568	211,454	239,884	28,430	13.4%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	402,962	379,171	431,316	454,671	23,355	5.4%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	218,667	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Highway Dept	1,570,370	1,567,381	1,585,693	1,740,958	155,265	9.8%
MAINTENANCE FACILITY						
SALARIES & WAGES	257,940	262,796	265,541	275,257	9,716	3.7%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	115,216	99,129	119,620	150,163	30,544	25.5%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	49,482	62,532	52,290	64,111	11,821	22.6%
EQUIPMENT	5,000	6,448	6,000	7,500	1,500	25.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	46,150	37,205	46,400	48,000	1,600	3.4%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	13,176	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Maintenance Facility	473,788	481,286	489,851	545,032	55,180	11.3%
STORMWATER						
SALARIES & WAGES	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	151,940	148,892	156,000	163,800	7,800	5.0%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CAPITAL AND TRANSFERS	0	42,700	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Stormwater	151,940	191,592	156,000	163,800	7,800	5.0%
BUILDINGS						
SALARIES & WAGES	80,000	48,528	56,609	56,879	270	0.5%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	38,966	32,370	46,004	42,162	(3,842)	-8.4%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	86,150	132,729	91,550	107,500	15,950	17.4%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	3,500	38	3,500	1,500	(2,000)	-57.1%
MISCELLANEOUS	700	424	500	500	0	0.0%
Total Buildings	209,316	214,089	198,164	208,542	10,378	5.2%

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

CONTINUED

COLCHESTER PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET

Account	FY24 Budget	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	\$ Inc/Dec from FY 25	% Inc/Dec from FY 25 Budget
HEALTH SERVICES						
VISITING NURSE ASSOC	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	0	0.0%
HOWARD MENTAL HEALTH	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
STEPS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	550	550	550	550	0	0.0%
TURNING POINT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AGE WELL	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT	21,890	25,320	23,203	23,762	559	2.4%
ANIMAL CONTROL FEES	6,500	1,275	6,500	6,500	0	0.0%
Total Health Services	65,940	64,145	67,253	67,812	559	0.8%
PARKS						
SALARIES & WAGES	242,351	248,365	258,092	288,517	30,425	11.8%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	90,395	81,924	79,552	107,567	28,015	35.2%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	139,581	157,003	157,447	154,836	(2,611)	-1.7%
EQUIPMENT	5,000	4,374	7,000	10,000	3,000	42.9%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	17,000	15,647	17,250	17,250	0	0.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	31,246	0	0	0	0.0%
CAPITAL AND TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Parks	494,327	538,559	519,341	578,170	58,830	11.3%
RECREATION						
SALARIES & WAGES	162,743	158,313	166,290	173,753	7,463	4.5%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	58,279	56,268	63,251	72,174	8,923	14.1%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	59,000	55,017	64,400	64,500	100	0.2%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	3,500	4,247	3,500	4,600	1,100	31.4%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	100	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Recreation	283,522	273,944	297,441	315,027	17,586	5.9%
LIBRARY						
SALARIES & WAGES	452,035	465,867	487,803	518,604	30,802	6.3%
EMPLOYER TAXES & BENEFITS	219,430	223,922	231,241	237,397	6,156	2.7%
SERVICES & UTILITIES	160,477	143,052	168,722	162,225	(6,497)	-3.9%
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SUPPLIES & PARTS	5,200	5,359	5,200	5,500	300	5.8%
MISCELLANEOUS	0	6	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Library	837,142	838,205	892,966	923,726	30,760	3.4%
INTERGOVTL EXPENDITURES						
LCR CHAMBER	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
VT COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%
GBIC	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
CHITT CO REGIONAL PLANNING	28,044	28,044	28,512	28,655	143	0.5%
WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT	55,143	55,143	58,099	61,186	3,087	5.3%
VLCT	24,227	24,227	24,963	25,513	550	2.2%
GMT ADA	48,000	35,072	58,000	74,531	16,531	28.5%
GMT Routes (Rt 15 & Rt 7)	51,000	49,211	51,000	53,147	2,147	4.2%
SSTA (E&D)	29,000	47,700	40,000	40,000	0	0.0%
LOCAL MOTION	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
COUNTY TAX	112,000	115,650	119,120	122,589	3,469	2.9%
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Total Intergov Expenditures	355,414	363,047	387,694	413,621	25,927	6.7%
Total Expenditures	15,029,399	20,380,163	15,937,217	16,936,693	999,476	6.3%

REPORT OF DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

JULIE GRAETER, TOWN CLERK

Town of Colchester Report of Delinquent Tax Collector

Status Report as of June 30, 2024

Taxes, Interest and Penalties billed, collected and balances due for fiscal 2023/2024:				
	Taxes	Interest	Penalty	Total
Billed	\$52,720,004	\$48,657	\$120,938	\$52,889,599
Collected	\$52,490,351	\$33,690	\$105,538	\$52,629,580
Net Due	\$229,653	\$14,966	\$15,400	\$260,019

Current and Prior Year Taxes, Penalty and Interest Due:						
Tax Year	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
10-11	1,571.97	1,679.97	1,787.97	1,895.97	2,003.97	2,111.97
11-12	3,756.01	4,078.45	3,643.23	2,240.90	2,376.26	2,511.62
12-13	5,073.21	5,071.95	4,294.54	2,206.31	2,348.15	2,489.99
13-14	5,430.23	5,313.99	4,630.55	2,310.84	2,469.60	2,628.36
14-15	6,926.90	6,182.34	5,024.03	2,847.32	3,057.80	3,268.28
15-16	11,345.32	7,622.84	6,947.43	3,617.48	3,092.42	3,321.26
16-17	34,537.29	15,825.06	15,318.97	9,638.11	7,699.19	8,348.39
17-18	47,877.13	21,763.50	20,951.23	7,350.49	5,521.81	6,002.77
18-19	176,701.26	47,935.63	31,654.89	10,615.17	8,297.66	9,118.70
19-20		200,134.23	57,821.93	17,346.58	12,283.99	12,546.59
20-21			168,516.38	62,492.59	14,744.90	12,972.85
21-22				153,587.37	28,104.68	17,235.14
22-23					164,680.17	61,731.20
23-24						260,019.38
Totals	\$293,219	\$315,608	\$320,591	\$276,149	\$256,681	\$404,306
% Uncollected						0.76%

ANNUAL ENERGY REPORT

RENAE MARSHALL, DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER

Over a decade ago, a steering committee completed the Heritage Project, a strategic plan that provided a vision for Colchester's future and identified a community goal to "Reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions by improving building efficiency, exploring and incorporating alternative energy sources, and supporting energy conservation and resource reuse and recycling. Soon after, the Colchester Selectboard set a goal to produce 100% of the electric energy consumed in the provision of municipal services through local, affordable, and renewable energy sources.



Solar panels at the Ethan Allen Solar Farm

Since that time, the Town has implemented solar generation projects, completed an LED Street Lighting Project, made energy conservation and efficiency improvements to all Town-owned buildings and facilities, replaced vehicles with more fuel-efficient models, including replacing an SUV with a newly-used electric car, and installed public electric car (EV) chargers at Town Hall as well as the Colchester Recreation Center. The Town has also installed solar-powered pedestrian crossing signals at various intersections in town.

FY24 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Installed energy efficient light fixtures in all Town-owned buildings and facilities, with the majority of the funding, or approximately \$69,000, from pre-approved rebates.
- Permitted and began construction of the 150-kW Fort Ethan Allen solar farm – the third Town-owned solar farm, which will save the Town \$405,000 over its lifespan, after payback of capital and operating costs, due to Colchester's unique approach to solar, whereby the Town itself is the developer, owner, and thus the full beneficiary of savings.



Energy efficient lighting in Town facilities.



- Permitted and began construction of the Colchester Recreation Center which includes solar components on the roof and parking canopy that will produce an additional 270 kW of electricity.
- Installed solar-powered pedestrian crossing signals at Blakely Road and Williams Road, and near Costco.

LOCAL SERVICES

WATER SUPPLY SERVICES

Drinking water in the Town of Colchester is provided by three entities, which are legally separate from your Town government: Colchester Fire District #2, the Town of Essex, and the Champlain Water District. The Town does not provide water. Colchester residents who have questions about their water quality, billing, or service should contact their water provider directly.

Fire District #2 provides water service to the Malletts Bay area and a portion of Blakely Road onto Malletts Bay Avenue. Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Fire District #2 Office, 838 Church Road. The annual meeting is held on the 4th Monday in January.

Water and Hydrant Maintenance 802.862.4621

Prudential Committee

Michael Whalen, Chair
Brad Martin
Joe Hart
Angela MacDonald
Charles Thackara

Web <https://cfd2vt.com/>

Champlain Water District (CWD) provides water to the Exit 16 and Water Tower Hill area, Young Street, Valleyfield, and Morehouse Drive neighborhoods on the Southern portion of Malletts Bay Avenue, and the Route 15 corridor between Winooski and Fort Ethan Allen.

Main Phone (including emergencies) 802.864.7454

CWD Staff

Jay Nadeau 802.864.7454 x4817

Board of Commissioners

CWD Commissioner 3-year term Karen Richard 802.497.2160

Alternate, 3-year term James D. Piette 802.735.7430

Web <http://www.champlainwater.org>

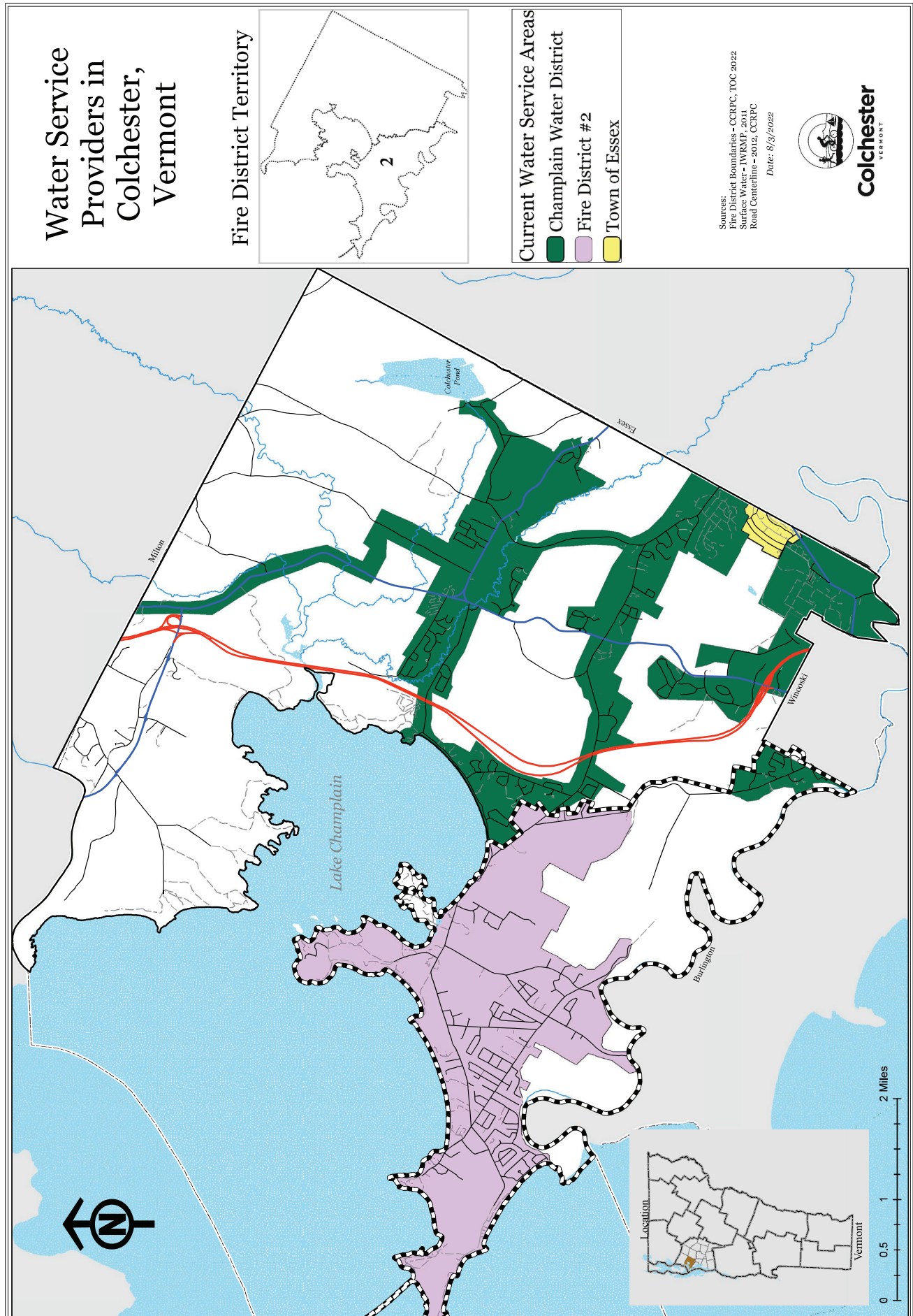
The Town of Essex provides water to Fort Ethan Allen.

Main Phone: 802.878.1334

Web <http://www.essex.org>



WATER SUPPLY SERVICES MAP



CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT



CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

Dedicated to Quality Water & Service



First In The Nation ~ Excellence In Water Treatment, Partnership For Safe Water

MANAGEMENT LETTER – FY 2023-2024

Champlain Water District (CWD) is a regional municipal organization supplying drinking water and fire protection to the following (12) municipal water systems since 1973: South Burlington, Shelburne, Williston, Essex, Essex Junction, Village of Jericho, Winooski, Milton, Colchester Fire District #1, Colchester Fire District #3, Colchester Town, and the Mallets Bay Water Company. This past year CWD celebrated our 25th anniversary of continuing to maintain the Partnership for Safe Water Program's Excellence in Water Treatment Award criteria. CWD was the first water supplier in North America to receive the Excellence in Water Treatment Award in 1999, and is presently one of 16 water utilities that have attained this level of water treatment optimization, which signifies continuous performance protective of public health. CWD has maintained this level of excellence through successful submission of a comprehensive annual report that is reviewed for water quality test results, as well as demonstration and documentation of the operational tenacity toward continued quality improvement as required by the Partnership for Safe Water Program. The Partnership for Safe Water program utility membership collectively serves a total population of over 100 million people, or two-thirds of the U.S. population using surface water as their source of drinking water. In September of 2023, CWD won for a third time the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) taste test for "New England's Best" tap water at NEWWA's fall conference in Burlington, VT.

Over the past year CWD has steadily continued its efforts toward completion of its Ten-Year Master Plan (2016-2026). CWD's accomplishments over this past fiscal year are as follows:

- Continued to manage a long-term asset management contract for on-going inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of (15) of CWD's welded steel water storage tanks and (3) of CWD's non-welded steel water storage tanks.
- Continued a program to monitor tank temperature stratification in our tanks to analyze tank turnover and water quality. The data will be used to identify measures and improvements to continue to provide high quality drinking water.
- Continued to manage a long-term asset management contract for on-going inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of (3) Adsorption Clarifiers and (8) Multimedia Filters at CWD's Water Treatment Facility.
- Began a filter surveillance program and rebuild study to assess the condition of our filters and develop recommendations for future rebuilds.
- Continued Phase II of a water transmission pipe condition assessment plan, titled Pipe Integrity Program (PIP), toward potential replacement of aging underground infrastructure.
- Partnered with Resource Management, Inc. (RMI) for recycling of our drinking water treatment residuals (DWTRs) at their facility where the DWTRs are mixed with topsoil.
- Continued our annual transmission system valve replacement program.
- Continued our annual replacement program for valves and actuators at CWD's Water Treatment Facility.
- Continued investment with Efficiency Vermont to optimize daily energy usage and reduce overall annual electrical costs.
- Began participating in a Flexible Load Management program with GMP to reduce plant energy usage during peak electrical demand periods to help improve electrical grid reliability.
- Continued implementation of a long-term asset management database system for all CWD property, plant, and equipment.
- Continued implementing cybersecurity improvements and protocols to enhance security at our facilities.
- Began the design of upgrades to process controls and SCADA system at CWD's Water Treatment Facility.
- Began replacement of security cameras and radio transmitters using the State Homeland Security Grant Program.
- Conducted a Level 2 Energy Resilience Assessment of the CWD Water Treatment Facility using a VT BGS grant.
- Continued planning for future improvements: Water Treatment Plant HVAC Improvements, Chemical Feed and Storage Addition, Lake Water Pump Station Improvements, South Filtered Water Tank, and SCADA Improvements.

We thank our employees and elected officials for their effort, support, and dedication in allowing CWD to be proactively managed and operated to supply a drinking water product protective of public health. As always, we welcome anyone who wishes to tour our facility. Please call 864-7454 to arrange a tour, or if you have questions, or need further information on CWD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Shand, Chair CWD Board of Water Commissioners

Joe Duncan, CWD General Manager

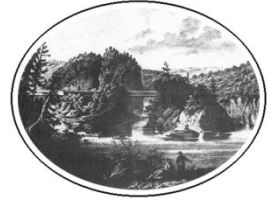


Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

Burlington, Vermont 05408

(802) 863-5744 info@wvdp.org www.WVPD.org

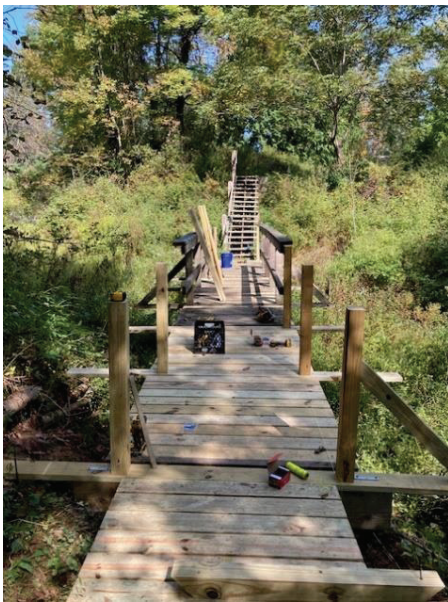


Date: October 15, 2024
To: Colchester Selectboard
From: Nick Warner Executive Director
Re: Annual Report: Winooski Valley Park District

Thank you for your continued support of the Winooski Valley Park District. Your annual investment in this municipal partnership is leveraged each year with grants, leasing, donated services and materials, volunteer labor and strategic partnerships.

A Vermont Regional Municipality, WVPD owns and manages 1,757 permanently conserved acres across eighteen public parks on behalf of its eight member towns. In Colchester this includes Colchester Pond Natural Area, Wolcott Family Natural Area, Delta Park, and Macrae Farm Park - 1,100 acres in total. All these lands are open to the public at no charge, and proactively managed for outdoor recreation, ecological health, and flood resiliency.

Three full time staff - Operations Manager Lauren Chicote, Park Superintendent Tim Larned, and Executive Director Nick Warner are joined by a seasonal crew that is fully engaged performing trail maintenance, litter pick-up, and managing the wear and tear of hard use throughout the WVPD's network of natural areas. Colchester's WVPD Trustee is Susan Gilfillan, who also serves as Vice-Chair of the WVPD Board.



Leveraged resources at WVPD include grants for capital projects, strategic partnerships with public/private/non-profit entities, and access to discounted or donated labor and services. WVPD has increased its role as a Fiscal Agent and Grant Administrator for partner organizations, generating income and goodwill. WVPD currently has over \$700k in grants under management (including water quality upgrades, building upgrades, trail work, invasive management, signage system, capacity support), with more anticipated in the coming months. WVPD offers fee-based contracting services maintenance tasks on non-WVPD properties, generating income and expanding our impact. Grant-supported work by Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and other groups continue to flourish, as well as volunteer-supported tree plantings, invasive plant management, trash pickup and trail maintenance. This system is ingrained into our operations, with substantial work completed and multiple groups returning each year to assist.

Natural events have been dominating WVPD's work: three major floods and several high wind events have occurred over the past 18 months. Continued issues with shoreline erosion and storm damage are part of the "new normal" for WVPD - Tim and the crew have been busy with the reconstruction of walking bridges,

puncheon, steps, and washed-out areas. Strategies for resilience include the relocation of trails, targeted shoreline plantings, and cabling of structures to ease their retrieval after flood events.

These tangible impacts of climate change have highlighted WVPD's responsibility as owner/manager of floodplains, shoreline, and wetlands – a role that is embraced by the organization. Going forward, WVPD will be proactive in working to mitigate impacts of climate change through its management practices and acquisition policies.



Colchester WVPD Parks Update:

Colchester Pond

- WVPD continues to work with Colchester DPW on road upgrades for Colchester Pond Road.
- Several large trees were removed to protect the caretaker house.
- The roofs of the garage and caretaker house were re-shingled and repaired.
- Multiple tree removals after major windstorms and trail relocations were achieved.
- Preparations for a master park planning process is underway.

Delta Park

- WVPD continues work with the University of Vermont and VT Fish and Wildlife on a spiny soft-shelled turtle habitat research project developing data on turtles that use the area.
- Utilizing a Lake Champlain Basin Program grant, several rounds of invasive species removals have been completed.
- Signage has been upgraded.

Macrae Farm Natural Area

- Colchester DPW improved the road segment that leads to the Macrae bridge last year which has held up remarkably well during multiple flooding events.
- WVPD is working with engineers to upgrade the historic bridge leading to the parking area.

Wolcott Family Natural Area

- Since the Gate Tender was hired in 2022, public response has been very positive, with usership increasing over time.
- A CCRPC funded Water Quality project is underway, with engineering completed for a project that will reduce erosion and stabilize a washed-out gully.
- The crew is in the process of replacing decking and railings on the 40' Boardwalk.



Looking to the Future In the past few years, WVPD welcomed a new community into the fold (Essex Junction), progressed on the addition of new parks in Williston and Winooski, upgraded park infrastructure and buildings, and accessed resources for additional upgrades and improvements. With climate change and water quality issues dominant, WVPD is at the forefront of the effort to preserve lands that can contribute to positive ecological change. Originally formed in response to the rapid land use changes in the late 1960's and 70's, WVPD's mission was focused on preserving areas of scenic beauty and providing recreational access. Now, WVPD is increasingly focused on ecological values and the ability of our landscapes to process floodwaters, host rare and endangered species, and provide top quality habitat – all while providing robust public access. Thank you for your support!!

Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) Fiscal Year 2024 Summary

The Chittenden Solid Waste District is a municipality created to implement solid waste management mandates legislated by the State of Vermont. The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners representing the communities of Chittenden County, Vermont.

Our Mission

The Chittenden Solid Waste District's mission is to reduce and manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound, efficient, effective, and economical manner.

Financials

The big financial news for FY24 is that we again ended the year in a positive position. This is in part due to strong sales of recyclables at our Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in the third and fourth quarters and a healthy year for our Organics Recycling Facility (ORF). We generated \$15,962,722 in income, with expenses of 16,083,295. We conservatively budgeted both expenses and revenue, resulting in only needing to access \$287,837 in reserves.

Waste Diversion

The residents, businesses, and institutions of our 18 member towns and cities generated an estimated 306,814 tons of solid waste to be managed in calendar year 2023, compared with 309,212 tons in 2022. Chittenden County continues to be among the national leaders in landfill diversion, with an estimated 59.7% of 2023's waste kept out of the landfill via composting (food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings), anaerobic digestion, and recycling of Blue-Bin materials, Special Recycling, and Construction and Demolition materials. The County's diversion rate has remained steady over the last nine years with some variability in specific waste streams due to economic conditions, construction activity, or new mandates for collecting materials.

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

We've had a temporary setback with our new MRF construction project. The plan was to build it on a parcel of land owned by CSWD on Redmond Road in Williston. In 2020, a wetlands delineation showed an area where the new facility could be located without disturbing the Class II wetlands present on the property.

Since then, there have been several major changes that have impacted the site. A new road was constructed on the north side of the property, which changed the landscape and added an impermeable surface near where we had hoped to build the new MRF. Plus, as many Vermonters know, we experienced record rainfall over the last couple of years, which severely impacted the quality of the land. This spring, state officials and our consultant toured the site and discovered that it now qualifies as "primarily a wetland community." Our consultant also found that the northern part of the property, where we planned to build the MRF, is now over 80% wet meadow. We made the decision to leave that parcel undisturbed and move forward with finding an alternative location in Chittenden County to site the facility. We remain hopeful that we will be able to open our new facility sometime in 2026. Our next steps include identifying a new site for the MRF, reviewing, and revising the design plans and obtaining new permits. Our hope is this will all be completed by early 2025 so we can begin construction in the Summer of 2025.

Drop-Off Center Changes

At our Drop-Off Centers we focused on customer convenience. We increased our hours of operation in Essex, Milton, and South Burlington, to be open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. These changes not only ensure consistent hours of operation for our customers but also brings much-needed stability for our Drop-Off Center team, providing them with two consecutive days off. This will help us continue to attract and retain talent.



Chittenden Solid Waste District

We also made a slight increase in our bagged trash fees to help cover the rising costs of trash disposal and operating expenses at our six Drop-Off Centers. However, there was no increase in fees for recycling or food scraps.

Organics Recycling Facility (ORF)

FY24 was a big year for the Organics Recycling Facility. We significantly improved the residential customer drop-off experience by relocating the facility entrance, creating a dedicated food waste drop-off area, and expanding the types of materials customers can mix in, like natural wood with leaves and garden trimmings. For commercial customers, we added a new scale and office, and extended our drop-off hours to help streamline the process. We added staff to enhance the quality of incoming materials and reduce contamination.

Solar Glasses Reuse Program

In anticipation of this year's Solar Eclipse in Vermont on April 8th, CSWD partnered with Astronomers Without Borders to ensure solar eclipse glasses were diverted from Vermont's only landfill, and instead collected for reuse at future solar eclipse events around the world. Our team worked with towns, businesses, event organizers, and libraries to establish collection sites for solar glasses, successfully diverting over 115,000 solar glasses from the landfill.

This creative partnership not only generated a buzz in the community, but it also sparked a lot of media interest. We were interviewed by the Boston Globe, Vermont Public Radio, WCAX, WPTZ, Seven Days and the Burlington Free Press. It was extremely exciting to see so many people join forces to ensure the solar glasses find a new life beyond the April 8th eclipse.

The complete CSWD Annual Report will be available in February 2025 at [CSWD.net](https://www.cswd.net).

Paul Ruess

Chair, Board of Commissioners

Sarah Reeves

Executive Director



CSWD Community Outreach Coordinator Kat Moody with solar glasses collected after the April 8th, 2024 eclipse.



The **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)** is a political subdivision of the State created by the municipalities of Chittenden County in 1966 for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. The CCRPC also serves as the region's sole federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) operating in Vermont and is responsible for transportation planning in Chittenden County in close collaboration with our municipalities, state and federal agencies, other partners, and the public.

The CCRPC is governed by a 29-member board consisting of one representative from each of the County's 19 municipalities, transportation representatives, and at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, and housing/socio-economic. CCRPC's vision is to be a pre-eminent, integrated regional organization that plans for healthy, vibrant communities, economic development, and efficient transportation of people and goods while improving the region's livability.



Learn more about CCRPC »

In **FY24**, the CCRPC invested about **\$6 million** in:



REGIONAL
LAND USE



TRANSPORTATION



EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT



ENERGY



NATURAL
RESOURCES



EQUITABLE
PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT



TRAINING



TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

The program leverages more than **\$5.4 million** in Federal and State investment with \$263,000 in municipal dues and another \$340,000 in local match for specific projects—a 10:1 return on local investment.

Specific activities the CCRPC is engaged in with **Colchester**, as well as CCRPC's regional activities, are available at ccrpcvt.org/colchester.

FY24 COLCHESTER REPRESENTATIVES

CCRPC Board | Representative: *Jacki Murphy* | Alternate: *Pam Loranger*

Transportation Advisory Committee | Representative: *Bryan Osborne*

Planning Advisory Committee | Representative: *Cathyann LaRose*

Clean Water Advisory Committee | Representative: *Karen Adams*

Regional Emergency Management Committee | Rep: *Aaron Frank* | Alt: *Seth Lasker*

2024 Annual Report for Colchester

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Home Health & Hospice

CARING FOR RESIDENTS
IN OUR COMMUNITY

631

Number of
Colchester residents we
cared for in the last year.



OUR PROGRAMS

Family & Children's Program
Adult Home Health
Adult Day Program
Long-Term Care
Hospice & Palliative Care
McClure Miller Respite House



Care at Home. For All Ages and Stages of Life.

Vermont's oldest and largest non-profit home health and hospice agency and the only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. For more than 100 years, we have provided high-quality, compassionate home health and hospice care wherever our community members call home.

Experience Matters.

Our patient and family experience of care ratings surpass Vermont and National averages.

The way our patients experience care is important to us. [Medicare's Care Compare website](#) publicly displays our ratings, demonstrating that our patients and their caregivers rate us highly for home health and hospice care and would recommend our agency to their friends and family.

Data presented is from our most recent available fiscal year

PART B

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT



SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
BUDGET (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenue:			
Regular Instructional:			
General State Support Grants	\$ 40,464,178	\$ 40,441,260	\$ (22,918)
Other State Revenue	1,071,672	1,240,701	169,029
Tuition	1,910,000	1,768,204	(141,796)
Other Local Revenue	200,000	234,813	34,813
Special Education Support:			
State Revenue	5,557,792	6,806,991	1,249,199
Federal Grants	912,765	889,986	(22,779)
Tuition	0	117,688	117,688
Interest	15,000	323,445	308,445
Total Revenue	50,131,407	51,823,088	1,691,681
Expenditures:			
Regular Instruction:			
Direct Instruction	22,599,457	22,903,764	(304,307)
Support Services- Student	2,406,135	2,541,935	(135,800)
Support Services- Instruction	1,507,084	1,377,542	129,542
Support Services- General Administration	764,770	759,460	5,310
Support Services- School Administration	2,427,161	2,447,480	(20,319)
Support Services- Central Services	2,316,480	2,183,940	132,540
Support Services- Other	7,056	0	7,056
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	4,218,552	4,657,365	(438,813)
Student Transportation	1,692,631	1,842,902	(150,271)
Special Education Support:			
Direct Instruction	9,732,035	10,322,665	(590,630)
Support Services- Student	1,680,824	1,847,945	(167,121)
Support Services- Instruction	57,896	79,839	(21,943)
Support Services- School Administration	588,532	536,639	51,893
Student Transportation	653,676	613,444	40,232
Debt Service	479,118	422,521	56,597
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	51,131,407	52,537,441	(1,406,034)
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ (714,353)	\$ 285,647

