

# Town Report West Fairlee, Vermont Calendar Year 2025

## **Informational Meeting on the Budget**

Monday February 23, 2026 6 p.m.

In person at Community Building or Zoom link (to be announced)

Please bring this booklet with you!

## **Town Meeting - In person!**

Saturday February 28, 2026 10 a.m. • Community Building

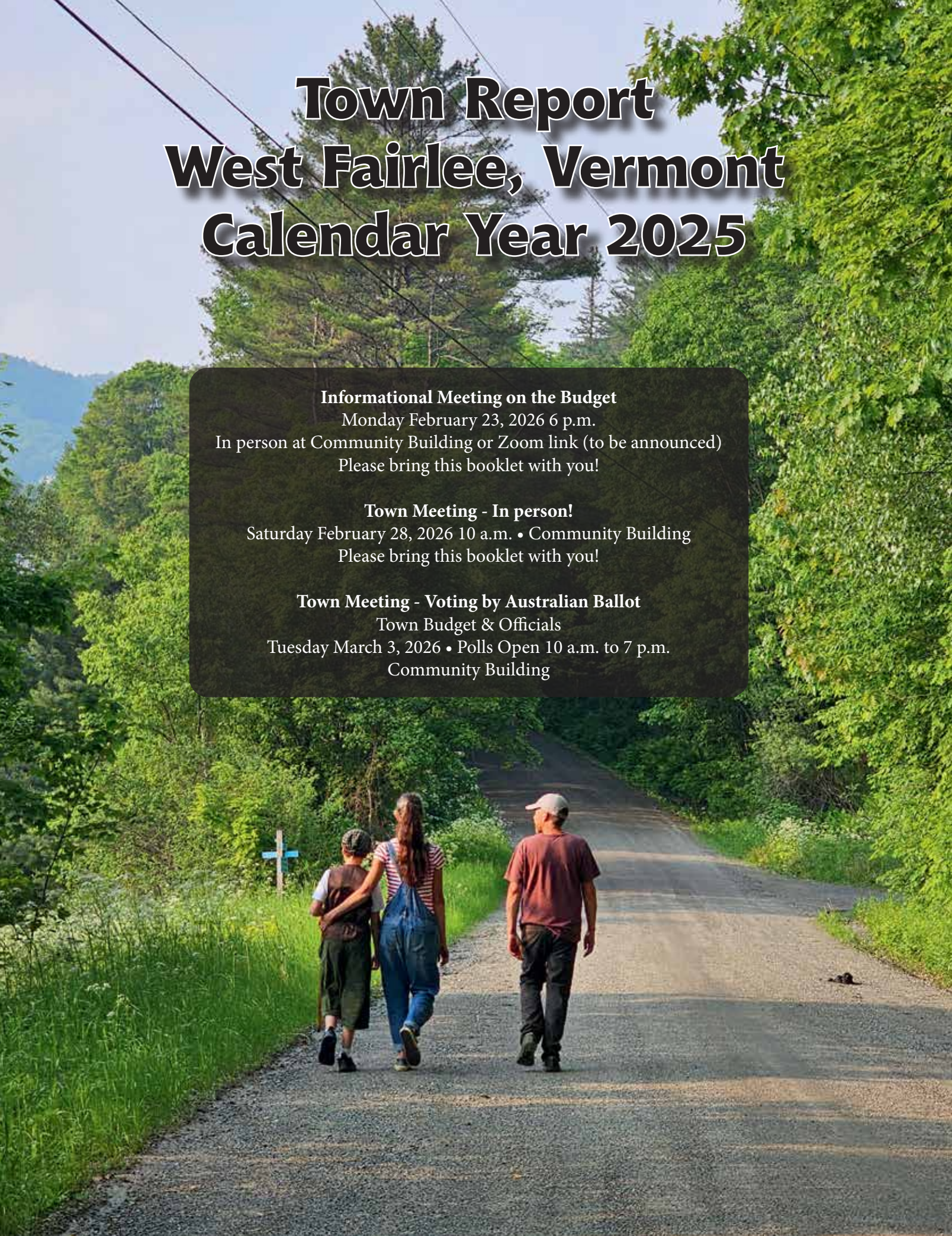
Please bring this booklet with you!

## **Town Meeting - Voting by Australian Ballot**

Town Budget & Officials

Tuesday March 3, 2026 • Polls Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Community Building





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Voter Information .....	2
Warning for March 2026 Town Meeting.....	3
Town Officials – Elected and Appointed.....	5
Simple Guide To Town Officials .....	8
2025 Selectboard Report.....	11
2026 Proposed Budget & Treasurer’s Report	
Statement of Revenues and Expenses.....	13
Capital Fund Report.....	20
Town & Homestead Tax Trends Graph.....	22
Balance Sheet .....	23
2025 Delinquent Tax Report .....	24
Town Delinquent Tax Policy.....	25
Cemetery Commission .....	26
Conservation Commission .....	27
West Fairlee Public Library.....	29
Planning Commission .....	31
Energy Coordinators .....	32
ECFiber Communications Utility District (CUD) .....	33
Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District.....	34
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission .....	35
Tri-Town Commission (Lake Fairlee Dam).....	36
Summary Appropriation Requests .....	37
West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department.....	38
Upper Valley Ambulance .....	40
Lake Fairlee Association.....	41
Rivendell Trails Association .....	43
Minutes – 2025 Town Meeting .....	44

**Cover Photo courtesy Asa Johns**

**Other photos courtesy of Karen Bourque, Doug Sonsalla, and Toby Sonsalla**

# VOTER INFORMATION

## 2026 Town Meeting

*Effective January 1, 2017, Eligible residents may register to vote on any day up to and including Town Meeting Day. Registration is available at the Town Clerks office prior to Town Meeting Day during normal business hours and is available on Town Meeting Day (Tuesday) during the hours the polls are open. You can also register online at <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us> Registered voters can visit “My Voter Page” at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> to request Absentee Ballots, get information, check registration status, and more.*

You must be on the checklist to vote at Town Meeting. Polls will be open Tuesday March 3, 2026, from 10 am – 7:00 pm at the Town Office, Community Building (lower level); or you may request an absentee ballot prior to February 26, 2026.

**Town Clerk’s Office 802-333-9696**

**Office hours: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

### **Early or Absentee Voting**

Any registered voter may request an absentee ballot – no explanation is necessary. Absentee Ballots may be requested by phone, in writing, or in person by the voter’s family member (a voter’s spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse’s parents, grandparents and spouse’s grandparents). Requests by others (on behalf of a voter) must be in person or in writing.

### **Absentee Ballots may be voted in three ways:**

- 1) In person at the Town Clerk’s Office: Before Town Meeting, please use the drop box near the entry door. You may also drop off your absentee ballot during voting hours on Town Meeting Day, March 4
- 2) Mailed to you and mailed or delivered back to the Town Clerk’s Office by 7pm on Town Meeting Day, March 3
- 3) Brought to you (in the case of illness or physical disability) by two Justices of the Peace on the day of or day before election. Must be requested at least 3 days in advance.

# WARNING

## 2026 West Fairlee Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of West Fairlee are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Community Building in said Town on **Saturday February 28, 2026**, to act upon the following articles; said meeting to be adjourned and to reconvene in the Community Building in said Town on **Tuesday March 3, 2026**, to vote by Australian Ballot for Town Officers and the 2026 Town Budget, with polls open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Article 1** To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officials.

**Article 2** Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on Thursday October 8, 2026, by physical delivery to the Town Office before 5 pm on that date with postmarks on or before that date accepted

**Article 3** To see if the Town will appropriate \$700 to Central VT Adult Basic Education

**Article 4** To see if the Town will appropriate \$500 to Capstone Community Action

**Article 5** To see if the Town will appropriate \$350 to Central VT Council on Aging

**Article 6** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,107 to Clara Martin Center

**Article 7** To see if the Town will appropriate \$50 to Green Up Vermont

**Article 8** To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,100 to the Lake Fairlee Association

**Article 9** To see if the Town will appropriate \$500 to the Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley

**Article 10** To see if the Town will appropriate \$350 to Orange County Restorative Justice

**Article 11** To see if the Town will appropriate \$500 to Orange County Parent Child Center

**Article 12** To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,000 to Orange East Senior Center

**Article 13** To see if the Town will appropriate \$311 to Public Health Council of Upper Valley

**Article 14** To see if the Town will appropriate \$500 to the Rivendell Trail Association

**Article 15** To see if the Town will appropriate \$700 to Safeline, Inc.

**Article 16** To see if the Town will appropriate \$750 to Tri-Valley Transit

**Article 17** To see if the Town will appropriate \$36,639 to Upper Valley Ambulance

**Article 18** To see if the Town will appropriate \$130 to VT Center for Independent Living

**Article 19** To see if the Town will appropriate \$200 to Rural Fire Protection Task Force

**Article 20** To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,600 to the Visiting Nurse Alliance/Hospice

**Article 21** To see if the Town will appropriate \$100 to Vital Communities

**Article 22** To see if the Town will appropriate \$94,000 to the West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department

**Article 23** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting

**To be voted on by Australian Ballot:**

**Article 24** To elect Town Officers as required by law

**Article 25** Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating and capital expenses of \$1,143,094 of which \$978,799 shall be raised by taxes and \$164,295 by non-tax revenues?

Dated and signed in West Fairlee, in the county of Orange, State of Vermont, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026 by the West Fairlee Selectboard

*Delsie Hoyt, Chair*  
*Beverly Jo Ash*  
*Stuart 'Tiger' Bacon*  
*Bree Carlson*  
*Bruce Durkee*

Recorded before posting this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026  
*Staci Sargent, Town Clerk*

## 2025 Elected Officials

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	Sean McIntyre	2026
<b>Town Clerk – 3-year term</b>	Staci R. Sargent	2026
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joe MacPherson	Employed position
<b>Selectboard</b>	Delsie Hoyt, Chair (2 yr.)	2026
	Beverly Ash (3 yr.)	2026
	Stuart “Tiger” Bacon (3 yr.)	2027
	Bruce Durkee (2 yr.)	2027
	Bree Carlson (3 yr.)	2028
<b>Listers - 3-year term</b>	Peggy Burden	2026
	Consultant/Professional Assessor	Contracted
<b>Collector Delinquent Taxes</b>	Staci R. Sargent	2026
<b>Cemetery Commission - 5-yr terms</b>	Candy Malinoski, Chair	2028
	Sarah Zwickelmeier	2026
	Jennifer Shatney	2027
	Darlene Cook	2029
	Arvilla Towle	2030
<b>Library Trustees - 5-year terms</b>	Jillian Hatch, Chair	2028
	Caitlin Leonard	2026
	Rebekah Cadwell	2027
	Sarah Molesworth	2029
	Ann Downing	2029
<b>Agent to Sell Real Estate</b>	Staci R. Sargent	2026
<b>Agent to Defend/Prosecute Suits</b>	Town Attorney	Contracted
<b>Grand Juror</b>	Cat Spaulding	2026
<b>Constable</b>	Lisa Ordway	2026
<b>Justices of the Peace</b>	Maurice C. Eaton (I)	2026
	Jennifer Shatney (I)	2026
	Rebecca Wurdak (I)	2026

## 2025 Appointed Officials

### Conservation Commission - 5-yr terms

Alyssa Godesky, Chair	2030
Josh Lambke	2026
Derek Lambke	2026
Peggy Willey, Treasurer	2027
Rebecca Wurdak	2027
Sam Newman, Secretary	2028
Asa Johns	2028
Ann Stephens	2029
Cat Spaulding	2030

### Planning Commission – 3-yr terms

Peggy Burden	2026
Alec Struver	2027
Nancy Malmquist	2027
Jennifer Shatney	2028
Sean McIntyre	2028

### Board of Adjustment -- (concurrent to Planning Commission term)

Nancy Malmquist	2027
Sean McIntyre	2028
Peggy Burden	2026

### Flood Area Administrative Officer

Kyle Katz, TRORC	Contracted
------------------	------------

### Two Rivers RPC Representative

Nancy Malmquist	2026
-----------------	------

### E911 Coordinator

Peggy Burden	2026
--------------	------

### Tri-Town Commission

David Roth	2026
Steve Malinoski	2026

### Tree Warden

Eric Diven	2026
------------	------

### Director Emergency Management

Delsie Hoyt	2026
-------------	------

### Regional Emergency Management Representatives

John Jeinnings (First Responder)	2026
Delsie Hoyt (EMD)	2026

### Animal Control Officer

J.J. Guyer	2026
------------	------

<b>Greater UV Solid Waste Board of Supervisors (2-yr term)</b>	Bruce Durkee	2026
<b>ECFiber CUD Board</b>	Alan Moats Stephen Atwood ( <i>alternate</i> )	2026
<b>Health Officer</b>	Stephen Atwood	2026
<b>Fence Viewers</b>	vacancy Chuck Eaton Albert Schwartz	2026 2026 2026
<b>Weigher of Coal/ Measurer of Wood</b>	Steve Malinoski	2026



## **A Simple Guide to Town Officials and Positions**

**What do the Town Officers and Commissions Do?** The summary below describes the roles of the various elected and appointed town officers. These descriptions come from materials available on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns website, Vermont Statute, and various other sources, and are not a comprehensive list of all responsibilities.

Browse the Town website <https://westfairleevt.gov> for more.

### **--- Elected Officials ---**

**Agent to Sell Real Estate:** An individual designated to buy or sell real estate on behalf of the municipality. This is a rare occurrence; the role is most often filled by the Town Clerk.

**Agent to Defend and Prosecute Suits:** An individual responsible for assisting the Town in the event of legal action. This is an archaic position, as most Towns delegate this role to the independently hired Town Attorney.

**Cemetery Commission:** Cemetery Trustees are responsible for administering and maintaining the eight cemeteries within West Fairlee.

**Collector of Delinquent Taxes (DTC):** The DTC notifies taxpayers of overdue taxes, arranges for late payments, and takes formal collection actions (including tax sales of property) when necessary.

**Constable:** Duties vary among Vermont towns and depend on formal law enforcement training. In West Fairlee, the Constable holds limited powers to serve civil process, assist Health Officer or Animal Control Officer in their duties, and remove disorderly people from Town Meeting.

**Grand Juror:** The Grand Juror is responsible for inquiring into and providing information to the proper authorities of criminal offenses. This is an archaic position, as the primary function of the role is now fulfilled by the State's Attorney.

**Justices of the Peace:** This is an Orange County office, but Justices are elected by the town voters. Justices administer oaths of office, solemnize marriages, and as members of the Board of Civil Authority assist in elections by delivering and counting ballots, maintaining the checklist, and hearing tax appeals and abatements.

**Library Trustees:** The Library Trustees are responsible for all aspects of operating the town library.

**Lister:** A Lister's job is to determine the fair market value of real and personal property, collect data on new and improved properties, and produce a defensible Grand List used to determine the tax rate. Real estate appraisal is extremely complex; most towns supplement the Listers' role with contracted professional assessors and consultants.

**Moderator:** The Moderator is the presiding official for all annual and special Town Meetings. They have authority to decide questions of order and germaneness according to Robert's Rules of Order, recognize speakers, and declare the results of votes. West Fairlee splits its Town Meeting into a Saturday deliberative session and Tuesday Australian ballot voting to elect officials and approve the town budget. The Selectboard may ask the Moderator to preside over other public hearings during the year.

**Selectboard:** The Selectboard is the governing body that broadly supervises and controls town matters. It enacts ordinances, regulations, and policies; oversees town property and personnel; prepares, presents, and manages budget; and oversees roads.

**Town Clerk:** The Town Clerk records, preserves, and certifies a town's land and other public records. Other responsibilities include running all elections, issuing dog and marriage licenses, and serving as Clerk of the Board of Civil Authority. While many duties are clearly defined in state statutes, others are a result of availability, such as fielding inquiries dealing with anything from the next Selectboard meeting to recycling hours.

**Town Treasurer:** The Town Treasurer keeps an accounting of all the town's finances. They are responsible for keeping the accounts, investing the town's money (with Selectboard approval), keeping a record of the taxes voted, and paying orders drawn on them.

#### --- Appointed Officials ---

**Note: The town is always looking for more people to pitch in! If you have interest or skills in any appointed positions, please contact the Selectboard [selectboard@westfairleevt.gov](mailto:selectboard@westfairleevt.gov) .**

**Administrative Officer:** This contracted position is responsible for inspecting development, maintaining records, and enforcing the West Fairlee Flood Hazard Area Bylaws.

**Animal Control Officer:** The ACO enforces State laws and the Town Dog Ordinance dealing with the care, treatment, licensing, and impounding of animals; picks up sick, injured, stray, or vicious animals; and issues citations for violations.

**Board of Adjustment:** This board reviews and decides appeals, variances, and conditional use requests for land use permits.

**Conservation Commission:** The mission of the Conservation Commission is to preserve the town's natural resources and rural character by encouraging sound environmental stewardship, providing community outreach and education, and advocating for sustainable town planning.

**Emergency Management Director:** The EMD coordinates the Town's emergency response planning is the primary contact in the event of a declared emergency. and can make the

decision to open the Emergency Operations Center to support Incident Command (first responders).

**EC FIBER Communications Union District (CUD) Board:** This is the local representative for EC Fiber, a community owned high-speed internet service provider.

**Energy Coordinators:** The town Energy Coordinators are responsible for improving outreach to the community about weatherization and energy-saving resources. Our goal is to grow this into a larger Energy Committee.

**E911 Coordinator:** The E911 Coordinator serves as the liaison to the Vermont E911 Board on all database and mapping maintenance issues.

**Fence Viewers:** The role is a relic of Vermont's agricultural past. Fence Viewers mediate disputes over location and maintenance of livestock fencing but do not determine boundary lines.

**Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District (GUVSWMD) Representative:** The Representative serves on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors. GUVSWMD is a regional, union of member municipalities developed to cooperatively manage solid wastes in an environmentally sound and socially acceptable manner; and to provide the means for reduction, reuse, recycling and segregation and processing of those wastes.

**Health Officer:** The local Health Officer is authorized to investigate and act on public health hazards on public or private property like septic failure, complaints of unsafe conditions in rental housing, and may organize events focused on community health.

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission prepares and amends the Town Plan and bylaws and may undertake studies and make recommendations on matters of land development, transportation infrastructure, energy conservation, and related matters.

**Tree Warden:** The Tree Warden acts as the overseer of public trees, including organizing and implementing tree planting, maintenance, and protection programs.

**Tri-Town Commission:** Under an Interlocal Agreement, the West Fairlee Tri-Town Commission members work with neighboring representatives from Thetford and Fairlee on oversight and administration related to the Lake Fairlee dam.

**Two Rivers Regional Planning Commission Representative:** This person serves as a liaison to the regional planning commission (Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission) for the area.

**Weigher of Coal/Measurer of Wood:** These historical positions once served as referees in determining weights and measures of contested loads of coal or wood. Their functions have been replaced by a regulation stating any vendor selling products across a scale must have a scale that is legal for trade and certified by the VT Dept. of Agriculture.

## Selectboard Report for 2025

“Be careful what you wish for” is a phrase that came to mind frequently this year as the Selectboard tackled a wide range of community projects, most funded with recently secured grants totaling over \$600,000. Key areas of focus (and funding) included energy conservation and resilience, highways and bridges, state assistance related to the design of a water treatment system, and municipal technical assistance to help us refine financial and other planning.

**Energy Conservation and Resilience:** As noted last year, the Town was awarded a \$369,000 Implementation Grant under the **Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)** to reduce energy consumption and operating costs of the Community Building. Progress to date includes additional attic insulation, sealing of the building envelope, and heat pumps for supplemental heating and cooling of the library and daycare rooms. A request for proposals is in development for a net metered roof-top solar array recommended in the MERP Assessment.

**Building Accessibility:** Local contractor Alger Brook Design Build completed renovations to create bathrooms on each floor compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These renovations were funded by the remainder of the Town’s **American Relief Plan Act (ARPA)** award with some aspects eligible for **MERP** funds, which required that 20% of that award be spent on accessibility improvements to the building.

**Other Building Updates:** Unfortunately, the main **leach field** serving the Community Building failed. It was not entirely unexpected; Capital Funds had been set aside for replacement over the past few years. The system was older than many thought; we discovered that the 1984 construction and renovations did not include replacement of the leach field. The Town received the **Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant**, which provides direct support for design and construction services for **an advanced water treatment system which will remove PFAS** from the building Public Water Supply. This effort is expected to extend into 2027. The Town also purchased a large display, speaker, and camera assembly for the Community Building with Capital Funds set aside for office equipment. This will give our various commissions and trustees a better way to facilitate public meetings and presentations.

### **Highway Grants & Projects**

Two **Grants in Aid (GIA)** awards totaling **\$25,500** funded culvert replacements as part of a larger reclamation and repaving project on Blood Brook’s “Cook Hill”. GIA helps defray the expense of enhanced treatments required on our “water-connected” roads. A **\$28,000 Small-Scale Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant** focused on improving clearance and lines of sight on the dangerous corner of Wild Hill where ledge encroached on the road. The HSIP grant covered about 50% of the project with the Town picking up costs for road subbase and ditch improvements.

A routine State bridge inspection in September 2024 identified undermining of a Mill St. Bridge abutment requiring immediate attention. With assistance from VTrans District 4, we were awarded a **\$166,000 Structures Grant** covering about 90% of this repair. Daniels Construction, which coincidentally built this bridge in 1975, worked through the winter to ensure the structure was sound before spring flooding. State inspectors have recommended the Town initiate major

preventive rehab for our largest structure - the 1930s-era **West Fairlee Road bridge**. Once engineering plans are complete, the project will be put out to bid. We will seek a VTrans Structures Grant, but it is likely additional funds will be required from the Capital Budget.

We've have taken a "pay as we go" approach in **maintaining our repaving schedule** to keep annual projects reasonable in cost but cost-effective in size. Last summer, "Cook Hill" of Blood Brook Road was repaved. There are no paving grants for Class 3 roads. This year, we believe we will be eligible for a \$200,000 VTrans Class 2 Road Grant (determined by formula, shared among towns in our VTrans District) to pave the final segment of Middlebrook Road. This completes a 20–25-year repaving "circuit" around town.

Preventive maintenance is key to keeping highway expenses in check. A **Better Roads Category A Grant of \$5,200** will fund the required update of the Town's Road Erosion Inventory. The inventory documents our progress in meeting State Road & Bridge Standards and, by rating the condition of culverts and other drainage systems, helps us anticipate future costs. A \$20,000 **Better Roads Category B Grant** application for culvert additions and replacements on Wild Hill is currently pending.

### **Planning for the Future**

West Fairlee requested two **Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) grants**. MTAP recognizes that the smallest towns -- *especially those without paid administrative staff* -- require consulting and technical assistance from outside experts to compete and thrive in this complex regulatory and funding environment. With the aid of MTAP consultants, West Fairlee drafted a comprehensive, 10-year **Capital Budget and Program**. The Capital Plan keeps priority work in focus and tracks long-term needs and expenditures. The 2026 Capital Plan can be found on our website. Additional MTAP expertise and funds enabled us to work with engineers to develop a comprehensive **Site Plan** for Town and immediate surrounding properties including utilities, septic systems, and easements. This will facilitate future planning in the village center.

New to the budget this year is addition of a **part-time Administrative Assistant**. The time demands of basic operations, grants management, and increasing regulatory reporting exceed what can be reasonably expected from an all-volunteer governance structure. We've done well, but it's not sustainable. As a result, we secured 4 to 5 hours per week of professional services under a cooperative arrangement with other small towns in the region through our Regional Planning Commission, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee.

We welcome your questions and concerns at any time.

West Fairlee Selectboard

Delsie Hoyt, Chair  
Beverly Ash  
Stuart "Tiger" Bacon  
Bree Carlson  
Bruce Durkee

**Town of West Fairlee  
Statement of Revenues and Budget  
Years ended December 31, 2026 and 2025**

	Budget		Actual *	Variance of Actual from Budget Over (Under)	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2025 2026
	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	2025		
<b>Tax Revenues</b>					
Current Taxes	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
Delinquent Taxes	-	-		-	-
Delinquent Tax Interest	8,000	8,000	7,936	(64)	-
	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,936</b>	<b>(64)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Revenue From State</b>					
Highway	64,000	30,000	31,933	1,933	34,000
Current Use - State	69,000	60,000	69,098	9,098	9,000
Judiciary Civil Fines	-	-	-	-	-
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	850	850	866	16	-
	<b>133,850</b>	<b>90,850</b>	<b>101,897</b>	<b>11,047</b>	<b>43,000</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>					
Dog Fees to Town	125	150	118	(32)	(25)
Interest Income	1,800	1,500	2,287	787	300
Community Bldg. Rent	20,000	20,000	20,194	194	-
Liquor/Tobacco License	70	65	70	5	5
Excess Weight Permit	250	250	240	(10)	-
Miscellaneous Income	200	200	454	254	-
	<b>22,445</b>	<b>22,165</b>	<b>23,363</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 164,295</b>	<b>\$ 121,015</b>	<b>\$ 133,196</b>	<b>\$ 12,181</b>	<b>\$ 43,280</b>

\* - Excludes non-budgeted current and delinquent tax collections

**Town of West Fairlee  
Statement of Expenditures and Budget  
Years ended December 31, 2026 and 2025**

**Payroll**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2025 2026
	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	2025		
Treasurer	\$ 36,900	\$ 35,779	\$ 35,779	\$ 0	\$ 1,121
Clerk	28,900	28,062	28,062	0	838
Assistant Clerk	2,000	1,548	1,847	(299)	452
Listers	11,500	13,097	10,206	2,891	(1,597)
Selectboard	6,400	6,200	5,000	1,200	200
Housekeeping	3,600	3,468	3,212	256	132
Recycling Attendant	1,900	1,858	1,362	496	42
Animal Control Officer	200	206	-	206	(6)
Selectboard Clerk	1,100	1,063	1,031	32	37
911 Coordinator	900	900	723	177	-
Meeting Tech Support	400	400	356	44	-
Library Payroll	12,000	6,048	5,243	805	5,952
Compensation FICA	8,250	7,789	7,079	710	461
Compensation Medicare	2,000	1,821	1,656	165	179
Child Care Payroll Tax	550	500	502	(2)	50
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>116,600</b>	<b>108,739</b>	<b>102,058</b>	<b>6,681</b>	<b>7,861</b>

**Town of West Fairlee  
Statement of Expenditures and Budget  
Years ended December 31, 2026 and 2025**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2025 2026
	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	2025		
<b>Town Office</b>					
Postage	1,100	1,000	943	57	100
Supplies	3,000	2,000	3,733	(1,733)	1,000
Software	400	400	235	165	-
Advertising	400	400	168	232	-
Office Equipment Maintenance	400	500	352	148	(100)
IT Services	12,500	13,300	12,072	1,228	(800)
Town Report	1,200	1,000	1,018	(18)	200
Internet & Web Site	1,800	1,200	1,705	(505)	600
Telephone and Fax	2,300	2,200	2,256	(56)	100
NEMRC Service Contract	9,000	8,500	8,911	(411)	500
Online Land Records Contract	3,800	3,000	3,743	(743)	800
Miscellaneous Expenses	200	200	65	135	-
<b>Total Town Office</b>	<b>36,100</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>35,201</b>	<b>(1,501)</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>Public Health and Safety</b>					
Law Enforcement Thetford PD	-	15,000		15,000	(15,000)
Hanover Dispatch/911	17,066	16,500	17,848	(1,348)	566
Water System Operator	3,500	1,300	2,614	(1,314)	2,200
<b>Total Public Health</b>	<b>20,566</b>	<b>32,800</b>	<b>20,462</b>	<b>12,338</b>	<b>(12,234)</b>

**Town of West Fairlee  
Statement of Expenditures and Budget  
Years ended December 31, 2026 and 2025**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2025 2026
	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	2025		
<b>General Expenses</b>					
Dam Renovation Loan Principal	9,350	9,350	9,350	-	-
Dam Renovation Loan Interest	2,571	2,828	2,728	100	(257)
Tri Town Dam Administration	1,000	1,200	834	366	(200)
Mileage	100	100	-	100	-
Street Lights	800	700	734	(34)	100
Electricity Town Hall	900	500	819	(319)	400
Electricity Community Bldg.	8,200	7,900	7,785	115	300
Fuel Community Bldg.	12,000	9,500	13,258	(3,758)	2,500
Community Hall Fire Dispatch	400	400	-	400	-
VT League of Cities and Towns Dues	2,078	1,975	2,018	(43)	103
Legal Expenses	500	500	98	402	-
Outside Audit	15,300	15,000	14,900	100	300
Administration Consulting Contract	17,500	-	-	-	17,500
Orange County Taxes	12,000	17,500	11,864	5,636	(5,500)

**Town of West Fairlee  
Statement of Expenditures and Budget  
Years ended December 31, 2026 and 2025**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2025 2026
	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	2025		
Town of Theford Taxes (Fire Training Land)	30	25	28	(3)	5
Seminars & Training	200	200	70	130	-
Tax Map Maintenance	6,000	3,900	5,100	(1,200)	2,100
Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District	5,589	5,589	5,589	-	-
Two Rivers Ottauquechee RPC	1,105	1,074	1,074	-	31
Recycling & Solid Waste	21,025	16,900	16,737	163	4,125
Town Bldg. and Liability Insurance	8,900	8,903	6,868	2,035	(3)
Pound and Veterinary	400	400	-	400	-
Grounds Maintenance	14,000	14,100	8,055	6,045	(100)
Community Bldg. Maintenance	10,000	8,000	9,552	(1,552)	2,000
Interest for Credit Line	1,200	1,200	1,127	73	-
Bank Service Charges	240	240	240	-	-
Elections	500	400	196	204	100
<b>Total General Expense</b>	<b>151,888</b>	<b>128,384</b>	<b>119,024</b>	<b>9,360</b>	<b>23,504</b>

**Town of West Fairlee  
Statement of Expenditures and Budget  
Years ended December 31, 2026 and 2025**

**Highway**

	Proposed 2026	Budget Approved 2025	Actual 2025	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2025 2026
Electricity for Town Salt Shed	950	800	900	(100)	150
Town Salt Shed Maintenance	-	5,000	-	5,000	(5,000)
Road Signs	900	800	979	(179)	100
Culverts	12,000	12,000	8,545	3,455	-
Stone, Gravel & Hauling	45,000	45,000	54,749	(9,749)	-
Sand & Hauling	50,000	45,000	49,639	(4,639)	5,000
Salt & Hauling	37,000	26,000	37,935	(11,935)	11,000
Chloride	5,000	5,000	4,300	700	-
Asphalt & Road Patch	4,500	9,000	1,257	7,743	(4,500)
Roadside Mowing	7,000	7,000	5,600	1,400	-
Plowing Contract Equipment Hired	142,000	139,000	134,946	4,054	3,000
Winter Equipment Hired	15,000	6,000	17,120	(11,120)	9,000
Summer Equipment Hired	60,000	45,000	60,173	(15,173)	15,000
Road Grading	30,000	30,000	27,365	2,635	-
Ditch Cleaning	27,000	15,000	27,223	(12,223)	12,000
MRG Permit and Fee	1,350	1,500	1,350	150	(150)
<b>Total Highway</b>	<b>437,700</b>	<b>392,100</b>	<b>432,081</b>	<b>(39,981)</b>	<b>45,600</b>

**Town of West Fairlee  
Statement of Expenditures and Budget  
Years ended December 31, 2026 and 2025**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2025 2026
	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	2025		
<b>Capital Reserve</b>					
Community Building Funds	75,000	75,000	75,000	-	-
Brushwood Fund	9,000	5,000	5,000	-	4,000
Conservation Commission Funds	3,740	1,000	1,000	-	2,740
Lister Education Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-
Highway Projects	250,000	250,000	250,000	-	-
Library Books & Expenses	9,000	4,000	4,000	-	5,000
Office Equipment Funds	4,000	4,000	4,000	-	-
Planning Commission Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Records Preservation Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Reappraisal Funds	7,500	7,500	7,500	-	-
Cemetery Fund	21,000	20,200	20,200	-	800
<b>Total Capital Reserve</b>	<b>380,240</b>	<b>367,700</b>	<b>367,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,540</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>1,143,094</b>	<b>1,063,423</b>	<b>1,076,526</b>	<b>(13,103)</b>	<b>79,671</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>					
Rivendell School District			1,176,295		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,143,094</b>	<b>1,063,423</b>	<b>\$ 2,252,821</b>		<b>43,280</b>
<b>Less: Budgeted Revenues</b>	<b>164,295</b>	<b>121,015</b>			
<b>Warned Amount to be Raised by Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 978,799</b>	<b>\$ 942,408</b>			<b>\$ 36,391</b>

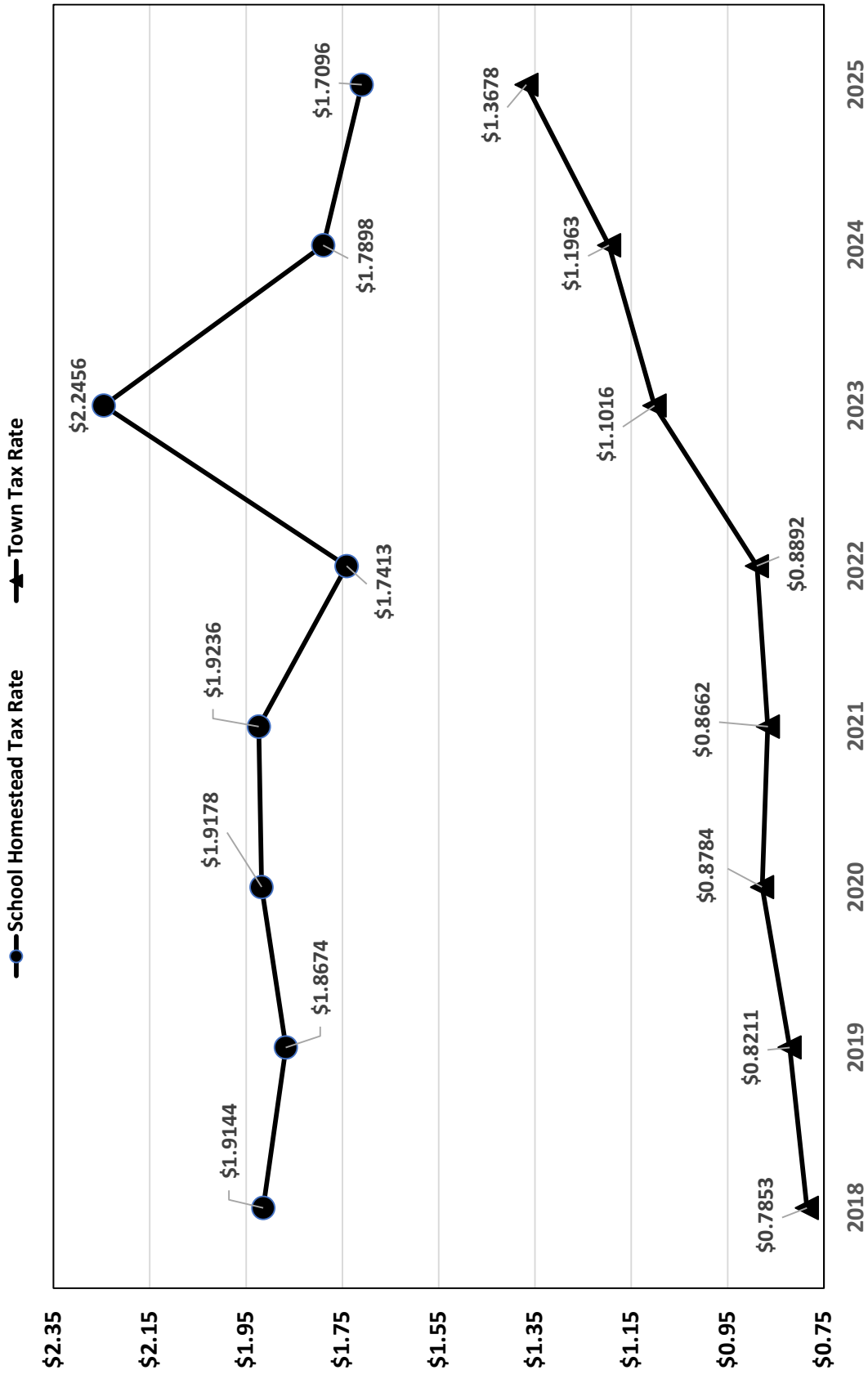
**Town of West Fairlee  
Capital Funds  
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balance  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

	Reappraisal	Records Preservation	Lister Education	Community Building	Library	Conservation Commission	Town Hall Restoration	Brushwood Forest Fund
<b>Fund Balance, Beginning of Year</b>	\$ 72,714	\$ 12,050	\$ 282	\$ 83,836	\$ 34,949	\$ 19,271	\$ 8,352	\$ 70,849
<b>Revenue:</b>								
2025 General Fund Appropriation	7,500	-	1,000	75,000	4,000	1,000	-	5,000
Other Revenues	3,850	851		35,198	350			
Interest	624	103	2	719	300	165	72	608
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>11,974</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>110,917</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>5,608</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>								
	7,200	3,262	764	89,613	22,277	525	1,303	8,935
<b>Fund Balance, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 77,488</b>	<b>\$ 9,742</b>	<b>\$ 520</b>	<b>\$ 105,140</b>	<b>\$ 17,321</b>	<b>\$ 19,911</b>	<b>\$ 7,121</b>	<b>\$ 67,522</b>
<b>Proposed 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,740</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>

**Town of West Fairlee  
Capital Funds  
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balance  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

	Planning Commission	Grant Match	Highway Projects	Office Equipment	Cemetery Operations	Cemetery Perp. Care	Federal Covid Grant	Total
<b>Fund Balance, Beginning of Year</b>	\$ 7,476	\$ 7,261	\$ 202,355	\$ 11,047	\$ 444	\$ 13,521	\$ 76,243	620,650
<b>Revenue:</b>								
2025 General Fund Appropriation	-	-	250,000	4,000	20,200	-	-	367,700
Vermont Highway Grant			225,788					225,788
Other Revenues								40,249
Interest	64	62	1,736	95	4	116	-	4,672
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>477,524</b>	<b>4,095</b>	<b>20,204</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>638,409</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>								
Other Expenses:			457,569	3,083			76,243	670,774
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>457,569</b>	<b>3,083</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>76,243</b>	<b>670,774</b>
<b>Fund Balance, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 7,541</b>	<b>\$ 7,324</b>	<b>\$ 222,310</b>	<b>\$ 12,059</b>	<b>\$ 20,647</b>	<b>\$ 13,637</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 588,285</b>
<b>Proposed 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>	<b>\$ 21,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 380,240</b>

**West Fairlee**  
**Town Tax Rate and School Homestead Tax Rate**  
**Per \$100 in Property Value**



**Town of West Fairlee  
Balance Sheet - General Fund  
As of December 31,**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash Account - Community Bank	\$ 794,946	\$ 869,556
Petty Cash	116	116
Cash Due to Other Funds	<u>(588,285)</u>	<u>(600,478)</u>
Net General Fund Cash	206,777	269,194
Trash Punch Cards	730	514
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 207,507</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 269,708</u></u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Vermont Payroll Taxes	\$ -	\$ 899
Town Clerk / Tax Coll. Fees	1,292	409
Fees Due to State of Vermont	45	22
Property Tax Overpayment	14,798	63
Property Tax Deposits	800	1,200
GUVSWD Trash Permits/Cards	<u>359</u>	<u>585</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><u>\$ 17,294</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,178</u></u>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$ 190,213</u>	<u>\$ 266,530</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<u><u>\$ 207,507</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 269,708</u></u>

### 2025 Delinquent Tax List

Cory Austin	\$4586.71	(2022-2025)
Jasmine Lefebvre	\$1801.93	(2024-2025)
Raymond & Linda Becker	\$3855.65	(2024-2025)
Dane Stillson	\$5317.68	(2023/2025)
David Berger	\$2211.10	(2025)
Allen Cochran	\$987.13	(2025)
Christina Benton	\$20991.94	(2025)
Larry Fredrickson	\$1347.47	(2023)
Gary Durkee	\$1530.09	(2025)
Brett Fifield Auto Repair	\$15116.52	(2023-2025)
Brooke Haynes	\$1096.06	(2025)
Verna Roberts	\$2214.47	(2018&2023-2025)
William Gilbert	\$9200.86	(2025)
Gail Roberts	\$18,010.09	(2023-2025)
Pamela Helaire	\$837.37	(2025)
Clint Hill	\$20833.15	(2023-2025)
Georges Way LLC	\$30263.31	(2024-2025)
Steven Davis	\$904.25	(2024-2025)
Randy Clay	\$1225.76	(2024-2025)
Jeremy(Freda)Kingsbury	\$1950.47	(2023-2025)
Jeremy Kingsbury	\$3197.36	(2023-2025)
Rachel Kendall	\$6276.87	(2025)
Andrea Welch	\$1692.85	(2025)
Richard Matthews	\$5585.36	(2017-2025)
Eleanor Roberts	\$4146.91	(2017-2025)
Jim Parsons	\$49.76	(2021-2025)
Eric R Seidler Trust	\$11665.03	(2024-2025)
Jason & Erin Cilley	\$3937.44	(2024-2025)
Sheila Lyon	\$159.14	(2025)
John W Jeinnings	\$149.76	(2025)
Joel Cray	\$233.44	(2025)***
Verna Roberts	\$12606.38	(2023-2025)
Pamela Helaire	\$2979.94	(2024-2025)
Charles Olsen	\$14443.08	(2023-2025)
David Roth	\$2093.07	(2025)***
Sarah Davies	\$1998.11	(2025)
James Upham	\$179.94	(2025)***
Nicholas Herschel	\$11150.36	(2023-2025)
Bradley Garrow	\$2906.98	(2025)
Matthew & Monica Austin	\$4168.77	(2022/2023 2025)
Chelsea Frappier	\$6205.25	(2024-2025)
Austin Bacon	\$2504.60	(2025)
Nathan Guyer	\$314.45	(2025)
Kenneth Rice	\$332.98	(2025)

\*\*\*=Penalty/Interest, Payment received after due date

## TOWN OF WEST FAIRLEE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines so that all delinquent taxpayers will be treated fairly and will know what to expect.

\* Taxes became delinquent at 5:00pm October 9, 2025 \*

Upon receiving the Warrant from the Treasurer, and each month afterwards, the Delinquent Tax Collector will send a notice to each delinquent taxpayer indicating the amount of taxes, penalty, and interest owed. Interest is assessed at 1% per month (or fraction of month) for the first 3 months, and a one-time 8% late penalty is assessed on the unpaid delinquent principal tax amount at the time the account goes delinquent. 32VSA & 4873, 5142. Thereafter 1% interest will accrue on the unpaid principal balance on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

**\*\*\*Once the Treasurer has determined the payment to be late and turns it over to the Delinquent Tax Collector for collection, the Interest and late Penalty cannot be waived by the Delinquent Tax Collector.**

Payment arrangements can be made, but only if the arrangement will pay the bill in full before the due date of next year's bill. If an arranged payment is missed, the agreement will be voided.

Partial payments will be applied first to the interest portion of the amount due, and the remainder will be divided proportionally between the principal amount of the tax and the 8% late penalty.

FINAL NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT ON APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2026. PAYMENT IN FULL IS REQUIRED ON ALL ACCOUNTS BY APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. ON MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2026 TAX SALE PROCEEDINGS WILL BEGIN ON ALL UNPAID DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNTS.

All delinquent taxes not paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, will be published in the Annual Town Report.

If the amount due is not received by the due date, and no satisfactory payment arrangements have been made in one month, or if a prior agreement has not been met, the Delinquent Tax Collector will begin tax sale proceedings outlined in 32 V.S.A. & 5252 and 32 V.S.A. & 5251 thru 5263.

The Collector will notify the taxpayer and all mortgage and lien holders of the Tax Sale decision, the date that full payment must be received, and the costs to expect once the sale process begins.

Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of the delinquent tax will be charged to the taxpayer.

Each Taxpayer has the right to apply for abatement of property taxes based on any of the grounds listed in 24 V.S.A. & 1535

In the event no one purchases the property at tax sale, or, if in the judgement of the Collector of Delinquent Taxes, proceeding with the tax sale is inadvisable, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes shall collect the delinquent taxes using any or all the methods permitted by law.

Make all checks payable to the TOWN OF WEST FAIRLEE and send them to the TOWN OF WEST FAIRLEE ATTN: DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR 870 RTE 113 WEST FAIRLEE, VT 05083. No postdated checks. There is a \$25 fee assessed for returned checks.

## WEST FAIRLEE CEMETERY COMMISSION 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Cemetery Commission has contracted with Cemetery Solutions in Thetford to repair, straighten, and clean the stones in our cemeteries. They worked on the Middlebrook Cemetery this past year, and have transformed it into a beautiful park-like area. We are very pleased with their work and will contract with them again to continue to get all of our cemeteries looking great.

We worked with the Historical Society on Old Home Day to give a tour to William Coxs' gravesite, and they gave a great presentation about his life. We also set up a booth at Old Home Day, offering an overview of what we do, as well as presenting some historical background on some of our past residents. We did get one family who volunteered to help us with research and work on our cemeteries. We thank them so much, as we cannot accomplish our goals without volunteers.

No plots were sold in 2025, but there is one resident working on obtaining one in the Center Cemetery. This will be completed in the Spring. There were no burials in 2025.

We are still working on putting our burial information on line. This has been a years long project, and it has taken many hours of research and computer input. We hope to have this completed in 2026.

Please feel free to volunteer, come to our annual meeting in April, or make donations to the Cemetery Commission. We cannot do it without you!

Respectfully yours,

*The West Fairlee Cemetery Commission*



## **West Fairlee Conservation Commission 2025 Annual Report**

The West Fairlee Conservation Commission (WFCC) had a productive and engaging year, marked by strong community participation, educational outreach, and continued stewardship of the town's natural resources. Through public programs, land management efforts, and new initiatives, the Commission worked to promote conservation awareness and enhance access to West Fairlee's conserved lands.

Educational programming remained a cornerstone of the Commission's work. Fish and Wildlife Biologist Ali Thomas presented an informative program on wildlife tracking, followed by a guided walk in the woods where participants identified tracks and signs firsthand. WFCC members Alyssa and Peggy also visited a second-grade class at Westshire Elementary School to share information about bats, fostering early appreciation for wildlife and conservation. In addition, Peggy and Kat Pelletier led several edible plant walks that were widely attended and well received by community members eager to learn about local flora.

The Commission hosted a successful iNaturalist BioBlitz at Southworth Park, encouraging residents to document local plants and wildlife while contributing to a broader scientific database. Game camera photos captured throughout the year will be shared on the Conservation Commission website, providing the public with a glimpse into the diverse wildlife that inhabits West Fairlee's forests.

Land stewardship and planning continued to be a priority. Trail maintenance was completed in the Brushwood Town Forest, ensuring safe and enjoyable access for hikers. A pop-up hike on Buck Hill drew strong participation, highlighting the value of informal, accessible outdoor events. The Commission also completed its work with CRO Planning & Development on the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and Recreation Plan for the Brushwood North parcel, an important step in guiding future conservation and recreation efforts. The town's Tree Farm designation was successfully renewed, reaffirming West Fairlee's commitment to sustainable forest management.

Community events were another highlight of the year. Green Up Day was, as always, a success thanks to dedicated volunteers. At Old Home Day, the Commission sold plants and hosted a wildly popular photo contest, further strengthening community engagement. The first annual WFCC Calendar Sale was also launched with great enthusiasm and support.

The Commission honored longtime conservation supporter Fred Cook with a commemorative plaque placed on Fred's Bench in Brushwood South; if you take a hike this winter you will be rewarded with views of the Presidential Range while you rest on the bench! WFCC was also pleased to welcome two new members, Josh and Derek Lambke, whose involvement brings new energy and perspectives to the group.

Overall, the West Fairlee Conservation Commission had a busy and rewarding year, made possible by the dedication of its members, volunteers, and community partners. The Commission looks forward to continuing its work to protect, celebrate, and share West Fairlee's natural resources in the coming year

Nisha — *Puppy and a Poppy* — People's Choice Award winner of the 2025 WF Conservation Commission Photo Contest



# West Fairlee Public Library Annual Report

## *A Year of Transition, Renewal, and Community Engagement*

The West Fairlee Public Library's Annual Report highlights 2025 as a year of change and revitalization. Leadership transitions welcomed new board members and a librarian, while a \$25,000 grant enabled major renovations, including floor restoration, wall repairs, new ceiling tiles, upgraded storage, and improved furnishings. These advancements were made possible through strong community support and dedicated volunteers, reflecting the library's ongoing commitment to growth and engagement.

### **Leadership Changes**

The year 2025 was a transformative chapter for the West Fairlee Public Library, marked by heartfelt farewells to our longstanding librarian, Viola Farrar, and long-time trustee secretary, Ann Downing. These changes have been embraced and supported by our thriving community. In this time of change, we proudly welcomed two new board members and a new librarian, whose enthusiasm and fresh perspectives will help guide the library's continued growth and service to the community.

### **Renovation Project**

In 2025, the library was awarded a generous \$25,000 grant dedicated to much-needed renovations. This funding provided the means to address several key improvements:

- **Wood Floor Restoration:** Ryan Hatch skillfully restored and refinished the library's wood floor, bringing out its natural beauty and ensuring its durability for years to come.
- **Wall Repairs and Painting:** Essential repairs were made to the library's walls, followed by a fresh coat of paint that has brightened and refreshed the entire space.
- **Ceiling Tiles:** New ceiling tiles were installed, enhancing both the appearance and acoustic comfort of the library.
- **Storage Solutions:** Leland Carpentry built custom storage cupboards and shelves, providing much-needed organization for our growing collection and supplies.
- **Furnishings:** Copland Furniture generously donated a new table, further improving the library's functionality and welcoming atmosphere.

These accomplishments were only possible through the dedication of the library's board of trustees and the unwavering support of community members and volunteers. Their time, labor, and commitment were essential to the success of this renovation, and we thank everyone for their contributions.

## **Special Events**

Community engagement remained central to the library's mission. At Old Home Day, the library hosted a lively booth where 80 families and children participated in bookmark decorating and a creative contest. The Arts Bus made its first-ever appearance, offering hands-on art activities that inspired young imaginations. Rebekah Cadwell crafted a vibrant balloon arch, adding a festive touch to the event, and the library distributed free ice cream tickets, delighting attendees of all ages. These special events showcased the library as a hub of creativity, learning, and fun in West Fairlee.

## **Looking Ahead to 2026**

Building on this year's successes, the library looks forward to an exciting and productive 2026. Planned initiatives include:

- Introducing new programs to engage residents of all ages and interests
- Increasing accessibility through expanded library hours and enhanced services
- Pursuing capital budget priorities such as technology upgrades, improved signage, updated catalog software, and additional staff training
- Securing funding to support increased hours and continued improvements

These efforts are designed to make the library an even more welcoming and valuable resource for all members of our community.

The West Fairlee Public Library's journey of transformation would not be possible without the steadfast support of its residents, volunteers, and partners. As we move into 2026 with optimism and renewed purpose, we invite everyone to help shape the future of our library. Together, we can ensure that this vital community institution continues to thrive and serve West Fairlee for generations to come. Thank you for being an essential part of our story.

## West Fairlee Planning Commission

In late 2024 the Planning Commission approved a new, updated **Flood Hazard Area Bylaw** and passed it on to the Selectboard for review and approval in early 2025. The Bylaw ensures that the design and building of structures in flood hazard areas minimizes or eliminates the potential for flood loss or damage to life and property; and makes the Town and its citizens eligible for Federal flood insurance, disaster recovery funds, and hazard mitigation funds. Due to the complexity of permitting and enforcement and our lack of employed staff, the Planning Commission and Selectboard agreed to appoint Kyle Katz, TRORC Planner, as the Administrative Officer of the Flood Hazard Bylaw.

The Planning Commission completed development of a “**Construction Notification Ordinance**” which was adopted by the Selectboard. The purpose of the Ordinance is to keep the Town aware of new building and construction activities; does not include building codes or “zoning”. This basic information is essential to update the Town’s Grand List and maintain equity in taxation; to identify and review permits for building within the Flood Hazard Area; and to meet requirements to distribute the State’s Residential Building Energy Standard.

In December, the town was awarded a Municipal Planning Grant award to explore new housing potential in West Fairlee. We know West Fairlee Village is heavily constrained by the floodplain and steep slopes, so meeting the housing targets set by the region for 2030 and 2050 will be a challenge. It is also understood that the village cannot accommodate all the new housing needed so this project will also identify accessible locations on paved roads in rural areas and the village fringe where new housing could be supported. The process will include collection of baseline data on current housing stock and robust public outreach to guide the conversation around future housing needs and areas most suitable for expansion. We look forward to your participation in this important project!

## West Fairlee Energy Coordinators Annual Report

Over the past year, we met with local organizations to explore opportunities for collaboration and resources to help the town achieve its energy goals, while providing up-to-date information through the “Energy Resilience & Climate” page on the West Fairlee town website. We also reviewed the Residential Building Energy Standards code with an eye toward raising awareness among residents and contractors of its role in improving energy efficiency in new construction and renovations.

We met with our contact at the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District to discuss appliance and electronics recycling events; with staff at Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network to learn how other towns used their MERP mini-grants and which outreach strategies have been effective; and with TRORC to brainstorm meaningful, compliant activities eligible for our MERP mini-grant. We also began gathering ballpark estimates for town building energy audits and explored types and costs of multi-structure geothermal heating systems.

If you're interested in making your home more energy efficient, please reach out. Many federal and state programs reimburse a significant portion of weatherization and efficiency upgrade costs, and we can help you navigate the options. We also welcome ideas for improving West Fairlee's energy resilience and invite anyone interested to join us as we work toward becoming a full Energy Committee.

Find us on the Town website at <https://westfairleevt.gov/energy> or email us at [WestFairleeEnergy@gmail.com](mailto:WestFairleeEnergy@gmail.com)



## East Central Vermont Telecommunications District

*ECFiber is the trade name of  
our internet service provider business*

### **ECFiber and the Town of West Fairlee**

West Fairlee is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District consists of 31 member towns and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business added over 600 new customers, and now serves nearly 10,100 customers, via almost 2,000 miles of network. When completed, the ECFiber network will be available to about 32,000 premises over more than 2,000 miles network. ECFiber is a miracle of collective action; without it few customers in our mostly rural towns would have decent internet.

Construction in 2025 was focused on completing Newbury, Topsham, Corinth, Washington, and the northwest portion of Windsor that doesn't have cable service. At Town Meeting Day 2026, all "unserved" or "underserved" locations in our 31 towns have multi-gigabit fiber service available on the nearest utility pole, and ECFiber on its own will have solved 20% of Vermont's rural broadband crisis with only a fraction of its \$80 million funding – about 15% -- coming from grants.

ECFiber dates its legal existence back to Town Meetings in 2008, when a two-year organizing effort paid off with 23 towns agreeing to create an internet service provider. The first customers began receiving service in 2011, just before the Irene floods; ECFiber became a CUD in June, 2015, opening the way to issuing revenue bonds. In 2020, eight new towns joined; in 2023 the last of the original towns came online, and in November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & Poor's Global Credit arm, a historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This was extended to the six earlier bonds as well.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service.

Stephen Atwood, Alan Moats  
WestFairlee@ecfiber.net | 802-ECFiber

415 Waterman Road, South Royalton, Vermont 05068-5418 (802)-ECFIBER (802-323-3427)

***YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED CONNECTION TO THE WORLD***

## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs as well as offering technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV held three special collections in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford in September 2025. We collected 6 tons of tires, 6.6 tons of electronics, and 5.8 tons of “big” trash. Collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- Members of the district recycled approximately 1.5 tons of batteries in 2024. Please recycle your batteries at the West Fairlee Town Office or the Saturday trash/recycling location. Batteries, paint, and fluorescent bulbs may be taken to participating hardware stores as well. Check out the West Fairlee page on our website for additional recycling information <https://www.guvswmd.org/west-fairlee.html>
- Vermonters saved 93,809 gallons of paint from the landfill in 2024. You can use the Paint Care locator tool to find drop off locations closest to you <https://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-sites/>
- 197 GUV residents (3 from West Fairlee) participated in household hazardous waste disposal events in 2025.
- GUV residents participated in three Styrofoam collection events in 2025. Events were sponsored by Sustainable Lebanon/Lebanon Rotary, Mascoma Bank/Hartford Climate Action Steering Team, and Sustainable Hanover/Norwich Solid Waste Committee. Along with other Upper Valley communities, GUV residents helped divert 509 cubic yards of Styrofoam from the landfill.
- 2026 GUV collection event dates and recycling updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town listservs, and in local newspapers.
- We thank Delsie Hoyt and Bruce Durkee for their ongoing support, and all the volunteers for their efforts at the Recycling Center. GUV would also like to thank Justin and Sandra Adams of Quinttown Container for donating their services at the collection event.
- For information call Andy Scherer at 802-674-4474, email [ascherer@marcvt.org](mailto:ascherer@marcvt.org), or visit [www.guvswmd.org](http://www.guvswmd.org)

## **2025 Year End Report**

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is *your* regional planning commission, governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work with you to make the area better today, and to articulate a future vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the area’s outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work last year.

### **Technical Assistance on Planning Issues**

With more than 100 years of combined experience, our staff support your local officials in many areas. We provide advice on zoning, budgeting and capital planning, and reducing flood damage. We are engaged with state and federal initiatives, ensuring as a local government, you can take advantage of these. Our staff has supported towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects. Additionally, TRORC staff have assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws, and studies.

### **Economic Development**

TRORC is part of the East Central Vermont Economic Development District, working to provide resources and opportunities for individuals, businesses, and communities. TRORC works with partners to maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that identifies and proposes strategies to address economic challenges in the area, allowing the partners to seek federal funding.

**Specifically in West Fairlee**, TRORC worked with the Selectboard and volunteers to draft a ten-year capital budget and program report. TRORC staff provided guidance and technical assistance for the completion of annual reporting related to the Town’s American Rescue Plan Act award. We supported the Town in updating and administering its flood regulations, updated its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and managed a ditching project for Blood Brook Road under a grant from VTrans which will be closed out by end of the calendar year. TRORC staff supported the development of a Municipal Planning Grant application to explore options for expanding housing. Our team helped the Town successfully apply for and subsequently manage a Municipal Energy Resilience Program grant to make upgrades to community buildings to enhance energy efficiency and lower costs. In addition, we managed and technically supported a grant through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program to integrate and document a comprehensive site plan for Bean Hall and buildings on the town green.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director  
William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret

### **Emergency Management and Preparedness**

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. We worked with communities in updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, which assist the reduction of future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they happen. When disasters occur, TRORC actively becomes part of the state and local long-term recovery process. Most recently, we aided communities in recovery efforts from the July 2023 and July 2024 floods.

### **Transportation**

TRORC works with towns to identify needs and obtain funding for road, ditch and bridge improvement projects. We assist with managing transportation-related projects and ensuring compliance measures are maintained with the State. We also support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and conduct traffic counts and speed studies.

## **Annual Report of the Tri-Town Commission 2025**

The Commission presented the 2025 annual budget of \$5,385.00 broken into the appropriate percentages for each of the towns. The budget will continue to be part of each of the town's budgets presented to the taxpayers at their annual meetings.

In 2025 the Lake Fairlee Dam continued to be stable and passed another quiet year. In Thetford Brian Story continues as the Tri-Town Dam Facilities manager and Jenn Garrow acting as Treasurer of the Commission. Thetford passed a warrant article to reduce the Commission to two members per town. The Commission approved their budget item continuing to be members of the Small Dam organization which provides information to members ensuring we continue to follow all the State's small dam regulations. The Commission worked with PACIF to add downstream liability coverage ensuring coverage in the case of a catastrophic situation involving the Dam.

The need to paint the safety railing on the Dam continues to be a topic the Commission discussed. The Commission would like to create a working relationship with Dubois and King, the dam designer, to create a long-term agreement to provide long term advice while the towns continue to maintain the Dam on a yearly basis.

We have had discussions in past meetings about creating a long-term reserve fund managed by the Commission to stabilize future maintenance costs. We continue to function as a body with an awareness of the importance of Lake Fairlee dam as an asset for each of the three towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Berger  
Chair, Tri-Town Commission

## Appropriation Requests by Agency

<b>Organization</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Central VT Adult Basic Education	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700
Capstone Community Action	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Central VT Council on Aging	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350
Clara Martin Center	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,107
Green up Vermont	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Lake Fairlee Association	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Orange County Restorative Justice	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350
Orange County Parent Child Center	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Orange East Senior Center	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Public Health Council	\$ 311	\$ 311	\$ 311
Rivendell Trail Association (RTA)	\$ 500	\$ 450	\$ -
Safeline, Inc	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700
Tri-Valley Transit (Stagecoach)	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Upper Valley Ambulance	\$ 36,639	\$ 34,776	\$ 33,534
VT Center for Independent Living	\$ 130	\$ 130	\$ 130
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 100
Visiting Nurse Alliance/Hospice	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
Vital Communities/SERG	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$ 94,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 82,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 144,087</b>	<b>\$ 138,074</b>	<b>\$ 128,882</b>



**West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2025 Expenses</b>	<b>2026 Estimated Expenses</b>
Insurance	\$ 10,144.00	\$ 13,000.00
Heat	\$ 3,848.05	\$ 4,000.00
Electricity	\$ 1,353.15	\$ 1,500.00
Radio Maintenance	\$ 2,516.00	\$ 1,500.00
Equipment	\$ 2,647.20	\$ 2,500.00
Dues 911 & Other	\$ 450.00	\$ 400.00
Mowing	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Telephone & Internet	\$ 1,375.84	\$ 1,500.00
Truck maint.	\$ 4,698.04	\$ 4,500.00
Truck Fuel	\$ 1,323.49	\$ 2,000.00
Training	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,000.00
Capital Reserve (Equipment)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Capital Reserve (Truck)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
EMS equipment	\$ 2,317.92	\$ 2,500.00
Misc./Recognition	\$ 1,522.05	\$ 500.00
Air Pack Mask & Bottles (1 set)	\$ 9,255.00	\$ 12,000.00
Truck Loan	\$ 7,593.67	\$ 6,100.00
Building Maint/Air System	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Green Insurance	\$ 3,004.00	\$ 3,000.00
Turn out gear	\$ 2,299.91	\$ 4,500.00
Fire Extinguisher Maint.	\$ 102.00	\$ 100.00
Grant Writer Fee	\$ 1,995.00	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 89,020.32</b>	<b>\$ 93,900.00</b>

**Capital Reserve Funds**

<b>Truck</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 38,000</b>
	<b>2025 Appropriation</b>	<b>+10,000</b>
	<b>Replace Truck Generator</b>	<b>- 11,800</b>
	<b>Downpayment “new” Rescue I</b>	<b>- 5,000</b>
	<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$ 31,200</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
	<b>2025 Appropriation</b>	<b>+ 20,000</b>
	<b>Match FEMA radio grant</b>	<b>- 6,000</b>
	<b>Turn-out gear</b>	<b>- 4,000</b>
	<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>

**In 2025, the West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department responded to**

- **133 EMS Calls**
- **69 Fire Calls**
- **10 building fires**

**That's over 200 calls – a 50% increase since 2020 and over two times the number of calls we did in 2015!** Fire Department EMS personnel are first on the scene for most local medical emergencies and start life-saving care before the ambulance arrives. We attended 20 auto accidents. We're also the ones trained to deal with environmental cleanup at the crash scene. And those 10 structure fires included homes of our friends and neighbors and businesses that are important to the local economy.

We continue to make progress on equipment updates to meet FEMA and NFPA requirements. This year, we **upgraded our hand-held radios**. We received a \$107,000 **FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant** which enabled us to purchase 14 radios, chargers and have them programmed. Our trucks' mobile radios still need to be updated and are estimated to cost between \$30-40,000.

As reported last year, we had to replace many of our **self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), masks and bottles systems**. In just 2 years, the cost of replacing each SCBA set has risen from \$9,300 to over \$12,000. Fire hoses, like our other equipment, are now on an NFPA testing/replacement schedule. Ours have never been tested and are outdated. We applied for a \$62,000 FEMA grant but were turned down as departments across the country compete for fewer and fewer funds.

In an ironic turn of events, our 1999 Rescue I caught fire from a sudden mechanical failure on the way to an emergency call. The EMT tended to the patient – a chainsaw wound -- while other firefighters extinguished the fire. We are still awaiting the insurance settlement which will be returned to the Truck Capital Reserve. We found a suitable (2003) replacement for \$30,000 and financed \$25,000 of that amount. Capital funds were also needed to replace the Engine's generator which powers high-output lighting needed at many emergency scenes.

**We currently have a roster of 14 members;** 7 are certified interior firefighters. For Emergency Medical Services, the majority of our calls, we have 1 Emergency Medical Technician, 3 Vermont First Responders and 1 Paramedic. We have monthly meetings and trainings to stay proficient in the skills needed for our call response; and our firefighters dedicate 100s of hours for additional training (including advanced skills like swiftwater and ice rescue) at regional and state fire academies.

For 2026, the Fire Department requests \$94,000. We welcome any community members that would like more information on how to join us as front line or support staff. Please contact a member. Thank you!

**The West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department Members would like to thank our community for their support.**

**Cory Austin - Chief   John Jeinnings - Deputy Chief   Will Ordway - Engineer**  
**Lisa Ordway   Terry Straight   Brad Garrow   Gary Durkee   Jeff Shores   Matthew Austin**  
**Amy Record   Mary Raynes   JJ Guyer   Isaiah Sleath   Jeffrey Lombardi**



## **Upper Valley Ambulance Annual Report 2025**

Upper Valley Ambulance continues to experience an increase in call volume. We responded to 1,818 emergency calls during 2025 compared to 1,621 calls in 2024. Additionally, we completed over 500 interfacility transfers (hospital to hospital, hospital to nursing home, etc.) throughout the year.

Upper Valley Ambulance provides 911 coverage to our 9 communities by staffing at least two ambulances 24 hours a day, every day of the week. Additional ambulances are staffed during the daytime hours.

This year, we took delivery of a new ambulance that was put into service over the summer. By careful spending and consistent capital replacement budgeting, we were able to purchase the \$245,000 ambulance and equipment with cash. Our next ambulance is ordered with an expected delivery date in early 2027.

Upper Valley Ambulance is a non-profit agency. We currently carry no debt. We receive approximately 30% of our budget from per capita fees charged to the towns we cover. Most of the remainder of our budget is covered by billing patients (through their insurance first when applicable) for services we provide, and a small percentage is covered by an optional subscription plan and by providing ambulance coverage at special events.

We are committed to delivering reliable, high-quality emergency medical care to our communities. Thank you for your partnership with us.

Zachary Bryan  
Executive Director  
[zbryan@uppervalleyambulance.com](mailto:zbryan@uppervalleyambulance.com)  
802 333 4043



The Lake Fairlee Association  
PO Box 102  
Fairlee, VT 05045  
[www.lakefairleevt.org](http://www.lakefairleevt.org)

## 2025 Lake Fairlee Association Annual Report to the Town of West Fairlee

A. **Greeters:** Once again, this past summer, the LFA maintained a Greeter program at the Lake Fairlee boat landing to inspect boats for animal and plant invasive species. The program ran from May 15, 2025 - October 15, 2025. Greeters inspected watercraft entering and leaving Lake Fairlee to help combat the spread of invasive species, including Eurasian Milfoil. With a combined total of nearly 50 years of watercraft inspection expertise, our Lake Fairlee boat greeters are a key frontline defense against the spread of milfoil and other invasive aquatic species. Greeter wages account for approximately fifty percent (50%) of LFA's total annual budget. Our greeters welcomed over three thousand (3,000) vessels, inspected twenty-eight hundred (2,800) of them and decontaminated a total of nearly eight hundred (800) watercraft in the 2025 season.

B. **DASH:** The Lake Fairlee Association conducted a Spring 2025 lake survey to assess areas of highest milfoil concentration(s) to be targeted for seasonal diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH) and possible trained volunteer hand-pulling during Summer 2025. Using the diver-assisted harvesting technique, divers removed Eurasian milfoil from pre-identified and targeted areas of Lake Fairlee. After this seasonal treatment, the Lake Fairlee Association sponsored a subsequent quantitative aquatic species survey in late September 2025 to assess ecological diversity and aquatic native plant species health, post-DASH milfoil dispersion on the lake, and provide required support for a planned 2026 herbicide application.

C. **Herbicide Application:** The LFA regularly surveys Lake Fairlee for milfoil infestations, and when indicated, contracts with licensed professionals to administer EPA-approved herbicides. Typically applied annually, herbicide treatments present a significant annually recurring expense for LFA. The LFA did not apply any herbicidal treatment to Lake Fairlee in 2024, choosing instead to double DASH efforts on the lake. A lake survey completed in Fall 2024 showed that herbicidal application was merited (and to be implemented) on Lake Fairlee once again in 2025.

D. **Milfoil Community Awareness, Education and Plant Identification:** During 2024 (and continuing in 2025), the LFA initiated a new 3-pronged Milfoil Awareness Program (MAP) to educate and enlist the assistance of people who use Lake Fairlee as a way of further combating the spread of milfoil. First, the LFA purchased approximately fifteen (15) buoys and marked each of them "MILFOIL HAZARD." Volunteers then placed the buoys at various locations on the lake, marking locations of milfoil infestation and deterring boaters from piloting watercraft through these areas at high rates of speed. Second, the LFA Board set up a table at the LFA annual membership meeting with milfoil education materials, plant samples and other content to help lake residents learn how to manage milfoil



infestations along their shoreline. The material also ensured an understanding of the negative consequences (further spread and infestation) of milfoil hand removal using incorrect technique. Lastly, a SCUBA trained volunteer spent several hours hand-pulling milfoil over the summer. In total, volunteers gave over fifty (50) hours of their time to continue this new educational program.

**E. *Water Quality Action Committee (WQAC):*** The LFA WQAC supports lake health through several water quality monitoring programs, including tributary water sampling as part of the LaRosa Partnership Program through the Vermont DEC and cyanobacteria testing at three locations around the lake in partnership with the Lake Champlain Committee (which sponsors the Cyanobacteria program for the State of Vermont). The WQAC completed another successful season of tributary water sampling in 2025. LFA volunteers collected water samples from eight (8) locations along Blood Brook and Middle Brook over the season to help identify sources of phosphorus entering the lake.

**F. *Wakesports Usage on Lake Fairlee:*** This summer, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) denied petitions to prohibit wakesports on Lake Fairlee and 9 other lakes. Instead, the DEC proposed statewide rule changes that, if adopted, would prohibit wakesports on Lake Fairlee. Public hearings were held in July, and the DEC is now reviewing comments. A final draft of the rules is expected this Fall, followed by another round of public input and state committee review before any changes are enacted. For updates, visit: [www.dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakes-and-ponds-rulemaking](http://www.dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakes-and-ponds-rulemaking)

**G. *Loon Presence on Lake Fairlee:*** A loon pair that has been resident on the northern end of Lake Fairlee since 2016 produced two eggs this past summer, one of which successfully hatched in July 2025. The chick was last seen in October and appeared to be doing well. In addition, it appears that a second loon pair may have taken up residence at the southern end of the lake this summer and we hope for their return next season. The LFA's "LoonCam" briefly returned in 2025 (technical difficulties abbreviated the coverage duration), enabling remote observation of the more established loon pair. The LoonCam continues to generate substantial interest within the Upper Valley and beyond during the breeding season and features a YouTube channel for observation of the nesting birds and associated wildlife. (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB49otLWW9duMSILqOs7Kti-Eg1ajzubC>). The Lake Fairlee LoonCam (still Vermont's first and only LoonCam) will return in 2026.

**H. *Website:*** LFA activities and Lake Fairlee-related information are regularly updated on the Association's website ( [www.lakefairleevt.org](http://www.lakefairleevt.org) )



*“To create and maintain the Cross Rivendell Trail as an educational and recreational resource for Rivendell’s schools and the community”*

### **Rivendell Trails Association 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Appropriation**

The Rivendell Trails Association (RTA) is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization based in Fairlee, Vermont, dedicated to maintaining the Cross Rivendell Trail (CRT) as a resource for place-based education and community recreation. In June of 2024 the RTA formed a new interim board committed to revitalizing both the organization and the trail. The RTA interim board has been meeting monthly and is actively working through various tasks, including engaging with landowners, updating trail signage, planning for and carrying out needed maintenance, and communicating with volunteers and hikers to ensure the CRT will be a treasured multi-town resource for years to come.

The RTA thanks the town of West Fairlee for its contribution of \$450 in 2025 and for its ongoing support of the CRT. The RTA expects 2026 operating expenses to be approximately \$6,000, comprising basic administrative and operational expenses, outreach and stewardship activities, trail maintenance (equipment, supplies, and summer trail crew support), and various business-related fees. Each year the RTA requests equal amounts from the four towns that host the CRT. Therefore, we respectfully request an appropriation of \$500 from the town of West Fairlee for 2026. The \$50 increase over last year’s request is to cover increased costs for expenses such as signage, insurance, service providers, and restoration of the annual meeting.

In addition to town appropriations, the RTA seeks financial support from grants, businesses, and individuals. All funds raised are used solely to support RTA activities and maintain the CRT for educational and outdoor recreation opportunities for residents of the Upper Valley.

West Fairlee students, RTA members, trail adopters, landowners, and residents enjoy and support the Cross Rivendell Trail. The RTA welcomes community involvement as committee members, volunteer trail adopters, and donors. Learn more about the organization and the trail at [www.rivendelltrail.org](http://www.rivendelltrail.org), on Facebook at “Cross Rivendell Trail,” or via email at [rivendelltrail@rivendellstudent.org](mailto:rivendelltrail@rivendellstudent.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Rivendell Trails Association Interim Board of Directors

---

Karen Bourque, West Fairlee  
Bree Carlson, West Fairlee  
Alyssa Godesky, West Fairlee

Mark Harvey, Vershire  
Robert Horton, West Fairlee  
David Hubbard, Orford

Gail Keefer, Orford  
Toby Sonsala, West Fairlee

## Minutes

### 2025 West Fairlee Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of West Fairlee met in the Community Building on Saturday March 1, 2025 to act upon the following articles:

**Article 1** To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officials

**Article 2** Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on Thursday October 9, 2025, by physical delivery to town office before 5pm on that date with postmarks on or before that date accepted?

**Article 3** Shall the voters retire the obsolete Sheldon Miller Capital Fund (\$0 dollar balance)?

**Article 4** Will the Town appropriate \$700 to the Central VT Adult Basic Education?

**Article 5** Will the Town appropriate \$500 to Capstone Community Action?

**Article 6** Will the Town appropriate \$350 to Central VT Council on Aging?

**Article 7** Will the Town appropriate \$1107 to the Clara Martin Center?

**Article 8** Will the Town appropriate \$50 to Green Up Vermont?

**Article 9** Will the Town appropriate \$2100 to the Lake Fairlee Association?

**Article 10** Will the Town appropriate \$500 to the Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley?

**Article 11** Will the Town appropriate \$350 to Orange County Restorative Justice?

**Article 12** Will the Town appropriate \$500 to Orange County Parent Child Center?

**Article 13** Will the Town appropriate \$2000 to Orange East Senior Center?

**Article 14** Will the Town appropriate \$311 to Public Health Council of Upper Valley?

**Article 15** Will the Town appropriate \$450 to the Rivendell Trail Association?

**Article 16** Will the Town appropriate \$700 to Safeline, Inc?

**Article 17** Will the Town appropriate \$750 to Tri Valley Transit?

**Article 18** Will the Town appropriate \$34,776 to Upper Valley Ambulance?

**Article 19** Will the Town appropriate \$130 to VT Center for Independent Living?

**Article 20** Will the Town appropriate \$100 to Rural Fire Protection Task Force?

**Article 21** Will the Town appropriate \$2600 to the Visiting Nurse Alliance/Hospice?

**Article 22** Will the Town appropriate \$100 to Vital Communities?

**Article 23** Will the Town appropriate \$90,000 to the West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department?

**Article 24** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

#### **To be voted on by Australian Ballot:**

**Article 25** To elect Town Officers as required by law.

**Article 26** Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating and capital expenses of \$1,143,094 of which \$978,799 shall be raised by taxes and \$164,295 by non-tax revenues?

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Moderator Sean McIntyre. He reviewed basics of Roberts Rules of Order and began meeting. All articles were passed. Voters approved a specific request that the Fire Department providing a more comprehensive financial report to the Taxpayers next year. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35. The 2025 Budget was approved by Australian Ballot.



**Town of West Fairlee**  
870 VT Route 113  
West Fairlee, VT 05083