

**TOWN OF  
ATHENS, VERMONT**

**2025**

**TOWN AND SCHOOL**

**REPORTS**

**TOWN OF ATHENS**

**POPULATION 2020 CENSUS**

**380**

**REGISTERED VOTERS**

**294**

Town Garage	802 869-3312
Constable	802 869-3531
Fire and Rescue	911
Ambulance	911
State Police	1-802-722-4600
Windham County Sheriff's Department	1-802-365-4942
Town Clerk Office	802 869-3370
Athens Elementary School	802 869-2633
Grafton School	802 843-2495
Emergency Management Director	802 869-3268
Weather Emergency Committee	
Donald Capponcelli	802 869-2590
Tim Stevenson & Sherry Maher	802 869-2141
Lynn Morgan	802 869-2227
David Burns	802 869-6354
Cheree Alsvig	802 428-3016
Bonnie Hitchcock	
Justin Stearns	802 591-0560

Town Clerk Hours: Monday and Thursday 9-1 or by appointment

Select Board Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm

**Town office mailing address**

25 Brookline Rd., Athens, VT 05143

**Email**

[townoffice@athensvt.gov](mailto:townoffice@athensvt.gov)

School Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm in Grafton /

Westminster alternating between the two. Contact Lynn Morgan or school to find out where for the meeting you may want to attend

**Notice**

**The Brattleboro Reformer is the paper used for official town publishing**

**Residents in need of emergency shelter or other basic necessities, such as heat, food, or**

**water due to a weather related emergency can contact a member of the Athens Volunteer Emergency Committee**

**Property Taxes are due on the 10th of September**

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REPORT  
OF  
THE TOWN AND SCHOOL  
FINANCIAL RECORDS  
TOWN OF ATHENS  
VERMONT

We the auditors have examined and verified 11 of 12 months of financial records. Because of the abrupt resignation of the second Athens town clerk / Athens town treasure, the financial records for the month of September were incomplete. The complete September warrant has been sent to Nemrec as per order by the select board. As of putting this Town Report together, the complete warrant has not been returned and thus not examined by the Auditors. Therefore no consensus for the financial records of the

Town and School year ending  
Town - December 31, 2025  
School - June 30, 2025

“NOTE” Because of inaccurate 2025 Actual figures a surplus / (deficit) cannot be determined.

Michael Bates James Trimble Amanda Alsvig

# WARNING

## 2026 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ATHENS, VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town of Athens are hereby notified and warned to act on the following articles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2026 at 6:00pm at the Athens Community Center (Former Elementary School).

All voting for Town Officers will be by Australian ballot on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2026. Polls will be open between 10:00am and 7:00pm at the Athens Town Office.

Article 1: To act on the town report

Article 2: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes

Article 3: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Town Clerk, pursuant to 24 V.S.A § 1236 (10) or Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791 to collect current taxes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2026

Article 4: To see if the Town shall vote to publish a list of delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report

Article 5: To see if the Town shall vote to approve a budget of \$734,355.49, with \$633,380.49 to be raised by taxes

Article 6: To see if the Town shall vote to decrease the total membership of the selectboard from five to three members pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2650(b)

Article 7: To see if the Town shall adopt a fiscal year that begins July 1 and ends June 30

Article 8: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Town Clerk for a term of 1 year, as permitted by 17 V.S.A. § 2651e

Article 9: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Town Treasurer for a term on 1 year, as permitted by 17 V.S.A. § 2651f

Article 10: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 for the annual maintenance of its cemeteries

Article 11: Shall the voters of Athens approve the sum of \$2,500.00 for the purpose of maintaining the Athens Brick Meetinghouse

Article 12: To see if the Town shall vote to raise the sum of \$6,726.00 for Humanitarian expenses. (**Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS)** - \$1,140.00; **Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital** - \$500.00; **Women's Freedom Center** - \$250.00; **Youth Services** - \$330.00; **SEVCA** - \$1,000.00; **Bellows Falls Area Senior Center** - \$250.00; **Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice for Vermont and**

**New Hampshire (VNH) - \$1,350.00; Grafton Cares - \$1,000.00; Health Care Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)- \$356.00; Senior Solutions - \$300.00; Bull Creek Common Lands - \$250.00**

Article 13: To set the time of future town meetings

Article 14: To transact any further business proper to come before said meeting

Dated this 24th Day of January 2026 at Athens, Vermont

*David R. Bemis*

David Bemis

*Sandi Capponcelli*

Sandi Capponcelli

*Denise Randall*

Denise Randall

*Krista Gay*

Krista Gay

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Perry

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Moderator	David Bemis	2026
Town Clerk	Hannah Regier (Resigned)	2026
	Simon Strasser (Appointed/Resigned)	2026
	Amber Stevens (Appointed)	2026
Town Treasurer	Hannah Regier (Resigned)	2026
	Simon Strasser (Appointed/Resigned)	2026
	Amber Stevens (Appointed)	2026
Selectboard	Sandi Capponcelli	2026
	Krista Gay	2026
	Denise Randall	2026
	Janet Perry	2027
	David Bemis	2028
Listers	<i>Empty seat</i>	[2025] 2026
	Carol Bingham	2027
	Amber Stevens	2028
Auditors	Amanda Alsvig	2026
	James Trimble	2027
	Michael Bates	2028
Campbell Fund Trustees	Krista Gay	2025
	Carol Bingham	2026
	Morgan Wilbur	2027
Meetinghouse Committee	Pamela Russo	2026
	Candace Damon	2027
	Krista Gay	2028
	Sherry Maher	2029
	Ginger Maciejowski	2030
Cemetery Commission	Stephen W. Oakes	2026
	Donald Capponcelli	2027
	David Bemis	2028
	James Neathawk	2029
	Harold Noyes	2030
Constable	Caleb Lemieux	2026
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Hannah Regier	2026
Town Grand Juror	James Trimble	2026
Town Agent	James Trimble	2026
U.H.S.D #27 Representative	Emily Ferenc (Appointed 3yr term)	2027
WNUESD Board	Mark Berman	2027
WNUESD Board	Krista Gay (2yr term)	2027
WNUESD Board	Lynn Morgan (3yr term)	2027

## APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Fence Viewers	Donald Capponcelli	2026
	Robert Anderson	2026
	Adrian Tenney	2026
Housing Rehabilitation Committee	Amber Stevens	2026
	David Bemis	2026
	Denise Randall	2026
	Janet Perry	2026
	Krista Gay	2026
	Sandi Capponcelli	2026
	Carol Bingham	2026
Planning Commission	Andrew Toepfer	2026
	Mark Berman	2026
	John Oberling	2026
	Ivor Stevens	2026
	Janet Perry	2027
	Selectboard	Ex officio
Sexton, Valley & West Cemetery	Cemetery Commission	
Surveyor of Wood and Coal	Donald Capponcelli	2026
Health Officer	<i>Vacant</i>	2026
Tree Warden	Jay Maciejowski	2026
Town Service Officer	Lynn Morgan	2026
Windham Regional Commission	Andrew Toepfer	2026
	Robert Anderson	2026
State Appointed Forest Fire Warden	David Bemis	
Athens Emergency Mgt Director	David Bemis	2026
Budget Committee	Hannah Regier	2026
	Michael Bates	2026
	Carol Bingham	2026
	Janet Perry	2027
	Amber Stevens	2027
SWWSWMD Representative	David Bemis	2026
Elected Justices of the Peace	David Bemis	2026
	Kate Bova	2026
	Sandra Capponcelli	2026
	April Lyman	2026
	Janet Perry	2026

**Town Real Estate (VLCT Insurance Replacement Values) 2021 (do not confuse with market values)**

Athens Town Office	\$240,805.00
Athens Town Office Contents	\$48,150.00
Athens Town Garage	\$450,708.00
Athens Town Garage Contents	\$75,000.00
Athens Brick Meetinghouse	\$618,584.00
Community Center	\$442,730.00
Community Center Contents	\$24,494.00
Silk Picture	\$3,000.00
Athens Valley Cemetery	\$0.00
Athens West Cemetery	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,903,471.00</b>

**Town Garage-Vehicles, Equipment and Tools**

2012 Freightliner Dump Truck	\$40,048.00
2025 Ford 600	\$116,000.00
Sander	\$2,000.00
2017 Catepillar 420 Backhoe/Loader Lease to own	\$139,000.00
2010 Catepillar Grader Lease to own	\$113,131.00
Emergency Trailer & Equipment	\$3,570.00
Plow-Henke 11'	\$7,921.00
Plow-Housatonic 10'	\$4,200.00
Plow-Everest 12'	\$1,300.00
Plow-Vortex 10'	\$7,600.00
Bush Bandit 150XP Chipper	\$7,000.00
York Rake	\$6,000.00
Blower	\$8,200.00
Welder	\$3,500.00
Generator	\$7,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$466,970.00</b>

**Equipment**

1K Gallon Fuel Tank	\$1,000.00
Chloride Tank	\$1,800.00
1 Safety Fuel Cans	\$50.00
2 Service Jacks	\$300.00
1 Grease Guns	\$200.00
Battery Charger	\$125.00
Water Pump	\$400.00
Fill Rite Pump	\$300.00
Steam Cleaner	\$2,500.00
Generac	\$951.00
Air Compressor	\$600.00
Husqvarna 1562XP Chainsaw	\$636.00



2 Weed Trimmers	\$300.00
Sweeper	\$275.00
Shop Vacuum Jobsmart	\$60.00
Agent Flammable Storage Cabinet	\$1,173.00
Lawn Mower	\$240.00
Snatch Block	\$63.00
Skill Saw	\$115.00
DEF Pump	\$90.00
Husqvarna Protective Power Kit	\$247.00
Air Tank	\$60.00
2 Oil Containment Units	\$900.00
Grizzly	\$3,800.00
	<b>Total</b>
	\$16,185.00

### Tools

Air Hose Reel	\$100.00
Grinder-4"	\$50.00
Grinder-3"	\$50.00
Grinding wheels	\$200.00
Shovel	\$35.00
Power Drill	\$60.00
Wrenches-Gear 1/4" to 1"	\$75.00
Wrenches-Neiko 1 3/8" to 2"	\$150.00
Wrenches-Chine 1 1/4" to 2"	\$175.00
2 air ratchets 1/2" and 3/4"	\$300.00
Impact-Chrome Vanadium 3/4"	\$49.00
Impact-Wisdom 1/2"	\$60.00
Impact-Job Smart 1/2"	\$50.00
Impact-Crowfoot 1/2" to 3/8"	\$99.00
Impact-Crowfoot 3/8" to 3/4"	\$99.00
Pipe (2)	\$100.00
Metric 7 to 20mm	\$150.00
Adjustable 8" to 15"	\$100.00
Screwdriver Set	\$22.00
Tool Chest	\$1,200.00
Tools	\$3,000.00
Hand Truck	\$60.00
Chains 1-20' and 3-8'	\$300.00
Chain Binders 4	\$400.00
Traffic Cones 30	\$1,200.00
Road Signs	\$2,400.00
Bungee Cords	\$400.00
Drop Lights 2	\$80.00
Radio System-2 Mobile	\$1,750.00
Radio System-4 Handheld	\$1,300.00
Torch Set & Cart	\$600.00

Ratchet Extensions 1/2"	\$40.00
Air Chisel	\$60.00
Air Ratchet	\$60.00
Air Disc Grinder	\$40.00
Air Lift Bottle Jack 20 Ton	\$220.00
Leaf Blower	\$599.00
Computer	\$630.00
Printer	\$89.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,352.00</b>

**Town Office**

Listers Laptop	\$1,800.00
Clerk Laptop	\$1,300.00
Fire Proof file cabinets	\$16,000.00
Network equipment	\$5,000.00
Furniture	\$6,250.00
Air Conditioner	\$340.00
Ipad	\$880.00
Safes	\$12,500.00
Office supplies/Books	\$1,500.00
Oil Tank	\$1,000.00
Generator	\$7,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,070.00</b>

## 2025 Statement of Taxes Raised

RATE NAME	RATE	X GRAND LIST	BILLED AMOUNT
Nonhomestead ed.	1.6866	162,304.13	273,742.13
Homestead ed.	1.4966	222,443.00	332,908.27
Municipal	1.6000	380,313.00	608,500.80
Late Homestead Penalty			785.01
<b>TOTAL TAX BILLED</b>			<b>1,215,936.21</b>

### TAXES PAID OUT TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bellows Falls UHS	\$198,940.46
Athens Grafton	\$340,339.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$539,280.20</b>

## Comparative Budget Report and 2026 Proposed Town Budget (DRAFT)

<b>AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TOV</b>	<b>\$633,380.49</b>
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	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026
<b>REVENUES</b>					
<b>Tax Related</b>					
Current Taxes	\$577,985.30	\$456,289.27	\$580,729.42	\$1,539,270.78	\$633,380.49
Delinquent Taxes	\$0.00	\$67,175.08	\$0.00	\$80,169.67	\$0.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$5,000.00	\$5,201.45	\$5,000.00	\$4,258.88	\$5,000.00
Tax Collector Fee	\$0.00	\$5,440.45	\$0.00	\$6,846.15	\$0.00
Cash Basis Adjustment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tax Sale Fees	\$0.00	\$906.64	\$0.00	\$978.52	\$0.00
Property redemptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Municipal Tax Adjustment	\$0.00	\$34,195.34	\$0.00	\$37,377.70	\$0.00
PILOT State Payment	\$4,075.00	\$4,072.47	\$4,075.00	\$4,072.47	\$4,075.00
Current Use State Payment	\$26,500.00	\$27,933.00	\$28,000.00	\$37,329.00	\$30,000.00
School Tax Refund	\$0.00	\$12,079.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Budget adjustment for Previous Year Surplus	\$2,710.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Tax Related Revenue</b>	<b>\$616,270.30</b>	<b>\$613,293.41</b>	<b>\$692,804.42</b>	<b>\$1,710,303.17</b>	<b>\$672,455.49</b>
<b>Grants/Other Governments</b>					
State Aid to Highways	\$47,750.00	\$50,692.37	\$50,000.00	\$39,088.74	\$50,000.00
Vt State Civil Fines	\$2,000.00	\$1,767.00	\$2,000.00	\$832.22	\$2,000.00
State Grants	\$0.00	\$47,924.71	\$0.00	\$51,626.04	\$0.00
Federal Grants	\$0.00	\$114,054.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. State Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$306.25	\$0.00
Other Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$700.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Grant/Governmental Revenue</b>	<b>\$49,750.00</b>	<b>\$214,438.94</b>	<b>\$52,000.00</b>	<b>\$91,153.25</b>	<b>\$52,000.00</b>
<b>Clerks Office</b>					
Clerk Fees	\$0.00	\$3,631.25	\$0.00	\$3,083.00	\$0.00
Animal License	\$200.00	\$230.97	\$200.00	\$162.00	\$200.00
Copies	\$500.00	\$433.00	\$500.00	\$282.50	\$500.00
Clerk Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Clerks Office Revenue</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>	<b>\$4,295.22</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>	<b>\$3,527.50</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>
Service Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$454.00	\$0.00
Service Fee (Trash Bags)	\$8,000.00	\$8,574.00	\$8,500.00	\$5,950.00	\$8,500.00
Public Works/Highway	\$125.00	\$110.00	\$125.00	\$95.00	\$100.00
Interest on Investments	\$600.00	\$673.87	\$600.00	\$585.17	\$600.00
Community Center Building	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Micellaneous	\$0.00	\$9,415.34	\$0.00	\$26.00	\$0.00
Transfer In		\$125,064.65	\$0.00		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$675,445.30</b>	<b>\$975,865.43</b>	<b>\$754,729.42</b>	<b>\$1,812,094.09</b>	<b>\$734,355.49</b>

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	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026
<b>(DRAFT)</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>					
Selectboard	\$2,850.00	\$2,490.00	\$2,850.00	\$2,930.00	\$2,930.00
Clerk	\$10,400.00	\$10,400.00	\$10,400.00	\$5,425.00	\$10,400.00
Assistant Clerk	\$1,500.00	\$1,713.34	\$1,500.00	\$2,560.34	\$2,000.00
Treasurer	\$10,400.00	\$10,400.00	\$10,400.00	\$8,943.75	\$10,400.00
Assistant Treasurer	\$1,500.00	\$1,076.51	\$1,000.00	\$1,085.78	\$1,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$289.96	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Health Officer	\$500.00	\$487.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Moderator	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$30.00
Elections	\$1,250.00	\$970.59	\$500.00	\$91.07	\$1,250.00
BCA/BOA	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$50.00
Listers	\$5,000.00	\$3,854.96	\$5,000.00	\$2,931.59	\$5,000.00
Auditors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Del Tax Collector	\$0.00	\$5,442.83	\$0.00	\$6,251.19	\$0.00
Clerk Fees	\$0.00	\$3,627.25	\$0.00	\$3,340.00	\$0.00
Clerk / Treasurer Hourly	\$0.00	\$223.72	\$0.00	\$3,268.75	\$0.00
Cleaning Staff	\$350.00	\$320.00	\$350.00	\$225.00	\$350.00
Social Security	\$3,395.07	\$3,447.62	\$3,400.00	\$2,941.77	\$3,500.00
VT Childcare Contribution		\$101.78	\$200.00	\$405.28	\$350.00
Retirement	\$2,062.50	\$2,231.68	\$2,195.00	\$815.40	\$2,250.00
Health Stipend	\$2,400.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,400.00	\$1,100.00	\$2,275.00
Disability & Life Ins	\$238.00	\$252.75	\$297.00	\$285.87	\$300.00
Workers Comp Ins	\$4,500.00	\$1,064.54	\$1,440.00	\$1,320.11	\$1,440.00
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$46,975.57</b>	<b>\$50,730.19</b>	<b>\$42,512.00</b>	<b>\$43,955.90</b>	<b>\$44,525.00</b>
<b>Town Office Expenditures</b>					
Office Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$933.31	\$1,000.00	\$2,646.49	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$523.72	\$750.00	\$852.60	\$1,000.00
Training	\$250.00	\$75.00	\$250.00	\$35.00	\$250.00
Office Equipment Purchase	\$1,000.00	\$880.54	\$1,750.00	\$359.00	\$500.00
Office Equipment Service	\$325.00	\$650.00	\$325.00	\$341.25	\$350.00
Printing /Advertizing	\$250.00	\$1,298.10	\$500.00	\$713.10	\$750.00
Town Report	\$450.00	\$453.00	\$450.00	\$502.50	\$500.00
Computer Related	\$13,585.00	\$14,461.34	\$14,000.00	\$17,404.50	\$14,000.00
Electricity	\$725.00	\$686.77	\$800.00	\$786.98	\$800.00
Telephone	\$575.00	\$602.97	\$650.00	\$568.32	\$650.00
Heating Oil	\$1,830.00	\$832.20	\$1,830.00	\$583.34	\$1,734.00
Propane	\$500.00	\$152.22	\$250.00	\$190.90	\$250.00
Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,008.76	\$11,000.00	\$83.00	\$11,000.00
Generator Maintenance	\$375.00	\$399.00	\$400.00	\$419.00	\$420.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$2.50	\$0.00	\$2.50	\$0.00
<b>Total Town Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$23,365.00</b>	<b>\$22,959.43</b>	<b>\$33,955.00</b>	<b>\$25,488.48</b>	<b>\$33,704.00</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>					
Trash/Recycling Removal	\$32,885.94	\$33,858.93	\$39,000.00	\$36,387.10	\$40,466.00
Supplies (Trash Bags)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
VLCT Dues	\$1,647.00	\$1,647.00	\$1,683.00	\$1,683.00	\$1,720.00
Windham Regional Dues	\$1,000.00	\$1,013.46	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
County Tax	\$4,500.00	\$4,100.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,429.00	\$4,500.00
Legal Services	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$13,235.95	\$6,500.00
Tax Sale Expenses	\$0.00	\$906.64	\$0.00	\$978.52	\$0.00
Property redemptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Professional Svcs	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$750.00	\$15,968.75	\$750.00
VLCT Insurance	\$4,734.00	\$4,703.05	\$4,610.20	\$3,573.51	\$4,739.28
Tax Abatements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$113.40	\$0.00
Micellaneous	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$52,266.94</b>	<b>\$46,329.08</b>	<b>\$56,643.20</b>	<b>\$75,419.23</b>	<b>\$59,775.28</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>					

	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026
Fire Protection	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00	\$7,226.00	\$9,700.00
SWNH Fire Mutual Aid	\$8,671.00	\$8,671.00	\$9,191.00	\$9,191.00	\$10,600.00
Rescue Contract	\$5,300.00	\$322.50	\$5,375.00	\$3,399.90	\$5,700.00
Windham County Sheriff	\$5,750.00	\$6,194.32	\$6,750.00	\$5,770.85	\$7,800.00
Golden Cross Ambulance	\$4,600.00	\$4,644.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,644.00	\$4,800.00
Animal Quarantine	\$500.00	\$385.00	\$500.00	\$442.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Public Safety Expenses</b>	<b>\$34,221.00</b>	<b>\$29,616.82</b>	<b>\$35,816.00</b>	<b>\$30,673.75</b>	<b>\$39,100.00</b>

#### Community Center Building

CC Bldg. Electricity	\$900.00	\$839.61	\$1,000.00	\$1,763.45	\$1,800.00
CC Bldg. Telephone	\$1,760.00	\$1,455.18	\$1,800.00	\$1,341.74	\$1,500.00
CC Bldg. Heating Oil	\$2,440.00	\$1,740.31	\$2,440.00	\$2,105.45	\$1,150.00
CC Bldg. Insurance	\$2,043.00	\$2,014.27	\$1,928.08	\$1,572.36	\$1,600.00
CC Building Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$3,512.07	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.50	\$1,000.00
CC Grounds Maintenance	\$800.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,200.00	\$300.00	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Community Center Building</b>	<b>\$10,443.00</b>	<b>\$10,736.44</b>	<b>\$10,868.08</b>	<b>\$9,083.50</b>	<b>\$8,250.00</b>

#### Highway Payroll

Highway Foremen	\$62,272.80	\$62,040.12	\$66,960.00	\$64,263.00	\$70,776.00
Highway Labor	\$54,410.40	\$41,113.22	\$60,480.00	\$58,170.00	\$63,453.00
Highway Flagger	\$1,500.00	\$621.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Social Security	\$9,385.27	\$8,424.91	\$9,750.00	\$9,366.15	\$9,750.00
VT Childcare Contribution		\$207.30	\$560.00	\$265.10	\$400.00
Retirement	\$8,434.48	\$7,387.71	\$9,080.00	\$8,655.97	\$8,450.00
Health Insurance	\$34,371.84	\$34,371.84	\$69,472.62	\$69,472.80	\$73,217.00
Health Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$4,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Unemployment	\$280.00	\$221.00	\$251.00	\$245.00	\$251.00
Workers Comp Insurance	\$6,620.00	\$7,183.00	\$6,956.00	\$5,288.82	\$6,956.00
Dental Insurance					\$2,600.00
Vision Insurance					\$480.00
<b>Total Highway Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$183,274.79</b>	<b>\$166,320.10</b>	<b>\$225,009.62</b>	<b>\$215,726.84</b>	<b>\$237,333.00</b>

#### Highway Garage

General Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$3,710.80	\$4,000.00	\$5,346.86	\$4,000.00
Electricity	\$900.00	\$779.76	\$1,000.00	\$854.94	\$1,000.00
Telephone	\$1,800.00	\$1,802.38	\$1,800.00	\$2,040.84	\$2,000.00
Heating Oil	\$5,490.00	\$3,862.95	\$5,490.00	\$4,015.80	\$4,600.00
Trash Removal	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Building Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$1,677.48	\$2,000.00	\$903.00	\$480.00
New Construction*	\$3,250.00	\$3,135.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Highway Dept. Training	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Highway Garage Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,340.00</b>	<b>\$14,968.37</b>	<b>\$15,190.00</b>	<b>\$14,001.44</b>	<b>\$13,730.00</b>

#### Highway Equipment

VLCT Insurance	\$4,392.00	\$4,610.88	\$5,267.52	\$3,573.51	\$5,415.01
Special Tools/Equip	\$5,000.00	\$2,025.39	\$5,000.00	\$5,111.66	\$5,000.00
Radio Maintenance	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,588.89	\$1,500.00
General Repair Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$1,008.26	\$2,000.00	\$1,296.25	\$2,000.00
R&M 2012 Freightliner	\$8,500.00	\$7,771.86	\$8,500.00	\$12,454.83	\$8,500.00
R&M Ford 550	\$7,000.00	\$16,548.49	\$15,000.00	\$1,928.22	\$0.00
R&M Grader	\$2,000.00	\$2,222.89	\$2,000.00	\$4,749.08	\$4,000.00
R&M Backhoe	\$1,500.00	\$4,380.57	\$1,500.00	\$2,955.83	\$2,000.00
R&M Ford 600				\$2,575.94	\$3,000.00
R&M Small Equipment		\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Gasoline	\$250.00	\$217.41	\$250.00	\$2,296.46	\$400.00
Diesel Fuel	\$12,240.00	\$12,697.91	\$13,000.00	\$12,395.00	\$11,575.20
<b>Total Highway Equipment Expenses</b>	<b>\$44,382.00</b>	<b>\$51,483.66</b>	<b>\$55,517.52</b>	<b>\$50,925.67</b>	<b>\$43,890.21</b>

#### Road Maintenance

Highway Equip Rental	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
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	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026
Gravel	\$27,000.00	\$27,118.00	\$27,000.00	\$40,404.00	\$25,000.00
Salt	\$25,000.00	\$15,986.23	\$25,000.00	\$25,607.12	\$30,000.00
Stone	\$25,000.00	\$23,074.35	\$25,000.00	\$25,180.02	\$25,000.00
Sand	\$25,000.00	\$24,470.80	\$25,000.00	\$23,900.00	\$25,000.00
Chloride	\$3,700.00	\$4,396.36	\$3,700.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Cold Patch	\$350.00	\$328.00	\$350.00	\$306.90	\$600.00
Contracted Services	\$10,000.00	\$13,950.00	\$15,000.00	\$8,894.20	\$20,000.00
Road Resealing	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bridge Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174.70	\$0.00
Small culverts	\$3,000.00	\$6,537.60	\$3,000.00	\$3,232.80	\$4,000.00
Stormwater permit / program	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Underdrains	\$0.00	\$114.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Road Work*	\$10,000.00	\$15,944.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grant Reimbursable Expenses*	\$0.00	\$69,022.28	\$0.00	\$12,035.68	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Highway	\$1,000.00	\$1,020.65	\$1,200.00	\$233.99	\$0.00
<b>Total Highway Maintenance</b>	<b>\$138,800.00</b>	<b>\$202,463.25</b>	<b>\$133,750.00</b>	<b>\$140,469.41</b>	<b>\$134,600.00</b>

**Voted Appropriations**

SEVCA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Bellows Falls Senior Ctr	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Visiting Nurses	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	
Women's Freedom Ctr	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Senior Solutions	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Youth Services	\$330.00	\$330.00	\$330.00	\$330.00	
Grafton Cares	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
HCRS	\$356.00	\$356.00	\$356.00	\$356.00	
SeVEDS	\$1,140.00	\$1,140.00	\$1,140.00	\$1,140.00	
Grace Cottage	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Bull Creek Common Lands	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
<b>Total Voted Appropriations</b>	<b>\$6,726.00</b>	<b>\$6,726.00</b>	<b>\$6,726.00</b>	<b>\$6,726.00</b>	

**Tranfers to Other Funds**

Building Renovation	\$0.00	\$125,064.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Athens Brick Mtg House	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,567.80	\$0.00
Athens Cemetery Comm.	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Long Term Highway Projects	\$0.00	\$5,301.00	\$4,500.00	\$8,246.50	\$4,500.00
Paving Fund	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Equipment Fund	\$32,651.00	\$32,651.00	\$33,468.00	\$38,468.00	\$39,948.00
Emergency Preparedness	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Planning Commission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equip Fund (Cat 420F2ST)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Reserve Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Grant Matching Fund	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00
Record Preservation Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Transfers to Other Funds</b>	<b>\$116,651.00</b>	<b>\$247,016.65</b>	<b>\$145,468.00</b>	<b>\$160,282.30</b>	<b>\$119,448.00</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**                      **\$675,445.30**                      **\$849,349.99**                      **\$754,729.42**                      **\$772,752.52**                      **\$734,355.49**

Surplus / (Deficit)                              \$0.00                      \$126,515.44                      \$0.00                      \$                      \$                      \$

## 2025 Delinquent Tax Report

	Principal Charged to Collector 2025	Principal Collected 2025	Abated / Adjusted	Interest Collected	Principal Remaining 12/31/2025
2023	1,802.94	1,802.94		315.63	0
2024	40,958.71	37,675.91		3,363.93	3,282.80
2025	95,706.91	39,279.15	2,953.59	579.32	53,474.17
Totals	\$138,468.56	\$78,758.00	\$2,953.59	\$4,258.88	\$56,756.97

### Delinquent Taxpayers as of December 31, 2025

#### 2024

Diane Shepard & Carl Woodard  
 Ronald & Lily Corliss  
 Edward & Joyce Todd  
 Richard Leary  
 Elaine & Carrie Kies

#### 2025

Paul and Judy Bemis  
 Derrik Norris  
 Travis Allen  
 Jayne Elliott  
 Diane Shepard & Carl Woodard  
 Ronald Corliss  
 Jason & Diane Taylor  
 Amy Aldrich  
 James Mabe  
 Edward & Joyce Todd  
 Angela Lashway  
 Ashley Lawrence  
 Bruce Tenney Jr.  
 Jonathan Thomas  
 Paul Stoddard  
 David LaPosta  
 Stephen Oakes  
 Richard Leary  
 Emily Garrow  
 David Covey  
 Elaine and Carrie Kies  
 Hunter O'Connor

## Dog Licenses Due April 1, 2026

**Must have a current rabies certificate. License fees for 2026:**

- Spayed or neutered dog: \$11.00 / Intact dog: \$15.00.
- After April 1<sup>st</sup>, fees increase to \$13.00 and \$19.00.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is vaccinated in the event it is bitten by a wild animal. Vaccinations and licensing also protect them if they bite another animal or person, which could otherwise result in quarantine or euthanasia.

## No Rabies Vaccination Clinic at the Athens Town Office this year!!

The Vet that has done them in the past has retired.

**Grafton Town Hall will be hosting a Rabies clinic on Sat. Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> @10am-12pm.**

Open to Dogs and Cats. Cost for the rabies vaccine: \$26.00

They are also offering Distemper with Lepto Vaccine: \$32.00

## Reduced cost Spay and Neuter Information

VSNIP helps income eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit:

VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV

## Windham County Humane Society Pet Care Assistance Program

The Pet Care Assistance Program (PCA) aims to help people care for their pets by providing discounts at WCHS' Vet Center on the cost of wellness and spay/neuter surgeries and access to the Pet Food Pantry. More information at <https://www.windhamcountyhumane.org/pet-care-assistance>. Please contact the WCHS at (802) 254-2232 or [petwellness@windhamcountyhumane.org](mailto:petwellness@windhamcountyhumane.org) with any questions.

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## 2025 Dog License Report

### Receipts

#	Dogs	Cost	Total
50	Spayed and neutered dogs	\$11.00	\$550.00
17	Unspayed and unneutered	\$15.00	\$255.00
14	Spayed and neutered	\$13.00	\$182.00
6	Unspayed and unneutered	\$19.00	\$114.00
87	Dogs total		\$1,101.00
0	Working dog surcharges	\$5.00	\$0.00
			<b>\$1,101.00</b>

### Expenditures

Recipient	Total
State of Vermont	\$609.00
Clerk	\$174.00
Town of Athens	\$318.00
	<b>\$1,101.00</b>

## 2025 Fund Balances (DRAFT)

### General / Highway Fund

<b>Jan 1, 2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Checking Account	\$6,416.46
Savings Account	\$879,054.36
Due to Other Funds	-\$705,071.94
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$180,398.88</b>

<b>Jan 1, 2024 Liabilities (Outstanding bills, advance payments on taxes)</b>	
Total Liabilities	\$4,413.30

<b>Jan 1, 2024 Assets minus Liabilities</b>	<b>\$175,985.58</b>
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<b>2025 Annual Revenues (See budget page for revenue breakdowns)</b>	
Total Revenues	\$1,812,094.09

<b>2025 Annual Expenses (See budget page for expense breakdowns)</b>	
Total Expenses	\$772,752.52

<b>Dec 31, 2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Checking Account	\$43,458.41
Savings Account	\$818,166.63
Due to Other Funds	-\$698,812.44
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$162,812.60</b>

### Building Renovation Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Town Office Renovation Fund	\$149,318.38
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$149,318.38</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Grant Revenues	\$97,346.28
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$97,346.28</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Building Maintenance	-\$197,002.40
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$197,002.40</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Earmarked for Town Garage	\$25,408.53
Unrestricted Building Renovation Fund	\$24,253.73
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$49,662.26</b>

### Athens Brick Meetinghouse Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balance</b>	
Meetinghouse Fund	\$2,676.28
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,676.28</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Grants	\$0.00
Interest	\$131.18
Transfer from GF	\$7,000.00
Donations	\$0.00
From Athens Historic Society	\$0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$7,131.18</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Contracted Svcs	\$4,762.86
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,762.86</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balance</b>	
Meetinghouse Fund	\$5,044.60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,044.60</b>

### Campbell Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
12 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$10,606.85
36 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$21,519.39
Checking account	\$2,792.03
Savings	\$5,005.67
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$39,923.94</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Donations	\$0.00
Loan Repayments	\$1,550.00
Interest	\$500.22
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,050.22</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Campbell distribution	-\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$2,500.00</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
6 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$11,025.79
36 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$21,598.38
Checking account	\$1,842.03
Savings	\$5,007.96
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$39,474.16</b>

Restricted Balnce	\$4,000.00
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### Cemetery Commission Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
12 Month CD	\$15,600.00
Cemetery Fund	\$12,703.68
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$28,303.68</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Service fee	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00
Plot sales	\$900.00
Grant revenue	\$0.00
Interest Income	
Transfer In from GF	\$6,000.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$6,900.00</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Materials	\$124.91
Contracted Services	\$2,250.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,374.91</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
12 Month CD	\$15,601.39
Cemetery Fund	\$8,177.20
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$23,778.59</b>

### Equipment Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Unreserved	-\$6,436.55
Reserved for Small Truck Replacement	\$38,862.00
Reserved for Large Truck Replacement	\$67,059.75
Reserved for Backhoe Replacement	\$28,164.00
Reserved for Grader Replacement	-\$481.00
Reserved for Small Equipment Purchase	-\$582.52
Reserved for Plow for Small Truck	\$2,810.55
Reserved for Cat 420F25ST Payment	-\$244.97
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$129,151.26</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Transfer In From GF	\$38,468.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$38,468.00</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Capital Equipment	\$21,297.97
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$21,297.97</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Unreserved	\$4,193.42
Reserved for Small Truck Replacement	\$862.00
Reserved for Large Truck Replacement	\$67,059.75
Reserved for Backhoe Replacement	\$28,164.00
Reserved for Grader Replacement	-\$11,110.97
Reserved for Small Equipment Purchase	-\$582.52
Reserved for Plow for Small Truck	\$2,810.55
Reserved for Cat 420F25ST Payment	-\$244.97
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$91,151.26</b>

### Cemetery Trust Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Stella Holden CD	\$504.58
Charles Colton CD	\$504.58
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,009.16</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Interest Income	\$1.40
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1.40</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Stella Holden CD	\$505.28
Charles Colton CD	\$505.27
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,010.55</b>

### Paving Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Paving Fund	\$265,780.60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$265,780.60</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Transfer In From GF	\$60,000.00
Grants	\$0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Contracted Services	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Paving Fund	\$325,780.60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$325,780.60</b>

### Housing Rehabilitation Fund

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Housing Rehabilitation Fund	\$26,339.61
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$26,339.61</b>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Loan repayments	\$500.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Loan disbursement	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Housing Rehabilitation Fund	\$26,839.61
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$26,839.61</b>

**Reappraisal Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Reappraisal Fund	\$31,758.34
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$31,758.34</u>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Grant Revenue Per Parcel	\$2,479.50
Grant Listers Education	
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$2,479.50</u>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Office Supplies	\$21.49
Training	\$0.00
Contracted Services	\$617.65
Memberships	\$1,140.56
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$1,779.70</u>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Reappraisal Fund	\$32,458.14
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$32,458.14</u>

**Weather Emergency Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Checking Account	\$2,004.03
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$2,004.03</u>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Transfer in from GF	\$0.00
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Weather Emergency Fund	\$2,004.03
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$2,004.03</u>

**Emergency Reserve Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Emergency Reserve Fund	\$35,000.00
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$35,000.00</u>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Transfer in from GF	\$5,000.00
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Emergency Reserve Fund	\$40,000.00
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

**Long Term Highway Projects Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Reserved for Guardrails	-\$4,390.33
Reserved for Culverts	\$37,736.20
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$33,345.87</u>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Insurance Payment	\$3,746.50
Transfer In From GF	\$0.00
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$3,746.50</u>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Guardrails	\$0.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Reserved for Guardrails	-\$643.83
Reserved for Culverts	\$37,448.54
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$37,092.37</u>

**Planning Commission Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
Planning Commission Fund	\$1,227.59
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$1,227.59</u>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$374.50</u>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Planning Commission Fund	\$853.09
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$853.09</u>

**Grant Matching Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$12,954.29</u>

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Transfer in from GF	\$40,000.00
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$40,000.00</u>

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Grant Match	\$3,008.92
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$3,008.92</u>

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Grant Matching Fund	\$49,945.37
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$49,945.37</u>

**ARPA Grant Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$0.00

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Grant Revenue	
Total Revenues	\$0.00

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Payroll Bonus	\$0.00
Transfer to General Fund	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
ARPA Grant Fund	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$0.00

**Community Center Fund**

<b>2024 Starting Balances</b>	\$1,671.92
Total Assets	\$1,671.92

<b>2024 Revenues</b>	
Fundraising	\$1,250.00
Donations	\$158.00
Building Rental	\$350.00
Total Revenues	\$1,758.00

<b>2024 Expenses</b>	
Security Deposit Return	\$125.00
Supplies	\$703.70
Contracted Services	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	537
Total Expenses	\$1,665.70

<b>2024 Ending Balances</b>	
Community Center Fund	\$1,764.22
Total Assets	\$1,764.22

**Record Preservation Fund**

<b>2025 Starting Balances</b>	\$6,292.77
Total Assets	\$6,292.77

<b>2025 Revenues</b>	
Recording surcharges	\$672.00
Total Revenues	\$672.00

<b>2025 Expenses</b>	
Archival Supplies	\$0.00
Contracted Services	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00

<b>2025 Ending Balances</b>	
Record Preservation Fund	\$6,964.77
Total Assets	\$6,964.77

**Balance All Funds****\$856,636.22**

## Town Clerk and Treasurer Report

2025 was a year for change and learning within the Town Clerk's office! Upon Hannah's departure in the springtime, Scott filled in for several months. Then, he resigned, and I stepped into the role. I've simply tried to learn as much as I can, as quickly as possible! I had no prior clerk experience, so I greatly appreciate everyone's patience as I navigate this new role.

I have been working with Don as he manages the renovation work on the Town Garage, which is funded through the Vermont Municipal Energy Resilience Program. We are grateful for the work to obtain the grant and the contractors on the ground who are getting the work done! It is nice to see the building get the necessary repairs done.

I've also been working closely with NEMRC, our accounting software, to do an audit. This is crucial and necessary to move forward, making sure our financials are being accounted for properly.

I genuinely appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during this time of transition! I hope to help the Town where I can. If you have questions, please feel free to stop in during the open hours and I will try my best to help!

~ Amber

### Town Office Information and Services:

**The Town Office is open Mondays and Thursdays 9:00-1:00.** Please visit the town website at [www.athensvt.com](http://www.athensvt.com) for all meeting times, minutes, trash and recycling schedules, and other important information.

**Athens Trash Bags are available to purchase at the Town Office and the Saxtons River Market.** Bags are \$3.50 each or \$35.00 for a roll of 10.

## Athens Brick Meetinghouse Town Report for 2025

The Meetinghouse began the New Year with a small private wedding on New Year's day, the first wedding to be held there in 100 years!

The committee has been busy this past year working with an Architect for plans to install handicapped access to the building. After watching many visitors struggle across the wide front lawn and the very tall and uneven granite steps into the building, we had decided that handicapped access needed to be our next priority. Various options for entry have been considered. We now have preliminary approval from Preservation Trust of VT to go ahead with the project since they hold a Conservation easement on the property. Once we have the plans, we can begin seeking grants for the ADA work, and once there is ADA access to the building, additional grant sources open up for future work on the building.

For events during the year, our 8th annual Plant sale was a success despite the rainy day. The remaining plants were shared with the Brookline MH for their plant sale. The Spring season continued with Senior Solutions joining us for a well attended ice cream social on the lawn with townspeople enjoying the afternoon and also getting helpful suggestions on the care of loved ones.

An informative and interesting evening presentation on Monarch Butterflies and their migration was held in July and in August the Sound Bath music of Aura Shards was enjoyed with the great Meetinghouse acoustics while delicious Afghan food from Kamila's Kitchen was served on the lawn.

The third annual Quilt show once again covered the MH pews with beautiful quilts, new and old, with the People's choice award of \$100 going to a lovely, local vintage quilt.

October included an Open House with cider and donuts and the annual Christmas tree lighting rounded out the yearly happenings on November 30th.

The Committee will continue to work on firming up the plans for the ADA access project with the help of the Architect and the majority of funds provided by VT Preservation Trust. We expect to have more details to share at the town meeting in March

Thank you to the many visitors, donors and supporters of this valuable town building and vital piece of Athens town history.

Respectfully Submitted by the Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee

Candace Damon  
Krista Gay  
Ginger Maciejowski  
Sherry Maher  
Pamela Russo

## Cemetery Commission Report

The Commission wishes to thank the Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance crew for their 16<sup>th</sup> season caring for the cemeteries in 2025. The Commission also wishes to thank Matt Perry for his work in maintaining the area around Memorial Rock, and Janet Perry for donating the replacement flag at Memorial Rock. Since 2007 Sandi Capponcelli has worked to keep the veteran gravesite list up to date and accompanies the May placement of veteran flags to ensure that no veteran gravesites are missed.

As in some recent years an unknown group has, at no cost to the town, placed veteran flags at the West Cemetery, where there are gravesites for veterans dating back to the time of the American Revolution. The Commission appreciates this kind act and would wish to be contacted by this group.

The year ended with a town ledger fund balance of \$12,128.59. The Commission allots this fund balance into the following categories:

Operating budget balance	\$1,425.18	
Valley Cemetery major repairs	\$2,233.39	
Valley Cemetery gates	\$2,500.00	
Valley Cemetery ground levelling	\$ 216.76	
West Cemetery major repairs	\$3,050.00	
West Cemetery construction	<u>\$2,703.26</u>	
TOTAL fund balance	\$12,128.59	town ledger fund balance
-plus-		
12-month CD investment	\$15,600.00	(May, 2024)
Interest on CD investment	\$ 575.09	(May, 2025)
Loan to the Colton Trust Fund	\$ 31.53	
Loan to the Holden Trust Fund	<u>\$ 162.58</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$28,497.79	

The Commission wishes to schedule volunteer work days in 2026. There remains a need for tablet repairs and monument levelling in both cemeteries as well as the need for the installation of row markers in the new section of the West Cemetery. The \$2,500.00 earmarked in 2024 for gates at the Valley Cemetery has not yet been expended- This project will rely upon volunteer labor as well.

Regular meeting times for the Athens Cemetery Commission are on the first Wednesdays of the months of April, June, September and December at the Athens Town Office (or other locations as warned). Beside the backlog of work at the two cemetery sites, the Commission is also behind in cemetery map and records updating. Volunteer help is always needed and deeply appreciated, as are private donations in any amount. Those wishing to help, including teens in need of community service hours, should contact chairman Don Capponcelli at 802-416-1379.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli

## Athens Tree Warden Report - 2025

According to the State of Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, in 2025, Emerald Ash Borer was officially found in the Town of Athens. This infestation will eventually lead to many of the roadside ash trees becoming brittle and hazardous quickly after they die. In order to get a better handle on the extent of damage that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has already caused along the town roads, your tree warden received training last fall from the Urban and Community Forestry Program to assess and inventory all ash trees within the town road rights-of-way. Once the inventory is completed, the road crew and tree warden will review the results with the select board and come up with a plan for removal of those infected and dying trees.

Beech Leaf Disease, an invasive nematode is already impacting many of the beech trees growing along Athens town roads and in the woods. The nematode appears to overwinter inside the buds of beech trees and affect leaves before bud break in the spring. All ages and sizes of beech will be affected and we have begun to see mortality of this disease in younger trees around town.

Another invasive insect that we are beginning to notice impacting Hemlock trees in Athens is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The sure sign of an infection is the white "wool" that appears on the twigs of hemlock. The needles dry out and drop prematurely and trees can die within four to six years. Although there are treatment options to control the spread of the insect, the trees found along town roads will probably have to be removed once they die.

Finally, your tree warden assisted the Athens select board by helping them develop a plan to remove an overgrown hedge along the Brookline Road which was severely limiting visibility for vehicles traveling along the roadway. This resulted in a much safer and more visible road surface for vehicles traveling both ways.

Respectfully Submitted - Jay Maciejowski - Athens Tree Warden

## ATHENS-GRAFTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

As of August 13, 2025, we received the following note from Vermont's Secretary of Education, "I approve Windham Northeast Elementary School District changing its legal name to the Athens Grafton School District, effective immediately." We are grateful to finally be allowed to return to our original name following the disbanding of the forced merger we had with Westminster Central School a few years back.

The Grafton Elementary School is currently fully staffed for the school day programming. There is a teacher for the kindergarten class, for grades 1 and 2, grades 3 and 4, and grades 5 and 6. Because of state regulations we were unable to combine kindergarten with grades 1 and 2, which had been the school board's preference. We have all the part time teachers and staff – music, PE, and our counselor.

We had been struggling to find a nurse to fill that position. We finally found a part-time nurse to join our staff, who with the help of Angela and several teachers getting their red cross certification and working under her, can maintain a medical presence at the school during regular school hours.

We are still in need of a custodian. If you or you know anyone who is looking for this type of work, please contact the school and find out the details and get an application.

We have been unable to start up the after-school program at the GES as we still need of one more adult to work Monday through Friday 2:30 through 5:30. There is no teaching credentials needed for this position. If you are a community person interested in helping to organize this program, please contact Angela at the Grafton Elementary School to find out more information and how to apply.

The school board is fully staffed with Emily Ferenc recently coming on as the BFUHS board member from Athens. Remember, if you have any concerns or questions, please contact one of the School Board members: Athens: Lynn Morgan (chair), Krista Gay, Mark Berman, and Emily Ferenc (BFUHS board) and Grafton: Hardy Merrill (vice chair), Cathy Siano-Goodwin, Rachel Plummer and Mary Howard Hall (BFUHS board). Our contact information can be found by googling: wnesu.org – School Boards - Main Links - Board Member (Contact info).

As of Oct 2025, A Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) was established and voted on SU wide. With the CIP in place, the SU is working on a goal of unifying the education curriculums across the district schools. We have already seen some encouraging educational improvements among our students throughout the SU because of upgrading the curriculums and using them across the SU.

Producing a reasonable budget that also supports our students learning is always a board priority. The FY27 K-8 expenditure budget that has been approved by the board totals \$1,676,464. This is \$9,460 less than the 2025 actual expenditures for the district and an increase of \$44,056 or 2.7% versus the 2026 budget. Fortunately, we have been able to hold the FY27 budget flat versus 2025 while absorbing increases in health insurance of over 20% and a \$56,761 increase in our assessment from the WNESU.

Unfortunately, issues of declining enrollment and a lack of affordable housing for families are impacting communities throughout Vermont. The Athens Grafton school is not an exception to this fact as it has seen its Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTWADM) decline by 24.7% in the past 3 years. Fortunately, the Board and the Administration have been able to mitigate the impact of this significant decline on our Net Education Spending per Pupil by controlling spending and by the voters' willingness to reduce expenditures with money from the district's fund balance. The result: Education Spending per Pupil in FY27 is \$13,566.06 which is 3.2% higher than FY26. Note this is significantly below the State's Excess Spending Threshold of \$16,470 per pupil.

With the approval of this budget, the Bellows Falls High School budget and the information presently available from the state of Vermont we are estimating that the Homestead tax rate for Athens will be \$1.5501 an increase of 3.57%, and for Grafton \$1.6103 an increase of 5.97%. This is significantly below the State of Vermont Commissioner of Taxes estimate of an average 12% increase for Vermonters in FY27. In addition, if the Legislature agrees with the Governor on a proposed \$75.1million transfer from the General Fund to the Education Fund these estimated tax rates will be reduced.

The governor's Redistricting Task Force has submitted their report to the state legislature. The hard work done by the Rural Schools Community Alliance (RSCA) as they met with the Redistricting Task Force and presented their reasons for the need to maintain Vermont's rural schools has paid off. The Task Force's report stated that their findings were that the rural school set up is more functional than the large four district plan proposed by the governor. Therefore, for now the Athens Grafton School District and the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union will continue as is. We owe a huge thank you to the RSCA members for all their work, research and dedication to speaking up for our current educational system.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynn Morgan, Chair

**Grant-funded Construction  
Athens Town Garage; Athens Community Center**

In late 2024 Athens was the recipient of a Vermont Municipal Energy Resilient Plan (MERP) grant for energy-related work on the Athens Town Garage and the Athens Community Center (formerly the Athens Elementary School). The grant award of \$375,410.41 was an astonishing 82.94% of the total grant funds applied for by Town Clerk Hannah Regier earlier in 2024.

In early 2025 the Athens Selectboard made the decision to stretch the funding by having the Town serve in the capacity of General Contractor. The Town would hire subcontractors and purchase materials directly. A temporary position of Project Manager was advertised locally in search of an individual who would budget the projects, apply for permits and oversee the work. Don Capponcelli was hired for this work at the February, 2025 Selectboard meeting.

Of the MERP funds \$306,228.00 was budgeted toward the Town Garage renovation and addition. The existing fiberglass insulation in the 40ft X 60ft main garage was removed and replaced with a 6-inch layer of closed-cell foam insulation and fire-resistant paint on the underside of its newly-replaced roof deck and exterior walls. MERP covered the roof deck, wall and floor insulation costs of the garage addition. A grant scope of work amendment request was approved in late spring, 2025 which allowed for one radiant floor heating system for both main garage and addition. The system, to be installed in 2026, will feature an air-to-water heat pump, supplemented by a high-efficiency oil-fired boiler in below-freezing temperatures. MERP also covers up to 20% of the cost of ADA-related construction costs per building. For the Town Garage this has covered plumbing costs of its new ADA-compliant rest room plus ADA door hardware for the whole building.

In addition to the MERP funds, another \$125,064.65 in former ARPA funds, set aside in the Town General Ledger and earmarked for Town Garage, has been budgeted for the garage addition, septic system and a 22Kw emergency backup generator. The funding is covering the addition's foundation, framing, exterior and interior finishes, and electrical costs.

Of the MERP funding \$69,182.41 has been set aside for work at the Community Center. Currently \$18,818.00 is being budgeted for the replacement of the leaky R-30 fiberglass attic insulation with an R-60 layer of blown-in cellulose insulation. Twenty percent of the available funds for this building fall far short of the cost of the ADA rest room renovation work that had been considered. As of January, 2026, heating system improvement options are also being looked into.

Completely separate from the budget figures mentioned above for both Town Garage and Community Center is in-kind work that is estimated to save \$43,100.00 in subcontracted costs for the Town Garage and \$2,625.00 for the Community Center attic.

For details please feel free to contact Don Capponcelli at 802-416-1379 or at [doncapp@outlook.com](mailto:doncapp@outlook.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Capponcelli

## Grafton Cares 2025

Grafton Cares was established in 1993 by a group of townspeople concerned with providing help and support to their neighbors.

### Meals Program

The Wednesday Lunch Program is twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 12 noon at the Grafton Chapel. There are two Community Suppers, the first and third Friday of each month held at the Grafton Chapel. All are welcome.

### Financial Assistance Committee

This committee, often working in collaboration with other organizations, offers a helping hand to those with a variety of temporary or long-term needs, ranging from transportation to medical appointments, to financial assistance for families or individuals with urgent needs. Grafton Cares also offers, for temporary or long-term use, a variety of medical equipment for special health needs. A Fuel Assistance Program. This program has filled an important niche by providing emergency fuel aid for those with a temporary need or who are awaiting more long-term support from other agencies.

### Gas Card Program

The gas card program began many years ago with the generous contribution of gas cards from Old Tavern guests, via the Windham Foundation. Grafton Cares now funds this program. We distribute these cards to community members to meet emergency needs involving medical transportation issues or financial hardship.

### Meals On Wheels

Meals On Wheels are delivered by Grafton Cares' volunteer drivers. Meals On Wheels, is available through Senior Solutions (formerly the Council On Aging). Call Bill Toomey at 802-843-2397 for more information.

### Sunshine Baskets

Sunshine Baskets, filled with fresh fruit, are given to our older neighbors and to those who have had surgery just to give a boost to all. Board members enjoy visiting with these people as much as delivering the baskets.

### Strong Living

Strong Living is a popular program where participants ages 40 and up attend two, one hour sessions per week. Led by trained folks through a series of stretching and weightlifting exercises, this program has become a fixed date on many participants' calendars and a great way to catch up on the local news. A donation is suggested to cover the cost of equipment and facilities.

### Welcome Bags

The Welcome Bag Program has been greatly appreciated by recipients who are new to Grafton and Athens. It contains a variety of "goodies" and all kinds of information to welcome new folks to town.

### Grafton Cares Knitters

A group of local knitters keeps busy with various projects such as beautiful shawls for those in need of comfort and baby blankets, which are combined with board books and a book bag from the Grafton Library, to welcome little ones born to area families.

### Rides Coordinator

To facilitate the coordination of transportation needs, a rides coordinator can help with rides for medical appointments. If you or a family member requires transportation to medical appointments, you can give this program a try.

For more information about Grafton Cares or any of its programs, contact, Kate Bova, President of Grafton Cares at 869-1527.



# Grafton Rescue Squad

Annual Report for the Year Ending June 2025

Your Grafton Rescue Squad responded to 125 emergency medical calls (911) for the year ended June 30, 2024. Of those calls, 79 were to Grafton, 45 were to Athens, and 1 was to Townshend\*. On average, 6 squad members respond to every call. Additionally, we stood-by for several events and participated in 12 training sessions.

As always, the Squad appreciates the generous financial support and encouragement from the community.

Many thanks to our volunteers who continue to enthusiastically respond to emergency medical calls, many times under conditions that most people would just stay home if they had the choice. They earn the privilege to do that by logging continuing education hours every two years. Two of our Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), three of our Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and our two Advanced EMTs (AEMT) re-certified with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians in 2024-2025 which required 16, 40, and 50 hours of documented training time, respectively.

We made two operational decisions this year that have slightly impacted our budget. First, we encounter many situations where it is important to have access to mobile phone service, often when passing confidential information to or from the hospital or dispatch. After testing several alternatives, we purchased a Starlink mobile satellite antenna and are covering the month-to-month fee. Second, we moved off the Town of Grafton's insurance policy onto our own through the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Service (VFIS.) While more expensive, VFIS better covers our practice, equipment, and people because it targets the specific risks we encounter. We are asking our donors to absorb most of the impact on our budget, and we are asking for a small increase in the Town's contribution.

As mentioned in The Grafton News and our annual appeal letter, we have a new truck in production. The new "Rescue-1" has been designed to carry four providers and to allow easy access to our medical bags, replacing our 2008 unit. The new truck will be focused on our specific emergency medical services mission: to provide rapid and skilled out-of-hospital medical care in a rural environment.

Respectfully,  
Keith Hermiz,  
President

Members:

Lynn Field, EMR	Mike Field, EMR	Keith Hermiz, AEMT, President
Rachel Laliberté, AEMT	Maureen Parker, EMT	Pamela Robinson, EMT, Secretary
Robbie Sprague, EMT, Vice President	Amber Stevens, EMR	Renee VanKuren, EMT
Bill Watson, EMR	Jessa Westclark, EMT	

Auxiliary members:

Natalie Noyes, EMT	Delano Schmidt, EMT	Calli Sprague, EMR
Tyler Sprague, EMT		

Associate members:

Anna Keegan, Treasurer	Eric Stevens
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\* Under mutual agreement. Grafton Rescue covers the northern portion of Townshend along Grafton Road.



# WINDHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Mark R. Anderson  
PO Box 8126, Brattleboro VT 05301  
Tel: (802) 365-4942  
Fax: (802) 365-4945



## Town of Athens Report

This year, I'm presenting the Windham County Regional Policing Pilot Project to the Vermont Legislature. Since my last letter to towns, we've held several regional meetings amongst stakeholders and the public to further how to improve the well-studied, decades-old problems that persist to this very day. The Windham County Regional Policing Pilot Project is an effort to improve policing in our local communities in a manner affordable to towns and taxpayers. After more than three years of conversations and meetings with towns, residents, and local leaders, this pilot explores a regional approach that keeps decision-making local while allowing communities to work together to support shared policing services. We seek to reduce redundant inputs, while recognizing a more reliable structure that shares resources to our communities in Windham County. You can learn more about our project at: <https://windhamcountyvt.gov/RegionalPolicing>

Early in 2025, the Sheriff's Office received a three-year \$1.1 million dollar grant for lead hazard capacity building in Windham County. Research has shown the impact of lead on crime and incarceration rates as well as other public health issues. Through the grant, we've trained 366 people (so far) to do lead-related maintenance in Windham County homes, met with local housing providers and groups to develop a list of property owners who would want to do work, all to prepare us for a future phase of funding that would help property owners fix the problem at its source in homes. You can learn more about our project at: <https://lead.windhamcountyvt.gov>

We continue a variety of our regional programs, including our:

<b>Call Type</b>	<b>Count</b>	
Animal - At Large	1	• Regional Animal Control Officer (ACO) program, which the Town of Athens is not a member of, which addresses issues with animals that are vicious; at-large; neglected; unregistered; and in need of quarantine.
Directed Patrol	1	
Traffic Stop	34	• Regional Emergency Communications Center, which answers approximately 40,000 phone calls, which generated 10,959 responses to the communities we serve.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36</b>	• Regional Highway Safety Task Force targeting crash reduction efforts related to distracted, impaired, and other dangerous driving behaviors.
		• Enhanced Teen Driver's Safety Program & our Enhanced Driver's Safety Program, which help reduce motor vehicle crashes in Windham County via increased education.
		• Snowmobile Enforcement Team, which patrols VAST trails to promote and preserve snow travelers and our trail systems.

The Windham County Sheriff's Office is pleased to serve the people of Town of Athens and look forward to the upcoming year. If you have a need for our services, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 802-365-4942 for non-emergencies or 911 for emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheriff Mark R. Anderson

**VITAL RECORDS**  
**FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**  
**2025**

**DEATHS**

Aug. 6, 2025	Shirley Ann Alsvig
Dec. 12, 2025	Kenneth Leslie Roberts

**BIRTHS**

NONE

**MARRIAGES**

Jan. 1, 2025	Susan Jihye Ahm & Mark Benjamin Treinkman
June 28, 2025	Kathleen Mae King & Thomas Matthew Hutchins
July 21, 2025	Charles Lee Peoples III & Isaac Sohn Leslie

**BURIAL PERMITS**

July 26, 2025	Thomas Michell Baldvins
Aug. 9, 2025	Jane Elizabeth Coles
Aug. 9, 2025	Winfield E. Coles

**2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ATHENS, VERMONT**

March 3, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Athens Community Center

50 voters attending

Called to order at 6:05 pm

The moderator reads the warning and reviews the rules of order for the meeting.

**Article 1: To act on the town report**

*Don Capponcelli moves to accept the town report; Sherry Maher 2nds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 2: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes**

*Motion by Mike Perry; Carol Bingham seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 3: To see if the Town shall vote to collect taxes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2025**

*Motion by Mike Perry moves; Carol Bingham seconds.*

*Discussion: Ellen Mirante asks if the calendar year could be changed to a fiscal year. She says there are eight benefits to switching. David suggests she bring it up at the end of the meeting during further business, but it cannot be voted on at this meeting because it has not been warned.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 4: To see if the Town shall vote to publish a list of delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report**

*Motion by Mike Perry; Carol Bingham seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 5: To see if the Town shall vote to approve a budget of \$754,729.42, with \$580,729.42 to be raised by taxes, and \$75,000 of the 2024 surplus being used to defray Town expenditures**

*Denise moves to add \$5,000 to the equipment fund, bringing the total budget to \$759,729.42, with \$585,729.42 to be raised in taxes, and \$75,000 of the 2024 surplus being used to defray Town expenditures. David Jacobson seconds.*

*A voter asks for the \$75,000 surplus to be explained. The treasurer says that there was a surplus of ~\$77,000 from 2024, due to a variety of reasons, including not having a second highway employee for*

several months. There was also some extra unexpected revenue from the state. She directs voters to look through the budget to see the line items that didn't spend the entirety of their budget.

Linda Taylor asks where the extra \$2,896 of 2024 surplus, is going. The selectboard has not voted on that remaining surplus. Linda asks if the extra, or the whole \$77,896.51, could be put towards the Community Center maintenance and renovation, to meet the needs of the whole community. Tina White asks if the article could be amended to have the \$75,000 go towards the Community Center. David says it can but points out that then that much more would need to be raised in taxes.

Dennis Mirante says his calculations are that the proposed taxes to be raised are 17% higher than the 2024 budget and 27% higher than the 2024 "actual budget." He wants the town to operate more efficiently. Denise Randall says that the expenses do go up and invites Dennis to join the budget committee.

Tom Taylor asks if the money that's being voted on includes the funds needed for the new truck. David says that it includes some of it. There will be a 5-year loan for about \$60,000. The current truck's transmission is gone so it is not known what the trade in value will be.

Linda Taylor asks if the new truck went out to bid. David says it was off of the state bid. Janet says that they did look at different prices but didn't get sealed bids.

Ellen Mirante shares ideas for alternatives for trash pickup where residents would pay for their own. She asks if the voters agree to stop curbside pickup and put the ~\$39,000 towards something else. Denise says that the question was put to voters last year and people voted to keep trash pickup.

Candace Damon observes that the single largest budget difference from last year is health insurance for the road crew. Janet says that the cost has gone up and there is a new hire who has full coverage, as opposed to the last highway employee who declined coverage and opted for a stipend.

Don Capponcelli asks where the 27% increase comes from. He gets an 11.2% increase in expenditures. And the increase for taxes to be raised is nowhere near 27%. [Treasurer's note: Dennis Mirante had given that figure as the difference of the current budget from the 2024 actual tax collected, but that figure doesn't include the full tax revenue figures.] Janet says that besides health insurance, most stuff has stayed the same, except for the items that have incremental increases each year. There are also more funds going to the Grant Matching fund in anticipation of some large highway projects. The Town Office maintenance has gone up because the building needs a roof. There is \$15,000 budgeted for repairs for the small truck that will cover the first loan payment on the new truck.

Linda Taylor requests a paper ballot. 7 people support a paper ballot.

Ellen Mirante asks if the figure for the health insurance is the town's 90%. It is. She asks if the town could go back to 80% match on employee insurance. She also says that Athens pays \$7.00/hr more than the average in the state. Krista responds that other towns around here offer really good health insurance and it's hard for Athens to compete if the insurance isn't comparable. She says the average salary is spread over all the years of experience of employees. The new highway laborer in Athens has over 30 years of experience which equates to a higher wage than someone who is just starting out. Ellen suggests that additional employee benefits be cut, for the benefit of taxpayers, and says that Athens can't and shouldn't compete as one of the three smallest towns in the state.

David calls the amended budget question.

Put to a vote by paper ballot: In favor: 26 Opposed: 23

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**Article 6: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to replenish emergency highway material reserves for future environmental events impacting infrastructure.**

*Motion by Don Capponcelli; David Jacobson seconds.*

*Don says he had asked for this several years ago when a stockpile was depleted in response to a flood in 2021. The stockpile wasn't replaced when the FEMA grant came in. He says the stockpile was estimated in excess of \$58,000. Don says that when the grant came in 18 months later, the budget committee and treasurer weren't asked to put some of the funds in the 2021 or 2022 budget to replace the stockpile. The extra funds went back to the taxpayers as a surplus. Don says that Matt has wanted to replace the stockpile, but the funds haven't been budgeted. Don says that the town hasn't been able to respond to storms as quickly as when there was a stockpile. The \$15,000 would replenish about a quarter of the original stockpile.*

*Linda asks what happened with the \$27,000 grant that was supposed to come in to reimburse 2024 highway work. It is fairly certain it will come in when the snow melts and someone is able to take photos of the work that was done. The treasurer directs voters to page 16 in the town report for the accounting of the 2024 grants that are still awaiting reimbursement. The emergency grant for the Brookline Rd undermining has now come in.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 7: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 for the annual maintenance of its cemeteries**

*Motion by Don Capponcelli; Denise seconds.*

*Krista asks about the funds for the gates. That is already in the budget and has been approved.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 8: Shall the voters of Athens approve the sum of \$2,500.00 for the purpose of maintaining the Athens Brick Meetinghouse**

*Motion by Sherry Maher. Sandi Capponcelli seconds.*

*Dennis Mirante asks about the \$11,000 in the Town Office maintenance line item for the roof. Dennis thinks that the Building Renovation Fund should be used for this. The \$10,000 extra in the maintenance line item is in addition to some of the funds in the Building Renovation fund. There is discussion about the name and purpose of the fund. David says the conversation is off topic from the article at hand.*

*Dennis asks if the Meetinghouse allocation could be increased and asks Sherry how much she needs. Sherry says that the committee had discussed that it was most likely going to be a difficult tax year. They don't have clear plans at this time for projects, so they don't have a specific figure of what they need from the town to complete them. The committee is hoping to make a plan for ADA access soon. Sherry says there is hopefully a \$50,000 grant that can be applied for when they are ready. Dennis says that the Meetinghouse Committee does a great job and he'd be willing to give them a little extra to help them out.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 9: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,140.00 for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Krista seconds.*

*Don says BDCC has helped in the past with grants for the town. Don asks if Rachel Shields Ebersole can speak on behalf of BDCC, which SeVEDS contracts with to do economic and workforce development. Rachel reviews their programs: Southern Vt Young Professionals, commercial lending, small business support, high school counseling, community development, etc. The funding request is calculated at \$3/person. 80% of Athens workers commute outside of town, so she thinks their regional perspective is valuable. She directs voters to the report in the social services packet.*

*Krista speaks in support of Rachel and her support and commitment to Athens and showing up for many events in town.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 10: To see if the Town shall vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$500.00 for the support of Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Sandi Capponcelli seconds.*

*Susan Ahn asks if it's known how the money will be used by Grace Cottage. It is not. Hannah says that their budget should be available on their website.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 11: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support the Women's Freedom Center to provide quality advocacy and support to the women of Athens**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Sandi Capponcelli seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 12: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support Youth Services to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Sandi Capponcelli seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 13: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Sandi Capponcelli seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 14: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the Bellows Falls Senior Center**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Krista Gay seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 15: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patient's homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Sherry Maher seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 16: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to assist Grafton Cares in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens**

*Motion by Sherry Maher; Denise Randall seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 17: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$356.00 to help support outpatient, mental health, and substance abuse service by the staff of Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) in accordance with 24 V. S. A. § 2691**

*Motion by Denise Randall; David Jacobson seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 18: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist Senior Solutions**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Carol Bingham seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 19: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to Bull Creek Common Lands to support local land conservation and public access in the Bull Creek watershed**

*Motion by Denise Randall; Krista Gay seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**Article 20: To set the time of future town meetings**

*Don Capponcelli moves that net year's meeting on the Monday prior to the first Tuesday in March at 6:00pm; Eric Alsvig seconds.*

*Sherry asks if the town can amend the article to say this day and time is being set for all future Town Meetings and not have to vote on it each year. David thinks that it's required to vote on each year. Sherry says she has spoken to people in Rockingham and they never vote on the time of the next Town Meeting because it is already set. David says that in Athens it has been voted on every year for over 50 years. This question can be looked into.*

*Emily Amana asks what the turnout was this year compared to other years. It is down from 80 last year. Krista says that it's articles that get people to come out more than the time.*

*Susan Ahn asks what the contentious articles were last year. Krista reviews the articles for alcohol, and Australian ballot voting.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

**David invites Tom Charlton to address the body.**

**Article 21: To transact any further business proper to come before said meeting**

Don Capponcelli thanks Hannah for her work in applying for the MERP grant for the town garage renovation and addition and other grants.

Lynn Morgan points people to the Green Up Day sign up materials.

Hannah announces the rabies vaccination clinic on March 8th from 1:30 – 3:00 at the town office.

Hannah thanks the Auditors who put the town report together. They work as volunteers and do a great job auditing and creating the town report.

*Motion to adjourn by Sandi Capponcelli; Denise Randall seconds.*

*Put to a voice vote: Approved*

Adjourned at: 7:25

Respectfully submitted



Hannah Regier, Town Clerk



Date

Approved by:

David Bunn

Signature

David Bunn

Signature

Select Board

Office

Select Board

Office

03/20/2025

Date

3/20/2025

Date