

M E E T I N G N O T I C E

BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD

Monday, February 13, 2023

Bennington Fire Facility

Multi-Purpose Room - 3rd Floor

130 River Street

Bennington, Vermont 05201

A G E N D A

6:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Vision Statement
3. Consent Agenda 6:00 PM - 6:05 PM
 - A. Minutes of January 14 & 23, 2023
 - B. Warrants
 - C. Licenses
4. Public Comment 6:05 PM - 6:20 PM
5. Three Roundabouts - Local Concerns Meeting 6:20 PM - 7:00 PM
6. Sunrise Families at the Center Presentation 7:00 PM - 7:15 PM
7. Policy-Non-Profits and the Ballot 7:15 PM - 7:25 PM
8. TIF District Annual Report 7:25 PM - 7:35 PM
9. Implementing the Town Vision 7:35 PM - 7:40 PM
10. Manager's Report 7:40 PM - 7:50 PM
11. Upcoming Agenda 7:50 PM - 8:05 PM
12. Other Business 8:05 PM - 8:15 PM

We endeavor to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Paul Dansereau, Facilities Director: pdansereau@benningtonvt.org or call 802-447-9715.

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING**

2 **BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY**

3 **MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - 3RD FLOOR**

4 **130 RIVER STREET**

5 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

6 **JANUARY 14, 2023**

7 **MINUTES**

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Jim
9 Carroll; Bruce Lee-Clark; Sarah Perrin; Gary Corey and Tom Haley.

10 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Melissa
12 Currier-Finance Director; Michele Johnson-Human Resources and Contracts Administrator; Jim
13 Wright-Fire Chief; Jeff Santarcangelo-Deputy Fire Chief; Paul Doucette-Police Chief; Cam
14 Grande-Police Lieutenant; Art Giroux-Executive Director, Brian Peat-President, Brian Murphy-
15 Vice President-Bennington Rescue Squad; Tina Cook; 5 citizens; Jim Vires-CAT-TV and Nancy H.
16 Lively-Secretary.

17 At 8:00am, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order.

18 **1. FIRE FUND**

19 Fire Chief Jim Wright, Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Santarcangelo, and Police Chief Paul
20 Doucette did the following presentation:

- 21 • An increase of \$500/Chief position - Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Deputy
22 Chief - to the Chief's stipend, a total of a \$1,500 increase.
- 23 • This year the fire department responded to 310 calls for service.
- 24 • We plan to replace 4 sets of gear once again this year with the price having
25 increased by 15%-20% to \$22,000 for those that go into the burning buildings
26 (Class A) or those that may go in the burning buildings (Class B).
- 27 • Those that work away from the burning buildings (Class C) will get the less
28 expensive gear at \$1,800 each or those that have been on display at shows.
- 29 • We propose replacing 8 Motorola radios that date back nearly 20 years that are
30 no longer compatible with the system at a cost of \$2,850 each and 4 pagers at
31 \$525 each - \$24,890. Actually receiving the radios will be months beyond having
32 ordered them.

- 33 • We propose installing heat pumps in the company rooms of the fire facility
34 completing the HVAC upgrade for ultimate cost savings and energy efficiency -
35 \$25,000.
- 36 • The lease payment for the new rescue pumper truck is \$49,910 with the SCBA
37 payments having been retired this year.
- 38 • The transfer to reserve is level funded at \$25,000.
- 39 • The new ladder truck payments begin this year - principal at \$53,350 and
40 interest at \$19,870.

41 *Board comments/questions answered by Chief Wright, Deputy Santarcangelo, and Chief*
42 *Doucette:*

43 Mr. Corey: The budget for Salaries and Wages says \$13,500 whereas the Highlights says \$3,500.
44 *That is a typo. The salaries are currently \$13,500 and the request is to increase that by \$1,500*
45 *to \$15,000.*

46 Mr. Corey: Are you saying that it will be a year down the road before we get what we've
47 ordered. *We can't place the orders until the budget has been approved but that will be done*
48 *once the taxpayers have approved it.*

49 Ms. Jenkins: We approved communication equipment last year so can you give us your 2-3 year
50 plan? *The proposed purchase of radios in FY24 will make all of our radios up to date.*

51 Ms. Conner: You have done your due diligence in the installation of the heat pumps. *Yes, and*
52 *the request of \$25,000 is half of last year's \$50,000. The pumps we purchased last year will take*
53 *care of the 3rd floor room and this year's purchase will be the last heating efficiency for this*
54 *building.*

55 Ms. Perrin: We're lucky to have a volunteer fire department and thank you for your service.
56 What will you be putting in next year that you haven't put in for this year? *We'll start to think*
57 *about that in the spring.*

58 Ms. Perrin: Is the lower price mentioned for the Class C fire fighters adequate? *Yes.*

59 Ms. Jenkins: It is good that this year will complete the heating efficiency for the building and the
60 communication upgrades. *We have done a lot and will be in good shape.*

61 Mr. Lee-Clark: A couple of years ago there wasn't an efficient way to wash the gear, has that
62 changed? *Yes, there were additional washers added to expedite the cleaning process.*

63 Ms. Conner: If gear is still wet and there's another fire call, do they put it back on? *We have*
64 *extra sets for the Class A and B fire fighters.*

65 Ms. Conner: Do you have enough volunteers at this time? *We always have applications*
66 *available but we have enough now, and with something major, we get help from the other*

departments in the county. Jonah Spivak, the Town's Communication Coordinator, has helped us with promoting the volunteerism.

Ms. Perrin: Where does one apply if they want to become a volunteer? Come to the department. There's always someone here during the day, or any Wednesday night. Also, call and leave a detailed message and you will be contacted.

Mr. Carroll: Are there any women fire fighters? Yes, we have one woman officer.

Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to change the Fire Fund FY24 Budget, Fire-Administration Line Item #03-4500.100 Salaries & Wages to \$15,000. The motion carried unanimously.

2. POLICE

Police Chief Paul Doucette and Police Lieutenant Cam Grande did the following presentation:

- 2022 has been a challenging year. We are short staffed - down 8 fully trained positions - and we have never experienced the violence that we have been experiencing.
- We are working with our community partners, and federal and state law enforcement agencies, and our State Representative to try and change this behavior that is not only in Bennington, but all over Vermont.
- We have responded to over 13,000 calls.
- Bennington County produces 80% of the criminal cases in the State.
- The Vermont Police Academy is running twice a year and is not keeping up with the number of police that the State is losing.
- Police departments throughout the State are increasing salaries by 8%-10% to recruit and retain. Our Salary and Wages line item has been increased 10% and our Overtime line item has also increased 10% due to being short staffed.
- We have a detective and advocate position that are grant funded and will bring back \$156,000 to the Town.
- The new Town IT position will be shared with the Police Department and we have removed \$60,000 from the police budget.
- Property insurance costs increased this year based on an 11% increase in property assets and workers comp insurance increased slightly.
- Our Safety line item decreased this year but still provides for mandatory wellness visits for mental health and nutrition for all employees, not just police officers. This is not present everywhere in the country. We have a contract with United Counseling Service.
- We propose level funding for training costs to meet mandatory State requirements and to provide leadership training for supervisors. Next year we will be incorporating internal investigation trainings, as well. The \$18,500 trains 35 employees. Also, we were audited by the Secretary of State's office and did very well.

- We propose purchasing 12 Motorola UHF portable radios for \$32,000 that will outfit half of the department. The mobile units are being replaced from the FY23 budget.
- We propose to continue security upgrades, lighting improvements and renovations to the third floor for improved lighting - \$10,000. This is a \$13,500 decrease from last year as all of our heat pumps have been installed, we have a new generator, our key lock room has been improved, our kitchen area has been redone, and windows have been replaced on the south side of the building.
- Our body worn and vehicle cameras with the newest technology have been delivered. The FY24 \$28,130 is part of our 5-year agreement for \$175,300 which provides replacement of body worn cameras in the third year at no additional cost.
- Proposed this year are 2 new Interceptor Ford SUV Hybrids that have increased in price by \$3,000 each. They are now nearly the same price as the Chevy Tahoe and Ford announced that there is a safety issue with the hybrid vehicles and shouldn't be used as front line vehicles. An analysis will need to be done as to whether or not we get more hybrids. They get better mileage, but not if they're sitting in the shop. The Tahoe's are "bullet proof" (not in the true sense of the phrase).

Board comments/questions answered by Chief Doucette and Lt. Grande:

Ms. Jenkins: Is level funding the training budget sufficient? *Yes, for FY24. It may be higher in FY25.*

Mr. Lee-Clark: Who pays for training at the Police Academy, and if it's us, where is it in the budget? *Basic Training is paid for by the State. Other training programs take place at the Academy but are not put on by the Academy such as leadership trainings that are paid for by the Town.*

Mr. Lee-Clark: Who decides that two Basic Trainings/year are still satisfying the needs of the State? *The Chiefs of Police Association and the Sheriff's Association are working with the new director on this issue. Discussion has been around shortening Basic Training and having a third session. The Academy has been based on volunteer instructors from the agencies. We have sent officers there to assist and that expense is on us with the idea in mind that it will help us out in the long run.*

Mr. Lee-Clark: How many students can the Academy take in one session? *Several years ago it was ~50. Now they start with 36.*

Ms. Conner: How does the Academy prioritize who gets the spots? *There is a packet that needs to be completed and it's first come, first serve. At this time, there is no priority given to those communities with increased crime rates but it will be part of our future discussions.*

Mr. Lee-Clark: Is there anything that the Select Board can do to help the realization that this model of several years ago doesn't apply today? *We certainly appreciate your support and will*

140 *reference it in our efforts to get a third training session. Ms. Jenkins added to utilize the Select*
141 *Board as needed.*

142 Mr. Lee-Clark: How do trials affect your work force? *We are backfilling with overtime for*
143 *officers that have been subpoenaed.*

144 Ms. Jenkins: It is important that the Select Board and the community realize that officer
145 retention includes appropriate compensation, functional safety equipment, and adequate
146 wellness training. *Most of the people realize that the BPD is transparent and supported by the*
147 *Select Board. It is also important that accurate information is what gets published.*

148 Ms. Conner: Has the flooding issue at the corner been resolved? *Mr. Monks answered that a*
149 *firm has done some analysis and are putting together a design.*

150 Mr. Corey: Is there any merit in waiting to buy these two vehicles? *No, because then we run*
151 *into maintenance issues and then we have to catch up.*

152 Mr. Corey: Does the salary line item increases include the 2 new positions? *Yes. We are down 8*
153 *Level 3 officers but will have 3 at level 2 riding with trainers in a couple of months.*

154 Ms. Conner: Will some of your line items increase as you get additional staff? *Our 2 new hires*
155 *will be at the Police Academy most of the year and are not part of these numbers. However, if*
156 *there were ready-to-go officers that joined the department, we would have to discuss finances*
157 *with Mr. Hurd.*

158 Ms. Conner: Does the \$600 decrease in the Safety line item have any bearing on the mental
159 health wellness? *No, this is because fewer staff need fewer gloves, masks, etc.*

160 Ms. Conner: Why did the 2 new recruits choose Bennington over another town? *One has done*
161 *some work with the Bennington Police Department (BPD) and has decided to make a career*
162 *change, and the other one, has followed all aspects of the BPD and said that she feels the “BPD*
163 *is making a difference in the community”. CPARB has a positive effect on the BPD and the*
164 *community. People are making note of all of the positive things that we are doing. We do,*
165 *however, need housing as everyone knows.*

166 Ms. Conner: Is the grant funding available going forward for the two positions that are currently
167 funded by a grant? *Yes.*

168 Ms. Perrin: Do you see success at the job fairs? *We are just getting started at going to job fairs*
169 *and we want to take advantage of some of the community events for recruitment, as well.*

170 **3. BENNINGTON RESCUE SQUAD**

171 Art Giroux, Executive Director of the Bennington Rescue Squad (BRS), Brian Peat,
172 President, and Brian Murphy, Vice President did the following presentation:

173 ❖ Although we are still understaffed, we have made great strides in recruitment.

- ❖ Housing is an issue as most of our new recruits are living in New York and we lost two due to lack of housing.
- ❖ We are promoting our apprentice program with everyone, including our immigrants.
- ❖ 2022 was the busiest 911 volume that we have ever had while having fewer transfers.
- ❖ There is no reimbursement for a 911 call if the patient doesn't go to the hospital and, if reimbursed, the rate is lower than it is for transfers.
- ❖ People are having a harder time finding a primary care and home health care, so they call 911.
- ❖ Increased Medicare insured in Bennington results in a lower payment to us as does insurance companies, in general, using "usual and customary" payments of a few years ago that don't translate into the inflation rates of today.
- ❖ Our revenue for patient services is projected to be flat from last year even though the volume is up.
- ❖ Our expenses are up everywhere - we have continued to give raises, insurance costs are up, fuel cost is up, etc.
- ❖ We've looked into a hybrid ambulance. They're far more expensive and don't have a range of operation that will get us to Albany and back.
- ❖ We ordered vehicles in April 2020 that we don't have yet and are always looking into smaller vehicles that are as efficient as possible. We have taken a couple of demos due to the delay.
- ❖ An ambulance ordered today is a wait of 28-36 months with the cost being 44% higher than 3 years ago.
- ❖ We are concerned with the current trends of fixed income and equities both dropping that our endowment is decreasing at an accelerated rate.
- ❖ We have tried to spearhead consolidation at the State level but that has not gone anywhere.
- ❖ We are also trying to get payers to pay closer to the true cost of services to stop throwing payments back to the towns and the taxpayers. Unfortunately, this will take more than the individual agencies efforts. The only way to get action is to get the towns across the State involved.
- ❖ We were supposed to be cut in Medicare on December 30th but that didn't happen. There was an increase but 2% was withheld due to budget issues. There was an initiative on the federal level for this, however, this is not reciprocated on the State level for Medicaid. Medicare is federal; Medicaid is State.
- ❖ There is no legislation on this and we've tried to get our district to take it on and they haven't.
- ❖ The amount that was approved by the voters in 2017 has decreased and isn't sustainable.
- ❖ We do 5,400 calls for all the towns that support us and we are losing \$60,000.

- ❖ After 2017, we were asked to have a spending policy which we did that included 5% of our endowment. This year to be level funded, we anticipate that it will be more than 12%. Will the market turn around - probably - but we are not sustainable now.
- ❖ Hospitals can't move people and it isn't just an SVMC problem. UVM is calling BRS asking if someone can take patients from Burlington hospital to another facility.
- ❖ All towns are having the same problem - money and people.
- ❖ It won't be this year or next but we don't know how regionalization will look in the future.

Board comments/questions answered my Mr. Giroux, Mr. Peat, and Mr. Murphy:

Mr. Carroll: Are the 911 calls refusing to go to the hospital? *Some are because they're out of options for help and don't really need to go to the hospital and/or because we have received a 911 call from a family member that doesn't live locally expressing a concern. Also, taking someone to the hospital must be medically necessary for us to get paid for the call. Otherwise, the patient would be billed directly and probably won't pay. Telemed is the wave of the future but it isn't here yet.*

Ms. Perrin: Where are we at with consolidation? *We don't really know yet, but we do know that you could save on administrative costs but probably not on the direct service expenses. We have tried to get all of the agencies to the table but it hasn't worked. It is similar to having consolidated the schools. "It's a patchwork of little agencies throughout the State."*

Ms. Perrin: Why would some towns hold out? *It's not the towns holding out, it's the agencies. "It's a résistance to change." That's an important distinction because the key to force the agencies to the table are the towns because the taxpayers are where the expense is going to fall.*

Mr. Lee-Clark: One thing this Board could do would be to invite the other town Boards for a discussion regarding this issue and our mutual funding of EMS services.

Mr. Lee-Clark: Clarification - were the 911 calls at 5,400? *No, that includes 911 (at 4,500), refusals, non-transport, and transports. This is a 15% increase in 911 calls since 2021.*

Mr. Lee-Clark: Realizing, of course, that it depends on the market, are we talking 5 years to deplete the endowment? *3-4 years because we have been good stewards of our investments through the years.*

Ms. Jenkins: We appreciate everything that you do for the community but noted that last year this same conversation took place and the BRS was asked to report back to the Board on the progress of the consolidation during the year, and did not. It is frustrating that we only get the "building is burning down" report at budget time. *Actually, it has happened, but because of relatively recent attrition within the other agencies for whatever the reason, since we were the only ones left at the table, we've decided that we need another approach. We will, however, do a quarterly report to the Select Board in the future.*

250 Ms. Jenkins: A couple of years ago there was discussion of partnership with the hospital. Is that
251 not a feasible plan? *That hasn't happened because our local hospital is merging with a large*
252 *entity and that would have to take place first. Also, if the new hospital entity and BRS*
253 *collaborate, that isn't going to be beneficial to Bennington's 911 system.*

254 Mr. Carroll: Added that he mentioned going to talk to Tom Dee a few years ago for him to parse
255 out the calls. *We've had that conversation and we can't partner with the hospital because we*
256 *have too many 911 calls and can't do all their transfers. Things have changed. It is too*
257 *expensive for any agency to have an ambulance just sitting there waiting for a transport.*

258 Mr. Carroll: Reiterated talking to Tom Dee.

259 Mr. Lee-Clark: Three things need to happen - 1. This Select Board needs to be in communication
260 with select boards from other towns in the region to invite them to a discussion on the funding
261 of EMS services; 2. Communication with legislative staff and administrative staff within the
262 State, as well as, nationally. The only way that insurances in the State will change is if the
263 legislature makes them; 3. Educate the people of Bennington to this situation. *We agree,*
264 *however, given our payer sources, there are many that education will fall on "deaf ears". Also,*
265 *because we do receive this funding from the Town, we are obligated to answer all of the 911*
266 *calls.*

267 Ms. Perrin: Didn't realize that you were paid more for a transport than for a medical service so
268 working with the legislature to change that is certainly something to do. *It is a bigger issue than*
269 *BRS approaching the legislature or the Insurance Commissioner. The agencies don't have the*
270 *dollars to lobby in Montpelier.*

271 Ms. Jenkins: This fall was when the legislature asked what they should be focusing on. Now
272 they're in session and we're "behind the 8-ball here" so it imperative for BRS to address the
273 delegation to see what can be done, as well as, talking with other agencies and services. *We*
274 *thought the Vermont Ambulance Association would be more powerful but they did not seem up*
275 *to the task. We did think we would have something to come back to you with but then "the*
276 *wheels started to fall off the cart."*

277 Mr. Carroll: Suggested signing a contract with the nursing homes. *We are already the*
278 *ambulance of choice and the nursing homes contract rate is lower than anything we would*
279 *receive from any insurance provider plus they want the residents to pay, not them. Some*
280 *nursing homes are no longer locally owned so they are using the standard from where they are*
281 *located (New Jersey) which is lower than here. Even at that, we will always look into contracts*
282 *as long as it doesn't pull resources away from our 911 services.*

283 Ms. Conner: Is there a way to refer a 911 call to another service that has been determined
284 would be more what the caller really needs? *Yes, we're in discussion about that now. It requires*
285 *a waiver from the State and we are now working on how the process would work. To begin with*
286 *they may get an ambulance with only one person, but as we are able to get more information*

287 *from the call, we may send another vehicle with one person. It still requires staff and resources*
288 *but it is a work in progress. For the people that are “high utilizers” - call 50-60 times/month -*
289 *we do involve UCS to maybe have someone go talk to the individual.*

290 Ms. Conner: So much of what needs to change is out of our control even if/when we participate
291 and so long for the changes to go into effect.

292 *Public comments/questions answered by Mr. Giroux, Mr. Peat, and Mr. Murphy:*

293 Tina Cook: Suggested going to the Vermont Community Foundation for grants; talking to
294 legislators is very important; insurance companies have made huge profits and should be
295 contributing a lot more for payments of services; partnering with the Visiting Nurses
296 Association may be an option; and Southwest Tech may be a long term solution.

297 **4. BUDGET WRAP UP**

298 The following budget wrap up was done as follows:

299 Tina Cook: How often are we audited? *Mr. Hurd: The budget is not audited but the Town is*
300 *audited every year with a public report to the Select Board.*

301 Tina Cook: Found several calculations incorrect in the budget and will meet with Finance
302 Director Melissa Courier privately to explain to Ms. Cook how the budget calculations are done.
303

304 *Board discussion on the FY24 Agencies Funding Allocations:*

305 Mr. Carroll: Against the increase for the BRS because they haven’t done their “due diligence”.

306 Mr. Lee-Clark: If we don’t increase their 10% request then they will take it from their
307 endowment which will deplete quickly if they start drawing from principal.

308 ***Jim Carroll moved that the Bennington Rescue be level funded from FY23. The motion***
309 ***failed for lack of a second.***

310 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Sarah Perrin seconded to fund the Bennington Rescue***
311 ***Squad for their FY24 request of \$226,870 and tie it to quarterly presentations to the Select***
312 ***Board and mandatory conversations about Select Board liaising with the Bennington Rescue***
313 ***Squad Board of Directors.***

314 Ms. Jenkins is frustrated that they didn’t report back to the Board as they were asked to
315 and doesn’t see why the Town should pull towns together since they are a private EMS service.
316 “This is not a Town issue” and is saying that with full recognition that we need a rescue squad
317 that provides invaluable services.

318 Mr. Lee-Clark added that if we’re to support any private company at this level, we have
319 an obligation to the taxpayers to push for consolidation. We support the Library, also a private

320 company for \$.5M and Ms. Jenkins added that is why we have a Board Liaison to the Library to
321 make sure they are seeking grants and other funding sources.

322 Ms. Jenkins also agreed that we do have a role to advocate like we did for Pathways
323 Vermont to the legislature.

324 Mr. Corey stated that the \$20,000 shows our support and regular quarterly
325 presentations should be required.

326 Ms. Conner feels that not giving them their increase would be punishing them for not
327 coming back to us, and not sure if that is “mature or fair and a little petty”.

328 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

329 ***Jeanne Conner moved and Jim Carroll seconded to allocate \$512,940 to the***
330 ***Bennington Free Library in FY24.***

331 As the Library liaison, Ms. Jenkins noted that there have been 2 meetings and they have
332 “taken to heart” several of our recommendations from previous years, such as energy efficiency
333 with grants and rebates. They are also promoting the open meeting law to educate the public
334 to all of what they are doing as was written in Vermont Digger on their work with individuals
335 where English is not their first language. They are an engaged Board that is stepping up to
336 make the community aware that they are actively soliciting our input.

337 Mr. Haley added that he was the liaison before Ms. Jenkins and they do look for
338 alternate funding sources.

339 ***The motion carried with Gary Corey abstaining.***

340 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to allocate \$33,380 to the BCRC in***
341 ***FY24. The motion carried unanimously.***

342 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to allocate \$2,700 to Paran***
343 ***Recreation and \$42,500 to the J. McCullough Library in FY24. The motion carried***
344 ***unanimously.***

345 Ms. Jenkins explained that all other agencies were level funded from FY23. Agencies no
346 longer had to petition but the requirement was that they provide funding information from the
347 previous year, a budget for the next year, and a narrative. Mr. Hurd reached out to several
348 organizations that had not submitted by the deadline. This decision should be revisited and
349 make it a hard and fast deadline.

350 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to take no action on the Lake Paran***
351 ***Association request for the Bennington County Conservation District in the amount of***
352 ***\$16,500. The motion carried unanimously.***

353 **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

354 **A. PERSONNEL**

355 *At 11:50am, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded that the meeting was*
356 *adjourned finding that an Executive Session be held on Personnel as premature public*
357 *knowledge would place a person involved in the subject matter at a substantial*
358 *disadvantage. Action will be taken when going back into Open Session. The motion carried*
359 *unanimously.*

360 *At 12:10pm, Jim Carroll moved and Tom Haley seconded to go back into Open Session.*
361 *The motion carried unanimously.*

362 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded the following salary amounts for the*
363 *3 positions that were discussed in Executive Session:*

364 *Town Manager = \$124,490*

365 *Town Clerk = \$ 97,340*

366 *Town Treasurer = \$ 17,240*

367 *The motion carried unanimously.*

368 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the FY24 as amended*
369 *before it goes to the voters. The motion carried unanimously.*

370 *At 12:13pm, Jim Carroll moved and Tom Haley seconded the adjournment of the*
371 *meeting. The motion carried unanimously.*

372
373
374 Respectfully submitted,

375 Nancy H. Lively

376 Secretary

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **JANUARY 23, 2023**

5 **MINUTES**

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Bruce
7 Lee-Clark; Gary Corey; Sarah Perrin; and Tom Haley.

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jim Carroll.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Shannon
10 Barsotti-Community Development Director; Jack Rossiter-Munley; Tordis Isselhardt; Asher
11 Edelson; Nancy White; 5 citizens; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

12 At 6:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order and announced that
13 Agenda Item #5. Bennington Sports Foundation has been cancelled this evening due to the
14 weather and will be added to an agenda in March.

15 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

16 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

17 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

18 Ms. Conner read the Town's Vision Statement that was adopted by the Select Board on
19 August 24, 2020:

20 "Bennington is a welcoming, engaged, inclusive, resilient community where everyone
21 regardless of identity shares in our vitality and benefits from an outstanding quality of life."

22 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

23 **A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2023 AND JANUARY 9, 2023**

24 **B. WARRANTS**

25 **C. LICENSES**

26 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to approve the Consent Agenda*
27 *amended as follows:*

28 *Minutes of January 7, 2023, Page 8, Line 257, Change "body" to "volume"*

29 *Minutes of January 9, 2023, Page 3, Line 67, Change "become in compliance with" to*
30 *"become compliant with"*

Minutes of January 9, 2023, Page 4, Line 117, Change “to housing” to “to expand housing”

Minutes of January 9, 2023, Page 6, Line 196, Change “Coor’s” to “Corr’s”

Minutes of January 9, 2023 Addendum, Line 1, Change “Bruce L. Clark” to “Bruce Lee-Clark”

Ms. Conner noted that there haven’t been any liquor license violations in quite some time.

The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following Public Comment Practices to make the experience for all involved a productive and informative use of the Public Comment period at Select Board meetings was placed on the podium for those that wish to make Public Comments to reference:

1. Public Comment is to allow residents an opportunity to share information or make announcements that benefit the community at large.
2. The topic should not be related to an agenda item. If a member of the public wants to comment on an agenda item they can do so during the discussion of that item.
3. Comments should be 3 minutes or less.
4. You are required to state your real name and town of residence.
5. Sharing comments, announcements and concerns are encouraged rather than asking questions. Public Comment is not a time for discussion. If you have specific questions it is best to call the Town Manager to get a full explanation and accurate information.
6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Jack Rossiter-Munley: Stated how successful the Community Café is on Saturdays 1:30pm-3:00pm at 121 Depot Street. People order a meal, it is brought to them, and they pay whatever they wish or nothing at all. It is very popular within the community for all with many making contributions to the project.

Tordis Isselhardt: Commented on the following three items:

1. Pleased to see the Bennington Police Department’s quarterly “Report to the Select Board” in this meeting’s packet. The two most recent reports to the

Select Board in person were on July 11th and October 10th. On October 10th, Chief Doucette thanked a large grant from the Vermont Center for Crime Victims to be able to hire a Human Trafficking Case Manager who would be invited to speak at a future Select Board meeting.

2. Pleased to see a report by Jonah Spivak or Shannon Barsotti included in one of the Select Board's two monthly meeting packets in addition to whatever they may contribute to an agenda item.
3. Kudos to all involved in the Town's beautiful new unified website - town staff, community members, Revize design firm, and Jonah Spivak as all project management.

6. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING APPROVAL

Mr. Hurd stated that the Floor Meeting will be March 6, 2023 at 7:00pm (or immediately following the Southwest VT Regional Technical School District's Annual meeting should that run over). The elementary schools and Mr. Anthony School District may also be here but that is unknown at this time. The meeting will stand adjourned to March 7, 2023 at the Bennington Fire Facility for those on the Bennington checklist and the North Bennington Village office for those on the North Bennington checklist. Polls are open from 7:00am until 7:00pm.

Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Sarah Perrin seconded to adopt the Warning, Town of Bennington, 2023 Annual Town Meeting as presented. The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

7. BOND WARNING APPROVAL CIRCULATION FOR SIGNATURES

Mr. Hurd explained that they post bond issues separately because there are different Vermont statute requirements to do so. This bond is not to exceed \$5.8M to upgrade the Gage Street water main and the south end water system on Jefferson Heights and Margaret Lane to increase water pressure within the system.

Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to approve the Public Hearing Notice, Town of Bennington, Water System Improvements Bond as submitted.

Ms. Jenkins noted that this is necessary to do these, and Mr. Hurd added that the south end project is a compliance issue for the Town that we have been working on for 5-7 years that began with a water tower above Southern Vermont College at the time, serving the hospital down Dewey Street to Weeks, to Crescent Boulevard, and now to Jefferson Heights and Margaret Lane. The bond will cost us \$259,000/year which is ~\$140,000 less annually for these construction projects for the last 4-5 years.

The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

Nancy White: We already have water/sewer projects totaling \$21M and this information should be given to the Banner.

99 **8. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION**

100 **A. POLICY SIGNING**

101 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to adopt the Quality Control, Internal*
102 *Investigations and Discipline amended as follows:*

103 *Page 1, Line 1 and Line 3, Change “citizen” to “civilian”*

104 *The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.*

105 **9. MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION FUND**

106 Ms. Barsotti stated that staff are preparing a grant application for the Agency of
107 Commerce and Community Development’s Downtown Transportation Fund for improvements
108 to the Benn Hi parking lot by resurfacing, and creating a court yard and pathways that is
109 currently pavement. The application is due January 31st and requires a 20% match for funds up
110 to \$200,000. The \$40,000 match would come from the designated ARPA funds and/or in-kind
111 work through the town’s Department of Public Works. MSK Engineers has completed a site
112 survey and parking plan that will be submitted with the application.

113 *Tom Haley moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to approve the Municipal Resolution*
114 *for Downtown Transportation Fund application for \$200,000 with the \$40,000 local match*
115 *from ARPA funds.*

116 Ms. Conner asked what would happen if we did not go forward with the Benn Hi Project,
117 and Ms. Barsotti answered we would let them know that we weren’t going through with the
118 project and they would be able to re-grant the funds.

119 Mr. Corey asked if this is subject to the final designs of the project, and Ms. Barsotti
120 responded yes.

121 *The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.*

122 **10. MANAGER’S REPORT**

123 Mr. Hurd did the following report:

124 Benmont Avenue/County Street Sewer Line Replacement - Moving along with a water
125 connection at Lincoln and County Streets remaining. When complete the Town would prepare
126 road surface for Winter/Spring. Sidewalks will be done in the Spring. Thank you to all for their
127 patience.

128 Equalization Study Results - The results of the Study completed for Bennington and North
129 Bennington both show values below 85% which, according to statute, triggers a reappraisal.
130 Unfortunately, approximately 150 towns are in the same boat with only 3 reappraisal firms able

to do a full mass reappraisal. I have reached out to our legislative delegation for some help and am hopeful some relief can be found that will work state-wide to avoid a situational crisis.

11. UPCOMING AGENDA

February 13, 2023 - Bennington Police Department Report

February 13, 2023 - Sunrise Family Resource Center Update

February 13, 2023 - VTRANS Contractor To Discuss Roundabouts at Route 7/Kocher Drive, Benmont Avenue/Northside Drive, and Hicks Avenue/Northside Drive.

February 13, 2023 - Social Service Organization Policy

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Conner: Thanked Mike McDonough for the presentation he did on the Riverwalk improvements.

Ms. Perrin: January 30th is the last day to file for those interested in running for the Select Board, and she will be seeking re-election.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. CONTRACTS

At 6:32pm, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Gary Corey seconded that the meeting was adjourned finding that an Executive Session be held on Contracts as premature public knowledge would place a person involved in the subject matter at a substantial disadvantage. No decision will be made when going back into Open Session. The motion carried with Jim Carroll absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy H. Lively

Secretary

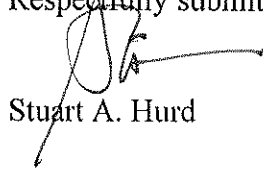
**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES ADDENDUM
January 23, 2023**

Present: Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Tom Haley, Jim Carroll, Bruce Lee- Clark, Jeanne Conner, V. Chair, Gary Corey, and Sarah Perrin. Also present.: Stu Hurd, Town Manager, Dan Monks, Assistant Manager and Shannon Barsotti, Community Development Director.

The Board went into executive session at 6:32pm for a contractual matter.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:00 pm. but took no action. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stu Hurd', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stuart A. Hurd

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

2023 NEW 2ND CLASS LICENSE

1. Bennington Community Market, 239 Main Street
Members/Owners: Diana Shepherd, Aila West, Crystal Gardner, William Laberge, Susan Sgorbati, Tatiana Abatemarco, Becky Stockausarbella

2023 2nd CLASS RENEWALS

1. Apple Barn & Bake Shop
2. Stewarts Shop 195

**The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above
2023 Licenses**

Dated: February 13, 2023

Jeannette Jenkins, Chair

PROJECT REFINEMENTS

US Route 7 at VT Route 7A - NH-019-1(30)

Northside Drive and VT Route 7A/Orchard Road/Hicks Road - STP 0137(20)

February 13, 2023

Welcome & Introductions

Project Team



Meeting Agenda

- VSPS2 Background
- Project Refinement Process
- Study Area
- Project Background
- Existing Conditions
- Draft Purpose and Need Statement
- Next Steps

VSPS2 Vermont Project Selection and Project Prioritization Process



VPSP2 is a mechanism to identify, prioritize, and select state transportation capital improvement projects on the federal aid system.

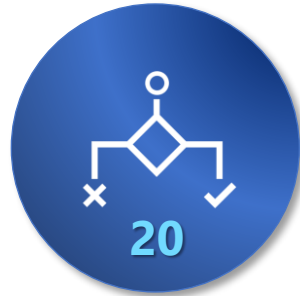
VPSP2's Vision: Develop a performance-based, data driven project selection & prioritization framework that maximizes the "transportation value" delivered to Vermont taxpayers. This will be done through:

- Providing a defined, consistent, and transparent process for selecting and prioritizing the projects that ultimately make up VTrans' Capital Program,
- Providing a mechanism for input from the RPCs and communities in the selection and prioritization of transportation projects,
- Utilizing criteria that delineate the "transportation value" that potential and planned VTrans' projects will provide to the statewide transportation network.

VSPS2 Vermont Project Selection and Project Prioritization Process



SAFETY



ASSET
CONDITION



MOBILITY AND
CONNECTIVITY



ECONOMIC
ACCESS



RESILIENCY



REGIONAL



ENVIRONMENT



HEALTH
ACCESS

Regional Priority Project Refinement Process

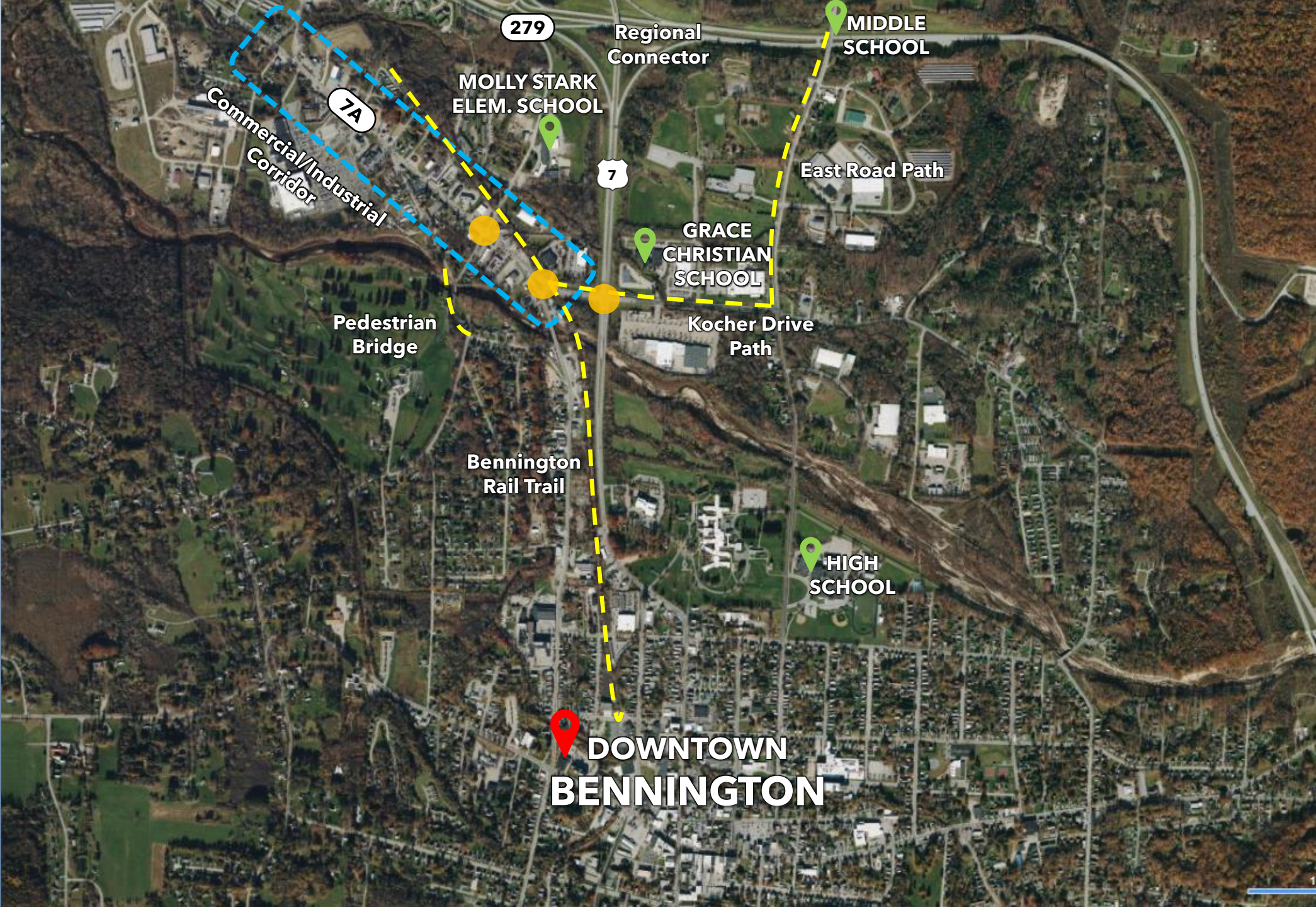
- VTrans is evaluating **regionally identified projects** for consideration in the Capital Program.
 - May not have been identified prior to the VSPS2 process
 - May not have all the supporting documentation in place
- Collaborative process (VTrans + RPC + Community) to refine projects and fill any gaps in project development to date
- Obtain documented support for the advancement of the project



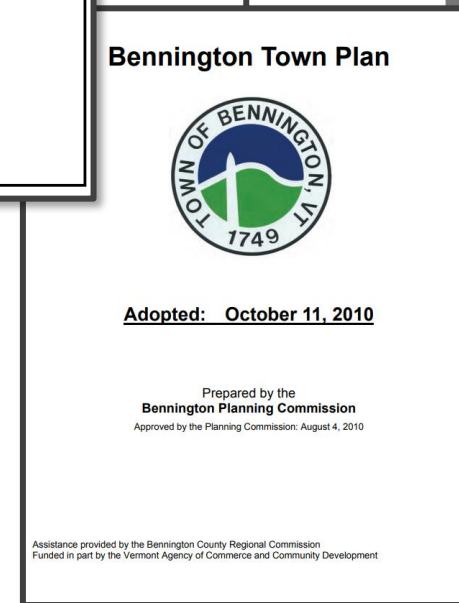
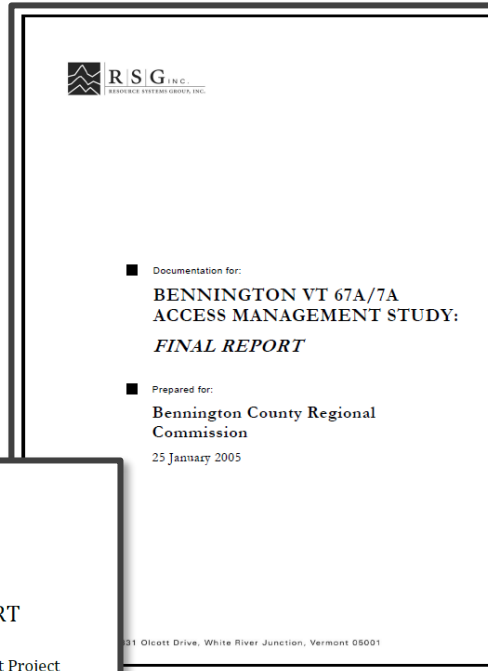
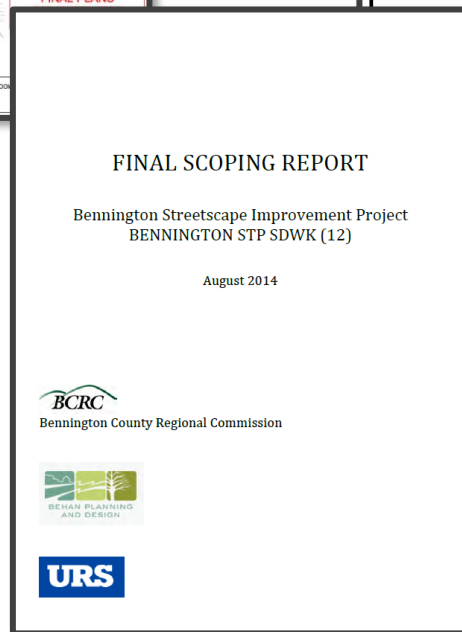
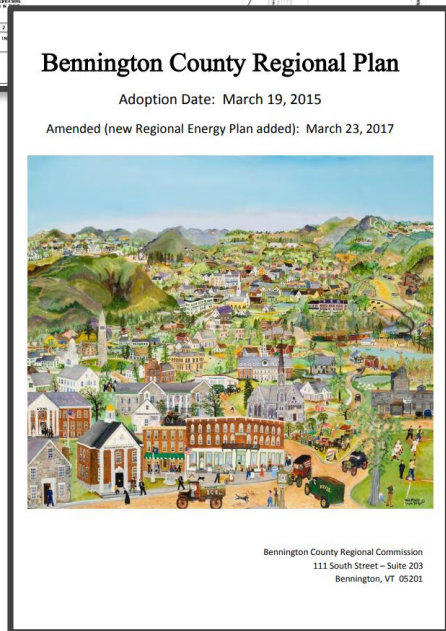


Study Area

Network
Connectivity



A Long-standing Priority



Existing Conditions

Inefficient intersections
resulting in delay

Represents important
connection to multimodal
path network

Overbuilt intersections
resulting in poor balance of
modes and an unwelcoming
gateway to Bennington



Intersection of US 7 at Kocher Street (Looking North)

Existing Conditions

Inefficient intersections
resulting in delay

Represents important
connection to multimodal
path network

Overbuilt intersections
resulting in poor balance of
modes and an unwelcoming
gateway to Bennington



Intersection of Northside Drive (Benmont Avenue) at US 7A

Existing Conditions

Poorly defined curb radii resulting in vulnerability for pedestrians

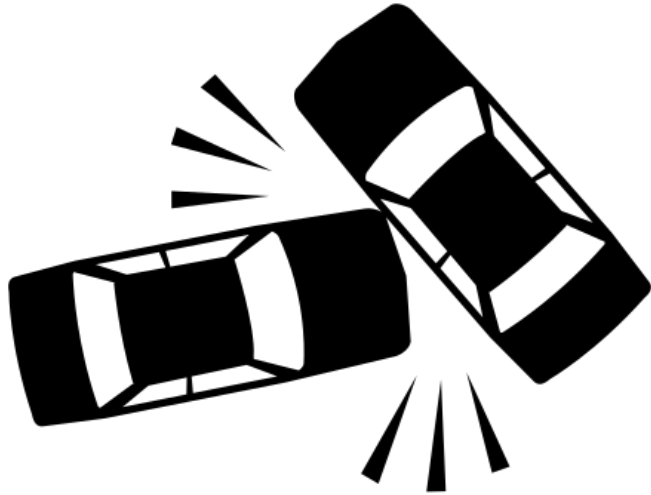
Inefficient intersections resulting in delay

Represents important connection to multimodal path network



Intersection US 7A at Hicks Avenue/Orchard Road

Existing Conditions



- ➔ The US7/VT7A/Kocher Drive intersection (**High Crash Location**) had 56 crashes and 14 injuries.
- ➔ The Northside Drive/VT7A/Orchard Road intersection (**High Crash Section**) had 59 crashes and 10 injuries between mile markers 0.200 and 0.500.
- ➔ The Northside Drive/VT7A/Benmont Avenue intersection (**High Crash Location**) had 20 crashes and 2 injuries.

Source: VTrans Office of Highway Safety Division's High Crash Location Report 2012 - 2016

WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?



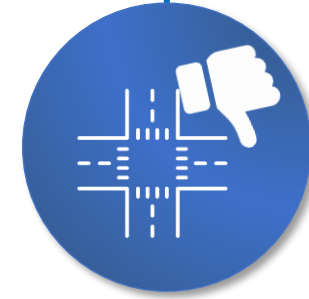
The intersections are dangerous.

All three intersections are listed as a high crash location or a high crash segment in the VTrans Office of Highway Safety Division's High Crash Location Report 2012 - 2016.



The intersections are inefficient.

All three intersections are signalized, and vehicles are often delayed while waiting for a green light.



The intersections are unaesthetically appealing.

The US7/VT7A/Kocher Drive intersection's massive paved area and lack of landscaping make it an unwelcoming gateway to Bennington.

Purpose + Need

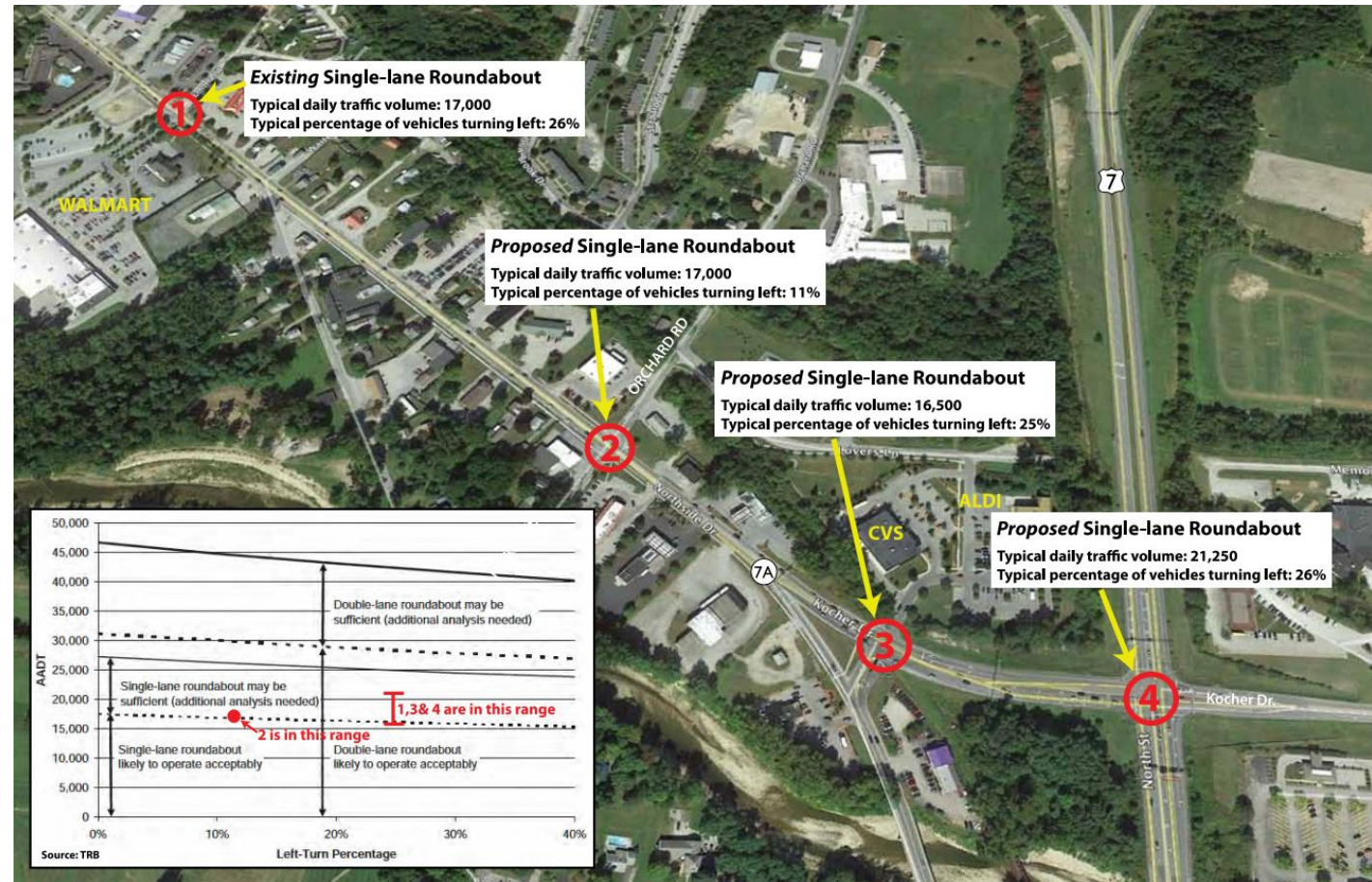
The Purpose of the Project is to develop transportation system improvements that foster a welcoming gateway which safely and efficiently serves all mode users, while enhancing important multimodal connections.

Open Discussion

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Confirm Project Purpose and Need with endorsement from Selectboard - Tonight
- Conduct detailed traffic analyses to determine appropriate alternatives (single lane vs. multilane roundabout) - March 2023
- Provide updated feasibility analysis (high level impacts and conceptual cost estimate) - March 2023
- Come back to present basic alternatives and their associated risks to schedule/development. Confirm Preferred Alternative with endorsement from Selectboard - April 2023
- Finalize Refinement Report to accompany previously submitted project scoring
- Project prioritization and advancement to design



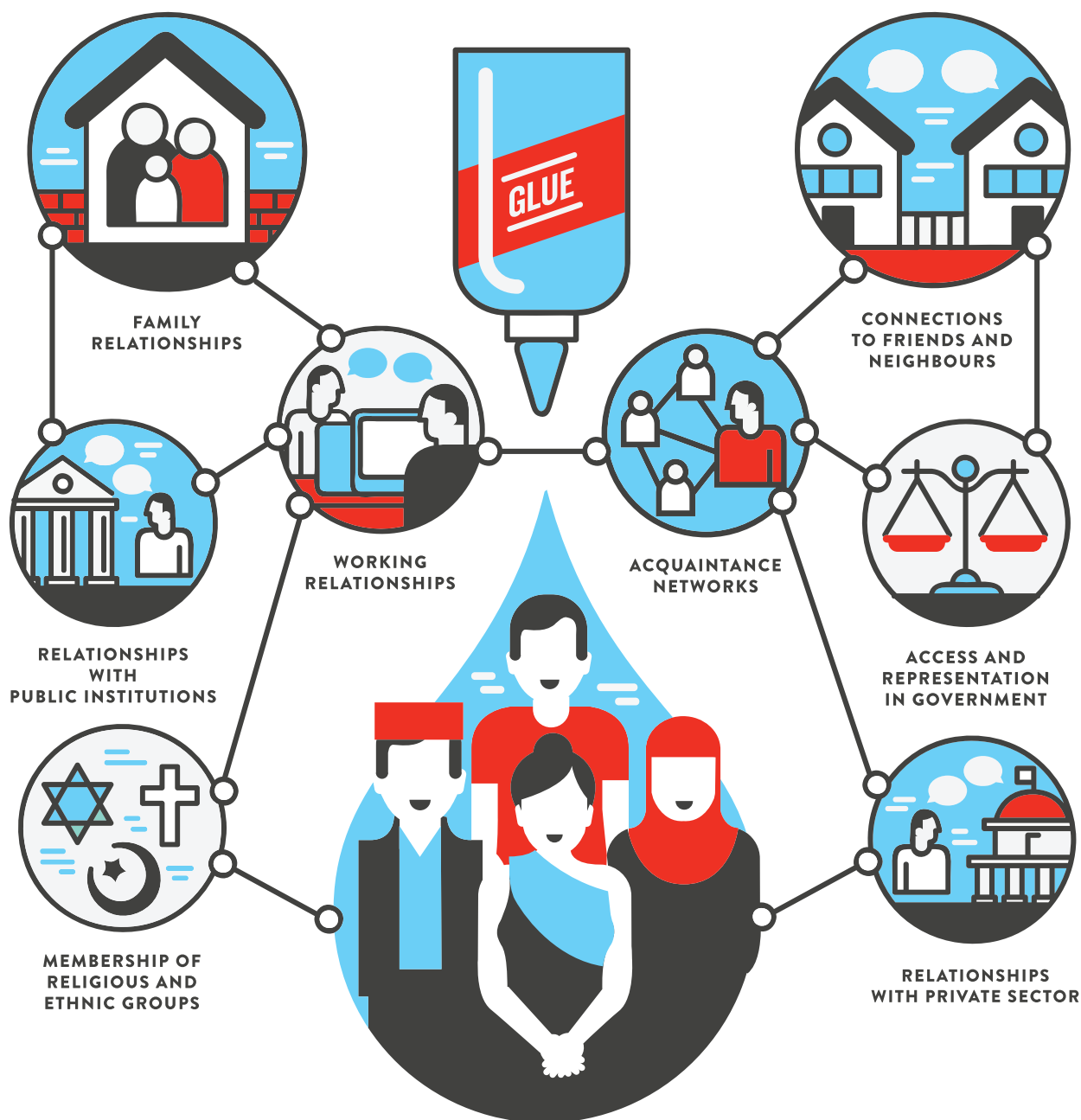
North Street Area Bicycle/Pedestrian Infrastructure Study

An aerial photograph of a highway interchange, likely a cloverleaf interchange, with multiple lanes and ramps. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "Thank you!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

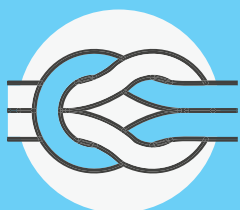
Thank you!

WHAT IS SOCIAL CAPITAL?

SOCIAL CAPITAL IS LIKE
THE GLUE THAT HOLDS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



WHAT MAKES SOCIAL CAPITAL STRONG



MUTUAL
SUPPORT



SOCIAL
NETWORKS



A SENSE
OF COMMUNITY



TRUST

HIGH SOCIAL CAPITAL



VS

LOW SOCIAL CAPITAL



HIGH LEVELS OF TRUST

Between community members and between community members and institutions



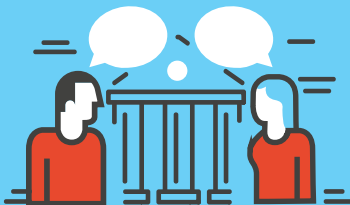
STRONG SOCIAL NETWORKS

Connectedness between community members offline and online



MUTUAL SUPPORT

Between community members, for example through care for the elderly, people with disabilities and the marginalized



HIGHER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

For example in the form of volunteering or participation in community meetings



LOW LEVELS OF TRUST

And associated structural inequalities lead to wasted productive potential



WEAKER SOCIAL NETWORKS

Community members are less connected to each other and to institutions



ISOLATION OF INDIVIDUALS

Marginalized populations, such as ethnic and gender minorities, asylum seekers, and trafficked persons, live in conditions of exclusion or segregation



HIGHER VULNERABILITY TO DISASTERS

Communities with low social capital are less able to cope with and recover from disasters

To: All Agencies Receiving Funds Via Ballot or Placed in the Budget

From: Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

Re: Fiscal Year _____ Budget Requests

Date:

Please read the Policy from the Bennington Select Board on receiving funds from the Town of Bennington via the Ballot or placed within the budget. All Agency funding request documents must be submitted to the Select Board through the Manager's Office no later than Monday,_____.

Agencies requesting funds are invited to present at the Floor Meeting preceding the Annual Town Meeting Vote.

POLICY

Policy - All Non-Profit Agencies Receiving Funds from the Town of Bennington via the Ballot or placed within the Budget

Whereas 24 VSA, Section 2691 provides that municipalities may appropriate money for the support of social service programs and facilities within the town for its residents.

Now therefore, the Bennington Select Board requires the following:

Via the Ballot

If the Agency received funds via a positive ballot vote in the current Fiscal Year 2023 and is requesting the same or less funds for the next Fiscal Year 2024 (~~July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024~~), the following documents must be submitted to the Select Board through the Manager's Office no later than Monday, December 5, 2022 6 weeks (42 days) prior to the statutory deadline for articles to be petitioned. Those Agencies meeting this deadline with all necessary documents will be placed on the ballot without requiring a petition. Those failing to meet the deadline must petition. Agencies are also invited to present at the March Annual Town Meeting. Agencies requesting an increase in funding or agencies not funded in the current year regardless of amount requested must petition to be placed on the ballot as required by law.

Placed within the Budget

All Agencies that received funds in the current fiscal year 2023 and are requesting funds for the next Fiscal Year 2024 (~~July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024~~), the following documents must be submitted to the Select Board through the Manager's Office no later than Monday December 5, 2022 the first Monday in December. Agencies are invited to present at the March Annual Town Meeting

The documents requested are:

1. A letter/report/memorandum explaining the Agency's mission, successes and failures from the current year, and goals/expectations for the coming year. It must also contain the name, mailing address, email address (if any) and phone number of the Chair or President of the Board and the Chief Administrative Officer (Executive Director or Treasurer).
2. A copy of the Agency's budget including revenues and expenses for the current year, and the coming year (the proposed budget upon which the request is based).
3. An explanation of how the requested funds will be used to support the Bennington community with examples from the current year.
4. A list of all revenues received from municipalities in the current year and expectations for the coming year.
5. A copy of the IRS Form 990 for the fiscal year most recently ended, including any amended Form 990. The copy must be a signed copy. If the Agency does not file an IRS Form 990, it must include a complete financial report which shall include revenues, expenses and a balance sheet signed by the President or CEO and its Treasurer.



TOWN OF BENNINGTON

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board

From: Daniel Monks

Re: FY 2022 Annual TIF District Report

Date: February 1, 2023

All Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts must submit a report to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) each year. The FY 2022 Annual Report for Bennington's TIF District is attached. TIF District Rules require that the report be submitted to the Select Board at a regular or special Select Board meeting and that the report include changes to the TIF District's taxable values, the amount of the tax increment retained, and other relevant information.

As Bennington has not bonded for any improvements yet, no tax increment has been retained, and the TIF District taxable values have increased modestly by about \$129,000 - Grand List values as of April 2021 must be used in the FY 2022 TIF Report. An additional increase is expected next year as recent projects come on-line.

The report summarizes private development and public improvements completed to date. The report also includes a jobs inventory.

The Board need only to acknowledge receipt of the report at the February 13th Select Board meeting. No other Board action is required. I will be available at the Select Board meeting to respond to questions.



**Tax Increment Financing District
Vermont Economic Progress Council
Vermont Department of Taxes**

VEPC Staff Contact Information:
Angie Farrington, (802) 461-6421, angela.farrington@vermont.gov

Reports are due on or before January 15, 2023
Please submit reports to accd.vepctifannualreport@vermont.gov

I. District Information:

Municipality & District	Bennington TIF District	Reporting Period:	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
Name of Person Completing Report	Daniel Monks	Grand List Year:	2021
Title	Assistant Town Manager		
Email Address	dmonks@benningtonvt.org		
Telephone	802-447-9708		
Date Report Completed	01/09/2023		

NOTE: All information reported on this form by the municipality must be for the Reporting Period and Grand List Year identified above.

II. TIF District Data:

Base Data (Original Taxable Value)			
Municipal	\$	41,905,900	OTV Total Acres 70.35
Homestead- Education	\$	1,529,300	OTV Total Parcels 157
Non Residential- Education	\$	40,354,200	
Total Education	\$	41,883,500	

Taxable Values as of April 1			
Municipal	\$	42,034,900	
Homestead- Education	\$	1,168,200	
Non Residential- Education	\$	40,841,660	
Total Education	\$	42,009,860	

Increase (Decrease) in Taxable Values (auto-calculated)			
Municipal	\$	129,000	
Homestead- Education	\$	(361,100)	
Non Residential- Education	\$	487,460	
Total Education	\$	126,360	

TIF Increment Revenue Retained for Reporting Year			
Municipal	\$	-	
Homestead- Education	\$	-	
Non Residential- Education	\$	-	
Total Education	\$	-	
Total TIF Revenue	\$	-	

Other TIF Fund Income			
Source	Education	Municipal	Total
1 Interest Earnings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2		\$ -	\$ -
3		\$ -	\$ -
4		\$ -	\$ -
5		\$ -	\$ -
Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Parcel Information			
Current Acres	70.35		
Current Parcels	157		

Tax Rates Applied to the April 1 Grand List			
Municipal (General Fund)	\$	1.2705	
Homestead	\$	1.4828	
Non Residential	\$	1.7186	

List Special Municipal Tax Rates			
1		\$	-
2		\$	-
3		\$	-
4		\$	-
5		\$	-
6		\$	-
Total Special Municipal Tax		\$	-
Total Municipal (General Fund)		\$	1.2705
& Special Rates			

Changes to Individual Parcels		
	SPAN Number	Describe Change
1	051-015-67473	Inactive, combined with 051-015-67474
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Additional Information

III. Votes and Financing:

Public Vote Information

- ☒ No public votes or debt obligations occurred during this reporting period.
- ☐ Yes there were public votes and/or debt obligations during this reporting period.
- ☐ Vote and debt obligation documents were submitted to VEPC. (Enter date submitted)
- ☐ Vote and debt obligation documents are uploaded with this report.

Debt Instruments									
Infrastructure and Debt	Term in Years	Period (ie. 1/1/2016-12/31/2026)	Interest Rate	Principal	Interest	Total	Total Payment for Reporting Period	Remaining Principal Balance	Terminated
Example: Main Street Lights - General Obligation Bond	11	1/1/2016-12/31/2025	5.60%	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 340,909	\$ 2,950,000	
2	0		0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	0		0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	0		0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Annual Debt Service

Principal Paid	\$ -
Interest Paid	\$ -
Fees/Other Costs Paid	\$ -
Total Paid	\$ -

Refinancing: Was any portion of TIF District debt refinanced during this reporting period?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, please provide details.

Direct Payments: Enter the total amount of any TIF direct payments made during this period.

\$ -

Date Approved by Voters:

Additional Information

IV. Improvements and Funding:

Improvement Expenditures				
Name of Improvement	Of the Total Expenditure listed:		Total Improvement Expenditure for this report period	
	The amount paid with TIF Revenues	The amount paid with Non-TIF Revenues		
1 Putnam Block (Brownfield, Parking, Park/Green Space, Stormwater, Sidewalks, Lighting)				
No improvements this reporting period. The developers are working to secure funding, including New Market Tax Credits. Completion of a final funding package and project design is projected by the developers for Summer of 2023.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2 Depot Street (Streetscape, Water Main, Reconstruction of Depot ST Bridge)				
No improvements completed this reporting period. This project, Bennington Station Lot and Catamount are projected to be included in a second TIF bond vote - possibly in March of 2025. Some discussions have occurred with the new owner of 120 Depot Street regarding how public improvements may incentivize redevelopment of the property.		\$ -	\$ -	
3 Bennington Station Lot (Improvements to Public Parking Lot)				
No improvements completed this reporting period. This project, Depot Street and Catamount are projected to be included in a second TIF bond vote - possibly in March of 2025. Some discussions have occurred with the new owner of 120 Depot Street regarding how public improvements may incentivize redevelopment of the property.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4 Catamount (Public Parking, Green Space, Stormwater, Lighting)				
No improvements completed this reporting period. The current owner of the Catamount building has not proceeded with a project, but has recently stated he remains interested in redevelopment in the future.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
5 BennHi (Rehabilitation of ~30,000 SF to community center, gym, and workshop uses)				
<p>During this reporting period, the Bennington Select Board, after an extensive public process, identified redevelopment of BennHi as a priority project for the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds and directed Town staff to begin pre-development efforts to determine the feasibility of the project. Town staff worked to obtain site control, define the scope of the project, and begin pre-development work during the reporting period. In March of 2022, The Town obtained site control of the property through a long-term Lease with a lease to own provision. The project, as currently structured, is the redevelopment of the 100,000 sq. ft. BennHi building by a public/private partnership made up of the Town and a private developer, Hale Resources. 30,000 sq. ft. of municipal/community space (Community Space) and 70,000 sq. ft. of residential space (Residential Space) is planned.</p> <p>The Community space is planned in two phases. Phase 1 consists of approximately 14,000 sq. ft. occupied by the Bennington Senior Center and Meals on Wheels. Phase 2 involves approximately 16,000 sq. ft. of gymnasium space, exercise/activity rooms, locker rooms/changing rooms operated by the YMCA and office/workshop space occupied by other community partners.</p> <p>The Residential space will include a mix of market rate and affordable housing. 35+ units are planned to include up to 15 affordable units, and is discussed in more detail below in Section V - real property development. The development of the Residential Space is dependent on the Town developing the Community Space as much of the building is not suitable/feasible for residential units. Community Space pre-development work completed to date includes the following (most work was commenced in the reporting period, but some has been commenced/completed after the conclusion of the reporting period - only expenditures made in the reporting period are reflected in the "the amount paid with Non-TIF Revenues"):</p> <p>1)Retention by Town of Goldstone Architecture through a competitive bid process to provide architectural services and pre-development support services for Community Space development. With the assistance of Goldstone Architecture, a Construction Manager, Engelberth Construction, Inc. (ECI), was retained after a competitive bid process by the Town to develop a construction cost estimate and to identify materials/supply chain issues. Work completed to date by Goldstone architecture and subconsultants includes the following:</p> <p>a. Development of existing conditions plans; evaluation of roofs and existing building systems.</p> <p>b. Identification of specific space needs of users/tenants and development of detailed space program for the 30,000 square ft. of Community Space after extensive meetings with users/tenants - Senior Center Staff/Seniors, Meals on Wheels staff, YMCA staff, etc.</p> <p>c. Development of initial schematic design for Community Space, and multiple revisions of the schematic design after multiple conversations with users/tenants.</p> <p>d. Development of building elevations.</p> <p>e. Retention of Civil Engineer and development of site plan for property.</p> <p>f. Retention of Structural engineer and evaluation of building structural issues. No significant structural issues were identified.</p> <p>g. Retention of Mechanical engineer, identification of energy goals, development of proposed mechanical systems summary for Community Space (HVAC, electrical, plumbing, fire safety), and commencement of energy modeling services.</p> <p>h. Work with ECI to prepare initial cost estimate.</p> <p>2)Retention of Paul Miller, Environmental Consultant, by the Town to identify environmental concerns. Air testing for PCB's was conducted. No PCB's were detected.</p> <p>3)Retention of Catamount Environmental by the Town to identify and test for asbestos in the building. Some asbestos containing materials were detected and costs for remediation were quoted. Given the age of the building remediation will be relatively minor as asbestos remediation was commenced by a previous owner.</p>	\$ -	\$ 45,845	\$ 45,845	
Total		\$ -	\$ 45,845	\$ 45,845
			Check	\$ 45,845

Sources of Non-TIF Revenues	Total Amount Secured for Each Source	Total Amount Spent to Date	Total Amount Spent this Period	Closed
1 Merchant's Park - municipal expenditures (Non-TIF)	\$ 27,666	\$ 27,666		X
2 Merchant's Park - cash donations/private grants(including \$1,500 United Way grant)	\$ 51,525	\$ 51,525		X
3 Merchant's Park - Vermont DCF Promise Communities Grant Funds - granted to Catamount Connections	\$ 68,185	\$ 68,185		X
4 Merchant's Park - In-kind donations	\$ 8,712	\$ 8,712		X
5 West Main - Downtown Transportation Fund Grant	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000		X
6 West Main - Donation by Citizens for a Greater Bennington	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000		X
7 West Main - Better Bennington Corporation Fundraising Effort - cash donations	\$ 19,285	\$ 19,285		X
8 West Main - In-kind donations	\$ 6,068	\$ 6,068		X
9 Merchant's Park - FY 20 In-kind donations/Cash Donations/Non-TIF mun. exp.	\$ 23,673	\$ 23,673		X

10	Merchant's Park - FY 21 In-kind donations/Cash Donations/Non-TIF mun. exp.	\$ 65,393	\$ 65,393		X
11	American Rescue Plan Act funds - Benn High Pre-Development Work	\$ 45,845	\$ 45,845	\$ 45,845	
12		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
13		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
14		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total		\$ 391,352	\$ 391,352	\$ 45,845	
Non-TIF Revenues Reported under Improvement Expenditures				\$ 45,845	

Grant Applications				
Grant Type & Project Name	Granting Entity	Application Date	Application Amount	Application Status
American Rescue Plan Act funds (portion to be expended on Benn High project)	U.S. Treasury	N/A	\$3.9 Million	Grant received - up to \$2 million may be dedicated to Benn

Related Costs					
	List and describe the related cost(s)	Vendor	The amount paid with Education Revenue	The amount paid with Municipal Revenue	Total Cost for this report period
1	TIF Substantial Change Consulting Services	White & Burke	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,941
2	Payment to VEPC for Review of TIF Finance Plan - Economic & Policy	VEPC - Economic & Policy Resources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,287
3	Benn High Pre-Development Work - Architectural Services	Goldstone Architecture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,351
4	Benn High Pre-Development Work - Environmental Services	Paul D. G. Miller Consulting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,813
5			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,392
				Check	\$ -

*Bennington had not incurred debt during FY22, so Bennington is unable to document amounts paid through Education or Municipal.

V. Performance Indicators:

Standard

Real Property Development		
1	Putnam Phase 2	
	No new construction occurred during the reporting period. However, pre-development efforts continue. The next steps of the approved Corrective Action Plan for the site are anticipated to be completed in Spring/Summer of 2023. The developer has largely completed feasibility and preliminary planning work and have begun identifying and securing funding elements for the project.	
2	Catamount	
	No construction or renovation occurred during the reporting period. The current owner of the property has expressed interest in re-developing the property with residential units, but has not submitted any permit applications.	
3	Old Drysdale Bldg	
	No construction or renovation occurred during the reporting period.	
	Benn High	

4	<p>Although no significant private sector work was completed in the reporting period significant efforts are currently underway. After the current reporting period ended, the Town of Bennington and Hale Resources, Inc. entered in to a Memorandum of Understanding to form a public/private partnership to re-develop Benn High. Hale Resources has committed to perform pre-development work and seek funding for the construction of 35+ units (including up to 15 affordable units) of housing in 70,000 sq. ft. (Residential Space) of the 100,000 sq. ft. Benn High building. Hale Resources has completed/commenced the following pre-development work to date.</p> <p>1) Commencement of partnership with Town of Bennington - Execution of Memorandum of Understanding with Hale Resources to serve as developer of the Residential Space.</p> <p>2) Ongoing conversations (Hale Resources and Town staff) with possible public funding sources, including the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.</p> <p>3) Ongoing conversation with private investors.</p> <p>4) Retention of Goldstone Architecture to provide architectural services and pre-development support services for Residential Space development. Work completed to date by Goldstone architecture and subconsultants includes the following:</p> <p>a. Development of existing conditions plans.</p> <p>b. Development of initial schematic design for Residential Space – 40+ units to include up to 17 affordable housing units.</p> <p>5) Retention of Historic Preservation Tax Credit consultant.</p> <p>6) Retention of Paul Miller, Environmental Consultant, to identify environmental concerns.</p> <p>7) Commencement of cost estimating.</p> <p>8) Discussions with Doug Kennedy to conduct a housing/market feasibility study.</p> <p>9) Retention of M&S Development to serve as a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit consultant.</p> <p>10) Investigation of rebates and incentives available from Green Mountain Power and Efficiency Vermont for energy efficient HVAC systems.</p>	
5	120 Depot St	
	No construction or renovation occurred during the reporting period. However, the property recently was sold and the new owner is open to re-development of the site. Some discussions with the new owner have already occurred.	
		Total \$ -

Employment Opportunities

No projects in the revised TIF District plan were completed and ready to occupy during the reporting period.

Additional Information

During the next reporting period (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023), the Town of Bennington intends to negotiate and execute development agreements with private developers and to submit phased filings to VEPC regarding the Benn High and Putnam projects.

Mandated

Jobs at June 30, 2022								
NAICS Code		Increase or (Decrease)	Previous Location (if known)		NAICS Code		Increase or (Decrease)	Previous Location (if known)
1	11	0			11	53	0	
2	21	0			12	54	0	
3	22	0			13	55	0	
4	23	0			14	56	0	
5	31-33	0			15	61	0	
6	42	0			16	62	(3)	
7	44-45	(3)			17	71	2	
8	48-49	0			18	72	0	
9	51	2			19	81	0	
10	52	0			20	92	0	
					Total Jobs Increase (Decrease)			(2)

Identify Source/Method for Obtaining Jobs Information

The jobs data is based on an annual report of business and job growth performed by the Better Bennington Corporation (BBC), Bennington's non-profit downtown organization. The BBC tracks the number of new businesses that have opened in the downtown, businesses that have moved into or out of the downtown, relocations, expansions, and the impact on employment and jobs.

Vermont Firms					
Name of Vermont Firm		Total amount of work performed			
1	White & Burke	\$ 17,941			
2	Goldstone Architecture	\$ 2,351			
3	Economic & Policy Resources	\$ 6,287			
4					
5					
6		\$ -			
7		\$ -			
8		\$ -			
9		\$ -			
10		\$ -			
11		\$ -			
12		\$ -			
13		\$ -			
14		\$ -			
15		\$ -			
16		\$ -			
17		\$ -			
18		\$ -			
19		\$ -			
20		\$ -			
Total Amount of Work Performed		\$ 26,579			

Additional Information

Additional costs for pre-development work for Benn High will be reported in the next reporting period.

TIF District Specific

Affordable Housing

No projects in the revised TIF District plan were completed and ready to occupy during the reporting period. However, as noted in other sections of the report, the Town has been working with Hale Resources to develop affordable housing units in the Benn High project. Specifically, approximately 20 affordable units (15 permanently affordable units) of housing are proposed for the Benn High project. As discussed in the Benn High update above (and below) Hale Resources has applied for a grant from VHCBC to help fund the affordable housing units and is seeking low income housing tax credits with the help of a consultant. Hale Resources has also submitted a Community Recovery and Revitalization Program grant application for the affordable housing component of the project. Other funding sources are also being pursued for the Benn High project, including: Historic Preservation Tax Credits and Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credits that will proportionally help to fund the affordable housing units. Work on Putnam Phase 2 also continues as the developer seeks to secure funding. The Putnam Phase 2 project will include approximately 10 affordable housing units.

Housing Changes

	Affordable Housing	Market Rate Housing	Total
New	0	2	2
Eliminated	0	0	0
Net Total	0	2	2

Brownfields

The Following summary of Brownfields work completed during the reporting period for Putnam Phase 2 was provided by the developer: August, Sept and October 2021: finalized the Community Relations Plan, published notice of same and held second public hearing on cleanup 10/18/2021.

-Discussed implementation plan with the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) and began draft of Request for Proposals for implementation work.

-December 2021: QEP performed testing to determine the characteristics of the Trichloroethylene on site. Implementation work postponed due to labor shortage and winter conditions.

-June 2022: Annual monitoring well sampling performed.

-Anticipated – Spring 2023 – Clean-up work to commence.

Impact of COVID-19 on Public and Private Improvement Projects

COVID-19 had a major impact on the planned private improvement projects over the past couple of years. As noted in last year's report, virtually all of planned private improvements have been delayed and/or experienced significant cost increases. These delays required Bennington to seek a substantial change to its TIF District.

Current TIF District Activity: Please include details regarding FY23 activities (This can include updates regarding specific projects, potential substantial change requests, etc.)

The Town of Bennington has created and is updating regularly a webpage regarding the status of the Benn High project. The link to the webpage is: <https://benningtonvt.org/benn-hi-redevelopment/> A brief summary of the ongoing work in FY2023 follows. Work that continues includes: completing building and site design work (architectural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, site, etc.), negotiating and finalizing a development agreement articulating the terms of the public/private partnership between Hale Resources and the Town (including terms relevant to TIF), and seeking and securing funding for the project. Design Work: The Town and Hale Resources continue to work with their architects and engineers to finalize cost estimates, complete building layout designs, develop building systems design, including determining if a geothermal heating/cooling system is feasible. Development Agreement: The Town has retained the services of a development consultant (White & Burke) and the services of an attorney (MSK) with experience in public/private partnerships, and is working collaboratively with Hale Resources and their attorney and consultants to negotiate a development agreement that articulates the roles and responsibilities of each party, including details of the ownership structure of the project. The development agreement will also address TIF issues. A draft term sheet has already been developed. The biggest challenge is creating an ownership structure that can accommodate all of the requirements of the numerous funding sources that will be required for the Benn High project. Funding: The Town recently formally committed \$2 million of local ARPA funds to the community space portion of the Benn High project and submitted a Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP) grant application for the Meals on Wheels portion of the project. Other funding sources being pursued by the Town include: CDBG, DTF Grant, and TIF. Hale Resources recently submitted a VHCB grant application and a CRRP grant application for the affordable housing portion of the project. Other funding sources being actively pursued by Hale Resources include: Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Historic Preservation Tax Credits, Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credits, VHIP, CDBG, New Market Tax Credits, debt/private investment, and energy efficiency incentives/rebates from GMP and EVT. Timeline: The Town and Hale Resources intend to finalize the Development Agreement in Spring of 2023. The Town intends to submit a phased filing to VEPC in late summer of 2023. Depending on the status of the Putnam project, the phased filing may be for Benn High only or for Benn High and Putnam Phase 2. If the Benn High project proceeds on schedule, a March of 2024 bond vote is planned. Hale Resources and the Town have scheduled commencement of construction on Phase 1 of the community space project for September of 2023. Please note that the TIF bond would be for Phase 2 of the community space project.

MANAGER'S REPORT
February 13, 2023

ACTION

BBC Street closings – Mayfest and Harvest Fest The BBC is requesting permission to close Main Street from the Four Corners east to Valentine Street, School Street from Main to Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street from North to School Street and Silver Street from Main to Union Street from 6 am until 6 pm on May 27 for Mayfest and October 14 for Harvest Fest. We are working on closures for Hemmings Cruise-ins and for the Town Wide Tag Sale. They will be presented at a later date.

Action requested Motion to close the streets as requested for the dates and times noted above.

Bond Loan Agreement Burgess Road Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Project The attached Loan Agreement package must be signed by the Chair and by Board and the Treasurer before submitting for reimbursement for engineering expenses of \$55,380.00.

Action requested Motion to approve the Resolution and sign the Loan Agreement.

INFORMATIONAL

Armory/Bowen Road trade In order to keep this project and transfer on track, we have mutually agreed to accept the purchase price of \$230,000 for the lands on Bowen Road on or about March 15, 2023. This money will be reserved and held to be returned to the National Guard when all relevant paperwork is completed for the Armory to be transferred to the Town.

Contract 3 Lead Service Line Replacement Project Bids have been opened, reviewed by MSK and we are preparing to issue the Notice of Intent to Award to Casella Constructions at a bid price of \$1,251,820.50.

Food Truck Event This event is also coming forward for street closures. It should be in the next Manager's report. It is scheduled for August 12, the Battle Day weekend. I am coordinating with BPD and BFD at this time. No action needed at this time.

Benmont Ave/ County Street Sewer Line Replacement This project is essentially finished until the Spring. Some lead service lines may need to be replaced in the Spring. The Town hopes to replace the County Street sidewalks in the project area and pave where needed.

Rail Cars The Town has requested and is awaiting the waybill. We will get together with counsel when we have that.

FOLLOW UP

The Community Development and Permitting/Planning Reports are attached.

NOTICE OF CONVEYANCE OF INTEREST IN REAL ESTATE

PURSUANT TO 24 V.S.A. § 1061

The Town of Bennington intends to convey approximately 22.9 acres located on Bowen Road and including a municipal right of way, known as the Jard Property, to the State of Vermont by and through its Board of Armory Commissioners. The sales price for the property will be Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$230,000.00). The conveyance is contemplated to take place on or before March 15, 2023.

The Jard Property is located at Bowen Road in Bennington, Vermont. The Parcel ID is 45-01-73-01, and the property is composed of one parcel currently held in ownership by the Town of Bennington.

As directed by Vermont law, this notice will be posted in three public places within the Town of Bennington, including at the Bennington Town Office, and will be published in one newspaper of general circulation, at least thirty days prior to the date of conveyance. If a petition signed by five percent of the legal voters of the Town objecting to the conveyance of the property is presented to the Town Clerk within thirty days of the date of the posting or the date of the publication, whichever is later, the Select Board will present the question of whether the Town shall convey the property as proposed to a special or annual Town meeting.

More information about the proposed sale and about the location of the Bowen Road property may be inspected in the Bennington Town Office. Individuals with questions should contact Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator, at (802) 442-1037 or dmonks@benningtonvt.org.

January 23, 2023

Mr. Stuart Hurd
Town Manager
Town of Bennington
205 South Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Re: Town of Bennington Service Line Replacement - Contract #3
DWSRF RF3-401-3.0
Bid Analysis and Recommendation to Award Bid to Casella Construction, Inc.

Dear Mr. Hurd,

We have reviewed the bids received by The Town of Bennington on December 13, 2022, for the above referenced project and have concluded that Casella Construction, Inc. is the lowest responsive bidder, meeting the criteria of responsibility. The attached Bid Analysis Package details how they have fulfilled all bidding requirements as outlined by Vermont DEC including the submission of the required bid form with the Schedule of Prices, the Bid Bond, documentation of DBE procurement procedures, and acknowledgment of the single addendum issued on December 7, 2022.

The bid results are in line with the current construction bidding environment, and there are no ineligible costs associated with this project. Further, there are no concerns regarding Casella Construction, Inc. based on their bid or past performance.

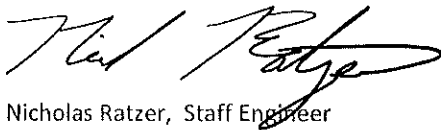
The table below summarizes the bid price comparison below:

Identity	Base Bid Price	Alternate Bid Price	Total Bid Contract Price
Engineer's Estimate	\$1,286,193.60	\$258,150.00	\$1,544,343.60
Casella Construction Inc.	\$1,251,820.50	\$390,020.00	\$1,641,840.50
Zaluzny Excavating Co.	\$1,881,780.00	\$366,400.00	\$2,248,180.00

Based on the Bid Analysis we recommend construction contract #3 of the Service Line Replacement Project, for the amount of \$1,251,820.50, be awarded to:

Casella Construction, Inc.
25 Industrial Lane
Mendon, VT 05701

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicholas Ratzer, Staff Engineer
MSK Engineers
nratzer@mskeng.com

Recreation:

YMCA program planning:

The Bennington Community Center (Rec Center) pool schedule and winter programs for adults and youth are updated regularly on the Facebook page and town's website. New exercise equipment is available in the weight room, and a strength and conditioning room has opened up in the basement. YMCA after-school programs and youth and adult fitness programming are happening at the Bennington Sports Center, with many new classes for seniors that have been very popular. Teen use of the Community Center continues to grow and Kayla and Taylor are meeting with teens to plan a space and more programming for them. The YMCA received additional grant funding from the state for summer camp and after school programs, as well as a grant from Vermont After School to create a teen program.

Walloomsac Riverwalk Improvement Project:

The Town received a \$200,000 Downtown Transportation Fund grant for improvements along the Riverwalk that will begin this spring. We are planning the construction schedule this winter and the updates to the riverwalk will include a connection to the new Rail Trail.

Willow Park play structure upgrade:

I am on the working group with Paul Dansereau, Mark Sawyer, and Jonah Spivak. We reviewed the proposals that responded to the RFP and selected Play by Design to lead the project. Play By Design removed the old play structures and installed the new play structures and pathways. Some modifications are needed before the park can reopen in the spring.

Appalachian Trail Community:

I'm meeting with the AT Community in February to start planning the next Trailfest for July. The Bennington AT Community is a volunteer run group committed to raising awareness of the Appalachian Trail in Southwestern Vermont. [Bennington, Vt. | Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#)

Vermont Begins Here:

Eight Oh Two Marketing is continuing the digital marketing campaign to promote Bennington. The VBH blog post for February promoted a winter weekend in Bennington and Manchester, as well as the Vermont Arts Exchange Basement Music Series.

Bennington Community Market:

I have been working closely with the board of the Bennington Community Market, located at 239 Main Street. The market received a town loan of \$200,000 to construct a commercial kitchen at the market space and purchase equipment for the market. They have now raised over \$500,000, including the town loan. They have a website- <https://www.benningtonmarket.com> and have launched a social media campaign and fundraising campaign. The market also received their 501c3 status from the IRS as a non-profit organization. Construction is complete on the space and the market's general manager is hiring staff and preparing the market for opening in early March.

Congressman Peter Welch nominated the Bennington Community Market along with other local partners for a federal earmark and he visited the market on his recent trip to Bennington. We received

word that the Bennington Fair Food Initiative, including the market, Southwest Tech, Bennington College, and the Vermont Veteran's Home, was fully funded with a 2.2 million earmark in the government spending bill that passed at the end of 2022. The funds will be administered through Housing and Urban Development and we should receive a grant agreement in the next few months.

Community Development Block Grants:

The Town received a Vermont Community Development grant of \$500,000 to support the Shire Housing Bennington Family Housing project at 300 Pleasant Street, and this project is nearing completion. Shires Housing has received VCDP funding through the Town for two recovery housing projects on North Street and Gage Street. I submit paperwork required for each grant agreement and subgrant agreement along with progress reports on the projects. At the end of the year, I also submit financial reports to the state of Vermont on past HUD loans that have been granted to the Town or sub-grantees.

Benn Hi Redevelopment:

I am on the team with other town staff Dan Monks and Paul Dansereau and we are meeting weekly to plan the redevelopment of Benn Hi. The Town hired Goldstone Architecture to create conceptual plans and Engelberth Construction to do a cost estimate on the project. I organized meetings with Jeff Goldstone and our partners at the Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, and the Berkshire Family YMCA for their input on program design. The Town signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hale Resources, a private local housing developer, to work on a plan for creating housing at Benn Hi. I am researching grants to help support the redevelopment of the building and identifying partners for the community spaces. I worked with the YMCA and Meals on Wheels to submit grant applications for the Community Recovery & Revitalization program. If awarded, these funds would help to pay for improvements to the Benn Hi spaces that Meals on Wheels and the YMCA will be using.

In January I met with Will Stevens of Bernie Sanders office and gave him a tour of the Benn Hi space. This week I will be meeting with Sarah Waring, state director of the USDA, and we will be discussing USDA resources for Benn Hi, the Bennington Fair Food Initiative, and grants and loans available for small business development.

Health Impact Assessment of the Benn Hi Redevelopment

Zak Hale and I met with Rory Price and Megan Herrington from the Vermont Department of Health because they would like to lead a Health Impact Assessment of the Benn Hi redevelopment. The assessment will likely last from January through April and will include the collection and analysis of secondary data, as well as community engagement efforts to gather qualitative information about the health needs of the community and the potential impact of the redevelopment. Rory will present findings from the assessment and recommendations in May/June. Rory and I are organizing focus groups with teen users of the Bennington Community Center and with senior participants at the Senior Center and Meals on Wheels. Rory and Zak will organize a focus group with Hale Resources tenants who live on Pleasant Street.

Community Development Report: February 7, 2023

Shannon Barsotti

Armory Reuse Study:

I am on the committee that the BCRC is convening to explore the municipal and community reuse of the Armory building. The study is funded by a Municipal Planning Grant.

Annual Report Presentation:

Jonah and I are working together on a presentation for Town Meeting Day with department highlights from the Town's annual report.

Vermont Council on Rural Development

VCRD asked me to join their board as a local government representative and I will be attending their next board meeting in Montpelier on March 22.

Community Outreach:

In the past month, I have met with the Benn Hi Redevelopment team, Berkshire Family YMCA management team, Hale Resources, Historic Preservation Commission, Bennington Community Market, Bennington College's CAPA program, Vermont Health Department Bennington district office, Goldstone Architecture, Better Bennington Corporation, SVSU, and the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

Summary of Building Permits Issued January 2023

Construction Type	Month to date	Month to Date Volume	Year to date	Year to Date Volume
	Permit Totals		Permit Totals	
Single Family Dwelling	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Duplex	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Mobile Homes	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Apartments	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Apartment Renovations	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Condominiums	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Residential Renovations	3	\$74,060.00	3	\$74,060.00
Residential Additions	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Commercial Construction	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Commercial Renovations	5	\$50,300.00	5	\$50,300.00
Industrial Construction	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Industrial Renovations	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Garages	1	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00
Sheds	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Decks	1	\$10,000.00	1	\$10,000.00
Institutions	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Signs	1	\$1,108.00	1	\$1,108.00
Use & Zoning	2	\$28,000.00	2	\$28,000.00
Subdivision	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Home Occupation	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Propane Tank/Storage Tank	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Boilers/Furnaces/RTU's, A/C	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tents	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Handicap Access/Ramps	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Concreate Slabs	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Cell Towers/Communications	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Solar Installations	1	\$69,800.00	1	\$69,800.00
Camps	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Withdrawn	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Demolition	2	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Fire Supression	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Sprinkler System	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Exhaust Hood	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Fire Alarm	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Total	16	\$253,268.00	16	\$253,268.00

**12-Years At a Glance
Permit Totals Only**

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	12	11	5	8	15	10	5	6	5	11	15	16
February	7	6	7	15	8	5	7	5	8	9	10	
March	31	13	12	10	14	19	11	13	9	19	22	
April	31	18	22	27	14	15	15	23	11	29	33	
May	27	38	20	23	19	27	23	24	19	23	29	
June	32	20	19	21	19	10	14	12	25	16	21	
July	24	33	29	47	16	29	30	28	12	16	20	
August	30	21	29	20	18	25	25	16	27	16	28	
September	21	32	27	22	21	21	23	26	9	14	23	
October	38	30	21	28	9	19	20	20	17	29	17	
November	10	16	11	12	8	16	11	8	15	19	19	
December	18	18	7	10	5	8	11	11	5	10	12	
Total	281	256	209	243	166	204	195	192	162	211	249	

Permit types included: Building

Approval status included: Granted

Occupancy status included: Any status

Decision dates included: Between 01/01/2023 and 01/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
50572500	22-152	VERMONT REALTY LLC Vermont Realty LLC 239 MAIN ST Renovate Existing Retail Space For Gym Use (4,200	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/27/2023	840.00 15,000.00
50538900	23-001	PACKARD GEORGE A JR Taylor Hayes 3 DIVISION PL Convert Two-Family Dwelling To A Single-Family	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/09/2023	60.00
38501504	23-002	MEMORY LANE LLC Memory Lane LLC 357 SHIELDS DR Expand Size Of Break Room & Add Appliances	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/10/2023	50.00 10,000.00
25503900	23-003	PATAC DOUGLAS Douglas Patac 127 WILLOW RD Construct A Garage (1,296 Sq-Ft)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/13/2023	169.60 20,000.00
37500700	23-004	ROARING BRANCH DEV COMPANY LLC Grassroots Solar 63 SHIELDS DR Install Rooftop Solar	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/19/2023	50.00 69,800.00
51504900	23-006	GUIRACOA JORGE R Jorge Guiracocha 1016 COUNTY ST Construct A 11'x15' Deck	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/20/2023	25.00 10,000.00
44506900	23-007	TOWN OF BENNINGTON Town Of Bennington 78 BOWEN RD Renovations - Install New Vehicle Lift, Frame Exterior	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/25/2023	0.00 15,000.00
62503503	23-008	LAMPRON DENNIS & CHARLOTTE A Dennis & Charlotte Lampron 714 MIDDLE POWNAL RD Renovate Existing Garage (1,440 Sq-Ft) Into	Building C.O. Pending Living Space	Granted 01/23/2023	144.00 60,000.00
50511000	23-009	SHIPPEE JAMES James Shippee 229 DEPOT ST Interior Renovations & Renovate Porch	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 01/25/2023	50.00 14,000.00

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
44507400	23-011	MOUNT ANTHONY UNION HS	Building	Granted	01/27/2023 50.00
		Mount Anthony Union HS	C.O. Pending		4,300.00
		321 PARK ST			
50565900	23-012	Install A 10'x6' Awning Over Daycare Entrance			
		GREASON E & M	Building	Granted	01/30/2023 50.00
		Greason E & M	C.O. Pending		6,000.00
		126 ELM ST			
		3rd Floor Bathroom Interior Renovations			

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Local/Custom
Approval status included: Granted
Occupancy status included: Any status
Decision dates included: Between 01/01/2023 and 01/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
45016800	2023	GARDEN HOMES VERMONT LP Garden Homes Vermont LP 9 MT VIEW RD Removal of Garage - Poor Condition	Local/Custom C.O. Not required	Granted 01/30/2023	25.00
57515200	2023	TARQUINO JAEL P & ESTHER Leonardo Tarquino 2 BELVEDERE ST Demo/Removal of Single-Family Dwelling	Local/Custom C.O. Not required	Granted 01/27/2023	25.00

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Sign
Approval status included: Granted
Occupancy status included: Any status
Decision dates included: Between 01/01/2023 and 01/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
50515001	S22-034	GREATER BENNINGTON INTERFAITH Samantha Arrowsmith 121 DEPOT ST Replacing 2 Existing Signs - (1) Surface Mounted and	Sign C.O. Not required (1) Free Standing - GBCS	Granted 01/13/2023	90.68 1,108.00

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Zoning
Approval status included: Granted
Occupancy status included: Any status
Decision dates included: Between 01/01/2023 and 01/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
55500100	23-005	SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT HEALTH	Zoning	Granted	01/17/2023 55.00
		Brian Lent	C.O. Not required		8,000.00
		100 HOSPITAL DR Install A 20x14 Temporary Tent Adjacent To Cafeteria			
66500700	23-010	DAVIDSON TYLER D	Zoning	Granted	01/23/2023 50.00
		Tyler Davidson	C.O. Not required		20,000.00
		0 SUNSET DR Tier 1 Outdoor Cannabis Cultivation			