

Town of Bethlehem New Hampshire



2023 Annual Report

Cover photo courtesy of Chris Jensen

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TOWN OFFICERS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April Hibberd	(2024)
Veronica Morris, Chair	(2025)
Bruce Caplain	(2025)
Michael Bruno	(2026)
Nancy Strand	(2026)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mary Moritz

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Nicole McGrath

TOWN CLERK

Mary Jackson (2025)

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Laurie Thompson

TAX COLLECTOR

Mary Jackson (2025)

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Laurie Thompson

ROAD AGENT

Brett Jackson (2026)

MODERATOR

Mary Lou Krambeer (2024)

TREASURER

Frank Claffey

DEPUTY TREASURER

Elizabeth Staples

POLICE CHIEF

Alan DeMoranville

OVERSEER OF WELFARE

Dawn Ferringo

FIRE CHIEF/FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Jack Anderson

RECREATION DIRECTOR

Abbie Sawyer

DEPUTY CHIEF

Brian Charland

ASSISTANT CHIEF

Laura Lucas

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

Pamela Hess Newman	(2024)
Peter Szeidler	(2025)
Gerald Blanchard	(2024)

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

John Miller	(2025)
Julie Seely	(2026)
Linda Goldstein	(2028)

LIBRARIAN

Laura Clerkin

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Doug Harman	(2026)	Sara Plumley	(2024)
Stephen Dignazio	(2026)	Leonard Grubbs	(2026)
Tana LeClair	(2024)	Nora Clark	(2024)
Michael Culver	(2025)	Lisa Ffrench	(2025)
Barbara Szeidler	(2025)		

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Clare Brown (2026)
Richard Robie Jr. (2024)
Christopher Brooks (2024)
Christina Clemmo (2024)
Stephen Allen (2025)
Dan Murphy, Alternate

REVOLVING LOAN COMMITTEE

Joyce Presby
Shane MacElhiney
Mary Jackson

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Betsey Phillips	(2026)	Vivian Winterhoff	(2025)
Cheryl Jensen	(2024)	Margaret Gale	(2026)
Ivan Ash	(2025)	Rachelle Lyons	(2025)
Vacant			
Christopher Jensen, Alternate			

BRETZFELDER PARK COMMITTEE

Sarah Turtle, Chair	Sue Greenlaw
Shanna Maziarz, Vice Chair	Margaret Gale Conservation Commission rep.
Nancy Czarny, Secretary	Veronica Morris, Select Board rep.
Elizabeth Carter	Nigel Manley, SPNHF rep.
Bryan Smith	Alicia Loveless, Planning board rep.

PLANNING / ZONING BOARD ASSISTANT

Dawn Ferringo

PLANNING BOARD

Linda Moore, Vice Chair	(2026)
Alecia Loveless	(2024)
Martie Cook	(2025)
Sean Gawlik	(2026)
Kevin Roy	(2025)
Anthony Rodrigues, Chair	(2024)
Gerald Blanchard, Alternate	

ZONING BOARD

Andrea Bryant, Chair	(2024)
Ruth Heintz, Vice Chair	(2024)
Frank Pinter	(2024)
David Van Houten	(2026)
Chris McGrath	(2025)
Shane MacElhiney, Alternate	

In Memoriam 2023

Harry Bingham Clark



Bing was born in Littleton, NH, on January, 19, 1952, to the late Kenneth and Frances (Conway) Clark. He married the love of his life, Candy, on December 31, 1973. He remained a lifelong resident of Bethlehem, NH, where he pursued a career of selfless service in support of a community he loved.

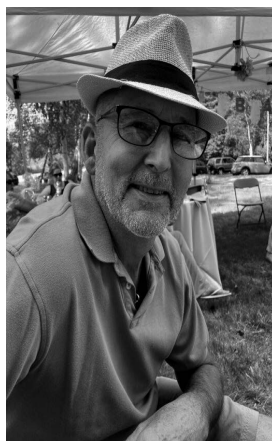
Bing served more than 20 years in the NH State Police (Troop F) and almost 10 years on the Bethlehem Police Department. He owned three local businesses—Chucky's Country Store, Nautilus Health & Fitness Center, and Pen-nock Sales and Service—and worked for the Friendship House, helping countless people overcome lifelong addictions. His calling in life was simple: to help others in need. That's why he also worked with many organizations including the Bethlehem Fire & Rescue Department and the Ski Patrol for Mittersill. In his youth, he was recognized for helping the injured in The Cog Railway tragedy of 1967 and received the Medal of Courage Award from the Governor in 1969 for his heroism with rescuing a man from drowning at Upper Falls.

With his passing, Bing leaves a legacy of kindness, respect, honor and service that will forever remain in our hearts and within our community. His greatest joy in life was being surrounded by his family. He was the best husband, father, "Grandpa", brother and uncle. He embodied the definition of what it means to be a good man, neighbor and friend.

Donnie was born in Littleton, NH in 1957, to Charles A Lavoie and Donna (Wysocki) Lavoie and was a lifelong resident of Bethlehem, NH, with a few short stays in Colorado, Alaska, and Maine. He loved his hometown and took his civic duty very seriously. He held positions in Bethlehem's town government for most of his life, beginning in 1987 and serving until his death. In addition, he served on many non-profit boards in the community, including Littleton Regional Hospital, North Country Community Radio, Mount Eustis, and most recently, he co-founded Bethlehem Reimagined, a community and economic development organization.

Don will be remembered as a thoughtful man, highly intelligent, who loved his family and knew how to have fun. He enjoyed the outdoors in countless ways, including skiing, biking, whitewater rafting, scuba diving, hiking, canoeing, camping, and kayaking. He loved sharing all these activities with his family - rafting with Grace on the Salmon River, paddling with Meglyn at their cottage on Pensioner Pond, building a tree-house and zipline on Swazey Lane for Declan, and jamming with all of them at Jerry Jam. He loved his chainsaw, chocolate, music, photography, gin, ice cream, cigars, irish whiskey, refunds, white birds, and most of all, enjoying these things with his friends and family.

Donald "Donnie" Lavoie



Joyce Tucker



Joyce lost her valiant fight with cancer on Aug. 9, 2023. She was born on Memorial Day, May 30, 1955, to Betty H. McCulloch and Norman C. McCulloch.

She is survived by her husband Daniel C. Tucker, her son Benjamin Tucker and daughter in law Breanna Tucker, daughter Lindsay Tucker, sister Brenda Schmucker and brother in law Kurt Schmucker, niece Megan Sottak and her husband Tim Sottak along with their children Jasper, Rowan, Daya, nephew Kyle Schmucker and his wife Sara along with their son Kristopher, her Uncle Kenneth McCulloch and his wife Donna McCulloch, cousin Kenneth Hicks and his wife Debbie Hicks, cousin Allison Deegan and her husband Patrick Deegan, cousin Alan McCulloch and his wife Lori McCulloch, sister in law Anna Miner, brother in law George Tucker III, and many more relatives.

Joyce served as a den mother for several years for the Bethlehem Cub Scouts and was active in the Bethlehem Ski Club. She was a trustee on the Bethlehem Public Library Building Committees for several years. Her efforts on the committee helped build a new town library and she continued to be an active member of the Bethlehem Public Library.

In her free time, Joyce enjoyed pickleball, golf, crocheting, quilting, and knitting. She learned how to play various instruments including the guitar, piano, ukelele, and dulcimers. She was always willing to play her instruments for anyone. When she wasn't playing her instruments, she was learning many different foreign languages to include French, Spanish, Italian, and German.

Marc Goudreau



Marc R. Goudreau, born January 14, 1958 passed away after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He passed at the age of 65 peacefully at his home in Bethlehem, NH October 11, 2023. He was the son of French-Canadian born parents Adrien and Adrienne Goudreau. Marc is survived by his two children Tanya Beceiro and Jason Marc Goudreau. He was a loving and fun grandfather to three boys, Alexis Jose Beceiro, Aiden Marc Beceiro and Raven Strong Goudreau.

Marc was born and raised in North Terrytown and later moved to Highland, New York where he became a general contractor. He lived and worked there before retiring and moving to Bethlehem in 2015. He did not give up his love for woodwork when he retired. He cleared the land he purchased and milled the wood to build his home, barn and shop. He continued to find joy in working as a master carpenter and highly experienced woodworker. He also enjoyed clearing trees and making lumber. He planted crops, worked his saw mill, took care of his many animals such as goats, cows, chickens and a cat and dog. Marc truly enjoyed his life in Bethlehem with his loyal dog Renny always by his side working from sun up to sun down. He was always there to lend a hand to his friends, family and kind neighbors. In his spare time Marc served as a volunteer firefighter for the Bethlehem Fire Department which he joined in 2015. Marc touched many lives with his willingness to help and lend a hand to anyone who would ask. He was truly loved and will be remembered in the hearts of many.

Officer Robert J Martin

End of watch 09/15/2023



The Bethlehem Police Department regrets to announce the passing of Officer Robert Martin.. Officer Marth passed Friday the 15th of September, 2023 in the early morning hours from medical complications, with his family at his side. Officer Martin had been in Law Enforcement for over 18 years, serving the communities of Haverhill, Grafton County, Littleton and was currently with the Bethlehem Police Department since 2021. Law enforcement in NH was a second career for Rob and his family. Officer Martin had previously retired from 20 years of service with the Rikers Island Correctional facility in New York and was a proud member of the Westbury, NY Fire Department Hose #2. Officer Martin is survived by his wife and daughters. Rob had a larger-than-life spirit and would do anything for those in need. He will be greatly missed and we at the Bethlehem PD wish our deepest condolences to his friends and family. Rest easy brother, we got it from here!

**TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
NEW HAMPSHIRE
2023 TOWN MEETING WARRANT
DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

The inhabitants of the Town of Bethlehem in the County of Grafton in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the **first session** (deliberative) of the annual meeting of the Town of Bethlehem on **Monday February 6th, 2023, at 6:00 pm.** Warrant articles may be amended at this session per RSA 40:13, IV a, with the exception of Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law and cannot be amended per RSA 40:23 a. Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion as amended. (Please note that this meeting may be continued to Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at the discretion of the Town Moderator).

You are further notified that the **second session** of the annual meeting of the Town of Bethlehem will be held at the Bethlehem Town Building Meeting Room on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 8:00 am** for the choice of Town Officers elected by official ballot, and to vote on all warrant articles from the first session on official ballot per RSA 40:13, VII. The polls for the election of town officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will open on said date at 8:00 am in the forenoon and will not close until 7:00 pm in the evening.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Moderator Krambeer beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator then introduced Town officials and employees. Krambeer then explained the order in which the warrant articles will be discussed.

Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (Ballot Vote)(The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0).

Selectman	3 Year Term		vote for not more than 2
Nancy Strand		261	
Michael Bruno		294	
Road Agent	3 Year Term		vote for not more than 1
Brett Jackson		322	
Planning Board	3 Year Term		vote for not more than 2
Linda Moore		281	
Sean Gawlik		238	
Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 Year Term		vote for not more than 1
David Van Houten		282	
Trustee of the Trust Fund	3 Year Term		vote for not more than 1
Write In: John Miller		4	

Cemetery Trustee	2 Year Term	vote for not more than 1
Stephen Allen	289	
Cemetery Trustee	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 1
Write In: Clare Brown	13	
Library Trustee	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 3
Stephen Dignazio	274	
Leonard Grubbs	260	
Douglas C. Harman	267	

Article 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 1 would make revisions throughout the Zoning Ordinance to clarify, update, and correct terminology; improve consistency; make editorial corrections; update agency references; remove redundant, unused and unneeded language; improve organization of the document; conform with state laws and court decisions such as regarding accessory dwelling units, signs, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment; and incorporate the stand-alone wind energy ordinance adopted in 2011. Also renumber document accordingly after making changes and incorporating any additional amendments approved by voters. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 296

NO 44

Article 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 2 would update language in Article XIV Floodplain Development and Article XXI Definitions as required for continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 296

NO 43

Article 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 3 would update language in Article II General Provisions and Article XI Multi-Family Dwelling Unit Development in order to make the parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance consistent with the requirements in the recently updated Site Plan Review Regulations. Detailed requirements would be removed from the Zoning Ordinance and the requirements contained in the Site Plan Review Regulations would be included by reference. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 289

NO 49

Article 5: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 4 would add a Home Business as an accessory use allowed in any dwelling in town (Articles V and XXI). Site Plan Review would continue to be required when the public or certain types of impacts are involved (Article II General Provisions). (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 282

NO 57

Article 6: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 5 would amend Article IV Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots to allow nonconforming lots to be developed if setbacks can be met and water and wastewater rules met and would give the Zoning Board of Adjustment the ability to grant Special Exceptions to allow expansion of nonconforming uses under certain conditions. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 263

NO 70

Article 7: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 6 would amend Article V Zoning Districts and Uses to bring the Zoning Ordinance into compliance with the provision of RSA 674:32 Manufactured Housing which prohibits requiring a Special Exception for manufactured homes on individual lots unless a Special Exception is also required for single family homes. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 266

NO 68

Article 8: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 7 would replace existing language in Article VI Signs with language from the recently updated Site Plan Review Regulations for consistency. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 281

NO 55

Article 9: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 8 would amend Article V – Zoning Districts and Uses to give the Zoning Board of Adjustment the ability to allow other uses similar to those listed in the Ordinance by granting Special Exceptions in Districts I-Main Street, I and IV, similar to the flexibility already allowed in Districts II and III. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this warrant)

YES 267

NO 64

Article 10: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,370,220 (Three Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,174,742 (Three Million One Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two Dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0).

YES 248

NO 84

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.171

YES 266

NO 69

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.086

YES 212

NO 123

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 (Three Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.010

YES 224

NO 109

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.034

YES 270

NO 65

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.343

YES 251

NO 84

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Department Emergency Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.034

YES 264

NO 73

Article 17: To see if the town will approve entering into a Lease Purchase Agreement to acquire a new Commercial Pumper fire truck. The lease requires a \$100,000 down payment which is to be withdrawn from the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, and then 10 annual payments each in the amount of \$45,083.50 per year beginning in 2025 or after the new fire truck is delivered. Therefore, no appropriation is required for this purpose in 2023. This lease shall include an escape clause. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-1). Estimated tax impact 0.000

YES 254

NO 80

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,000 (Twenty Six Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact 0.089

YES 215

NO 114

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0.00 (Zero Dollars) to be added to the Tech/Computer Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact \$ 0.0

YES 268

NO 45

Article 20: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 (Thirty Five Thousand) to be added to the Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact \$ 0.120

YES 234

NO 98

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact \$ 0.069

YES 260

NO 73

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Library Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Estimated tax impact \$ 0.051

YES 244

NO 86

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 (Nine Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of providing live musical entertainment to the public, to be held at the Bethlehem Gazebo in 2023. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0) Estimated tax impact \$ 0.031

YES 249

NO 83

Article 24: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0.00 (Zero Dollars) for the purpose of building a new structure which would be considered a new pool inside of the existing pool including the concrete walls and a new main drain. The total amount to be raised is \$0.00; \$0.00 will be paid from the Recreation revolving fund. This would allow for the current working infrastructure to remain in use. The town will require a guarantee for work completed from the construction company who is awarded the project. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 3-2). Estimated tax impact \$ 0.000

YES 244

NO 72

Article 25: To see if the town of Bethlehem will create a Police Department special detail revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95 to be used to offset the Police Detail expenses. All revenues received from Police Special Detail will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The Town treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund and shall pay out the same only on order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0).

YES 234

NO 103

Article 26: Shall the town rename the Bethlehem Town Forest, located on Prospect Street, to the Tellman-Johnson Town Forest? (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0). Tax impact: \$ 0.000.

YES 228

NO 103

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to accept the road system known as Upper Valley Road and perform routine yearly maintenance including winter clearings. Understand that the road has been approved by the Bethlehem Planning Board, that it meets both Town and State specifications, that it has been inspected by a certified engineer. Understand that there are eight homes located on the road, including nine Town of Bethlehem residents. Understand that the road surface is asphalt, approximately 800 yards in length, and has

been consistently maintained. If this article is approved, the operating budget will increase by an unknown amount. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 0-5).

YES 105

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (Four Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of supporting Hospice, Home Health, Palliative and Long-Term Care services provided by North Country Home Health & Hospice. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 0-5) Estimated tax impact \$ 0.014

YES 228

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. (ACHS). ACHS is a non-profit community health center that provides primary preventative health care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This will help ACHS continue to provide high quality care to 951 current BETHLEHEM patients, as well as reach more of those in need. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 0-5) Estimated tax impact \$ 0.021

YES 214

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,968.00 (Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars) for the operation of Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Bethlehem: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Disaster Relief, and Tamworth Dental Center. Petition Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 0-5) Estimated tax impact \$ 0.017

YES 209

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 (Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) to support the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country in providing a healthy, safe, and productive after school and vacation camp environment for children from Bethlehem and the local community. The Club provides busing from the school to the Club for the afterschool program, which alone costs \$5,000 a year. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 0-5)
Estimated tax impact \$ 0.009

YES 190

Article 32: We registered voters in the Town of Bethlehem present this petitioned article to be included in the 2023 Town of Bethlehem Warrant: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$8,500.00) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. through the Littleton Area Senior Center and the ServiceLink Resource Center for services for Bethlehem residents in 2023. From July

1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 70 residents. These services included nutrition, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was \$132,360.80. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 0-5) Estimated tax impact \$ 0.029

YES 216

NO 123

Article 33: To see if the Town of Bethlehem, NH will vote to raise and appropriate sum of \$1000.00 for the Second Chance Animal Rescue. Second Chance Animal Rescue is a nonprofit that provides care and shelter for abused and abandoned cats and kittens. Second Chance Animal Rescue sponsors monthly low cost Spray/Neuter clinics for both dogs and cats, as well as shot clinics in the Spring. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 0-5) Estimated tax impact \$ 0.003

YES 174

NO 163

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

August 5, 2023 Town Auction Results

202-37	Main Street	8.60 AC	\$	20,000
209-60-5	River Road	3.24 AC	\$	40,000
402-2	Profile Road	1.40 AC	\$	881
406-21-3	Whitefield Road	5.00 AC	\$	25,000
409-42	Agassiz Street	10.90 AC	\$	16,628
414-14	599 Maple Street	.96 AC	\$	21,999
414-30	961 Maple Street	1.70 AC	\$	12,403
416-50	Maple Street	.49 AC	\$	1,225
Taxes Reclaimed to the Town				\$ 138,136

Town Owned Land & Buildings

203-001-001	L/B Highway Garage	6.29 AC	\$	393,800
204-043-002	L/B Town Water Supply	5.34 AC	\$	3,720,900
205-122	L/B Visitor Center	1.48 AC	\$	205,400
206-018	L/B Town Library	3.20 AC	\$	910,200
206-029	L/O Elm Street	1.20 AC	\$	86,800
206-029-001	L/O Elm Street	3.10 AC	\$	91,600
206-035	L/B Town Hall	0.59 AC	\$	1,433,200
414-005	L/O Bethlehem Town Forest	23.82 AC	\$	99,700
414-007	L/O Bethlehem Town Forest	15.99 AC	\$	17,700
414-008	L/O Bethlehem Town Forest	38.00 AC	\$	126,600
414-009	L/B Bethlehem Village District	38.90 AC	\$	1,396,300
414-011	L/O Bethlehem Village District	0.14 AC	\$	300
414-012	L/O Bethlehem Village District	3.22 AC	\$	7,600
416-003	L/O Former Transfer Station	64.52 AC	\$	164,800
Total Owned				\$ 8,654,900

PARKS AND RECREATION

203-021	L/B Gazebo	1.94 AC	\$	54,300
203-025	L/B Tennis Courts	1.20 AC	\$	136,400
205-120	L/O Basket Ball Courts & Recreation Area on Agassiz	4.16 AC	\$	189,300
206-027	L/O Elm Street Ball Field	7.80 AC	\$	134,900
206-036	L/B Town Pool	1.50 AC	\$	394,200
Total Parks				\$ 718,400

CEMETERIES

203-003	L/O Main Street "Cemetery"	1.20 AC	-
206-051	L/O Off Cemetery Street (Gift)	0.41 AC	-
206-056	L/O Maple Street (Gift)	2.60 AC	-
206-055	L/O Maple Street	0.67 AC	-
206-057	L/O Maple Street	6.50 AC	-
206-058	L/O Maple Street	0.76 AC	-
404-014	L/O Brook Road	2.90 AC	-
Total Cemeteries			

SCHOOLS

206-015	L/B BES	4.49 AC	\$	2,246,800
402-024	L/B Profile	17.99 AC	\$	5,987,800
402-021	L/O Profile	5.53 AC	\$	59,100
Total Schools				\$ 8,293,700

RAILROADS _ STATE OF NH

209-026	L/O Trudeau Road	3.70 AC	\$	5,600
209-058-001	L/O River Road	7.20 AC	\$	12,900
405-058	L/O Whitefield Road	40.00 AC	\$	84,900
406-034	L/O Pond View Road	15.00 AC	\$	65,200
416-002	L/O Whitefield Road	2.50 AC	\$	4,400
416-008	L/O Whitefield Road	6.40 AC	\$	5,400
419-015	L/O Trudeau Road	9.90 AC	\$	7,100
Total Railroads				\$ 185,500

MISCELLANEOUS – STATE OF NH

204-113	L/O Edelweiss Drive	11.80 AC	\$	82,900
209-065	L/O Main Street	0.04 AC	\$	1,500
209-066	L/O Main Street	0.75 AC	\$	4,500
209-067	L/O Main Street	0.67 AC	\$	42,600
209-078	L/O River Road	3.90 AC	\$	5,600
420-032	L/O Main Street	4.60 AC	\$	63,500
422-005-001	L/B Trudeau Road	12.10 AC	\$	487,700
Total Misc. – State of				Total Misc State \$688,300

PROPERTIES DEEDED PROIR TO 2022

201-031	L/O Rocks Edge Road	0.52 AC	\$	18,200
201-032	L/O Rocks Edge Road	0.36 AC	\$	16,300
202-037	L/O Main Street	8.60 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
203-030	L/O Pine Street	0.41 AC	\$	63,500
206-063-001	L/O Maple Street	24.70 AC	\$	108,300
207-020	L/O Other End Lane	0.58 AC	\$	4,000
209-060-005	L/O River Road	3.24 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
401-024	L/O Old Franconia Road	0.14 AC	\$	2,700
402-002	L/O Profile Road	1.40 AC		
403-020	L/O Caswell Heights	0.04 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
406-021-003	L/O Whitefield Road	5.00 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
409-042	L/O Agassiz Street	10.90 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
413-041	L/O Mt. View Lane	2.20 AC	\$	23,100
414-014	L/B Maple Street	0.96 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
414-030	L/O Maple Street	1.70 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
416-050	L/O Maple Street	0.49 AC		sold 8/5 Auction
419-050	L/O Main Street	4.50 AC	\$	10,700
419-051	L/O Main Street	0.90 AC	\$	2,100
Total Properties Deeded Prior 2022				\$ 248,900

OWNERS

203-075	L/O Evergreen Lane	0.38 AC	\$	56,000
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205-048	L/O Doris Street	0.13 AC	\$	3,200
209-079	L/O River Road	0.07 AC	\$	2,000
209-080	L/O River Road	2.20 AC	\$	13,000
417-006	L/O Whitefield Town Line	2.70 AC	\$	6,400
Total				\$ 80,600

TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

RELIGIOUS

203-051	All Souls Durrell Methodist Church	0.85 AC	\$	65,400
203-052	United Methodist Church	0.35 AC	\$	542,300
204-049	Congregation Madhzikey Hadas	0.61 AC	\$	594,900
204-073	Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation	0.44 AC	\$	562,200
207-007	Our Lady of the Fairways	0.11 AC		
402-027	Bread of Life United Pentecostal Church	1.87 AC	\$	330,000
405-042	Assembly of God	4.70 AC	\$	933,400
416-051	Bethlehem Christian Center	91.50 AC	\$	237,400
Total Religious				\$ 237,400

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

203-047-1-11	B/O WREN		\$	148,200
205-016	L/B Colonial Theatre	0.50 AC	\$	546,500
207-005	NH Detox	9.33 AC	\$	1,211,800
403-012	Burch House	14.70 AC	\$	593,900
412-016	L/O Copper Cannon Camp	39.10 AC	\$	78,000
412-017	L/B Copper Cannon Camp	46.80 AC	\$	447,600
412-017-99	B/O Copper Cannon Camp	-	\$	1,076,300
412-018	L/O Copper Cannon Camp	24.10 AC	\$	68,800
412-019	L/O Copper Cannon Camp	16.00 AC	\$	60,500
Total Non-Profit				\$ 4,231,600

FOREST

204-043-001	L/O Strawberry Hill Reservation	53.50 AC	\$	161,200
210-016	USA	109.00 AC	\$	173,600
412-022-002	USA	210.36 AC	\$	249,800
413-058	NH - Cushman	26.00 AC	\$	56,100
422-003	USA-Gale River	50.38 AC	\$	146,700
422-004	US Forest Service	342.00 AC	\$	406,100
422-005	US Forest Service	31,112.90 AC	\$	38,938,800
Total Forest				\$40,132,300

FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

ASSESSMENT

EXEMPTION

White Mountain School	\$ 10,277,258	\$	6,774,336
Total For-Profit Organizations	\$ 10,277,258	\$	6,774,336

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

		Assessed Value		Payment
NFI North, Inc.	1.90 AC	\$237,900.00	\$	4,000
Bethlehem Senior Housing Associates	2.18 AC	1,296,400	\$	7,576
SPNHF	1,530.09 AC	3,564,800	\$	8,000
Total		\$ 5,099,100	\$	19,576

SUMMARY - INVENTORY OF VALUATION

Current Use Land	\$ 1,362,471	
Residential Land	99,452,00	
Commercial/Industrial Land	7,106,100	
Total Taxable Land		\$ 107,920,571
Residential Building	\$ 308,610,420	
Manufactured Housing	9,261,600	
Commercial/Industrial Building	76,756,600	
Total Taxable Buildings		\$ 394,628,620
Utilities		
Public Utilities		\$ 15,430,700
Other Utilities		410,100
Valuation Before Exemptions		\$ 518,389,991
Elderly Exemptions	\$ 702,700	
Wood Heating System Exemption	28,100	
School Exemption	150,000	
Total Exemptions Off Valuation		\$ (730,800)
Net Valuation On Which Tax Rate Is Computed		\$ 517,509,191
Less the A list utilities		\$ (15,430,700)
Net Valuation Without Utilities On Which Tax Rate For State Education Tax is Computed		\$ 502,078,491
Other Credits and Exemptions		
Totally & Permanently Disabled Veterans		\$ 38,000
War Service Credits		\$ 4,850
Tax Exempt Land & Buildings		\$ 71,801,980

TAX RATE ON \$1,000 VALUATION

Municipal	\$4.01
County	\$1.08
Schools	\$9.20
State	\$1.14
Total	\$ 15.43

Village District.....\$0.48

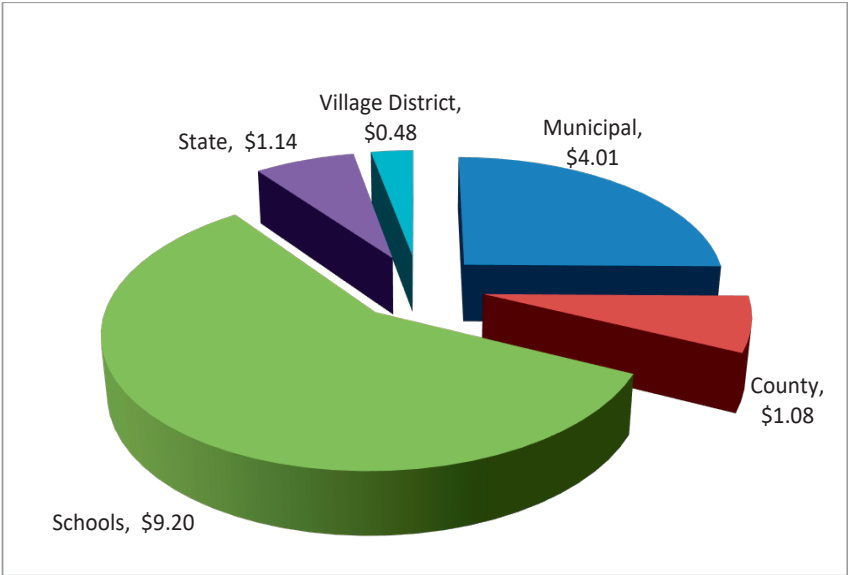
TOTAL.....\$15.91

Net Assessed Valuation -\$517,509,191

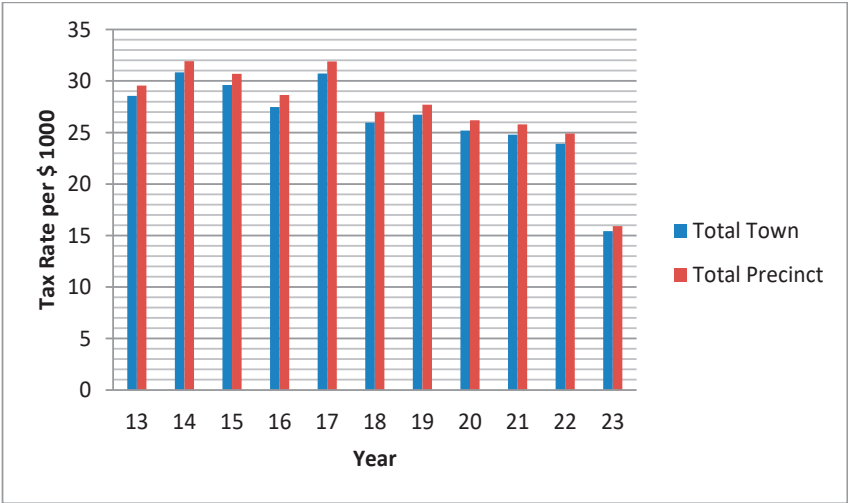
Net Assessed Valuation - Village District\$169,179,970

<u>Year</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Total Town</u>	<u>Total Precinct</u>
1994	4.98	2.47	18.13	1.15		24.26	26.73
1995	4.71	2.74	19.64	1.24		25.59	28.33
1996	3.27	2.69	20.85	1.12		25.24	27.93
1997	3.46	2.69	20.74	1.25		25.45	28.14
1998	6.78	1.41	27.22	1.56		35.56	36.97
1999	8.62	1.32	12.64	1.67	7.25	30.18	31.50
2000	12.98	1.16	15.53	1.78	7.30	37.59	38.75
2001	5.21	1.15	15.21	1.96	7.71	30.09	31.24
2002	5.80	1.84	17.23	1.86	6.41	31.30	33.14
2003	5.80	3.27	18.97	2.36	6.03	33.16	36.43
2004	3.60	2.10	12.58	1.28	2.84	20.30	22.40
2005	3.59	1.85	12.71	1.30	2.51	20.11	21.96
2006	3.86	2.33	13.28	1.22	2.34	20.70	23.03
2007	5.49	2.30	14.93	1.34	2.38	24.14	26.44
2008	6.66	1.73	15.27	1.51	2.30	25.74	27.47
2009	6.42	1.73	15.02	1.41	2.39	25.24	26.97
2010	7.79	1.78	13.56	1.34	2.37	25.06	26.84
2011	8.90	2.04	16.61	1.72	2.64	29.87	31.91
2012	8.74	1.11	15.44	1.65	2.78	28.61	29.72
2013	7.12	1.01	17.22	1.64	2.57	28.55	29.56
2014	7.12	1.09	19.33	1.88	2.50	30.83	31.92
2015	5.75	1.09	19.32	1.78	2.77	29.62	30.71
2016	5.48	1.17	17.82	1.77	2.39	27.46	28.63
2017	7.49	1.19	18.96	2.02	2.25	30.72	31.91
2018	5.74	1.02	16.13	1.93	2.17	25.97	26.99
2019	5.68	.96	16.94	1.87	2.24	26.73	27.69
2020	7.15	.99	14.38	1.77	1.90	25.20	26.19
2021	6.21	1.01	14.75	1.92	1.91	25.80	25.80
2022	7.08	1.00	13.48	1.82	1.51	23.89	24.89
2023	4.01	0.48	9.20	1.08	1.14	15.43	15.91

2023 TAX RATE BREAKDOWN



TAX RATE HISTORY



TREASURER'S REPORT

Source of Funds

Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 159,534.89	
Tax Collector	7,165,947.51	
Tax Sale/Repurchased Property	179,175.91	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	109,393.10	
Town Clerk	639,866.17	
Ambulance Revenue	61,948.38	
Trust Reimbursement	175,099.89	
Escrow	1,492.98	
Insurance Reimbursement	56,966.46	
Rooms & Meals	237,470.56	
NCES Host Fee	146,734.86	
Revolving Loan Fund Reimbursement	10,000.00	
Highway Revolving Reimbursement	228,487.56	
Federal Aid	215,502.65	
Other State Funds	47,822.41	
Library Reimbursement	132,715.11	
Interest Earned	51,577.58	
Total		\$ 9,619,736.02

Use of Funds

Payroll	\$ 1,056,167.03	
Payroll Taxes	269,122.77	
Accounts Payable Net	8,223,145.72	
Debt Service	53,732.22	
Due to Highway Revolving Fund	9.00	
Miscellaneous Adjustment	1,305.65	
Transfer Correction	650.00	
Loan to Police Revolving	300.00	
Bank Fees	427.98	
WCM Access	180.00	
Total		\$ 9,605,040.37

TREASURER'S REPORT

Highway Revolving Fund

Source of Funds

Beginning Balance		\$ 274,960.72
Highway Block Grant	\$ 139,064.41	
Highway Block Grant Bridges	20,492.96	
Interest	153.14	
Total Revenue	\$ 159,710.51	\$ 434,671.23

Use of Funds

Lease Purchase of Caterpillar	\$ 28,380.56	
Road Repairs	9,789.00	
Equipment Purchase	190,318.00	
Total Expenditures	\$ 228,487.56	

Fund Balance 12/31/2023	\$ 206,183.67
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Police Revolving Fund

Source of Funds

Beginning Balance		\$ 0.00
Police Special Detail Revenue	\$ 12,350.00	
Interest	1.16	
Total Revenue	\$ 12,351.16	\$ 12,351.16

Use of Funds

Special Detail Expenses	\$ 8,139.55	
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,139.55	

Fund Balance 12/31/2023	\$ 4,211.61
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Recreation Fund

Beginning Balance **\$ 94,842**

Source of Funds

Income Received		
After School	\$ 27,110	
Credit Card Processing Fee	281	
Special	3,796	
Sports	6,944	
Summer	28,987	
Field Trips	6,283	
Adult Programs	600	
Interest Earned through December	53	
Total		\$ 74,054

Use of Funds

Service Fee	\$ 661	
Telephone	457	
Park Electricity	387	
Recreation Maintenance	6,408	
Fuel	486	
Rec Staff Training/Conference	777	
Sports	12,531	
Rec Services & Supplies	9,546	
Field Trips	11,527	
Summer	3,364	
Adult Programs	1,440	
Recreation Properties	37,501	
Total		\$ 85,085

Ending Balance 12/31/2023 **\$ 83,811**



Roberts & Greene, PLLC

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Board of Selectmen
Town of Bethlehem
Bethlehem, New Hampshire 03574

Adverse and Modified Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bethlehem, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022 which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Adverse Opinion on Governmental Activities

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matters discussed in the Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions section of our report, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly the financial position of the governmental activities of the Town of Bethlehem, as of December 31, 2022, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Unmodified Opinions on Each Major Fund and the Aggregate Remaining Fund Information

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bethlehem as of December 31, 2022, and the respective changes in financial position thereof, and the budget to actual comparison for the General Fund, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Bethlehem and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse and unmodified audit opinions.

Matters Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on Governmental Activities

As discussed in Note I.B.3. to the financial statements, management has not recorded the capital assets in governmental activities, and accordingly, has not recorded depreciation expense on those assets. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the capital assets be capitalized and depreciated which would increase the assets, net position, and expenses of the governmental activities. The amount by which this departure would affect the assets, net position, and expenses of the governmental activities is not reasonably determinable.

Also as discussed in Note I.B.3., the Town has not recorded its total liability for postemployment benefits other than pensions, nor the related expenses and deferrals, as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

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The amount by which this departure would affect the liabilities, net position, and expenses of the governmental activities is not reasonably determinable.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, any significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the pension related information on pages 30-32 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the

responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

The Town of Bethlehem has not presented a management's discussion and analysis. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have determined that the management's discussion and analysis is necessary to supplement, but is not required to be part of, the basic financial statements.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Bethlehem's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund schedules are fairly stated in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

December 7, 2023

Roberts & Heine, PLLC

EXHIBIT 2
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

		Program Revenues			Net (Expenses) Revenues and Change in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 931,734	\$ 659,130	\$ (13,274)	\$ -	\$ (285,878)
Public safety	904,796	115,638	-	-	(789,158)
Highways and streets	891,519	352	-	107,677	(783,490)
Sanitation	2,861	144,716	-	-	141,855
Health	31,398	-	-	-	(31,398)
Welfare	72,021	-	-	-	(72,021)
Culture and recreation	411,280	95,394	2,001	19,548	(294,337)
Conservation	1,227	-	-	-	(1,227)
Interest on long-term debt	3,150	-	-	-	(3,150)
Capital outlay	503,207	-	-	141,925	(361,282)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 3,753,193</u>	<u>\$ 1,015,230</u>	<u>\$ (11,273)</u>	<u>\$ 269,150</u>	<u>(2,480,086)</u>
General revenues:					
Property taxes					2,006,708
Other taxes					209,895
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					229,560
Miscellaneous					26,081
Total general revenues					<u>2,472,244</u>
Change in net position					(7,842)
Net position, beginning					<u>1,899,136</u>
Net position, ending					<u>\$ 1,891,294</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

EXHIBIT 5
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	General	Expendable Trust	Grants	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:					
Taxes	\$ 2,281,877	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,123	\$ 2,283,000
Licenses, permits and fees	645,261	-	-	-	645,261
Intergovernmental	229,560	-	141,925	127,225	498,710
Charges for services	287,016	-	-	84,910	371,926
Miscellaneous	82,409	(73,919)	-	6,319	14,809
Total revenues	<u>3,526,123</u>	<u>(73,919)</u>	<u>141,925</u>	<u>219,577</u>	<u>3,813,706</u>
Expenditures:					
Current:					
General government	866,414	43,057	11,224	10,588	931,283
Public safety	892,481	-	7,867	-	900,348
Highways and streets	814,998	-	-	95,053	910,051
Sanitation	-	2,861	-	-	2,861
Health	31,398	-	-	-	31,398
Welfare	72,021	-	-	-	72,021
Culture and recreation	180,801	-	-	230,283	411,084
Conservation	285	-	-	942	1,227
Debt service:					
Principal and interest on long-term debt	54,508	-	-	-	54,508
Capital outlay	-	128,445	374,762	-	503,207
Total expenditures	<u>2,912,906</u>	<u>174,363</u>	<u>393,853</u>	<u>336,866</u>	<u>3,817,988</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>613,217</u>	<u>(248,282)</u>	<u>(251,928)</u>	<u>(117,289)</u>	<u>(4,282)</u>
Other financing sources (uses):					
Transfers in	31,103	236,550	131,012	172,845	571,510
Transfers out	(540,407)	-	-	(31,103)	(571,510)
Total other financing sources and uses	<u>(509,304)</u>	<u>236,550</u>	<u>131,012</u>	<u>141,742</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	103,913	(11,732)	(120,916)	24,453	(4,282)
Fund balances, beginning	1,570,008	918,197	166,689	803,150	3,458,044
Fund balances, ending	<u>\$ 1,673,921</u>	<u>\$ 906,465</u>	<u>\$ 45,773</u>	<u>\$ 827,603</u>	<u>\$ 3,453,762</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

*The total money collected in the Town Clerk's Office between
January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, is as follows:*

<i>Motor Vehicle Permits</i>	<i>\$ 625,949.21</i>
<i>Boat Permit Fee's</i>	<i>\$ 817.64</i>
<i>Dog License Fee's</i>	<i>\$ 1,781.50</i>
<i>Dog Fine's</i>	<i>\$ 214.00</i>
<i>Marriage License</i>	<i>\$ 1,050.00</i>
<i>Vital Records (birth, marriage, death certificates)</i>	<i>\$ 1560.00</i>
<i>Cemetery Fee's</i>	<i>\$ 4,900.00</i>
<i>UCC Filing Fee's</i>	<i>\$ 1,270.00</i>
<i>Miscellaneous (checklist copies, bank charges, postage, cart fees)</i>	<i>\$ <u>528.10</u></i>
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>\$ 652,429.49</i>

Here are a few things to remember.

- To register a vehicle in Bethlehem, you must be a resident of Bethlehem, or the vehicle must be housed in Bethlehem permanently. **Proof of Residency is required**, i.e., utility bill, lease agreement, mortgage statement, for new residents.
- Vehicle registrations expire at midnight on the last day of the registrant's birth month.
- You must present your current registration and driver's license to renew in office
- Registration quotes can be obtained via our website: bethlehemnh.org for renewals and new registration.
- The first name on the registration is the owner of the plates.
- To transfer plates, the current registration for the plates is required.
- Your dog license expires on April 30th every year. Rabies must be up to date to relicense.
- If your dog has been altered (spayed or neutered) and we do not have the information on file, we need to see the certificate.
- Vital records can be obtained if the event happened in the State of NH. The search fee is \$15 and includes a certified copy of the document. Additional documents are \$10 each, when purchased at the same time.
- All the above can be completed via our website, in the office or snail mail.
- You are always welcome to come into the office. We will assist whenever possible.

Mary Jackson, NH Certified Town Clerk

Laurie Thompson, Deputy Town Clerk (retired in September, however we may see her working during elections)

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Debits					
Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year	Account	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies (Please Specify Years)		
			Year: 2022	Year: 2021	Year: 2020
Property Taxes	3110		\$1,290,617.10	\$160.68	\$816.62
Resident Taxes	3180				
Land Use Change Taxes	3120		\$3,100.00		
Yield Taxes	3185		\$4,093.17		
Excavation Tax	3187				
Other Taxes	3189				
Property Tax Credit Balance ?		(\$36,905.65)			
Other Tax or Charges Credit Balance ?			(\$19,515.23)		

Taxes Committed This Year	Account	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies	
			2022	
Property Taxes	3110	\$8,026,099.68		
Resident Taxes	3180			
Land Use Change Taxes	3120	\$59,460.00		
Yield Taxes	3185	\$19,168.61		
Excavation Tax	3187	\$448.94		
Other Taxes	3189			
-				
Add Line				

Overpayment Refunds	Account	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies		
			2022	2021	2020
Property Taxes	3110	\$1,755.45	\$2,687.62		
Resident Taxes	3180				
Land Use Change Taxes	3120				
Yield Taxes	3185				
Excavation Tax	3187				
-					
Add Line					
Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3190	\$3,453.36	\$15,874.21	\$14.86	\$12,085.25
Interest and Penalties on Resident Taxes	3190				
Total Debits		\$8,073,480.39	\$1,296,856.87	\$175.54	\$12,901.87

Credits				
Remitted to Treasurer	Levy for Year of this Report	2022	Prior Levies 2021	2020
Property Taxes	\$6,297,569.77	\$1,271,139.23	(\$34.12)	
Resident Taxes				
Land Use Change Taxes	\$59,460.00	\$3,100.00		
Yield Taxes	\$19,168.60	\$4,040.36		
Interest (Include Lien Conversion)	\$3,453.36	\$15,874.21	\$14.86	\$12,085.25
Penalties				
Excavation Tax	\$448.94			
Other Taxes				
Conversion to Lien (Principal Only)	\$124,045.60			
-				
Add Line				
Discounts Allowed				

Abatements Made	Levy for Year of this Report	2022	Prior Levies 2021	2020
Property Taxes	\$59,106.72	\$2,708.76		
Resident Taxes				
Land Use Change Taxes				
Yield Taxes				
Excavation Tax				
Other Taxes				
-				
Add Line				
Current Levy Deeded				

Uncollected Taxes - End of Year # 1080	Levy for Year of this Report	2022	Prior Levies 2021	2020
Property Taxes	\$1,547,051.14	\$12.65		\$816.62
Resident Taxes				
Land Use Change Taxes				
Yield Taxes				
Excavation Tax				
Other Taxes				
Property Tax Credit Balance ?	(\$45,365.81)			
Other Tax or Charges Credit Balance ?				
Total Credits	\$8,064,938.32	\$1,296,875.21	(\$19.26)	\$12,901.87

Lien Summary

Summary of Debits

	Last Year's Levy	Prior Levies (Please Specify Years)				
	Year:	2022	Year:	2021	Year:	2020
Unredeemed Liens Balance - Beginning of Year		\$89,142.09	\$43,962.08	\$46,155.21		
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	\$132,192.36					
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)	\$1,984.68	\$9,133.20	\$7,358.96	\$8,227.24		
-						
Add Line						
Total Debits	\$134,177.04	\$98,275.29	\$51,321.04	\$54,382.45		

Summary of Credits

	Last Year's Levy	Prior Levies		
	2022	2021	2020	
Redemptions	\$50,828.43	\$52,240.09	\$22,895.90	\$13,339.08
-				
Add Line				
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	\$1,984.68	\$9,133.20	\$7,358.96	\$8,227.24
- credit Balance	(\$70.96)			
Add Line				
Abatements of Unredeemed Liens				
Liens Deeded to Municipality	\$7,211.85	\$7,828.48	\$7,995.22	\$8,221.40
Unredeemed Liens Balance - End of Year #1110	\$74,223.04	\$29,073.52	\$13,070.95	\$24,594.73
Total Credits	\$134,177.04	\$98,275.29	\$51,321.03	\$54,382.45

DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

Executive	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
Clerical	\$ 43,680	\$ 43,279	\$ 50,000
Assistant Salary	65,000	65,180	68,250
Longevity Bonus	500	500	500
Selectmen's Salaries	8,000	5,600	8,000
Auditors	15,750	16,300	16,300
SS/MC Taxes	9,000	8,657	9,639
NH Retirement	15,700	15,757	17,048
Registry	100	-	100
Telephone	1,008	1,036	1,008
Hardware Support	14,000	16,644	16,000
Computer Expense	13,000	14,462	14,000
Software Support	-	973	-
Professional Consulting	300	-	300
Printing	2,200	1,533	2,200
Dues	2,985	3,167	3,250
NHMA Membership Dues	2,386	2,342	2,500
Public Notices	1,800	60	250
Office Supplies	1,300	2,274	2,200
Postage	1,400	1,104	1,500
Book & Periodicals	150	36	150
Miscellaneous	1,400	1,838	1,600
Equipment Lease	-	-	1,800
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	500	100	250
Training & Conferences	400	-	400
Marketing	-	-	30,000
Total Executive	<u>200,559</u>	<u>200,842</u>	<u>246,945</u>
Town Clerk			
Town Clerk Salary	35,303	35,323	37,068
Deputy Town Clerk	8,755	5,289	11,000
Moderator	900	400	2,100
Supervisors of the Checklist	2,700	2,700	3,000
Ballot Clerks	1,040	260	3,120
Longevity	250	250	2,015
SS/MC Taxes	3,700	3,332	4,300
Meals	250	145	800
Telephone	1,008	1,036	1,050
Information Systems	3,057	2,997	3,130
Services/Supplies	6,860	6,453	19,820
Dues & Education	620	280	1,120
Postage	970	760	1,190
Copier Maintenance	855	718	855
Mileage	175	736	275
Advertising	125	-	125
Payment to Government Agencies	<u>2,590</u>	<u>1,909</u>	<u>2,590</u>
Total Town Clerk	<u>69,158</u>	<u>62,588</u>	<u>93,558</u>

Tax Collector

Tax Collector's Salary	26,574	26,589	27,902
Deputy Tax Collector	7,643	3,487	8,320
Treasurer's Salary	9,013	9,013	9,463
Deputy Treasurer Salary	1,000	599	1,030
Longevity	250	250	1,578
SS/MC Taxes	3,600	3,010	3,600
Registry	550	383	550
Telephone	1,008	1,036	1,050
Information System	2,400	2,468	7,887
Services	1,135	2,357	2,245
Treasurer Services	200	70	200
Dues & Education	525	130	250
Supplies	2,000	587	2,750
Postage	4,100	2,799	4,500
Mileage	200	292	300
Copier Maintenance	855	718	855
Total Tax Collector	63,083	53,788	72,480

Assessing

Registry	500	303	500
Assessing	46,720	55,626	72,125
Update Maps	2,500	2,500	2,700
GIS Online Hosting	3,000	4,800	3,000
Computer Software Maintenance	6,750	6,002	3,334
Equipment Software Purchase	100	-	100
Supplies/Services	100	20	100
Postage	150	-	150
Education & Mileage	100	20	100
Revaluation	10,000	10,000	-
Total Assessing	69,920	79,272	82,109

Legal

Legal Expense	20,000	23,753	15,000
Zoning/Code Enforcement	-	-	15,000
Total Legal	20,000	23,753	30,000

Planning & Zoning

Secretary's Salary	27,500	27,368	28,875
Consulting Services	1,500	278	1,500
SS/MC Taxes	2,103	2,022	2,209
Retirement	3,729	3,299	3,907
Legal Expense	2,103	-	2,000
Registry	400	534	400
Advertising	1,200	120	1,200
Telephone	1,008	1,036	1,000
Services	1,000	700	1,000
Supplies	250	681	300

Postage	1,100	1,762	1,100
Master Plan	-	-	4,000
Total Planning & Zoning	<u>41,893</u>	<u>37,800</u>	<u>46,591</u>
Government Building			
GGB Salaries	-	423	-
SS/MC Taxes	-	31	-
Out-of-District Hydrants	1,500	552	1,500
Lights	10,250	8,578	10,000
Heating Fuel	16,000	14,490	15,000
Building Maintenance	80,000	70,327	40,000
Cleaning Services	8,000	5,190	8,000
Supplies	6,000	7,850	7,000
Equipment Repair	2,000	818	2,000
Parking Lot	<u>5,000</u>	<u>11,810</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Government Building	<u>128,750</u>	<u>120,068</u>	<u>83,500</u>
Cemeteries			
Cemetery Salary	10,000	2,550	5,000
Social Security	765	194	383
Cemetery Maintenance	4,800	-	13,500
Cemetery Equipment Purchases	100	609	100
Cemetery Phone/WiFi	-	-	500
Cemetery Software	1,325	1,596	1,325
Cemetery Survey	<u>-</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Cemeteries	<u>16,990</u>	<u>9,449</u>	<u>21,373</u>
Insurance			
Insurance Claim Expense	2,000	(24,572)	2,000
Health Insurance	247,000	216,163	281,443
Dental Insurance	15,300	13,341	16,167
Property-Liability Insurance	55,636	50,674	60,643
Workers' Comp Insurance	26,101	24,030	28,711
Unemployment Insurance	6,026	3,087	6,451
STD, LTD, Life Insurance	<u>12,995</u>	<u>12,546</u>	<u>13,500</u>
Total Insurance	<u>365,058</u>	<u>295,270</u>	<u>408,915</u>
Visitors' Center			
Visitors' Center	9,672	10,477	10,106
Visitors' Center SS/MC	740	801	773
Visitors' Center Service/Supplies	5,000	4,319	5,000
Marketing	<u>15,000</u>	<u>16,251</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Visitors' Center	<u>30,412</u>	<u>31,848</u>	<u>15,879</u>
Wood Assessor			
Salary	2,000	473	2,000
Mileage	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Wood Assessor	<u>2,200</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>2,000</u>

Police

Police Chief Salary	83,936	78,914	88,088
Holiday	3,881	3,881	4,208
Officers' Salaries	290,092	250,866	309,000
Special Detail	1,000	440	1,000
Admin Support	7,000	5,519	7,750
Prosecutor	20,000	18,000	22,000
SS/MC Taxes	6,500	6,358	9,636
NH Retirement	126,721	108,287	132,612
Telephone	7,600	8,497	8,000
Services/Supplies	7,000	2,593	7,000
Animal control Misc. Supplies	500	-	500
Office Supplies	2,500	2,852	2,500
Postage	450	107	450
Ammo/Range	3,600	2,988	3,600
Fuel/Gas	15,000	7,817	12,000
Cruiser 1(2018 F150)	1,250	1,001	1,250
Cruiser 2 (2015 Explorer)	2,500	977	2,500
Cruiser 3 (2018 Explorer)	2,500	1,597	2,500
Cruiser 4 (2019 Explorer)	2,500	1,472	2,500
Tech Support	1,500	4,102	1,500
Mileage	500	-	500
Printer/Copier Lease	500	-	500
Training	1,500	1,050	3,500
Uniforms	4,000	3,050	4,000
Total Police	592,530	510,598	636,093

Fire

Chief	59,540	46,845	20,000
Holiday	2,748	2,748	-
Longevity	500	-	-
Volunteer Firemen	60,000	76,869	75,000
Assistant Fire Chief	1,500	7,125	15,000
Fire Chief SS/MC Taxes	5,573	7,931	8,000
Fire Chief NH Retirement	18,070	12,844	-
Training	2,000	2,499	3,000
Telephone	2,016	2,072	2,000
Office Supplies	1,000	524	1,000
Service/Supplies	6,000	6,997	7,000
Station Maintenance	2,000	-	2,000
Dues & Memberships	1,500	1,760	1,500
Fuel/Gas	2,000	1,620	2,000
Equipment/Vehicle Repair	2,000	6,576	2,500
Fire Chief's Vehicle	4,000	3,000	2,000
1977 Ford Ladder Truck	2,000	-	2,000
1998 Freightliner Tanker	2,000	4,337	4,000
HMAID Utility Trailer	-	-	1,000
2000 FL80 Freightliner	3,000	1,029	4,000

2004 Freightliner E-One	2,000	3,742	2,000
Reports and Codes	3,000	1,633	3,000
Equipment Purchase	14,000	10,743	15,000
Communication Maintenance	<u>3,500</u>	<u>5,012</u>	<u>4,500</u>
Total Fire	199,947	203,676	175,000
Building Inspection			
Salary	23,566	19,279	24,744
Building SS/MC	1,803	1,544	1,900
Supplies	1,075	-	500
Cell Phone	600	454	500
Dues	120	-	120
Postage	100	62	100
Mileage	900	1,016	1,200
Training	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>680</u>
Total Building Inspection	28,364	22,176	29,744
Emergency Management			
Emergency Management Plan	250	-	250
Forest Fire	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250</u>
Total Emergency Management	500	-	500
Public Safety			
Dispatcher Grafton County	<u>60,000</u>	<u>62,407</u>	<u>65,000</u>
Total Public Safety	60,000	62,407	65,000
Highway			
Road Agent Salary	70,223	70,870	72,399
Holiday	2,748	2,748	3,341
Longevity	1,500	1,500	3,000
Salary	258,637	244,610	271,568
SS/MC Taxes	25,130	22,446	26,064
NH Retirement	45,988	44,990	47,377
Gravel	5,000	2,616	6,000
Salt	18,000	21,157	19,000
Sand	30,000	33,324	31,000
Stone	750	640	500
Telephone	1,300	1,036	1,100
Services	14,000	13,132	13,000
Lights	2,200	666	2,200
Heating Oil	4,000	3,101	2,800
DOT Testing	750	248	400
Culverts	-	-	1,500
1976 Hyster Roller	150	-	100
98 Freightliner #4	-	17	-
70 CAT Grader	500	1,065	600
Sprayer/Paint	1,500	1,132	1,600
Wood Chipper	100	408	250
09 Sterling Dump #6	4,500	8,559	5,500

10 International #12	9,000	10,719	6,000
2014 Freightliner #14	8,000	4,997	-
Public Notices	200	90	200
Supplies	10,500	9,106	10,500
Hand Tools	1,600	2,872	2,000
Office Supplies	400	1,658	400
Fuel & Lubricants	28,000	37,049	35,000
Grease & Oil	1,300	2,567	3,000
Uniforms/Boots	6,500	8,991	9,000
Asphalt	270,000	249,040	270,000
Backhoe	3,500	4,105	3,500
2016 Dodge 5500	5,000	8,013	4,000
2018 Freightliner Dump Truck	4,000	5,535	5,000
2017 John Deere Mower	4,000	3,278	3,000
2019 Dodge Pick Up	3,000	2,010	3,000
2015 F-350 Ford	2,500	2,851	3,000
2020 Freightliner Dump Truck	3,500	5,740	4,000
2021 Cat Loader	2,000	2,389	2,000
2022 Freightliner Dump Truck	1,000	3379	2,500
2023 Freightliner Dump Truck	-	-	1,000
Total Highway	<u>850,976</u>	<u>838,656</u>	<u>875,199</u>
Street Lights			
Street Lights	<u>15,000</u>	<u>16,293</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Total Street Lights	15,000	16,293	15,000
Ambulance			
Attendants	45,000	51,706	45,000
Assistant Chief	1,500	1,500	1,500
SS/MC Taxes	3,557	4,070	4,000
Training	5,000	4,019	5,000
Maintenance	2,500	363	2,500
Services/Supplies	6,000	8,012	7,000
Fuel	3,000	2,347	3,000
Billing Services	6,200	6,774	6,200
Equipment Purchase	2,500	-	2,500
Ambulance Stipend	-	-	40,000
Total Ambulance	<u>75,057</u>	<u>78,791</u>	<u>117,000</u>
Health			
Health Officer Salary	8,000	2,728	4,000
SS/MC	612	209	612
Cell Phone	600	454	600
Supplies	500	145	500
Misc.	500	-	500
Total Health	<u>10,212</u>	<u>3,536</u>	<u>5,906</u>
Direct Assistance			
Salary	27,500	27,632	27,500

SS/MC Taxes	2,103	2,022	2,103
Retirement	3,729	3,299	3,729
Rent	8,000	20,038	8,000
Emergency Shelter	10,000	4,421	10,000
Miscellaneous	3,000	3,000	3,000
Lights	5,000	2,395	5,000
Fuel	5,000	543	5,000
Cell Phone	600	-	-
Total Direct Assistance	<u>64,932</u>	<u>63,350</u>	<u>61,991</u>
Parks/Recreation			
Salaries	50,000	39,974	58,000
Director Salary	46,935	46,961	49,000
SS/MC Taxes	7,500	6,468	8,339
NH Retirement	6,599	6,474	6,630
Pool Salaries	55,000	41,919	68,000
Pool SS/MC Taxes	4,208	3,207	5,202
Pool Chemicals/Oversight	15,000	15,566	15,000
Pool Electricity	5,000	3,663	5,000
Pool Maintenance	5,000	1,422	5,000
Pool Supplies	8,000	5,223	8,000
Pool Training	5,000	3,998	4,000
Concessions	500	382	500
Programming	800	1,140	850
Total Parks/Recreation	<u>209,542</u>	<u>175,309</u>	<u>233,521</u>
Library			
Library	<u>180,200</u>	<u>180,200</u>	<u>190,500</u>
Total Library	<u>180,200</u>	<u>180,200</u>	<u>190,500</u>
Conservation			
Services	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,120</u>
Total Conservation	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,120</u>
T.A.N. Interest			
Tax Anticipation Note	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total T.A.N Interest	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Debt Service			
Costs for Town Building Construction	42,661	42,278	41,895
Cat Backhoe	<u>11,155</u>	<u>11,154</u>	<u>11,155</u>
Total Debt Service	<u>53,816</u>	<u>53,732</u>	<u>53,050</u>
Total Budget excluding Warrant Articles, Special Revenue and Revolving Funds			\$ 3,582,974

WARRANT ARTICLES

Culture & Recreation

Gazebo Entertainment	9,000	9,000	9,650
Total Culture & Recreation	9,000	9,000	9,650

Warrant Articles – Other

Visitor Center Roof	-	-	180,000
Total Warrant Articles – Other	-	-	180,000

Health Agencies/Hospitals

Grafton County Senior Citizens	8,500	8,000	10,000
North Country Home Health	4,000	4,000	4,000
Ammonoosuc Health Service	6,000	6,000	-
The Boys and Girls Club	2,500	2,500	2,500
Tri-County CAP	4,968	4,968	-
Northern Human Services	-	-	3,121
Second Chance Animal Rescue	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Health Agencies/Hospital	26,968	26,968	19,621

Capital Reserve Fund

Police Cruiser	25,000	25,000	25,000
Emergency Safety Equipment	10,000	10,000	10,000
Ambulance New/Used	10,000	10,000	25,000
Fire Truck New/Used	100,000	100,000	-
Police Equipment	3,000	3,000	3,000
Assessing	26,000	26,000	26,000
Tech/Computer Fund	-	-	5,000
Solid Waste Disposal	35,000	35,000	40,000
Library Building Maintenance	15,000	15,000	15,000
Highway Equipment	50,000	50,000	50,000
Town Building Maintenance	20,000	20,000	10,000
Public Safety Facility	-	-	100,000
Total Capital Reserve Fund	294,000	294,000	314,000

REVOLVING FUNDS

Park & Recreation

Summer Counselor Salary	14,000	-	-
SS/MC Taxes	1,071	-	-
Telephone	600	457	600
PR Electricity	600	428	600
Rec Fuel	900	486	1,000
Recreation Staff Training/Conferences	3,000	777	1,500
Sports Program	11,000	12,531	12,500
Adult Program	1,000	1,440	2,000
Service & Supplies	6,000	9,546	10,000
Postage	60	-	60
Field Trips	12,000	11,527	15,000

Summer Program	9,500	3,365	4,500
Recreation Properties	-	37,501	31,270
Maintenance	<u>10,000</u>	<u>6,408</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Parks & Recreation	69,731	84,466	79,030

Highway Revolving

Highway Revolving Exp.	<u>232,643</u>
Total Highway Revolving	232,643

GRANT FUNDS

Grant Funds

Planning Grant	46,700
Solar Grant	39,517
Marketing Grant	16,827
American Rescue Fund Expenditures	<u>194,094</u>
Total Grants	297,138

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND REPORT

To the residents of Bethlehem.

This year, we operated with three trustees, Peter Szeidler, Pamela Hess-Newman and Gerald Blanchard. During the year, we had multiple requests for deposits and disbursements as requested via warrant article and with approvals from the appropriate governing body. Detailed accounting of deposits, withdrawals, and earnings are included in the accompanying financial reports.

We maintained our relationship with Three Bearings Fiduciary Advisors and our funds were held with Fidelity. While it was a volatile year for investments, our mandated conservative approach to investing the funds held in trust meant that the Town's trust funds were minimally impacted during the year.

We look forward to future endeavors and continued relationships with the various Boards of the Town of Bethlehem.

Sincerely,
Peter Szeidler
Pamela Hess Newman
Gerald Blanchard

MS-9 REPORT OF THE TRUST FUNDS OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 12/31/2023

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS					PRINCIPAL			INCOME			TOTAL	MARKET VALUE					
Date Created	Name of Trust Fund	Purpose of Fund	How Invested	%	Beginning Balance	Additions	Capital Gains/-Losses	Withdrawals	Ending Balance	Beginning Balance	Amount	Expended During Year	Ending Balance	Principal & Income	Unrealized Gain/Loss	Ending Market Value	
Cemetery																	
2020	Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund	Lot Maintenance	Common CRF	100.00	6,706.96	3,600.00	0.00	0.00	10,306.96	99.64	195.16	0.00	294.80	10,601.76	352.01	10,953.77	
Total Cemetery					100	6,706.96	3,600.00	0.00	10,306.96	99.64	195.16	0.00	294.80	10,601.76	352.01	10,953.77	
Library																	
2020	Library Capital Reserve Fund	Maintenance	Common CRF	100.00	44,657.78	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	59,657.78	477.55	1,009.11	0.00	1,486.66	61,144.44	2,030.19	63,174.63	
Total Library					100	44,657.78	15,000.00	0.00	59,657.78	477.55	1,009.11	0.00	1,486.66	61,144.44	2,030.19	63,174.63	
Town																	
2015	Broadband	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	0.02	10,447	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,447	9.34	2.40	0.00	11.74	11,621	3.86	120.07	
2013	Distressed Buildings	Town Properties	Common CRF	0.67	3,223.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,223.85	290.43	73.89	0.00	384.32	3,588.17	119.14	3,707.31	
2020	Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	Equipment Purch.	Common CRF	19.10	50,020.05	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	100,020.05	849.22	1,269.61	0.00	2,118.83	102,138.88	3,391.34	105,530.22	
1995	Highway Truck	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	101.52	2.13	0.00	103.65	103.65	3.44	107.09	
2007	Pool/Recreation Facility	Maintenance	Common CRF	1.17	5,602.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,602.94	504.96	128.44	0.00	634.40	6,236.34	207.07	6,443.41	
2015	Property Assessment	Property Assessment	Common CRF	1.88	22,912.64	26,000.00	0.00	40,900.00	8,412.64	1,098.16	548.27	0.00	1,646.43	10,059.07	333.99	10,393.06	
1995	Prospect St. Dump Closure	Dump Closure	Common CRF	19.81	105,221.25	0.00	0.00	3,725.62	101,495.63	2,188.50	2,253.12	0.00	4,441.62	105,937.25	3,517.46	109,454.71	
2008	Road Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	3.82	18,373.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,373.05	1,657.87	421.20	0.00	2,079.07	20,452.12	679.08	21,131.20	
2016	Solid Waste Disposal	Solid Waste Disposal Facility/Transfer Station	Common CRF	41.46	200,579.39	35,000.00	0.00	28,000.00	207,579.39	9,625.36	4,518.33	0.00	14,143.69	221,723.08	7,361.92	229,085.00	
2016	Tech/Computer	Computer & Technology Needs	Common CRF	1.91	37,309.70	0.00	0.00	29,141.00	8,168.70	1,298.22	768.25	0.00	2,066.47	10,235.17	339.84	10,575.01	
2001	Town Building Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	10.14	32,140.06	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	52,140.06	1,293.58	783.03	0.00	2,076.61	54,216.67	1,800.17	56,016.84	
Total Town					100	475,487.40	131,000.00	0.00	101,366.62	18,917.16	10,768.67	0.00	29,885.83	534,806.61	17,757.31	552,563.92	
Village District																	
1995	H2O Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	31.93	61,627.36	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	66,627.36	4,602.30	1,468.96	0.00	6,071.26	72,698.62	2,413.83	75,112.45	
2019	Short-Lived Asset Capital Reserve Fund	Short-Lived Asset	Common CRF	5.77	10,770.94	17,500.00	0.00	0.00	12,520.94	346.61	260.49	0.00	607.10	13,128.04	435.89	13,563.93	
2013	Village District Intake CRF	Maintenance	Common CRF	13.29	22,238.63	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	27,238.63	2,431.77	995.04	0.00	3,026.81	30,265.44	1,004.91	31,270.35	
1995	Village District Pickup Truck	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	20.05	33,484.53	9,000.00	0.00	0.00	42,484.53	2,284.44	889.42	0.00	3,173.86	45,658.39	1,916.01	47,174.40	
1996	Wastewater Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	28.96	46,598.25	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	61,598.25	3,070.40	1,273.23	0.00	4,343.63	65,941.88	2,189.48	68,131.36	
Total Village District					100	174,719.71	35,750.00	0.00	0.00	210,469.71	12,735.52	4,487.14	0.00	17,222.66	227,692.37	7,560.12	235,252.49
Police Department																	
1996	Police Cruiser	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	84.48	75,164.12	25,000.00	0.00	43,855.28	56,308.84	979.00	1,635.53	0.00	2,614.53	58,923.37	1,956.45	60,879.82	

MS-9 REPORT OF THE TRUST FUNDS OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 12/31/2023

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS					PRINCIPAL			INCOME			TOTAL	MARKET VALUE					
Date	Name of Trust Fund	Purpose of Fund	How Invested	%	Beginning Balance	Additions	Capital Gains/-Losses	Withdrawals	Ending Balance	Beginning Balance	Amount	Expended During Year	Ending Balance	Principal & Income	Unrealized Gain/Loss	Ending Market Value	
Police Department																	
2010	Police Dept. Em. Safety Equip.	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	15.52	7,354.50	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,354.50	298.72	172.93	0.00	471.65	10,826.15	339.46	11,195.61	
Total Police Department					100	82,518.62	28,000.00	0.00	43,855.28	66,663.34	1,277.72	1,808.46	3,086.18	69,749.52	2,315.91	72,065.43	
Emergency Services																	
1997	Ambulance	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	17.30	56,141.59	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	66,141.59	2,166.83	1,266.13	0.00	3,432.96	69,574.55	2,310.10	71,884.65	
2008	Fire Dept. Em. Safety Equip.	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	11.35	61,626.39	10,009.00	0.00	29,877.99	41,757.40	2,593.10	1,345.21	0.00	3,903.31	45,665.71	1,516.25	47,181.96	
2009	Fire Truck	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	71.35	175,534.90	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	275,534.90	6,166.09	5,266.25	0.00	11,432.34	286,967.24	9,528.25	296,495.49	
Total Emergency Services					100	293,302.88	120,009.00	0.00	29,877.99	383,433.89	10,896.02	7,877.59	0.00	18,773.61	402,207.50	13,354.60	415,562.10
School																	
1994	BES Building & Improvements	Maintenance	Common CRF	17.02	102,025.40	9,009.50	787.05	18,019.00	93,802.95	6,597.30	2,138.16	0.00	8,735.46	102,538.41	5,352.71	107,891.12	
1984	BES Special Education	Special Education	Common CRF	5.94	26,719.63	0.00	274.92	0.00	26,994.55	8,123.53	696.78	0.00	8,820.31	35,814.86	1,869.61	37,684.47	
2011	BES Tech. Fund	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	2.39	12,800.51	0.00	110.51	0.00	12,911.02	1,205.00	280.06	0.00	1,485.06	14,396.08	751.50	15,147.58	
2006	Profile Building Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	23.16	122,985.09	0.00	1,071.18	0.00	124,056.27	12,776.07	2,714.84	0.00	15,490.91	139,547.18	7,284.64	146,831.82	
2006	Profile Special Education	Special Education	Common CRF	38.74	205,965.70	0.00	1,792.01	0.00	207,757.71	21,154.90	4,541.81	0.00	25,695.71	233,454.42	12,186.78	245,641.20	
2011	Profile Tech.	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	12.75	68,234.70	0.00	589.49	0.00	68,824.19	6,476.84	1,494.03	0.00	7,970.87	76,795.06	4,008.85	80,803.91	
Total School					100	538,731.03	9,009.50	4,625.16	18,019.00	534,346.69	56,333.64	11,865.68	0.00	68,199.32	602,546.01	31,454.09	634,000.10
GRAND TOTAL: CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS						1,616,124.38	342,368.50	4,625.16	193,118.89	1,769,999.15	100,737.25	38,011.81	0.00	138,749.06	1,908,748.21	74,824.23	1,983,572.44
GRAND TOTAL: BETHLEHEM						1,650,796.27	342,368.50	4,625.16	193,118.89	1,804,671.04	180,988.85	42,164.27	0.00	223,153.12	2,027,824.16	77,853.36	2,105,677.52

**TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
NEW HAMPSHIRE
2024 TOWN MEETING WARRANT
DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

The inhabitants of the Town of Bethlehem in the County of Grafton in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the **first session** (deliberative) of the annual meeting of the Town of Bethlehem on **Monday February 5th, 2024, at 6:00 pm**. Warrant articles may be amended at this session per RSA 40:13, IV a, with the exception of Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law and cannot be amended per RSA 40:23 a. Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion as amended. (Please note that this meeting may be continued to Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at the discretion of the Town Moderator).

You are further notified that the **second session** of the annual meeting of the Town of Bethlehem will be held at the Bethlehem Town Building Meeting Room on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 8:00 am** for the choice of Town Officers elected by official ballot, and to vote on all warrant articles from the first session on official ballot per RSA 40:13, VII. The polls for the election of town officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will open on said date at 8:00 am in the forenoon and will not close until 7:00 pm in the evening.

Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (Ballot Vote) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 5-0).

Selectman	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 1
Christina Clemmo		
April Hibberd		
Richard Southwell		
Moderator	2 Year Term	vote for not more than 1
Mary Lou Krambeer		
Planning Board	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 2
Gerald Blanchard		
Sally Fitzgerald		
Alecia Loveless		
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1 Year Term	vote for not more than 1
Andrew Bartz		
Pamela Hess Newman		
Joshua Lieberman		

Zoning Board of Adjustment Ruth Heintz Andrea Bryant	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 2
Trustee of the Trust Fund Gerald Blanchard	2 Year Term	vote for not more than 1
Trustee of the Trust Fund Pamela Hess Newman	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 1
Cemetery Trustee Christina Clemmo Dawn Ferringo Carole Hammarberg Alison Maltz Daniel J Murphy Richard E Robie Jr	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 3
Library Trustee Tana LeClair Richard Newman Sara Plumley Nora F Clark	3 Year Term	vote for not more than 3

Article 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to reduce the required parking from 2 spaces to 1 space for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that are no larger than 1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area and which have no more than two bedrooms.

Article 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to allow a single-family home to have one detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) up to 1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area with two bedrooms as a Permitted Use in Districts II, III, and IV and by Special Exception in District I Main Street and District I.

Article 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to define “Residential Conversions” and allow the conversion of existing residential structures and those structures previously used for nonresidential purposes to multi-family uses as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street and District I and by Special Exception in Districts II, III, and IV.

Article 5: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to increase housing opportunity by allowing dwelling units above first-floor businesses as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street and District I and by Special Exception in Districts II, III, and IV; and also add a definition of “Mixed Use.”

Article 6: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: repeal and replace Article XII regarding Cluster Developments and allow Cluster Developments as a Permitted Use everywhere except District I Main Street and the Landfill District. . Major changes to the Cluster Developments Article include the provision of additional guidance for the Planning Board when reviewing Cluster Developments, and a density bonus for developments with homes no larger than 1,200 sq. ft. gross floor area with a two-car garage

Article 7:Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: add a definition of and allow Short Term Rentals of single family dwellings, owner occupied two family dwellings, and ADUs to owner occupied single family dwellings as a Permitted Use in District I Main Street, District I, District II, District III and District IV; repeal the definition of “Motels, hotels, guest homes and overnight cabins”; adopt a new definition of “Public Accommodation,” which includes Campgrounds; add definitions of Accessory Building or Use, Bed and Breakfast, Campground, Owner-occupied, and Transient; add Bed and Breakfast and owner occupied short term rentals to the definition of Home Business; and adopt health and safety requirements for Short Term Rentals.

Article 8: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: to remove Article XVII Impact Fees in its entirety (has never been used), along with the Definitions in Article XXII that are only used in that section of the Zoning Ordinance.

Article 9: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as follows: add a definition of Gross Floor Area as “the sum of the horizontal area of all floors of a building, measured from the exterior faces of the walls but not including unfinished cellars, attics, porches, etc.”

Article 10: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,582,974 (Three Million Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,370,220 (Three Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Tax Impact 6.57

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the SELECTMEN'S recommended amount of \$180,000 (One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars) perform structural repairs and to replace the Visitor's center roof. This amount does not cover the full cost of repairs recommended in the engineering study. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.348

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .097

Article 13: To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Highway Truck Capital Reserve created in 1995. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .048

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 (Three Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .006

Article 16: To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Fire Department Personal Protective Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to a Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, to allow the money to be used to purchase safety equipment for the fire department in addition to personal protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus. And furthermore, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (2/3 vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Department Emergency Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.019

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .048

Article 19: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164,000.00 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve previously established. This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. There will be no tax impact if this article passes. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .00000

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Safety Facility Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building a Public Safety facility and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars). Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0) Tax Impact .193

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,000 (Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .050

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 (Eight Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Tech/Computer Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .010

Article 23: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 (Forty Thousand) to be added to the Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .077

Article 24: To see if the town will vote to amend the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 that was established in 2003 to increase the amount not to exceed \$15,000 to \$100,000. There will be no tax impact if this article passes. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .000

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article 3-1). Estimated tax impact .019

Article 26: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) to be added to the Library Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 3-1). Estimated tax impact .029

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,650 (Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars) for the purpose of providing live musical entertainment to the public, to be held at the Bethlehem Gazebo in 2024. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact .019

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Bethlehem Community Power plan, to authorize the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Bethlehem Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

Article 29: Shall the town READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500.00? (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0)

Article 30: Shall the town ADOPT the ALL-VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28? (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 3-0-1 abstained)

Article 31: Shall the town MODIFY the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Bethlehem, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$100,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$150,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$200,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$30,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$40,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0)

Article 32: Shall the town ADOPT the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$100,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$30,000 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$40,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required) (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0)

Article 33: To see if the Town will adopt the proposed noise ordinance pursuant to RSA 31:39, which prohibits certain loud noises likely to endanger the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM. Several types of noises, including but not limited to emergency service are exempted from the ordinance, and the Select Board shall have the authority to issue a temporary special permit for other types of noises. Violations of the ordinance may result in penalties ranging from \$100 to \$250, depending on the number of convictions in any six-month period. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.0

Article 34: We registered voters in the Town of Bethlehem present this petitioned article to be included in the 2024 Town of Bethlehem Warrant: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. through the Littleton Area Senior Center and the ServiceLink Resource Center for services for Bethlehem residents in 2023. From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 246 residents. These services included nutrition, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was \$169,559.86. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.019

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (Four Thousand) for the purpose of supporting Hospice, Home Health, Palliative and Long-Term Care services provided by North Country Home Health & Hospice. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.008

Article 36: To see if the town of Bethlehem NH will vote to raise the appropriate sum of \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars) for the Second Chance Animal Rescue. Second Chance Animal Rescue is a nonprofit that provides care and shelter for abused and abandoned cats and kittens. Second Chance Animal Rescue also sponsors monthly low cost Spay/Neuter clinics for both dogs and cats. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.002

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country in providing a healthy, safe, and productive after school and vacation camp environment for children from Bethlehem and the local community. The Club provides busing from the school to the Club for the afterschool program, which alone costs \$5000 a year. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.005

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,121.00 (Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-One Dollars) as the town's contribution to the White Mountain Mental Health and Common Ground, programs of Northern Human Services, serving the mental health and development service needs of Bethlehem residents. (The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.006

ESTIMATED 2024 TAX IMPACT FOR WARRANT ARTICLES

WARRANT ARTICLES	Cost	Tax Impact
Gazebo Concerts	9,650	.019
Visitor Center Roof	180,000	.348

CAPITAL RESERVE WARRANT ARTICLES

Highway Equipment	50,000	.097
Police Cruiser	25,000	.048
Police Special Equipment	3,000	.006
Fire Equipment	10,000	.019
Ambulance	10,000	.048
Assessing	26,000	.050
Tech/Computer	5,000	.010
Solid Waste	40,000	.077
Library Building Maintenance	15,000	.029
Town Building Maintenance	10,000	.019
Public Safety Facility	100,000	.193

NONPROFIT WARRANT ARTICLES

Boys & Girls Club	2,500	.005
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	10,000	.019
North Country Home Health & Hospice	4,000	.008
Second Chance Animal Rescue	1,000	.002
Northern Human Services	3,121	.006
		<hr/> 1.003

Estimated tax cost for an assessment of \$ 300,000	\$ 300.09
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CEMETERY TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Several trees were taken down between the original cemetery and the new section. These trees had deteriorated and become a hazard to fall and land on stones.

The town crew fixed and repaired stones and also fixed sunken graves. This is an ongoing project as this type of repair has been neglected for quite some time.

A large sign depicting the cemetery in full and depicting the locations of the sections will be placed at the entrance in the spring of 2024. There will also be small signs on each section to identify the section.

A survey of the cemetery was done in 2022-23 and is on file in the town office. This will allow work to begin on enlarging the new section of the cemetery to provide more burial lots.

The sexton now has a laptop computer so that he can access the Cemesites website for the Maple Street Cemetery. This allows him to go on the site with people interested in purchasing a lot and view existing lots with owners of those lots plus other functions.

The trustees would like to thank the Town crew under the direction of Brett Jackson for the care of the cemetery.

Trustees: Stephen Allen, Clare Brown, Christina Clemmo, Carole Hammarberg, Richard Robie, III. Alternate: Dan Murphy

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

In December 2023, the library celebrated our 10th year in the new building. We held an Open House during Christmas in Bethlehem, along with the Friends' Christmas Party. Over 300 people attended during those four hours. The library is so much more than books, and we had displays throughout the building showcasing our unique offerings.

- ❖ Our Library of Things includes an Orion Blast telescope, backpacks with early learning toys and activities, snowshoes for adults and children, a hiking backpack with trail maps and a compass, and Kill-a-Watt energy detectors to help you save money. This year we added a Ukulele kit, donated by the family of longtime trustee, Joyce Tucker. All of these can be checked out by patrons at no cost.
- ❖ Two genealogy databases: Ancestry for use in the library, and HeritageQuest which can be accessed from home.
- ❖ Other online databases such as our digitized and searchable White Mountain Echo newspapers, and NoveList, to provide inspiration to readers.
- ❖ Our digital collection through NH Downloadable books and the Libby app, which includes eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines.
- ❖ Programs such as 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, to get our youngest patrons on the path to being lifelong learners.

The library continues to offer varied and robust programming. This year saw an increase to 288 programs with over 3,000 attendees. Additionally, outside groups used our community room 265 times last year. Two of our most popular programs are the monthly Trivia Night, and the weekly Let's Talk discussion program. Both programs are successful in part because they offer attendees a sense of community while also an educational component. In 2024, we begin another community-based program, Simple Living. This ongoing program will offer a variety of discussions and speakers on topics such as downsizing your home, gardening, chicken keeping, recycling, and cooking.

Other adult programs included three Medicare information sessions, Oscar-nominated movies, patriotic music for Veterans' Day, weather and eclipse programs, preventing fraud and identity theft, and the NH Astronomical Society Night Sky telescope program.

Authors who visited us in 2023 included Kim Varney Chandler (*Covered Bridges of New Hampshire*); Marty Kelley, a children's author; poet Jeffrey Zygmunt who recited Robert Frost poems during Poetry month; and Ryan Bernsten (*50 States of Mind: A Journey to Rediscover American Democracy*). We also broadcast via Zoom the author of *The Bear*, Andrew Krivak, as part of the NH Big Read.

We offered weekly children's programming throughout the year: Preschool Story time, STEAM club, and Arts & Crafts. But summer is where the library jumps into full gear. In six weeks, we held 18 programs including a mime, cooking (with a travel kitchen we borrowed), gardening in the Friends' pollinator education garden, Touch-a-Truck event,

Robotics with White Mountain Science, a Harry Potter escape room, and a finale with Bright Star Theater which was sponsored by the Friends.

In the fall, the library participated in a statewide read of *The Bear* by NH author Andrew Krivak. Participants received a free copy of the book. There were discussions of the book, as well as programs throughout the state. At our library, we learned about apocalyptic fiction, viewed the author’s discussion of his book, and Miss Lucy Neal presented a history of the Abenaki and brought many artifacts with her.

The library thanks the many people who enjoy the library in various ways. We are often taken by surprise at the support and compliments we receive. We are proud to be of service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laura Clerkin M.S.L.S.
 Library Director

2023 Statistics:

Circulation:	Adult Books	7,957	Audio/Video	1,734
	Children/YA Books	6,796	Magazines	846
	Inter-Library Loaned	616	Inter-Library Borrowed	1004
	NH Downloadables (Overdrive)	4,083	Database Searches	779
	(e-books, audio books, Periodicals)			
Other:	Patrons Served	19,297	New Patrons	115
	Computer Users	1,303	New Non-resident Patrons	7
Collection:	Purchased Items	827	Uncollected Items	46
	Donated Items	201	Withdrawn Items	2,397

2024 Budget Bethlehem Public Library

Expenses	Budget <u>2023</u>	Actual <u>2023</u>	Budget <u>2024</u>
Book , Ect.	12,600	13,427	12,600
Magazine	1,000	1,622	1,000
Computer Expense	259	401	896
Accounting	1,910	1,409	1,910
Professional Development	1,500	1,098	1,500
Employee Recognition	250	258	250
Supplies	1,500	1,499	1,500
Communication Expense	1,200	1,404	1,600
Bldg. Maint, Lawn Care	11,935	13,852	27,400
Building Supplies	350	362	350
Postage	300	392	300
Utilities	4,452	4,256	3,672
Other Expense	200	1	200
Library Programs	1,900	2,786	2,200
Payroll Tax	8,480	8,136	9,027
Wages	101,450	99,146	107,100
Retirement Cost	7,790	6,967	8,289
Disability Insurance	696	775	696
Health Insurance	17,765	17,772	20,369
Library Systems Fee	4,950	4,748	5,352
Computer Maintenance	900	910	900
Property, Liability Insurance	1,705	1,705	3,130
Workers' Accident Insurance	108	108	109
Total	\$183,200	\$183,034	\$210,350
Income			
Town Funds	\$180,200	\$180,200	\$190,500
Library Fees, Donations	3,000	3,000	19,850
Total	\$183,200	\$183,200	\$210,350

Endowment/Trust Funds **

Gifts/Use Fees *

Beginning Balance	119,966.71	Beginning Balance	\$76,019.70
Contribution	6,278.38	Interest	40.44
Interest Earned		Additions	17,258.32
Expenditures	0.00	Expenditures	9,733.70
Ending Balance	126,245.09	Ending Balance	\$83,584.76

* The income and expenditures from these funds are not included in the budget.

**Income from funds is used to purchase books, conduct programs as directed by the trust

***These funds are not Included in the budget.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

In March, the Board of Selectmen thanked Chris Jensen and Ayla Querioga for their service to the Town and welcomed newly elected members, Michael Bruno and Nancy Strand. Both new members have considerable experience with other Town services and fresh perspectives, which is always welcome.

This year Jack Anderson officially retired as the Town's full-time Fire Chief. The selectboard did not make any large announcement or hold a celebration as Chief Anderson remains the Fire Chief, albeit on a part-time basis. The board appreciates all the work that Chief Anderson has dedicated to the Town over the years, both in the Fire Department and as a community member. The board will continue to support the Chief and the department through this time of transition.

The Town sold eight properties that had been Town-owned for several years. The Town was able to recover \$138,135.94 in back taxes and these properties will now be on the tax rolls with their new owners.

The Town's solar array is operational and reducing the cost of electricity for the Town. While a full year of data was not available for budgeting purposes for 2024, each department's budget reflects a much lower cost. In addition, the board decided to sell the renewable energy credits that it holds from the Town's solar array. This will generate some revenue for the Town, although the amount will fluctuate based on both the amount of power generated and the market prices.

At the request of the Building Inspector/Code Officer, a few changes were made to the building permit processes to improve safety – notably a requirement that a structural engineer sign off prior to the installation of rooftop solar panels and a new generator installation permitting process.

Like many towns in the North Country, signs, art, and inclusivity were a topic of discussion this year. The Selectboard continued its support of the placement of art by the North Country Mural Project and passed a resolution to affirm the board's commitment to inclusivity. That resolution is included in the annual report in a new section for any ordinance or resolution that the board passes in that year.

Reducing vehicle speed on Main Street has been a priority in Bethlehem for many years. After two years of coordination and approvals from NH DOT, the Town installed speed feedback signs on Main Street, Agassiz Street, and Profile Road. Additionally, the Town worked with North Country Council to conduct a traffic calming study on Main Street. The Selectboard is establishing a task force to review the results of the study and make recommendations for traffic calming measures on Main Street.

The Fire and Police Station Committee toured several recently-completed fire and police stations in the area to help with understanding what might be best in any future fire and police facility for Bethlehem. They also worked to identify a possible site in Town. The next step will be a preliminary or conceptual architectural and engineering study, for which a warrant article has been placed on the ballot in 2024. That warrant article would

fund both the early technical work and allow the Town to start saving funds for later work.

Bethlehem's Safety Committee and Document Retention Committee – both led by staff – were reinvigorated in 2023. Their work is largely invisible, such as identifying something for repair or a cleaned out closet. However, months of work can be seen in the now reorganized Town Administration offices.

The board used some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to pilot the bulk purchase of compost bins suitable for home composting. Bulk purchasing of compost bins for free or discounted distribution to residents is something that is done in many towns across the country. However, Bethlehem has wildlife challenges that other communities may not face. The bins were given away to interested residents selected through a drawing and we await the results of a survey to better understand how well they worked and if this might be something Bethlehem could do to reduce food waste going to the landfill.

Also utilizing ARPA funds, the board conducted an engineering study to understand the costs and challenges of building a sidewalk from Bethlehem Elementary School to the library. This sidewalk has been a priority of the Town for many years but has not quite been able to come into being. This study gives all the stakeholders – the SAU, the Library Board, the Village District, and the Town an opportunity to move forward with possible funding opportunities to improve the safety and accessibility in this area of Main Street.

The Transfer Station Committee held a public meeting to ensure that the Town residents and property owners had an opportunity to view the plans and what the Committee recommends for the future infrastructure. This presentation remains available with the agenda for the Selectboard meeting on June 5, 2023 agenda on the Town's website.

This was a re-evaluation year for the Town. (Bethlehem has used a specialty appraiser for complex commercial properties for the last few years and will continue to do so in 2024.) Real estate values in Bethlehem and the region have risen considerably in the past five years. To provide proportional tax relief to low-income residents and reflect the economic changes in the past decade, the Selectboard has placed a warrant article on the ballot to increase the property tax exemption for seniors with a corresponding increase in income and asset limits. The Selectboard has also proposed a warrant article that would provide equivalent relief for disabled residents.

Several years ago, Bethlehem voters approved a tax credit for combat veterans of \$500. Due to a change by the legislature in 2022, the veterans tax credit for 2023 was reverted to the default State credit of \$50. Rather than have veterans pay for what is, essentially, an administrative glitch, the Selectboard decided this year to abate \$450 per veteran to give them the credit that was in line with what voters had approved and place the revised language on the March warrant. The Selectboard has also added a warrant article for the "All Veterans" tax credit, also at \$500, for veterans who served their country outside of a qualifying time period. These credits are not cumulative – a person is either eligible for one or the other.

From the Friend of the Library's bake sales on voting days to countless hours of trail work to Christmas in Bethlehem, the work and passion of volunteers in Bethlehem directly add to our vibrant community. While we cannot possibly thank them all in this report, two residents volunteered and were appointed to fill vacancies on regional committees as representatives of Bethlehem. Jared Sullivan was appointed to the North Country Council Transportation Advisory Committee and Andrea Bryant was appointed to the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee.

This year the Board formally, and with gratitude, accepted the following donations from the community:

- A trailer for the fire department, a gift from Bethlehem Emergency Services
- A bicycle for the police department, a gift from Bike the North Country
- A Little Free Library near the Historical Society building, a gift of BES students and teachers, in collaboration with the Historical Society
- Funds for the food pantry and goods for the Little Free Pantry, a gift of Becky Dichristopher
- A donation for food pantry infrastructure, a gift from an anonymous donor

Respectfully submitted,
Veronica Morris, Chair

SELECTBOARD RESOLUTIONS

August 14, 2023: Inclusion Resolution

Whereas, the Town of Bethlehem welcomes all people regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other variable that makes us who we are.

Whereas, the Town of Bethlehem has a responsibility to all its residents to keep them safe from discrimination, harassment, or from those who want to marginalize others for being different than themselves through prejudice and bigotry.

Whereas, recent events in the North Country have singled out the LGBTQ community and other minority groups as not welcome.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by Town of Bethlehem Select Board that:

The Town of Bethlehem will welcome all to our community and that our Town services, amenities, and properties are available to all who live here and to our visitors passing through, following guidelines and policies that apply equally to all persons.

We are committed to promoting a secure, welcome, and safe environment.

We are committed to modeling respectful dialogue.

Voted by the Select Board of the Town of Bethlehem, NH this 14th day of August, 2023.

December 21, 2023: FEMA Flood Plan Resolution

Pursuant to RSA 674:57, by resolution of the Board of Selectmen, all lands designated as special flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its "Flood Insurance Study for the County of Grafton, NH" dated February 8, 2024, together with the associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps Panels 33009C0330F, 33009C0340F, and 33009C0345F dated February 8, 2024 and 33009C0117E, 33009C0120E, 33009C0128E, 33009C0130E, 33009C0135E, 33009C0136E, 33009C0140E, 33009C0145E, 33009C0155E, 33009C0165E, 33009C0170E, 33009C0190E, 33009C0280E, 33009C0285E, 33009C0305E, 33009C0310E, and 33009C0335E dated February 20, 2008, are declared to be part of the Town of Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance and are hereby incorporated by reference. Selectman Bruno seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Here's to another year in the books. The Bethlehem Police Department, like many places these days, was busy due to staffing shortages. In June Corporal Zachary Bushway gave his resignation and took a position with the Carroll New Hampshire Police Department. Corporal Bushway began his career with Bethlehem Police Department in 2014 and was a very valuable asset to the town. During his time with the P.D. Cpl. Bushway served as evidence Officer, Taser Instructor and Field Training Officer. Fortunately for us, he stayed on as a part time Police Officer to help cover shifts but not having him here on a day-to-day basis has been difficult.

As many already know, we also suffered a great loss in the passing of Officer Robert Martin who passed away in September. Officer Martin had been with the Bethlehem Police Department only a short time, however, he made his presence in town known to many. Officer Martin was a wealth of knowledge, having served in New Hampshire Law Enforcement for approximately 18 years and having previously retired from the Rikers Island Correctional Facility in New York. Rob was a great Officer and an even better friend to all that knew him. He is truly missed.

There were some bright spots in the year as well. We were fortunate enough to fill the vacant position left by Corporal Bushway's departure with Corporal Richard Ball. Many people in town already know Rick as he worked for the Bethlehem Police Department from 1997 until 2005. Cpl. Ball has over 32 years of experience in New Hampshire Law enforcement and has been invaluable in helping fill shifts and take up some of the slack in investigations.

We were also, most recently, able to fill our final vacant position with Officer Brian Jenkins. Ofc. Jenkins comes to us with an extensive emergency services background. Ofc. Jenkins has worked as a full time Police Officer in Massachusetts as well as New Hampshire. In addition to his time as a Police Officer, Officer Jenkins has also worked as a Fire Fighter/EMT as well as serving in the United States Airforce for 15 years. We are both excited and thankful to have him aboard.

The Bethlehem Police Department received 2890 calls for service this year. As always, we would like to thank the residents of Bethlehem for their continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Alan C. DeMoranville III

Corporal Richard Ball

Officer Brian Jenkins

Sergeant Jeffrey Dube

Officer Samantha Donahue

Part Time Officer Sarah Donahue

Part Time Officer Zachary Bushway

FIRE & AMBULANCE REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to once again write this report and inform our citizens of what is taking place within our department. It has been another banner year for calls for both units with a total of 461 calls for the year. We have been fortunate not to have had any major fires in the past year, however several of our Mutual Aid partners have had some serious fires occur and we have responded to assist.

One of the biggest changes within the department is my retirement as a full-time Chief and coming back as a part-time Chief. I had several reasons for doing this and one of the biggest was to save the town a substantial amount of money in salary and benefits for a full-time position and redirect the money saved towards the Ambulance Service. We have been able to do this by having our Fire Officers take up some of the slack when I am not available, which is a good thing as it is teaching these officers some of the duties that have been done by the full-time Chief. I am adjusting to the part-time job but I am always available to our residents, so don't hesitate to call. My Deputy Chief, Brian Charland steps in for me when I am not available and has been doing a great job.

You will see that redirection of funds in the newest budgets with a decrease in the Fire Department and a substantial increase in the Ambulance Budget. Medical calls are becoming the bulk of what we do in the Fire Service and we have to recognize this trend and adjust as quickly as we can to ensure our Medical calls are adequately covered. Time marches on whether we like it or not, as some of our most dedicated people are getting to an age that will preclude them from participating. (me included). We have to continue to find newer, younger, more interested people to fill our ranks as we move forward. Requirements set forth by the State of NH and the Federal Government make filling those ranks even more difficult with all of the training required to become certified. We have been fortunate to have several people step up and take the required training and give up their precious time to go through the steps required to achieve that goal. We are continuing our recruiting efforts as it is imperative that we strengthen our resources in this area. It should be noted that one of our neighboring towns disbanded their Ambulance service and is now costing them many hundreds of thousands of dollars to cover their town so it is extremely important that we maintain our service. We have increased our membership by several people however it has gotten to a point where we need to have a crew that is responsible for a time frame during the day when many of our members are working or unavailable to respond. Our new plan is to have people sign up for a 12-hour shifts to be available for calls and they would be paid a small stipend of \$50.00 per shift to be available when needed. This initial plan is for daytime coverage only as night time is not as big of an issue. This is where the added cost in the Ambulance is coming from. Please note that a complete set of guidelines clearly stating the rules for this new procedure was submitted to the select board and approved at a recent meeting. If anyone has questions regarding this new policy, please contact the Fire Chief for further explanations.

We have placed the order for the new fire truck that was approved at last years town meeting and will be up to 2 years before we see it in service. This truck has to be specially built to fit our station due to the limited access we have in our older station. There has been a committee formed to start looking into a new Public Safety Building and we have done some site visits in the area as there has been several new recently built facilities. We are interested in what they would do differently and try and learn from their mistakes.

We regret to announce that we had some past members pass away. Harry “Bing” Clark a longtime member of our fire department and a Bethlehem Police Officer. Bing was a great person and a good friend. Another Fireman that had been a valuable member of the Fire Department was Marc Goudreau. Marc joined the Department in 2016 and was always the first one to raise his hand when something needed to be done. Mark passed away from cancer this past fall and we miss him very much, he was such a great person. We also lost Rob Martin a Bethlehem Police Officer that was a Fireman at heart. Rob was a great friend to the Department and its members and was well liked and respected by all. I would also like to acknowledge a couple of other respected residents, Joyce Tucker and Don Lavoie we lost in the past year. Both of these people were an important part of the fabric of our town.

That will do it for this year, however I would like to thank the residents of this town for all of the support they have given us over the past years. I also want to thank our members for their continued dedication to this town and its residents.

Chief Jack Anderson

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Within the last three years snow fall has been on the lean side and wind and heavy rain have been more the norm. High winds are very time consuming with continual road patrols, often being called out for a tree down on a road that has been checked minutes before. There are times that while cutting downed trees more are falling close by which is a dangerous situation for crews or power lines are involved and power companies are called in to handle those jobs. Heavy rains add their own challenges. At times flooding of roads most often Black Brook on River Road which the Town has been seeking financial options and have an engineering plan in place to remedy.

Many hours in the summer are spent doing roadside mowing which may have the shoulders looking better but the purpose is for better sight of view maintaining brush growth and giving a place to push snow and allow sun to melt snow covered roads without the use of costly and damaging salt.

Experience in the crew is great, Rick Robie Jr., Tom Hampson, Jon Wright all have many years with the Town and Chris Brousseau has reached 20 years of employment with the Town. New hire Justin Francis has taken over town grounds and all remain very dedicated to the Town's needs. Doing the different jobs asked by the Town. Personally, I would like to thank each one of these dedicated employees who answer the call day or night for whatever mother nature throws at them.

Thank you to the office staff and other departments of Bethlehem for their support and help in the past year.

Respectfully,
Brett Jackson
Road Agent

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I am submitting the annual report for the Bethlehem Recreation Department again. In 2023, the recreation department continued to grow in multiple ways; two major ways we grew was by created multiple sports teams per age group and replacing the main drain in the pool. This year every program that Bethlehem Rec offered was very close to full or full. Our sports teams played in tournaments and games and presented great sportsmanship. After-school program ran as usual, which included structured games and free-time, both inside and out. Again, this year, we had two summer camps to separate the younger kids from older kids, which also allows us to accept more kids into the program. In 2023, we introduced a new adult pickleball program for beginners which had great participation. We continued with the sponsored jerseys for sports teams, which allows the kids to keep the jerseys; thank you to those that have sponsored our sports teams. One new thing we started in 2023 was offering merchandise for parents and kids to purchase; I hope to continue this and offer different items each season. While having new families join our programs, we also have numerous families that continue to make use of our programs year after year.

2023 Recreation Department Enrollment

<u>After School:</u>	<u>Sports:</u>	<u>Summer:</u>	<u>Adult:</u>
25 Registered	Baseball: 58 Registered Soccer: 76 Registered Basketball: 67 Registered	Younger Kid: 33 Registered Older Kid: 14 Registered	Pickleball: 20 Registered

In 2023, the pool was free to residents of Bethlehem again which brought in 404 residents and 248 non-residents who purchased a day pass. This year the pool was open from July 3rd Aug 23rd, we opened later due the main drain project. We offered swim lesson, swim team, Jr. Lifeguarding course, and a WSI course in which all has great enrollment. We had both the Boys and Girls Club and Whitefield Rec use our pool for a field trip throughout the summer.

2022 Summer Pool Enrollment

<u>Season Passes:</u>	<u>Swim Lessons:</u>	<u>Swim Team:</u>	<u>Courses:</u>
Non-Res.: 1	Bethlehem Rec: 27 Lafayette Rec: 39 Public: 63 Private: 15	12 Registered	Jr. Lifeguard: 5 Registered (2 earned) WSI: 6 enrolled (3 returning)

I want to thank everyone who has supported our programs including volunteer coaches, community members, sponsors, and others. Our programs wouldn't run without the support from you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Abbie Sawyer
Recreation Director

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

The Direct Assistance office received 30 applications for assistance in 2023. In a sharp contrast to the 2022 statistics, payments for emergency shelter were significantly lower; however, rental assistance increased significantly and accounted for 54% of the Direct Assistance budget. Unfortunately, the area continues to see a shortage of available rental units and available shelter beds are also difficult to come by.

Case management continues to be a vital component for success for the individuals requesting assistance. Partnerships with other community resources help to offset the amount of financial assistance provided by the town. These partnerships are vital to both the individual's and the community's success.

BETHLEHEM FOOD PANTRY

In 2023 the Food Pantry re-established a partnership with the NH Food Bank which has significantly increased the variety of food available. Through the NH Food Bank, we were able to apply for a \$1,500 grant from their NH Feeding NH program. This grant helped provide fresh vegetables from Meadowstone Farm, here in Bethlehem, and NH raised meat from Sherman Farm, located in Center Conway, to our pantry visitors.

We continue our long-standing relationship with USDA Commodity Foods and receive food donations through their program throughout the year. The balance of the food offerings from the pantry are from community donations. We would like to thank Phil Bell/Beech Hill Auto and The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation for their annual food drives. These efforts significantly help with availability of food during the holidays.

The Bethlehem Food Pantry is funded solely by generous donations from Town of Bethlehem residents, and area businesses. Monetary donations are used to purchase food items locally. Food donations can be made during regular Town Office hours. Financial donations can be mailed to the Bethlehem Food Pantry, PO Box 189, Bethlehem, NH 03574.

In 2023 the Bethlehem Food Pantry distributed 384 boxes of food, providing 3,472 meals to families from Bethlehem, Franconia, Littleton, Whitefield, Lisbon, and Lancaster.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Ferringo
Town Welfare Administrator

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The planning board continued to have a very busy and productive year in 2023 building on the successes kicked off by the 2022 Planning Board. The planning board addressed 2 major subdivisions; 7 lot line adjustments, conducted 5 conceptual meetings as well as 3 site plan reviews. The planning board would like to extend our thanks to Jerry Blanchard who stepped up to serve as an alternate for the planning board this past year. In doing so Jerry was able to contribute much to the formation of the projects contained in this report.

One major project of this year resulted in the planning board having the opportunity to collaborate with the HOP (Housing Opportunities Project) grant. The common goal was to enhance opportunities for workforce housing needs and to maximize options available to everyone interested in working in and residing in our town. Kaela Tavares and her associates from the North Country Council were a pleasure to work with. Please make some time if you are able to read their report. A second project was the continued review and finalization of Bethlehem's site plan rules and subdivision regulations. We worked diligently through the process of preparing them to be working documents, clean and understandable and ready to be presented as warrant articles for Bethlehem residents to read and cast their vote on in March of 2024.

To maximize completion of these projects the planning board continued to utilize, and benefit from the expertise of a professional community planner/consultant, Ms. Tara Bramford. Continued funding for Ms. Bramford's services were provided through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The contract with Ms. Bramford allowed the planning board to use her expertise in leading discussions related to strengthening site plan reviews and regulations and provided the board with guidance and technical support. The actions of the planning board were taken to ensure that any decisions/conclusions were in accordance with current state RSA's as well as current town regulations and ordinances. We wanted primarily to ensure that the final documents were user-friendly for current and future board members and for future applicants.

Our town continues to experience growth especially in District 1 Main Street and District 1. To make sure that all future projects proposed within the village district are allowable the planning board continued to maintain an open dialogue with the Village District Commission. As Bethlehem continues to benefit from continued economic growth, we hope that our collaborative efforts this past year will contribute to this growth in a positive and productive way.

The consequence(s) of the Covid 19 pandemic continues to affect people's comfort level with going out in public for events or meetings. As a result, a decision was made to continue to have Bethlehem resident Harry Newell continue to operate zoom meetings at the town hall. During the year due to scheduling challenges the technical aspects of this task were passed on to our town employees, Mary Moritz and Dawn Ferrigno who have

done an outstanding job of taking on this additional duty. To this end the planning board hoped that continuing to provide the zoom meeting would increase public interest and input.

The Planning Board meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The planning board is responsible for the review of every application/plan presented to them. We are responsible for confirming the applicant's compliance with site plan rules and regulations for all proposed building projects, residential and/or commercial developments, in the Town of Bethlehem. The process begins with the applicant's presentation to the planning board as a "concept". There is no cost to present a conceptual plan and assistance is always available to make sure that all projects meet current regulations. Simply contact the planning board administrator.

Respectfully Submitted
Anthony M. Rodrigues,
Planning Board Chair

REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS REPORT

In 1985 the Bethlehem Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF) was established through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$250,000. This CDBG has enabled BRLF to grant loans to individuals for the revitalization of Main Street businesses.

The revitalization loans and facade grants are reviewed by the BRLF committee and then referred to the Board of Selectpersons for final approval.

This year there were one business with an outstanding loan that had been paying as agreed.

Facade improvement grants were given to two Main Street businesses, totaling \$10,000.00, who improved the Main Street side of their buildings.

Please feel free to contact any one of the committee members should you have any questions.

BRLF committee:

Joyce Presby

Shane MacElhiney

Mary Jackson

BRETZFELDER MEMORIAL PARK COMMITTEE REPORT

Bretzfelder Memorial Park is a beautiful 77 acre nature reserve owned by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (Forest Society) and cooperatively managed with the Town of Bethlehem. This property includes a mix of different plant communities, streams, and wetlands, providing habitat for many songbirds, owls, amphibians, and beavers among other wildlife. There is a small network of trails for hiking, snowshoeing, or X-country skiing. One can also enjoy sitting by the pond or under the “Big Pine Tree”. In 1982, the Bretzfelder Memorial Park Committee was formed at our town meeting and has worked, in conjunction with the Forest Society, as stewards to maintain the trails, ponds and buildings for the continued education, safety and beauty of the park.

Every year the committee hosts eight free family programs related to environmental education or outdoor recreation, four in winter and four in summer. Last winter we hosted two virtual programs: Renovations at The Rocks - Virtual Tour of the Forest Society North at The Rocks by Anne Truslow and Nigel Manley, and Bear in New Hampshire with Andy Timmins (recordings are available for viewing at <https://forestsociety.org/the-rocks/bretzfelder>) and two outdoor programs: an evening walk led by Steve Sabre, and a program on loons by the Loon Preservation Committee. In August, we provided programs to entertain and educate. We hosted the DC3 band, the Squam Lakes Nature Center on site at the Tanya Tellman pavilion, offered a tour of the Bethlehem biking trails, and we provided a program on identifying aquatic invertebrates.

In the spring of 2023, we worked with students from the White Mountain School to clean up trails for summer use. We have replaced damaged educational signs. In 2024, we are planning to complete signage for some of the trails and continue to monitor and do trail repairs as needed. In winter 2024 we plan to host four programs.

Feb. 21:	Owls of New Hampshire
Feb 28:	Start Your Own Pollinator Garden
March 6:	Darkness in the Daytime: Exploring the Solar Eclipse
March 13:	The Wonder of Hummingbirds

In August we will be presenting our summer programs. Look for information on all our programs on the Bethlehem town website and the Forest Society website. The programs, maintenance and activities are provided at no cost to the town/taxpayer but covered by the generous endowment from the Bretzfelder family.

Come and take advantage of this beautiful park. Join us for a program, explore the trails and enjoy a picnic by the pond near the lower parking lot. If it is raining, you can sit under the pavilion by the upper parking lot and listen to the birds and peepers in the spring or maybe the owls in the evening. The Park is located on Prospect Street, about one mile from Route 302. It is open from dawn to dusk every day of the year.

The Bretzfelder Memorial Park Committee:

Sarah Turtle, Chair
Shanna Maziarz, Vice Chair
Margaret Nancy Czarny, Secretary
Elizabeth Carter
Bryan Smith

Sue Greenlaw
Gale Conservation Commission rep.
Veronica Morris, Select Board rep.
Nigel Manley, SPNHF rep.
Alicia Loveless, Planning board rep.

BETHLEHEM HERITAGE SOCIETY REPORT

A Strategic Planning session on March 11, 2023, to discuss the long-range plans for the Heritage Society. It was voted to change our name to Bethlehem Historical Society at that time. This name change is in process.

The roof of the building needs to be repaired as it is leaking and in need of repair. A tarp was placed over the roof for the winter.

“What’s Her Name podcast” – group of 20 women who came from across the country to visit the museum and hear the story of the “Nutshell Series of Unexplained Death. This group travels all over the country to see and hear about, “Fascinating Women You’ve Never Heard Of”. The tour originated in Ogden, Utah with most of the participants from the Midwest.

The heritage garden was cleaned by volunteers in the spring, new planters were put in place in front of the building and a new bench was donated for the garden by Veronica Morris. In the late fall, we had Tall Pine Landscaping cut brush and some bigger trees that we could not do. This will be a work in progress in 2024 spring as Tall Pine Landscaping will be back and finish up their work.

Wayside Inn Vintage Market – Display of Pierce Bridge in old days. Always a popular attraction!

Maplewood Golf Club dedication of markers throughout the town

A startup committee was formed for the 250th birthday party for Bethlehem in 2024. On October 15th, a program was held at the Maplewood Casino to dedicate the plaque project was held with approximately 50 people in attendance.

An application has been placed with the NH State Department of Historical Resources for a Historical Marker commemorating Bethlehem’s Grand Hotel Era. Many thanks to Michael Bruno for his assistance.

On December 2nd, the Christmas in Bethlehem Celebration included an Open house at the Society with Santa greeting and having pictures taken with 141 children. Santa’s helper was Peter Roy.

On Saturday, December 9th the 34th Annual Memory and Veterans tree ceremony was held with 200 names being read. Carole Hammarberg is our reader.

The Society provided information and worked with the NH Preservation Alliance to have the Bethlehem town pool as the picture chosen to be place on their annual postcard. Thanks to Andrew Cushing of the Alliance for working with us.

We continue to work to complete QR codes for the plaque project. The codes will be placed on the posts in the spring. This will allow us to present more information regarding the site and also makes the information handicap accessible.

Our thanks to the town of Bethlehem and all who support the Society.

Bethlehem Heritage Society
Board of Directors

VISITOR CENTER REPORT

The Visitor Center opened in May and weekends through June were fairly busy.

The month of July brought the 603-NH History Hunt to the Museum. The goal, to be photographed beside the Frances Glessner Lee Nutshell Diorama. The state wide scavenger hunt brought about 64 people into the Visitor Center. History bringing people together who knew!

Our total for the season was 777 or so, which is up from last year.

Christmas in Bethlehem held on December 2nd, brought an additional 141 children and parents to the Visitor Center to meet Santa.

We look forward to the 2024 season and wish to thank the Bethlehem Community for their continued support.

Carole Hammarberg and Kay Allen,
Visitor Center Staff

BETHLEHEM CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Municipal Conservation Commissions are advisory bodies charged by state statute RSA: 36-A with the "proper utilization and protection of the natural resources of a town." Conservation Commissions review Dredge and Fill and Wetlands applications submitted to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and are the only municipal body with the authority to intervene and request time to review those applications. Conservation Commission volunteers work at the town level as stewards of critical habitats, water resources, and natural areas by managing town forests, monitoring natural resources and advocating for the health and wellbeing of land, water, wildlife and residents.

In addition to Department of Environmental Services, the Bethlehem Conservation Commission (BCC) interacts with several state agencies, including the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, NH Department of Fish and Game, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and preserve Bethlehem's natural resources.

In 2023, the BCC welcomed two new members: Betsey Phillips as a full member and Chris Jensen as an alternate member. Member Rachelle Lyons volunteered to represent the commission on the town's Sustainability Working Group. Member Margaret Gale serves as liaison to the Bretzfelder Committee.

The commission contributed \$820 to the Bethlehem Elementary School (BES) to support transportation expenses of a March field trip to Plymouth State University (PSU). Coordinated by PSU professor--and BCC member--Rachelle Lyons, the field trip focused on Climate Change and included a tour of campus trees, a planetarium program, and an examination of ice and lake sediment cores. The finale was an "intergenerational climate change conversation" between BES students, PSU students, and some fortunate members of the public.

Participants in the 2023 Annual Roadside Clean-up, held in early May, picked up 137 bags of trash, totaling 1,160 pounds of litter removed from Bethlehem roadsides. Once again, the BCC assisted BES students with their annual clean-up around the school and on nearby streets. In 2024, BCC intends to promote and expand the Adopt-a-Spot litter clean-up program.

BCC members reviewed several Wetlands and Alteration of Terrain Permit Applications related to Casella Waste Systems/North Country Environmental Services (NCES) projects and sent comments to DES. BCC researched and sent comments to DES on the Second Seep Restoration Project application. The seep runs in a channel from the NCES landfill into the Ammonoosuc River and has been a major concern of the BCC for over a decade.

BCC expressed environmental concerns over the proposed Granite State Landfill in Dalton. The entrance to this proposed landfill would be located on Douglas Drive in Bethlehem. This could have a major negative impact on area wetlands and roadways.

The 2024 Eversource Transmission Line Rebuild Project calls for the replacement of 100 towers in Bethlehem. The BCC held a listening session with Eversource representatives in November to learn more about the projects. Members contacted the towns of Sugar Hill and Franconia to hear their concerns about the two projects. This project will require active construction and development of access roads in areas that are critical habitats including vernal pools and wetlands.

In compliance with the RSAs, the BCC has begun updating the Natural Resources Inventory, last done in 2006. This update will be completed by December 2024. Information collected in the new NRI can help inform the town Master Plan update.

BCC has set the following priorities for 2024:

- Wetlands protection- continue to review and comment on Standard Dredge and Fill and Alteration of Terrain permit applications
- Update the Natural Resources Inventory
- Adopt-a-Spot program- promote on-going litter clean-up program
- Contribute to the Town Master Plan update

The commission is actively seeking new members interested in being stewards of our town's land, water and wildlife. If you are interested in learning more about the details of these projects or the work of the Conservation Commission, please reach out to conservationcommission@bethlehemnh.org.

BETHLEHEM ENERGY COMMISSION REPORT

Governance: Bethlehem Energy Commission (BEC) members are appointed by the Select Board. 2023 members: Dan Crosby (chair), David Van Houten (past chair), Scott Caisse, Chuck Phillips, Mary Lou Krambeer, Alex Graziano, Tiffany Miller, and Bruce Caplain (Selectman).

Mission: The Bethlehem Energy Commission encourages and supports economically and environmentally sensible energy practices in Bethlehem, NH.

Throughout 2023 the Energy Commission worked to stay apprised of available grant opportunities and match them with town, resident, and business needs.

Municipal Projects

In mid-2023, Eversource's electricity rate hit an all-time high of \$0.22 per kWh, the Energy Commission made great progress during that time to move the Town and Village's electricity supply to self-generated solar. The **Highway Garage solar** array was hooked-up in March. **Bethlehem Elementary School's** solar array came on-line in April. And, this followed **Bethlehem Library's** solar installation in mid-2022.

The March **Village District** meeting voted to authorize a solar project for the waste water treatment facility. The estimated cost of the project is \$421,000 with at least \$250,000 funded through a grant. We are working on uncovering more dollars. In December, NH Department of Environmental Services recognized Bethlehem as having the most efficient Lagoon Facility in the State. The award statement said, "significantly more efficient than many small lagoon systems in the country. And Bethlehem is not done yet! They are currently on their way to reaching net zero energy use for the WWTF through the replacement of aging and inefficient motors as well as installation of a solar array."

Grafton County funding – The Energy Commission approached the County with the idea of directing some of their excess ARPA dollars to individual town projects. While we were hoping for matching dollars for energy projects (this use was not eligible), our suggestion resulted in grants for Grafton County towns. Bethlehem received \$50,000 for the new fire truck.

Residential Projects

Rambling Woods – in-progress is a 100 kWh installation for the residents of this neighborhood. The planning board has approved the project, we are now looking for funding.

Electric Bus Demonstration (March) and **EV Car and Truck Demonstration** (July). These ride-sharing events were held at the Library to show new electric vehicle technology to the public.

Solarize North Country was started-up by two of our members, Alex Graziano and Tiffany Miller, to bring more residential solar installations to the region. Their initiative streamlines solar estimates by choosing one vendor to create a buying group, multiple residential customers, installation costs will fall.

Research on lowering individual electric bills led us to the statewide **Community Power Coalition** a nonprofit 501c4 membership organization. The Coalition is a third-party electric supplier that delivers low-cost electricity to member organizations. The program aggregates demand to establish more negotiating power for the purchase of electricity on behalf of Towns throughout NH. A warrant article requesting the Select Board to further study this opportunity is on the 2024 ballot. Two public hearings were held in December 2023.

Business Projects

Solarize Main Street -- working closely with the staff at the statewide nonprofit, Clean Energy New Hampshire, the Energy Commission is helping businesses access federal funds for solar installations in rural areas. By creating a commercial buying group costs will go down. Federal funds are available to cover up to 40% of project expenses. We have reached out to 24 businesses from Adair to Mountain Roots.

Looking Forward to 2024

Apply for **Municipal Renewable Energy 30% Refund** from the federal government for municipal solar installations in 2023.

Village District water: Next BEC project: solar at water plant. We need and have already requested a DES energy audit.

Dan Crosby, BEC Chair

Scott Caisse

Bruce Caplain, Selectboard liaison

Mary Lou Krambeer

Chuck Phillips

David Van Houten

BETHLEHEM TRANSFER STATION COMMITTEE

During 2023, the Bethlehem Transfer Station Committee focused on the design and financing of a new transfer station by the end of 2026. This is when the North Country Environmental Services landfill is anticipated to close and Bethlehem must once again assume responsibility for the collection and disposal of solid waste. The three goals of the committee are to:

- a) Construct a state-of-the-art transfer station that maximizes recycling and waste reduction to decrease expensive and environmentally unfriendly landfilling;
- b) Keep construction and operating costs at a level that will avoid undue taxpayer burden; and
- c) Avoid the need for any borrowing to construct the transfer station in order to preserve the Town's ability to finance other needed capital projects for fire and police services.

After competitive bidding approved by the select board, the committee worked with an engineering firm and finalized design plans and cost estimates to achieve these goals. The committee has also confirmed with the Mt. Carberry landfill in Success, NH, that the town may use this landfill for waste that cannot be recycled or diverted.

The transfer station would be built off Route 116, just north of Wing Road, on town-owned land. The use of this land, which is already largely landscaped to facilitate a transfer station, will lower the financial burden on taxpayers. The total Phase I project costs will be less than some other transfer stations spend on upgrades and without sacrificing sound landfill waste diversion practices.

To avoid bonding or other borrowing, the committee put together a financing plan that was presented to the public at a June 5, 2023 information session held by the select board. It was proposed that the approximately \$900,000 construction costs could be met through a combination of: a) public and private foundation grants; b) the existing transfer station capital reserve fund that has been funded through warrants approved by taxpayers since 2017; and c) perhaps some contribution from the Town's rainy-day fund.

The grant application process commenced with a request to the regional U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) to finance 35% of the project's costs. The committee was advised by the U.S.D.A that it had sufficient funding for the current year to provide such a grant. The committee, working with the town administrator, put together an application in half the time of a comparable New Hampshire community, in order to meet the earliest application date of April 15th.

Unfortunately, the budget crises in Washington D.C. caused an unanticipated decrease in U.S.D.A. grant funding. Thus, towards the end of the summer, the U.S.D.A. informed the town that there was no available funding for the current year. While the town has been allowed to resubmit its application, the U.S.D.A. anticipates that next year's grant availability would likely be a small fraction of the \$309,000 that the town has applied for – perhaps only \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Nevertheless, the committee and town administration have an on-going search program to explore a number of other grant opportunities. They include the Northern Border Regional Commission, local foundations, and lobbying of state and federal officials for advice and commitments, including Congressional earmarks. Communications and meetings have been held with aides to our federal Representative, Annie Kuster, and Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan.

The committee has also recommended a continuation of funding the existing transfer station capital reserve fund. For 2024, the committee recommended a \$40,000 warrant article for voter consideration to add to the approximately \$244,000 already approved in previous years by Town residents. In 2023, a \$35,000 warrant was approved by a two-to-one margin

In addition to the transfer station project, the committee has continued its efforts to provide information to residents on how to protect our environment and to save money by reducing waste. One educational resource has been the Committee's "Just Be Greener" newsletter.

The committee was created in 2017 with the goal of providing the Select Board with advice on options for a new post-landfill, municipal solid waste management system. The guiding principle has been finding "environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of the town."

Committee meetings are generally held on a monthly basis, and the public is encouraged to attend. There are also positions that are open for residents and homeowners who may want to join the committee.

AMMONOOSUC COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REPORT

ACHS has been providing essential services such as preventative care, follow-up treatments, vaccinations, screenings, and crucial behavioral health support for individuals of all ages. Your continued support for ACHS is instrumental in our ongoing efforts to provide comprehensive preventive healthcare to all, regardless of their financial situation. ACHS's sliding fee scale for payment ensures that individuals in need can access affordable healthcare promptly, a vital necessity in today's ever-changing healthcare landscape. For further details about our sliding fee scale program, please visit our website at Ammonoosuc.org.

ACHS SERVICES

- **Medical:** Patient-Centered Primary care for all ages
- **Behavioral Health:** Substance Use Disorder, Counseling, K-12 in school services
- **Patient Support:** Assistance with financial, legal, social concerns
- **Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program**
- **340B Drug Pricing Program:** Helps reduce the price of prescription drugs
- **Financial Services:** Sliding-Fee payment scale, Low Cost Vision Plan, Dental Voucher

ACHS STATISTICS 2022

- **Number of unduplicated Clients Served:** Medical – 8,132, Behavioral Health – 894, Enabling – 37, Vision – 142
- **Number of Visits:** Medical – 24,628, Behavioral Health – 6,422, Enabling – 39, Vision – 142
- **Client/Payor Mix:** Medicaid 18.03%, Medicare – 35.71%, Uninsured – 3.87%, Insured – 42.39%
- **Value discounts provided in our Prescription Assistance Program :** \$129,071
- **Value of discounted health care services (Sliding-Fee) provided to our patients:** \$336,186 – Total, Medical – \$138,617, Dental - \$448, Behavioral Health - \$36,847 Pharmacy - \$160,274

TOWN STATISTICS – Bethlehem

- Total # of Patients **867**
- Total # of Medicaid Patients **94**
- Total # of Medicare Patients **270**
- Total # of Self-Paying Patients **42**
- Total # of Sliding Fee Scale Patients **14**

Your ongoing support of ACHS fills us with hope and enthusiasm for a brighter, healthier future for our community and we are excited to continue making a positive impact on the lives of the people we serve.

Be mindful, be active, and be well.

Edward D. Shanshala II, MSHSA, MSEd
Chief Executive Officer

Evelyn Hagan
ACHS Board President

BETHLEHEM CARES REPORT

In 2023, Bethlehem Cares continued its mission of connecting neighbors who would like to help the less fortunate with neighbors who needed help.

Six residents, who were in financial trouble and couldn't find help elsewhere, received a total of \$4,454.

No tax dollars were used. The money came from donations from residents who had a little money to spare.

That's the purpose of Bethlehem Cares, which was founded in 2021 by eight residents. The select board then adopted Bethlehem Cares, making it an official town committee. The funds are kept in a trust and monitored by the town officials.

The town's direct assistance/welfare office can help residents in many areas. But some items cannot be covered. One example is a car repair. Bethlehem Cares has helped several residents who feared losing their jobs because they couldn't get to work. Another example is the purchase of large appliances. Bethlehem Cares once bought a refrigerator for a large family whose refrigerator failed.

Help from Bethlehem Cares is only available one time and the money does not go to the applicant. Instead, it goes directly to the company providing the service, for example a repair shop.

Decisions are made by an eight-member committee following a review of the applicant's finances. Those deliberations are made in non-public sessions, which are required under state law relating to matters of reputation. The names of those getting assistance are not public.

Shortly after Bethlehem Cares was founded, the idea of helping people get back on their fiscal feet was demonstrated: One man gave a donation to Bethlehem Cares for the exact amount he was awarded.

Since it was founded, Bethlehem Cares has distributed a little over \$13,000.

To donate – or get an application seeking help – there is a link on the town website. It is under “government.” To make a donation by mail, please make checks payable to “Bethlehem Cares” and send it to: Bethlehem Cares, PO Box 189, Bethlehem, NH 03574.

BETHLEHEM EVENTS REPORT

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY.

Bethlehem Events, a locally-led volunteer non-profit organization, joyfully presents our annual report, celebrating the triumphant return of Christmas in Bethlehem in December 2022 and the successful revival of Summerfest in August 2023. As we reflect on our achievements, we look forward to an exciting year ahead, with a special focus on the town's 250th anniversary in 2024.

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS.

Collaboratively, we strive to share our vision for Bethlehem, encouraging fellow community members to participate in the direct actions we undertake to showcase and amplify interest in our town, boost the local economy, and embrace the very spirit of community.

SUSTAINED BY LOCAL SUPPORT.

Our initiatives rely entirely on local backing, whether through volunteer efforts, financial contributions, or in-kind donations. The creation of large-scale, community-wide events is a collective effort, and our leaders volunteer their time without compensation for the progress achieved. We are grateful for the loyal supporters who help us achieve our goals each year.

OUR MISSION REMAINS FIRM.

We persist in fostering pride and community spirit among residents, enhancing Bethlehem's image, attracting new residents, businesses, and visitors, and improving the overall well-being of Bethlehem's residents. Bethlehem Events continues to achieve this by recommending, overseeing, and organizing an annual array of cultural and recreational events, programs, and activities.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD.

As a team of innovators and community leaders, we possess decades of experience and a shared vision. Through aggressive guerrilla marketing strategies, Bethlehem Events has gained significant state-level exposure for multiple community events. Our festivals consistently provide an economic boost to Bethlehem, with numerous businesses experiencing peak sales during these events. In December 2022 and 2023, Christmas in Bethlehem not only brought joy to the community but also significantly bolstered local businesses, with an upswing in sales reported during the festivities. The success continued with the revival of Summerfest in August 2023, further contributing to the positive economic impact on our vendors and local business partners. Our outreach efforts, featured in prominent publications and media outlets, have a lasting impact, attracting tourists and injecting tourism dollars into local businesses.

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF COMMUNITY.

In 2024, Bethlehem marks its 250th anniversary, and Bethlehem Events is proud to be an integral part of the celebrations. We are part of the planning process for a special three to four-day celebration of community during Summerfest, with highlighted activities honoring the town's rich history. Stay tuned for more information on the exciting events we have in store.

CONTINUING OUR LEGACY.

Our dedication to the community persists as we maintained the weekly Gazebo Concert series. The series is set to return this year pending voter funding support at the ballot box in March. Our seamless partnership with the Town of Bethlehem in organizing and marketing this summer concert series has already initiated communication with performers for the 2024 lineup.

In community spirit,
Board of Directors
Bethlehem Events

BETHLEHEM REIMAGINED, INC.

Clearly, 2023 was another year of sustained growth and change for Main Street businesses as we come together, supporting one another to make Bethlehem a “must see” destination on every North Country visitor’s short list. Indeed, The New Hampshire Division of Tourism and Travel reports tourism spending in the White Mountain region is up 22% from pre-pandemic levels to \$1.1B annually.

Locally, we’re pleased to welcome Brenna Nicely, the new Executive Director of the Colonial Theatre. Brenna comes to us from the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University. We anticipate another exciting year of cultural enrichment at the Colonial. We also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Christine Etter for her steadfast leadership and enthusiasm during some very challenging times.

We also welcome Thomas Carter! Thomas’ admiration for Bethlehem is evident by his recent purchase and renovation the former Dale Jette residence. Thomas’ impact is also spawning new ventures including The Cottage on Main owned by Sean Gawlik in the former Hundred-Acre-Wood location; and, the purchase and renovation of the former Lloyd Hills building in support local entrepreneurs including Bonilla Bread and Roasted Above the Notch coffee roasters. Ah, the sweet smell of new opportunity! The former Mountain Wind building renovation appears to be progressing well and we look forward to seeing the Schoenfeld’s opening their doors in ’24. Welcome all, we wish everyone the very best success!

At Bethlehem Reimagined, we’ve had yet another year of highs and lows. Clean-up of the former Sinclair Hotel lot is on schedule for this year and we’re pleased and humbled by the public input we’ve received as we focus on redevelopment of the site. Our goals to support Bethlehem’s tourism economy, help generate additional revenue to the Town and businesses while addressing housing needs of the community are intact and unchanged. We’re excited about what the future can bring!

We’re also deeply saddened by the loss of Don Lavoie. In many ways, Don was BRI’s compass when it came to recognizing and embracing different perspectives. His institutional knowledge of Bethlehem, our lore, and genuine love for our community may never be replaced. We will continue to honor and preserve his legacy of respect, inclusivity, volunteerism, and good humor for many, many years ahead.

As we start 2024, we continue to see favorable economic conditions based on expectations of easing inflation and interest rates, strong employment levels and robust consumer spending. We also expect a continuation of challenges associated with housing availability and affordability. Hopefully, new inventory can be brought on-line quickly with seniors, downsizers, first-time buyers, and renters in mind.

Respectfully,
Bethlehem Reimagined, Inc.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE NORTH COUNTRY REPORT

In preparation for the annual Town Meeting, the Boys and Girls Club of the North Country (BGCNC) respectfully requests that the Board include a warrant article for **\$2,500** on the Town's ballot to help cover our operating budget for the services we provide to your community and the North Country. The petition signatures are attached. Also provided is an updated W9.

BGCNC merged with the BGC of Central NH this year, giving us access to a full back office of administrative and support teams which will allow us to continue to grow and provide more services to our families. Of course, we must still raise the funds needed to operate our program. Our community's support is crucial in continuing to provide a fun, safe, positive place for all the children of the North Country. Our team continues to thrive and adapt to the everchanging challenges the pandemic brought us, such as staffing issues and increased expenses, and to provide critical support to our members and their families that rely on us for academic support, mentoring, snacks, and being a safe place for kids.

In typical years, we have served over 250 children from Bethlehem, Littleton, Lisbon, Landaff, Lyman, Franconia, Easton, and Sugar Hill, as well as several other North Country communities. BGCNC's afterschool programs and vacation camps are, in many cases, the key to the development of these children and we strongly believe that we are both preparing them for a happy and productive future and, in some cases, literally saving their lives. **Of the 64 members in the afterschool program, 9 of them are from Bethlehem. Summer camp 2023 saw 84 children, with 9 attendees from Bethlehem, of which 5 received financial aid.** We continue to only charge \$350 per year for the After School Program, including transportation. Vacation camps are \$135 per week and include field trips and summer swimming lessons. Financial aid is provided to all members that need assistance. **We invest over \$5,000/year to transport the Bethlehem members to the Club for the Afterschool program.**

As is the case with most organizations that rely on fundraising and donations, raising the approximately \$500,000 per year required to operate the Club has become increasingly difficult, with COVID having put an additional strain on this already enormous task. We recognize that many of your taxpayers are feeling the same pressures that the Club is. However, it is important to keep in mind that the current economic times have most affected those very people who need the services that BGCNC provides. These families need our help now more than ever. Over 40% of our families fall below a \$40,000 income level and over 38% qualify for free/reduced lunch. We are looking to our neighboring communities to help spread the cost of operation over the wider population, as the children we serve are the future of the North Country.

Your support on this issue will be greatly appreciated and, although it cannot be specifically quantified, we strongly believe that a commitment by the Town represents an investment in the healthy future of Bethlehem and the North Country at large.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sandy Brackett
Executive Director

Tina Bedor
Board of Directors

GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL, INC. REPORT

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. (GCSCC) is a private nonprofit organization that provides programs and services that support the health and well-being of our communities' older citizens as well as adults with disabilities. GCSCC's programs enable community members to remain independent in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

GCSCC operates eight senior centers (located in Bristol, Canaan, Haverhill, Lebanon, Lincoln, Littleton, Orford, and Plymouth) and sponsors the Grafton County ServiceLink Resource Center and RSVP Volunteer Center (an AmeriCorps Seniors project). Through GCSCC's network, older adults and their families take part in a range of community-based long-term services including home-delivered meals, community dining programs, transportation, outreach and counseling, chore/home repair services, recreational and educational programs, and volunteer opportunities.

From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, 246 older residents of Bethlehem were served by one or more of GCSCC's programs offered through the Plymouth Regional Senior Center. In addition, 67 residents were served through ServiceLink.

- Older adults from Bethlehem enjoyed 8,922 meals prepared by GCSCC.
- Bethlehem residents received wellness calls, assistance with problems, crises, or issues of long-term care through 176 visits with a trained outreach worker and 241 contacts with ServiceLink.
- Bethlehem residents participated in 1,021 health, education, or social activities.
- 1,532 door-to-door, on-demand bus rides were provided for Bethlehem residents.

The cost for GCSCC to provide services for Bethlehem residents in 2022-2023 was \$169,599.86.

Such services can be critical for older adults and adults with disabilities who want to remain in their own homes and out of institutional care in spite of chronic health problems and increasing physical frailty. Doing so saves tax dollars that would otherwise be expended for nursing home care. GCSCC's programs also contribute to a higher quality of life for older friends and neighbors. As our population ages, supportive services such as those offered by GCSCC are becoming even more critical.

GCSCC would very much appreciate Bethlehem's support for our programs that enhance the independence and dignity of older adults and adults with disabilities. GCSCC enables our community members to meet the challenges of aging, while remaining in the security and comfort of their own communities and homes.

Kathleen Vasconcelos,
Executive Director

NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL REPORT

North Country Council Regional Planning Commission and Economic Development District is one of nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire established by RSA 36:46. The Commission's region consists of serving 50 communities and 25 unincorporated places in the northern third of New Hampshire. The Council serves in an advisory role to local governments in order to promote coordinated planning, orderly growth, efficient land use, transportation access, and environmental protection. The Council's professional staff provides transportation, land use, economic development, community, and environmental planning services; geographic information services (GIS); data collection and analysis; grant writing; grant administration; facilitation; and project management.

In 2023, the North Country Council undertook the following activities in the region:

Launched the new [website](#) in June!

Collaborated with other Regional Planning Commissions through the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions and Director meetings in Concord.

Supported efforts and attended regional planning and municipal conferences.

Bulk ordered and distributed New Hampshire Planning and Land Use Regulation books to local land use boards (estimated savings of \$75.00 per book).

Transportation

Staff completed over 160 traffic counts during the 2023 collection season.

A major update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was approved by the North Country Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Council Representatives. This update consisted of an expanded regional context, background, goals, objectives, corridor datasheets, and updated challenges & opportunities and maps section.

Staff worked with communities throughout the year on noted transportation concerns and opportunities. These included different funding options, community projects for on-call engineering support services, and coordinating meetings with local officials and other agencies.

Began the Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan process, including work by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to finalize the regional project priority rankings and the approval of the initial funding allocation. Two projects were submitted to the NHDOT on behalf of the region.

Staff attended 4 Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hearings during September 2023 and presented regional projects at 3 of these meetings.

Economic Development

Coordinated 6 comprehensive Economic Development Committee (CEDS) meetings. Focusing on connecting resources in the region, learning about innovative strategies for improved economic prosperity, and sharing regional information as well as adopting [the 2023-2028 CEDS update](#) that was also adopted by the Council's Board of Directors. We welcomed the new EDA Maine and New Hampshire field representatives for a two-day tour of the region and various Economic Development projects and opportunities.

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) was updated and adopted by the Board of Directors. The new 5-year RHNA is complete with data, projections for the future, and, most importantly, tools! Visit our website to see more about this report!

9 communities in the region were awarded Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) Grants for planning, demolition, and housing construction. This includes five (5) communities that have partnered with the Council to complete Opportunity Planning Grants and make regulatory changes in an effort to reduce barriers to housing production.

Staff reviewed and responded to 3 Developments of Regional Impact over the course of the year.

The Council continued to assist the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) & State of NH Bureau of Economic Affairs (BEA) in providing development assistance to potential and awarded grantees. In 2023, the Council provided pre-project development coaching assistance to over 25 NBRC applicants, assistance to 10 new NBRC grantees in getting NTP, and technical assistance to NHBEA Capacity Consultant ADG for statewide program support to over 30 NBRC active grantees.

Continued work with 3 regional employer groups to bring employer housing conversation toward action using the NH Employer Workforce Through NHFA funding.

Continued to assist Coos County with the Coos County Broadband Committee, as well as providing technical support to the Carroll County Broadband Committee

Environmental Planning

North Country Council assisted in coordinating and staffing 2 Household Hazardous Waste events for the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District (PBSWD). There were 289 participants that brought the equivalent of 4,000 gallons of hazardous materials that were removed from the waste stream.

The Council collaborated with Saco Headwaters Alliance, NH Fish & Game, NH Geological Survey of DES and Green Mountain Conservation Group, and NH Association of Conservation Commissions for the Saco River Watershed Stream Crossing Assessment project.

Resiliency & Emergency Planning

Staff supported the development of a North Country Food and Agriculture Council made up of industry leaders, businesses and organizations who has formed a Steering Committee and hosted two annual food and agriculture summits.

Staff are facilitating the development of a North Country Climate Resiliency Resource Guide for businesses and communities through a collaborative effort the Council is providing for regional environmental, education, and outdoor organizations and businesses working on climate resiliency.

North Country Council is providing support and facilitation for the newly formed North Country Arts and Culture Collaborative that is bringing together leadership, businesses, and organizations within the Arts and Culture industry to develop a strategic plan to support the arts and the creative economy.

Mapping and Data Analysis

North Country Council developed ArcGIS Online Hubs to be a resource for the region. The Hubs offer spaces to find grants, funding opportunities, and data resources that are applicable to the North Country. Users can find funding opportunities and data resources related to community & economic development, environmental, housing, transportation, business, arts & culture, and more!

Provided mapping and data services to communities throughout the region in support of project development and funding opportunities.

NORTH COUNTRY HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE AGENCY

North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency provides quality services that include Hospice, Home Health, Palliative, and Long-term care. Within these services we also provide nursing, rehabilitation, social services, and homemaking in 51 towns, covering all of Coos County and northern Grafton County and we've expanded our territory south to Plymouth, NH. **In 2023, for the Town of Bethlehem, we visited six patients on Long-Term Care and Palliative Care 53 times, Home Health services to 51 patients over 1036 visits, and cared for 27 patients on Hospice Care over 1094 visits.** Our providers visited your friends and neighbors over 2100 times in 2023 to provide vital care.

Hospice Care is centered on improving the quality of life for patients and supporting their caregivers in realizing goals and wishes. Our dedicated team, including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, home health aides, spiritual counselors, and volunteers, collaborates with patients to manage pain, address emotional and spiritual needs, and provide necessary medications and equipment. Beyond end-of-life care, we offer family and caregiver education, short-term inpatient treatment for challenging symptoms, and bereavement counseling for surviving loved ones. Choosing hospice is not a surrender, but a decision to focus on quality of life, offering a unique, compassionate approach that diverges from the traditional medical model.

Home Health Care plays a pivotal role in addressing the growing healthcare needs of our community. Our proficient clinical team adeptly monitors health issues and delivers disease management within the familiar confines of patients' homes, mitigating the necessity for more expensive healthcare alternatives like hospitalization or long-term institutional care. With a primary focus on restoring patients to their baseline, our dedicated nursing team and therapists work collaboratively. Given the heightened strain on hospitals over the past year, we've operated at an elevated capacity to alleviate their burden, creating space for much-needed beds. This increased demand has introduced a higher acuity of Home Health patients, presenting a unique challenge that we're committed to addressing with unwavering dedication.

Long-Term Care is committed to delivering essential home health aide, homemaking, and companion services to individuals facing challenges in performing vital activities of daily living independently, including bathing, dressing, meal preparation, and household tasks. These services are particularly designed to assist those with physical, medical, or mental limitations, enabling them to maintain their independence. Our focus is to support the elderly and disabled, facilitating their ability to stay in the comfort of their homes while averting hospital readmissions and preventing the need for long-term institutionalization. By addressing these fundamental needs, we strive to enhance the quality of life for those we serve.

Our Palliative Care Program, launched as a pilot in 2019, has rapidly expanded from its initial 5 patients to now encompass 112 active patients. Distinguished by its primarily home-based approach, our Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Social Workers engage with patients in their homes to delve into discussions about their serious illnesses, advanced care planning, code status, goals, wishes, and, most importantly, what

holds significance for them. While the program targets individuals with serious illnesses, it doesn't necessitate terminal conditions, as Hospice does. Recognizing the broad spectrum of patients in need, especially in our service territories, NCHHHA fills a crucial gap between Home Health services for recovery and Hospice services for terminal cases. Palliative Care acts as a vital bridge, offering support for those with serious illnesses who may not be ready for Hospice services yet.

The team at the North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency, along with our esteemed Board of Directors, expresses profound gratitude to the Town of Bethlehem for their unwavering support of our agency. This steadfast commitment enables us to fulfill our mission of delivering services to individuals, irrespective of their ability to pay. Our dedication extends to providing essential services in Berlin, ensuring that clients and their families can reside in the familiarity of their homes within a safe and supportive environment. By doing so, we aim to enhance overall health outcomes within the community and uphold our commitment to fostering well-being in the lives of those we serve.

Respectfully,
Ren Anderson, Senior Manager of Philanthropy & Community Engagement

NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

White Mountain Mental Health

Northern Human Services-White Mountain Mental Health is one of 10 community mental health centers in New Hampshire that provides an array of services to meet the mental health needs of all persons residing in Northern Grafton County and lower Coos County. As the safety net provider of mental health services for these geographic areas, White Mountain Mental Health strives to ensure that everyone in the community, regardless of income or insurance status, has access to high quality mental health services. These services include 24/7 emergency services, outpatient therapy for adults and children, psychiatric services for established clients, case management and functional support outreach services, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services, Supported Employment services, a 6 bed adult residential group home and three supported, short-term transitional beds available for clients in need of housing while awaiting stable, permanent, affordable housing. For those that are uninsured or underinsured, Northern Human Services offers a sliding fee scale as well as affordable payment plan options so necessary services are still accessible to individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

We continue to see a huge demand for mental health services in our catchment area that is exceeding clinic capacity; individuals experiencing acute psychiatric crises are triaged via Mobile Crisis/Rapid Response through Northern Human Services and, once stabilized, are prioritized for treatment at the closest NHS community mental health center. According to 2021 data from the National Institute of Mental Illness, it is estimated that more than one in five US adults live with a mental illness (approximately 57.8 million adults ages 18 years and older), with young adults aged 18-25 years having the highest prevalence compared to other age groups. Additionally, an estimated 49.5% of adolescents in the US have a mental illness with approximately 22.2% experiencing severe impairment and/or distress. The statistics for New Hampshire tell a similar story. 221,000 adults in New Hampshire have a mental health condition, of which 57,000 NH adults have a serious mental illness and 15,000 NH youth aged 12-17 years have depression. On average, one person in the United States dies by suicide every 11 minutes. In New Hampshire, 279 lives were lost to suicide in 2021. Providing emergency services is arguably our most important service and also the costliest and often not a reimbursable service for some commercial insurances. Every year we ask the towns that we serve for funding to help offset the costs of this incredibly important service so no one who is having an acute psychiatric emergency has to worry about cost while in crisis.

In 2023, 123 uninsured or underinsured residents of Bethlehem received services from White Mountain Mental Health. Our cost for these services was \$52,047.00 of which \$16,536.00 were fees from Emergency Services. Despite the rising cost of care, we are requesting level funding in the amount of \$3,121.20 from the town of Bethlehem. All funds received from Bethlehem go directly to Bethlehem residents that are uninsured or underinsured and help us to provide needed services to the residents of Bethlehem.

We appreciate the support that we have received from the town of Bethlehem over the years and are thankful to the voters for recognizing the importance of timely access to mental services for all residents.

Warm Regards,

Amy Finkle
Director of Behavioral Health
White Mountain Mental Health
Northern Human Services

SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL RESCUE

First and foremost, Thank You for your support last year and we hope that you will once again support this very worthwhile organization. SCAR (Second Chance Animal Rescue) was born into existence in 2010 to provide a rescue shelter for abandoned and unwanted cats. It's not that we don't care about dogs and other pets, however there were other shelters dealing with dogs and a special donor at the time wanted a shelter specifically for cats.

SCAR has turned into a real asset to the area with its spay and neuter clinics. At this point we are running 2 each month (call for an appointment they fill up quickly). These clinics are for both dogs and cats and sometimes rabbits. Since 2011 our spay and neuter clinics have done 6621 surgeries. These clinics have really caught on as we did 850 in 2023 and 88 in the month of January 2024. As we all know spaying and neutering our pets is a necessity to ensure our pets' safety and prevent unwanted offspring.

Since opening in 2010 SCAR has taken in 3060 cats from all sorts of situations. When a cat arrives at the shelter they are immediately checked for diseases, medical problems, and other disorders. They are then treated appropriately by Vets and rehabbed until they are ready for adoption. A good example of such a case is a cat named Molly Roger, a senior stray that was brought into the shelter (from Bethlehem) with a mass on her cheek, a bad tooth, and a severely infected /damaged ear which the Vet thought could be cancer. These issues were certainly causing her a great deal of pain and affecting her quality of life. It cost the shelter \$600 to treat her and now she is doing just fine and waiting for a forever home. Her adoption fee would be \$80 far less than her treatment costs and is a great example of why we rely on other funding to operate the shelter.

SCAR also does low cost shot clinics twice a year and Nail trim clinics for dogs, cats and even a few rabbits on occasion. These nail trimming can be vital for animals as it can cause pain and disabilities for some.

That's it for now and we thank you again for your support. Please visit our website for more information. <http://www.secondchancecar.org/>

THE COLONIAL THEATRE'S REPORT

VALUES

We believe...

relevant arts and cultural programming make a positive difference in creating a sense of belonging, fellowship, and community that enriches all;

access to different perspectives gives us deeper understanding of the world in which we live and helps us see more clearly what unites us as well as what makes us each unique;

responsible stewardship and partnerships enable us to leave a lasting legacy of cultural enrichment.

VISION

A vibrant, engaged, and enriched community through arts and culture.

MISSION

Inspire and invite participation in the cultural conversation.

The Colonial Theatre was built on the desire to improve the quality of life in the North Country by presenting formerly unavailable arts programming. Through 23 years of hard work, persistence, problem solving, and most importantly support from our community, The Colonial was transformed from a dilapidated building into a premier cultural venue.

2023 brought over 8,000 attendees to Colonial events as a part of the vibrant support for arts and culture in Bethlehem. In addition to our weekly selection of independent feature films, the 2023 season brought: world-class artists in our signature Live! @ The Colonial series, such as Shawn Colvin, Grace Kelly, Shemekia Copeland, Shawn Mullins, Mamselle Ruiz, Mipso, Southern Avenue, Amythyst Kiah, Joan Osborne, and Dar Williams, to name a few; partnerships with local organizations for our special film series such as White Mountain Science (WMSI) for Science on Screen, bringing acclaimed scientists and exciting films to the North Country; quality family programming featuring theatre, music, puppetry, mayhem and more in the Kids! @ The Colonial series in July and August; a new House Manager and Executive Director; over 1,000 hours of volunteer support; capital improvement and conservation projects to care for our historic building; the third annual class of White Mountain Cinema Camp students who wrote, directed, and produced their original short film *Quinn's Inn*; and partnerships with community organizations such as Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, Bike the North Country, the Littleton Co-Op, The Loading Dock, and White Mountain Jewish Film Festival.

The Colonial brings world class film and performing arts to the North Country, improving the quality of life and sense of belonging, fellowship, and community in our region through connection, conversation, and enriching art. In line with our core values, we strive to foster an environment for accepting different perspectives that gives us deeper understanding of the world in which we live.

We are tremendously thankful for the support of our community, members, volunteers, and staff, and for the steadfast leadership of our Board of Directors. We are grateful to be part of this vibrant community. Thank you – and we hope to see you at the Theatre soon.

With gratitude,

Brenna Nicely
Executive Director

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM REPORT

Tri County CAP is a Family of Programs, serving families in Coos, Carroll, and Grafton Counties. We are dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of New Hampshire's individuals, families, and communities. We provide opportunities and supports for people to learn and grow in self-sufficiency and to get involved in helping their neighbors and improving the conditions in their communities. We seek to eliminate the root causes of poverty through the development of programs that allow low-income individuals the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the State and National economy and the social fabric of their communities through programs that address: Education; Emergency Support; Economic Development; Food Self Sufficiency; Marshalling of Local Resources; and Transportation.

Tri County Community Action Program provides opportunities to strengthen communities by improving the lives of low to moderate income families and individuals.

Annually we serve more than 24,000 individuals that reside over 4,455 sq. miles of Northern New Hampshire. TCCAP and our 16 service programs provide services to all residents of Coos, Carroll, and Grafton County's requesting and needing support.

During our Fiscal Year 2023 we served a Total of 463 Bethlehem Clients valuing \$928,549.00 in services provided.

Tri County Community Action Program thanks all communities and counties that we serve for their financial support of the programs, so that we may be able to continue to provide services to our community families in need.

Respectfully,
Brenda Gagne
Chief Programs Officer
Tri County Community Action Program, Inc

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT

The mission of **UNH Cooperative Extension** is to strengthen people and communities in New Hampshire by providing trusted knowledge, practical education and cooperative solutions, working in collaboration with county, state and federal government. Some examples of how Extension has been working towards this mission in Grafton County are summarized below.

The Grafton County **4-H** program continued to promote intergenerational activities and build a positive community of youth and older adults. In addition to the annual carved pumpkin display at the nursing home, 4-H members showcased their animals at the county complex in the Spring, giving nursing home residents the opportunity to see the animals up close and share past experiences with the youth.

Through the **Community & Economic Development** program over 150 participants from 60 NH communities in all 10 counties, including eight Grafton County communities, completed the Housing Academy training program as part of the InvestNH Municipal Planning and Zoning Grant program. Participating communities worked to assess needs, identify strategies that fit their own communities' goals and implement strategies to address the housing crisis in NH.

A 4-part twilight meeting series on high tunnel management was presented in Grafton County by the **Food & Agriculture** staff. Over 50 people attended and 17 earned two pesticide recertification credits each towards keeping their applicator licenses current. Several participants reported putting what they learned to work on their own farms.

The **Food Safety** program offered several Safety Awareness in the Food Environment classes for food service workers and NH Food Pantry workers. Workshops were also held for NH homestead food processors on how to produce homemade food in NH legally and safely. The NH Jumpstart program continued with 12 farm participants (3 in Grafton County) who made positive changes in their produce food safety activities.

Natural Resources staff developed and/or presented 20 workshops or trainings on forestry and wildlife topics. These workshops and trainings reached a total of 1,004 participants across Grafton County, including adult learners and elementary and high school students.

Several community gardens, that resulted in donations to food pantries, continued to be managed by **Master Gardeners**. Projects to promote beneficial pollinators flourished as did a project to reclaim a section of Lake Mascoma in Enfield for recreational use. A virtual Master Gardener training was also launched.

Health and Well-Being programming in Grafton County was expanded in 2023, to focus on reducing healthcare costs and boosting nutrition, physical activity, food access and mental health. New programs included Master Wellness Volunteers, Boost Your Brain and Memory for older adults, and food security screenings at OB/Gyn clinics. Positive outcomes included participants learning to save an average of \$16 more a day on food and acquiring skills to support others in crisis (including those considering suicide).

To learn more about programs and resources that are available, please visit extension.unh.edu.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Lee

UNH Extension, Grafton County Office Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community-based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans, please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form - VA form 10-10EZ – and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

**BIRTHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023**

Date & Place of Birth	Name of Child	Name of Father & Mother
March 3rd Littleton, NH	Pond, Eden Amanda	Pond, Andrew Michael Pond, Madeline Louise
March 28th Littleton, NH	Gaston, Chloe Marie	Gaston, Trevor Rea Bower, Kelly Marie
June 15th Bethlehem, NH	Bissonnette, Willa Grace	Bissonnette, Steven Edward Champagne-Bissonnette, Skye Alicia
August 18th Littleton, NH	King-Crapo, Zayden Allen	Crapo Jr, Brandon Robert King, Crystal Ann
August 24th Lebanon, NH	Etter, Levon Walker	Etter, Bruce Daniel Davidson Etter, Christine Margaret

I hereby certify the above information is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Mary Jackson, Town Clerk

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF BETHELEM
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023**

<u>Date & Place of Marriage</u>	<u>Names and Surnames of Couple</u>	<u>Residence at time of Marriage</u>
March 29th Bethlehem, NH	Hoffman Jr, Paul John Vasquez, Leda Virginia	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
May 30 th Lancaster, NH	Lopes, Dylan Kobe Perkins, Pauline Mae	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
June 10 th Lancaster NH	Stevens, Matthew Edward Womble, Carla Ann	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
June 12th Sugar Hill, NH	Shaink, Corey Michael Giesselman, Emil Adrien	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
July 1 st Bethlehem, NH	Doyle, Lindsay Christine Valentine, Joseph Mark	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
July 17th Whitefield, NH	Reardon, William David Oswald, Katilynn Marie	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
July 29th Wonalancet , NH	Hakala, Karin Anne Welch, Stephen Gregory	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
August 16th Bethlehem, NH	Lewis, Terry Mark Adair, Marlene Anna	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
August 26th Sugar Hill, NH	Shanks, William Bruce Anneser, Mikaela Lee	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
September 23rd Bethlehem, NH	King, Carl Joseph King, Crystal Mae	Whitefield, NH Bethlehem, NH

I hereby certify the above information is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Mary Jackson, Town Clerk.

**DEATHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
for the year ending December 31, 2023**

<u>Date and Place</u>	<u>Decedent's Name</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Mother's Maiden</u>
January 7th Lebanon, NH	Grunza, Eugene Francis	Grunza, Michael	Snapp, Frances
January 16th Lebanon, NH	Bergman, Neil	Bergman, Melvin	Freed, Phyllis
February 11 th Lebanon, NH	Hlavna, Lawrence E	Hlavna, Francis	Vitko, Sophia
February 23 rd Littleton, NH	Plourde, Donald	Plourde, Joseph	Parent, Violet
March 14 th Bethlehem, NH	Robinette, Matthew A	Robinette, Ralph	Larsen, Kristyn
March 14 th Bethlehem, NH	Spencer, Geraldine Mary	Donahue, Jeremiah	McDonald, Eleanor
March 15th Littleton, NH	Thoma, Maureen A	Crowther, Benjamin	Price, Ann
April 9th Bethlehem, NH	Cushing, Delia Marjorie	Connary, Ervin	Mason, Hazel
April 10th Littleton, NH	Morrow, Donald	Morrow, Almon	Stevens, Ella
May 6th Bethlehem, NH	Card Jr, Lloyd H	Card, Lloyd	Rhodes, Mary
May 23rd Bethlehem, NH	Jennings, Faye, A	Edwards, Ivan	Tracy, June
July 24th Lebanon, NH	Aldrich, Everett Raymond	Aldrich, Eden	Hanks, Paulina

August 15th Bethlehem, NH	Cheney, Anthony W	Unknown	Naylor, Jeanne
August 26th Bethlehem, NH	Metras, Margaret M	Gregory, William	Hemond, Marie
September 8th Bethlehem, NH	Richmond, Lee M	Richmond, Harold	Lee, Virginia
September 12th Bethlehem, NH	Regan, Troy C	Regan, Kevin	Rivers, Michelle
September 23 rd Bethlehem, NH	Dickowski, Sigmund James	Dickowski, Sigmund	Unknown, Josephine
October 11 th Bethlehem, NH	Goudreau, Marc R	Goudreau, Adrien	Houde, Adrienne
October 29th Whitefield, NH	DeMoranville, Judith K	Keith Jr, John	Matteson, Glenna
November 29th Bethlehem, NH	Lavoie, Donald Joseph	Lavoie, Charles	Wysocki, Donna
December 7 th Littleton, NH	Clark, Harry Bingman	Clark, Kenneth	Conway, Frances

I hereby certify the above information is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Mary Jackson, Town Clerk

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR
BETHLEHEM VILLAGE DISTRICT**

Year ending 12/31/2023

BETHLEHEM VILLAGE DISTRICT

Box 667, Austin Road
Bethlehem, NH 03574

Annual Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2023

OFFICERS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Term Expires 2023

Term Expires 2024

Term Expires 2025

Richard E Robie Sr.

Russell P Mardin Jr.

Bruce S Brown

MODERATOR:

Term Expires 2023

Patrick Doughty

VILLAGE DISTRICT CLERK

Term Expires 2023

Tina M Doughty

TREASURER:

Term Expires 2023

Christopher Whiton

WATER & SEWER RENT COLLECTOR

Suzanne MacDonald

Moderator Patrick Doughty called the Annual Meeting of the Bethlehem Village District to order at 7:01 PM on March 17, 2023, at the Bethlehem Elementary School. Present were Commissioners Bruce Brown, Richard Robie, Sr. and Russell Mardin, Jr., 22 Bethlehem Village District voters, 2 supervisors of the check list and a few non district voters. Moderator Doughty went through the rules, Pledge of Allegiance was done.

ARTICLE 1. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Commissioner Robie moved to nominate Patrick Doughty as Moderator for the ensuing year and seconded by Bruce Caplain.

No discussion or questions asked. *The motion passed unanimously by a hand vote.*

ARTICLE 2. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to elect a District Clerk for the ensuing year. Commissioner Brown moved to nominate Tina M. Doughty as District Clerk for the ensuing year. Seconded by Commissioner Mardin.

No discussion or questions asked. *The motion passed unanimously by a hand vote.*

ARTICLE 3. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to elect a commissioner for the term of 3 years. Commissioner Mardin moved to nominate Richard E Robie, Sr. as Commissioner for a three-year term. Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

No discussion or questions asked. *The motion passed unanimously by a hand vote.*

ARTICLE 4. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to elect a Treasurer for the ensuing year. Commissioner Brown moved to nominate Christopher Whiton as District Treasurer for the ensuing year. Seconded by John Miller.

No discussion or questions asked. *The motion passed unanimously by a hand vote.*

ARTICLE 5. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To hear reports of Officers and to take any action relating thereto. Said reports are available for review at the Bethlehem Village District office on Maple Street. Nora Clark moved to approve the reports of the Officers for the past year. Seconded by John Miller.

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 6 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

ARTICLE 6. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the village will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$421,000 for the purpose of a solar project at the wastewater treatment facility. This will be offset by a NHDES grant for \$250,000, an Inflation Reduction Act grant for \$51,300 and Sewer fund balance of \$119,700. (Majority vote required) Motion made by Commissioner Brown to accept and seconded by Commissioner Robie.

***Commissioner Brown made the motion to amend article 6 to read as follows: To see if the village will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$421,000 for the purpose of a solar project at the wastewater treatment facility. This will be offset by a NHDES grant for \$250,000, an Inflation Reduction Act grant for \$51,300 and Sewer fund balance of \$119,700. In the case that the Inflation Reduction Act grant for \$51,300 is not received in full or in part \$16,708 will come from Wastewater Maintenance CRF and an additional \$34,592 from the sewer fund balance. (Majority vote required) Amendment was seconded by Commissioner Robie.

No discussion or questions asked. *The request to amend Article 6 passed unanimously by hand vote 20 Yes 0 No.*

Moderator Doughty read the amended article: To see if the village will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$421,000 for the purpose of a solar project at the wastewater treatment facility. This will be offset by a NHDES grant for \$250,000, an Inflation Reduction Act grant for \$51,300 and Sewer fund balance of \$119,700. In the case that the Inflation Reduction Act grant for \$51,300 is not received in full or in part \$16,708 will come from Wastewater Maintenance CRF and an additional \$34,592 from the sewer fund balance. (Majority vote required)

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 6, as amended, passed unanimously by hand vote 20 Yes 0 No.*

ARTICLE 7. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, One Hundred Five Thousand, Three Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$1,105,336.00) for the district's operating budget as specified in the posted budget. This appropriation is exclusive of all other warrant articles. Motion made by Commissioner Robie to accept and seconded by Commissioner Brown.

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 7 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

ARTICLE 8 Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) to be added to the Pickup Capital Reserve Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by water and sewer user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.) Motion made by Commissioner Mardin to accept and seconded by Commissioner Brown.

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 8 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

ARTICLE 9. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Water Intake Repairs and Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by water user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.) Motion made by Commissioner Robie to accept and seconded by Commissioner Mardin.

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 9 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

ARTICLE 10. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the H2O Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by water user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.). Motion made by Commissioner Brown to accept and seconded by Commissioner Robie.

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 10 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

ARTICLE 11. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Wastewater Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by sewer user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.) Motion made by Commissioner Brown to accept and seconded by Commissioner Mardin.

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 11 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

ARTICLE 12. Moderator Doughty read the Article To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,750) to be added to the Short-Lived Asset Capital Reserve Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by water user fees (The Commissioners recommend this article.) Motion made by Commissioner Mardin to accept and seconded by Commissioner Robie.

No discussion or questions asked. *Article 12 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

ARTICLE 13. Moderator Doughty read the Article: To transact any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

No other business brought forward to be discussed --

Commissioner Brown made the motion to close Article 13 if no other business is to be discussed and Commissioner Mardin seconded. Article 13 completed by unanimous hand vote.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Robie, the motion passed by a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina M Doughty

Tina M Doughty
District Clerk



BETHLEHEM VILLAGE DISTRICT PROPOSED ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Bethlehem Village District, in the Town of Bethlehem, County of Grafton, and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in the District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Bethlehem Elementary School in said Bethlehem on Friday, the Fifteenth day of March, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, next at 7:00 o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2. To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 3. To choose a Commissioner for the term of three years.

ARTICLE 4. To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 5. To hear reports of Officers and take any action relating thereto.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, One Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$1,167,880.00) for the district's operating budget as specified in the posted budget. This appropriation is exclusive of all other warrant articles.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) to be added to the Pickup Capital Reserve Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by water and sewer user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 8. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the H2O Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by water user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 9. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Wastewater Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1 This will be offset by sewer user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 10. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,750) to be added to the Short-Lived Asset

Capital Reserve Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1. This will be offset by water user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 11. To transact any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

Commissioners: Russell P Mardin Jr, Bruce S Brown, Richard E Robie Sr

BUDGET OF THE BETHLEHEM VILLAGE DISTRICT REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2023	Actual 2023	Estimated 2024
From State & Federal Governments:			
ARPA Inflation Reduction Act	\$ 51,300.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
NHDES	250,000.00	244,787.00	0.00
Water Pollution Grants	6,701.00	0.00	0.00
Charges For Services:			
Income from Departments	1,052,323.00	1,046,543.00	1,113,751.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
Interest on Accounts	800.00	7,754.00	3,800.00
Sale of District Property	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc Income	0.00	4,944.00	0.00
Insurance Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds from notes and bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interfund Operating Transfers In:			
FromCRF Wastewater Maint. Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
From Intakes Repair and Maint	0.00	0.00	0.00
Village Dist. Pick-Up Truck Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
USDA Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00
State of NH MTBE	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Borders Regional Commission	0.00	0.00	0.00
State of NH CWSRF	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voted from Fund Balance	<u>119,700.00</u>	<u>119,700.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Revenues	\$1,480,824.00	\$1,423,728.00	\$1,117,551.00

**PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE
BETHLEHEM VILLAGE DISTRICT
EXPENDITURES**

Purposes Of Expenditures	Warrant Article #	Appro. 2023	Expend. 2023	Appro. 2024
General Funds:				
Executive	6	\$ 8,262.00	\$ 8,179.00	\$ 8,331.00
Financial Administration	6	37,088.00	37,277.00	39,805.00
Legal Expenses	6	200.00	0.00	200.00
Insurance-PLT	6	946.00	946.00	975.00
Audit	6	7,601.00	7,600.00	8,000.00
Streets & Sidewalks	6	27,165.00	12,190.00	23,768.00
Sanitation:				
Sewerage Treatment	6	208,616.00	191,373.00	210,217.00
Sewerage Services	6	128,678.00	114,809.00	128,812.00
Sewer New Construction	6	69,000.00	69,187.00	75,000.00
Capital Improvements	6	0.00	0.00	4,500.00
Water Distribution & Treatment:				
Water Services	6	268,274.00	220,276.00	277,352.00
Water Treatment	6	176,238.00	183,896.00	203,152.00
Water New Construction	6	60,000.00	58,502.00	70,000.00
Capital Improvements	6	15,000.00	0.00	19,500.00
Debt Service:				
Principal Long-Term				
UNION	6	0.00	0.00	0.00
USDA Loan	6	65,494.00	65,494.00	66,727.00
Interest Long-Term				
UNION	6	0.00	0.00	0.00
USDA Loan	6	32,774.00	32,774.00	31,541.00
WWTP Solar Project		421,000.00	244,787.00	0.00
Truck Purchase		0.00	0.00	0.00
Building and Improvements		0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Transfers Out:				
To Capital Reserve Fund				
- Pick-Up	7	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
- Water Intake		5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
-H2O Maintenance	8	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
-Wastewater Maintenance	9	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
-Short Lived Assets	10	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended		\$ 1,562,086.00	\$ 1,283,040.00	\$1,198,630.00

APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

	Approp.	Expend.	Balance & Overdraft*
General Fund:			
Executive	\$ 8,262.00	\$ 8,179.00	\$ 83.00
Financial Administration	37,088.00	37,277.00	(189.00)
Legal Expenses	200.00	0.00	200.00
Insurance-PLT	946.00	946.00	0.00
Audit	7,601.00	7,600.00	1.00
Streets & Sidewalks	<u>27,165.00</u>	<u>12,189.00</u>	<u>14,975.00</u>
Total General Fund	81,262.00	66,192.00	15,070.00
Sewer Fund:			
Sewerage Treatment Plant	208,616.00	191,373.00	17,243.00
Sewerage Department Expenses	128,678.00	114,810.00	13,868.00
New Construction	69,000.00	69,187.00	(187.00)
Principal-Long Term Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest-Long Term Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Reserve Wastewater Maint	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
Building & Improvements	0.00	0.00	0.00
Truck Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Reserve Fund (Pick-Up)	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Sewer Fund	425,794.00	394,870.00	30,924.00
Water Fund:			
Water Treatment Plant	176,238.00	183,896.00	(7,658.00)
Water Department Expenses	268,274.00	220,276.00	47,998.00
New Construction	60,000.00	58,502.00	1,498.00
Principal-Long Term Debt	65,494.00	65,494.00	0.00
Interest-Long Term Debt	32,774.00	32,774.00	0.00
Building Improvements	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Zealand Road Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Short Lived Assets	1,750.00	1,750.00	0.00
Capital Reserve Fund (Water Intake)	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Capital Reserve H2O Maint	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Capital Reserve Fund (Pick-Up)	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Water Fund	634,030.00	577,192.00	56,838.00
Capital Project - Solar	<u>0.00</u>	<u>244,787.00</u>	<u>(244,787.00)</u>
Total All Funds	\$1,141,086.00	\$1,283,041.00	\$ 102,832.00

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

Current Revenue:	
Property Taxes	\$81,206.00
Interest on Accounts (less bank charges & fees)	7,754.00
Insurance Claims and Refunds	0.00
Sale of District Property	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Income from Dept	0.00
NHDES	244,787.00
State of NH Filtration Grant	0.00
Water Supply System Charges	660,503.00
Water Charges Interest and Fees	10,499.00
Water Connect Fees	0.00
Water Miscellaneous	4,944.00
Sewer Users Charges	370,452.00
Sewer Rent Interest and Fees	5,089.00
Sewer Connect Fees	0.00
Sewer Miscellaneous	0.00
Sale of District Property	0.00
Transfer from Pick Up Fund	0.00
USDA Grant	0.00
State of NH MTBE	0.00
State of NH CWSRF	0.00
Northern Borders Regional Commission	0.00
Transfer from Wastewater Maintenance Fund	0.00
Transfer from Capital Reserves – Intakes	0.00
Voted from Fund Balance	119,750.00
Total Current Revenue	\$1,504,984.00

DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS

GENERAL FUND

1. Executive		
Appropriations		\$ 8,262.00
Expenditures		
Salaries	\$ 7,517.00	
FICA/MEDI/STD/LIFE	<u>662.00</u>	<u>8,179.00</u>
Balance		83.00
Financial Administration		
Appropriations		37,088.00
Expenditures		
Bank Fees	50.00	
Office Equipment	190.00	
Officers' Expenses	10,859.00	
Office Supplies	1,043.00	
Telephone	830.00	
Education & Travel	238.00	
Dues, Subscriptions, Ads and Notices	2,436.00	
Misc	0.00	
Salary	19,961.00	
Health Insurance	0.00	
FICA/MEDI	1,527.00	
Unemployment	9.00	
Workers Comp	133.00	<u>37,276.00</u>
Balance		(188.00)
3. Legal Expenses		
Appropriations		200.00
Expenditures		<u>0.00</u>
Balance		200.00
4. Insurance-PLT		
Appropriation		946.00
Expenditures		<u>946.00</u>
Balance		0.00
5. CPA Audit		
Appropriations		7,601.00
Expenditures		<u>7,600.00</u>

Balance		1.00
6. Streets & Sidewalks		
Appropriations		27,165.00
Expenditures		
Sidewalk Maintenance	9,886.00	
Sidewalk Salary	2,140.00	
Sidewalk FICA/MEDI	<u>164.00</u>	<u>12,190.00</u>
Balance		14,975.00
Total General Fund		
Appropriations		\$81,262.00
Expenditures		<u>66,191.00</u>
Balance		\$15,071.00
SEWER FUND		
1. Wastewater Treatment Plant		
Appropriations		\$208,616.00
Expenditures		
Lab Supplies	\$3,098.00	
Operational Contract	67,516.00	
Waste Management	771.00	
Electricity	35,478.00	
Fuel Oil & Maintenance	5,978.00	
Boiler Inspection	0.00	
Cleaning Supplies	447.00	
Alarm System Test/Calibration	476.00	
Scott Air/Fire Extinguishing	781.00	
General Maintenance	16,540.00	
Lagoon/Sewer Upgrade	49,992.00	
Chlorine	3,102.00	
Dam Registration	1,500.00	
Ground Water Permitting	2,416.00	
Operator Expenses	228.00	
Sludge Removal	0.00	
Outside Testing	3,051.00	
Access Road	0.00	
Rental/Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>191,374.00</u>
Balance		17,242.00

2. Sewer Department Expenses

Appropriations		128,678.00
Expenditures		
Salaries	35,199.00	
FICA/MEDI	2,693.00	
Education & Travel	0.00	
Workers Compensation	340.00	
Health Insurance	6,328.00	
Unemployment Compensation	90.00	
Legal	288.00	
Audit	7,600.00	
Property Liability	2,398.00	
Sewer Line Install, Maintenance & Repair	0.00	
Vehicle Maintenance & Repair	141.00	
Equipment Rental	0.00	
Gasoline	1,042.00	
Engineering	1,350.00	
Supplies	1,005.00	
Machinery & Equipment Repair	83.00	
Refunds & Reimbursements	0.00	
Sewer Maintenance	53,852.00	
Safety Clothing & Equipment	131.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	241.00	
Electricity Pump Station	280.00	
Building and Improvements	0.00	
Communications Expenses	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>114,811.00</u>

Balance		13,867.00
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3. New Construction

Appropriations	69,000.00
Expenditures	<u>69,187.00</u>

Balance	(187.00)
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4. Solar Array

Appropriations	0.00
Expenditures	<u>244,787.00</u>

No Balance	(244,787.00)
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5. Truck Purchase

Appropriations	0.00
Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>

Balance	0.00
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6. Truck Capital Reserve	
Appropriations	4,500.00
Expenditures	<u>4,500.00</u>
Balance	0.00
7. Capital Reserve Wastewater Maint	
Appropriations	15,000.00
Expenditures	<u>15,000.00</u>
No Balance	0.00
Total Sewer Fund	
Appropriations	\$425,794.00
Expenditures	<u>639,659.00</u>
Balance	\$ (213,865.00)

WATER FUND

1. Water Department Expenses	
Appropriations	\$268,274.00
Expenditures	
Salaries	\$74,159.00
FICA/MEDI	5,673.00
Workers Compensation	540.00
Unemployment Compensation	200.00
Health Insurance	18,809.00
Auditing	7,600.00
Insurance PLT	8,175.00
Legal	0.00
Engineering Services	0.00
Waterline Install/Main/Repair	0.00
Vehicle Maintenance & Repair	437.00
Gasoline	3,439.00
Communications Expense	4,703.00
Supplies	3,395.00
Water Testing	0.00
Machinery & Equipment Repair	140.00
Water Stock On Hand	105.00
Refunds & Reimbursements	0.00
General Maintenance	91,511.00
Education & Travel	0.00
Safety Clothing & Equipment	392.00
Rental	0.00
Building and Improvements	0.00

	Gale River Line Maint	997.00	
	Intakes – Repairs & Upgrades	0.00	
	Miscellaneous Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>220,275.00</u>
	Balance		47,999.00
2.	Water Treatment Plant		
	Appropriations		176,238.00
	Expenditures		
	Equipment Repair	10,000.00	
	Electricity	27,085.00	
	Fuel (Propane)	20,815.00	
	Chemicals	14,916.00	
	Supplies	4,270.00	
	Water Testing	2,831.00	
	Telephone	2,234.00	
	General Maintenance	34,325.00	
	Engineering	0.00	
	Operator Expenses	2,180.00	
	Operator Contract	65,238.00	
	Sand at Filter Plant	0.00	
	Outside Labor	<u>0.00</u>	<u>183,894.00</u>
	Balance		(7,656.00)
3.	New Construction		
	Appropriations	60,000.00	
	Expenditures	<u>58,502.00</u>	
	Balance		1,498.00
4.	Principal - Long Term Debt		
	Appropriations	65,494.00	
	Expenditures	<u>65,494.00</u>	
	Balance		0.00
5.	Interest - Long Term Debt		
	Appropriations	32,774.00	
	Expenditures	<u>32,774.00</u>	
	Balance		0.00
6.	Truck Capital Reserve		
	Appropriations	4,500.00	
	Expenditures	<u>4,500.00</u>	
	Balance		0.00

7. Capital Reserve Intake	
Appropriations	5,000.00
Expenditures	<u>5,000.00</u>
No Balance	0.00
8. Short Lived Assets	
Appropriations	1,750.00
Expenditures	<u>1,750.00</u>
Balance	0.00
9. Capital Reserve H2O Maintenance	
Appropriations	5,000.00
Expenditures	<u>5,000.00</u>
Balance	0.00
10. Building Improvements	
Appropriations	15,000.00
Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>
Balance	15,000.00
Total Water Fund	
Appropriations	\$634,030.00
Expenditures	<u>577,189.00</u>
Balance	\$ 56,841.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	
Appropriations	\$1,141,086.00
Expenditures	<u>1,283,039.00</u>
Balance	\$(141,953.00)

****Grant and reimbursement received for Solar Project \$244,787.00****

Balance	\$102,834.00
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WATER PROJECT – STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

01/01/2023 Loan Balance	Principal Payment	Interest Payment	Total Payment	12/31/2023 Loan Balance
UNION BANK				
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
USDA				
\$1,764,273.85	\$65,489.66	\$32,778.34	\$98,268.00	\$1,698,784.19

SEWER PROJECT – PHASE III

January 1, 2023 Balance	\$ 68,443.77
Withdrawals	0.00
Income Earned and Reinvested	<u>13.69</u>
December 31, 2023 Balance	\$ 68,457.46

WATER PROJECT

January 1, 2023 Balance	\$ 4,919.83
Deposits	0.00
Withdrawals	0.00
Income Earned and Reinvested	<u>0.00</u>
December 31, 2023 Balance	\$ 4,919.83

Bethlehem Town Directory**Government- Telephone Numbers**

Selectmen's Office	(603) 869-3351 x 101
Clerical Assistant and Assessing Office	(603) 869-3351 x 102
Planning & Zoning Office	(603) 869-3351 x 103
Treasurer.....	(603) 869-3351 x 104
Tax Collector's Office	(603) 869-3133 x 105
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector	(603) 869-3351 x 106
Town Clerk's Office	(603) 869-2293 x 107
Recreation Director.....	(603) 869-3351 x 108
Direct Assistance	(603) 869-3351 x 103
Building Inspector & Code Enforcement Officer	(603) 616-5716
Health Officer	(603) 991-8186
Police Department (Non-Emergency Only).....	(603) 869-5811
Police Fax	(603) 869-3342
Fire Department.....	(603) 869-5822
Highway Department.....	(603) 869-2212
Library	(603) 869-2409
Bethlehem Village District	(603) 869-3440
Selectmen's Office Fax	(603) 869-2280
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Fax	(603) 869-5500

Government – Websites

Town of Bethlehem	www.bethlehemnh.org
Bethlehem Public Library.....	www.bethlehemlibrary.org
Bethlehem Heritage Society.....	www.bethlehemhistoricalnh.org
Bethlehem Recreation Department.....	www.bethlehemrecreation.com

Government – Email Addresses

Selectmen's Office.....	admin@bethlehemnh.org
Planning & Zoning Office	planning@bethlehemnh.org
Tax Collector's Office	taxcollector@bethlehemnh.org
Town Clerk's Office	townclerk@bethlehemnh.org
Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector.....	deputy@bethlehemnh.org
Town Treasurer.....	treasurer@bethlehemnh.org
Direct Assistance	welfare@bethlehemnh.org
Clerical Assistant and Assessing Office	clerk@bethlehemnh.org
Recreation Director.....	recdirector@bethlehemnh.org
Building & Code Enforcement Officer	codeofficer@bethlehemnh.org
Health Officer	healthofficer@bethlehemnh.org
Police Department.....	police@bethlehemnh.org
Fire Department	firechief@bethlehemnh.org
Highway Department	roadagent@bethlehemnh.org
Library	lclerkin@bethlehemlibrary.org
Bethlehem Village District	bethlehemvillage@myfairpoint.net

Bethlehem Office Hours

Selectmen's Office

Monday through Thursday 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Friday 8:00a.m. – Noon
BOS Meeting Mondays Evenings

Planning & Zoning Office

Monday through Thursday 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Friday 9:00-Noon
Planning Meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesday Evenings, as needed
Zoning Meetings Tuesday Evenings, as needed or as called by the Chair

Tax Collector & Town Clerk's Office

Monday 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Tuesday through Thursday 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Friday 8:00a.m. – Noon

Library

Monday 1:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.	Thursday 1:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.
Tuesday 10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.	Friday 10:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
Wednesday 1:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.	Saturday 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.
Library Trustee Meetings 2 nd Monday of the month at 7:00p.m.	

Food Pantry

Monday 2:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.
Tuesday 10:00a.m. - Noon
Thursday 2:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.
Or by Appointment call (603)869-3351 ext. 103

Bethlehem Village District

Monday through Friday (Office)..... 8:00a.m. – 3: 00p.m.
Monday through Friday (Maintenance)..... 7:00a.m. – 3:30p.m.
Commissioners Meeting Second Tuesday of each month..... Open at 5:30p.m.

Meeting Times and Agendas can be found on our website at
<https://bethlehemnh.org/agendas/>