

# Town of Bethlehem New Hampshire



# 2024 Annual Report

The 2024 Bethlehem annual report is dedicated to Fire Chief Jack Anderson and special appreciation to Clare Brown.

It is with profound respect and gratitude that the Bethlehem Select Board recognizes and honor Fire Chief John Anderson for an extraordinary career of dedication and service. Chief Anderson retires from active duty after 28 years as the Fire Chief and an impressive total of 57 years of unwavering commitment to the fire service.

It is with special appreciation to Clare Brown for her dedication and hard work in making Bethlehem's 250th Celebration a success. We are grateful for Clare's commitment to Bethlehem, willingness to give her time and energy, and ability to lift the spirits of those around her and make every moment more fun.



Clare & Bruce Brown

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# TOWN OFFICERS

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April Hibberd	(2027)
Veronica Morris	(2025)
Bruce Caplain	(2025)
Michael Bruno (Chair)	(2026)
Nancy Strand	(2026)

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Moritz

### CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Nicole McGrath

### TOWN CLERK

Mary Jackson (2025)

### DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Michelle King  
Asst. Town Clerk Vicki Francis

### TAX COLLECTOR

Mary Jackson (2025)

### DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Vicki Francis  
Asst. Tax Collect Michelle King

### ROAD AGENT

Brett Jackson (2026)

### MODERATOR

Mary Lou Krambeer (2026)

### TREASURER

Frank Claffey

### DEPUTY TREASURER

Elizabeth Staples

### POLICE CHIEF

Jeffrey Dube

### 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	(2027)
Peter Szeidler	(2025)
Gerald Blanchard	(2026)

### SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

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

### LIBRARIAN

Laura Clerkin

### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Doug Harman	(2026)	Sara Plumley	(2027)
Stephen Dignazio	(2026)	Leonard Grubbs	(2026)
Tana LeClair	(2027)	Nora Clark	(2027)
Michael Culver	(2025)	Lisa Ffrench	(2025)
Barbara Szeidler	(2025)		

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Clare Brown (2026)  
Richard Robie Jr. (2027)  
Dawn Ferringo (2027)  
Carole Hammarberg (2027)  
Stephen Allen (2025)

**REVOLVING LOAN COMMITTEE**

Joyce Presby  
Shane MacElhiney  
Mary Jackson

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Betsey Phillips (2026)      Rachelle Lyons (2025)  
Cheryl Jensen (2027)      Margaret Gayle (2026)  
Ivan Ash (2025)      2 Vacancies  
Christopher Jensen, Alternate  
Joanne Jones, 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, Chair (2026)  
Alecia Loveless, Vice Chair (2027)  
Vacant (2025)  
Sean Gawlik (2026)  
Kevin Roy (2025)  
Sally Fitzgerald (2027)  
James Gleason, Alternate  
Gerald Blanchard, Alternate

**ZONING BOARD**

Ruth Heintz, Vice Chair (2027)  
Andrea Bryant, Chair (2027)  
Chris McGrath (2025)  
David Van Houten (2026)  
Joshua Lieberman (2025)  
Shane MacElhiney, Alternate

**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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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		<b>21</b>
April Hibberd		<b>387</b>
Richard Southwell		<b>131</b>
Moderator	2 Year Term	Vote for not more than 1
Mary Lou Krambeer		<b>480</b>
Planning Board	3 Year Term	Vote for not more than 2
Gerald Blanchard		<b>199</b>
Sally Fitzgerald		<b>358</b>
Alecia Loveless		<b>351</b>
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1 Year Term	Vote for not more than 1
Andrew Bartz		<b>168</b>
Pamela Hess-Newman		<b>55</b>
Joshua Lieberman		<b>264</b>

Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 Year Term	Vote for not more than 2
Ruth Heintz		<b>399</b>
Andrea Bryant		<b>409</b>
Trustee of the Trust Fund	2 Year Term	Vote for not more than 1
Gerald Blanchard		<b>407</b>
Trustee of the Trust Fund	3 Year Term	Vote for not more than 1
Pamela Hess-Newman		<b>382</b>
Cemetery Trustee	3 Year Term	Vote for not more than 3
Christina Clemmo		<b>112</b>
Dawn Ferringo		<b>310</b>
Carole Hammarberg		<b>211</b>
Alison Maltz		<b>90</b>
Daniel J Murphy		<b>202</b>
Richard E Robie Jr		<b>225</b>
Library Trustee	3 Year Term	Vote for not more than 3
Tana LeClair		<b>245</b>
Richard Newman		<b>155</b>
Sara Plumley		<b>283</b>
Nora F Clark		<b>330</b>

**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.

**YES 363      NO 185**

**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.

**YES 423      NO 127**

**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.

**YES 396      NO 152**



**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.”

**YES 448                      NO 105**

**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.

**YES 334                      NO 210**

**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.

**YES 349                      NO 194**

**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.

**YES 408                      NO 119**

**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.”

**YES 389                      NO 139**

**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

**YES 377                      NO 171**

**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

**YES 343                      NO 203**

**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

**YES 383                      NO 162**

**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

**YES 440                      NO 102**

**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

**YES 306                      NO 234**

**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

**YES 346                      NO 201**

**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 .000

**YES 470                      NO 83**

**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

**YES 410                      NO 136**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five 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

**YES 406                      NO 147**

**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 .000

**YES 423                      NO 128**

**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

**YES 297                      NO 244**

**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

**YES 286                      NO 251**

**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

**YES 352                      NO 188**

**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

**YES 368                      NO 176**

**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

**YES 439                      NO 111**

**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

**YES 355                      NO 197**

**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

**YES 346                      NO 208**

**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

**YES 384                      NO 170**

**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 .000

**YES 459                      NO 91**

**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)

**YES 452                      NO 101**

**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)

**YES 408                      NO 138**

**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)

**YES 467                      NO 89**

**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)

**YES 423                      NO 130**

**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 .000

**YES 441                      NO 130**

**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 .019

**YES 348                      NO 206**

**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 .008

**YES 365                      NO 180**

**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 .002

**YES 307                      NO 240**

**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 .005

**YES 316                      NO 233**

**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 .006

**YES 324                      NO 225**

## SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

### Tax Deeded 2024

409-053	L/O Mountain View Ln	5.50 AC	\$	50,700
411-014	L/B Lewis Hill Rd	5.50 AC	\$	215,900
415-108	L/B Wilderness Rd	0.91 AC	\$	134,000
<b>Total Tax Deeded</b>				<b>\$ 400,600</b>

### 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
<b>Total Owned</b>				<b>\$ 8,654,900</b>

### 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
<b>Total Parks</b>				<b>\$ 718,400</b>

### 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		-
<b>Total Cemeteries</b>				

### SCHOOLS

206-015	L/B BES	4.49 AC	\$	2,246,800
402-021	L/O Profile	5.53 AC	\$	59,100
402-024	L/B Profile	23.64 AC	\$	5,987,800
402-026	L/O Profile	34.04 AC	\$	121,000
<b>Total Schools</b>				<b>\$ 8,414,700</b>



**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
			<b>Total Railroads</b>	<b>\$ 185,500</b>

**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
<b>Total Misc. – State of NH</b>			<b>Total Misc State</b>	<b>\$ 688,300</b>

**PROPERTIES DEEDED PROIR TO 2024**

201-031	L/O Rocks Edge Road	0.52 AC	\$	18,200
201-032	L/O Rocks Edge Road	0.36 AC	\$	16,300
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
401-024	L/O Old Franconia Road	0.14 AC	\$	2,700
403-020	L/O Caswell Heights	0.04 AC		-
413-041	L/O Mt. View Lane	2.20 AC	\$	23,100
419-050	L/O Main Street	4.50 AC	\$	10,700
419-051	L/O Main Street	0.90 AC	\$	2,100
<b>Total Properties Deeded Prior 2024</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>248,900</b>

**OWNERS UNKNOWN**

203-075	L/O Evergreen Lane	0.38 AC	\$	56,000
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
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 80,600</b>

**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 Madhzikei Hadas	0.61 AC	\$	594,900
204-073	Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation	0.44 AC	\$	562,200
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	1.50 AC	\$	237,400
			<b>Total Religious</b>	<b>\$ 237,400</b>

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

203-047-1-11	B/O WREN	-	\$	186,900
205-016	L/B Colonial Theatre	0.50 AC	\$	548,300
403-012	L/B Burch House	14.70 AC	\$	436,000
412-016	L/O Copper Cannon Camp	39.10 AC	\$	78,000
412-017	L/B Copper Cannon Camp	46.80 AC	\$	462,700
412-017-99	B/O Copper Cannon Camp	-	\$	1,033,000
412-018	L/O Copper Cannon Camp	24.10 AC	\$	68,800
412-019	L/O Copper Cannon Camp	16.00 AC	\$	60,500
			<b>Total Non-Profit</b>	<b>\$ 2,874,200</b>

**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
			<b>Total Forest</b>	<b>\$ 40,132,300</b>

**FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

**ASSESSMENT**

**EXEMPTION**

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

**PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES**

		<b>Assessed Value</b>		<b>Payment</b>
NFI North, Inc.	1.90 AC	\$237,900.00	\$	4,000
Bethlehem Senior Housing Associates	2.18 AC	1,296,400	\$	8,712
SPNHF	1,530.09 AC	3,564,800	\$	8,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 5,099,100</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>20,712</b>

## SUMMARY - INVENTORY OF VALUATION

Current Use Land	\$ 1,279,283	
Residential Land	99,931,300	
Commercial/Industrial Land	8,010,400	
<b>Total Taxable Land</b>		<b>\$ 109,220,983</b>
Residential Building	\$ 302,970,684	
Manufactured Housing	9,144,902	
Commercial/Industrial Building	89,658,500	
<b>Total Taxable Buildings</b>		<b>\$ 401,774,086</b>
Utilities		
Public Utilities		\$ 15,096,900
Other Utilities		410,100
<b>Valuation Before Exemptions</b>		<b>\$ 526,502,069</b>
Elderly Exemptions	\$ 2,013,600	
Wood Heating System Exemption	25,000	
School Exemption	150,000	
<b>Total Exemptions Off Valuation</b>		<b>\$ (2,188,600)</b>
<b>Net Valuation On Which Tax Rate Is Computed</b>		<b>\$ 524,313,469</b>
Less the A list utilities		\$ (15,096,900)
<b>Net Valuation Without Utilities On Which Tax Rate For State Education Tax is Computed</b>		<b>\$ 509,216,569</b>
Other Credits and Exemptions		
Totally & Permanently Disabled Veterans		\$ 42,000
War Service Credits		\$ 46,000
All Veterans Tax Credit		\$ 500
Tax Exempt Land & Buildings		\$ 72,035,416

## TAX RATE ON \$1,000 VALUATION

Municipal .....	\$5.13
County .....	\$1.11
Schools .....	\$9.70
State .....	\$1.24
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 17.18</b>

Village District ..... \$ .48

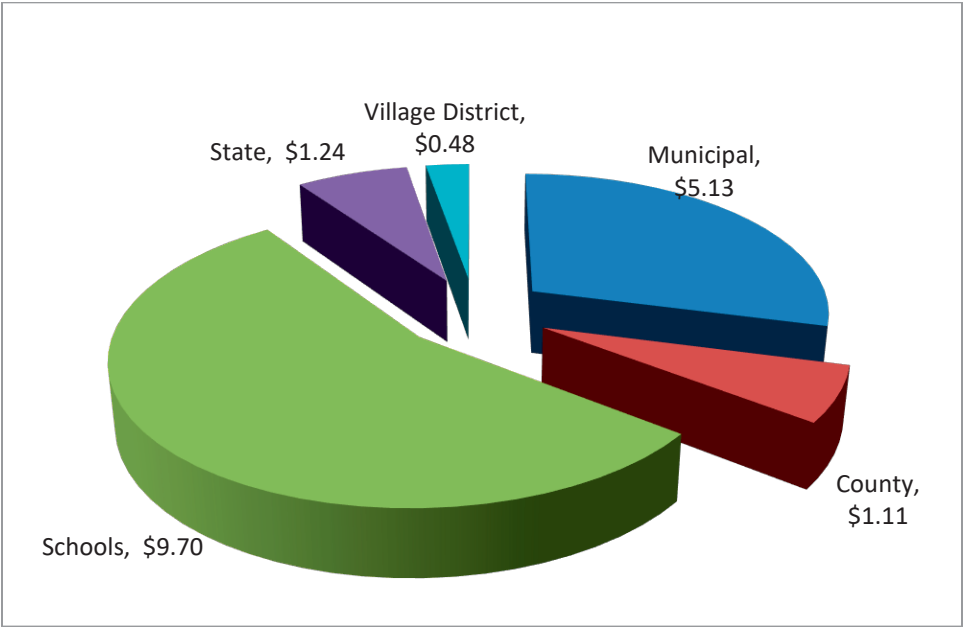
**TOTAL.....\$17.66**

**Net Assessed Valuation - ..... \$524,313,469**

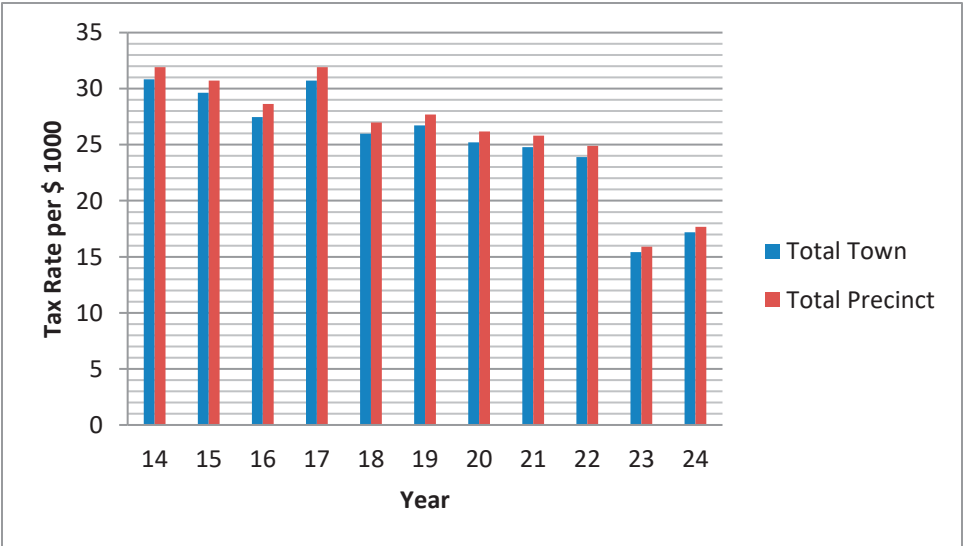
**Net Assessed Valuation - Village District ..... \$167,637,842**

<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>
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
2024	5.13	0.48	9.70	1.08	1.24	17.18	17.66

## 2024 TAX RATE BREAKDOWN



## TAX RATE HISTORY



## TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 2,380,114.96</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>		
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 184,236.77	
Tax Collector	7,762,115.80	
Tax Sale/Repurchased Property	-	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	124,245.72	
Town Clerk	684,859.38	
Ambulance Revenue	69,949.63	
Trust Reimbursement	72,369.16	
Escrow	4,402.15	
Insurance Reimbursement	3,767.80	
Rooms & Meals	247,239.31	
NCES Host Fee	143,029.98	
Revolving Loan Fund Reimbursement	10,000.00	
Highway Revolving Reimbursement	115,036.56	
Police Revolving Reimbursement	7,085.85	
Skate Park Donations/Grants	71,168.00	
Federal Aid	42,599.27	
Other State Funds	12,376.07	
Library Reimbursement	137,845.79	
Interest Earned	103,625.63	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 9,795,952.87</b>
<b>Use of Funds</b>		
Payroll	\$ 1,175,721.60	
Payroll Taxes	287,460.15	
Accounts Payable Net	9,004,739.71	
Debt Service	41,806.18	
Conservation Fee	750.00	
Bank Fees	1,120.00	
WCM Access	260.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 10,511,857.64</b>
<b>Less Skate Park Funds</b>	<b>\$ 71,168</b>	<b>\$ 1,593,042.19</b>

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Highway Revolving Fund

#### Source of Funds

Beginning Balance		\$ 206,183.67
Highway Block Grant	\$ 109,843.17	
Interest	85.92	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 109,929.09</b>

#### Use of Funds

Lease Payment	26,381.56	
Road Repairs	-	
Equipment Purchase	88,655.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 115,036.56</b>

**Fund Balance 12/31/2024** **\$ 201,076.20**

### Police Revolving Fund

#### Source of Funds

Beginning Balance		\$ 4,211.61
Police Special Detail Revenue	\$ 7,957.50	
Interest	3.14	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 7,960.64</b>

#### Use of Funds

Special Detail Expenses	\$ 7,085.85	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 7,085.85</b>

**Fund Balance 12/31/2024** **\$ 5,086.40**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Recreation Fund

**Beginning Balance** **\$ 83,811**

#### Source of Funds

##### Income Received

After School	\$ 30,140
Credit Card Processing Fees	312
Special	120
Sports	10,690
Summer	30,698
Field Trips	8,059
Adult Program	-
Interest Earned	50

##### **Total**

**\$ 80,069**

#### Use of Funds

Telephone	\$ 508
Park Electricity	508
Recreation Maintenance	625
Fuel	362
Rec Staff Training/Conference	367
Sports	15,164
Rec Services & Supplies	4,493
Field Trips	15,009
Summer	3,818
Adult Programs	-
Recreation Properties	24,406

##### **Total**

**\$ 65,261**

**Ending Balance** **\$ 98,619**





# 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, 2023 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, 2023, 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, 2023, 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.

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

PO Box 463 ■ Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 856-8005  
[info@roberts-greene.com](mailto:info@roberts-greene.com)

### **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 29-30 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.

August 9, 2024

*Roberts & Greene, PLLC*

**EXHIBIT 2**  
**TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expenses) Revenues and Change in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 1,047,706	\$ 636,813	\$ 67,070	\$ -	\$ (343,823)
Public safety	1,141,591	88,507	2,923	-	(1,050,161)
Highways and streets	1,141,759	271	-	108,565	(1,032,923)
Sanitation	35,548	145,497	-	-	109,949
Health	30,504	-	-	-	(30,504)
Welfare	71,487	1,964	1,376	-	(68,147)
Culture and recreation	469,520	86,973	13,331	-	(369,216)
Conservation	1,138	287	2,000	-	1,149
Interest on long-term debt	3,952	-	-	-	(3,952)
Capital outlay	189,092	50,139	-	234,873	95,920
Total primary government	<u>\$ 4,132,297</u>	<u>\$ 1,010,451</u>	<u>\$ 86,700</u>	<u>\$ 343,438</u>	<u>(2,691,708)</u>
General revenues:					
Property taxes					1,966,838
Other taxes					219,080
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					247,470
Miscellaneous					250,211
Total general revenues					<u>2,683,599</u>
Change in net position					(8,109)
Net position, beginning					<u>1,891,294</u>
Net position, ending					<u>\$ 1,883,185</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, 2023**

	General	Expendable Trust	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Taxes	\$ 2,063,113	\$ -	\$ 3,125	\$ 2,066,238
Licenses, permits and fees	630,942	-	-	630,942
Intergovernmental	237,471	-	406,967	644,438
Charges for services	228,060	-	89,565	317,625
Miscellaneous	220,933	79,142	34,607	334,682
Total revenues	<u>3,380,519</u>	<u>79,142</u>	<u>534,264</u>	<u>3,993,925</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
<b>Current:</b>				
General government	969,486	40,537	28,327	1,038,350
Public safety	880,181	-	201,934	1,082,115
Highways and streets	854,306	-	232,634	1,086,940
Sanitation	-	35,548	-	35,548
Health	30,504	-	-	30,504
Welfare	66,417	-	3,450	69,867
Culture and recreation	184,309	-	278,251	462,560
Conservation	318	-	820	1,138
<b>Debt service:</b>				
Principal and interest on long-term debt	53,732	-	-	53,732
Capital outlay	-	102,874	86,218	189,092
Total expenditures	<u>3,039,253</u>	<u>178,959</u>	<u>831,634</u>	<u>4,049,846</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>341,266</u>	<u>(99,817)</u>	<u>(297,370)</u>	<u>(55,921)</u>
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>				
Transfers in	-	294,000	181,002	475,002
Transfers out	(475,002)	-	-	(475,002)
Total other financing sources and uses	<u>(475,002)</u>	<u>294,000</u>	<u>181,002</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	(133,736)	194,183	(116,368)	(55,921)
Fund balances, beginning	1,673,921	906,465	873,376	3,453,762
Fund balances, ending	<u>\$ 1,540,185</u>	<u>\$ 1,100,648</u>	<u>\$ 757,008</u>	<u>\$ 3,397,841</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, 2024, and December 31, 2024, is as follows:

<b>Motor Vehicle Permits</b> (3,657 Transactions)	<b>\$672,797.24</b>
<b>Boat Permit Fee's</b> (60 Transactions)	<b>\$916.76</b>
<b>Dog License Fee's</b> (229 Transactions)	<b>\$1,953.50</b>
<b>Dog Fines</b> (19 Fines)	<b>\$172.00</b>
<b>Marriage License</b> (21 issued)	<b>\$ 1,050.00</b>
<b>Vital Records (birth, marriage, death)</b> (187 certificates)	<b>\$ 2,355.00</b>
<b>Cemetery Fee's</b> (17 plot purchase/burial)	<b>\$4,900.00</b>
<b>UCC Filing Fee's</b>	<b>\$645.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous (checklist copies, bank charges, postage, cart fees)</b>	<b><u>\$1,085.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$685,874.50</b>

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](http://bethlehemnh.org) for renewals and new registration.
- The first name on the registration is the owner of the plates.
- If you are not on the registration, you will not be given a renewed registration.
- To transfer plates, the current registration for the plates is required.
- Your dog license expires on April 30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Antique and Veteran plates are now available in the office. (Restrictions apply)
- 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  
Michelle King, Deputy Town Clerk  
Vicki Francis, Assistant Town Clerk

# TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Debits						
Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year	Account	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies (Please Specify Years)			
			Year: 2023	Year: 2022	Year: 2021	
Property Taxes	3110		\$1,547,051.14	\$12.65	\$816.62	
Resident Taxes	3180					
Land Use Change Taxes	3120					
Yield Taxes	3185					
Excavation Tax	3187					
Other Taxes	3189					
Property Tax Credit Balance		(\$45,365.81)				
Other Tax or Charges Credit Balance						

Taxes Committed This Year	Account	Levy for Year of this Report	2023		Prior Levies	
Property Taxes	3110	\$9,069,021.74				
Resident Taxes	3180					
Land Use Change Taxes	3120	\$38,185.00				
Yield Taxes	3185	\$10,446.92				
Excavation Tax	3187	\$536.96				
Other Taxes	3189					

Overpayment Refunds	Account	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies		
			2023	2022	2021
Property Taxes	3110	\$53,456.33			
Resident Taxes	3180				
Land Use Change Taxes	3120				
Yield Taxes	3185				
Excavation Tax	3187				
Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3190	53,314.15	\$20,110.97	\$1.72	
Interest and Penalties on Resident Taxes	3190				

<b>Total Debits</b>	<b>\$9,129,595.29</b>	<b>\$1,567,162.11</b>	<b>\$14.37</b>	<b>\$816.62</b>
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<b>Credits</b>				
Remitted to Treasurer	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies		
		2023	2022	2021
Property Taxes	\$5,476,194.57	\$1,355,375.75	\$12.65	
Resident Taxes				
Land Use Change Taxes	\$33,395.00			
Yield Taxes	\$9,954.11			
Interest (Include Lien Conversion)	\$3,314.15	\$15,608.97	\$1.72	
Penalties		\$4,502.00		
Excavation Tax	\$536.96			
Other Taxes				
Conversion to Lien (Principal Only)		\$158,456.34		
Discounts Allowed				

Abatements Made	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies		
		2023	2022	2021
Property Taxes	\$96,948.77	\$33,219.05		
Resident Taxes				
Land Use Change Taxes				
Yield Taxes				
Excavation Tax				
Other Taxes				
Current Levy Deeded	\$3,092.00			

Uncollected Taxes - End of Year # 1080	Levy for Year of this Report	Prior Levies		
		2023	2022	2021
Property Taxes	\$3,507,271.69			\$816.62
Resident Taxes				
Land Use Change Taxes	\$4,790.00			
Yield Taxes	\$492.81			
Excavation Tax				
Other Taxes				
Property Tax Credit Balance	(\$6,394.77)			
Other Tax or Charges Credit Balance				
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$9,129,595.29</b>	<b>\$1,567,162.11</b>	<b>\$14.37</b>	<b>\$816.62</b>



## Lien Summary

### Summary of Debits

	Last Year's Levy	Prior Levies (Please Specify Years)		
		Year: 2023	Year: 2022	Year: 2021
Unredeemed Liens Balance - Beginning of Year		\$74,223.04	\$29,073.52	\$37,665.68
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	\$168,643.64			
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)	\$3,823.13	\$7,125.37	\$3,515.53	\$4,069.73
<b>Total Debits</b>	<b>\$172,466.77</b>	<b>\$81,348.41</b>	<b>\$32,589.05</b>	<b>\$41,735.41</b>

### Summary of Credits

	Last Year's Levy	Prior Levies		
		2023	2022	2021
Redemptions	\$73,446.48	\$45,996.87	\$9,456.46	\$6,694.07
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	\$3,823.13	\$7,125.37	\$3,515.53	\$4,069.73
Abatements of Unredeemed Liens	\$2,724.67	\$1,024.75		
Liens Deeded to Municipality	\$6,592.03	\$4,820.79	\$4,995.99	\$7,310.14
Unredeemed Liens Balance - End of Year #1110	\$85,880.46	\$22,380.63	\$14,621.07	\$23,661.47
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$172,466.77</b>	<b>\$81,348.41</b>	<b>\$32,589.05</b>	<b>\$41,735.41</b>

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES**

<b>Executive</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Finance Administrator	\$ 50,000	\$ 47,823	\$ 51,500
Town Admin Salary	68,250	67,000	70,298
Longevity Bonus	500	500	500
Selectmen's Salaries	8,000	6,400	8,000
Auditors	16,300	18,100	16,500
SS/MC Taxes	9,639	9,159	10,000
NH Retirement	17,048	16,630	17,559
Registry	100	-	100
Telephone	1,008	1,041	1,008
Hardware Support	16,000	10,625	16,000
Computer Expense	14,000	14,657	20,000
Printing	2,200	2,800	2,700
Dues	3,250	3,384	3,400
NHMA Membership Dues	2,500	2,464	2,500
Public Notices	250	264	300
Office Supplies	2,200	1,753	2,200
Postage	1,500	995	1,500
Book & Periodicals	150	36	150
Miscellaneous	1,600	10,497	2,000
Equipment Lease	1,800	90	100
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	250	100	100
Training & Conferences	400	190	400
Marketing	<u>30,000</u>	<u>24,307</u>	<u>25,000</u>
<b>Total Executive</b>	<b>246,945</b>	<b>238,716</b>	<b>251,765</b>
<b>Town Clerk</b>			
Town Clerk Salary	37,068	36,389	38,180
Deputy Town Clerk	11,000	6,051	8,000
Moderator	2,100	1,514	800
Supervisors of the Checklist	3,000	3,000	3,300
Ballot Clerks	3,120	3,348	1,800
Longevity	2,015	2,015	2,159
SS/MC Taxes	4,300	3,630	4,300
Meals	800	732	300
Telephone	1,050	1,041	1,150
Information Systems	3,130	3,169	3,538
Services/Supplies	19,820	10,665	10,200
Dues & Education	1,120	473	555
Postage	1,190	1,494	1,350
Copier Maintenance	855	56	855
Mileage	275	533	300
Advertising	125	-	50
Payment to Government Agencies	<u>2,590</u>	<u>2,498</u>	<u>2,500</u>
<b>Total Town Clerk</b>	<b>93,558</b>	<b>76,608</b>	<b>79,337</b>

**Tax Collector**

Tax Collector's Salary	27,902	27,391	28,739
Deputy Tax Collector	8,320	4,095	6,000
Treasurer's Salary	9,463	9,463	9,746
Deputy Treasurer Salary	1,030	1,000	1,060
Longevity	1,578	1,578	1,686
SS/MC Taxes	3,600	3,330	3,600
Registry	550	318	550
Telephone	1,050	1,041	1,050
Information System	7,887	7,052	5,227
Services	2,245	2,197	2,395
Treasurer Services	200	70	200
Dues & Education	250	259	275
Supplies	2,750	1,522	2,435
Postage	4,500	4,452	4,600
Mileage	300	110	250
Copier Maintenance	855	56	855
<b>Total Tax Collector</b>	<u>72,480</u>	<u>63,928</u>	<u>68,568</u>

**Assessing**

Registry	500	196	500
Assessing	72,125	74,951	41,140
Update Maps	2,700	2,700	3,000
GIS Online Hosting	3,000	3,000	3,000
Computer Software Maintenance	3,334	4,085	3,467
Equipment Software Purchase	100	-	100
Supplies/Services	100	20	100
Postage	150	-	150
Education & Mileage	100	20	100
Revaluation	-	-	40,000
<b>Total Assessing</b>	<u>82,109</u>	<u>84,971</u>	<u>91,557</u>

**Legal**

Legal Expense	15,000	12,977	20,000
Zoning/Code Enforcement	<u>15,000</u>	<u>4,437</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>Total Legal</b>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>17,414</u>	<u>25,000</u>

**Planning & Zoning**

Secretary's Salary	28,875	28,411	28,875
Consulting Services	1,500	500	1,500
SS/MC Taxes	2,209	2,034	2,209
Retirement	3,907	4,096	3,907
Legal Expense	2,000	1,074	6,000
Registry	500	398	500
Advertising	200	180	200
Telephone	1,000	1,041	1,000
Services	1,000	230	500
Supplies	300	133	300
Postage	1,100	2,517	2,000

Master Plan	4,000	-	4,000
<b>Total Planning &amp; Zoning</b>	<u>46,591</u>	<u>40,614</u>	<u>71,991</u>
<b>Government Building</b>			
Out-of-District Hydrants	1,500	552	1,500
Lights	10,000	9,048	9,000
Heating Fuel	15,000	16,685	15,000
Building Maintenance	40,000	39,873	40,000
Cleaning Services	8,000	7,800	8,000
Supplies	7,000	9,118	8,000
Equipment Repair	2,000	141	100
Derelict Property Clean Up	-	-	1,000
<b>Total Government Building</b>	<u>83,500</u>	<u>74,016</u>	<u>82,600</u>
<b>Cemeteries</b>			
Cemetery Salary	5,000	4,500	5,000
Social Security	383	344	383
Cemetery Maintenance	13,500	13,500	13,500
Cemetery Equipment Purchases	100	132	100
Cemetery Phone/WiFi	500	400	500
Cemetery Software	1,890	1,460	1,985
<b>Total Cemeteries</b>	<u>21,373</u>	<u>20,337</u>	<u>21,468</u>
<b>Insurance</b>			
Insurance Claim Expense	2,000	5,466	2,000
Health Insurance	281,443	228,755	322,866
Dental Insurance	16,167	13,506	18,710
Property-Liability Insurance	60,643	60,643	66,101
Workers' Comp Insurance	28,711	28,711	31,582
Unemployment Insurance	6,451	6,451	6,192
STD, LTD, Life Insurance	13,500	11,037	14,000
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<u>408,914</u>	<u>354,569</u>	<u>461,452</u>
<b>Visitors' Center</b>			
Visitors' Center	10,106	10,364	10,500
Visitors' Center SS/MC	773	793	800
Visitors' Center Service/Supplies	5,000	3,689	5,000
<b>Total Visitors' Center</b>	<u>15,879</u>	<u>14,846</u>	<u>16,300</u>
<b>Wood Assessor</b>			
Salary	2,000	578	2,000
<b>Total Wood Assessor</b>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>Police</b>			
Police Chief Salary	88,088	87,625	87,550
Holiday	4,208	1,635	4,040
Officers' Salaries	309,000	270,164	338,266
Special Detail	1,000	-	1,000
Admin Support	7,750	7,457	7,750
Prosecutor	22,000	19,455	25,000

SS/MC Taxes	9,636	7,553	9,635
NH Retirement	132,612	111,549	137,900
Telephone	8,000	8,526	8,000
Services/Supplies	7,000	36,780	12,000
Animal Control Misc. Supplies	500	-	500
Office Supplies	2,500	1,606	2,500
Postage	450	4	400
Ammo/Range	3,600	2,418	3,000
Fuel/Gas	12,000	11,227	15,000
Cruiser 1	1,250	596	2,500
Cruiser 2	2,500	1,407	2,500
Cruiser 3	2,500	2,130	2,500
Cruiser 4	2,500	1,404	2,500
Tech Support	1,500	1,338	2,000
Mileage	500	-	500
Printer/Copier Lease	500	688	500
Training	3,500	1,050	4,500
Uniforms	4,000	2,956	10,000
<b>Total Police</b>	<b>636,093</b>	<b>582,269</b>	<b>690,271</b>
<b>Fire</b>			
Chief	20,000	19,616	80,000
Holiday	-	-	3,692
Volunteer Firemen	75,000	72,073	75,000
Assistant Fire Chief	15,000	15,000	1,500
Fire SS/MC Taxes	8,000	8,566	8,000
Fire Chief NH Retirement	-	-	24,460
Training	3,000	1,644	3,000
Telephone	2,000	2,082	2,500
Office Supplies	1,000	581	1,000
Service/Supplies	7,000	3,003	7,000
Station Maintenance	2,000	-	2,000
Dues & Memberships	2,000	1,839	3,000
Fuel/Gas	2,000	1,528	2,000
Equipment/Vehicle Repair	2,500	1,232	2,500
Fire Chief's Vehicle	2,000	2,000	4,000
1977 Ford Ladder Truck	-	-	-
1998 Freightliner Tanker	4,000	49	4,000
HMAD Utility Trailer	1,000	-	1,000
2000 FL80 Freightliner	4,000	10,632	5,000
2004 Freightliner E-One	2,000	3,419	2,000
Reports and Codes	3,000	1,633	3,000
Equipment Purchase	15,000	6,313	15,000
Communication Maintenance	4,500	949	3,500
<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>152,159</b>	<b>254,152</b>
<b>Building Inspection</b>			
Salary	24,744	21,447	25,486
Building SS/MC	1,900	1,732	2,000

Supplies	1,075	-	500
Cell Phone	500	497	500
Dues	120	75	120
Postage	100	-	100
Mileage	1,200	1,200	1,500
Training	680	415	680
<b>Total Building Inspection</b>	<u>29,744</u>	<u>25,541</u>	<u>30,636</u>
<b>Emergency Management</b>			
Emergency Management Plan	250	-	250
Forest Fire	250	-	250
<b>Total Emergency Management</b>	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>Public Safety</b>			
Dispatcher Grafton County	<u>65,000</u>	<u>64,450</u>	<u>65,000</u>
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>64,450</u>	<u>65,000</u>
<b>Highway</b>			
Road Agent Salary	72,399	71,049	74,570
Holiday	3,341	3,341	3,341
Longevity	3,000	1,500	3,000
Salary	271,568	274,766	285,000
SS/MC Taxes	26,064	24,786	27,530
NH Retirement	47,377	46,072	52,300
Gravel	6,000	8,600	7,000
Salt	19,000	19,602	19,000
Sand	31,000	23,266	30,000
Stone	500	2,378	1,000
Telephone	1,100	1,041	1,100
Services	13,000	13,137	13,000
Lights	1,000	-	500
Heating Oil	2,800	3,385	3,200
DOT Testing	400	463	400
Culverts	1,500	65	1,500
1976 Hyster Roller	100	474	100
70 CAT Grader	600	672	600
Sprayer/Paint	1,600	2,046	1,600
Wood Chipper	250	172	250
09 Sterling Dump #6	5,500	1,228	5,500
10 International #12	6,000	9,083	6,000
Public Notices	200	90	200
Supplies	10,500	7,431	10,500
Hand Tools	2,000	1,090	1,500
Office Supplies	400	134	400
Fuel & Lubricants	35,000	35,323	35,000
Grease & Oil	3,000	1,437	2,500
Uniforms/Boots	9,000	9,428	9,000
Asphalt	270,000	266,850	270,000
Backhoe	3,500	4,340	5,000

2016 Dodge 5500	4,000	3,357	-
2018 Freightliner Dump Truck	5,000	2,669	4,500
2017 John Deere Mower	3,000	1,535	3,000
2019 Dodge Pick Up	3,000	3,695	3,000
2015 F-350 Ford	3,000	1,637	2,500
2020 Freightliner Dump Truck	4,000	5,979	4,000
2021 Cat Loader	2,000	212	2,000
2022 Freightliner Dump Truck	2,500	3,469	2,500
2023 Freightliner Dump Truck	1,000	247	1,000
2023 ¾ Dodge Pickup	-	-	1,000
2023 1 Ton Dodge	-	-	1,500
<b>Total Highway</b>	<u>875,199</u>	<u>856,050</u>	<u>893,091</u>
<b>Street Lights</b>			
Replacement Bulbs	-	-	500
Street Lights	<u>15,000</u>	<u>16,998</u>	<u>15,500</u>
<b>Total Street Lights</b>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>16,998</u>	<u>16,000</u>
<b>Ambulance</b>			
Attendants	45,000	47,403	40,000
Assistant Chief	1,500	1,500	1,500
SS/MC Taxes	4,000	5,233	6,271
Training	5,000	9,371	10,000
Maintenance	2,500	40	2,500
Services/Supplies	7,000	5,185	7,000
Fuel	3,000	1,603	1,500
Billing Services	6,500	7,796	8,000
Equipment Purchase	2,500	-	2,500
Ambulance Stipend	<u>40,000</u>	<u>22,800</u>	<u>25,000</u>
<b>Total Ambulance</b>	<u>117,000</u>	<u>100,930</u>	<u>104,271</u>
<b>Health</b>			
Health Officer Salary	4,000	2,657	4,000
SS/MC	306	203	306
Cell Phone	600	496	600
Supplies	500	-	500
Misc.	500	97	500
<b>Total Health</b>	<u>5,906</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>5,906</u>
<b>Direct Assistance</b>			
Salary	28,875	27,699	29,741
SS/MC Taxes	2,209	1,983	2,275
Retirement	3,907	4,096	4,024
Rent	15,000	21,548	18,000
Emergency Shelter	3,000	1,800	2,000
Miscellaneous	3,000	3,736	3,500
Lights	3,000	749	1,500
Fuel	<u>3,000</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>1,500</u>
<b>Total Direct Assistance</b>	<u>61,991</u>	<u>62,278</u>	<u>62,540</u>

**Parks/Recreation**

Salaries	58,000	41,879	35,000
Director Salary	49,000	48,097	50,470
SS/MC Taxes	8,339	6,764	-
NH Retirement	6,630	6,635	-
Pool Salaries	68,000	55,733	58,800
Pool SS/MC Taxes	5,202	4,264	-
Pool Chemicals/Oversight	15,000	13,458	15,000
Pool Electricity	5,000	4,362	5,000
Pool Maintenance	5,000	4,499	6,000
Pool Supplies	8,000	5,640	6,000
Pool Training	4,000	2,738	4,000
Concessions	500	695	500
Programming	850	1,721	2,000
<b>Total Parks/Recreation</b>	<u>233,521</u>	<u>196,486</u>	<u>186,470</u>

**Library**

Library	<u>190,500</u>	<u>190,500</u>	<u>190,500</u>
<b>Total Library</b>	190,500	190,500	190,500

**Conservation**

Services	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,120</u>
<b>Total Conservation</b>	1,120	1,120	1,120

**T.A.N. Interest**

Tax Anticipation Note	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>
<b>Total T.A.N Interest</b>	20,000	-	20,000

**Debt Service**

Costs for Town Building Construction	41,895	41,806	41,112
Cat Backhoe	<u>11,155</u>	<u>11,155</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	53,050	52,961	41,112

**Total Budget excluding Warrant Articles,  
Special Revenue and Revolving Funds**

**\$ 3,733,607**

**WARRANT ARTICLES****Culture & Recreation**

Gazebo Entertainment	<u>9,650</u>	<u>8,850</u>	<u>9,650</u>
<b>Total Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	9,650	8,850	9,650

**Warrant Articles – Other**

Visitor Center Roof	<u>180,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,000</u>
<b>Total Warrant Articles – Other</b>	180,000	-	180,000



**Health Agencies/Hospitals**

Grafton County Senior Citizens	10,000	10,000	10,000
North Country Home Health	4,000	4,000	-
Ammonoosuc Health Service	-	-	6,000
The Boys and Girls Club	2,500	2,500	2,500
Tri-County CAP	-	-	4,968
Northern Human Services	3,121	3,121	3,121
Second Chance Animal Rescue	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Health Agencies/Hospital</b>	<u>20,621</u>	<u>20,621</u>	<u>27,589</u>

**Capital Reserve Fund**

Police Cruiser	25,000	25,000	35,000
Emergency Safety Equipment	10,000	10,000	10,000
Ambulance New/Used	25,000	25,000	25,000
Fire Truck New/Used	164,000	164,000	30,000
Police Equipment	3,000	3,000	5,000
Assessing	26,000	26,000	26,000
Tech/Computer Fund	8,000	8,000	8,000
Solid Waste Disposal	40,000	40,000	40,000
Library Building Maintenance	15,000	15,000	15,000
Highway Equipment	50,000	50,000	50,000
Town Building Maintenance	10,000	10,000	40,000
Cemetery Trust	-	-	25,000
Rec/Pool Facility	-	-	27,500
Planning Professional Services	-	-	25,000
Public Safety Facility	100,000	100,000	-
<b>Total Capital Reserve Fund</b>	<u>476,000</u>	<u>476,000</u>	<u>361,500</u>

**REVOLVING FUNDS****Park & Recreation**

Summer Counselor Salary	-	-	22,500
SS/MC Taxes	-	-	-
Telephone	600	508	600
PR Electricity	600	508	600
Rec Fuel	1,000	362	500
Recreation Staff Training/Conferences	1,500	367	800
Sports Program	12,500	15,164	14,000
Adult Program	2,000	-	1,500
Service & Supplies	10,000	4,493	6,000
Postage	60	-	60
Field Trips	15,000	15,08	12,250
Summer Program	4,500	3,818	4,000
Recreation Properties	31,270	25,031	30,000
<b>Total Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<u>79,030</u>	<u>65,261</u>	<u>93,060</u>

<b>Highway Revolving</b>	
Highway Revolving Exp.	119,544
<b>Total Highway Revolving</b>	<u>119,544</u>

<b>Police Revolving</b>	
Police Revolving Exp.	7,686
<b>Total Police Revolving</b>	<u>7,686</u>

**GRANT FUNDS**

<b>Grant Funds</b>	
Planning Grant	437
FEMA Bric Grant	15,048
American Rescue Fund Expenditures	47,011
<b>Total Grants</b>	<u>62,496</u>

## **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

**Town Of Bethlehem**  
**Report of the Trustees of Trust Funds**  
**For the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2024**

First Deposit	Name of Fund	Purpose of Fund	How Invested	PRINCIPAL			INCOME			TOTAL Principal & Income	Ending Market Value	
				Balance Beginning of Year	Additions- Withdraw Gain-Loss	Balance End of Year	Balance Beginning of Year	Net Income	Expended During Year			Balance End of Year
CEMETERY	1916- Perpetual Care	Lot Maintenance	Common TF	15,705.81	742.93	16,448.74	44,217.09	2,337.03	0.00	46,554.12	63,002.86	64,916.49
	Total Cemetery			15,705.81	742.93	16,448.74	44,217.09	2,337.03	0.00	46,554.12	63,002.86	64,916.49
PRIVATE TRUSTS	1942 Library	Maintenance	Common TF	713.75	13.17	726.92	347.82	41.41	0.00	389.23	1,116.15	1,150.05
	1929 Cruff - Town Building	Maintenance	Common TF	10,207.96	199.12	10,407.08	5,852.68	626.39	0.00	6,479.07	16,886.15	17,399.06
	1930 Jeffries - Park Building	Maintenance	Common TF	1,033.20	31.79	1,064.99	1,530.62	99.97	0.00	1,630.59	2,695.58	2,777.48
	1916 Phillips/Cruft	Needy Children	Common TF	7,011.17	589.29	7,600.46	32,455.85	1,539.33	4,075.00	29,920.18	37,520.64	38,906.60
	Total Private Trusts			18,966.08	833.37	19,799.45	40,186.97	2,307.10	4,075.00	38,419.07	58,218.52	60,233.19
CEMETERY	2020 Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund	Lot Maintenance	Common CRF	10,306.96	5,429.99	15,736.95	294.80	365.38	0.00	660.18	16,397.13	17,121.74
	Total Cemetery			10,306.96	5,429.99	15,736.95	294.80	365.38	0.00	660.18	16,397.13	17,121.74
LIBRARY	2020 Library Capital Reserve Fund	Maintenance	Common CRF	59,657.78	15,620.79	75,278.57	1,486.66	1,858.69	0.00	3,345.35	78,623.92	82,595.65
	Total Library			59,657.78	15,620.79	75,278.57	1,486.66	1,858.69	0.00	3,345.35	78,623.92	82,595.65

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				Balance Beginning of Year	Additions- Withdrawal Gain-Loss	Balance End of Year	Balance Beginning of Year	Expended During Year	Net Income			Balance End of Year
<b>TOWN</b>												
2015	Broadband	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	104.47	1.17	105.64	11.74	3.52	0.00	15.26	120.90	128.00
2013	Distressed Buildings	Town Properties	Common CRF	3,223.85	36.18	3,260.03	364.32	108.88	0.00	473.20	3,733.23	3,976.04
2020	Highway Equipment Fund	Equipment Purchase	Common CRF	100,020.05	13,383.88	113,403.93	2,118.83	3,102.20	0.00	5,221.03	118,624.96	125,411.48
1995	Highway Truck	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	0.00	0.00	0.00	103.65	2.44	106.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
2007	Pool/Recreation Facility	Maintenance	Common CRF	5,602.94	62.88	5,665.82	633.40	189.25	0.00	822.65	6,488.47	6,971.06
2015	Property Assessment	Property Assessment	Common CRF	8,412.64	4,132.57	12,545.21	1,646.43	306.09	0.00	1,952.52	14,497.73	15,132.46
1995	Prospect St. Dump Closure	Dump Closure	Common CRF	101,495.63	-5,974.49	95,521.14	4,441.62	3,213.38	0.00	7,655.00	103,176.14	110,452.43
2024	Public Safety Facility	Public Safety	Common CRF	0.00	100,028.46	100,028.46	0.00	21.13	0.00	21.13	100,049.59	98,853.72
2008	Road Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	18,373.05	206.22	18,579.27	2,079.07	620.65	0.00	2,699.72	21,278.99	22,667.49
2016	Solid Waste Disposal	Solid Waste Disposal Facility/Transfer Station	Common CRF	207,579.39	42,247.02	249,826.41	14,143.69	6,737.05	0.00	20,880.74	270,707.15	285,281.58
2016	Tech/Computer	Computer & Technology Needs	Common CRF	8,168.70	8,105.48	16,274.18	2,066.47	312.31	0.00	2,378.78	18,652.96	19,252.15
2001	Town Building Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	52,140.06	10,549.52	62,689.58	2,076.61	1,647.41	0.00	3,724.02	66,413.60	69,974.79
Total Town				505,120.78	172,778.89	677,899.67	29,685.83	16,264.31	106.09	45,844.05	723,743.72	758,043.00
<b>VILLAGE DISTRICT</b>												
1995	H2O Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	66,627.36	5,782.99	72,410.35	6,071.26	2,312.94	0.00	8,384.20	80,794.55	85,851.02
2019	Short-Lived Asset Reserve Fund	Short-Lived Asset	Common CRF	12,520.94	1,899.86	14,420.80	607.10	435.75	0.00	1,042.85	15,463.65	16,397.26
2013	Village District Intake CRF	Maintenance	Common CRF	27,238.63	305.16	27,543.79	3,026.81	918.44	0.00	3,945.25	31,489.04	33,543.78
1995	Village District Pickup Truck	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	42,484.53	9,590.33	52,034.86	3,173.86	1,577.74	0.00	4,751.60	56,786.46	60,103.98
1996	Wastewater Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF	61,598.25	15,814.82	77,413.07	4,343.63	2,321.37	0.00	6,665.00	84,078.07	88,917.00
Total Village District				210,469.71	33,353.16	243,822.87	17,222.66	7,566.24	0.00	24,788.90	268,611.77	284,813.84

**Town Of Bethlehem**  
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				Balance Beginning of Year	Additions- Withdrawal Gain-Loss	Balance End of Year	Balance Beginning of Year	Net Income	Expended During Year			Balance End of Year
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>												
1996	Police Cruiser	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	56,308.84	25,601.24	81,910.08	2,614.53	1,793.41	0.00	4,407.94	86,318.02	90,019.37
2010	Police Dept. Em. Safety Equip.	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	10,354.50	1,690.81	12,045.31	471.65	328.86	0.00	800.51	12,846.82	13,561.91
Total Police Department				66,663.34	27,292.05	93,955.39	3,086.18	2,122.27	0.00	5,208.45	99,165.84	103,581.29
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>												
1997	Ambulance	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	66,141.59	25,708.64	91,850.23	3,432.96	2,116.63	0.00	5,549.59	97,399.82	101,824.29
2008	Fire Dept. Em. Safety Equip.	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	41,757.40	10,463.29	52,220.69	3,908.31	1,387.92	0.00	5,296.23	57,516.92	60,497.59
2009	Fire Truck	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF	275,534.90	166,940.20	442,475.10	11,432.34	8,743.31	0.00	20,175.65	462,650.75	480,171.60
Total Emergency Services				383,433.89	203,112.13	586,546.02	18,773.61	12,247.86	0.00	31,021.47	617,567.49	642,493.47
<b>SCHOOL</b>												
1994	BES Building & Improvements	Maintenance	Common CRF SAU 35	93,802.95	1,084.25	94,887.20	8,735.46	2,996.15	0.00	11,731.61	106,618.81	114,121.05
1984	BES Special Education	Special Education	Common CRF SAU 35	26,994.55	817.04	27,811.59	8,820.31	1,096.22	0.00	9,916.53	37,728.12	40,252.51
2011	BES Tech. Fund	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF SAU 35	12,911.02	328.42	13,239.44	1,485.06	440.63	0.00	1,925.69	15,165.13	16,179.84
2006	Profile Building Maintenance	Maintenance	Common CRF SAU 35	124,056.27	3,183.47	127,239.74	15,490.91	4,271.23	0.00	19,762.14	147,001.88	156,837.81
2006	Profile Special Education	Special Education	Common CRF SAU 35	207,757.71	5,325.77	213,083.48	25,696.71	7,145.50	0.00	32,842.21	245,925.69	262,380.66
2011	Profile Tech.	Equip. Purch.	Common CRF SAU 35	68,824.19	1,751.92	70,576.11	7,970.87	2,350.53	0.00	10,321.40	80,897.51	86,310.38
Total School				534,346.69	12,490.87	546,837.56	68,199.32	18,300.26	0.00	86,499.58	633,337.14	676,082.29
GRAND TOTALS:				1,804,871.04	471,654.18	2,276,525.22	223,153.12	63,369.14	4,181.09	282,341.17	2,558,866.39	2,689,881.53

## **CEMETERY TRUSTEES' REPORT**

A comprehensive sign has been installed at the entrance of the cemetery road, detailing the various sections for ease of navigation. Additionally, smaller individual signs have been placed in each section to enhance visibility within the cemetery.

Thirteen trees, identified as old and posing a risk of falling on gravestones, have been removed. The town has also surveyed the new section of the cemetery, facilitating future expansion plans.

Dan Murphy has initiated the cleaning of some gravestones using a new product, enabling the trustees to maintain the stones at a significantly reduced cost compared to outsourcing this service. Finding companies to perform this task is challenging and often costly.

The Cemsites computer program, which has been under development for five years, is scheduled for completion this year. This program involves digitizing family plots and their members into a computer system, allowing the sexton, trustees, and public to visually locate plots. This extensive process required numerous volunteer hours devoted to documenting plot information from gravestones and updating existing records. Some records had to be reconstructed due to misplaced cards over the years. The data will now be securely backed up in a database.

Acknowledgment is given to Carole Hammarberg for her significant contributions and ongoing efforts to keep the system current. The trustees acknowledge the Town crew for their care of the cemetery and Jon Wright for his role as Sexton. The town of Bethlehem's assistance in maintaining the cemeteries is also recognized.

Stephen Allen, Carole Hammarberg, Richard Robie, Jr., Dawn Ferringo, Clare Brown and Dan Murphy, alternate.

## BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

In response to the public's requests and suggestions, the library held several new programs this year.

- Simple Living is a monthly program that addresses a variety of topics. This year we held simple living programs related to garden building, garden pests, water-bath canning, downsizing, natural remedies, and lymphatic drainage. Upcoming sessions will discuss healthcare in the North Country, frugality, and backyard herbs.
- In response to a lack of places for parents to take young children for socialization, the library held monthly Stay & Play on Tuesday afternoons. These programs featured special toys for that day: Lincoln logs and blocks for building, a Grocery Store room, and imaginative play with boxes. Play programs help our smallest patrons learn about the world and themselves. And parents have time to meet other parents in the community.
- Our Community Conversation programs sought to bring “big” problems to the local level, and discuss possible solutions we can implement here in Bethlehem. These round table, all age, discussions included youth mental health, the opioid epidemic, and civics in the 21st century. Future discussions may include physical accessibility and climate change.
- As the need for large print books has increased among our patrons, we made the decision to double the shelf space for these books. A grant allowed us to purchase large print books by new authors. We also participated in a test program of the State Library, whereby we were loaned boxes of large print books for an extended period.
- The library also “genrified” or categorized our Young Adult books to make it easier for patrons to find the type of books they would like. YA books are now shelved under Fantasy, Fright, Reality, and Sci-Fi.
- The reference book area in the Johnson room was reviewed and many books were removed. This opens space for new special collections in 2025: End-of-Life and Simple Living.
- As part of the summer reading programs, the library acquired four sets of virtual reality goggles. These were used for both kids and adult programs. These goggles were purchased through a Summer Readers grant and the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. The goggles allow patrons to experience cutting-edge technology without having to purchase these items.
- The library now has a subscription to Mango Languages. Anyone with a Bethlehem Library card can access bite-size lessons on a phone or other device. Mango offers over 70 languages, as well as English courses.

The library had an unexpected expense, as we needed new patio doors to our community room. Fortunately, the library had some funds from the Friends that could be used. The doors were installed, along with a new key pad. The key pad allows groups to use the meeting room even when the library is closed. This room was used 280 times for non-library programs in 2024, with over 2,700 participants.



The Library Trustees spent the year reviewing and revising library policies. New policies are available to view on the library website.

The library continued with programs that our patrons love! These include weekly children’s programs – Preschool Story Time and afterschool programs – as well as six weeks of children’s programs for Summer Reading. The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library generously sponsored the kick-off theater entertainer, as well as the finale, Magic Fred, and an ice cream party.

Patrons’ favorite adult programs we offered this year included Oscar-nominated movies, Paint Night, Learn to Line Dance, as well as programs on A.I. and Scammers. Our weekly Let’s Talk program continues to be well attended.

In November, we held a Book Tasting program, where participants got to sample many new books just in time for gift-giving. Looking for a new author? The library offers personalized book recommendations, just by completing a short form found on our website. Connecting readers to books is what we love most about our jobs!

Thank you to our patrons and the community for supporting the library. By borrowing materials from us you saved over \$318,000!

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

2024 Statistics:

Collection:		Circulation:	
Books	10,954	Adult books	8,056
Audio CDs	397	Children/YA books	7,448
Videos	1,235	Audio/Video	2,010
Library of Things	26	Magazines	919
		Downloaded from Libby	4,327
Purchased items	833	Inter-library loans borrowed	825
Donated items	162		
Discarded items	2,076	Patrons served	20,773
Lost items	33	Computer Users	1,481
Titles available through Libby (eBooks, audios, magazines)	39,682	Active Patrons	982
		New patrons	111
		New non-resident patrons	2
Subscriptions:			
Newspapers	3		
Magazines	31		

## 2025 Budget Bethlehem Public Library

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>
Book , Ect.	12,600	14,710	12,600
Magazine	1,000	1,451	1,332
Computer, Equipment Expense	896	2,794	0
Accounting	1,910	1,739	1,400
Professional Development	1,500	1,378	1,500
Employee Recognition	250	258	250
Library Supplies	1,500	1,278	1,500
Communication Expense	1,600	1,695	1,633
Bldg. Maint, Lawn Care	27,400	27,773	16,623
Building Supplies	350	292	350
Postage	300	375	333
Utilities	3,672	4,697	4,855
Other Expense	200	22	200
Library Programs	2,200	2,338	2,200
Payroll Tax	9,027	8,314	9,018
Wages	107,100	104,598	108,600
Retirement Cost	8,289	8,079	7,885
Disability Insurance	696	839	810
Health Insurance	20,369	20,369	20,370
Library Systems Fee	5,352	6,033	6,186
Copier Maintenance	900	1,100	913
Property, Liability Insurance	3,130	3,130	3,309
Workers Accident Insurance	109	109	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$210,350</b>	<b>\$213,371</b>	<b>\$202,000</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Town Funds	\$190,500	\$190,500	\$190,500
Expenditures	19,850	19,850	11,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$210,350</b>	<b>\$210,350</b>	<b>\$202,000</b>

<b>Endowment/Trust Funds *</b>	<b>Bank Savings Account</b>	
Beginning Balance	126,245.09	Beginning Balance \$83,584.76
Contribution	0.00	Interest 32.20
Interest Earned	6,746.14	Additions 8,160.98
Expenditures	0.00	Expenditures 19,850.00
		Transfer Out 50,000.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>132,991.23</b>	<b>Ending Balance \$21,927.94</b>

<b>Investment Fund **</b>	
Beginning Balance	0.00
Transfer In	50,000.00
Interest	0.00
Expenditures	0.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>

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

\*\* Funded from bank savings account.

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

Looking back on 2024, the Select Board worked diligently on numerous projects. Many of the projects were comprised of community volunteers, as well as local businesses. The number of hours and expertise from our volunteers are immeasurable.

In March, April Hibberd was reelected for another 3-yr term to the Select Board.

This year, Police Chief Alan Demoranville retired from full-time police work to devote more time to his family. He offered to remain a part-time member of the police force to assist when needed. The Select Board unanimously approved the selection of Sergeant Jeff Dube to take the helm as the new Police Chief. Dube has been with the Bethlehem PD for more than ten years and worked his way up to Sergeant before being approved as the new Chief.

In October, Fire Chief Jack Anderson officially announced his retirement from the Bethlehem Fire Department. Chief Anderson has been with the Bethlehem FD for more than 57 yrs with more than 20 yrs as the department Chief. It is profoundly difficult to consider the Bethlehem Fire Dept without Chief Jack Anderson as its leader. Jack has been instrumental in so many aspects of our town's entity.

With Chief Anderson's retirement, the Select Board sought out qualified candidates throughout New England. The hiring committee interviewed a selection of quality candidates and narrowed the list to three finalists. The three candidates were invited to a "Meet the Candidate" evening with members of the Fire Dept. and members of the community. The Select Board subsequently offered the position to Sunapee NH Fire Chief John Galloway to lead the Bethlehem Fire Department. Welcome Chief Galloway!

The Capital Improvement Committee approved by the voters in 2018, was initiated to provide the town with a comprehensive report of all municipal properties valued over \$25,000. The report also includes the estimated replacement costs as well as the anticipated amount needed in their respective Capital Reserve accounts to provide adequate funds when needed. The work accomplished by the committee provides an invaluable tool for planning. The Capital Improvement Committee members are Nancy Strand (Select Board rep), Sally Fitzgerald (Planning Board rep), Mary Moritz (Municipal Dept Head), Rich Southwell and Vicki Francis (Community Reps). This committee will remain active throughout the coming years.

A long-standing issue that has come before the Select Board is how to address pedestrian safety on Main Street. In 2023, the North Country Council conducted a traffic calming study. The results were provided to the Select Board and a task force was created to review the data and provide suggestions on how best to

implement changes to increase pedestrian safety and reduce vehicle speeds through the village. With discussions and input from the NH DOT, the task force has recommended the purchase of pedestrian crossing lights, signage notifying drivers of entering the village area, "mumble strips" on the East and West ends of Main Street, adding crosswalks at the Library and at Elm Street, and narrowing the street through the center of Town with the addition of a bike lane. Some improvements were implemented in 2024 including the installation of three traffic speed warning signs using ARPA funds.

In 2024, the Select Board entered into an agreement with a new property assessing firm. The firm Commerford Nieder Perkins, LLC had excellent references from other municipalities. The Select Board has found them responsive to requests from the town and residents.

This year, the Select Board looked comprehensively at ways to reduce the municipal budget. One approach was to shift the Recreation Dept. after-school and/or summer programming to the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country. While the idea would reduce the recreation budget as well as offer scholarship opportunities for families, the idea was soundly defeated at a public hearing. Concerns expressed at a Public Hearing included additional travel time, mileage to/from the B&G Club, as well as the loss of community pride in having our own Recreation program. As a result, the Select Board took no action on this proposed change but it did result in the Recreation Department and parent volunteers seeking out fundraising activities for the coming year.

Two major FEMA grants were awarded to the town in 2024. The Maplewood Hill Rd project will be funded with a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant. The second FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant awarded is the River Rd culvert project. Both projects fund 80 percent of the project costs.

The long awaited sidewalk project from Bethlehem Elementary to the Town Hall has been selected by North Country Council to be added to the NHDOT 10-year plan. Additionally, Mary Moritz applied for the DOT Transportation Alternative Program funding opportunity which if funded would allow the project to start sooner and cover 80% of the cost. It is hopeful that this will be approved to begin the project in 2027.

2024 was a banner year for the Town of Bethlehem. We celebrated our 250th anniversary of being incorporated as a town. The original colonial grant as Lloyds Hills was made in 1774. After the War of Independence, the citizens voted to change the name to Bethlehem on December 25, 1799. With a core group of volunteers, the celebration was a huge success! The day was truly a day to be proud of our community!

This year, the Select Board recognized three residents for their devotion to the town and their tireless efforts to make the community special, honoring them

with the Bethlehem Bravo award. In February, the Select Board recognized Paul & April Nandico for their selfless giving to others. April Dee Sunshine frequently gives her soaps and baked goods to residents. In July, Dick Robie was recognized for his beautiful restoration and maintenance of the benches located throughout Main St. Thank you, Paul, April and Dick for your selfless service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Bruno, Chair

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

On the behalf of the Bethlehem Police Department, we would like to extend our gratitude to the residents of Bethlehem for their cooperation and continued support of our law enforcement officers. Law Enforcement over the last few years has gone through many changes, both nationally and locally, and this last year has not been any different. In 2024, we have seen many changes, especially in our staffing. Chief Alan Demoranville announced his retirement this Fall, and Officer Samantha Donahue announced she would be leaving law enforcement in order to further her education. Their commitment to their duties will be missed and staffing will remain an important factor for the Department in the coming year in order to continue supporting the community's needs.

With that being said, we are pleased to announce Jeffrey Dube as the new Chief of Police for the Bethlehem Police Department. He has been with the Department since 2009 and is looking forward to continuing to serve the community in his new position.

This Fall, the Bethlehem Police Department was able to secure two grants at no cost to the taxpayers. This first grant we were able to secure was for the continuance of our body camera program. Our body camera program has been beneficial in the prosecution of criminal cases as well as preserving the trust within our community by providing an unbiased view of the nature of law enforcement. This grant made it possible for the Department to replace its aging equipment by providing 50 per cent of the funding for the program. The second grant secured was for Police safety equipment. In total, these grants made it possible to secure equipment that officers use in the performance of their duties every day while saving the residents of the town over \$ 27,000.

During the last few years, other changes in training requirements for our law enforcement officers have emerged. Increased training hours have been implemented by the State to maintain an officer's certification and it remains our mission to properly train officers in appropriate fields in order to better serve our community's needs.

The mission and vision of the Department is to provide quality service to the community as our primary duty. We are committed to faithfully and selflessly performing our duties while striving to be responsive, effective, and dependable. We are dedicated to enhancing public safety and reducing the fear and the incidence of crime. We work in partnership with our community to solve problems that affect public safety and quality of life. We are dedicated to working in partnership with the public to achieve our goal of making our community a safe and inviting place.

The Bethlehem Police Department in 2024 has responded to 3372 calls for service. In addition to responding to calls, we have listened to our residents and focused our efforts to combat the emerging issues within our community.

Below is a list of 2024 Crime Statistics and Calls for Service:

**Bethlehem Police Department**

**3372 Calls for Service 2024, which included:  
93 arrests**

**66 motor vehicle accidents  
398 motor vehicle stops**

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Jeffrey Dube  
Corporal Richard Ball  
Officer Zachary Bushway (PT)

Lt. Alan Demoranville (PT)  
Officer Brian Jenkins  
Officer Sarah Szandyba (PT)

## **FIRE & AMBULANCE REPORT**

This will be my final annual report as your Fire Chief and Emergency Manager Director and I can't tell how much of an honor it has been to serve this great town and its citizens over the past 28 years as your Chief and a total of 57 years on the department. I have seen many changes in this town over the years and have come to realize that change is generally good as it spurs new ideas and sets the stage for the future. There will be history made as this will only be the third Fire Chief we have had in 78 years.

As this new chapter begins, we must consider what a small town fire department is and the very core of it is a group of people that are there doing a job they have chosen to commit their time and energy to serve their community. Yes they get paid, and are considered to be town employees, however they are not your typical Town Employee as they have made the choice to give many hours of unpaid time to take key trainings to improve their skills as Fire Fighters, First Responders and different levels of EMT's. We as taxpayers should always be aware of this and support these dedicated individuals in their efforts to be the best they can be.

As of this writing the Select Board has announced the hiring of John Galloway as your new Fire Chief. I have met with John several times and feel he should be a good fit for the Town of Bethlehem. I have urged our personnel to give the guy a chance to make his mark on the Department as I am sure he will bring many new and fresh ideas. I urge the towns' people to do the same. I wish him all the best in stepping into this difficult role. John comes from a similar small department so it should be a smooth transition once he becomes acclimated to the area and our residents.

I would also like to acknowledge all of the great people that I have served with over my 57 years on the department. These people have taught me so much about not only firefighting but about life in general and how easily things can change and alter the course of our lives. I have seen babies born to our members and now they are productive members of the department. I have seen way too much tragedy not only in the course of our duties but within our ranks with lifelong friends, family members and fellow firefighters dying or becoming disabled. It is hard for some people to comprehend that when that tone goes off it's our job to go deal with whatever has happened and do it with professionalism and compassion while we do whatever is necessary to get the job done and many times in these small towns we know the victims. It takes special people to do this job and that's why I say it has been an honor to serve with them as they have earned that special trust we all enjoy.

The support I have realized with the residents of this town is also very special to me. I have made some mistakes and I always try to own up to them. It has always been my goal to be honest with the taxpayers of this town and in return they have been very supportive of the department and its members. I thank everyone for that great support and I hope that continues into the future.

There is one more special group of people that I feel compelled to mention and that is my family. My family has endured a bunch of disappointing holidays, birthday parties, school programs and numerous other family activities that were interrupted by my dedication to the fire department. I will be forever grateful to them for their understanding and tolerance



of my absence at these important events over the years. My three daughters, Kimberly, Heather and Jamie have been understanding and never complained about me putting my job first and I can't thank them enough. My wife Patricia is the one that sacrifices the most, at least at this stage of our lives, when her husband runs out the door just as she is putting a great meal on the table to go to a call. This is an untold sacrifice that firemen's spouses experience all of the time. It's not just meals but every other activity that everyone else takes for granted.

Thanks for the memories Bethlehem it's been great!!!

Chief Jack Anderson

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

After a few years of lean winters, last year saw an increase in callouts with 43 callouts throughout the year. Including high water issues and multiple high windstorms. One particular storm included 20 trees down on Beech Hill Rd alone. The past year saw multiple freeze and thaw conditions adding to the muddiest roads in years. With roads being posted in mid-February until the end of March resulting in a large expense for gravel and stone.

Questions are asked about the number of trucks used at the Highway Department. Currently there are 7, with one being a spare. There are six plow routes in Town with each approximately 30 miles long and a time of two and a half hours per route to complete.

Long time highway department employee Chris Brousseau changed careers with the hopes of spending more time with his family. Particularly in the winter on call months. I'd like to thank Chris for his many years of service and dedication. New to the crew Gabe Johnson has joined the Department which still has multiple people with several years of experience including Rick Robie, Tom Hampson, Jon Wright, and Justin Francis.

Remember, please don't crowd the Plow.

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 2024, the recreation department continued to grow in multiple ways including resurfacing the tennis courts, repainting the pool, multiple sports teams per age group, and more. 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. 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. In 2024, we introduced softball which the girls thoroughly enjoyed, we hope to continue offering softball. We have continued offering merchandise for parents and kids to purchase through an online SquadLocker store. While having new families join our programs, we also have numerous families that continue to make use of our programs year after year.

### 2024 Recreation Department Enrollment

After School 25 Registered	Sports Baseball/Softball: 61 Registered Soccer: 70 Registered Basketball: 59 Registered	Summer Younger Kids: 27 Registered Older Kids: 11 Registered
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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

## TOWN POOL REPORT

The Bethlehem Town Pool had another epic summer in 2024.

Our season was 59 days long. The pool is open 7 days a week with 2 planned closures for the 4th of July and Franconia Old Home's Day. We were closed 3 additional days for maintenance issues and no available staff.

This summer, admission was free again to Bethlehem residents. 119 Bethlehem residents and 4 non-residents (paying the fee) filled out the season pass paperwork to skip the Day Pass hassle. This group visited the pool 660 times during the season. Day passes for non-residents increased by 32%. Residents from the following local towns visited our pool on more than one occasion: Franconia, Lyndonville, Jefferson, Littleton, Intervale, Waterford, Whitefield, Island Pond, Ware, Carroll, Lancaster, Groton, Lunenburg, Sugar Hill, and Dalton. Vacationers from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Washington DC, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Southern New Hampshire add the pool into their trip.

We had several camps incorporate paid trips to our pool as part of their summer program: Whitefield- weekly, Boys & Girls Club- 1x, Lafayette Rec- 1x, Bethlehem Rec- weekly (free), Haverhill- 1x (new this year). Adaptive Sports Partners is one of our community partners, they use our pool for their swim lessons each summer.

Our Swim Teachers are certified Red Cross Water Safety Instructors (WSI's). They offered swim lessons to 73 members of the public, 28 Bethlehem Rec. campers and 42 Lafayette Rec. campers. Lessons covered swimmers ages 9 months - 14 years old in Parent and Child Aquatics, Preschool Aquatics and Learn to swim levels 1 - 5. Many of the participants traveled an hour or more to our pool for swim lessons. This year 11 local businesses sponsored our swim lessons: The Colonial, Beech Hill Automotive, Boys & Girls Club on the North Country, Evergreen Sports Center, Legacy Used Books, On the Fly Electric, Presby Construction, Silver Fin's Swim Team, Super Secret Ice Cream, Team O'Neil, and The Washwick Agency.

Our swim team returned to the NEK and North Country Summer Swim League again this summer. We had 9 swimmers who hosted 1 meet at BTP and traveled to Power's Park Pool for an away meet.

Bethlehem Town Pool offers Red Cross Jr. Lifeguarding and WSI-aide courses. This summer, we certified 5 Jr. Lifeguards and 6 WSI-aides. These programs allow us to build an impressive team of lifeguards and WSI's who on average return for at least 5 summers. This is a 78% return rate for the past 8 years. Our team stays rescue ready by participating in in-service trainings. Each summer we partner with Bethlehem Fire and Rescue to conduct spinal prevention and injury training.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa D. Jacobs  
Aquatics Director

## **DIRECT ASSISTANCE**

The Office of Direct Assistance received 23 applications for assistance in 2024, a 25% decrease in applications from 2023. Rental assistance continued to climb in 2024, with a 63% increase from total rents paid in 2023 and accounted for 44% of the overall budget. Emergency shelter, electrical assistance, and heating fuel continued to decrease from the previous year thanks to Tri-County CAP programs such as their Energy Assistance Program and the Cold Weather Shelter Funds which covers the cost of emergency shelter from Dec through March.

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**

The Bethlehem Food Pantry provided 3,339 meals to families from Bethlehem, Littleton, Franconia, and Whitefield in 2024. Once again the Food Pantry was awarded the NH Feeding NH Grant administered by the NH Food Bank. This year our grant increased by \$1,000, giving us a total of \$2,500 to purchase locally raised food from Meadowstone Farm, here in Bethlehem, Pinestead Farm in Franconia and Sherman Farm in Center Conway, for our community.

We continue our long-standing relationship with USDA Commodity Foods program and receive over 4,000 pounds of food donations through their program. We purchased over 1,500 pounds of food from the NH Food Bank at a significant discount 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.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Ferringo  
Town Welfare Administrator

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The Bethlehem Planning Board continues to work towards a sustainable, well-planned community that meets the needs of current and future generations. Following on the boards extensive work in 2023 with North Country Council, the town approved all 8 warrant articles bringing our zoning ordinances up to date with state RSA's and local regulations. These also better reflect the community's growth and development needs.

The board appointed Jerry Blanchard to the seat vacated by Martie Cook and welcomed Angela Cleveland and James Gleason as alternates.

This year, the Conservation Commission proposed changes to the lighting and sign ordinances to help preserve dark skies and maintain the rural atmosphere by reducing light pollution. The Planning Board supports these changes. Additionally, the Zoning Board requested modifications to the "public accommodations" definition, but this was tabled for further discussion, as it needs more consideration.

The planning board reviewed 7 conceptals including several small businesses; Shrubby's Smokeshack, The Junk Lady, Street Feeder, Native Vintage pop-up, a smoothie drive through, as well as an expansion to the Reklis kitchen and a plan for a cluster development. Additionally, there was a proposal for the expansion of Hill View Apartments. A site visit meeting along with the Zoning Board was held. This proposal was withdrawn due to the Zoning Board denial of the application for a Special Exception to multi-family housing, criterion 2. The board also addressed 1 minor site plan review for Unspoken Bike Shop, 6 lot line adjustments and 3 subdivisions.

In September, the board held a work session to kick off the development of our new Master Plan, which is due in 2026. We will be issuing an RFP to seek out potential consultants to help create the plan.

In accordance with RSA 674:30, Eversource requested the Planning Board waive the town's 40 foot height restrictions, in the Planning and Zoning Ordinance, in order to replace existing electrical poles with new, taller poles.. The Planning Board held a public hearing on May 22 and denied the waiver request. Eversource subsequent petitioned the Public Utilities Commission to overrule the Planning Board decision. The PUC process is ongoing.

The Planning Board meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. It is our responsibility to review every application or plan submitted to ensure compliance with site plan rules and regulations for all proposed building projects, whether residential or commercial, in the Town of Bethlehem. The process starts with the applicant presenting their plan to the board as a "concept." There is no cost for presenting a conceptual plan, and assistance is always available to ensure that projects meet current regulations. Simply reach out to the planning board administrator for help.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Moore  
Planning Board Chair

**TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2025 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 3rd, 2025, 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 11, 2025, 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 a.m. in the forenoon and will not close until 7:00 p.m. 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 Casey MacDonald Andrea Knowles Write In	Vote for not more than 2
Town Clerk	3 Year Term Mary Jackson Write In	Vote for not more than 1
Tax Collector	3 Year Term Mary Jackson Write In	Vote for not more than 1
Planning Board	3 Year Term Gerald Blanchard Write In	Vote for not more than 2
Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 Year Term Joshua Lieberman Christopher McGrath	Vote for not more than 2

Trustee of the Trust Fund	3 Year Term Write In	Vote for not more than 1
Cemetery Trustee	3 Year Term Daniel J Murphy Write In	Vote for not more than 1
Library Trustee	3 Year Term Barbara Szeidler Lisa Ffrench Kimberly Koprowski Melissa Smith Write In	Vote for not more than 3

**Article 2:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 1 to the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board to help reduce light pollution and preserve our rural night skies as follows: Under the Amended Article VI, Signs, no new internally lit signs will be permitted because the light cannot be shielded and directed away from public streets and adjoining structures such as homes. Signs may be externally lit only, aimed downward, and dimmed by at least 50 percent, motion-activated, or turned off outside of business operating hours. Existing signs are exempt until they are modified.

**Article 3:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2 to the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinances as proposed by the Planning Board to preserve our rural night skies as follows: repeal and replace Article VIII, Lighting, to require all new and modified outdoor lighting to be shielded, directed downward and designed to prevent spillover onto neighboring properties or public areas; to require lighting hues to avoid certain blue hues; and to require commercial and industrial lighting to be reduced outside of business hours, avoid excessive illumination, and prevent glare. Temporary, emergency, and seasonal lighting are exempt, as well as existing fixtures, until they are modified. This proposed ordinance establishes clear guidelines for outdoor lighting to reduce glare, to limit light from trespassing onto neighborhood properties, and to improve the functionality of outdoor lighting.

**Article 4:** Are you in favor of amending Article XVII. Short-Term Rental, paragraph 3 (septic systems) to revise unclear language, add a new means of demonstrating that a system is currently functioning, and remove the requirement that a system constructed prior to NHDES permitting have a formal evaluation annually and a replacement design continuously approved by NHDES.

**Article 5:** 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 \$ 3,733,607 (Three Million, Seven Hundred Thirty Three Thousand, Six Hundred Seven Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$ 3,684,235 (Three Million, Six Hundred Eighty Four Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty Five 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 5.59

**Article 6:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the SELECTMEN'S recommended amount of \$180,000 (One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars) from the unreserved fund balance to perform structural repairs and to replace the Visitor's center roof. This money was appropriated in 2024 and will not impact the tax rate. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the roof project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. This amount does not cover the full cost of repairs recommended in the engineering study. The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 3-1). Estimated tax impact .000

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (Fifty thousand Dollars) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .095

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 (Thirty-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 .067

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five 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 .010

**Article 10:** 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 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact 0.057

**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 Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .048

**Article 13:** 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 Cemetery Trust Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .048

**Article 14:** 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 15:** 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 16:** 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 .076

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 (Forty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .076

**Article 18:** 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 4-0). Estimated tax impact .029

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,500 (Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) to be added to the Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .052

**Article 20:** 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 2025. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact .018

**Article 21:** To see if the town will vote to discontinue completely the road known as Alder Brook from Route 116 to the Littleton town line for a total of 530 feet. This change is to a private road for the clarification for the Department of Transportation. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .000

**Article 22:** To see if the town will vote to establish a Planning Board Professional Services Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .048

**Article 23:** To see if the town will vote to establish a Grant Match Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of raising funds for the match portion of grants awarded to the town and to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the general fund; further to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. (The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article 4-0). Estimated tax impact .038

**Article 24:** 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 do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.005

**Article 25:** 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 do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.002

**Article 26:** We registered voters in the Town of Bethlehem present this petitioned article to be included in the 2025 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 2024. From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the Littleton Area Senior Center provided services for 231 Bethlehem residents, and Service Link provided services for 49 residents. These services included nutrition, transportation, outreach support, ServiceLink support, and more. The cost of providing these services was \$190,433.47. Petitioned Article (The Board of Selectmen do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.019

**Article 27:** 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 do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.006

**Article 28:** 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 do not recommend this Article -0) Estimated tax impact .009

**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 comprehensive primary preventative health care to all, regardless of their financial situation. This will enable ACHS to continue to provide top-notch, affordable healthcare to 836 CURRENT BETHLEHEM PATIENTS. ACHS provides healthcare services to 8,268 patients within 26 towns in northern Grafton and southern Coos counties and has sites in Littleton, Franconia, Whitefield, Warren, and Woodsville. Petitioned Article. (The Board of Selectmen do not recommend this Article 4-0) Estimated tax impact 0.011

## ESTIMATED 2025 TAX IMPACT FOR WARRANT ARTICLES

<b>WARRANT ARTICLES</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Tax Impact</b>
Gazebo Concerts	9,650	.018
Visitor Center Roof	180,000	.000
Grant Match Expendable Trust	20,000	.038

### **CAPITAL RESERVE WARRANT ARTICLES**

Highway Equipment	50,000	.095
Police Cruiser	35,000	.067
Police Special Equipment	5,000	.010
Fire Equipment	10,000	.019
Fire Truck	30,000	.057
Ambulance	25,000	.048
Cemetery Trust	25,000	.048
Assessing	26,000	.050
Tech/Computer	8,000	.015
Solid Waste	40,000	.076
Library Building Maintenance	15,000	.029
Town Building Maintenance	40,000	.076
Rec/Pool Facility	27,500	.052
Planning Professional Services	25,000	.048

### **NONPROFIT WARRANT ARTICLES**

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	6,000	.011
Boys & Girls Club	2,500	.005
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	10,000	.019
Northern Human Services	3,121	.006
Second Chance Animal Rescue	1,000	.002
Tri County Cap	4,968	.009
		<hr/> 1.411

**Estimated tax cost for an assessment of \$ 300,000**

**\$ 423.30**

## ZONING BOARD REPORT

The Zoning Board is charged with making important decisions and strives to balance individual property owner's rights with the overall welfare of the town/neighborhood. This requires reviewing and making decisions about variances and Special Exceptions to the Bethlehem zoning regulations.

This year, in addition to reviewing applications submitted by property owners, the Board reviewed the application template for a Variance and made some changes, which we felt made the application process more user friendly.

This past year the Zoning Board heard applications from three residents for variances for lot size, side set back and road frontage, all of which were granted.

The biggest project to come before the Board proposed a new three-story building for senior housing. The proposal requested two special exceptions and two variances. To really understand the project, the Planning Board and Zoning Board went on a site visit to the property in question. During the hearing for the first special exception, for exceeding the nominal maximum density of living units, the Zoning Board determined that the proposed three-story building did not meet the second criterion for approval: the project "*shall not negatively impact the health, safety, or general welfare of the neighborhood and/or the town, including but not limited to noise, or vibrations, glare, hours of operation, traffic, lighting, runoff, and/or pollution*". On this basis, the special exception and therefore the overall application was denied.

## **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.

There are currently no outstanding revitalizations loans, as the mortgage was paid off successfully in 2024.

Façade improvement grants were given to two Main Street businesses, totaling \$10,000.00, improving the look of Bethlehem's Main Street.

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 four programs in the classroom at the park: “Owls of New Hampshire”, “Start Your Own Pollinator Garden”, “Darkness in the Daytime: Exploring the Solar Eclipse”, and “The Wonder of Hummingbirds”. 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. We also offered a program on Nature apps and a program on beaver ecology.

In the spring of 2024, we worked with students from the White Mountain School to clean up trails for summer use. We have replaced damaged educational signs. In 2025, we hope to complete signage for some of the trails and continue to monitor and do trail repairs as needed.

In winter 2025 we plan to host four programs.

Feb. 19: **Intro to NH Wildlife Tracks and Signs Online**

Feb 26: **Wildlife adaptations with Dave Govatski**

March 5: **History of Peak Bagging in the White Mountains with Mike Dickerman**

March 12: **How NH Forests are Managed for Maple Sugar Production with Jim Frohn**

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 (<https://www.forestsociety.org>). 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

Nancy Czarny, Secretary

Elizabeth Carter

Bryan Smith

Sue Greenlaw

Margaret Gale Conservation Commission rep.

Veronica Morris, Select Board rep.

Nigel Manley, SPNHF rep.

Alicia Loveless, Planning board rep.

## BETHLEHEM HERITAGE SOCIETY REPORT

- The organization changed its name from Bethlehem Heritage Society to Bethlehem Historical Society.
- The Society thanks the Town Selectmen, participants, and donors for making Bethlehem's 250th anniversary celebration in August a success.
- The Bethlehem Boston Post Cane was presented to Beverly Shaw, who turned 100 on August 29, 2024. She resides with her daughter Debra and Ray Tuck in Bethlehem.
- The Plaque project will incorporate QR codes that offer historical information about each individual historic site. Additional details can be appended to the QR codes as they become available.
- On December 7th, Santa Claus (portrayed by Peter Roy) visited the Historical Society as part of the Christmas in Bethlehem Celebration, drawing a large number of children.
- The 36th Memory Tree Ceremony was held on Saturday, December 14th. Carole Hammarberg and Stephen Allen read the names.
- Stu Woodham inputted the artifact inventory into a database and set up the new computer system.
- New members at the center are compiling history and posting it on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. They have brought fresh perspectives on historical documentation. Thanks to Peggy Barasso, John Miller and Tammy Reardon as well as Stu for his instructional support.
- Over the winter months, a dedicated team has been compiling related historical information into a single book for easier access. The project is ongoing.
- The Society applied for a \$20,000 Moose plate grant for interior repairs after roof work. Funding approval from the Governor's Council is pending.
- The roof repair is scheduled to be completed in the spring. Additionally, an assessment of the foundation will be conducted.
- We appreciate Bethlehem and the town crew for maintaining winter road access and helping with brush pickup. Our goal is to grow our audience and keep sharing history.



## **VISITOR CENTER REPORT**

The Visitor Center opened for the season on Memorial Weekend, as we were only open weekends during May and June, we were a bit slow.

Things picked up considerably during July, August, September and October. Our total for the season was 642 visitors.

Christmas in Bethlehem “Open House with Santa” at the visitor center, brought 90 + children accompanied by parents and grandparents to meet Santa and his new helper Ellen Elf. It was a wonderful start to the Christmas Season.

Kay and I are looking forward to the 2025 opening of the visitor center and wish to thank the Bethlehem Community for their continued support.

Carole Hammarberg and Kay Allen,  
Visitor Center Staff

## **BETHLEHEM CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT**

During 2024, the Bethlehem Conservation Commission continued the state-mandated mission of all conservation commissions: preserving and protecting natural resources, including reviewing state permits such as projects that would affect wetlands. Commissions also manage town forests and interact with state agencies such as the Department of Environmental Services and the Fish and Game Department to protect and preserve Bethlehem's natural resources.

**Roadside Clean-up:** Given a decline in volunteer response to a one-day clean-up, the commission decided to instead promote an Adopt-A-Spot program. It urges residents to volunteer to clean up roads of their choosing at times of their choosing. Just over three dozen residents signed up.

**Town Forest:** Alternate member Joanne Jones presented a report after researching the complicated history and boundaries of the Bethlehem Tellman-Johnson Town Forest, which consists of three adjacent properties near the center of town. Her work will be helpful as the commission decides how to move forward with its stewardship.

**Outreach, Communication and Education:** The commission continued to provide information on protecting the environment and urging others to help. One example was donating funds for Bethlehem Elementary School students to attend a climate change program at Plymouth State University,

**Granite State Landfill:** The commission informed state officials that it had serious concerns about environmental damage that would be caused by the proposed Casella Waste Systems landfill in Dalton. The commission said it felt the Dalton location was unacceptable.

**Update on SEEP:** The commission continued to voice concerns to state officials about the leak from the North Country Environmental Services landfill into the Ammonoosuc River called "The Seep." The commission told the state the NCES remediation plan was inadequate. At the end of the year, the commission remained unhappy with what it saw as a failure of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to respond to the commission's concerns.

**Natural Resources Inventory:** The commission hired consultant Elise Lawson to visit properties and gather information for an updated Bethlehem Natural Resources Inventory, which could be finished during the first quarter of 2025. The commission sees that information as being important when the town works on its updated Master Plan in 2025 and 2026. Another NRI resource was the iNaturalist app.

**Lighting and Sign Ordinances:** Warrant articles for a new lighting and new sign ordinance were written. The goal was to update existing ordinances to better follow "Dark Sky"

policies, preserving the rural nature of Bethlehem and protecting wildlife. The articles were presented to the planning board, which voted to move them to the March ballot.

**Master Plan:** The commission agreed that goals for the new master plan should include protecting the town from severe impacts that could result from projects such as industrial farms, artificial intelligence, data centers and crypto mining, all of which would seriously drain our aquifers.

**Land Conservation:** The commission voted to write letters of support to put two large parcels into conservation easements. One involved the Winterhoff property, which abuts the Gale River. The other was a proposal by The Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust to purchase 747 acres, much of which fronts the Ammonoosuc River.

## BETHLEHEM ENERGY COMMISSION REPORT

**Overview:** The collaboration between Bethlehem’s voters, the Select Board, the Village Commissioners, and the Bethlehem Energy Commission continued to be effective in 2024. Many thanks to the organizations and individuals who have helped implement economic and environmentally beneficial projects and practices this past year, even when such work is often just a little outside of their typical duties.

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

Energy choices made by the people of Bethlehem resulted in a savings of about **\$78,300.00** through lowering operating costs of public facilities and saving on home and business electric bills. See what contributed to these savings below. These savings don’t include grants and rebates secured by BEC projects. For this work, the Energy Commission and the Town of Bethlehem were recognized with the **2024 NH Energy Community Champion Award** at the annual NH Energy Week conference. This annual event is held each May to advance a sustainable and economic energy future for the Granite State. This is quite an honor considering there are 234 towns and cities in NH.

**Governance:** Bethlehem Energy Commission (BEC) members are appointed by the Select Board. 2024 members: Dan Crosby (chair), David Van Houten (past chair), Scott Caisse, Chuck Phillips, Mary Lou Krambeer, Josh Lieberman, and Bruce Caplain (Select Board representative). And, many thanks to our no fee consultants: Melissa Elander and Gabe Chellius of Clean Energy New Hampshire.

**Opportunities:** Throughout 2024, BEC continued our efforts to be informed regarding available sustainable energy programs and grant opportunities for our town, residents, and business’ needs.

**Solar Array Savings RECs:** The town-owned solar arrays (BES, Highway Garage, Library) produce Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) that the town sells. In 2024, Bethlehem received **\$4,941.00** for these sales.

**Profile School:** In 2024, the solar array at the Profile School and the Power Purchase Agreement with Barrington Power saved the school \$18,200 (19%) compared to having no solar and using Eversource as the sole energy provider. Without the solar, the SAU would likely have contracted with a third party energy supplier at slightly better rates than Eversource’s default price, so the school saved about **\$10,053** (Bethlehem’s share of this is about 54%.) compared to this more likely alternate scenario. Remember, the school district did not pay any money for the solar array. It is owned by Barrington Power, and the school pays a very favorable rate for the energy produced by the array. In a few years, the school will have an option to buy the system at fair market value, which will be a significant reduction from the initial project cost. This would eliminate the payments to Barrington power for the array’s production and would allow the school to receive payments for the RECs (renewable energy credits) available to the owners of the array. IF the school had owned the array in 2024 (which it couldn’t yet), the savings for 2024 would have been \$40,000 (53%).

**Bethlehem Elementary School:** Expenses for BES’s main electricity account in 2024 were \$7,447.23, a 65% savings (**\$13,685.89**) compared to 2022 (\$21,133.12), when there was no solar array. (2023 was a transition year as BES finished a contract with a third party supplier and eventually benefitted from full net metering.) The array at BES is purposely bigger than needed for BES’s electrical needs. The excess production was about 50,000kWh in 2024, which should be valued at about **\$5,000** when monetized in the spring of 2025. BES, as planned, will transfer this amount to the town to offset electricity costs for other town accounts.

**Highway Garage:** At the end of 2024, the highway garage’s electricity account balance was -\$3,076.91 (yes, that’s negative, so money owed to the town). The solar array on its roof takes care of the garage’s annual needs and produces extra energy that is sold back to the grid. Each spring, the town can elect to receive a check for the surplus. The \$3076.91 plus the approximately \$3,500 the garage avoided paying for electricity (based on the 2022 proposed electricity budget) corresponds to total savings of **\$6,576.91** for 2024.

**Library:** The library’s electrical expenses in 2024 were \$1,974.79. The presence of the solar array on its roof saved **\$1,634.24**. And this is a transition year for the library as it adjusts its supplier to take full advantage of net metering. So relatively more savings are likely in the future.

**Bethlehem Village District/Bethlehem Energy Commission Collaboration**

**Bethlehem Village District Wastewater Treatment Facility Solar Array:** A multi-year collaboration between the BVD Commissioners and the Bethlehem Energy Commission resulted in a 100kW AC solar array going online at the wastewater treatment facility in November of 2024. The cost of the project was \$410,000. An ARPA grant through the NHDES supplied \$250,000 of the funding. A state rebate of \$10,000 was also received. In addition a 30% of project cost direct payment from the IRS is expected in 2025. We look forward to seeing low electric bills as we track them through 2025! The Village District will also bring in about \$5000/year through the sales of RECs (Renewable Energy Credits). As part of this project, a 2023 NH Department of Environmental Services audit of the facility noted Bethlehem as having the most efficient Lagoon Facility in the state, and that it is “significantly more efficient than many small lagoon systems in the country”.

**Village District Drinking Water Facility:** In the fall, the Village District Drinking Water Facility had an NHDES-sponsored energy audit. Suggestions for cost savings for the heating, lighting, and some treatment processes were made. On-site solar electricity generation was also recommended for cost reduction. The BVD, BEC, and facility operators are at the beginning stages of responding to these suggestions.

**Residential Projects:** Several members of the BEC helped organize Solarize North Country during 2023 and 2024 to bring more residential solar installations to the region. This initiative streamlined solar installations by choosing one vendor to create a buying group of multiple residential customers. The project resulted in at least 33 new solar installations in 2024. This enthusiastic response released a 15% contractor discount which saved customers \$140,000 in addition to the 30% federal tax credit.

## **Business Projects**

**Solarize Main Street:** Working closely with the staff at Clean Energy NH, BEC is assisting businesses to access federal funds for solar installations in rural businesses. 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.

**Bethlehem Community Power:** Starting in July 2024, Bethlehem Community Power became the default provider of electricity to residents of Bethlehem. More information regarding the options this provides is available at <https://www.communitypowernh.gov/bethlehem>. In the spring of 2024, a warrant article passed (459 YES to 91 NO) to join the Community Power Coalition of NH, a nonprofit 501c-4 membership organization that aggregates demand to establish more negotiating power for the purchase of electricity on behalf of towns throughout NH. In the half year this has been in place, CPCNH analysis shows Bethlehem residents saved about **\$41,000** on their electric bills.

**Questions:** Anyone with questions or who is simply curious about how the savings in this report were calculated are welcome to contact Dan Crosby.

## BETHLEHEM TRANSFER STATION COMMITTEE

The Bethlehem Transfer Station Committee (Committee) was created in 2017 to advise the Select Board on a new, post-landfill, solid waste management system. Its guiding principle has been finding “environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of the town.”

During 2024, the Committee’s highest priorities were: 1) identifying and assisting in the application for grants to finance the construction of a new transfer station by the end of 2026; and 2) providing cost and design options for the new transfer station depending on the availability of grant funding and financing.

The end of 2026 is when the North Country Environmental Services landfill is currently anticipated to close. Bethlehem will once again have to assume responsibility for the collection and disposal of solid waste. The plan is to build a new transfer station on Town-owned land off Route 116. The site was previously used for this purpose for a brief period in 2011-2012. The use of this land to again facilitate a transfer station will lower the financial burden on taxpayers, due to its landscaping and the receipt of a favorable environmental review.

The Committee has worked with the Town Administrator and Select Board to locate some large federal, state, and/or regional grants to address these costs. Among them, are the following:

- U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen secured Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds from the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee for fiscal year 2025. Among the secured funding was \$750,000 for the Bethlehem Transfer Station Project. However, these CDS funds cannot be guaranteed given the changes in the federal Administration and Congress.
- In December, the Town submitted an application for a \$1.2 million Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant (SWIFR). Our Town Administrator, Mary Mortiz, has devoted substantial time attending EPA briefings on the complex SWIFR application requirements. She was 1 advised that EPA is open to benefitting a small rural community in one of its future grants.
- Committee members have reached out to the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) and learned that the Town will not be eligible to apply for such a grant until 2025. Similarly, the Town has been advised that any application for a community facility grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will also have to wait until 2025, and likely be limited to tens, not hundreds, of thousands of dollars.
- While the Committee has identified several other possible grant donors, those are much smaller amounts with some requiring pre-purchase of equipment.

The Committee has been working with industry consultants, and have visited numerous transfer stations throughout New Hampshire, to help determine minimum equipment and construction needs. They have also attended numerous webinars and seminars to keep aware of the most current recycling and operational opportunities and efficiencies.

For 2025, the Committee had recommended, for Select Board review and approval, a \$30,000 warrant article for voter consideration to add to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund. The Select Board determined to request the same amount as the previous year - \$40,000. Approximately \$30,000 of this capital reserve fund has been spent on transfer station engineering design and preliminary cost estimates. The current Transfer Station Reserve Fund stands at \$285,282.

In addition to the transfer station project, the Committee has continued its efforts on public education to prepare for the upcoming transition. One educational resource has been the Committee's "Just Be Greener" newsletter. The Committee was also involved in a pilot program that distributed 25 durable backyard composters to residents that could compost food and yard waste.

The Committee currently has six volunteer members. Committee meetings are generally held monthly, and the public is encouraged to attend. There are also positions open for residents and homeowners to join the Committee. Interested residents should contact the Town Administrator, Mary Moritz.



## **AMMONOOSUC COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REPORT**

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services Inc. (ACHS) is requesting an appropriation of \$6000 (Six Thousand dollars) from the Town of Bethlehem for the year 2025. Your support will empower us to continue providing high-quality, affordable healthcare to our 836 Bethlehem patients while extending our reach to serve even more residents in need. Support from the Town of Bethlehem is crucial as we work to make accessible healthcare a reality for your community and the 26 rural towns we proudly serve.

ACHS has been dedicated to offering essential services, including preventive care, follow-up treatments, vaccinations, screenings, and critical behavioral health support for people of all ages. Your ongoing support enables us to continue providing comprehensive healthcare to everyone, regardless of their financial situation. Our sliding fee scale ensures that individuals in need receive timely, affordable care—an essential in today's evolving healthcare environment. To learn more about our sliding fee scale program, visit our website at [Ammonoosuc.org](http://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 2023**

- Number of unduplicated Clients Served: Medical – 8,082, Behavioral Health – 914, Enabling – 91, Vision – 81
- Number of Visits: Medical – 24,948, Behavioral Health – 6,725, Enabling – 101, Vision – 81
- Client/Payor Mix: Medicaid 15.77%, Medicare – 36.20%, Uninsured – 4.45%, Insured – 43.58%
- Value discounts provided in our Prescription Assistance Program : \$129,071
- Value of discounted health care services (Sliding-Fee) provided to our patients: \$222,218 – Total, Medical – \$69,190, Dental - \$0, Behavioral Health - \$32,560 Pharmacy - \$120,468
- Value of free medications: \$305,652

### **TOWN STATISTICS – Bethlehem**

- Total # of Patients 836
- Total # of Medicaid Patients 56
- Total # of Medicare Patients 281
- Total # of Self-Paying Patients 48
- Total # of Sliding Fee Scale Patients 7

Your continued support of ACHS inspires us with hope and excitement for a healthier future for our community. We are eager to keep making a positive difference in the lives of those 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 2024, the Bethlehem Cares Committee distributed about \$11,000 to ten residents who needed a helping hand due to unexpected financial problems such as car repairs, hearing aids and a budget-busting dental bill.

No tax dollars were used. Instead, the money came from donations from residents who could afford – and wanted - to help their neighbors.

“Neighbors helping neighbors” was the idea behind the committee, which was formed in 2021, by eight residents. It was then approved by the select board, making it an official town organization.

In 2024, the committee got a huge financial boost from Organized Acts of Kindness for Seniors (OAKS). It was founded in 2016 by Bethlehem resident Kay Kerr and several volunteers. OAKS’ goal was to allow seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible. The federal government gave it non-profit status in 2018.

But after eight years, Ms. Kerr concluded that the workload meant it was time to disband OAKS. She said those who had donated to OAKS agreed to donate \$10,000 in unused funds to Bethlehem Cares. The OAKS’ contribution was made possible by another non-profit, the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, which assisted with the transfer of funds.

"This is an amazing gift that will help many Bethlehem residents who desperately need a helping hand and have nowhere else to turn," Bethlehem Cares said in a statement. “For years, OAKS has been a wonderful asset to the community. This donation means its lifeline spirit will continue through Bethlehem Cares.”

The town’s direct assistance/welfare office can help residents in many areas. But under town and state regulations, some items cannot be covered. That’s where Bethlehem Cares fills the gap. Help from Bethlehem Cares is typically available only 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.

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 a year earlier. However, recipients are not required to refund the money.

Decisions are made in private by an eight-member committee following a review of the applicant’s finances. The names of those getting assistance are not disclosed and the discussion about whether to help is held in a non-public session.

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

The committee members are: Alison Caruso; April Hibberd (select board liaison); Dawn Ferringo (direct-assistance representative); Kay Kerr; Carol Johnson-Haywood; Tina Lister; Erin Talcott and Chris Jensen.

## **BETHLEHEM EVENTS REPORT**

### **EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY.**

Bethlehem Events, a locally-led volunteer non-profit organization, joyfully presents our annual report, celebrating the success of Christmas in Bethlehem in December as well as Summerfest in August. As we reflect on our achievements, we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

### **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, 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, 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.

### **YEARS OF DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

In 2025, Bethlehem Events is proud to announce work on expanding our event line up. We have formed an advisory board and will be meeting with businesses to better target events that will enrich our community as well as provide increased foot traffic to our area businesses. Stay tuned for more information on the exciting events we have in store.

CONTINUING OUR LEGACY.

Our dedication to the community persists as we maintain 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 2025 lineup.

In community spirit,  
Board of Directors  
Bethlehem Events

## BETHLEHEM REIMAGINED, INC.

2024 can only be described as a period of resurgence for Main Street businesses. Indeed, we have all seen new ownership, building restorations and visitor activity create a new level of vibrancy in our downtown. Our formula of warm hospitality, fun and funky retail, quality creative arts and one-of-a-kind recreational tourism continues to grow. Bethlehem rising!

We are pleased to welcome Karen and Dave Caldwell, new owners of the Mulburn Inn at Bethlehem and applaud their commitment and stewardship of this iconic local landmark. We also welcome Angie and Steve Cleveland who opened A Place Above the Notch, a convivial meeting place and co-working space for great coffee, noshes and more great coffee in the refurbished “Lloyd Hills Building” (thank you Thomas Carter!). Congratulations as well to Leif Ostrum who opened the Unspoken Bike Shop in support of our expanding Bethlehem Trails Association network. Let’s ride! And, say hello to Mike and Alyssa Schoenfeld, owners of Brown Paper Packages in their beautifully restored building. We wish all of you the very best success in our community. We also recognize the exceptional impact of existing, long-standing businesses who make Bethlehem a special place to Be. Congratulations everyone!

At BRI, we successfully remediated the former Sinclair Hotel lot, a designated Brownfields site, for \$1.2M with no additional cost to Bethlehem taxpayers. Although initial redevelopment was met with some resistance, we’re confident in our plan to address Bethlehem’s housing shortage, support further economic growth and make the site the next jewel in our downtown. Stay tuned!

The coming year is sure to be one of change and uncertainty. We will likely see effects of policy changes from new state and federal administrations on our local economy. Consumer spending remains robust, though credit card defaults are increasing. We believe the broader economy will remain fundamentally strong with modest growth. Inflation will remain sticky as interest rates ease slightly and bank lending standards remain tight.

Finally, we want to extend our sincere thanks to Jack Anderson, dedicated Fire Chief, cat lover, friend and town father. Your care for our community is unmatched anywhere!

## **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. We invest over \$5,000/year to transport the Bethlehem members from school to the Club for the Afterschool program.

The petition signatures are attached. BGCNC merged with the BGC of Central NH in 2023, giving us access to a full back office of administrative and support teams which has allowed us to continue to grow and provide more services to our families. We have recently secured funding to renovate our building to add space for Early Childhood Care - to include infants, toddlers and pre-k. Of course, we must still raise the funds needed to operate our local afterschool and vacation camp programs. Our community's support is crucial in continuing our mission to provide a fun, safe, positive place for all the children of the North Country. We offer critical support to our members and their families that rely on us for academic support, mentoring, healthy snacks, and affordable fees.

We serve children from Bethlehem, Littleton, Lisbon, Landaff, Lyman, Franconia, Easton, and Sugar Hill, as well as several other communities in the greater North Country area. 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 preparing them for a happy and productive future. Of the 39 members currently in the afterschool program, 13 of them are from Bethlehem, and 4 receive financial aid. Summer camp 2024 served 93 children, with 19 attendees from Bethlehem, of which 14 received financial aid. To be sustainable, we now charge \$30 per week for the After School Program which also includes Staff Development Days and select holidays. Vacation camps are \$145 per week and summer camp includes swimming lessons. Extensive financial aid options are available to all members that need assistance.

As is the case with most organizations that rely on fundraising and donations, raising the approximately \$500,000 per year required to operate the local Club has become increasingly difficult. 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. Around 38% of our families fall below a \$40,000 income level and 44% qualify for free/reduced lunch.

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 to support our services represents an investment in the healthy future of Bethlehem and surrounding communities, as the children we serve are the future of the North Country.

Sincerely,

Sandy Brackett  
Executive Director

Erin Talcott  
Regional Development Associate

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, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 231 older residents of Bethlehem were served by one or more of GCSCC's programs offered through the Plymouth Regional Senior Center. In addition, 49 residents were served through ServiceLink.

- Older adults from Bethlehem enjoyed 9,236 meals prepared by GCSCC.
- Bethlehem residents received wellness calls, assistance with problems, crises, or issues of long-term care through 53 visits with a trained outreach worker and 155 contacts with Service Link.
- Bethlehem residents participated in 962 health, education, or social activities.
- 1,903 door-to-door, on-demand bus rides were provided for Bethlehem residents.

The cost for GCSCC to provide services for Bethlehem residents in 2023-2024 was \$190,433.47.

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**

The North Country Council (NCC) is one of nine regional planning commissions (RPC) in NH, covering 50 communities and 25 unincorporated areas in the state's northern third. Established by RSA 36:46, NCC advises local governments on coordinated planning, growth, in areas of land use, transportation, and community development. Its staff offers services in transportation, economic development, GIS mapping, data analysis, grant writing, project management, and more. In 2024 North Country Council undertook the following activities in the region:

Collaborated with other RPCs via the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions.

Supported efforts and attended the NH Planners Conference and NH Municipal Association Conference.

Bulk ordered and distributed Planning and Land Use Regulation books to municipalities (estimated savings of \$110 per book).

### **Transportation**

Staff completed 159 traffic counts coordinated with NHDOT during the collection season. From May to July, staff solicited Ten-Year

Plan projects, submitting 19 projects for review. The projects submitted were from across the region, and scopes were on a variety of transportation topics such as sidewalks, bike lanes, pedestrian shoulders, and bridge replacements. The top three ranked projects were submitted to NHDOT in November.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) held five meetings, reviewing and approving Ten-Year Plan projects, and discussing regional projects, safety, and local transportation concerns.

The Council supported two Regional Coordinating Councils (RCC). Carroll County RCC met six times and Grafton County RCC met four times throughout the year. Both RCC's worked to update bylaws and managed CDC COVID Disparity Grant funding by supporting the following:

- Vehicle Repair and Inspection Program (Coos and Carroll Counties)
- Carroll County ReCYCLeD (Bicycle Co-Op)
- Marketing support for Advance Transit's expanded services in Grafton County
- Marketing support for Carroll County R.S.V.P in southern Carroll County

The Council was active with the statewide Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC) where review and comments on the draft Complete Streets policy for NHDOT were provided. We also assisted with preparations for "Week Without Driving", October's CommuteSMART challenge.

The North Country Scenic Byways committee held a planning meeting in November. Staff reviewed and edited the draft update to the Corridor Management Plan that guides work on the four byways in the region.

### **Economic Development**

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) committee grew to 27 members representing entities across the region. Staff coordinated 6 CEDs meetings held

throughout the region. The big initiative for 2024 was to amend the CEDS to include an Industry Chapter highlighting manufacturing's role in the region.

The Council hosted a Webinar series, including topics on "Combating the Brain Drain" and "Supporting an Aging Workforce." The latter highlighted strategies for retaining older workers, with 37% of respondents aged 65-84 still employed, often in multiple jobs to meet living wages.

The Council worked with six communities to finalize deliverables and final reports for the InvestNH Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) Grants. All six successfully submitted their materials on time and within their budgets. InvestNH released another round of HOP Grant Funds in the Summer. Staff assisted communities in the application for 2025 round InvestNH Funding.

Continued to assist the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) & State of NH Bureau of Economic Affairs (BEA) in providing technical assistance to entities seeking to apply for NBRC funding. In 2024 the Council provided pre-project development coaching assistance to over 20 entities. Continued to assist Coos County with the Coos County Broadband Committee. During 2024, much of Coos County experienced the roll out of highspeed fiber internet.

### **Mapping and Data Analysis**

NCC developed several surveys throughout the year that were analyzed to support projects including the Regional Plan survey and a Regional Transportation Safety survey. Surveys have also provided community members with the opportunity to take part in developing spatial data that has helped the Council understand regional needs by determining points of concern.

The Council provided mapping and data services to communities throughout the region in support of project development and funding opportunities. This includes community data snapshots that were updated for the year for community reference. Data snapshots provide data and demographics, housing, and affordability.

NCC continues to maintain the three ArcGIS Online Hubs to be a resource for the region. The Hubs are for Funding Opportunities, Data & Mapping Analysis, and Climate Resiliency which offer spaces to research funding opportunities, and data resources that are applicable to the North Country.

## NORTH COUNTRY HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE AGENCY

North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency (NCHHHA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, proudly provides compassionate home health, hospice, and long-term care services across Coös and Grafton Counties. Serving approximately 76,000 residents across 2,705 square miles, our Mission as a proud affiliate of North Country Healthcare is to improve lives by supporting patients and families through their healthcare journey at home. For many rural residents, we are not just a healthcare provider—we are a lifeline.

In 2024, we made 53,162 visits across our two counties. Across our service area, we experienced an 11% increase in the number of patients served and a 14% rise in total visits, reflecting the growing reliance on our care. In 2024, for Bethlehem, we visited 77 patients 2183 times for home health, hospice, and long-term care services. At the same time, the complexity of care has risen, with more patients facing higher-acuity conditions that require advanced clinical expertise. Despite the challenges of rising costs and reduced reimbursements from insurance companies, NCHHHA remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that no one in need goes without care, and we meet them wherever they might call home.

We provide a continuum of services designed to meet patients where they are in their healthcare journey. Our skilled nursing, rehabilitation, and disease management programs allow individuals to heal and recover in the comfort of their homes, avoiding hospitalizations and staying connected to their loved ones. Hospice care ensures that patients and their families experience comfort and dignity during life's final stages, offering comprehensive support that addresses physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Our long-term care services assist those who need help with daily tasks like bathing, dressing, and meal preparation, promoting independence while allowing individuals to age safely and comfortably in familiar surroundings. These services not only improve the quality of life for individuals but also reduce the strain on families and local healthcare facilities.

Your support of NCHHHA extends far beyond the patients we serve—it strengthens the entire community. Every home we visit in Bethlehem represents a neighbor cared for, a family supported, and a community uplifted. By ensuring access to these essential services, you help create a healthier, more resilient town where people of all ages can thrive. Investing in NCHHHA is an investment in the well-being and independence of your friends, family, and neighbors.

The steadfast partnership between NCHHHA and Bethlehem is vital to addressing the unique challenges of rural healthcare. Together, we can meet the growing demand for home-based care, adapt to changing needs, and continue to provide services that foster independence and dignity for all. Your unwavering support ensures that no one is left behind, and that compassionate, high-quality care remains accessible for years to come.

For more information, please visit [www.nchhha.org](http://www.nchhha.org) or contact Ren Anderson directly at (603) 444-8399. Thank you for partnering with us to improve lives across the North Country

## **NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **White Mountain Mental Health**

Northern Human Services is one of ten community mental health centers in New Hampshire that provides a comprehensive array of services to meet the mental health needs of all persons residing in an assigned geographic area. White Mountain Mental Health is Northern Human Services' community mental health center that serves 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.

Demand for mental health services remains at an all-time high with demand exceeding capacity across both the state of New Hampshire as well as the rest of the United States. As of December 1, 2024 White Mountain Mental Health has served 616 clients, with 193 adults and children on our wait list. Mental health related statistics are sobering. The National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire (NAMI NH) reported in 2021 that 221,000 adults in New Hampshire had a mental health condition, 57,000 of which were diagnosed with a serious mental illness in 2021; 15,000 New Hampshire children between the ages of 12-17 were diagnosed with depression. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 49,000 lives nationally were lost to suicide in 2022. In New Hampshire, 247 lives were lost to suicide that same year. NAMI NH further reported that in 2020 more than half of the people with a mental health condition in the United States did not receive any treatment. Of the 70,000 adults in New Hampshire who did not receive needed mental health care, 41.7% did not because of cost. It is critical that all individuals have access to mental health services, particularly when in a mental health crisis. Providing emergency services is arguably our most important service while also being the most costly as this is often not a reimbursable service for many commercial insurances. We ask every town that we serve for funding to help offset the cost of emergency services so no one who is experiencing an acute psychiatric emergency has to worry about cost.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 70 Bethlehem residents were clients of White Mountain Mental Health with 24 residents accessing emergency services. Despite the increase in the number of individuals accessing Mobile Crisis/Emergency Services and the rising cost of these services, we are requesting level funding from Bethlehem. All funds received from Bethlehem go directly to Bethlehem residents that are uninsured or underinsured and help us to provide the needed services for the residents of Bethlehem.

We truly appreciate the support that we have received from Bethlehem over the years and are thankful to the voters for recognizing the importance of timely access to mental health services, particularly Mobile Crisis/Emergency Services, for all Bethlehem residents.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Finkle  
Behavioral Health Director  
White Mountain Mental Health  
Northern Human Services

## SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL RESCUE

Is it just me, or has this year flown by? You know what they say about time and fun! In 2024, we made a lot of new friends, got to say a lot of hellos and goodbyes as kitties came and left the shelter, got to watch kittens experience all their "firsts," and so, so much more. As of my writing this, we've taken in 253 cats and kittens this year, and have found homes for almost that many (either through adoption, TNR, lost pets being reclaimed by owners, etc.). That's a lot of stories to be told!

We can highlight a few special ones here to show some of the lives that your donations have saved! We rescued Arthur (now named Lentil) as part of an ongoing TNR project at a nearby farm. He went from sickly kitten to beloved family member, as he was adopted by one of our volunteers, Ashley! We had multiple instances this Summer where we took in several cats/ kittens in one day, including one day where someone brought us 19 stray kittens in one afternoon! Aside from one still waiting, they have since been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and adopted.

This year, we bid bittersweet goodbyes to a few long-term residents, including Sunshine, Princess Annie, Emmie, and Liam, all who waited over six months before being adopted. Scrappy came to us as a stray with a badly injured and infected ear. After some vet care and medications, he is feeling much better and is looking for a home! Cookie ended up at our shelter after her owner passed away, and friendly Nate was rescued by our wonderful long-time volunteer Mary who had been feeding him as a stray. Both have been adopted!

Cosmo was surrendered at two years old after showing aggression toward the new baby in the home. It was thought he was too cranky to ever be safely adopted but I took a chance on him, took him home, and aside from the occasional grumpiness, he's doing great! And of course there's Mel, the 7-year-old black cat that I picked up from a parking lot in Groveton. He was microchipped but no one responded to the found alert, and witnesses reported seeing him dropped off by a vehicle. It took some canned food to lure him from his hiding place! After spending a fun-filled 5 months at our shelter, he was adopted last week.

Our 2024 numbers so far: Thanks to Dr. Sara White, vet tech Doreen, and our clinic volunteers, 745 cats, 94 dogs, and 11 rabbits were altered at our low cost spay & neuter clinics, with two more clinics left. That means 7,418 surgeries since we started! We've held four Walk-in Pet Nail Trim Clinics, with one more this year. We also serviced approximately 200 cats and dogs at our Spring and Fall low-cost vaccination clinics. With the current veterinary shortage, and with many not being able to access veterinary care (due to location, transportation, finances, etc.), it is so important to local communities that we continue these vital services. Thank you to the veterinary staff and volunteers that make these clinics possible, and to local businesses who allow us to hang posters.

A lot was accomplished this year, but there's always more work to be done and more cats and kittens in need! How can you help? In addition to donating funds or supplies to help us keep our doors open and care for the animals, you can: • Collect signatures in your town for SCAR petitions • Assist with fundraisers and events, or hold your own for

SCAR • Volunteer to help clean and socialize the cats in the mornings • Follow SCAR on social media, share our posts and leave a review on Google or Facebook • Spread the word! People can't reach out for help if they don't know about SCAR. Thank you all for your support this past year. We have a lot to look forward to in 2025, and a lot of work still to be done. We'll see you next year! ~ Gabby Sweet



## 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 24 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.

2024 was a remarkable year for The Colonial Theatre. We proudly brought world-class performing arts and cinema to our stage and screen, engaging over 8,000 visitors in our cherished corner of the North Country. Along with our weekly feature films, the 2024 season brought: world-class artists in our signature Live! @ The Colonial series such as Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Deer Tick, Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley, Dulce Sloan, Le Vent du Nord, and Five for Fighting; collaborative film series with local organizations such as the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust to bring thought-provoking films and conversations about stewarding our natural world; the most successful season yet of our family friendly Kids! @ The Colonial series, featuring theater, music, puppetry, and more for families all summer long; new staff positions and celebrated retirement of our extraordinary graphic designer (and so much more) of over 20 years, Mary Ellen Russell; over 1,000 hours of support from our dedicated volunteers; capital improvement projects including a new roof, patio improvements, a live sound mixer, and other vital updates to care for our historic building; the fourth annual White Mountain Cinema Camp cohort of teens who wrote, directed, and produced their own original short film, All Figured Out; more community partnership collaborations with groups like White Mountain Science, Inc. (WMSI), Bike the North Country, Littleton Co-op, the Bethlehem Sustainability Working Group, and the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival; and successful fundraising efforts that maintained and enhanced our financial stability and sustainability.

With thoughtful, high-quality programming in line with our core values, The Colonial Theatre continues to enhance the quality of life in our rural community by embracing diverse perspectives, building empathy, and fostering human connection.

We're are grateful to our members, donors, volunteers, sponsors, partners, staff and Board of Directors for their generosity, engagement, and commitment to The Colonial Theatre and to 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 2024 we served a Total of 387 Bethlehem Clients valuing \$385,290.00 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

**UNH Cooperative Extension** provides outreach and resources from UNH to strengthen people and communities across New Hampshire. Through a partnership that began over 100 years ago with the county, state and federal government, and an office in each of New Hampshire's ten counties, Extension reaches people where they are, offering access to research-based solutions.

Throughout the year, Extension continued to be a partner in the Invest NH Municipal Planning and Zoning Grant program, working with towns to find ways to address the housing crisis by assessing needs, providing training and technical assistance, gathering ideas and creating solutions unique to each community. Due to the success of the program, it has been extended for two more years.

Healthy forest lands for wood products, recreation, wildlife habitat and water quality are very important to the way of life in New Hampshire. This year our Grafton County forester covered nearly 5,000 acres on woodlot visits and provided guidance to over 100 landowners, to help them achieve their land management goals.

The 4-H program takes pride in providing opportunities for youth and adults to work together, developing skills and growing confidence through experiential learning. This year, using the 4-H Global Gourmet curriculum and a collaboration with a local Chinese restaurant and community partners, youth were given the opportunity to learn about other cultures. Youth then presented their knowledge of cultural foods at the Grafton County 4-H Presents event in March.

Through the Nutrition Connections program, several 6-week youth-based nutrition education and physical activity lessons were taught. These lessons made use of the Collaborative Garden at the Whole Village Family Resource Center in Plymouth for hands-on activities and the opportunity for kids to see food they helped grow become a nutritious meal. Over 500 pounds of produce from the Collaborative Garden were delivered to local pantries and agencies. Several food pantries were also assisted with aspects of food distribution in their community.

This was the second year of a sweet potato variety trial, performed at the Grafton County complex and the UNH campus. Information was gathered on yield, quality, and disease and insect resistance, to find the varieties best suited for our region. (And taste good too!) The sweet potatoes were donated to local food pantries and senior centers.

The first hybrid Master Gardener training course was piloted in Grafton County this year, with eighteen participants completing the 12-week program in April. Master Gardener volunteers share their knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening in a variety of ways, including maintaining educational and production gardens in local communities.

Ensuring the safety of the food we purchase and consume is no small task. Presentations of farm food safety information to growers as part of Extension's New Farmer School and the Jumpstart Produce Safety program, along with trainings for staff and volunteers

at NH retail food establishments and food pantries, are just some examples of how Extension is working to help minimize contamination and food-borne illnesses. To learn more about programs and resources that are available, please visit [extension.unh.edu](http://extension.unh.edu).

Respectfully Submitted,  
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, 2024**

<b>Date &amp; Place of Birth</b>	<b>Name of Child</b>	<b>Name of Father &amp; Mother</b>
June 5, 2024 Littleton, NH	Stevens, Willow Grace	Stevens, Matthew Edward Stevens, Carla Ann
July 30, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Dickerman, Hattie Layne	Dickerman Jr., Alvin Wayne Dickerman, Courtney Elizabeth
December 2, 2024 Littleton, NH	Brown, Violet Diana	Brown, Brayden Chandler Sumner Meachen, Emily Marie

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, 2024**

Date & Place of Marriage	Names and Surnames of Couple	Residence at time of Marriage
January 17, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Melendrez, Arianna Yisel Munoz Segura, Mario Oscar	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
February 29, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Miller, Nicole Jean Knights, James Allen	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
April 1, 2024 Carroll, NH	Nutting, Samuel Arthur Rines, Amanda Ardell	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
June 22, 2024 Bedford, NH	Sellers, Marina Tamlin Partridge, Cody Brian	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
June 27, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Pokines, Jessica Lynn Balch, Benjamin Morgan	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
June 30, 2024 Jackson, NH	Perry, Warren Thomas Mitten, Chelsea Lynn	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
July 08, 2024 Manchester, NH	Oakes, Thomas John Duncan, Jessica Anne	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
July 21, 2024 Plymouth, NH	Michal, Kathryn Marie Foss, Cameron Jaymes	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
September 14, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Caruso, Adam Thomas Merrill, Kara Rosemarie	Bethlehem, NH Bethlehem, NH
December 3, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Franczak, Michal Reta, Tsehay Tamrat	Bethlehem, 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, 2024**

<b><u>Decedent's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date and Place</u></b>	<b><u>Father's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Mother's Maiden</u></b>
Foley, Brendan Loughnane	January 14, 2024 Lebanon, NH	Foley, John	Harris, Colleen
Stanley, Richard Melvill	January 16, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Stanley, Eric	Glasgow, Sarah
Loser, Thomas Groff	January 20, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Loser, Robert	Groff, Dorothy
Holmes, Barbara Ann	January 23, 2024 Littleton, NH	Haley, Leslie	Collier, Alexandra
Smith, Lisa Marie	January 29, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	McManus, Gary	Downs, Elaine
McFarland, Lucille E.	February 9, 2024 Littleton, NH	McFarland, Harold	Harriman, Natalie
Wheatley, Richard	February 16, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Wheatley, Edward	Cadby, Beverly
Lentini, Lucette M	February 28, 2024 Whitefield, NH	Jacques, Joseph	Morin, Therese
Haywood, Rodney Mac	February 29, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Haywood, William	Darley, Florence
Landon, Valerie Gail	March 6, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Dunlap, Frederick	Paris, Gloria
Read, Jr, Theodore O	March 9, 2024 Littleton, NH	Read, Theodore	Packard, Deborah

**DEATHS REGISTERED  
IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
for the year ending December 31, 2024**

<b>Decedent's Name</b>	<b>Date and Place</b>	<b>Father's Name</b>	<b>Mother's Maiden</b>
Soule, Allison Marie	March 15, 2024 Lebanon, NH	Soule Jr, Daniel	Kadra, Ruth
Gamache, Robert	March 16, 2024 Littleton, NH	Unknown	Unknown
Wright, Barbara Ann	March 24, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Bernatchy, John	Lemay, Ora
Parker, Gary Bruce	April 1, 2024 Concord, NH	Parker, Wilbur	Covey, Helen
Solaas, Janet Kathleen	April 6, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Reme, Arne	Kristensen, Gurine
Byron, David Allen	April 10, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Unknown	Byron, Mary
Kleiza, Kathleen A	April 20, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Melanson, Aldrich	Wiseell, Alice
Barcomb, Nicholas Blaise	May 23, 2024 Littleton, NH	Barcomb, Frederick	Brozowski, Delores
Marion, Robert Alan	June 30, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Marion, Homer	Robinson, Inez
Novelli, William Thomas	July 15, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Novelli, Michael	Filipelli, Julia
Dickerman, John Edward	July 23, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Dickerman, Harold	Wiesner, Elizabeth
Martignetti, John William	August 5, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Martignetti, John	Garneau, Elizabeth

**DEATHS REGISTERED  
IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
for the year ending December 31, 2024**

<b>Decedent's Name</b>	<b>Date and Place</b>	<b>Father's Name</b>	<b>Mother's Maiden</b>
Shannon, Paula Marie	August 17, 2024 Lebanon, NH	Shannon, Delphin	Kohlhaas, Marilyn
Mitchell, Steven F	September 9, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Mitchell, Charles	Russel, Audrey
Shepard, David Lawrence	September 9, 2024 Lebanon, NH	Shepard, Richard	George, Katherine
Hawkins Jr, Merton Everett	September 13, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Hawkins Sr, Merton	Haskell, Arlene
Caron, Robert Morris	September 18, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Caron, Frank	Mathews, Bernice
Duguay II, James Harry	October 4, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Dugay, James	Coldwell, Nancy
Shaktman, Lewis Barry	October 17, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Shaktman, Joseph	Bazer, Molly
Webster, Martha Jane	October 24, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Webster, Jason	Hall, Elizabeth
Zwaagstra, Colleen C	November 14, 2024 Bethlehem, NH	Graves, Jack	O'Keefe, Mary Ellen

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 12/31/2024**

**BETHLEHEM VILLAGE DISTRICT**  
**Box 667, Austin Road**  
**Bethlehem, NH 03574**

**Annual Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2024**

**OFFICERS**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Term Expires 2024	Russell P. Mardin Jr.
Term Expires 2025	Bruce S. Brown
Term Expires 2026	Richard e. Robie, Sr.

**MODERATOR:**

Term Expires 2024	Patrick Doughty
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**VILLAGE DISTRICT CLERK:**

Term Expires 2024	Tina M Doughty
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**TREASURER:**

Term Expires 2024	Christopher Whiton
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**WATER & SEWER RENT COLLECTOR:**

Suzanne MacDonald

Moderator Patrick Doughty called the Annual Meeting of the Bethlehem Village District to order at 7:04PM on March 15, 2024, at the Bethlehem Elementary School. Present were Commissioners Bruce Brown, Richard Robie, Sr. and Russell Mardin, Jr. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and then Moderator Doughty went over the rules.

**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 was seconded by Commissioner Mardin.

*No discussion or questions asked. Patrick Doughty was elected 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 Bown moved to nominate Tina M. Doughty as District Clerk for the ensuing year. Seconded by Commissioner Robie.

*No discussion or questions asked. Tina Doughty was elected unanimously by a hand vote.*

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

*No discussion or questions asked. Russell Mardin, Jr. was elected 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 Mardin moved to nominate Christopher Whiton as District Treasurer for the ensuing year. Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

**No discussion or questions asked.** *Christopher Whiton was elected unanimously by a hand vote.*

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

**No discussion or questions asked.** *Article 5 passed unanimously by hand vote.*

**ARTICLE 6.** Moderator Doughty read the Article: 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. Motion made by Commissioner Brown to accept and seconded by Commissioner Robie.

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

**ARTICLE 7.** Moderator Doughty read the Article: 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.) Motion made by Commissioner Brown to accept and seconded by Commissioner Mardin.

**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 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 Robie 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 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 Mardin to accept and seconded by Commissioner Robie.

**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 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 Brown to accept and seconded by Commissioner Mardin.

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

**ARTICLE 11.** Moderator Doughty read the Article: To transact any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

*Mr. Miller inquired about the overrun on the wastewater budget last year. Suzanne MacDonald answered the question stating this was due to the Solar Project and has been refunded.*

*Commissioner Robie made the motion to close Article 11 if no other business to be discussed and Commissioner Brown seconded. Article 11 completed by unanimous hand vote.*

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

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 Fourteenth day of March, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, 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, Two Hundred Fourteen Thousand, Two Hundred Sixty Two Dollars (\$1,214,262.00) 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 Seventy Six Thousand Dollars (\$76,000.00) for the purchase of a new district truck, with Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to come from the trade in of the current truck and Sixty Four Thousand Dollars (\$64,000.00), from the Pick-up Truck Capital Reserve Fund. (The Commissioners recommend this article.)

**ARTICLE 9.** 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 10.** 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.)

**ARTICLE 11.** 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 12.** 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 13.** To see if the District will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1 for Solar Projects and to raise and appropriate One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be placed in this fund. Furthermore, to appoint the commissioners as agents to expend from the fund. This will be offset by sewer user fees. (The Commissioners recommend this article.)

**ARTICLE 14.** 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 2024	Actual 2024	Estimated 2025
From State & Federal Governments:			
ARPA Inflation Reduction Act	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
NHDES	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water Pollution Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charges For Services:			
Income from Departments	1,113,751.00	1,093,297.00	1,157,837.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
Interest on Accounts	3,800.00	10,489.00	7,500.00
Sale of District Property	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc Income	0.00	4,427.00	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:			
From CRF 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>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,117,551.00</b>	<b>\$1,108,213.00</b>	<b>\$1,165,337.00</b>

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

<b>Purposes Of Expenditures</b>	<b>Warrant Article #</b>	<b>Appro. 2024</b>	<b>Expend. 2024</b>	<b>Appro. 2025</b>
<b>General Funds:</b>				
Executive	6	\$ 8,331.00	\$ 8,412.00	\$ 8,950.00
Financial Administration	6	39,805.00	48,945.00	50,583.00
Legal Expenses	6	200.00	0.00	200.00
Insurance-PLT	6	975.00	975.00	1,066.00
Audit	6	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,367.00
Streets & Sidewalks	6	23,768.00	21,188.00	24,009.00
<b>Sanitation:</b>				
Sewerage Treatment	6	210,217.00	202,244.00	231,083.00
Sewerage Services	6	128,812.00	118,312.00	138,637.00
Sewer New Construction	6	75,000.00	85,890.00	80,000.00
Capital Improvements	6	4,500.00	3,981.00	6,900.00
<b>Water Distribution &amp; Treatment:</b>				
Water Services	6	277,352.00	246,387.00	279,014.00
Water Treatment	6	203,152.00	167,716.00	212,185.00
Water New Construction	6	70,000.00	69,945.00	60,000.00
Capital Improvements	6	19,500.00	3981.00	15,000.00
<b>Debt Service:</b>				
Principal Long-Term				
USDA Loan	6	66,727.00	66,176.00	67,985.00
Interest Long-Term				
UNION	6	0.00	0.00	0.00
USDA Loan	6	31,541.00	32,092.00	30,283.00
WWTP Solar Project		0.00	163,190.00	0.00
Truck Purchase	8	0.00	0.00	76,000.00
Building and Improvements		0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Operating Transfers Out:</b>				
To Capital Reserve Fund				
- Pick-Up	7	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
- Water Intake	10	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
-H2O Maintenance	9	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
-Wastewater Maintenance	11	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
-Solar Projects	13	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
-Short Lived Assets	12	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>
<b>Total Appropriations Recommended</b>		<b>\$ 1,198,630.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,278,184.00</b>	<b>\$1,328,762.00</b>

## APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

	Approp.	Expend.	Balance & Overdraft*
General Fund:			
Executive	\$ 8,331.00	\$ 8,412.00	\$ (81.00)
Financial Administration	39,805.00	48,945.00	(9,140.00)
Legal Expenses	200.00	0.00	200.00
Insurance-PLT	975.00	975.00	0.00
Audit	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Streets & Sidewalks	<u>23,768.00</u>	<u>21,188.00</u>	<u>2,580.00</u>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>81,079.00</b>	<b>87,520.00</b>	<b>(6,441.00)</b>
Sewer Fund:			
Sewerage Treatment Plant	210,217.00	202,244.00	7,973.00
Sewerage Department Expenses	128,812.00	118,312.00	10,500.00
New Construction	75,000.00	85,890.00	(10,890.00)
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	4,500.00	3,981.00	519.00
Solar Array	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>
<b>Total Sewer Fund</b>	<b>438,029.00</b>	<b>429,927.00</b>	<b>8,102.00</b>
Water Fund:			
Water Treatment Plant	203,152.00	167,716.00	35,436.00
Water Department Expenses	277,352.00	246,387.00	30,965.00
New Construction	70,000.00	69,945.00	55.00
Principal-Long Term Debt	66,727.00	66,176.00	551.00
Interest-Long Term Debt	31,541.00	32,092.00	(551.00)
Building Improvements	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Other Capital Improvement	4,500.00	3,981.00	519.00
Short Lived Assets	1,750.00	1,750.00	0.00
Capital Reserve Fund (Water Intake)	0.00	0.00	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>
<b>Total Water Fund</b>	<b>679,522.00</b>	<b>597,547.00</b>	<b>81,975.00</b>
Capital Project - Solar	<u>0.00</u>	<u>163,190.00</u>	<u>(163,190.00)</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$1,198,630.00</b>	<b>\$1,278,184.00</b>	<b>\$ (79,554.00)</b>

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

Current Revenue:	
Property Taxes	\$80,466.00
Interest on Accounts (less bank charges & fees)	10,489.00
Insurance Claims and Refunds	0.00
Sale of District Property	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Income from Dept	0.00
NHDES	0.00
State of NH Filtration Grant	0.00
Water Supply System Charges	669,621.00
Water Charges Interest and Fees	8,838.00
Water Connect Fees	3,000.00
Water Miscellaneous	4,427.00
Sewer Users Charges	404,423.00
Sewer Rent Interest and Fees	4,415.00
Sewer Connect Fees	3000.00
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	0.00
Total Current Revenue	\$1,188,679.00

## DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS

### GENERAL FUND

1. Executive		
Appropriations		\$ 8,331.00
Expenditures		
Salaries	\$ 7,729.00	
FICA/MEDI/STD/LIFE	<u>683.00</u>	<u>8,412.00</u>
Balance		(81.00)
Financial Administration		
Appropriations		39,805.00
Expenditures		
Bank Fees	20.00	
Office Equipment	0.00	
Officers' Expenses	21,931.00	
Office Supplies	1,741.00	
Telephone	803.00	
Education & Travel	270.00	
Dues, Subscriptions, Ads and Notices	1,819.00	
Misc	0.00	
Salary	20,606.00	
Health Insurance	0.00	
FICA/MEDI	1,576.00	
Unemployment	50.00	
Workers Comp	130.00	<u>48,946.00</u>
Balance		(9,141.00)
3. Legal Expenses		
Appropriations		200.00
Expenditures		<u>0.00</u>
Balance		200.00
4. Insurance-PLT		
Appropriation		975.00
Expenditures		<u>975.00</u>
Balance		0.00
5. CPA Audit		
Appropriations		8,000.00
Expenditures		<u>8,000.00</u>

Balance 0.00

6. Streets & Sidewalks

Appropriations 23,768.00

Expenditures

Sidewalk Maintenance 18,045.00

Sidewalk Salary 2,920.00

Sidewalk FICA/MEDI 223.00 21,188.00

Balance 2,580.00

Total General Fund

Appropriations \$81,079.00

Expenditures 87,521.00

Balance \$(6,442.00)

SEWER FUND

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant

Appropriations \$210,217.00

Expenditures

Lab Supplies \$5,597.00

Operational Contract 70,217.00

Waste Management 780.00

Electricity 33,917.00

Fuel Oil & Maintenance 7,232.00

Boiler Inspection 50.00

Cleaning Supplies 413.00

Alarm System Test/Calibration 916.00

Scott Air/Fire Extinguishing 775.00

General Maintenance 22,940.00

Lagoon/Sewer Upgrade 44,828.00

Chlorine 4,405.00

Dam Registration 400.00

Ground Water Permitting 1,316.00

Operator Expenses 231.00

Sludge Removal 0.00

Outside Testing 3,227.00

Access Road 5,000.00

Rental/Expenses 0.00 202,244.00

Balance 7,973.00

2. Sewer Department Expenses

Appropriations		133,312.00
Expenditures		
Salaries	36,114.00	
FICA/MEDI	2,923.00	
Education & Travel	0.00	
Workers Compensation	337.00	
Health Insurance	7,094.00	
Unemployment Compensation	150.00	
Legal	0.00	
Audit	8,000.00	
Property Liability	3,149.00	
Sewer Line Install, Maintenance & Repair	0.00	
Vehicle Maintenance & Repair	440.00	
Equipment Rental	0.00	
Gasoline	939.00	
Engineering	0.00	
Supplies	1,148.00	
Machinery & Equipment Repair	0.00	
Refunds & Reimbursements	0.00	
Sewer Maintenance	56,018.00	
Safety Clothing & Equipment	140.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00	
Electricity Pump Station	261.00	
Other Improvements	3,981.00	
Communications Expenses	<u>1,499.00</u>	<u>122,293.00</u>

Balance 11,019.00

3. New Construction

Appropriations		75,000.00
Expenditures		<u>85,890.00</u>

Balance (10,890.00)

4. Solar Array

Appropriations		0.00
Expenditures		<u>163,190.00</u>

No Balance (163,190.00)

5. Truck Purchase

Appropriations		0.00
Expenditures		<u>0.00</u>

Balance 0.00



6. Truck Capital Reserve	
Appropriations	4,500.00
Expenditures	<u>4,500.00</u>
Balance	0.00
7. Capital Reserve Wastewater Maint	
Appropriations	15,000.00
Expenditures	<u>15,000.00</u>
No Balance	0.00
Total Sewer Fund	
Appropriations	\$438,029.00
Expenditures	<u>593,117.00</u>
Balance	\$ (155,088.00)

WATER FUND

1. Water Department Expenses	
Appropriations	\$281,852.00
Expenditures	
Salaries	\$76,949.00
FICA/MEDI	6,184.00
Workers Compensation	537.00
Unemployment Compensation	300.00
Health Insurance	21,283.00
Auditing	8,000.00
Insurance PLT	9,445.00
Legal	0.00
Engineering Services	0.00
Waterline Install/Main/Repair	0.00
Vehicle Maintenance & Repair	1,091.00
Gasoline	2,817.00
Communications Expense	2,787.00
Supplies	3,933.00
Water Testing	0.00
Machinery & Equipment Repair	0.00
Water Stock On Hand	55.00
Refunds & Reimbursements	0.00
General Maintenance	111,552.00
Education & Travel	0.00
Safety Clothing & Equipment	420.00
Rental	0.00
Building and Improvements	0.00

	Gale River Line Maint	1,034.00	
	Other Capital Improvements	3,981.00	
	Miscellaneous Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250,368.00</u>
	Balance		31,484.00
2.	Water Treatment Plant		
	Appropriations		203,152.00
	Expenditures		
	Equipment Repair	23,519.00	
	Electricity	18,496.00	
	Fuel (Propane)	12,995.00	
	Chemicals	14,622.00	
	Supplies	349.00	
	Water Testing	1,900.00	
	Telephone	2,849.00	
	General Maintenance	23,491.00	
	Engineering	0.00	
	Operator Expenses	344.00	
	Operator Contract	69,152.00	
	Sand at Filter Plant	0.00	
	Outside Labor	<u>0.00</u>	<u>167,717.00</u>
	Balance		35,435.00
3.	New Construction		
	Appropriations		70,000.00
	Expenditures		<u>69,945.00</u>
	Balance		55.00
4.	Principal - Long Term Debt		
	Appropriations		66,727.00
	Expenditures		<u>66,176.00</u>
	Balance		551.00
5.	Interest - Long Term Debt		
	Appropriations		31,541.00
	Expenditures		<u>32,092.00</u>
	Balance		(551.00)
6.	Truck Capital Reserve		
	Appropriations		4,500.00
	Expenditures		<u>4,500.00</u>
	Balance		0.00

7. Capital Reserve Intake	
Appropriations	0.00
Expenditures	<u>0.00</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	\$679,522.00
Expenditures	<u>597,548.00</u>
Balance	\$ 81,974.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	
Appropriations	\$1,198,630.00
Expenditures	<u>1,278,186.00</u>
Balance	\$(79,556.00)
****Grant and reimbursement received for Solar Project \$163,190.00****	
Balance	\$83,634.00

## WATER PROJECT – STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

01/01/2024 Loan Balance	Principal Payment	Interest Payment	Total Payment	12/31/2024 Loan Balance
<b>UNION BANK</b>				
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>USDA</b>				
\$1,698,784.19	\$66,691.40	\$31,576.60	\$98,268.00	\$1,632,092.79

## SEWER PROJECT – PHASE III

January 1, 2024 Balance	\$ 68,457.46
Withdrawals	0.00
Income Earned and Reinvested	<u>13.69</u>
December 31, 2024 Balance	\$ 68,471.15

## WATER PROJECT

January 1, 2024 Balance	\$ 4,919.83
Deposits	0.00
Withdrawals	0.00
Income Earned and Reinvested	<u>0.00</u>
December 31, 2024 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
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Fax.....	(603) 869-5500

**Government – Websites**

Town of Bethlehem .....	<a href="http://www.bethlehemnh.org">www.bethlehemnh.org</a>
Bethlehem Public Library.....	<a href="http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org">www.bethlehemlibrary.org</a>
Bethlehem Heritage Society.....	<a href="http://www.bethlehemhistoricalnh.org">www.bethlehemhistoricalnh.org</a>
Bethlehem Recreation Department.....	<a href="http://www.bethlehemrecreation.com">www.bethlehemrecreation.com</a>

**Government – Email Addresses**

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

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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/>