

Town of Shelburne Vermont



238th Annual Town Report

Town Meeting: March 2, 2026

Australian Ballot Voting: March 3, 2026

DEDICATED TO
MICHAEL TIMOTHY THOMAS
1958-2025



Chief Mike Thomas dedicated 33 years of his life to law enforcement. Since 2022, he was the Chief of the Shelburne Police Dept. He started his career in Stamford, Vermont and worked as a police sergeant for UVM Police Services before coming to Shelburne in 2009.

He was our Police Chief, and a caring, kind husband, father, grandfather and a friend to all animals as well. He was married to his wife Cheryl for 41 years.

Mike was known as a fair and honorable police officer and had a wonderful sense of humor.

In the fall of 2024, hikers on Mt. Philo found a small, emaciated puppy in a reusable plastic grocery bag and brought the pup to the PD. No one claimed her. Mike fell in love and named her Rosie! She went home with him and came back to work each morning.

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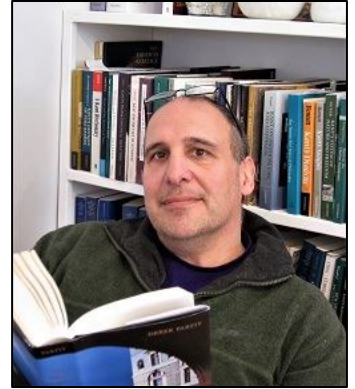
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SELECTBOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Michael X. Ashooh

For several years, the Selectboard has been talking about the need to prepare and adapt to impending changes facing Shelburne. Our preparation began with expanded staffing and operational changes to our municipal services. We spent almost three years drafting a new set of unified zoning bylaws, which will go into effect in February. We have revamped our financial operations including the addition of modern software and procedures. We launched a new (and long awaited) economic and community development initiative, Experience Shelburne.



2025 saw many of the changes that we have been anticipating. The O'Brien development, Bay Ridge, and other housing projects throughout town. We should anticipate more as we confront a severe housing shortage in our state. We have seen growth in our local businesses as well. We launched the initial phase of our wastewater treatment facility upgrade and consolidation. The Shelburne Museum broke ground on the Perry Center for Native American art. Public safety saw leadership changes and staffing challenges, while Shelburne Rescue celebrated 40 years and paramedic status. Community events like "Hi, Neighbor" and heritage dinners fostered engagement. Financial audits were completed, and a September bond vote addressed funding gaps. Quite simply, a lot of things happened this year.

Change is unsettling and irritating. But I believe it is better to be proactive rather than reactive; better to lean in and gain leverage than to wait, cringing, for what might happen in our town. There are always risks and we are wise to worry about what we stand to lose. Will Shelburne retain our small-town, historic look and feel? Will we sacrifice our thriving ecosystems, forests and wildlife? Will our sense of community be eroded? Will Shelburne remain the Shelburne we know and love?

The answers to these questions largely rest with our residents. We must all stay actively involved and informed about how these changes will impact our Town and our community. We need to collaboratively and democratically press forward together to make this the community we hope it can be. There are many challenges ahead and we need to meet them together. Our financial challenges will continue to be difficult, as we face ever increasing cost and needs. And while we have managed to keep our tax rate relatively manageable, we face increasing pressure for upkeep to our Town's facilities, support for our excellent (though expensive) public services, the continuing needs of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements, and ever rising costs of staff and the services they provide. We have much to accomplish.

We are poised to meet these challenges, but we must meet them together, with robust and active contributions from anyone willing to lend a hand. It's an exciting time for Shelburne, and many opportunities to continue to succeed, and we are poised to succeed.

TOWN MANAGER’S MESSAGE

Matthew Lawless

Framed on my desk is the Code of Ethics for my professional fellowship, the International City/County Management Association. I’ve been a member for since 2013. The shortest ethical statement in the code is, “Serve the best interests of all community members.” One of the most meaningful to me is, “Affirm the dignity and worth of local government services and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.”



In 2025, and entering 2026, world events and institutions seemed more volatile and ambiguous. From the economy and budget, to changing federal laws, the environment became uncertain: even the lake contracted to a hundred-year low. Yet the ethics of our staff, and our commitment to responsible public service, held firm.

And we got some great work done. The Town of Shelburne team made remarkable strides in 2025. We made strong hires and promotions, building our roster of civil servants. We build new community assets, from gardens of native plants to pickleball courts. With housing shortages in the news, Shelburne opened over 100 new homes, most of them subsidized for affordability.

I think about the things we build and leave to future generations: trees, streets, and neighborhoods of homes. And I think about the way we do business and treat people: with courtesy and respect, doing the public’s work done with a smile and grace... “as a trusted public servant.”

Town Officials

Appointed by the Selectboard

Town Manager	Matthew Lawless
Town Attorneys	Monaghan Safar PLLC
Treasurer	Linda Barker
Assistant Treasurer	Susan Moraska
Health Officer	Andrew Kehl
Deputy Health Officer	Pete Gadue
Tree Warden	David Hall
Harbormaster	Dan Couture
Emergency Management Director	Robert Lake
Emergency Management Coordinator	Andrew Dickerson
Poet Laureate	Amy Allen
Junior Poet Laureate	Roman Strayer-Benton
Town Service Officers	Shelburne Food Shelf Board

Appointed by the Town Clerk

Assistant Town Clerks	Lisa Mann and Susan Moraska
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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Selectboard

	Term expires
Michael Ashooh, Chair	2028 (3-year)
Matthew Wormser, Vice Chair	2026 (2-year)
Andrew Everett	2026 (3-year)
Luce Hillman	2027 (2-year)
Chunka Mui	2027 (3-year)

Town Officers

	Term expires
Thomas Little, Moderator	2026 (1-year)
Diana Vachon, Town Clerk	2027 (3-year)
Robert Lake, Constable	2026 (2-year)

State Legislature, representing all or part of Shelburne 2-year term, expires 2026

- Senator Thomas Chittenden
- Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale
- Senator Virginia Lyons
- Representative Kate Lalley
- Representative Shawn Sweeney

Champlain Valley School District

Directors, 3-year term

	Term expires
David Connery	2026
Kate Webb	2027
Erika Lea	2028

Champlain Water District

Directors, 3-year term, expires

Pete Gadue	2027
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Justices of the Peace

2-year term, expires 2026

*** indicates those perform marriages**

Nancy Baker*	
Susan Bowen	Jessica Brumsted
Joanna Cole	Bill Deming
Mike Donahue*	Pete Gadue*
Joan Lenes*	Jennifer Leopold*
Deb Mayfield*	Rebecca Moore*
Judy Rosenstreich*	Randolph Rowland
Lee Suskin*	David Webster*

In Vermont, the Board of Civil Authority comprised these 15 Justices of the Peace, combined with the 5 Selectboard members and the Town Clerk.

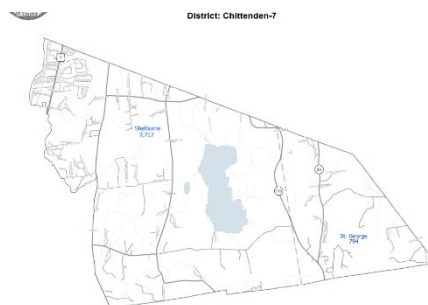
District: Chittenden-Southeast



District: Chittenden-6



District: Chittenden-7



WARNING – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Shelburne are hereby notified and warned to meet at Shelburne Community School or via Zoom (details below) on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 PM to hear about and act upon any items not involving voting by Australian Ballot; and to hold a public hearing on items to be voted on by Australian Ballot. The Meeting will then be adjourned and reconvened in the Shelburne Town Center gym on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 to vote for Town Officers and to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot from the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

To join Town Meeting Informational Hearing, Use link when the event begins:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7564380144?pwd=UmlNUVZGNCtWUEFDMHMSTFnL21yQT09&omn=86702227191>

Article 1: Shall the Town set the compensation to be paid to the Selectboard for Fiscal Year 2026 as proposed herein? [Note –proposed compensation is the same as the previous year: Chair \$2,000 and Members \$1,700 each.]

Article 2: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

BALLOT QUESTIONS - to be voted by Australian Ballot

Article 3: To elect all Town Officers as required by law.

Article 4: Shall the Town adopt the Selectboard’s proposed operating budget of \$14,575,945 of which \$10,036,840 is to be raised by real estate taxes?

Article 5: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Shelburne in an amount not to exceed one million three hundred five thousand dollars (\$1,305,000) subject to reduction from available grants-in-aid and other financial resources, be issued for the purpose of funding the annual capital improvement plan, including: replacement of the maintenance building at Davis Park, repaving of streets and repairs to sidewalks, repairing the rescue station, and replacing a dump truck with sander and plow, the estimated cost of such improvements being one million three hundred five thousand dollars (\$1,305,000)?

Dated at Shelburne, Vermont as approved this 27th day of January, 2026 by the Town of Shelburne Selectboard

/s/ _____

Michael Ashooh, Chair

/s/ _____

Andrew Everett

/s/ _____

Chunka Mui

/s/ _____

Luce Hillman

/s/ _____

Matt Wormser

TAX NOTICE

Town Property Tax payments are due each year on: August 15, November 15, and March 15. If the due date falls on either a weekend or a Town holiday, that tax payment is due on the next business day. Late payments are subject to a 5% penalty in the first month and 1.5% interest for each month thereafter. Town tax rates are set each year by the Selectboard.

Property tax payments may be brought to the Town offices on weekdays between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M, and after hours in the payment drop box at the Police Dept. Dispatch Center Lobby. Questions about tax payments can be answered by calling (802) 985-5120 or going to the town web site <https://www.shelburnevt.org/>. Please enclose the tax payment stub with your payment to ensure proper crediting to your account.

We offer an automatic payment service at no additional cost, and property tax payments are automatically withdrawn from the property owner’s bank account on each tax installment due date. Please contact the Town offices or call (802) 985-5120 if you would like to take advantage of this service. We also accept credit and debit card payments with a processing fee on our web site <https://www.shelburnevt.org/>.

TAX RATE COMPARISONS

	FY 2022-3	FY 2023-4	FY 2024-5	FY 2025-6
Town Grand List (at 01-July)	16,317,011	16,626,196	16,770,946	16,965,448
Percent Change from prior yr.	2.04%	1.89%	0.87%	1.16%
Education Grand List	16,290,140	16,599,625	16,737,625	16,935,523
Common Level of Appraisal	87.95%	77.25%	68.70%	62.4%
Town Tax Rate	\$0.4735	\$0.4945	\$0.5302	\$0.5485
Local Agreement Tax Rate	\$0.0006	\$0.0006	\$0.0007	\$0.0006
Homestead School Tax Rate	\$1.5824	\$1.6850	\$1.9652	\$1.8777
Non-Residential School Tax Rate	\$1.6669	\$1.8011	\$2.0247	\$1.9747
Total Homestead Tax Rate	\$2.0565	\$2.1801	\$2.4961	\$2.4268
Total Non-residential Tax Rate	\$2.1410	\$2.2962	\$2.5556	\$2.5238
Total Town Taxes billed (as of July)	\$7,725,549	\$8,343,748	\$8,892,012	\$9,315,890
Total Local Agrmt. Taxes billed (July)	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$11,202	\$10,703
Total School Taxes billed (as of July)	\$26,381,239	\$28,814,491	\$33,329,022	\$32,380,467
Total Taxes billed (as of July)	\$34,116,288	\$37,167,739	\$42,232,236	\$41,686,357

ESTIMATE OF PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR FY 2026-2027

Per the Town Charter, the Selectboard is to provide an estimate of the property tax rate for the ensuing year. The Selectboard will set the actual rate in July 2026. The education tax rates are set by the State of Vermont. Homeowners may be eligible for an education property tax reduction from the State of Vermont. Consult the 2026 Vermont income tax return booklet or tax department web site (<https://tax.vermont.gov>) for further information. Vermont's income sensitivity program reduces the tax burden for many households. Please note that under the current law, the State of Vermont requires all Vermont residents who own and occupy a Vermont Homestead to file a Homestead Declaration with the State by April 15th. If you file your Homestead Declaration after April 15th, there is a 3% penalty on your tax bill.

The FY 2026-2027 General Fund Operating Budget expenditures are proposed at \$14,575,945. This is an increase of \$649,033 over the current fiscal year budget. General Fund non-property tax revenues decreased by \$176,320 to a total of \$4,273,105. The General Fund property tax (Tax Levy) will increase to \$10,302,840. The Tax Levy is calculated by subtracting non-property tax revenues from total General Fund expenses. The tax rate is calculated by dividing the Tax Levy by the estimated Grand List. The General Fund property tax rate needed for operations of the Town is estimated to be \$0.5799, an increase of \$0.0308 over the FY 2025-2026 tax rate, or 5.62% overall. This equates to an annual increase of \$154.24 for the average homeowner. The average home is based on an assessed value of \$500,000.

	Homestead	Non-Homestead
<u>Estimated Property Tax Rates:</u>	<u>Property (1)</u>	<u>Property (1)</u>
Town Tax Rate (2)	\$0.5799	\$0.5799
Education Tax Rate (3)	\$2.0655	\$2.1722
Local Agreement Rate (4)	\$0.0006	\$0.0006
Total School + Town	\$2.6460	\$2.7527
Articles Voted Separately, if Approved (estimate)		
Town Article 1. (Selectboard Salaries)	\$0.0005	\$0.0005
Sub-Total, Separate Articles	\$0.0005	\$0.0005
Estimated Total Tax Rate:	\$2.6465	\$2.7532

NOTES

1. "Homestead" property is defined as residential property where the owner, who must be a Vermont resident, resides. "Non-Homestead" includes all other properties.
2. The Town tax rate will be based on the 2026 town grand list as of July 2026. The estimated tax rate shown here assumes a grand list of 17,306,454.
3. The Education Tax Rates are preliminary estimates and subject to change by the State of Vermont.
4. The local Agreement tax rate was established by Town vote in 2007 to exempt a portion of the appraised value of property owned by qualified disabled veterans from paying property taxes.

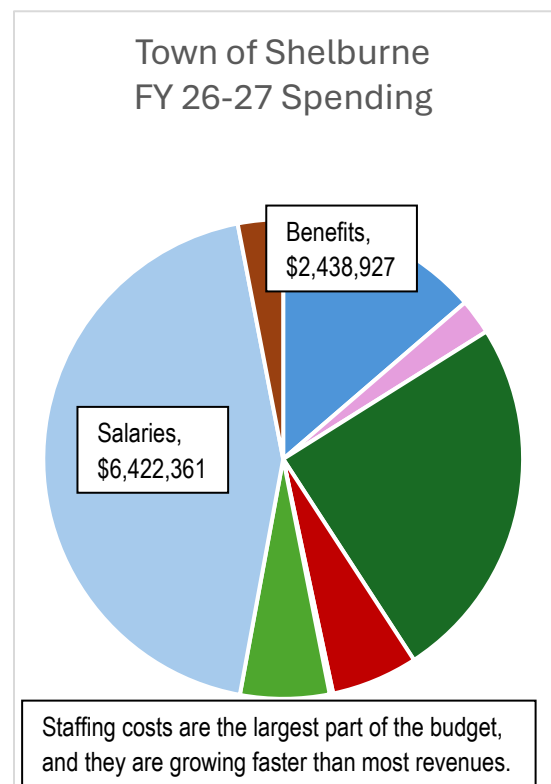
BUDGET SUMMARY

- Operating budget **\$14,575,945**, compared to \$13,926,912 last year
- Real estate tax **\$10,036,840**
- Selectboard directive to contain tax increase **under 6%**: achieved

The Town's budget process begins with community goals and the Selectboard's strategic plan. Shelburne has ambitious goals related to community services and improvements, but also real concern about tax bills and cost of living. The budget process began with department requests in order to improve services, but when totaled together, these amounted to a 15% increase in local taxes. The board responded with guidance to target a tax increase under 6%. Pulling together, staff found efficiencies and set priorities. This budget sustains some progress towards community goals –though less than ideal –while holding taxes down. For the owner of a home assessed at \$300,000, the Town tax bill rises from \$1,647 to \$1,740. For \$93 of increase, the Town maintains community services at their current levels, invests in critical infrastructure, and plans for future improvements.

On the revenue side of the budget, property taxes generate two-thirds of the total, with about \$4.5 million of non-tax revenue. Every department tried to increase its non-tax revenues, pursuing grants or increasing fees where possible. The largest changes are from the 911 Dispatch office, which will charge higher fees to the other agencies we serve, earning \$120,000 more. The Zoning office is also increasing fees for most applications, earning \$150,000 more.

On the expenditure side of the budget, basic service levels have stayed the same, and the Town is not hiring any new full-time staff. The only staffing changes are a seasonal groundskeeper for parks and trails maintenance, and more funding for substitute staff at the library. The Town's service delivery relies on personnel, with pay and benefits driving about two-thirds of the budget. The largest department-level changes are Police (+\$245,000) and Dispatch (+\$166,000), which have increased pay to compete with the job market and honor an updated union contract. Rescue increases \$166,000 to pay for new equipment and repairs. The section for Town Committees is also \$165,000 higher. Most committees trimmed their expenses. However, the Community & Economic Development effort is larger. The contribution to the Open Space Fund appears in the base budget, not as an additional voting item added to the total; it has a budget level of \$25,000, which is lower than in recent years.



Summary Spending		
	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	\$392,929	\$444,418
CEMETERY	\$57,646	\$78,440
COMMITTEES	\$163,600	\$328,600
DISPATCH	\$1,123,700	\$1,290,189
FINANCE	\$1,156,267	\$1,285,719
FIRE	\$637,105	\$649,599
HARBORMASTER	\$44,106	\$55,179
HIGHWAY	\$2,125,178	\$1,668,057
HUMAN RESOURCES	\$148,739	\$152,109
INFORMATION		
TECHNOLOGY	\$297,057	\$351,718
LIBRARY	\$1,109,425	\$1,142,434
MANAGER'S OFFICE	\$432,788	\$355,298
PARKS & RECREATION	\$550,577	\$529,164
PLANNING & ZONING	\$539,968	\$542,419
POLICE	\$2,437,550	\$2,682,759
RESCUE	\$1,047,395	\$1,211,483
SELECTBOARD	\$16,310	\$19,092
TOWN CLERK	\$354,596	\$368,893
TOWN OVERHEAD	\$1,291,974	\$1,420,375
	\$13,926,912	\$14,575,945

Staff

Patricia Carpenter, Deputy Town Manager & Finance Director

Bettyjean Bogue

Courtney Brown

Connor Henzel

Gillian Nanton

Robby Sasser

Finance Committee

Don Porter, Chair

Ken Albert Jeff Carr

Joan Lenes Lee Suskin

Audit Update

The Town’s fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. At Town Meeting, voters will consider a budget which begins on July 1. After the end of the fiscal on June 30, the Town engages an outside accounting firm to audit the books according to professional standards. During the Covid pandemic, the Town fell behind on annual audits for several years. During 2025, the Finance staff made progress catching up, completing the audits for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. However, the audit for fiscal year 2025 is not quite finished by the publication deadline of this document. Our goal is to deliver it before Town Meeting. The archive of audits back to 2010 is online at ShelburneVT.org/audit.

Assessor’s Update

The Assessor’s work is separate from the budget but connected to it. The mission of the Town of Shelburne’s Assessors Office is to establish fair and equitable values for all real estate properties, both residential and commercial. By ensuring equitable values for each property, we aim to create a fair distribution of the tax burden. The last town-wide reappraisal was in 2008, and property values have changed dramatically since then. A mass reappraisal is underway now, to be completed in 2027. If they have not already done so, appraisers will visit your property to update details and establish fair data. Town staff have help in the appraisal work from our specialist contractor, Tyler Technologies.

Once the results are ready, every property owner is free to discuss the results, with the right to appeal the findings to the Board of Civil Authority. Contact our staff with any questions about your property.

REVENUES

Type	Department	25-26	26-27
Revenues	CEMETERY	\$16,000	\$7,700
	COMMITTEES		\$5,000
	DISPATCH	\$431,581	\$554,793
	FINANCE	\$10,254,644	\$11,141,496
	FIRE	\$11,000	
	HARBORMASTER	\$55,850	\$55,750
	HIGHWAY	\$235,067	\$234,650
	HUMAN RESOURCES	\$1,848	\$1,900
	INFORMATION		
	TECHNOLOGY	\$34,320	
	LIBRARY	\$15,050	\$62,800
	MANAGER'S OFFICE		\$50,000
	PARKS & RECREATION	\$165,801	\$165,589
	PLANNING & ZONING	\$151,300	\$308,500
	POLICE	\$192,500	\$61,500
	RESCUE	\$748,000	\$725,100
	TOWN CLERK	\$120,460	\$138,700
TOWN OVERHEAD	\$1,493,491	\$1,062,467	
Revenues Total		\$13,926,912	\$14,575,945

The largest increase in non-tax revenue are from Dispatch fees and Zoning fees.

The new revenue line in the Manager's Office represents the transition of the farmers market, which will be managed to a balanced budget.

Grants Outlook

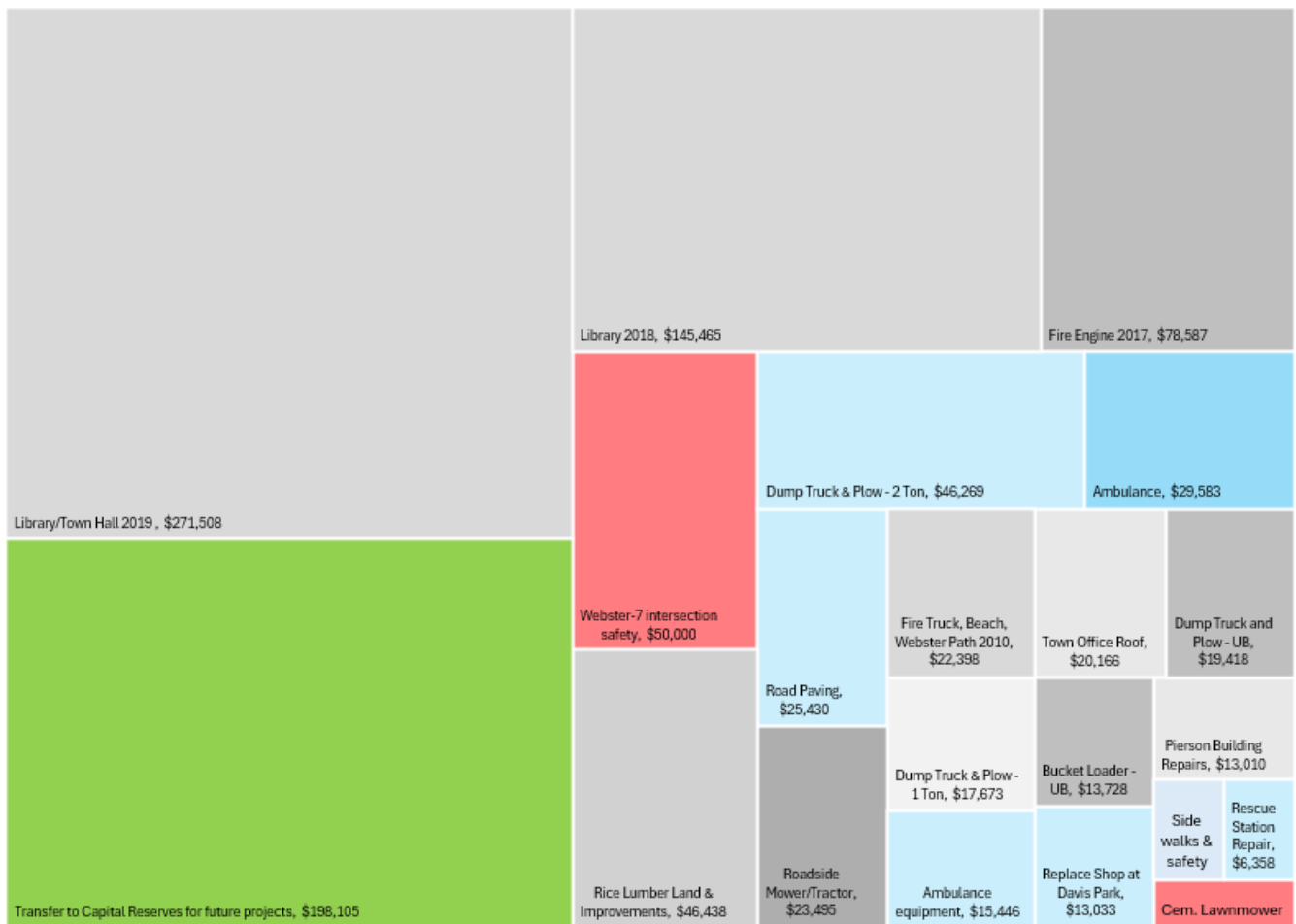
Grant revenue is difficult to place in a budget because of the uncertainty, which has increased recently. Shelburne puts some grants in the budget when they are highly predictable, but the budget is cautious about relying too heavily on grants.

In 2025, Gillian Nanton joined the staff as an experienced grants administrator. The Town will develop a more formal grants agenda and schedule of applications. Some of the Town's current prospects, based on past successes, include:

- Northern Borders Regional Commission. \$1 million won for the wastewater plant.
- Vermont Dept. of Transportation. Applied for funds for Webster Rd. intersection. Other programs support routine paving and culvert repairs.
- Vermont Natural Resources funds to construct stormwater improvements.
- Vermont CHIP. Exploring partnerships for utility upgrades related to new housing.
- US Justice Dept. fairly routine program to replace bulletproof vest grants.
- Risk management grants from Town insurance provider for safety equipment.

CAPITAL

Capital spending refers to land, buildings, machinery, and similar projects with high costs and long useful life. They are often financed with debt, to spread the cost over that useful life, and in Vermont, that means a special approval vote for the debt at Town Meeting or a special elections. To plan ahead and avoid surprise expenses, Shelburne adopts a Capital Improvement Plan showing both basic projects like replacement of vehicles, as well as special projects. In the coming years, there are some large challenges looming: repairs to our historic buildings –the Town Hall, town offices, and Pierson Building –will cost millions of dollars. There are also serious needs related to Fire and Rescue facilities, with land purchased for a new station back in 2019. Both of these will need careful planning.



The Town uses a Local Option Tax on retail sales, lodging, and restaurant meals as the main tool for capital investment. In fiscal year 2026, it is expected to bring in \$1,038,467. This is enough to pay all of the Town’s current debts, shown in grey on the chart. It also pays the new debt proposed at Town Meeting this year (blue), and some smaller project paid in cash, not debt (red). It even allows for saving up reserves against the larger costs of future projects (green). For now, the Town’s capital plan is not a burden on the property tax.

EXPENDITURE DETAIL

Notes

Town of Shelburne	Adopted Budget	FY 25-26	FY26-27	
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	Benefits	\$47,928	\$51,553	Debt service increase reflects the forthcoming maintenance building project.
	Daily Operations	\$153,500	\$153,000	
	Debt Service	\$27,072	\$46,209	
	Salaries	\$155,704	\$182,356	
	Salary Extras	\$8,725	\$11,300	
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Total		\$392,929	\$444,418	Salaries increase because of a new seasonal maintenance worker.
CEMETERY	Capital		\$6,000	
	Daily Operations	\$15,900	\$16,300	
	Salaries	\$41,746	\$56,140	
CEMETERY Total		\$57,646	\$78,440	
COMMITTEES	Capital		\$25,000	Open Space Fund has \$25,000 budgeted.
	Daily Operations	\$112,100	\$92,100	
	Programs/Projects	\$50,000	\$200,000	Economic Development has a total of \$200,000 for several projects.
	Salaries	\$1,500	\$11,500	
COMMITTEES Total		\$163,600	\$328,600	
DISPATCH	Benefits	\$288,147	\$268,534	Dispatch salaries are higher due to a new union contract with raises.
	Daily Operations	\$54,499	\$70,576	
	Salaries	\$659,817	\$829,737	
	Salary Extras	\$121,237	\$121,342	
DISPATCH Total		\$1,123,700	\$1,290,189	
FINANCE	Benefits	\$118,002	\$156,248	The contracted reappraisal will be completed and cost less next year.
	Daily Operations	\$301,824	\$416,122	
	Programs/Projects	\$300,000	\$172,000	
	Salaries	\$436,441	\$541,349	
FINANCE Total		\$1,156,267	\$1,285,719	
FIRE	Benefits	\$62,061	\$62,633	The Fire Department budget had very little change between years.
	Daily Operations	\$207,341	\$211,349	
	Debt Service	\$90,491	\$88,365	
	Salaries	\$277,212	\$287,252	
FIRE Total		\$637,105	\$649,599	
HARBORMASTER	Daily Operations	\$36,700	\$47,550	
	Salaries	\$7,406	\$7,629	
HARBORMASTER Total		\$44,106	\$55,179	

Town of Shelburne		Adopted Budget	FY 25-26	FY26-27
HIGHWAY	Benefits		\$202,433	\$181,399
	Capital		\$500,000	
	Daily Operations		\$581,500	\$609,500
	Debt Service		\$117,556	\$189,589
	Salaries		\$651,049	\$621,869
	Salary Extras		\$72,640	\$65,700
HIGHWAY Total			\$2,125,178	\$1,668,057
HUMAN RESOURCES	Benefits		\$50,162	\$54,698
	Daily Operations		\$4,150	\$150
	Salaries		\$94,427	\$97,261
HUMAN RESOURCES Total			\$148,739	\$152,109
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Daily Operations		\$297,057	\$300,915
	Salaries			\$50,803
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Total			\$297,057	\$351,718
LIBRARY	Benefits		\$110,114	\$108,750
	Daily Operations		\$96,934	\$106,680
	Debt Service		\$377,129	\$371,721
	Programs/Projects		\$65,000	\$65,000
	Salaries		\$460,248	\$490,283
LIBRARY Total			\$1,109,425	\$1,142,434
MANAGER'S OFFICE	Benefits		\$72,834	\$70,658
	Daily Operations		\$67,000	\$6,570
	Programs/Projects			\$50,000
	Salaries		\$292,654	\$228,070
	Salary Extras		\$300	
MANAGER'S OFFICE Total			\$432,788	\$355,298
PARKS & RECREATION	Benefits		\$81,632	\$88,204
	Capital			\$20,000
	Daily Operations		\$16,950	\$18,474
	Debt Service		\$89,120	\$12,052
	Programs/Projects		\$118,018	\$128,415
	Salaries		\$244,857	\$262,019
PARKS & RECREATION Total			\$550,577	\$529,164

Notes

The paving and sidewalk repair costs moved to the capital budget. The budgeted amount is the same as last year.

An existing part-time position cost shifted from Town Manager budget for clarity.

Contracted IT services increase slightly.

Library added minimal funding for substitute staffing.

IT and intern expenses removed.

Debt service declined because old debt for recreation fields has retired.

Notes

Town of Shelburne	Adopted Budget	FY 25-26	FY26-27	
PLANNING & ZONING	Benefits	\$87,919	\$94,028	Several studies completed last year, not recurring. Contract temp. staff paid from application fees.
	Capital	\$50,000		
	Daily Operations	\$20,400	\$8,800	
	Grants	\$25,000	\$20,000	
	Programs/Projects	\$85,000	\$119,565	
	Salaries	\$271,649	\$300,026	
PLANNING & ZONING Total		\$539,968	\$542,419	
POLICE	Benefits	\$585,112	\$631,305	Police salaries are higher due to a new union contract with raises.
	Capital	\$54,000		
	Daily Operations	\$172,750	\$193,335	
	Grants	\$26,000	\$14,260	
	Programs/Projects	\$58,692	\$77,100	
	Salaries	\$1,274,531	\$1,538,885	
	Salary Extras	\$266,465	\$227,874	
POLICE Total		\$2,437,550	\$2,682,759	
RESCUE	Benefits	\$148,605	\$136,506	Capital refers to CPR machines and defibrillators not purchased with debt. Staffing costs stable.
	Capital		\$100,000	
	Daily Operations	\$182,000	\$187,000	
	Debt Service	\$33,345	\$97,825	
	Salaries	\$673,446	\$673,852	
	Salary Extras	\$10,000	\$16,300	
RESCUE Total		\$1,047,395	\$1,211,483	
SELECTBOARD	Daily Operations	\$6,000	\$6,000	
	Programs/Projects	\$3,500	\$3,580	
	Salaries	\$6,810	\$9,512	
SELECTBOARD Total		\$16,310	\$19,092	
TOWN CLERK	Benefits	\$86,487	\$80,695	
	Daily Operations	\$16,000	\$18,780	
	Programs/Projects	\$26,100	\$34,400	
	Salaries	\$224,810	\$233,818	
	Salary Extras	\$1,200	\$1,200	
TOWN CLERK Total		\$354,596	\$368,893	
TOWN OVERHEAD	Benefits	\$15,000	\$10,000	The Capital cost is a transfer of sales tax revenue to reserves for future project needs.
	Capital		\$198,105	
	Daily Operations	\$1,193,129	\$1,141,997	
	Debt Service	\$83,845	\$45,252	
	Programs/Projects		\$25,021	
TOWN OVERHEAD Total		\$1,291,974	\$1,420,375	
		\$13,926,912	\$14,575,945	

Notes for Town Meeting

Space to write in this book can be helpful!

Ordinance Amendments

The Town's ordinances are available online and in hard copy at the Town Clerk's office. In 2025, the Selectboard took action to amend the following Shelburne Town Ordinances:

- Care and Control of Animals
- Cemetery By Laws
- Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulation
 - Parking
 - Speed Limit
- Regulating the Use of the Town of Shelburne Water System
- Wastewater Disposal
 - Sewer Service Area
 - Sewer Capacity Allocation

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

WATER

Quick Facts

Shelburne's first water treatment plant was near Meach Cove and the Town Beach.

Today, Shelburne does not operate water treatment. Champlain Water District sells us treated water from the plant in South Burlington (champlainwater.org). The Town distributes water through our pipes to customers. The Town also owns water storage tanks, which assure reserve supply and adequate pressure.

Water customers pay \$8.77 for every 1,000 gallons used.

Department Work Completed in 2025

- Full upgrade of all water meters in town. New meters are more accurate and efficient to read.
- Deployed new leak locator devices for improved response time and less waste.
- Overall loss rate for water remained near or below industry targets in every quarter.
- Completed a long-range financial model showing needed system investment.
 - o New revenue can come from steady increases to water rates
 - o Preferably from increased water sales by existing businesses, new ones, or new homes within the service area.
- Began design work for two major rehab projects for water mains at Route 7 and Meach Cove.

Staff

Bart Sherman, Superintendent

Chad Racine (25 years of service!)

Andrew Driver

Water Commission

Craig Wooster, Chair

Denis Barton

Pete Gadue

Jennifer Martinez

Steve Smith

Pictured: Chad and Bart



Goals & Priorities for 2026

Complete engineering for Route 7 and Meach Cove water main projects.

Increase amount of water sold, and minimize loss rate to leaks.

Encourage online and automatic payments from customers, for more efficient billing.

Please adopt a fire hydrant near your home if you are able, and shovel the snow from around it. There are more than 400 hydrants in town, and we need help to make sure they are accessible to us and the Fire department. They may help save you or a loved one!

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

WASTEWATER

Quick Facts

Shelburne has two sewage treatment plants and is working on consolidating to one new plant.

The plants treat sewage and discharge clean water back into Lake Champlain

Wastewater customers pay \$18.39 for every 1,000 gallons used.

Staff

Chester Brigham, III, Superintendent

Walt Arsenault

Kyle Guillemette

Jeff Pillsbury

Chris Robinson

Steve Williams

Department Work Completed in 2025

- Major maintenance at Shoreline Pump Station, including full clean-out to structural bottom
- Developed Enforcement & Compliance Tracker to organize allocations, permits, and inspections
- Strengthened coordination with state agencies on permit reporting and incident response
- Supported grant development and funding strategy for long-term capital needs
- Continued design, and prepared for construction, of treatment plant consolidation and the new forcemain connecting them
- Coordinated on force main project readiness and ongoing outfall litigation context
- Increased communication for residents, realtors, developers, and project applicants regarding sewer expectations and responsibilities

Goals & Priorities for 2026

Begin construction of consolidated plant, future site shown at right

Pursue additional grants and funding opportunities to supplement ratepayers

Expand public outreach & communication

Advance Shoreline infrastructure upgrades to lift moratorium on wastewater connection.

Maintain partnerships between departments and uphold reliable, compliant daily operations



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

STORMWATER

The health of Lake Champlain, and the rivers, brooks, and wetlands around, matter to all of us in Shelburne. Under federal and state law, the Town must reduce certain pollutants entering the lake. Our Stormwater utility supports construction projects, as well as routine operations and maintenance, to reduce pollution. We make excellent use of grant funds, but to fully fund our work, we bill a small amount along with the Water and Wastewater bills: \$6.24 per month for a residential house, and more for larger businesses.

In 2025 we completed the notable, grant-funded construction projects in the Boulder Hill neighborhood and at Hullcrest Park. We also inspected commercial construction projects to assure their compliance with pollution controls. And we improved the drainage around Pond Road to help the pond's water quality.

In 2026 we'll complete designs for more pond and wetlands improvements, and we will increase stream restoration work. Keep an eye out in 2026 for new educational kiosk signs to be installed at these project sites and for several new rain gardens to be installed. Look for volunteer opportunities and ideas to make our waters healthier. Planting native trees on your property is a great place to start!

Staff

Shayne Geiger

Rachel Tobler



*Chris Robinson,
happily retired in 2025*



*Rachel Tobler, happily in
France before joining the team*

Tree Committee

Gail Henderson-King Gillian Dorfman Susan Dunning David Hall Tod Warner

- Finished work on \$23,000 grant from Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program
- Planted 21 shade and evergreen trees on Falls Rd, Parade Grounds and Davis Park
- Removed 82 ash trees with emerald ash borer within rights of way and public land
- Inoculated 13 high value ash trees against emerald ash borer
- Performed root invigoration of Parade Ground trees
- Collaborated with Pierson Library to host Arbor Day event with seedling giveaway
- Created and distributed leaflet, "Shelburne Trees in Winter"
- Hosted pruning workshop at Shelburne Town Beach
- Granted Tree City USA designation for 8th year

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

HIGHWAY

Shelburne's streets and sidewalks require year-round care and maintenance. The Highway team benefits from extra part-time help plowing snow in the winter, as Tree Warden Dave Hall and Stan Turner and Linda Riell from the Cemetery staff pitch in. Likewise, mechanic Mark Aube repairs vehicles for many other departments. The team saw some turnover this year, but in a good way, as driver Rob Bresnan transferred to the Police Department.

With a limited budget, we must prioritize improvements to public safety. In a few dangerous spots we were able to widen the road shoulder, but the paving budget doesn't go as far as it once did.

The bond issue on this year's Town Meeting ballot is primarily for our department. There is funding for street paving and sidewalk repair, as well as for a new dump truck with a sander and plow. As traffic in town increases, so will demand on the streets.

Staff

Paul Goodrich, Superintendent

Marc Aube

Lee Coleman

Victor Raymond

Brian Sinclair



CEMETERY

Vermont's tradition of cemetery commissions continues in Shelburne. In 2025 our major achievement was to build a new maintenance building, achieved under budget. During the year we recorded 23 burials.

Every year before Memorial Day, we place over 400 flags on graves in town, representing all of our country's wartime and peacetime history.

Staff

Stan Turner

Andy Hodgkin

Linda Riell

Commissioners

Stuart Morrow, Chair

Deborah Belcher

Jenifer Martin Brown

Rene Gagnon

Ron Gagnon

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

Our approach to law enforcement is grounded in community policing, a philosophy that emphasizes collaboration, trust, and shared responsibility. We believe the most effective way to keep our community safe is to work with the people we serve. Every day, our officers strive to build relationships, listen to concerns, and find solutions that meet the unique needs of Shelburne's residents, businesses, and visitors. We take great pride in our department's success, from traffic safety and crime prevention to our commitment to training, accountability, and innovation.

DISPATCH

Shelburne also dispatches for 38 other agencies in northwest Vermont.

With open communication, mutual respect, and continued collaboration, we can ensure that Shelburne remains one of the safest and most welcoming communities in Vermont.

We welcome your feedback, ideas, and involvement. If you see an officer or dispatcher during your day, please stop and say hello. We value every opportunity to connect with the people we proudly serve.

Staff

- Josh Flore, Chief
- Blake Allen
- Robert Bresnan
- Caleb Casco
- Matthew Collins
- Daniel Delgado
- Matt Denis
- Brian Fox
- Keith Gonyeau
- Heather Hamilton
- Benjamin Hollwedel
- Robert Lake

Nationally, staffing in public safety remains very difficult. These rosters are in the strongest position the Town has seen in many years.

Staff

- Angela Allen
- Diana Butler
- Brittany Cunningham
- Laurie Fox
- James Mack
- Patricia Vincent
- Edward Waite

Chief Michael Thomas, a valued friend and mentor, will be remembered for his steadfast dedication and love for his family. He advanced through the ranks of the Shelburne Police Department and diligently worked to enhance our community through his wit, empathy, integrity, and unwavering support for his colleagues. We continue his efforts.



Honoring the Chief.



Multiple Town departments exploring new technology, an electric police car.



Dispatch at work.

PUBLIC SAFETY

RESCUE

Chief Kehl and Julie Jacques, honoring 40 years of service.



Mission: Shelburne Rescue is committed to delivering high-quality prehospital emergency medical care and public safety support to the residents, employees, and visitors of the Town of Shelburne. Through our service, we foster civic engagement, strengthen community connections, and cultivate pride in both our town and our team.

Our department currently includes 30 dedicated members who respond to over 1,600 calls annually—a number that continues to grow with the needs of our community. The roster includes full-time, part-time, and volunteer providers.

Full-Time Staff

Andrew Kehl, Chief
 Indigo Eisendrath
 Katherine Flynn
 Jenna Gagne
 Lucille Ibey
 Robert Stone

Capital progress will be exciting in 2026. The station will benefit from repairs, and we will take delivery of a new ambulance approved at 2024 Town Meeting.

FIRE

Chief Andrew Dickerson is the only full-time employee, supporting a dedicated roster of over 30 volunteers. Shelburne's neighbors volunteering to keep each other safe are extraordinary. Special congratulations to departing volunteers John Goodrich, Matt Kozlowski, and Lee Krohn. Between them are 60 years in the fire service and 40 years with Shelburne. Thank you!

And welcome to nine new firefighters in 2025! They have the mentorship to thrive in 2026.



Fire Department data

- 3,535 hours of volunteer training
 - Heavily practical and scenario based
 - From fire response to ice rescue
- 3,040 hours of volunteer response to 354 calls
 - 25 fires and 214 alarms
 - 36 vehicle crashes and technical rescues
 - 28 Shelburne Rescue assists
 - 33 mutual aid out to other towns



EXPERIENCE SHELBURNE

Mission

The Town’s new Community & Economic Development Committee fosters collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable efforts to benefit residents, businesses, and visitors –while preserving and enhancing Shelburne’s unique character, community vitality, and environmental integrity for future generations.



2025 Results

Launched and recruited leadership, and applied for nonprofit status on the partner organization.

Revived infrastructure and safety planning on Bay Road, a vital corridor.

Launched and completed a branding project for identity and marketing.

Research and organize to secure the future of the Farmers Market.

Expanded winter lights to beautify the village and enhance tourism.

Engaged over 150 community members with surveys and focused interviews

2026 Projects

Sustain the Farmers Market.

Coordinate with the Town Plan update.

Inventory properties and seek solutions, especially for blighted sites.

Explore redevelopment at Rice Lumber.

Improve visitor experience with signage, parking, and wayfinding.

Business recruiting in key sectors like restaurants.

Exploring new Vermont CHIP incentives to build homes.

Community & Economic Development Committee

Carmone Austin

Meagan Buckley

Jeff Carr

Tom Denenberg

Kate Elliott

Art Friedman

Joan Goldstein

Stephen Kendall

Kate Lalley

Don Porter

Brian Precourt

Mary Anne Sheahan

Bill Shouldice IV

Matt Sleeman

Jeff Trussell

Alec Webb

Ex officio Town staff:

Patricia Carpenter

Aaron DeNamur

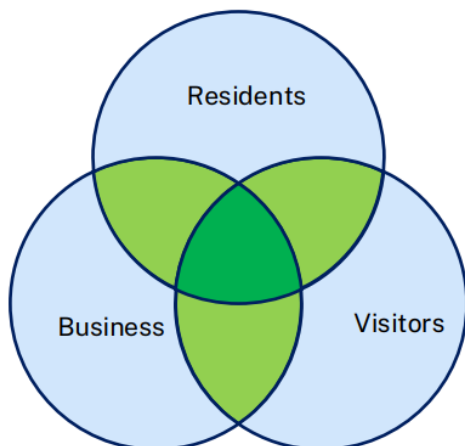
Matt Lawless

Selectboard representatives: **Andrew Everett**

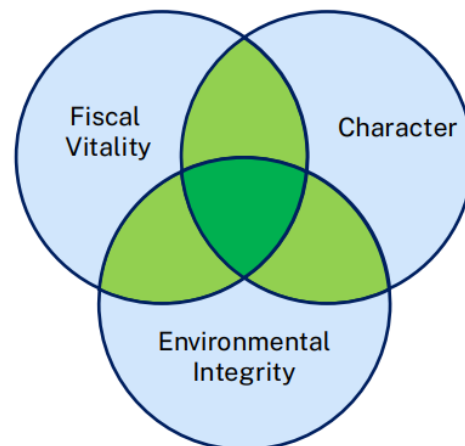
Chunka Mui

Strategy: Aim for the Sweet Spots

Stakeholders



Criteria



For Future Generations

[Learn more and get involved at ExperienceShelburne.org!](http://ExperienceShelburne.org)



Shelburne Farmers Market

- The town of Shelburne welcomed Farmers Market under our town umbrella late in the year. SBPA had run it for the last 20 years and were ready to turn it over.
- Sarah Stillman of Shelburne continues on as Market Manager extraordinaire.
- Farmers Market is a delightful mix of area farmers' fresh fruit, veggies and flowers along local artisans creations, prepared food and craft beer.
- Shelburne Farmers Market is a very popular market; with 75 vendors each Saturday and 1000+ visitors weekly. Many stay for the whole four hours to dance or sit and enjoy the exceptional live music.
- Seven Daysies gave Farmers Market a "Best in Region" award



Winter Market in the Pierson Library has 18 vendors weekly, featuring honey, baked goods and artisan fare. Live music enhances the community experience.

LIBRARY

Staff

Michael Hibben, Director
Katherine Bosley
Karen Chatfield
Katrina Martin-Woodard
Jasper Oliver

Board of Trustees

Holly Brough, Chair
Alice Brown
Becky Jewett
Kristin Kelly Jangraw
Elizabeth Berman
Marissa Strayer-Benton
Jessica Brumsted
Student Trustees:
Rowan Dienz-del Rio
Georgia Knight
Margot Dater

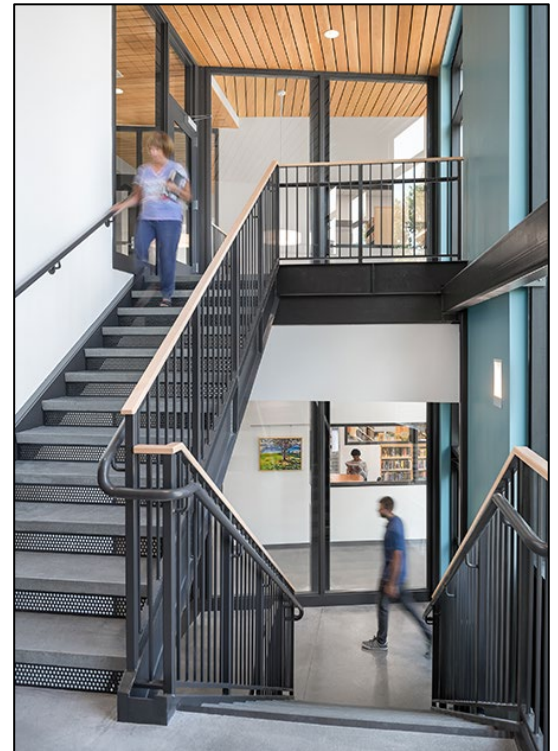
A little over six years ago, on a sunny September day in 2019, the new Pierson Library opened its doors to the public. It was the first building in the 130-year history of library service in Shelburne designed specifically to be a library, and one of only a handful of new libraries built in Vermont since 2000.

The decision to build it was not a small one.

The bond for the new library was, and remains, the Town’s largest debt. At the time, voters asked an important question: Will this investment be worth the cost to the community? Six years later, the answer is clearly yes, and the numbers tell the story:

- Visits to the library have increased every year. In the most recent fiscal year alone, more than 130,000 people passed through our doors, placing the Pierson Library among the five most visited libraries in the entire state.
- Library programs have quadrupled over the past two years. In fiscal year 2025, we hosted 600 events that fostered literacy, lifelong learning, fun, and community connection.
- Use of the collection continues to grow, reflecting how our materials support learning, curiosity, and enjoyment.
- According to ilovelibraries.org, the total value of our programs, collections, and services in fiscal year 2025 was \$1,885,702.65, an extraordinary return on the community’s investment in the Town’s most publicly accessible asset.

These outcomes are not accidental. They reflect a clear vision for what Pierson Library is striving to be. Our current strategic plan centers on ideas, culture, and connection. We are working to be a place where people discover, learn, and engage with ideas that inspire growth, creativity, and transformation; where our collections and programs respond to the evolving needs of our community; and where everyone feels welcome. In times like these, the Pierson Library remains a place of learning, a place for connection, a place for everyone, and the heart of our community.



PARKS & RECREATION

Staff

Betsy Cieplicki
Sue Craig
Bryce Turner

Committee

Peggy Coutu, Chair
Ann Clark
Ken Crites
Ellie Johnson
Sue McLellan
Ava Nnochiri
Kathleen Pudvar

Youth sports are some of our most popular programs, from soccer and baseball to lacrosse and basketball.



2025 Highlights

- The department added a third staff member, Bryce Turner, as a part-time Program Assistant.
- Town Little League fields were renovated with ARPA funds. The enhancements include: improved safety, repairs to wear/damage and improved long-term feasibility.
- Davis Park: six multi-purpose courts were resurfaced and turned into four tennis courts and six pickleball courts.
- Parks & Rec held lots of Community Events: Winter Carnival, Valentines Dance, Back to the Beach Picnic, Summer Concert Series, Halloween celebration and Holiday Tree lighting and caroling.

Buildings & Grounds

Kyle Wagner and **Jim Sestokas** (pictured) support every department and facility in the Town organization, with a reporting relationship through Parks & Recreation because of their close working partnership. In addition to care for the landscape and routine maintenance of buildings in all weather, some special projects made progress in 2025:

- Removing years of overgrowth and restoring the lawn at the community gardens
- Scoping much needed repairs for the Town’s historic buildings, a major project for 2026



Dog Park Committee

Karen Metsker **Cheryl Gibson** **Roz Graham**
Bob Owens **Lisa Williams**

- The dog park at the south end of the Ti-Haul Trail is only open seasonally.
- A new location is in the public interest.
- 2026 may bring progress towards a new and better dog park!

PLANNING & ZONING

This department supports the largest number of volunteers and committees in Town. Their efforts described here also summarize the most important work of the Planning & Zoning staff. Along with the massive project of the bylaws update, the staff advanced multiple transportation and infrastructure projects, advised on home and business construction projects large and small, and led a high level of public engagement in community discussions.

Staff

- Aaron DeNamur, Director
- Susan Cannizzaro
- Joe Cavanaugh
- Shayne Geiger (split with Stormwater)

Planning Commission

Steve Kendall	Pam Brangan	Jeff Hodgson
Ramzy Kanaan	Tom Karlhuber	Jean Sirois

- Completing the update of the Unified Development Regulations was a generational achievement.
- We commend the extensive, patient, and respectful public input which helped our work.
- In 2026 our main project will be an update of the Town Plan, and we welcome further partnership!

Housing Committee

Nikki Stevens	Julie Gaboriault	Joyce George
Maria McClellan	Peg Rosenau	Andrea Metzke

We continued our community outreach in a few ways. We held a housing-focused book club conversation and pizza on *Escaping the Housing Trap* by Charles Marohn, Jr. and Daniel Herriges. We attended the grand opening of Bay Ridge, the Champlain Housing Trust neighborhood with 94 new affordable apartments and townhomes. We hosted Kevin Chu of the [Vermont Futures Project](#) at Town Hall.

Development Review Board

Mark Sammut	Anne Bentley	Art Friedman	Robert Glover
Len Gulino	David Hillman	Steve Kredell	Allyson Myers

Development Review Board saw fewer applications, largely because many applicants are awaiting the adoption of the new zoning bylaws.

The Board reviewed 11 applications, with the most notable being:

- Subdivision and Site Plan Application for the Perry Center for Native American Art at the Shelburne Museum (now under construction).
- Site Plan and Conditional Use Application for Phase One of the Shelburne Wastewater Treatment Plant (breaking ground in 2026).

The Town hired Ken Belliveau as a consultant for the heavy workload of the upcoming O'Brien project, and the board used his expertise for training to prepare for the work of 2026.



Historic Preservation and Design Review Committee

Tom Koerner Fritz Horton Dorothea Penar David Webster

- We reviewed twelve applications in 2025 for projects in the Village Design Review Overlay District.
- Commission members also made Zoning bylaw suggestions to Planning Commission, with the focus being how to protect our cultural assets while allowing greater density for housing.
- Our nomination of the Shelburne Shipyard to the National Register of Historic Places awaits approval from US Department of Interior.

Bike & Pedestrian Paths Committee

Nicole Carpenter Mead Atkeson Alice Brown Greg Edwards Rich Flyer
Barb Johnson Charles Jones Jane Pickell Thomas Schramm Joplin Wistar

- We help maintain and improve everything from primitive trails to major infrastructure
- Improved signage is now in place around the LaPlatte Nature Park
- We supported several studies and grant applications
- Our outreach events are a great way to learn more and get involved!

Natural Resources & Conservation Commission

Chandler Noyes Gail Albert Jon Cocina Jason Girard Christine Haines
Sean MacFaden Sarah Nilsen Cathy O'Brien Chris Rottler

- Don Rendall resigned after 18 years on SNRCC. We are grateful for his service!
- We supported extensive dialogue on the new zoning ordinance. The new Environmental Protection Standards review ensures that development does not adversely impact natural resources.
- We helped to plant American Chestnut trees in May and November.

Photo: We helped relocate amphibians crossing Pond Road in April. Over 300 frogs, salamanders, and newts were identified that rainy night. Watch for the next “Big Night” event this spring!



TOWN CLERK AND CIVIC PARTNERSHIPS



Municipal Services & Licensing

Shelburne Town Clerks' Office functions as the essential hub and primary welcoming area for the Town. We are honored to serve you all by providing a wide range of administrative services to residents.

Notable figures for this fiscal year include:

- **Federal & State Documentation:**
 - 487 Passports processed.
 - 696 Passport photos taken.
 - 120 Green Mountain Passports issued.
- **Registrations & Licenses:**
 - 683 Cat and Dog licenses issued.
 - 60 Liquor licenses processed.
 - 33 Motor vehicle registrations.
- **Public Services:**
 - 519 Notary services provided
 - Served 11,011 voters
 - Recorded 5,168 pages in the land records – volume reflects continued growth in our active real estate market.
 - The Town Clerks' office remains committed to
 - providing excellent customer service,
 - efficient public access, and
 - maintaining the historical integrity of our municipal records

Vital Statistics Recorded for Calendar Year 2025

- **Births:** 53
- **Deaths:** 122
- **Marriages:** 43
- **Burials:** 14

Non-tax Revenue generated in FY 2025:

\$140,720.00

Diana Vachon-Town Clerk

Lisa Mann-Assistant Town Clerk

Sue Moraska-Assistant Town Clerk & Assistant Treasurer



Social Services Committee

Sean Moran Mary Berkman Elaine Limanek
Linda Riell Karen Schumacher

- Our priority is to address basic needs of Shelburne residents.
- Mission: to strengthen our community by supporting grant requests and emergency referrals from the Police Department and Town Manager.
- Supported last year: Hope Works, Mercy Connections, Steps to End Domestic Violence, Vermont Association of Blind and Visually Impaired, Wood4Good, among others.

Ethics Committee

Tom Little Bill Deming Pete Gadue Anne Powell Gwen Webster

We uphold the standards of conduct and guidance contained in the Town’s Ethics and Conflict of Interest ordinance. Our goal is to have all decisions made by public officials based on best interest of town, and to see that no public official with a personal or financial interest in the outcome of a particular matter will have influenced or will appear in the eye of the public to have influenced any decision of the town on that matter. The Ethics Committee stands by, ready to respond by on behalf of the community.

Equity & Diversity Committee

Sarah McIlvenie Michele Crowder Patricia Fontaine Josh Flore Dacia Ostlund
Jennie Hoenigsberg Phu Ly David McLean Chunka Mui

Our work is based in three core areas: Facilitating community building; increasing equity and accessibility of government and commissions/boards/committees; and committee sustainability.

In 2025, we refined our charter, improved an action plan, and grew our relationships with multiple Town departments and other committees. Our community events, from movie nights to a multicultural dinner, were successful. Look for us at the farmers market regularly. Everyone is welcome!

Veterans Committee

Carroll “Bud” Ockert Pete Gadue Jason Galipeau Paul Goodrich Colleen Haag
Eric Hanley Henry Harder Henry Hilliard Jane Kunin

We reach out to all veterans in our community, and our main project is the monument on the Parade, and events around it. Meet us at the farmers market, where we welcome all veterans, their family and friends.

In 2025 we marked the 10th anniversary of our monument’s construction, as well as our traditional Memorial Day and Veterans Day events. Our excellent guest speakers were, respectively, retired Lt. General Michael Dubie, former US Army nurse Maureen Dwyer, and Jason Paquette. We mourned the death of our neighbor Arthur Kunin. The monument endured vandalism around July 4th weekend, and we appreciate the volunteer cleanup. We also launched a capital campaign to endure the perpetual maintenance of the monument, with a goal of \$100,000. Your support is most welcome and much appreciated.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Climate and Energy Committee

Judy Raven Karen Baron Steve Booth Rowland Davis
Richard Donnelly Art Friedman Luce Hillman Chris Neme Liz Wier

Our committee’s work this year has focused on three projects:

- Developing a proposal for an ordinance to require renewable energy in new building construction
- Low-income housing weatherization, including the WindowDresser program and weatherization assistance to residents of a mobile home park
- Pursuing the option of rooftop solar on the Highway Department garage

In 2026, there are other opportunities to advise Town staff and connect with neighbors in new ways. As the climate crisis accelerates, we welcome participation from interested residents, including attending our meetings in person or by Zoom. Shelburne’s climate committee is part of a network around Vermont and the country, making a difference locally.

Regional Coordination

Vermont’s system of town government provides great accessibility to the public, but it’s less efficient for certain kinds of public service delivery. Where a service is provided at a regional scale, there is usually a way for Shelburne to be represented. These are some of our regional partners.

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. ccrpcvt.org At the county level, this agency coordinates transportation infrastructure planning, disaster mitigation, some environmental and economic planning, and many other niche partnerships. Shelburne has **Jeff Carr** and **John Zicconi** (alternate) on their advisory board.

Chittenden Solid Waste District. cswd.net Operating landfills and recycling centers is impractical for small towns, so this is regional service. It costs no tax dollars from Shelburne, but relies on user fees and the sale of recyclables. Shelburne has **Margy Wiener** and **Matt Lawless** (alternate) on their advisory board.

Green Mountain Transit. rideGMT.com Bus service obviously should not stop at the town line! Shelburne pays a small proportional cost of the bus services in the region. The 6 bus goes from the south end of Shelburne to downtown Burlington. Shelburne has **Susan Grasso** and **Judy Rosenstreich** on their board of commissioners.

POET LAUREATE

Spring Break

A purple crocus pushes through the grass
determined as the daylight
whose persistence allows for the reinstatement
of our post-dinner walks.

My shoulder against yours
we move down the sidewalk
water spraying from bicycle tires of laughing children
the birds vocalizing something like hope.

Every winter as we reach for shovels
succumb to nudging the thermostat upwards
we have the same conversation
the one where we dream of heading south.

But then out of nowhere the sun offers five extra minutes
the heavy jackets moved to the back of the closet
your ungloved hand in mine as we walk
pulling in air that smells of possibility.

Look at that flower, you say
How could we ever miss this?

Amy Allen
Shelburne Poet Laureate

Winter's Close

An icy breeze flows across a frozen field,
interrupted only by the trunks of tall, proud
trees.

Shimmering, the snow appears,
bejeweled with nature's diamonds.

A mournful song, the wind does whistle,
as if sympathetic with the Earth itself,
frozen, deep within winter's cloak.

From afar, a bird cries out,
its voice carrying over the chilling expanse,
an ode to warmer times, soon to come.

Roman Strayer-Benton
Shelburne Junior Poet Laureate

ABSTRACT FOR SHELBURNE'S 237TH TOWN MEETING

March 3, 2025, 7:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Tom Little, Moderator.

All rose for the presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Shelburne Girl and Boy Scouts.

Senior Patrol Leader Ben Healy led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Troop Bugler Charlie Schramm sounded "To the Colors" as the Troop presented the flag, under the direction of Troop Leader Matt Looft. Matt Wormser led the meeting in singing the National Anthem, accompanied by Dave Connery on flute.

The Town Poet Laureate, Amy Allen has written a poem that is fitting for Town Meeting, "Spring Break." Ms. Allen spoke of the upcoming "Shelburne Writes" poetry contest. Submissions are open throughout March and will close in April.

Spring Break

A purple crocus pushes through the grass
determined as the daylight
whose persistence allows for the reinstatement
of our post-dinner walks.

Shoulder to shoulder
we move down the sidewalk
water sprays up from bicycle tires of laughing children
and the birds vocalize something like hope.

Every winter as we reach for shovels
succumb to nudging the thermostat upwards
we have the same conversation
the one where we dream of heading south.

But then out of nowhere the sun gives you five extra minutes
your heavy jacket moved to the back of the closet
your ungloved hand in mine as we walk
pulling in air that smells of possibility.

Look at that flower, you say
How could we ever miss this?

The Junior Town Poet Laureate, Roman Strayer-Benton, has written a poem that is also fitting for Town Meeting, Winter's Close.

Winter's Close

An icy breeze flows across a frozen field,
interrupted only by the trunks of tall, proud trees.

Shimmering, the snow appears,
bejeweled with nature's diamonds.

A mournful song, the wind does whistle,
as if sympathetic with the Earth itself,
frozen, deep within winter's cloak.

From afar, a bird cries out,
its voice carrying over the chilling expanse,
an ode to warmer times, soon to come.

Mr. Little introduced Pam Brangan to talk about this year's Colleen Haag award. Ms. Brangan said that this was created in 2016 to celebrate Colleen Haag's 35 years of devoted public service as Town Clerk. This is awarded annually to a resident who exemplifies public service, inspires lasting change, and makes a difference. She thanked all who volunteer to serve the town of Shelburne. Ms. Brangan, along with previous award winners Peggy Coutu (2023) and Roz Graham (2022) worked to select a winner from the fourteen nominations. These nominations include: Michael Ashooh, Katie Bosley, Alice Brown, Kevin Clayton, Roland Davis, John Hammer, Stephen Kendall, John Kolar, Lee Krohn, Lisa Merrill, Don Porter, Michael O'Brien, Doug Taft and Sally Wadhams. Ms. Brangan said that Alice Brown is the winner of the 2025 Colleen Haag award. Ms. Brown has held several volunteer positions at the Shelburne Community School and served on various Shelburne town boards. She also helps to maintain town trails and remove invasive species. Ms. Brown cannot attend tonight's meeting, and her award will be presented at the March 25, 2025, Shelburne Selectboard meeting.

Mr. Little said that Vermont became the 14th state 234 years ago tomorrow. He thanked Media Factory staff: Adam Walker, Barb Pendl and John McDonnell. Media Factory is responsible for setting up and operating the technology to make this hybrid meeting possible. Mr. Little introduced Diana Vachon, Town Clerk; and Matt Lawless, Town Manager. Among other duties, Mr. Lawless and Ms. Vachon, as well as Susan Elliot, the Town Manager's Executive Assistant, will be assisting in getting the microphone to those who wish to speak. Justices of the Peace will assist with counting votes if necessary.

Mr. Little discussed voting procedures. He said that Shelburne will be voting on one Article tonight, as well as anything that may properly come before the meeting under Other Business. These would be non-binding votes. All other articles will be voted via Australian ballot tomorrow.

Mr. Little explained the rules and courtesies of debate, which are as follows:

- For those participating via Zoom, mute your computer or other device, unless you have been recognized by the Moderator. When done speaking, please re-mute.
- Do not use multiple devices at the same time.

- For those physically present at the gym, please raise your hand to be recognized to speak. For those participating via Zoom, you are on Zoom, please use the “raise hand” function in the Zoom screen. Staff will be monitoring Zoom and will ensure you are able to speak.
- As in prior years, and hearing no objection, Robert’s Rules of Order apply.
- One person alone may have the floor at a time.
- If you have a question, please phrase it in the form of a question.
- If participating via Zoom, once recognize, please unmute, introduce yourself, ask your question or make your comment, and then re-mute yourself.
- If you have a question about parliamentary procedure, the form of a motion, etc., please address your question to the Moderator.
- Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated on Zoom any more than it will be tolerated in person. After one warning, a second offense will result in muting and a third, removal from the meeting.
- When voting, use green cards (“yes”) and red cards (“no”) to vote. We are unable to take votes from remote attendees.
- Hearing no objection, each speaker will be limited to two (2) minutes, and someone who has spoken from the floor on a question will not be permitted to speak a second time until all who wish to speak a first time have been heard.
- When a question raises a point that can best be answered by someone who is not a Town resident, the Moderator will ask if there is any objection to having that person speak for the limited purpose of answering the question.

Mr. Little requested that all in attendance review the Annual Report. He introduced Dave Connery, Vice-Chair of the Champlain Valley School District (CVSD) Board, to present on its budget. Mr. Connery introduced Kate Webb, who also represents Shelburne on the CVSD Board.

Mr. Connery presented the following slides:

The Challenge:

- Act 126 tax redistribution
- Act 84 declining tax discount
- Enrollment trend
- Continuing increases in benefit costs, especially healthcare
- Education Fund sustainability

Multi-Year Approach:

FY26 will require restructuring and reductions in opportunities. A “Level Service” budget would require an additional \$4.2M in spending above our current proposed budget. “Level Service” means keeping all current year budgeted expenses in FY 26. FY27 and beyond may require a redesign of how we deliver education. Future year models suggest additional reductions required under current legislation.

District Enrollment (Unweighted) 2022-2024 has seen a steady, modest decline. CVU Future Enrollment Projections show a slow steady decline through FY29. Future Enrollment numbers are based on district 6th – 8th grade district enrollment.

Administrative Budget Proposal

	FY25	FY26	\$ Change	% Change
Special Education	23,182,647	23,379,058	196,410	0.8%
General Education	61,544,329	61,909,159	354,830	0.6%
Operations	17,064,209	17,435,846	371,637	2.2%
Total	101,801,185	102,724,062	922,877	0.9%

CVSD
2025-26 Budget

Factors driving the increase

2024 - 25 Budget	\$101,801,185
Salaries	\$3,227,354
Health insurance	\$1,417,300
Other Benefits	\$486,181
Personnel reductions	(\$3,654,500)
Tuition and Professional Services	(\$437,669)
All Other	(\$115,789)
2025 - 26 Budget	\$102,724,062

CVSD
2025-2026 Budget

Personnel Reduction

Category	FTE Reduction
Professional	25.53
Staff	9.32
Administrators	3
Contract- Prof	1
Total	38.85

CVSD
2025-26 Budget

Cost per Weighted Pupil

	FY25	FY26 Proposed
Weighted Student Count	5726	5685
Spending	\$101,801,185	\$102,724,062
Total Local Revenue	\$15,688,370	\$14,429,978
Net Education Spending	\$86,112,815	\$88,294,084
Net Ed Spending per Weighted Student	\$15,038	\$15,532
Per Pupil Spending % Increase		+3.3%

Local revenue includes no fund balance application.

CVSD
2025-2026 Budget

Expected FY26 Tax Rates with CLA* Applied

	FY25			FY26		
	Pre-CLA	CLA*	Prop Tax Rate	Adj. Eq. Tax Rate**	CLA	Prop Tax Rate
Charlotte	\$1.35	104%	\$1.29	\$1.63	93.2%	\$1.26
Hinesburg	\$1.35	68%	\$2.00	\$1.63	62.1%	\$1.90
Shelburne	\$1.35	69%	\$1.97	\$1.63	62.4%	\$1.89
St. George	\$1.35	72%	\$1.89	\$1.63	65%	\$1.81
Williston	\$1.35	69%	\$1.95	\$1.63	62.9%	\$1.87

* Common Level of Appraisal
** New Adjusted Equalized Tax Rate after statewide adjustment

CVSD
2025-2026 Budget

Mr. Connery highlighted last year's graduation, an EV Bus program, which will save the district \$120,000 over twelve years, broad academic and co-curricular offerings and the potential for an innovative housing program to assist with countering declining enrollment. FY26 will require restructuring and a reduction in opportunities, as level funding would require an additional \$4.2 million spending above the current proposed budget. This would be above-mentioned percent increases per the state. Future years may require additional restructuring. Shelburne will vote on two separate articles on the ballot, one for the school budget and another to utilize fund balance.

Questions and discussion: The per pupil spending levels were clarified. Health care costs, the town-owned property off the east side of Route 7, the impact of budget cuts, and potential district consolidation were discussed.

Mr. Little directed attendees to the Town Report and said that five ballot items will be discussed tonight. All articles, besides Article 1, will be voted upon tomorrow. Article 1 relates to Selectboard compensation.

Article 1: Shall the Town set the compensation to be paid to the Selectboard for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026) at \$1,500 for the Chair and \$1,200 for each other Selectboard member?

Peg Rosenau moved to raise the Selectboard salaries by \$500 (\$2,000 for the Chair and \$1,700 for the other Selectboard members). The motion was seconded.

Following discussion from the floor, Mr. Little called the question via voice vote, which was undetermined. Mr. Little requested that all in attendance vote using their green and red cards. 91 were in favor, and 35 opposed. Article 1 passes as amended.

Article 3: To elect all Town Offices as required by law.

Mr. Little said that the following positions are up for election this year:

- Town Meeting Moderator for a one-year term. Tom Little is running for this position.
- Selectboard member for a two-year term. Luce Hillman is running for this position.
- Selectboard member for a three-year term. Michael Ashooh is running for this position.
- CVSD School Director for a three-year term. Erika Lea is running for this position.

Under Vermont's Town Meeting law, questions and debate are not in order on this Article.

Article 4: Shall the Town adopt the Selectboard's proposed operating budget of \$12,542,421 of which \$9,206,484 is to be raised by real estate taxes?

Mr. Little said that Mr. Ashooh, Selectboard Chair will be presenting this and the next few articles. Mr. Ashooh introduced the Selectboard: Chunka Mui, Andrew Everett, Luce Hillman and Matt Wormser. He discussed the work of Shelburne Forward Together and provided an overview of the Selectboard's work over the past year. He discussed the pressure that increased benefit and salary costs place on the town. And he said that the Selectboard has worked to keep tax increases under 4%. Mr. Lawless provided an overview of his role and said that town staff are in attendance to answer questions as needed. The General Fund is proposed to be \$12.5 million for FY26, and tax increases are limited to 3.8%. He said that, if all the tax rates in neighboring communities pass, Shelburne will be lower than many others but higher than Milton and Williston. Considering the decrease in school taxes, an overall tax decrease is likely, however this is dependent on state educational funding. Mr. Lawless asked staff in attendance to stand for recognition. He discussed new initiatives and the priorities for FY26.

Discussion: Line items were reorganized; however, Pond Road will be maintained at levels in line with previous years. The Town Treasurer position has been moved from the Clerk's Officer to the Finance Department, and the Department has a new revenue clerk.

Article 5: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Shelburne in an amount not to exceed one million four hundred and forty-six thousand six hundred and sixty-one dollars (\$1,446,661) subject to reduction from available grants-in-aid and other financial resources, be issued for the purpose of replacing failing essential infrastructure, including: roof and

HVAC of Town Center, repairs to historic Town Hall, police and highway vehicles and ambulance equipment?

Mr. Lawless said that the Selectboard approved a Capital Plan, which will allow for project planning over the next ten years or more. Voter approval will allow the town to secure grant funds. \$1.3 million is dedicated from the Local Options Tax to be used for capital. He discussed the projects that would be funded with these funds. Mr. Lawless said that residents voted to approve a new Wastewater Treatment Facility last fall. He said that Shelburne is sending income surveys, and encouraged recipients to fill out and return the surveys - the results are confidential. This will assist with securing grant funds.

Article 6: Shall the Town raise by taxes \$100,000 for the purpose of obtaining options and/or acquiring land or rights in land to preserve natural resources and open space; any unspent of that amount to be put into the Open Space Fund?

Mr. Little said that this will be voted upon tomorrow via Australian ballot. Ms. Ashooh said that access to land is becoming more expensive, and that these funds will be an addition to the already existing fund. This funds also be used for easements and other type of conservation agreements. Discussion: The total balance in the open space fund is approximately \$365,000. No specific property is targeted with these funds. Land is maintained based on the nature of the agreement.

Article 2: Other Business

Mr. Little said that this must be related to town concerns, however there is no statutory definition of such. No binding action can be taken.

Joan Lenes moved the following Resolution:

Whereas, it has been three years since Russia, under the dictatorship of Vladimir Putin invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine in an attempt to violently take over the country, and

Whereas, the Ukrainian people, under the leadership of their elected President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have bravely fought to defend their country with the help of the United States and our European allies, and

Whereas, the support of the United States for Ukraine is under serious reconsideration,

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the citizens of the Town of Shelburne, Vermont, stand behind and support the continued efforts of Ukraine to maintain its independence, and that we urge the United States to continue providing military and financial aid to Ukraine,

And that copies of this resolution be send to the Vermont Congressional delegation, Senator Berine Sanders, Senator Peter Welch, and Congresswoman Becca Balint, as well as to President Donald J. Trump at the White House, Washington, D.C.

The motion was seconded. Those in attendance discussed the proposed Resolution.

Joanna Cole moved to amend the Resolution to remove the words “military and.”.

The motion was seconded. Mr. Little requested a voice vote on the amendment to the resolution. The amendment was voted down via voice vote.

Mr. Little requested a vote via green and red cards on the Resolution. The Resolution passed 60-8.

Janet Franz then moved the following resolution:

Should the Shelburne Town Meeting voters advise the Selectboard to adopt the following pledge?

**WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;
and WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression;
and WE DECLARE ourselves and apartheid-free community,
and to that end, WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all of Israel’s apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.**

The motion was seconded. Significant discussion was had regarding this resolution. After a few voters commented, one rose to ask if it was in order to move to table the Resolution. Mr. Little advised that it was too early in the debate for that.

Following 20 minutes or so of debate, a motion was made, and seconded, to table the issue indefinitely.

Mr. Little called a vote via green and red cards on the motion to table. The motion passed 35-5.

Mr. Little read the following motion from Carl Nyberg:

Whereas, the people of Shelburne want to provide town employees with quality healthcare without passing along unreasonable costs;

Whereas, the people of Shelburne acknowledge it is disrespectful to squeeze employees for more money to maintain (roughly) the same level of coverage;

Whereas, municipal government lacks the purchasing power or regulatory power to control healthcare costs;

Whereas, healthcare costs are increasing significantly more than the rate of inflation, something that has been true for decades;

Whereas, these government employees need healthcare and the US expectation is that employers provide health care coverage;

Be it resolved that, the Town of Shelburne calls on the US Government (federal government) to reduce healthcare costs to state, county and local government, through appropriate regulation, limiting profits, cost controls, subsidies or nationalizing parts of the industry;

Be it resolved that, the people of Shelburne call upon our elected officials to spend time and energy getting the federal government to do its job on healthcare, mean control costs, regulate health insurance (or create a single-payer system) and subsidize the cost of healthcare options not limited to:

-taxing the rich

-cutting spending on oppression, like money spent on the military.

The motion was seconded. My Nyborg spoke in favor of the Resolution. No one else rose to speak. Mr. Little called for a green and red card vote. The Resolution failed 5-30.

Mr. Little thanked everyone for passionate but their respectful debate.

There was no further “other business” under Article 2.

Mr. Little declared the meeting in recess until tomorrow morning, Tuesday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 a.m. for Australian balloting on the Town and CVSD Meeting Articles. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., at the Shelburne Town Center gymnasium.

Mr. Little thanked Town Clerk Diana Vachon, Town Manager Matt Lawless, and Assistant to the Town Manager Susan Elliot for all of their planning and organizational work for this meeting. He also thanked the Community School staff for assisting with setup and cleanup and Cucina Antica for supper. He thanked the legislators Kate Lalley, Shawn Sweeney and Ginny Lyons for joining the meeting. Mr. Little gave special thanks to Clerk Diana Vachon and Assistant Clerks Lisa Mann and Sue Moraska, as well as our polling place workers and volunteers for their work processing ballots.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darby Mayville

2025 Annual Report

Champlain Valley School District



The Champlain Valley School District's Annual Report including the proposed Annual Budget and Annual Report Card is available on the CVSD website at: <https://www.cvsdvt.org/budget-district/budget-home>

This online material includes information no longer in the Town Report.

All households were mailed an informational booklet from the school district in place of the Report.



Dear CVSD Community,

Right around the time Vermont's late-autumn gray arrived this year, Meghan Metzler, our board chair, and I began sharing Friday lunches with students in each of our schools. At our first lunch, I watched as Meghan approached an empty seat at an almost-full table of second graders. Within moments, she was laughing with the kids, so thoroughly accepted as a trusted adult that she was recruited to open stubborn sandwich ziplocks and tie one student's shoes. I jumped into the next open table and was asked surprisingly few questions about what a superintendent actually does (which was refreshing).

After just twenty minutes, Meghan and I always walk out feeling lighter. Recharged. More hopeful. Proud. We usually look at each other and say, half joking and half serious, "How do we get everyone in our community to experience this?"

It's an honest question—even if it's not very practical. Yes, we want everyone in Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, and Williston to feel the simple joy of belonging: being welcomed as you are, sharing a laugh with kids who make it easy to smile. But it's more than that.

We want people in our community to experience firsthand the feeling of being in a place organized around a clear purpose, one filled with talented and deeply caring educators helping young people grow into who they're becoming. We want everyone to see a system that's thriving—both in our assessment data and in less tangible ways—thanks to a focus on student engagement and longtime support from our community. We want you to feel the same pride that Meghan and I feel—during and beyond those Friday lunches—in our staff and faculty, our students, even our facilities.

That's exactly why the last two years have been so difficult. We carry a responsibility to steward your tax dollars carefully and sustain the momentum our community has worked hard to build—especially in a fiscal landscape where spending and tax rates rarely move in simple, linear ways. At the same time, reducing budgets—as we have done for the past two years—affects the core mission of the district. And budgets aren't abstract—they're opportunities and experiences for our students; they're supports for our community; and they're people.

So how do we help the community *see* what we see on those Fridays? How do we make the connection between resources and real moments—real kids?

You'll soon receive a mailer with statistics, infographics, and numbers. Those matter. But so do the photos. Pause on the faces. Imagine the conversations, the laughter, the learning, growth, belonging, and connections behind each picture.

Because without you, none of this happens. You may not feel it every day—but you make this goodness possible. Thank you for your continued support of our schools, our community and the future of our learners.

Adam Bunting
CVSD Superintendent

FY27 Proposed Budget

CVSD Budget Goals

In developing the FY27 budget, the CVSD Board and administration are committed to transparency, proactivity and collaboration as we work to continue to provide high-quality education for nearly 4,000 learners across five towns and six schools while balancing the realities of the challenging fiscal landscape.

Following two years of reductions in which CVSD cut \$9-million and 82 FTE (full-time equivalent faculty and staff positions), the CVSD Board tasked the administration with developing a \$107,860,285 budget for FY27. The CVSD Board, Finance Committee and administration have been working to develop this budget since September.

On January 20, the CVSD School Board approved a \$107.9M FY27 budget to support and operate the district. Voters will consider this budget on Town Meeting Day—Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

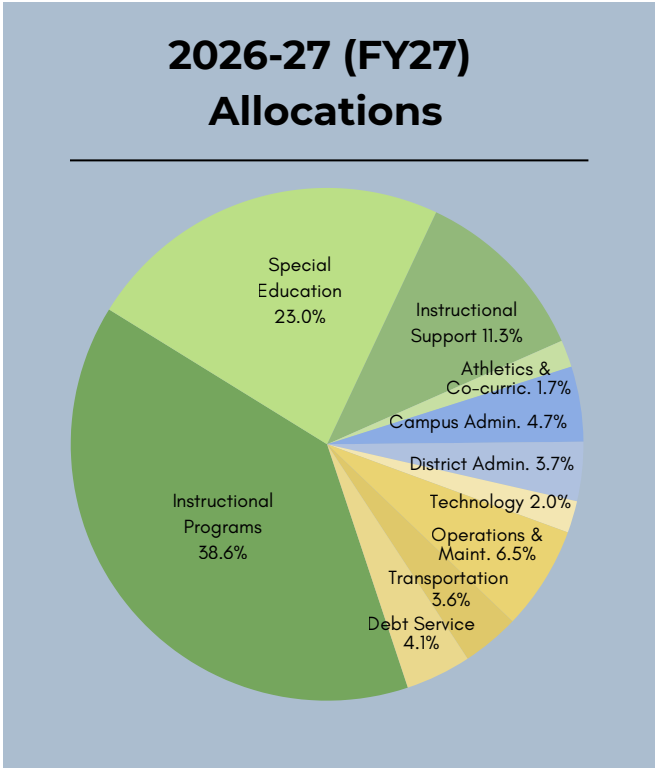
This \$107.9M budget carries forward the current year's level of services and programming into the 2026-27 school year, recognizing that further cuts to programs would affect the core mission of the district, where class sizes have already increased and offerings have been reduced.

With faculty salary increases negotiated at 5.5% and the state-level negotiated cost of healthcare increasing by 7.3%, we have held our increase in expenditures at 5% and our weighted per pupil spending increase at 2.7%. Both figures are lower than statewide averages, demonstrating CVSD's commitment to minimizing expenditures through cost containment and budgeting efficiently to address the needs of our learners and the community.

Learn More

Please visit the district's Budget Page on our website for more information and to view our Annual Report.

www.cvsdvt.org/budget



2026-27 (FY27) Budget Changes

2025-26 Budget (FY26)	\$102,724,062
Salaries	\$3,126,172
Health Insurance	\$721,099
Other Benefits	\$388,936
Debt	\$481,792
Tuition and Professional Services	\$227,244
All Other	\$190,980
2026-27 Budget (FY27)	\$107,860,285

FY27 Budget Implications

Committed to Responsible Spending

CVSD's proposed FY27 budget represents an increase in net education spending of 3.5% and a weighted per pupil spending increase of 2.7% over the current year. Both increases are lower than the statewide averages, showing our commitment to addressing the operational variables we can control.

Cost Per Weighted Pupil

FY26 Cost Per Weighted Pupil	FY27 Cost Per Weighted Pupil	Percent Change
\$15,532	\$15,962	2.7%

Due to the idiosyncrasies of Vermont's education finance system, these reasonable increases have a non-linear impact on the final tax rate. Following this year's district-wide average **4% decrease** in education property taxes, CVSD's average tax rate increase for FY27 is estimated at 11.3%. **The Governor's proposed property tax rate buy-down is forecasted to cut these estimated increases in half (Source: Vermont Public).**

Homestead Tax Rate

The forecasted statewide homestead yield is estimated at \$8,849, which, based on the state's formula, produces an equalized education homestead tax rate of \$1.66 (per \$100 of property value) for CVSD towns. Actual tax rates are adjusted further for a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) in each town. The CLA is determined by the state, is impacted by the recency of town-wide appraisals and therefore varies by town. The CLA is why tax rates vary by town.

CLA and Actual Homestead Tax Rate with CLA Applied

Equalized Tax Rate \$1.66	Common Level of Appraisal	Estimated Homestead Rate w/ CLA Applied	% Change from FY26	\$ Change from previous year per \$100,000
Charlotte	116%	\$1.43	14.0%	\$141.21
Hinesburg	153%	\$1.09	6.7%	\$64.10
Shelburne	77%	\$2.15	14.5%	\$271.67
St. George	79%	\$2.10	16.4%	\$308.53
Williston	82%	\$2.03	8.7%	\$138.06

Income-Based Property Tax Credit

Nearly half of all residents of Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, and Williston qualify for an income-based property tax credit. In 2025, 44% of CVSD households received an average property tax credit of \$2,244. **You may be eligible if your household income is less than \$115,400.**

To learn more about the eligibility requirements and to apply for a tax reduction, contact the Vermont Department of Taxes.

www.tax.vermont.gov/property/property-tax-credit or (802) 828-2505.

WARNING
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2026 AND MARCH 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Champlain Valley School District, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Champlain Valley Union High School Library in the Town of Hinesburg at five o'clock (5:00pm) in the evening on March 2, 2026, to transact any of the following business not involving voting by Australian ballot, and to conduct an informational hearing with respect to Articles of business to be considered by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026.

Virtual Zoom participation details: <https://cvsdvt-org.zoom.us/j/88617104470> Meeting ID: 886 1710 4470 Passcode: cvsd11. Zoom Meeting phone participation: 1-312-626-6799 Passcode: 948811

- ARTICLE I: To elect a moderator, clerk and treasurer.
- ARTICLE II: To hear and act upon the reports of the school district officers.
- ARTICLE III: Shall the voters of the Champlain Valley School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year?
- ARTICLE IV: Shall the voters of the Champlain Valley School District authorize the Board of School Directors to provide a mailed notice of availability of the Annual Report to residents in lieu of distributing the Annual Report?
- ARTICLE V: To establish the date of the Champlain Valley School District Annual Meeting of Monday, March 1, 2027 at 5pm at CVU High School and recessed and opened back up at Australian ballot voting on Town Meeting Day.
- ARTICLE VI: To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

The legal voters of the Champlain Valley School District, are hereby notified and warned to meet at their respective polling places on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at seven o'clock in the forenoon (7:00am), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock in the afternoon (7:00pm), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles of business:

- ARTICLE VII: Shall the voters of the Champlain Valley School District approve the school board to expend One Hundred Seven Million, Eight Hundred Sixty Thousand, Two Hundred Eight-Five Dollars (\$107,860,285), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Champlain Valley School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of Fifteen Thousand, Nine Hundred, Sixty-Two Dollars (\$15,962), which is 2.7% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- ARTICLE VIII: Shall the voters of the Champlain Valley School District authorize the Board of School Directors to allocate its current fund balance, without effect upon the District tax levy, as follows: assign One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) of the school district's current fund balance as revenue for the 2026 - 2027 operating budget, and assign the remaining

balance, One Million, Six Hundred, Twelve Thousand, Four Hundred, Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$1,612,489) as revenue for future budgets?

ARTICLE IX: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Champlain Valley School District in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of purchasing up to two (2) school buses and two (2) mini vans, the aggregate cost of such purchases is estimated to cost Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000)?

ARTICLE X: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of Champlain Valley School District in an amount not to exceed Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of the fiscal year 2027 capital improvement plan, namely (1) Charlotte Central School elevator, bathrooms, building envelope, (2) Champlain Valley Union High School roofing, HVAC, fire alarm system, (3) Hinesburg Community School roofing, HVAC, electrical (4) Williston Schools gym flooring, lighting, HVAC, the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000)? **State funds may not be available at the time these projects are otherwise eligible to receive state school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of the receipt of school construction aid.**

POLLING PLACES

Charlotte	Charlotte Town Hall
Hinesburg	Hinesburg Town Hall
Shelburne	Shelburne Town Center – Gymnasium
Williston	Williston Armory
St. George	St. George Town Hall

Ballots shall be transported and delivered to the Champlain Valley Union High School in the Town of Hinesburg and there commingled and counted by members of the Boards of Civil Authority of several towns under the supervision of the District Clerk of the Champlain Valley School District.

The legal voters of the Champlain Valley School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee/early voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Section 739 of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Adopted and approved at a duly noticed, called and held meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Champlain Valley School District on January 20, 2026. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Champlain Valley School District on January 20, 2026.

ATTEST:



Lynne T. Jaunich, District Clerk



Meghan E. Metzler, Chairperson

This back page of happy moments around the organization is dedicated to Susan Elliot, assistant to the town manager, and to the spirit of compassionate, effective service which she shares, *Dedicating new homes.* and which makes our whole team better. *Connecting neighbors.*



Dancing like nobody's watching.



Finding a silly moment.



Loving the water.



Quality time together.



