

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Agenda
Monday, December 11, 2023
6:00 pm at Bethel Town Hall (318 Main Street) & via Zoom

Zoom Link Meeting ID: 876 0415 3197 Passcode: 341656 Phone# 1-646-558-8656

6:00 pm: Call meeting to order and approve the agenda.

6:03 pm: Windsor County Sheriff Ryan Palmer re: contracting with the Town

6:45 pm: Alex Riesterer of White River Valley Ramblers re" permission to use class 4 roads as part of VAST trail network

Public Comment

Cannabis Control Board to approve retail cannabis permit for Something Wicked Cannabis Company.

Motion to approve

\$2.5 million loan agreement with Vermont Bond Bank to fund the Phase II water project. 0% interest, 2% administrative fee, for 32 years. The general fund to pay 23%

Motion to authorize Chair to sign Loan Agreement.

Motion to approve General Authorization Bond and Resolution and Certificate (all to sign)

Discussion of draft survey for Town Report and Town Meeting

Discussion only

Discussion of proposed FY 24-25 fiscal year budget

Discussion only

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report
2. Selectboard Minutes from 11/27/2023
3. Other Communications
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board

Selectboard Meeting Agenda Notes for 12/11/2023 Meeting

1. Windsor County Sheriff, Ryan Palmer, will be here to discuss contracting police services with the Town.
2. Annual request of local VAST club to use Town Roads.
3. Permit approval for first cannabis retailer in Bethel. They have met all zoning requirements.
4. Approval of bond documents for \$2.5M water project

Total project costs: \$2,088,846

Loan Forgiveness -666,500

Aprox. Loan Amnt. \$1,422,343

Taxpayer Share is 23% at \$327,139. This covers road work, paving, etc.

5. I drafted a survey to be included in the Town Report and handed out at Town Meeting. I thought of two questions. We can discuss others the Board might like to add.
6. Discussion of the proposed FY 24-25 budget. I have met with the Road Department, Fire Department, Assessor/Listers office, Town Clerk and Pool Director. The amount to be raised by taxes is 2.01% over last year.
7. Gene provided information he wanted me to include in the packet regarding energy coordination position.

Town Manager's Report

- ☀ Progress is at a stand still until spring at the skatepark. Due to the warm wet weather, it has been decided that the remaining piece of sidewalk be installed in the spring. The skatepark will be off limits to everyone until then. Fencing and signage have been erected. It is important to know that walking on the skateboard surface with stone and mud in your shoes, will damage the surface of the skate park. The Recreation Committee is planning a grand opening for the spring.
- ☀ Perham Road culvert is being installed on Saturday, December 8th. That road will be closed to thru traffic from 9 am to 2 pm. I believe all other FEMA work has been completed. Work continues on Campbrook Road. They have not asked for an extension, so are currently on target to finish December 17th.
- ☀ Behind the scenes, engineering is moving forward on our Bike/Ped grant for the Pleasant Street sidewalk project, the hazard mitigation grant on Gilead, and Chris Fors continues to push the VOREC project forward.

Therese Kirby

From: noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of VCCB Applications
<ccb.applications@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:16 AM
To: betheltownfinance@comcast.net;
Subject: VT CCB: Application S-000005317 Approved

The Cannabis Control Board would like to inform you that S-000005317, Retailers has been approved, with its issuance pending approval by your Local Control Commission. This applicant's proposed cannabis establishment is within your municipality.

Pursuant to state law, most cannabis establishment application materials are confidential. See 7 V.S.A. § 901(h)(1)(A). The Board is sharing some of the application information in this document to facilitate the Local Control Commission's licensing review. The Board asks that you abide by state law and maintain the confidentiality of this information.

The Local Control Commission may request further information about the proposed cannabis establishment directly from the applicant.

Business Legal Name and Registered: Something Wicked Cannabis Company Alternatives: Something Wicked Cannabis Company
Address: _____ (please note, the address of this establishment is not public information)
Principals and Controlling Entities:
Primary Contact's email address: _____
Primary Contact's phone number: _____

For this license type, the applicant is asked the following questions which may be relevant to your review:

- Do you comply with required inspections or permits from other state and local agencies (for example, certificates of occupancy)?
 - Yes

- Is your proposed Cannabis Establishment project in a public building?
 - Yes

- Are you a home occupancy business?
 - No

All applicants are required comply with Division of Fire Safety (DFS) requirements which is documented through a non-jurisdictional letter or fire safety inspection report.

In order to issue this license, the CCB requires the approval of your Town's Local Control Commission.

Please submit documentation of the Local Control Commission's decision via email to CCB.Applications@vermont.gov

Local Control Commission authority is defined at 7 V.S.A. § 863, and the Board has developed information for municipalities and Local Control Commissions on its [website](#). Per CCB Rule 2.14, if a Local Control Commission allows an application to remain undecided for forty-five days, that application is presumptively granted. For a list of upcoming projects proposed in your municipality, [click here](#).

Thank you,

Cannabis Control Board

For assistance, contact: (802) 828-1010

CCB.Applications@vermont.gov

LOAN AGREEMENT

Vermont State Revolving Fund

Loan RF3-423-3.0

Loan Amount: \$2,500,000.00

1. Town of Bethel, the Municipality, hereby certifies to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank ("Bond Bank") that:
 - (a) It will secure all state and federal permits, licenses and approvals necessary to construct and operate the improvements to be financed by the Loan (the "Project"), if any, as described in Exhibit A;
 - (b) It has established, or covenants with the Bond Bank to establish, by ordinance, rule or regulation, a rate charge or assessment schedule which will generate annually sufficient revenue to pay:
 - (i) Principal, administrative fees and interest of the Municipal Bond, as the same becomes due; and
 - (ii) reasonably anticipated cost of operating and maintaining the improvements to be financed by the Loan, if any, and the system of which is a part;
 - (c) It has duly established a fund under Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, or by other means permitted by law which, for so long as the Municipal Bond shall remain outstanding, shall be maintained and replenished from time to time, and used solely to repair, replace, improve and enlarge the improvement to be financed by the Loan, if any.
2. The Municipality shall make funds sufficient to pay the principal, administrative fees and interest as the same matures (based upon the Maturity Schedule appended hereto as Exhibit C) available to the Bond Bank at least five business days prior to each principal payment date.
3. The Bond Bank and Municipality agree that Loan proceeds will be paid to the Municipality as Project costs are incurred and paid by the Municipality over the course of the Project, but in no event shall payments be made more often than monthly, and only on Municipality's certification, through its authorized representative, that such costs have been paid.
4. The Municipality is obligated to make the principal, administrative fee and interest portion of the Municipal Bond payments scheduled by the Bond Bank on an annual basis. The Municipality may prepay the Loan at its option without penalty.
5. Simultaneously with the delivery of the Municipal Bond and Certificate of Registration (Exhibit C) to the Bond Bank, the Municipality shall furnish to the Bond Bank an opinion of bond counsel satisfactory to the Bond Bank which shall set forth among other things the unqualified

approval of said Bond(s) then being delivered to the Bond Bank and that said Bond(s) will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Municipality.

6. The Municipality shall be obligated to inform in writing to the Bond Bank, or such agent designated by the Bond Bank, at least thirty days prior to each principal payment date of any changes to the name of the official or address to whom invoices for the payment of principal, administrative fees and interest should be sent.

7. The period of performance for this agreement begins upon execution and ends five years after execution.

8. Notwithstanding paragraph 15 hereof, prior to payment of the amount of the Loan, or any portion thereof, the Bond Bank shall have the right to cancel all or any part of its obligations hereunder and after payment of any portion thereof to require a refund of amounts paid if:

(a) Any representation made by the Municipality to the Bond Bank in connection with its application for a loan or additional loans shall be incorrect or incomplete in any material respect; or

(b) The Municipality has violated commitments made by it in its application and supporting documents or has violated any of the terms of this Loan Agreement.

9. The Municipality shall at all times comply with all applicable federal and state requirements pertaining to the Project, including but not limited to requirements of Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, and the list of Federal Laws and Authorities included as Exhibit B. The enumeration of the Federal Laws and Authorities in Exhibit B shall not be construed as a waiver by the Municipality of any exemption or exception, jurisdictional or otherwise.

10. If any provisions of this Loan Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Loan Agreement and this Loan Agreement shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid or unenforceable provision had not been contained herein.

11. This Loan Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, any of which shall be regarded for all purposes as an original and all of which constitute but one and the same instrument. Each party agrees that it will execute any and all documents or other instruments, and take such other actions as are necessary, to give effect to the terms of this Loan Agreement.

12. No waiver by either party of any term or condition of the Loan Agreement shall be deemed or construed as a waiver of any other terms or conditions, nor shall a waiver of any breach be deemed to constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach, whether of the same or of a different section, subsection, paragraph, clause, phrase, or other provision of this Loan Agreement. Any delay in exercising rights or requirements of the Loan Agreement does not constitute a waiver of such rights or requirements.

13. The Municipality agrees to indemnify and hold the Bond Bank, the state, its officials, agents, and employees harmless from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, costs, and damages resulting from the negligent performance or non-performance by the Municipality or any of its officials, agents, or employees of the Municipality's obligations under this Agreement, as it may be amended or supplemented from time to time. It is further understood that such indemnity shall not be limited by an insurance coverage.
14. The Municipality agrees that the Loan will be adjusted upon final audit to an amount equal to or less than the project costs determined eligible by the Department of Environmental Conservation and recommended to the Bond Bank for loan participation.
15. The Municipality agrees that if actual final eligible costs are less than the amount paid under the Loan Agreement, repayment of the excess funds will be made within sixty days of the request made by the Department of Environmental Conservation.
16. Increases, amendments, or modifications to the project during construction will be processed for record keeping purposes only, except for the addition of major approved Project Elements, Exhibit A. The Loan Agreement will also be amended upon completion of the project based upon final audited eligible costs, and any increases in the Loan will be made contingent upon availability of funds. All Project records will be retained by the Municipality and made available for state inspection upon request for three years after Project completion or until any audit questions have been resolved, whichever is later.
17. The Municipality will obtain flood insurance for any insurable portion of the Project.
18. The Municipality agrees to use the Loan proceeds solely for the Project for which the Loan is made and any approved amendments thereto. The Municipality further agrees to make prompt payment to the contractors and to apply any interest received to the Project. Once payment has been made to contractors, the applicant shall submit a payment request to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Disbursements from DEC are made on a reimbursement basis. Funds will be disbursed from Federal Award ID Number FS991218## (## equals last two digits of award year). Upon disbursement, DEC will notify the Municipality of the standard terms and conditions applicable based on the exact amount of federal funds disbursed and relevant capitalization grant being drawn down. Please see <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/srf/reimbursement-help> for the standard terms and conditions. If the foregoing link is not accessible, contact DEC for assistance.
19. The terms of this Loan Agreement shall be controlling over those of any prior Agreement with respect to this Loan Agreement. However, this Loan Agreement shall not otherwise supersede the terms of any other agreements between the Municipality and the State.
20. The Municipality agrees to furnish to the Bond Bank such financial statements as the Bond Bank may reasonably request, which statements and supporting records shall be prepared and maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

21. This agreement will be funded by approximately 80 percent federal funds. These funds are being awarded in accord with the Federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, CFDA number 66.468, under the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency. This is not a research and development award. For any accounting year in which the Municipality expends Loan proceeds and other Federal funds of \$750,000.00 or more from all Federal sources, the Municipality shall have an audit performed in accord with the Federal Single Audit Act and furnish a copy to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation within 9 months of the end of Municipality's accounting period.

22. By acceptance of this Agreement, the Municipality agrees to complete a Subrecipient Annual Report as provided by the Department of Finance. Prior to submitting the Subrecipient Annual Report, the Municipality must review previous fiscal year disbursements from the Facilities Engineering Division to determine the actual amount of federal funds disbursed from the loan proceeds. The Subrecipient Annual Report must then be submitted to the State of Vermont Department of Finance within 45 days after its fiscal year end, informing the State whether or not a single audit is required for the prior fiscal year. If a single audit is required, the Municipality will submit a copy of the audit report to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation within 9 months of its fiscal year end. If a single audit is not required, only the Subrecipient Annual Report to the State Department of Finance is required.

23. The Municipality understands that the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, which is codified at Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40 of the United States Code and U.S. Department of Labor Memorandum No. 208 ("Memorandum 208"), apply to the Project, and the Municipality certifies and agrees that with respect to the Project, it has complied and will continue to comply with the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act and Memorandum 208.

24. The effective date of the Loan Agreement is the execution date of the General Obligation Bond.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement.

Attest:



Secretary

VERMONT MUNICIPAL BOND BANK

By: 

Executive Director

Attest:

Clerk

Town of Bethel

By: _____
Chair of the Governing Body

And by:

Treasurer

Date _____

List of Loan Exhibits

EXHIBIT A: Project description and conditions

EXHIBIT B: List of Federal Laws and Authorities

EXHIBIT C: General Obligation Bond

EXHIBIT D: Resolution and Certificate

EXHIBIT A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS FOR THIS AGREEMENT

Description:

Water main improvements on Sand Hill Rd, Bicentennial Ln, Highland Ave, Graham St, Krystal Dr, and surrounding areas. Also addition of Krystal Dr pumphouse and Gaiko wellhouse improvements.

Conditions:

- 1) Repayment of this loan shall commence one (1) year after completion of the project, unless the terms of the loan indicate the loan principal will be completely forgiven.
- 2) The DWSRF program has determined that the expected weighted average useful life of the funded assets equals or exceeds the loan term.
- 3) The Applicant shall, as a condition of the loan, provide the Department with a digitally formatted copy of any plan or surveys developed with funds awarded under the loan, if the Applicant or any subcontractor develops plans or surveys in digital format. By acceptance of the loan, the Applicant agrees to pass through this requirement to any subcontracts awarded and funded by the loan. This condition is included pursuant to Section 56 of Act 233 of 1994. Such digital formats are subject to the Federal Freedom of Information Act and the State Access to Public Records and Document Statute and, unless otherwise restricted, the Department will release copies of such information to the general public upon request. It shall be acceptable to submit read only copies or copies marked archival copies only. The Applicant, by acceptance of this loan agrees not to copyright any plans or surveys developed pursuant to this action. Acceptable electronic formats include pdf and pdf/A.

EXHIBIT B

LIST OF FEDERAL LAWS AND AUTHORITIES WHERE APPLICABLE

ENVIRONMENTAL:

- “American Iron and Steel” requirements of P.L. 113-76 the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014
- Archeological and Historic Preservation 16 USC §469a-1
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 USC §668-668c
- Clean Air Act, 42 USC §7401
- Coastal Barrier Resources Act, 16 USC §3501
- Coastal Zone Management 16 USC §1451
- Davis-Bacon Act (40 CFR '31.36(i)(5))
- Davis Bacon and Related Acts Wage Rate Requirements (29 CFR 5.5)
- Endangered Species Act, 16 USC §1531
- Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 12148
- Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990 (1977) as amended by Executive Order 12608 (1997)
- Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898
- Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, Executive Order 11990 (1977), as amended by Executive Order
- Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 USC §4201
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 USC §661
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 USC §1801 *et seq.*
- Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 USC §7703 *et seq.*
- Migratory Bird Act 16 USC Chapter 7, Subchapter II: Migratory Bird Treaty
- National Historic Preservation Act 54 USC § 300101 *et seq.*
- Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 USC §403
- Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 USC §300f
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 16 USC §1271

ECONOMIC:

- Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, PL 89-754 as amended
- Section 306 of the Clean Air Act and Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, including Executive Order 11738, Administration of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with Respect to Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans

SOCIAL LEGISLATION:

- Age Discrimination Act, PL 94-135
- Civil Rights Act of 1964, PL 88-352
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, 49 USC § 47113 - Minority and disadvantaged

business participation

- Equal Employment Opportunity, Executive Order 11264
- Women's and Minority Business Enterprise, Executive Orders 11625 and 12138
- Section 13 of PL 92-500; Prohibition against sex discrimination under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973, PL 93-112 (including Executive Orders 11914 and 11250)

MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY:

- Executive Order 12549 - Debarment and Suspension
- Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-386)
- Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, PL 91-646
- Signage requirements per 2015 EPA guidance
- 2 CFR 200.216 and section 889 of Public Law 115-232, Prohibition of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment
- Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF VERMONT
Town of Bethel
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

The Town of Bethel (hereinafter called the "Municipality"), a body corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Vermont, promises to pay to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, or registered assigns, the not-to-exceed sum of \$2,500,000.00 with a preliminary interest at the rate of 0.00% per annum and with a preliminary administrative fee of 2.00%, subject to change based on final disbursed value, beginning on 10/1/2025 as follows:

Loan Agreement							
Vermont EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund							
Bethel Town, Vermont							
Loan RF3-423-3.0							
Prepared on 10/23/2023							
Loan Terms:							
Loan Amount: \$2,500,000.00							
Loan Term Years: 32							
Interest rate: 0.0000%							
Administrative Fee: 2.0000%							
Repayment Date	Payment Number	Principal Due	Principal Payment	Principal Forgiven	Interest Payment	Administrative Fees	Total Payment
10/1/2025	1	2,500,000.00	41,456.55	666,500.00	0.00	36,670.00	78,126.55
10/1/2026	2	1,792,043.45	42,285.68	0.00	0.00	35,840.87	78,126.55
10/1/2027	3	1,749,757.77	43,131.39	0.00	0.00	34,995.16	78,126.55
10/1/2028	4	1,706,626.38	43,994.02	0.00	0.00	34,132.53	78,126.55
10/1/2029	5	1,662,632.36	44,873.90	0.00	0.00	33,252.65	78,126.55
10/1/2030	6	1,617,758.46	45,771.38	0.00	0.00	32,355.17	78,126.55
10/1/2031	7	1,571,987.08	46,686.81	0.00	0.00	31,439.74	78,126.55
10/1/2032	8	1,525,300.27	47,620.54	0.00	0.00	30,506.01	78,126.55
10/1/2033	9	1,477,679.73	48,572.96	0.00	0.00	29,553.59	78,126.55
10/1/2034	10	1,429,106.77	49,544.41	0.00	0.00	28,582.14	78,126.55
10/1/2035	11	1,379,562.36	50,535.30	0.00	0.00	27,591.25	78,126.55
10/1/2036	12	1,329,027.06	51,546.01	0.00	0.00	26,580.54	78,126.55
10/1/2037	13	1,277,481.05	52,576.93	0.00	0.00	25,549.62	78,126.55
10/1/2038	14	1,224,904.12	53,628.47	0.00	0.00	24,498.08	78,126.55
10/1/2039	15	1,171,275.65	54,701.04	0.00	0.00	23,425.51	78,126.55
10/1/2040	16	1,116,574.61	55,795.06	0.00	0.00	22,331.49	78,126.55
10/1/2041	17	1,060,779.55	56,910.96	0.00	0.00	21,215.59	78,126.55
10/1/2042	18	1,003,868.59	58,049.18	0.00	0.00	20,077.37	78,126.55
10/1/2043	19	945,819.41	59,210.16	0.00	0.00	18,916.39	78,126.55
10/1/2044	20	886,609.25	60,394.36	0.00	0.00	17,732.19	78,126.55
10/1/2045	21	826,214.89	61,602.25	0.00	0.00	16,524.30	78,126.55
10/1/2046	22	764,612.64	62,834.30	0.00	0.00	15,292.25	78,126.55
10/1/2047	23	701,778.34	64,090.98	0.00	0.00	14,035.57	78,126.55
10/1/2048	24	637,687.36	65,372.80	0.00	0.00	12,753.75	78,126.55
10/1/2049	25	572,314.56	66,680.26	0.00	0.00	11,446.29	78,126.55
10/1/2050	26	505,634.30	68,013.86	0.00	0.00	10,112.69	78,126.55
10/1/2051	27	437,620.44	69,374.14	0.00	0.00	8,752.41	78,126.55
10/1/2052	28	368,246.30	70,761.62	0.00	0.00	7,364.93	78,126.55
10/1/2053	29	297,484.68	72,176.86	0.00	0.00	5,949.69	78,126.55
10/1/2054	30	225,307.82	73,620.39	0.00	0.00	4,506.16	78,126.55
10/1/2055	31	151,687.43	75,092.80	0.00	0.00	3,033.75	78,126.55
10/1/2056	32	76,594.63	76,594.63	0.00	0.00	1,531.89	78,126.52
			1,833,500.00	666,500.00	0.00	666,549.57	

EXHIBIT C

This Bond is payable in lawful money of the United States at M&T Bank in the City of Burlington, State of Vermont. Repayment terms shall comply with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 120, §4755 which prohibits deferral of payment. Final payment of this Bond shall be made upon surrender of this Bond for cancellation.

This Bond is issued by the Municipality for the purpose of financing of infrastructure improvements under and by virtue of Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, and a vote of the legal voters of the Municipality duly passed on 4/18/2023.

This Bond is transferable only upon presentation to the Treasurer of the Municipality with a written assignment duly acknowledged or proved. No transfer hereof shall be effectual unless made on the books of the Municipality kept by the Treasurer as transfer agent and noted hereon by the Treasurer with a record of payments as provided hereon.

It is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions and things required to be done precedent to and in the issuing of this Bond have been done, have happened, and have been performed in regular and due form, as required by such law and vote, and for the assessment, collection and payment hereon of a tax to pay the same when due the full faith and credit of the Municipality are hereby irrevocably pledged.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Municipality has caused this Bond to be signed by its Treasurer, and a majority of its Selectboard and its seal to be affixed hereto.

Town of Bethel

By: _____

Majority of its Governing Body

Treasurer

EXHIBIT C

\$2,500,000.00

Town of Bethel
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

It is hereby certified that this Bond is a fully registered Bond payable only to the holder of record as appears of record in the office of the Treasurer of the issuing Municipality. This Bond may be transferred by presentation of the same with an assignment in writing signed by the registered holder. Presentation shall be made to the Treasurer of the Municipality at his office and he shall record such transfer in his records and on the Bond. The name and address of the original registered owner of this Bond is Vermont Bond Bank, 100 Bank St., Suite 401, Burlington, VT 05402.

Treasurer

EXHIBIT D

RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATE
(General Obligation)
(Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund)

WHEREAS, at meetings of the municipal legislative body of the Town of Bethel (herein called the "Municipality") at each of which all or a majority of the members were present and voting, which meetings were duly noticed, called and held as appears of record, it was found and determined that the public interest and necessity required certain public water system improvements described in Exhibit A, and it was further found and determined that the cost of making such public improvements would be too great to be paid out of ordinary annual income and revenue, and that a proposal for providing such improvements and the issuance of bonds of the Municipality to pay for its share of the cost of the same was submitted to the legal voters at meetings thereof, and it was ordered, all of which action is hereby ratified and confirmed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the foregoing action, at a meeting of the Municipality which was warned and held at the place and time appointed therefor, there was submitted a proposition to be voted upon by ballot between the hours stated in the Warning, all as appears by reference; and

WHEREAS, the said Warning was duly recorded, published and posted, and said meeting was duly convened and conducted, all as appears of record, and which proceedings are hereby ratified and confirmed in all respects; and

WHEREAS, immediately upon closing of the polls and after counting of the ballots cast, the results as set forth were declared by the moderator, all as appears of record, and pursuant to which the Municipality is carrying forward the authorized improvements and pursuing the same diligently to completion; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has applied for financial assistance in making the authorized improvements which application has been approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, as evidenced by the Funding Application Approval, the terms and conditions of which are found in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to powers vested in them by law the said governing board is about to enter into a Loan Agreement on behalf of the Municipality with the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank respecting a Loan from said Bank in the amount of \$2,500,000.00, to be discounted by the amount of up to \$666,500, repayable with interest at the rate of 0.00% per annum, together with an administrative fee of 2.00%.

AND WHEREAS, the Bond to be given by the Municipality to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank at the time of receiving the proceeds of said Loan shall be substantially in the form found in Exhibit C;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Governing Body proceed forthwith to cause said Bond to be executed and delivered to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank upon the price and terms stated, and be registered as the law provides; and

EXHIBIT D

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bond when issued and delivered pursuant to law and this Resolution shall be the valid and binding obligation of the said Municipality, payable according to law and the terms and tenor thereof from unlimited ad valorem taxes on the grand list of taxable property of said Municipality as established, assessed, apportioned and provided by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to all other taxes, there shall annually be assessed and collected in the manner provided by law each year until the Bond, or any bond or bonds issued to refund or replace the same, is fully paid, a tax, charge or assessment sufficient to pay the note and bond or bonds as the same shall become due; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that execution of the above-referenced Loan Agreement between the Municipality and the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank is hereby authorized, the presiding officer of the legislative body and Treasurer of the borrower being directed to execute said Loan Agreement on behalf of the Municipality and the legislative branch thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipality expressly incorporates into this Resolution each and every term, provision, covenant and representation set forth at length in Exhibit A to be delivered in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bond, execution and delivery of each of which is hereby authorized, ratified and confirmed in all respects, and the covenants, representations and undertakings set forth at length in said Loan Agreement are incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all acts and things heretofore done by the lawfully constituted officers of the Municipality, and any and all acts or proceedings of the Municipality and of its Governing Body, in, about or concerning the improvements hereinabove described and of the issuance of evidence of debt in connection therewith, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in connection with the pending sale of the Bond in the face amount of \$2,500,000.00 to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, execution and delivery of the Bond, this Resolution Certificate, Loan Agreement and incidental documents, all attached hereto, are authorized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that M&T Bank in the City of Burlington, Vermont, is hereby designated the Municipality's paying agent with respect to the Bond and the Loan Agreement.

And we, the undersigned officers, as indicated, hereby certify that we as such officers have signed the Bond payable as aforesaid, and reciting that it is issued under and pursuant to the vote herein above mentioned, and we also certify that the Bond is duly registered in the office of the Treasurer of the Municipality as prescribed by law.

And we, the said officers of the Municipality, hereby certify that we are the duly chosen, qualified and acting officers of the Municipality as undersigned; that the Bond is issued pursuant to said authority; that no other proceedings relating thereto have been taken; and that no such authority or proceeding has been repealed or amended.

EXHIBIT D

We further certify that no litigation is pending or threatened affecting the validity of the Bond nor the levy and collection of taxes, charges or assessments to pay it, nor the works of improvement financed by the proceeds of the Bond, and that neither the corporate existence of the Municipality nor the title of any of us to our respective offices is being questioned.

ATTEST:

Town of Bethel

Clerk

By: _____

Majority of its Governing Body

And By:

Its Treasurer

Town of Bethel Survey

This voluntary survey was put together by the Selectboard to gather input from Bethel residents on various topics. We hope you will take the time to complete it.

1.) What would you like to see for recreation activities/opportunities at the Bethel Recreation Area, now that the skate park is built?

- a) Tennis Court
- b) Pickle Ball Court
- c) Skating & hockey rink/basketball (combination court)
- d) Volley ball
- e) Horse shoes
- f) other: _____

2.) Should the Selectboard remove parking on the east side of Main Street (laundromat side), to increase pedestrian safety?

- a) Yes
- b) No

3.) Not sure what else you may want to ask.

Please mail or drop off your survey to the Town Office at 134 South Main Street, Bethel, VT 05032, email it to betheltownoffice@comcast.net or go to www.townofbethelvt.com to complete online. Surveys must be submitted by April 1, 2023.

Draft Only

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2023
6:00 pm at Bethel Town Hall (318 Main Street) & via Zoom

ZOOM LINK Meeting ID: 841 8170 1877 Passcode: 185008 Phone # 1-646-558-8656

Present: Lindley Brainard, Dave Eddy, Denise Guilmette, Chris Jarvis, Gene Kraus, Therese Kirby and Julie Kraus.

Visitors: Becky Best, Edward Best, Jordon Garrow, Scott Putney, Paul Vallee

6:05 pm: Chris Jarvis called the meeting to order. Agenda edited to move the Mascoma Loan discussion to the next meeting. Lindley moved, Denise seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. So voted.

6:03 pm: Scott Putney, Energy Committee re: White River Valley Energy Resilience Coordinator

Scott speaking in support of the proposed White River Valley Energy Resilience Coordinator and asking the Town to designate \$12,290 in the next budget to this program or place the item on the Annual Town Meeting Agenda for a vote. (See the Selectboard Packet for a complete outline of the proposed program, including Bethel's potential share). Scott feels in the long run joining this program would save the town money and move the climate change issues forward. He cannot state a specific dollar amount the Town might save, but states there is money available now to aid programs and towns to deal with climate change issues and the money may not be available after the next election. Gene reported that seven of the towns have stated they would give their \$4,000 MERF monies toward the first year (pilot program). Two Rivers is looking at managing the program but not housing the program. The coordinator could be housed in one town or even from their home. Scott prefers they be located at Two Rivers to better use funds. Chris would like to know what towns will join. Gene and Scott said that is unknown at this time. Selectboards have had the proposal presented to them, but none have committed yet. While the primary goal is to save the Town money, the amount to be saved is not clear. This proposal is for using the grand list to determine how much each town would be charged. Therese will contact Two Rivers for more information about what other towns have experienced being a part of a similar program.

Public Comment: Paul Vallee thanked Gene for coordinating the Window-dressers program in Bethel.

Discussion on policing options for Bethel

Chris again reviewed recent history of the town's policing policy and discussions. The constable model is not working despite best efforts of the town and the constables. Current options include moving to a full-time constable or contracting with the Windsor County Sheriff's Department for partial or full coverage (see Selectboard Packet for summary of possible options.). Therese stated she does not have the time or updated training to oversee a Town police department. She and Chris explained the liability and some of the issues overseeing a police department entails. Contracting with the Windsor County Sheriff's Department may be the best option for Bethel. Therese will invite Windsor County Sheriff to a future Selectboard meeting for further discussion.

Update on July Flood Event

Discussion only – See the Spreadsheet of damages found in the Selectboard packet

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report
2. Selectboard Minutes from 11/13/2023

Denise moved, Gene seconded, to approve minutes from the 11/13/2023 Selectboard meeting as amended (A schedule for the culvert replacement on Camp Brook Road near Pond)

3. Other Communications
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board

8:06 pm Dave moved, Lindley seconded, to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

The next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, December 11, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Submitted by Julie Kraus

White River Solid Waste Alliance
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

FYI

The Town of Royalton owns a 22-acre parcel of land on Waterman Road in Royalton which provides facilities for aggregation and shipment of municipal solid waste, recyclables, and a variety of Household Hazardous Waste Materials. The site also contains the now closed landfill which served area towns from 1970 to 1993. By contractual arrangement, other member towns also utilize the Waste Management Program: Barnard, Bethel, Granville, Hancock, Rochester, and Stockbridge.

In May 2016, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation approved the program's new "Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (SWIP) for the purpose of managing solid waste and recyclables in accordance with objectives of current local/state/national priorities. The new SWIP which began July 1st, 2020, will run Through June 2025.

Our facility operates under a license (or certification) which is renewed every 10 years. An application to renew was submitted to the Vermont Solid Waste Management Division in February 2014, and approval was issued May 7th, 2014. The certification is valid until March 31, 2024.

From July 1st, 2022, through June 30th, 2023, a total of 2,721.28 tons of solid waste and 321.02 tons of recycling were collected. The solid waste was collected at the Transfer Station "Tipping Floor". This material was loaded into trailers for shipment to an in-state lined landfill. Recycling was directed to various facilities for processing. Various special wastes are regularly collected in addition to the usual recyclables. These include paint, fluorescent bulbs, used motor oil, antifreeze, lead acid batteries and electronic waste. All fees vary depending on the material involved and the current expenses to the program for handling the materials. From February 2022 through December 2022, the Tipping Floor was closed for repair, so all solid waste was being shipped out in open top 30-yard containers. The Tipping Floor opened back up in January 2023 and the Transfer Station is back to full capacity.

Collection events for Household Hazardous Waste were held in April 2023 at the Royalton Transfer Station and in September 2023 at the Rochester Town Hall parking lot. A total of 198 families participated in the two events. These events provided a means for citizens of the member towns to safely dispose of materials, particularly those not normally taken at the facility such as pesticides, various cleaning compounds, acids, bases, contaminated fluids, etc. The events are open to all member towns at no cost for up to 10 pounds or 10 gallons of materials. Small Quantities of materials generated by businesses are also acceptable at collection events, but a fee corresponding to program costs is assessed on business participants and an appointment must be made in advance. There will be 2 events in 2024. One at the Royalton Transfer Station in April and one in Rochester in the Town Hall parking lot in September. This will allow access for towns not located near the Transfer Station.

Public Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7-1 and Saturday 7-2

Facility Staff are onsite on Wednesday's (closed to the public) from 7-1 for operations and maintenance.

Information may be obtained during those hours by calling 802-763-2232

Web Address: whiteriveralliancesolidwaste.org

Submission by John Leighton, White River Alliance/Facility Manager

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 28, 2023

Committee Members Present: Owen DMC, Jesse Plotsky, Rita Champion, Laura Perez, Christy Fry,

Community Members Present: Jess Abston

introductions were made, check ins.

Public Comment:

No public comment was made

Updates:

At the November SB meeting that Christy attended, Gene asked the EIC to develop a land acknowledgement statement for the town. We already have one that was written by John Moody and Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions. We will send it to Therese and ask for it to be included in the town meeting packet and town website, send it to Rick and ask him to read it at town meeting, and post it on our own website.

Owen shared a link to the other November SB meeting that had robust conversation about town policing.

Jesse will attend the December 11th meeting and Christy will attend the December 18th meeting.

Accessibility Project Updates

Laura shared that several self-advocates have participated in the development of videos for the disability and accessibility etiquette project. She asked the group for their thoughts on sending several postcards at different strategic times over the year instead of sending just one postcard. The group was supportive of the idea and asked her to get quotes. The group also expressed the desire that she would include input from participating self-advocates on the timing of the mailings as well as input on the content of the messages.

Town Meeting Group

Jesse gave updates about the Susan Clark event. The event was well attended with 40 or 50 people in the audience and there was a good amount of energy and civic engagement. Jesse described Susan as a scholar of democracy and town meetings in Vermont. A big focus was the message that citizens have a lot of power in Vermont and this is an area for improving

communication about how to access this power. Owen shared his perspective that Susan's presentation and data was skewed towards a pro-floor voting town meeting style and wasn't sure that her work represented the concerns that the EIC has mentioned about accessibility. Discussion about our standards as the EIC for hosting and co sponsoring events to be in alignment with EIC values.

Action Items

Jesse will ask Therese to include the land acknowledgement statement in town meeting packet and on the town website and contact Rick about reading at town meeting.

Laura to send out the content for the accessibility project and collect quotes for the postcard and postage.

Discussion:

Two seats are open on the selectboard. Gene and Lindley. School board seats are also open for voting. This being an opportunity to get the word out and initiate conversations about the legitimacy of voting systems. How to clearly access how and where to vote and a chance to talk about local candidates.

Update from Owen about receiving a second year of the \$10,000 grant.

Trans group meeting, restructuring.

EIC planning a meeting to reflect and review the past 3 years of committee. Rita suggested reaching out to facilitator Hannah Milnes for this discussion.

Adjourned 8pm

Open Meeting Laws:

<https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resource/VLCT%20Open%20Meeting%20Law%20FAQs.pdf>

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

motion to approve last meetings notes at February meeting were made.

Voting Record:

(Note: need to indicate individual votes if a roll call is taken)

Next Meeting Date:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5820627640?pwd=TVNiSURhVm5ScTgweWl6OHdRbzZ4OT09>

Meeting ID: 582 062 7640

Passcode: equity

Dial In: 1-646-558-8656

Notes Taken By: Rita Champion and Laura Perez

Meeting facilitated by: Owen DMC

Open Meeting Laws:

<https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resource/VLCT%20Open%20Meeting%20Law%20FAQs.pdf>

Reimagining Participation
from Town & School Meeting to Year-Round Engagement
November 17, 2023

An event hosted by the Bethel Town Meeting & Community Engagement Committee; White River Valley Middle School; White River Valley SU; and Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee

Resource List/Sources Cited

from presentation by Susan Clark, www.slowdemocracy.org

Slow Democracy a book about strengthening local democracy by Susan Clark and Woden Teachout

All Those In Favor a book about Vermont town meeting by Susan Clark and Frank Bryan

Freedom and Unity A graphic guide to civics and democracy in Vermont

Real Democracy Prof. Frank Bryan's comprehensive research on the New England town meeting and how it works

High Conflict by Amanda Ripley

The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt

Being Wrong by Kathryn Schultz

Martin Carcasson and his work at the [Center for Public Deliberation](#)

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGee

Two Vermonts by Paul Searls. Also see VTDigger interview [here](#).

Public Participation for 21st Century Democracy by Tina Nabatchi and Matt Leighninger (data on "conventional participation")

Peacham, VT [students name town snowplows](#) through a democratic process and town meeting

Woodbury, VT [elementary students allocate real dollars](#) at a mock town meeting. And a [follow-up surprise](#) story.

Civil Invocation read at beginning of many Vermont town meetings

Thinking Outside the Box in Vermont...

Town Governance Charter

When a community wants to address its own particular needs, one tool is to adopt its own governance charter. Charters have been used to allow local non-citizen voting, adopt alternative town meeting structures, and more. For an overview of the charter adoption process, see [Vermont Institute for Government resources](#) (scroll down to informational pamphlet “Reforming Local Government by Charter”).

Participatory Budgeting

Vermont Afterschool program helps schools and youth groups create [“Youth Councils”](#) where students use [Participatory Budgeting](#) to fund local projects.

Citizens’ Assembly

The [Citizens’ Assembly](#) is a process where participants are chosen by lot to come together, learn about an issue, and provide recommendations on an issue. It has been used on key issues across the globe. In Vermont, find advocates for this process at [The Democracy Creative](#).

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 11/14/23, 6:30 PM
Town Offices

Meeting brought to order at 6:30pm.

Present: Ferron Griffin, Danny Dover, Mary Floyd, Emily Miller, Mark Heckman, Lisa Campbell

1. Minutes: Minutes from the October meeting were approved as written.
2. Pollinator Patch
 - a. Tilled and seeded with winter rye.
 - b. It will be tilled again in the spring and planted with native wildflowers.
 - c. Emily will check with the Pollinator club at the middle school to see if they're interested.
3. VOREC update
 - a. Nice writeup in Front Porch Forum from Therese about the stairs. Not sure if it also ran in the Herald.
4. Current Use Taxation Discussion
 - a. Several from the CC went to a meeting with forester AJ Follensbee hosted by VT Coverts.
 - b. Those with pre-existing forest management plans can have part of their woodland set aside to not be logged and to mature naturally. The idea is this could be helpful to wildlife, carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, etc.
 - c. Looked at a map of conserved land in Bethel generated by the VT Conservation Land Trust.
5. Any other business
 - a. Information for the Town Report.
 - b. Gave permission for VAST to use Carla's Meadow when there's snow cover this winter. Mary signed on behalf of the CC.
 - c. VT Center for Geographic Information on VT ANR's website. Very cool mapping program that's worth exploring.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 12/12/23, 6:30pm at the Town office.

Direct Benefits of a Regional Coordinator

Save tens of thousands of dollars by sharing the cost of a coordinator across several towns.

Increase capacity to apply for and manage grant opportunities.

Help towns meet 2025 benchmarks for renewable energy generation and GHG reduction (from TRORC Report Card, VT CEP, VT CAP).

Potential to use alternative energy, fuel, and transportation technologies to increase resilience to extreme weather events.

Mitigate risks of oil dependency (pollutant emissions, fluctuating costs, supply chain issues, disasters).

Prevent bigger costs:

- Anticipated heating fuel tax in 2030
- Emergency response and repairs during and after climate change-driven weather events (flooding, high winds, drought)

Share knowledge across towns with similar sizes and finances

- Numbers of municipal buildings, vehicles, equipment, staff/volunteers regionwide more than any individual town
- Amount of local housing stock; tax base
- Geographic location and terrain; weather patterns
- Population demographics

Indirect Benefits of a Regional Coordinator

Increase clarity in decision-making regarding energy conservation and renewable energy

Less “downtime” between project planning and project implementation

Increase volunteer recruitment and retention

Reduce conflict between municipalities and EC volunteers

How and when will this pay itself back?

Potential savings from sharing costs with other towns: \$116,039 - \$88,008 per town (based on \$125k/yr).

Example: Bethel pays \$16,015 for a share instead of \$125,000 for the full position. Bethel saves \$108,985 for the service by sharing the cost.

TRORC is offering flexible options for coordinator service: full-time/part-time, in office/remote

Year 1 is a “test pilot” approach. Will present results and evaluate at the end of the year and then annually. Towns may opt out of future years

After year 1 the steering committee will have a better idea of specific projects and how those projects can reduce costs for municipalities

In response to the group’s “project ideas” discussion on 10/14, Harry F. (TRORC) told the group that he thinks we DO have enough work for a full-time coordinator

Cost savings by avoiding long term impacts of climate change

- Economic downturn as season-based businesses experience climate volatility (snowplows, ski lodges, apple orchards, landscaping, farming)
- Deadly heat waves,
- Catastrophic long-term flooding and severe weather events,

- Difficulty planting/sowing crops due to: pests and pathogens (brought on by the warmer, wetter winters failing to freeze out harmful pestilence), unpredictable rain patterns, and animal disruption (as flooding/drought forces them to encroach into our territory for food, water, and shelter).

Need for a Regional Coordinator

Residents have asked our country, state, and municipalities to lead the way for our communities to make measurable progress on climate goals

VT Climate Action Plan, 2021 “Reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 25% below 2005 levels by 2025”

VT Comprehensive Energy Plan, 2022 “Meet 25% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2025”

TRORC Report Cards, 2021 All WRV towns received a C or C-. Granville got a D. First benchmark year is 2025.

Community planning: VCRD keeps returning to the upper WRV to lead planning processes which include climate action goals (R3, RACI, this project); ACCD/VTrans funding a planning project in Bethel which left volunteers with several action items that include alternative transportation (Bethel Better Connections – proposed bike/pedestrian projects: bus stop, bike racks, bike lanes on roads, sidewalk upgrades)

Community action: RUHS student walk-out in 2019, 350VT (WRV node) active in upper White River Valley, volunteer-led events and campaigns (Bethel Energy Show, Window Dressers, Burning or Borrowing event)

There is a lack of guidance and leadership for towns on how they can analyze, track, and make progress toward statewide renewable energy and energy conservation goals

State goals are broad and do not include specific, step-by-step instructions for municipalities to follow during the “Great Energy Transition”

Of the 14 towns invited to the WRV IREC discussion, only 2 have Town Managers

Of the 14 towns, none are tracking pollution emissions from municipally owned buildings and vehicles

Small towns have a low capacity to hire and manage paid employees

Our towns struggle attracting residents to act as town officials and committee volunteers

Shared regional collaboration is common in our rural region

Vital Communities (WRV Consortium), White River Partnership, Alliance for VT Communities, TRORC

White River Chamber of Commerce, Schools, Public Safety and First Responder services (Ambulance, Fire, Police), Solid waste disposal, Tri-Valley Transit

The renewable energy industry is complex and changing quickly.

State and federal policy has changed dramatically in the past decade

Leadership changes can impact funding opportunities

Industry forecasts for the availability and cost of new technologies are continuously evolving

A well-informed point person will ensure officials and EC volunteers are able to have fact-based, relevant conversations regarding current industry options and best practices for implementing energy action items in our community

Volunteer pool is limited by population and the amount of “free” time residents have to volunteer

Sharing volunteer power across towns will strengthen the capacity of all towns involved

Volunteers will be more likely to “stick it out” when there is defined leadership and clear progress toward agreed upon goals

Volunteers are expected to provide professional services for free

Examples of EC volunteer responsibilities:

- the planning process for this coordinator role (VCRD hosted only 3 meetings),
- identifying and prioritizing goals
- feasibility analysis (EVCS locations, community solar locations),
- identifying grants,
- writing grants,
- project management,
- community engagement (planning/organizing campaigns and events, writing copy,
- staffing events)
- communicating with and presenting to Selectboards
- researching, summarizing and presenting complex topics such as: regional electric grid capacity, industry forecasts for alternative transportation and fuel sources, supply chain impacts on the environment, disposal impacts on the environment

Volunteers value leadership

The regional structure for the WRV IREC discussion brought folks “out of the woodwork” in towns without energy committees (Brookfield, SoRo, Pittsfield).

Example: In Brookfield, the knowledge gained from participating in the regional discussion group empowered a local volunteer to: connect with the SB, encourage them to apply for MERP, and assist with establishing a line of communication between the MERP project manager (Harry) and the Brookfield SB. Outcome: They met the deadline to apply for MERP energy audits.

VCRD and Vital Communities provided professional meeting facilitation and leadership to the group

A local volunteer provided 100+ hours of administrative and coordination assistance over 12 months to support this discussion project.

Odds n' Ends

How far behind on our energy goals do we have to be for this to be a “priority” for our towns?

TRORC RESPONDS to our goals – they won’t initiate actions or set forth implementing community plans without receiving official interest from a municipality – even if we are falling behind on our energy goals

Recent flooding damaged roads and homes: Recovery is the primary focus of town officials and local volunteers, leaving little time to address how to transition away from fossil fuels. In moments like these, it is important to combine climate action with disaster recovery to maximize the implementation of state goals.

Example: Efficiency Vermont is offering “flood rebates” for replacing flood-damaged appliances such as heat pumps, hybrid heat pump/electric hot water heaters, washers, and dryers

Example of how prioritizing climate goals can have positive impacts:

- *Missing EVCS as a downtown amenity = lost revenue opportunities impacts local businesses – missing the opportunity to attract travelers to Main St. (instead they are going to: Walmart, park n’ rides, fuel stations)*
- *Losing the “first-mover” advantage (local EVCS are full on holiday weekends)*
- *Locals with EVs must travel out of town to find a public charger*
- *Main St. residents without driveways lack the option to “go electric”*

Vermont is too small to make a difference on a global scale – why burden ourselves trying?

It is the responsibility of every person in the state to do what they are able to do (in terms of conserving energy and reducing harmful pollution emissions)

It is the responsibility of town officials to uphold the climate action strategy VT residents advocated for and implement the goals of their Town Plans

We are part of something bigger

- 33 US states have some type of climate action plan in place
- 196 “parties” (countries and governments) have signed on to the Paris Accord

VT is a fuel-heavy state – divesting our money from “big oil” will send a strong message and impact the fuel companies at a level they actually pay attention to (their profits)

Funding Opportunities

State and Federal resources are available now to assist small towns like ours. We would be remiss if we left these funds on the table because we lacked the ability or knowledge to take advantage of these funding opportunities.

The Downward Spiral

Moderate and High-income residents (and municipalities) are able to make up-front investments and receive benefits of new alternative fuel technology (home comfort, \$ savings, peace of mind)

Low-income residents (and municipalities) bear the burden of regressive taxes on energy/fuel, fluctuating fuel costs, homes in need of repairs/upgrades, limits alternative transportation (i.e. how am I going to get to work if my car breaks down?)

White River Valley Energy Resilience Coordinator

Job Description

Nature and Scope of Position

The Energy Resilience Coordinator for the fourteen towns in Vermont's White River Valley develops and manages climate-resilience projects in concert with a regional steering committee and local governments, residents, nonprofits, and businesses. This position focuses on realizing the upper White River Valley's commitment to reducing energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy-related financial and social costs; strengthening community resiliency and sustainability; and implementing renewable technologies and energy infrastructure. This is a Salaried position with benefits.

Salary Range

Commensurate with experience.

Supervision

This position reports to TRORC.

Duties

The following is a list of the current primary duties and responsibilities of the position. This list may be amended as circumstances dictate.

- Assist towns and schools in prioritizing, developing, and implementing regional and local energy-resilience projects.
- Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships with selectboards, town energy committees, school boards, nonprofit groups, and community residents in support of resiliency initiatives.
- Track and record town energy data to support grant applications, track progress towards state emissions goals, and provide benchmarks for improvement over time.
- Research, complete, and/or coordinate grant applications for town and regional energy-resilience projects.
- Assist the regional steering committee with the development of outreach and engagement strategies to educate community residents about energy-resilience

initiatives. This can include (but is not limited to) in-person events and media campaigns.

- Develop reports and presentations regarding project recommendations and accomplishments, and present these to town and school officials as needed.
- Travel periodically within the region as necessary.
- Other duties as mutually agreed between the employee and the steering committee.

Skills and Experience

Required

- Demonstrated ability to work independently, cooperatively, and effectively with a diverse population.
- Clear and effective written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to speak publicly to groups of all sizes.
- Demonstrated ability to oversee and facilitate projects to timely completion.
- Demonstrated interest in and knowledge about sustainable energy and mitigating environmental impact.
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, preferably in planning, public policy, environmental science, sustainability, or a related field. Relevant experience may be substituted for education.

Desired

- Community organizing experience.
- Experience in securing grants for funding.
- Experience working with local or regional governments, community agencies, and organizations.
- Experience working with rural communities.
- Strategic planning experience.

Application

Cover letter and resumes can be submitted to [\[email address\]](#).

During the interview process, we will request three letters of recommendation and/or professional references we may contact.

The fourteen communities in the White River Valley include Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Chelsea, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Royalton, Rochester, Stockbridge, Tunbridge, Vershire, and West Fairlee.

Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

10-6-00-50.02 Current Property Taxes		2,087,725		2,117,632		2,144,503		2,260,905		
10-6-00-50.03 Land-use	123,400	146,964	141,000	149,671	144,000	154,946	148,049	149,415	149,415	per State spreadsheet 2022
10-6-00-50.05 Delinquent Taxes-prior	40,000	0	35,000	0	30,000	0	25,000	20,000	20,000	
10-6-00-50.06 Penalty	16,500	11,430	16,000	14,247	10,000	9,597	10,000	10,000	10,000	
10-6-00-50.07 Interest	25,000	16,529	20,000	20,214	15,000	17,182	15,000	6,679	17,000	
10-6-00-50.09 Tax Sale Charges										
10-6-00-50.10 Education Billing Fee	5,000	5,828	5,800	5,943	5,800	5,978	5,900	5,961	5,961	
TOTAL - Taxes-Property	209,900	2,268,476	217,800	2,307,707	204,800	2,332,206	203,949	2,416,999	202,376	-0.77%
10-6-10-00.00 Public Safety Grant Fire										
10-6-80-23.13 Johnson Interest										
TOTAL REVENUES	436,283	2,567,613	439,705	2,568,676	434,468	3,226,774	490,762	2,652,466	494,248	0.71%
Amount to be Raised by Taxes	2,057,434		2,094,623		2,136,958	-400,580	2,537,066	-442,300	2,588,033	2.01%
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,493,717		2,534,328		2,571,426	2,826,194	3,027,828	2,210,166	3,082,281	1.80%

10-7-05-12.25 Roadside Mowing	12,600	26,222	14,122	14,000	15,931	16,887	
10-7-05-12.26 Ditching	20,000	20,298	30,000	28,415	30,000	15,000	use as grant match
10-7-05-12.27 Tree Cutting	5,000	6,275	5,000	2,474	3,000	3,500	
10-7-05-12.40 Sweeping	1,850	1,011	1,950	0	2,000	2,000	
10-7-05-12.41 Rental Equipment	500	0	500	16	1,500	7,000	rent machine for 1 month ditching
10-7-05-12.42 Hired Services	20,000	15,971	22,500	8,976	24,750	20,000	
10-7-05-12.43 Engineering Services	500	0	1,875	0	500	500	
TOTAL - Hired Services or Equipment	60,450	69,777	75,947	53,881	77,681	64,887	-16.47%
MATERIALS							
10-7-05-30.01 Salt	60,000	58,070	60,000	30,169	92,400	62,040	700 ton @ 88.63/ton
10-7-05-30.02 Chloride	16,200	4,085	20,750	15,214	20,750	20,750	
10-7-05-30.03 Gravel	40,000	43,231	40,000	61,367	50,000	85,000	
10-7-05-30.05 Sand	54,575	52,576	53,000	54,189	75,000	75,000	
10-7-05-30.07 Bridge Material							
10-7-05-30.08 Culverts	10,000	8,042	12,000	11,618	15,000	15,000	
10-7-05-30.09 Patching Material	5,500	7,056	5,500	3,543	8,000	6,000	will this do Gillead twice plus other areas?
10-7-05-30.10 Guardrail	7,800	6,816	8,580	0	8,000	20,000	
10-7-05-30.11 Tools	4,500	3,898	4,500	3,941	5,500	6,500	
10-7-05-30.12 Signs	4,000	1,941	4,250	4,372	5,000	5,500	
10-7-05-30.16 Highway Rehabilitation	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	175,000	195,000	
10-7-05- ERAF	43,100	43,100	56,790	56,790	44,400	50,000	11692 Pinello + July 2023
10-7-05-30.95 Other		11					\$150,000 est for July ERAF
TOTAL - Materials	360,675	343,826	380,370	356,203	499,050	540,790	8.36%
OTHER PUBLIC WORKS							
10-7-05-40.01 Storm Water Catch Basins	15,000	15,189	15,000	10,294	6,700	6,700	
10-7-05-40.02 Cemeteries	37,000	36,159	40,000	36,724	40,000	40,000	
10-7-05-40.03 Church Street Bridge Loan	18,975	18,974	18,376	18,376	17,738	17,011	
10-7-05-40.10 Sidewalk Improvement							
10-7-05-40.11 Parking-Pedestrian Safety	1,500	1,036	1,700	322	2,500	2,500	
10-7-05-40.13 Other	1,000	523	500	496	500	500	
10-7-05-40.14 Highway Equip Trust Fund	115,000	115,000	120,000	120,000	165,000	200,000	
10-07-05-40.24 Grader Loan					94,455		
10-07-05-40.25 2017 International							
TOTAL - Other Public Works	188,475	186,881	195,576	186,212	326,893	266,711	-18.41%

10-7-20-30.00 Programming & Activities	3,600	409	3,600	594	3,000	478	2,000
10-7-20-51.00 Supplies	2,500	1,121	2,500	1,654	2,500	140	2,000
10-7-20-52.00 Chlorine	3,000	1,963	3,000	3,679	3,500	678	3,500
10-7-20-53.00 American Red Cross	4,000	2,848	4,000	1,915	3,200	985	3,200
10-7-20-56.00 Playground Equip							new hires for certifications
10-7-20-60.00 Water & Sewer	1,400	719	1,400	1,136	1,400	587	1,400
10-7-20-95.00 Other/mileage	150	175	200	192	250	264	250
TOTAL - Recreation Department	89,621	65,237	87,821	83,141	130,448	39,590	92,173
							-29.34%
PARKS & PUBLIC PLACES							
10-7-25-01.00 Wages	12,223	13,303	13,030	14,423	19,200	11,675	47,840
10-7-25-02.00 Social Security	758	936	808	203	1,190	11	2,966
10-7-25-03.00 Medicare	177	219	189	47	278	3	694
10-7-25-03.01 Child Care Contribution Tax							158
10-7-25-04.00 Retirement	1,956	2,104	2,541	0	0	0	8,611
10-7-25-05.00 Health Insurance	7,535	7,292	7,532	0	0	0	35,102
10-7-25-06.00 Workers' Comp/UI	1,072	190	1,147	22	1,320	0	3,013
10-7-25-06.01 Dental Insurance	355	324	334	0	0	0	1,214
10-7-25-07.00 Insurance	200	75	100	172	100	72	175
10-7-25-12.01 Mowing Equipment	2,500	1,494	500	0	500	0	500
10-7-25-12.02 Utility Truck Maint			875	875	1,200	0	1,200
10-7-25-20.00 Street Lights	18,580	19,181	18,769	19,512	19,332	8,018	21,000
10-7-25-20.01 Electricity - Parks	1,520	1,806	1,548	1,755	1,594	593	2,000
10-7-25-25.01 Maintenance	12,780	13,164	7,780	1,598	9,500	922	10,000
10-7-25-26.00 Parks Beautification	3,000	808	5,500	216	5,500		5,000
10-7-25-27.00 Flags and Poles	480	1,081	480	72	480		480
10-7-25-30.00 Streetscape Program							
10-7-25-35.00 Trail Maintenance			750		750		750
10-7-25-95.00 Other		14	50	0	50		50
TOTAL - Parks & Public Places	63,136	61,991	61,932	38,895	60,995	21,294	140,753
							130.76%
MUNICIPAL OFFICES							
10-7-30-01.01 Wages	67,924	66,620	68,100	48,118	68,044	29,610	85,633
10-7-30-01.02 Salary - Town Clerk/Ast	32,736	33,746	34,381	34,839	37,030	16,089	39,472
10-7-40-01.02 Treasurer	4,910	5,088	5,156	5,007	5,310	2,241	5,469
10-7-40-01.03 Town Manager	86,520	87,738	89,116	85,738	91,789	38,628	95,461
							all Dietre's hours now

10-7-35-07.00 Insurance	6,200	6,326	7,292	7,816	8,040	2,009	11,962	reallocation of invoice	
10-7-35-20.00 Electricity	1,200	1,621	1,200	1,256	1,300	394	1,300		
10-7-35-21.00 Telephone	1,465	1,411	1,488	1,494	1,584	577	1,600	internet/phone line for Tasco	
10-7-35-22.00 Heat	4,000	4,539	4,000	4,396	4,766	163	4,766		
10-7-35-25.00 Building Repair	6,000	3,504	4,000	5,721	4,000	1,924	5,000		
10-7-35-25.02 Repair-Clock	315	315	350	355	350		360		
10-7-35-51.00 Supplies	800	353	500	230	500	363	500		
10-7-35-60.00 Water & Sewer	1,350	1,234	1,296	1,262	1,296	642	1,296		
10-7-35-95.00 Other	50	0	50	4	50	13	25		
TOTAL - Town Hall	21,380	19,303	20,176	22,534	21,886	6,085	26,809	22.49%	
TOWN OFFICIALS									
10-7-40-01.01 Selectboard	1,050	1,050	3,050	3,650	3,750		3,750		
10-7-40-01.04 Trustees Of Public Funds	250	250	600		600	600	600		
10-7-40-01.06 Health Officer	600	0	600		1,200		1,200		
10-7-40-01.07 Elections	250	0	250		250		250		
10-7-40-01.08 Board of Civil Authority	100	0	50		50		50		
10-7-40-01.10 Cemetery Commissioner	500	500	600	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600		
10-7-40-01.11 Fire Warden			600	600	3,000		3,000		
10-7-40-01.12 Tree Warden			600	600	600		600		
10-7-40-02.00 Fica/medi	210	99	356	365	570	46	570		
10-7-40-03.01 Child Care Contribution Tax							36		
TOTAL - Town Officials	2,960	1,899	6,706	6,715	11,520	2,146	11,656	1.18%	
LISTERS									
10-7-45-01.00 Wages	14,500	18,868	25,500	17,464	27,040	9,319	18,304	16 hrs week	
10-7-45-02.00 Social Security	899	1,281	1,581	1,104	1,676	348	1,135		
10-7-45-03.00 Medicare	210	300	370	258	392	82	265		
10-7-45-06.00 Workers' Compensation	214	0	0						
10-7-45-03.01 Child Care Contribution Tax							60		
10-7-45-27.00 Computer	2,800	3,045	2,800	1,205	3,000	1,888	3,000		
10-7-45-51.00 Supplies	850	582	850	264	900	72	900		
10-7-45-62.00 Mileage	500	95	500	115	500	59	0		
10-7-45 Assessor Services	10,000	0	0				5,000	4 hrs month@\$95/hr	
10-7-45-64.00 Mapping Services	2,800	2,675	2,800	2,800	3,000	2,800	3,000		
10-7-45-70.00 Training	900	215	900	297	1,000		750		

10-7-55-70.01 Bethel Library	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	
10-7-55-70.02 Council On The Arts	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
10-7-55-70.03 Bethel Historical Society	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	
10-7-55-70.04 Vt League Of Cities/Towns	3,740	3,598	3,536	3,536	3,536	3,658	3,658	3,771	Received letter 10/2023
10-7-55-70.05 Two Rivers Reg Plan Comm	3,106	3,106	3,068	3,068	3,068	3,165	3,165	3,263	Received letter 10/10/23
10-7-55-70.06 Green Mtn. Economic Devel	982	982	975	975	975	976	976	976	Received letter 10/30/23
10-7-55-70.07 Green Up Day	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	received letter 10/12/23
10-7-55-70.09 White River Partnership	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	received letter 11/28/23
10-7-55-70.10 VT Rural Fire Protection (VACD)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
10-7-55-70.11 Bethel Forward Festival	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	No need per Mary Floyd
Total - Local	18,078	17,936	17,829	17,829	48,049	41,823	46,260	-3.72%	
Human Services *									
10-7-55-71.01 So. Royalton Senior Center	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	
10-7-55-71.02 Visit. Nurse Assoc.	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
10-7-55-71.03 Clara Martin Center	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,250	3,250	3,265	
10-7-55-71.05 Capstone Community Action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10-7-55-71.07 Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,000	
10-7-55-71.08 Tri-Valley Transit	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	5,800	
10-7-55-71.09 Windsor County Mentors	600	600	500	500	500	500	500	500	
10-7-55-71.11 Cen VT Council On Aging	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	
10-7-55-71.13 VT Assoc For The Blind	800	800	400	400	400	400	400	400	
10-7-55-71.15 Vermont Adult Learning	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10-7-55-71.17 VT Center for Indep Living	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	
10-7-55-71.21		250							
10-7-55-71.23 Orange County Parent Child	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
10-7-55-71.24 Quin-Town Center for Sr	1,200	1,200	600	600	600	500	500	500	
10-7-55-71.25 American Red Cross	250	250	250	250	250	0	0	0	
10-7-55-71.26 Bethel Art Bus	500	500	500	500	500	0	0	0	
10-7-55-71.27 One Planet (WRSVU)	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	
10-7-55-71.28 Health Hub	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	
10-7-55-71.29 Health & Rehab Services	250	250	500	500	500	500	500	500	
10-7-55-71.30 VT Family Network						250	250	250	
10-7-55-72.02 Playhouse Theater						1,000	1,000	0	
Total - Human Services	27,250	27,500	26,200	26,200	27,350	2,650	27,165	-0.68%	

10-7-55-72.01 White River Valley Ambulance	123,830	125,860	127,080	126,600	153,048	76,524	155,328	plus 2% for unknown 6 months
TOTAL - APPROPRIATIONS	169,158	171,296	171,109	170,629	228,447	120,997	228,753	0.13%
DEBT SERVICE								
10-7-05-54.04 2011 Debt Financing	82,946	82,946	82,946	82,946	82,946	82,971	82,946	
10-7-60-88.01 Long Term Debt-Sewer								
10-7-60-88.04 Long Term Debt-Town Hall	59,528	59,528	59,528	57,594	56,236		54,589	
10-7-60-91.00 Interest-Tax Antic Notes	2,100	0	2,100		2,100		500	
10-7-60-97.00 DWSRF Phase II	4,121	1,000	0				13,940	\$327,139 @ 2% admin for 32 years
10-7-60-97.01 Transfer to Capital Funds (ARPA)				545,844				for Phase II water project
10-7-60-98.00 Town Garage	75,000	75,000	0					
10-7-60-99.00 LOC for BRIS			2,529					
TOTAL - Debt Service	223,695	218,474	147,103	686,384	141,282	82,971	151,975	7.57%
TAXES								
10-7-65-88.00 School Tax Payment		0				1,328,917		
10-7-65-89.00 County Taxes	14,239	13,053	14,250	13,685	14,021	13,797	14,021	
10-7-65-90.00 Reimb. Overpaid taxes		0				1,440		
TOTAL - Taxes	14,239	13,053	14,250	13,685	14,021	1,344,154	14,021	0.00%
MISCELLANEOUS								
10-7-70-91.00 Alliance Fee	23,929	23,929	26,163	26,163	26,163		26,163	Per Royalty staying the same
10-7-70-91.05 Landfill closure maint			3,473					
10-7-70-75.00 Tax Sale Purchase						0		
TOTAL - Miscellaneous	23,929	23,929	29,636	26,163	26,163	0	26,163	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,534,328	2,459,450	2,571,426	2,826,194	3,027,828	2,210,166	3,082,281	1.80%