

WARNING
VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
May 10, 2022

The legal voters of the Village of Old Bennington are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Old First Church Barn in said Village on Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business from the floor:

- (1) To hear the reports of the Village Officers and to act thereon.
- (2) To discuss and approve the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.
- (3) To set the taxes to be appropriated by the Village to pay the expenses of the ensuing year and to determine how and when the Village will collect such taxes.
- (4) To see if voters will authorize the Trustees to borrow monies in anticipation of taxes.
- (5) To elect the following officers: a. Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector, and Auditor for a term of one year. b. Two trustees for a term of two years.
- (6) To transact any other business that may come before us.

By order of the Trustees April 5, 2022

Janet Buonanno

Janet Buonanno Clerk, Village of Old Bennington

Road Commissioner's Report

James Warren

The maintenance and repair of Village streets remains the largest expense in our budget. In the past several years, our attention has been drawn to the reconstruction of Bank Street by the prospect of receiving a state grant to cover up to 80% of the cost. After discussion with AOT District 1 staff, I regret that I am not hopeful of receiving a grant in the current grant cycle. While our focus was distracted by the shiny object that is “free” state funds, Fairview Street has, again, shed many layers of past asphalt overlay resulting in a pothole field. Fairview Street is identified as a candidate for complete reconstruction in the Roadway Condition Assessment, Village of Old Bennington, prepared by MSK Engineering and Malone & MacBroom, Inc. in 2019. Unfortunately, Fairview is not eligible for the state’s “Class II” road grant, and the Trustees are exploring low-interest loans available for municipal infrastructure projects. We anticipate working with MSK Engineering in developing specifications and bid documents for reconstruction of Fairview Street, aiming for a 2023 start date. We hope the cost of materials will return to sane levels by that time.

Plowing and salting are, as always, costly and unpredictable. We have encouraged Jerome Construction to reduce salt use and man-hours to a degree compatible with safe streets; year-to-year variability in winter weather makes an assessment of our success difficult. We will continue to replace and straighten street signs subject to vehicular attack.

Police Commissioner's Report

Ed Woods

It was a fairly quiet year with regard to police coverage. I did hear from a few residents with concerns about speeding on Village roads. In order to address this, we have asked our police officer Andy Corey to be visible during higher traffic times, and to pay particular attention to those areas where speeding is more common. Additionally, we have asked the Bennington Police Department to lend us their digital radar speed sign, and they will do so when weather permits.

We also heard some concerns from residents about illegal or questionable activities taking place at the Monument at night. In order to patrol this area better, we have asked the Bennington Police Department to include our roads more frequently on their regular patrols. You probably see Bennington Police driving our streets more often now, in an effort to provide better overall policing.

We are also working to replace and update some of our police equipment, including our cruiser, as well as body and dash cameras. We are working closely with the Bennington PD to assure that the equipment we purchase will be supported through the same channels that they currently use to support their own equipment. This will make service and maintenance much more streamlined.

As always, if anyone has questions or concerns, I can be reached via email at ewoodsvt@gmail.com or by phone at 802-779-7873.

Tree Commissioner's Report

Steven Anisman

This was a busy year. We oversaw a number of issues regarding trees that posed a danger to the public, and continue to work with homeowners to manage tree-related questions.

Please remember that the removal of trees within the village right-of-way (defined as 20 feet from the center of the road) requires approval of the trustees. The removal of mature trees beyond the right-of-way may need the approval of the planning commission. Contact the Tree Commissioner about trees in the right-of-way or the Administrative Officer about trees beyond the right-of-way if you have questions.

The Village no longer has the means to assist with tree removal on private property, including the right-of-way, so all tree matters are ultimately at the expense of the homeowner. The Village is financially responsible for trees on Village property, which is primarily the central islands in front of the Old First Church. Occasionally, if dangerous issues on private property are not addressed in a timely manner by the homeowner, the Village may step in and oversee necessary work, and then bill the homeowner in turn.

We remind residents to prune vegetation in the right-of-way that may impede safe passage on sidewalks or that may obscure signage.

Please contact me any time at clerk.anisman@gmail.com with any questions.

Parks & Sidewalks Commissioner's Report

Susan Wright

The village parks will continue to be maintained by Pembroke Landscaping. The sidewalks have been attended to this past winter season by Jerome Construction. It was noted that the marble pavers in front of the Old First Church were beginning to crack due to their heavier sidewalk snow plows. An alternate method was used to clear this portion of the sidewalk and preserve the stones.

We are happy to see so many new neighbors in the village. A reminder that Village residents are responsible for any trees or shrubs that may infringe upon the sidewalks. Please keep them trimmed accordingly.

It has been noted by Monument Electric, when replacing street light bulbs that some of the tops have been showing deterioration. An audit of the condition of the street light tops will be conducted this summer to determine if any will need to be replaced.

Zoning Administrator's Report

Bob Bullington

As most of you are aware, the Village is a separate municipality from the Town of Bennington and we have our own zoning bylaws. As the Village is an historic district, the zoning bylaws are extensive and address a wide variety of topics. They cover topics such as land development, new construction, alterations, and relatively minor changes and repairs. The bylaws regulate issues from razing of a building, exterior construction and repairs, tree removal, replacing windows and doors, fences, changes in exterior color or style, to trash can placement. Most exterior projects require a permit.

If you are going to undertake an exterior project, please contact Danielle Gallen, Administrative Officer, at oldbenningtonao@gmail.com to discuss whether a permit is truly necessary and how the process works.

The Village's zoning bylaws can be found in a searchable PDF format on the Village website, oldbennington.org, in the "Other Documents" section.

Auditor's Report

Dale Cobb

I have examined all the records for the accounting year of 2021-2022. Each month, Kathy files the bank statements, deposit slips, invoices, check stubs and the accounting software/village reports in a folder. I have reviewed all the documents within those folders and everything appears to be in order and within normal operating procedures for the village.

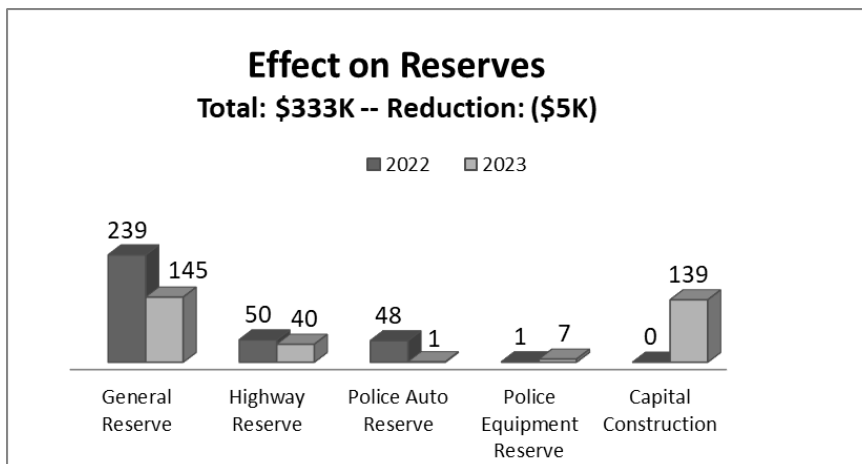
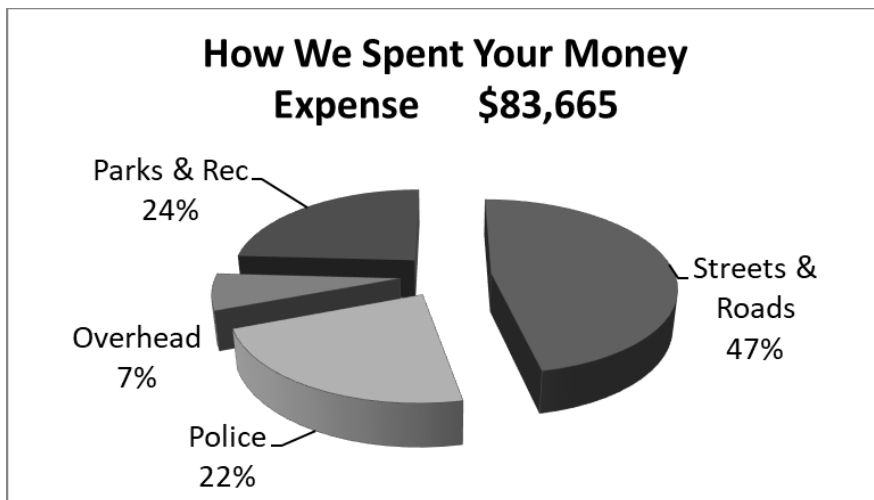
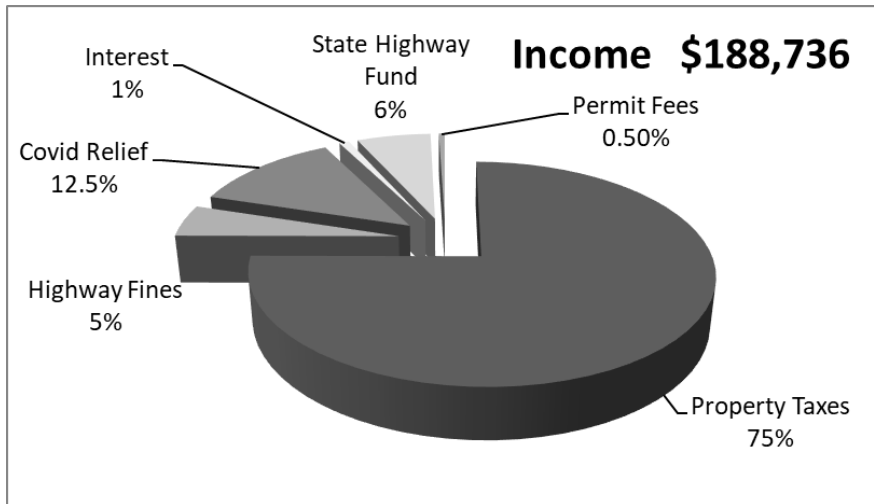
Through the last several years Kathy has been very consistent regarding being organized and the excellent handling of village finances. A special thanks to Kathy for making a substantial contribution to our community on a monthly basis.

Treasurer's and Tax-Collector's Report

Kathy Wagenknecht

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021-2022

	APPROVED 2021-22 BUDGET	ACTUAL 2021-22	Variance
INCOME			
Covid Relief-ARPA	\$ -	\$ 23,680	\$ 23,680
Highway Fines	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,054	\$ (3,946)
Interest	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,593	\$ 593
Permit Fees	\$ 2,200	\$ 935	\$ (1,265)
Property Taxes	\$ 142,400	\$ 141,700	\$ (700)
State Highway Fund	\$ 14,000	\$ 11,774	\$ (2,226)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 172,600	\$ 188,736	\$ 16,136
EXPENSE			
STREETS & ROADS			
Capital Construction-Highway Lighting Fixtures	\$ 1,500	\$ 365	\$ (1,135)
Capital Construction-Bank St	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ (65,000)
Highway Maintenance (Salt & Plowing)	\$ 50,000	\$ 36,867	\$ (13,133)
Highway Repair	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,950	\$ (13,050)
TOTAL	\$ 131,500	\$ 39,182	\$ (92,318)
POLICE			
Police Auto Expense	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,880	\$ (2,120)
Police Coverage	\$ 17,000	\$ 14,873	\$ (2,127)
Police Equipment	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)
TOTAL	\$ 23,500	\$ 18,753	\$ (4,747)
PARKS & RECREATION			
Parks	\$ 21,000	\$ 14,972	\$ (6,028)
Street Lighting (Power)	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,352	\$ (148)
Trees	\$ 1,800	\$ 850	\$ (950)
TOTAL	\$ 27,300	\$ 20,174	\$ (7,126)
OVERHEAD			
Clerical	\$ 1,200	\$ 850	\$ (350)
Flowers	\$ 50	\$ 95	\$ 45
Insurance	\$ 1,500	\$ 618	\$ (882)
Legal & Zoning	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)
Memberships	\$ 2,950	\$ 2,950	\$ -
Planning Commission	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ (250)
Rent	\$ 300	\$ 190	\$ (110)
Zoning Administration	\$ 4,000	\$ 873	\$ (3,127)
TOTAL	\$ 12,250	\$ 5,576	\$ (6,674)
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 194,550	\$ 83,685	\$ (110,865)
Net Income (Loss) Xfer to Reserves	\$ (21,950)	\$ 105,051	\$ (127,001)
RESERVE ACCOUNTS			
	Budget 3/31/22	ACTUAL 3/31/22	
General Fund	\$ 120,640	\$ 239,141	
Highway	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	
Police Auto	\$ 33,500	\$ 48,000	
Police Equipment	\$ 17,000	\$ 1,000	
Capital Construction (Sidewalks)	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 211,140	\$ 338,141	

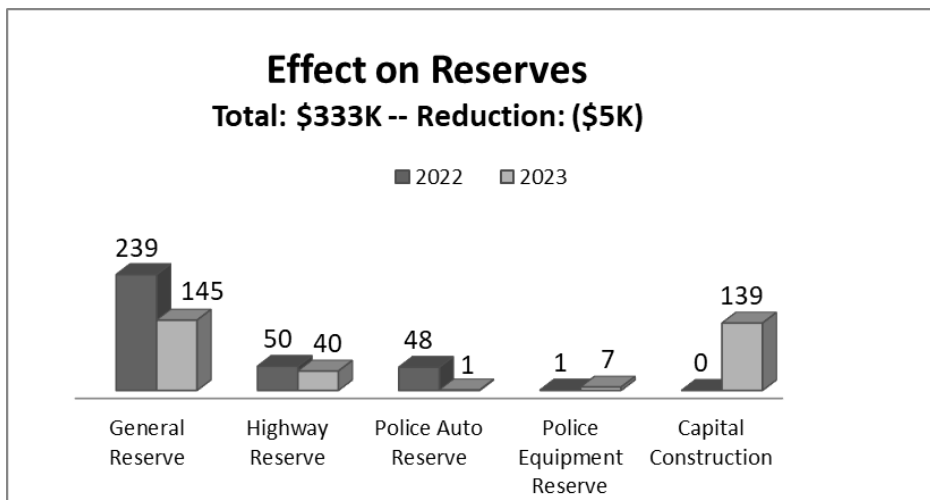
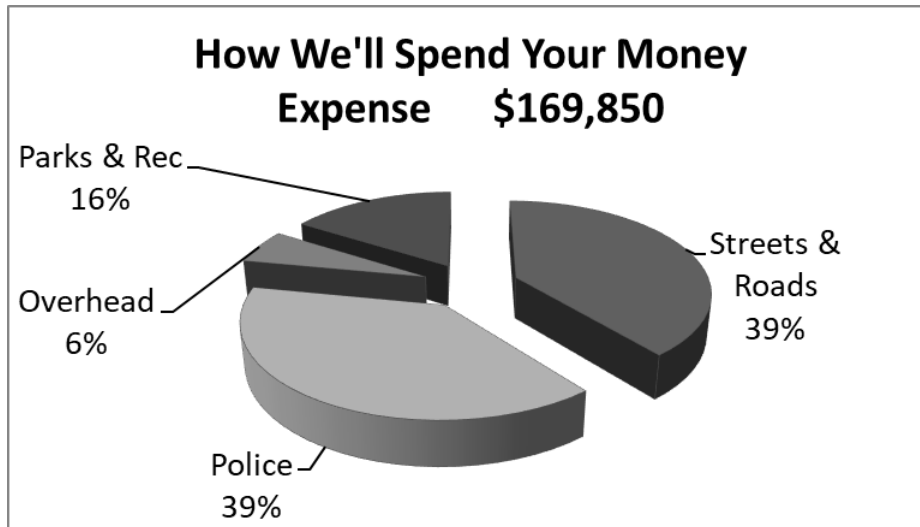
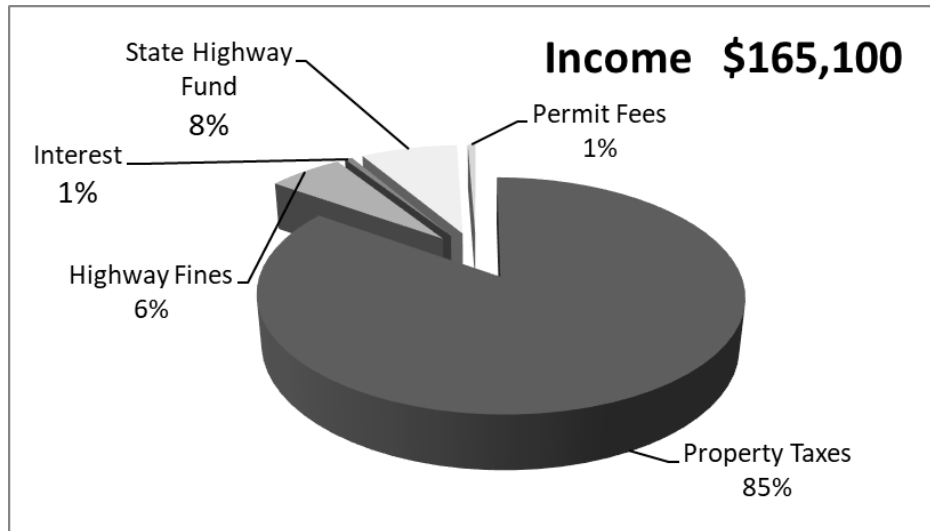


TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2021-2022

2021 Tax Year	
Total Property Taxed	\$ 31,692,400
Tax Rate	0.4042
Billed to Residents	\$ 128,101
*Collected from Residents	\$ 131,345
PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes from State)	\$ 12,100
Total Paid	\$ 143,445
Delinquent	
2019 Taxes Past Due w Penalty/Int	\$ 1,552
2020 Taxes Past Due w Penalty/Int	\$ 1,416
Total Delinquent	\$ 2,969
* Includes Penalties, Interest and Prior Delinquencies	

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

	PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET	ACTUAL 2021-22	Variance
INCOME			
Covid Relief	\$ -	\$ 23,680	\$ (23,680)
Highway Fines	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,054	\$ 946
Interest	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,593	\$ (593)
Permit Fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 935	\$ 65
Property Taxes & PILOT	\$ 140,100	\$ 141,700	\$ (1,600)
State Highway Fund	\$ 13,000	\$ 11,774	\$ 1,226
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 165,100	\$ 188,736	\$ (23,636)
EXPENSE			
STREETS & ROADS			
Capital Construction--Highway			
Lighting Fixtures	\$ 1,500	\$ 365	\$ 1,135
Highway Maintenance (Salt & Plowing)	\$ 50,000	\$ 36,867	\$ 13,133
Highway Repair	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,950	\$ 13,050
TOTAL	\$ 66,500	\$ 39,182	\$ 27,318
POLICE			
Police Auto Expense	\$ 48,000	\$ 3,880	\$ 44,120
Police Coverage	\$ 17,000	\$ 14,873	\$ 2,127
Police Equipment	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$ 66,000	\$ 18,753	\$ 47,247
PARKS & RECREATION			
Parks	\$ 21,000	\$ 14,972	\$ 6,028
Street Lighting (Power)	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,352	\$ 148
Trees	\$ 1,800	\$ 850	\$ 950
TOTAL	\$ 27,300	\$ 20,174	\$ 7,126
OVERHEAD			
Clerical	\$ 800	\$ 850	\$ (50)
Flowers	\$ 100	\$ 95	\$ 5
Insurance	\$ 1,600	\$ 618	\$ 982
Legal & Zoning	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Memberships	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,950	\$ 50
Planning Commission	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250
Rent	\$ 300	\$ 190	\$ 110
Zoning Administration	\$ 3,000	\$ 873	\$ 2,127
TOTAL	\$ 10,050	\$ 5,576	\$ 4,474
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 169,850	\$ 83,685	\$ 86,165
Net Income (Loss) Xfer to Reserves	(4,750)	105,051	(109,801)
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	Proposed 3/31/23	ACTUAL 3/31/22	
General Fund	\$ 145,000	\$ 239,141	
Highway	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	
Police Auto	\$ 1,000	\$ 48,000	
Police Equipment	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,000	
Capital Construction	\$ 140,000	\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 333,000	338,141	



PROPOSED TAXES FOR 2022-2023

NO RATE CHANGE		
Tax Type	Old Bennington 2021 Tax Rate*	Old Bennington 2022 Tax Rate*
General	0.0400	0.0400
Highway	0.3642	0.3642
Total	0.4042	0.4042
*Rate is per \$100 assessed value		
EXPECTED TAX REVENUE		
	Total Property Taxed	Old Bennington 2022 Tax Revenue
	\$31,692,400	
*Tax Revenue		\$128,101
**PILOT		\$12,000
Total		\$140,101
*Not including delinquencies, interest or penalties		
**Payment In Lieu of Taxes from State - 2023 Estimate		