

TOWN OF SWANTON, VT



ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

February 26, 2024

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *After the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, your Selectboard consisted of Chair Earl Fournier, Vice Chair Edward White Sr., Nicole Draper, Steve Bourgeois and Cody Hemenway who won election filling the seat of James Guilmette who decided not to seek re-election after serving many years on the Selectboard. Cody has grown into his new role very well and we wish to thank James for his many years of service on the Selectboard*
- *In December, Mr. White resigned from the Board due to personal reasons. He served our community well and we appreciate his contributions to the Selectboard.*
- *Joel Clark, a former member of the Selectboard was appointed to fill the vacant seat until Town Meeting, 2024. We welcome Joel back to the Board!*

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

After several months of planning and design work, a new JOINT website for the Town and Village of Swanton was launched.

If you have not done so already, please check it out at

www.swantonvt.gov

In addition we have an “official” Facebook page,

Town of Swanton Vermont

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *The Selectboard wishes to compliment Gordan and Deborah Winters on the work they have done in restoring the old Champlain Theater building on Canada Street.*
- *This, along with the rehabbing the former Memorial Auditorium has provided a much need “re-birth” to the downtown area.*
- *This re-development project shows what a public-private partnership can get accomplished.*
- *Future development will likely need to take a similar course going forward.*

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023 our Town Plan was updated as required by state law. This was accomplished with many hours put in by the Planning Commission. The Town did apply for and received a grant from the State of Vermont to assist with this task. Corey Parent of Leonine Associates worked with the Planning Commission in developing and writing the plan.

Several public hearings were held and the Selectboard adopted the plan and it is now in place for the next 8 years.

The next project will be to update our Zoning By-laws to be “in sync” with the Town Plan. This process will be on going throughout 2024.

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *The Selectboard has spent considerable time addressing other major issues.*
- *The financial policies of the Town are in the process of being updated.*
- *As part of this update you will notice an article to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for future construction and maintenance of Town owned assets with an initial payment of \$25,000.00.*
- *These policies and funds are a requirement for future federal grants that the Town may apply for.*

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *Planning and fund raising activities are in process for the proposed Community Center by Swanton Recreation.*
- *A contract has been awarded for a site assessment of the Fourth Street property. This work will be conducted this spring to determine if there are any hazmat issues.*
- *A new HVAC system was installed in the Library building last summer.*
- *Arnold and Scangas, Architects are working on addressing the Library's icing issues on the roof. Unfortunately, there is not a simply solution.*

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *In the Highway Department, the following roads had resurfacing work done on them, Lakewood Drive, Campbell Bay Road, and Viens Road. Culverts replaced on Campbell Bay Road, Viens Road, and Champlain Street.*
- *The rising cost of asphalt is a challenge and we were not able to resurface all of the roads that we planned in 2023, placing behind in our schedule*
- *Work is continuing on having the storm water permits renewed on Robin Hood Drive and Country Club Estates. This is a lengthy process due to the change in the regulations of the State of Vermont.*

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *In June of 2023 discussions were held, including a public hearing, as to whether to continue work on the proposed sidewalk from the Village line to the entrance of MUVHS on First St.*
- *After careful consideration of the question and given the fact that the school district was no longer in the position to finish the sidewalk from First Street to the building, the Selectboard voted to discontinue the project on June 20th.*
- *The Town does own the plans for possible future use but had to pay back \$70,287.60 to the State of Vermont.*

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *As the duties of the Town Administrator and Zoning Administrator have grown, it was decided by the Selectboard to hire a full-time Administrative Assistant.*
- *In April, Christina Candels was hired to fill this roll and has worked out very well.*
- *Our longtime Lister, Jim Pratt decided to retire after many, many years of devoted service to the community. We thank Jim, who has stayed on to train his replacement and wish him all the best.*
- *The Selectboard appointed Kevin Nichols to fill the vacancy until this year's Town Meeting.*

2023 SWANTON HIGHLIGHTS

- *Swanton's Animal Control Officer is Jim Benson. He can be reached by cell phone at 802-238-3246 or by email at swantonaco@gmail.com. The ACO only deals with dog issues. The ACO does not accept dogs that are no longer wanted by their owners. Cats and other animals are not handled by the ACO.*
- *The Town Health Officer is Amber LaFountain, she can be reached at 802-324-7674 or via email swantontho@gmail.com*

SWANTON PROJECTS FOR 2024

- *Continue the design and construction of the LVRT Trail Head*
- *Install a culvert on Brooklyn Street to replace present storm drain that is improperly installed.*
- *A long overdue project, to correct and straighten Swanton Hill Road. To keep cost down, our Highway Department employees will do much of the work, however engineering and blasting needs to be done.*
- *There is an allocation of \$162,500. for this year and the intent of the Selectboard is to pay for the project over two years.*
- *There is an allocation of \$450,000. for resurfacing of roads which is \$100,000. more than last year.*

2024 BUDGET REQUESTS SUMMARY

(If All Voted Articles Are Approved)

- Total General Budget.....\$1,407,629.32
 To Be Raised By Taxes.....\$1,194,251.50
- Total Highway Budget.....\$2,248,636.02
 To Be Raised By Taxes.....\$2,056,636.02
- Library Budget..... \$212,502.88
 Library Appropriation..... \$70,900.00
 To Be Raised By Taxes..... \$283,402.88

2024 General Budget

- **If All Articles Approved - \$1,407,629.32**
- **To Be Raised by Taxes - \$1,194,251.00**
- **2024 Projected Tax Rate - \$.1664**
- **2023 Tax Rate - \$.1398**
- **2024 Tax Rate Increase - \$.0266**

VOTE on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WHAT MAKES UP THE GENERAL TAX

	<u>2023</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Regular:	\$627,726.00	\$0.0874	\$814,928.00	\$0.1134
Rescue:	\$199,245.00	\$0.0277	\$229,761.00	\$0.0320
Recreation:	\$123,247.00	\$0.0172	\$149,562.00	\$0.0210

2024 HIGHWAY BUDGET

• If All Articles Approved	-	\$2,248,636.02
• To Be Raised By Taxes	-	\$2,056,636.02
• 2024 Projected Tax Rate	-	\$.3726
• 2023 Tax Rate	-	\$.3171
• 2024 Tax Rate Increase	-	\$.0555

VOTE on Tuesday March 5, 2024 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WHAT MAKES UP THE HIGHWAY TAX

	<u>2023</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Regular:	\$ 1,275,656.34	\$0.2310	\$1,285,363.02	\$0.2329
Police:	\$ 196,784.08	\$0.0357	\$ 475,057.00	\$0.0861
Fire:	\$ 278,225.00	\$0.0504	\$ 296,216.00	\$0.0536

2024 LIBRARY BUDGET

• If Both Articles Are Approved	-	\$297,986.00
• To Be Raised By Taxes	-	\$283,402.88
• 2024 Projected Tax Rate	-	\$.0395
• 2023 Tax Rate	-	\$.0338
• 2024 Tax Rate Increase	-	\$.0057

2024 TAX PROJECTIONS

	TAX RATE	
<u>TAX FUND</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>VILLAGE</u>
GENERAL	\$.1664	\$.1664
HIGHWAY	\$.3726	N/A
LIBRARY	<u>\$.0395</u>	<u>\$.0395</u>
TOTAL	\$.5785	\$.2059

Please note – tax rate is based on the 2023 Grand List. The 2024 Grand List will not be available until mid summer.

2024 TAX PROJECTIONS

ESTIMATED MUNICIPAL TAX

<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>VILLAGE</u>
\$150,000.00	\$867.75	\$308.85
\$200,000.00	\$1,157.00	\$411.80
\$250,000.00	\$1,446.25	\$514.75
\$350,000.00	\$2,024.75	\$720.65

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Town Moderator (Vote for no more than 1, 1 Year Term)

Brian K. Savage

Selectperson (Vote for no more than 1, 3 Year Term)

Earl Fournier

Selectperson (Vote for no more than 1, 2 year term)

Nicole Draper

Allen Letourneau

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.....

Selectperson (Vote for no more than 1, 1 year unexpired term)

Joel A. Clark

Amy L. Raymond

Lister (Vote for no more than 1, 3 year term)

David Horton

Lister (Vote for no more than 1, 1 year unexpired term)

Kevin Nichols

Auditor (Vote for no more than 1, 3 year term)

Joyce Bombardier

Trustee of Public Money (Vote for no more than 1, 3 year term)

Nicholas Brosseau

Stephanie Gagne

CANIDATES FOR OFFICE.....

Library Trustee (Vote for no more than 1, 5 Year Term)

Richard “Rich” Kelly

Cemetery Commissioner (Vote for no more than 1, 5 Year Term)

Cody Hemenway

Cemetery Commissioner (Vote for no more than 1, 4 Year Unexpired)

John Kaczowski

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.....

Collector of Delinquent Taxes (Vote for no more than 1, 1 Year Term)

Betty L. Cheney

**VOTE – MARCH 5, 2024 7 AM TO 7 PM
OR REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT
FROM THE TOWN CLERK**



Thank You for attending and your support!