



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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P.O. BOX 88 5420 SHELBURNE ROAD SHELBURNE, VT 05482

Clerk/Treasurer
(802) 985-5116

Town Manager
(802) 985-5111

Zoning & Planning
(802) 985-5118

Assessor
(802) 985-5115

Recreation
(802) 985-5110

FAX Number
(802) 985-9550

Town Manager's Report: January 2024

From the desk of Matt Lawless



Legislative session underway

Vermont's state legislature convened in January, with a wide range of issues facing the state. Shelburne's Town staff provide technical details to our representatives, aiming to improve our state-level partnership and the services we deliver to the public. I enjoyed a tour of the state capitol and appreciated Rep. Brumsted formally introducing me on the House floor. The historic Cedar Creek Room also meant a lot to me. Cedar Creek in Virginia was where Vermont soldiers won several Medals of Honor in 1864. My first job was as a tour guide there, and I told Vermonters' stories.



Cedar Creek Room

Global Foundries tour

The Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce organized a tour of Global Foundries. Semiconductors, not syrup, are Vermont's most valuable export product these days. Global Foundries makes chips for cellphones, electric cars, and other high technology. They are Vermont's largest private-sector employer, operating at the former IBM facility in Essex Junction. Many of their staff work in Shelburne. The plant uses more water than the entire Town of Shelburne, so they effectively subsidize our clean water treatment and keep our water rates stable. They are also very interested in energy efficiency, developing on-site hydrogen fuel cells.



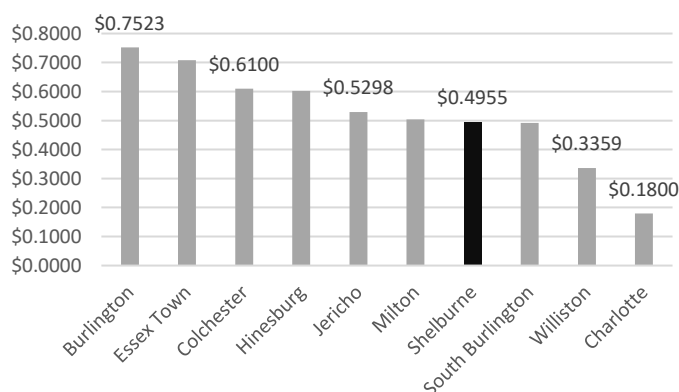
Foundry tour

Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

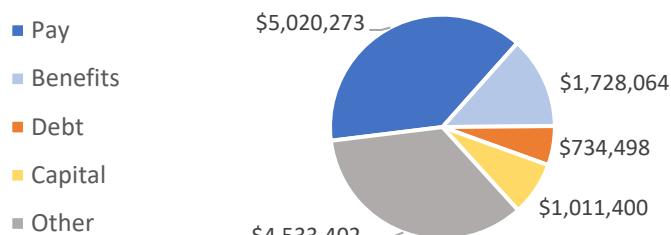
- February 3:** neighborhood meeting about zoning bylaws, at Shelburne Vineyard
- February 14:** ballots available for local elections
- February 19:** Town offices closed
- March 4:** Town Meeting at Community School

Selectboard recap: budget and more

2024 Municipal Tax Rates in nearby communities



FY 25 Budget by Category



Budget Success

The Selectboard approved their proposed budget, which now proceeds to Town Meeting for final passage by the public. Some highlights:

- Shelburne's tax rate remains lower than most neighbors around the county.
- Town revenue is 2/3 real estate tax and 1/3 other sources, a well diversified base.
- About half of Town spending in for personnel providing public services.
- The largest addition of new staff in the coming year is for full-time paramedics, who will support Shelburne Rescue's volunteers.
- The Town achieves market-competitive raises to retain our skilled police officers, librarians, and other public servants.

I hope to see you at Town Meeting!

Aging infrastructure



Emergency Repairs

Shelburne suffered and repaired a large water main break. After midnight, the ten-inch pipe under the bridge at Falls Road collapsed when the U-shaped bracket holding it to the bridge broke. The leak was over 100,000 gallons per hour. Automated sensors quickly detected the leak, Town employee Andrew Driver found the problem, and repairs were done within the day. Two things can be true at the same time: aging infrastructure needs replacement, and that same infrastructure was never used to full capacity. Shelburne's wastewater consolidation is like this, wearing out but still with room to grow.

Streetlight Request

The Selectboard approved better street lighting at the busy intersection of Falls-7-Harbor Road. For other requests, we want to hear from more neighbors. Striking a balance between the dark-sky environment and basic neighborhood safety is important. If you want a new streetlight on your block, talk with your neighbors and make a simple petition request to my office.

Lighting diagram

