

Windham Selectboard
5976 Windham Hill Road
Windham, VT 05359

October 21, 2019

Chris Company
Executive Director
Windham Regional Commission
139 Main Street, Suite 505
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Dear Chris:

Re: Broadband Feasibility Study

We fully support the Windham Regional Commission, in partnership with the Center for Rural Innovation, ValleyNet and Broadband Innovation Grant, to conduct a broadband feasibility study for the Windham Regional Planning towns.

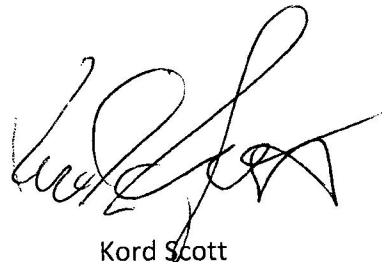
With multiple internet suppliers in Windham, we have varying degrees of broadband capability. Some households have access to Fiber Optic which is, for the most part, "lightening fast". Other households only have access to DSL, which is less than stellar. Users in that area of town feel underserved in this regard.

If we had town-wide high-speed internet service, it would be a positive step for us, making our rural community more functional and attractive. Access would undoubtedly help local businesses and facilitate communication between residents (school kids and young people included), the town and the outside world. Some recent complaints tell us that it's difficult at best, to email large data files with DSL. Having high-speed internet service would eliminate that difficulty/impossibility.

Best of luck with this effort,



Windham Selectboard
Maureen Bell, Chair



Kord Scott

mbellselectboard@gmail.com

From: Kord Scott <kordscott@vermontel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 3:47 PM
To: Maureen Bell
Subject: FW: Upcoming VLR Workshops

Did you see this?

From: Vermont Local Roads Program <VT-LOCALROADS@LISTSERV.VERMONTLOCALROADS.ORG> **On Behalf Of** Hayden, Holly
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 1:30 PM
To: VT-LOCALROADS@LISTSERV.VERMONTLOCALROADS.ORG
Subject: Upcoming VLR Workshops



Signs, Stripes, & Speed Limits

This workshop covers the basics of the MUTCD as it pertains to sign requirements and placement, line striping standards and new innovations, and speed limit enforcement.

After this workshop participants will be able to:

- Discuss the function of the MUTCD and law
- Discuss how the MUTCD works to reduce crashes
- Sign specification, maintenance, and installation
- DMV enforcement and speed limit setting
- Line striping and retro reflectivity

October 23, 2019 | Northeast Vermont Development Association (NVDA) (Facilitated by Vermont Local Roads)

8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (5 openings available)

October 30, 2019 | ~~Manchester Fire Department (Facilitated by Vermont Local Roads)~~

8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (13 openings available)

VLR Participants **REGISTER** via VLR Website
VTrans Employees **REGISTER** via LMS

Thanks,

Holly Hayden, VLR Program Coordinator | VLR LMS Administrator
Vermont Local Roads (VT LTAP)
1716 US Route 302 | Berlin, VT 05633-5001
802-828-3537 office | 802-595-5657 cell | 802-828-1932 fax
<http://localroads.vermont.gov>

Check us out on [Facebook](#)! & Check out Training Opportunities with the New Learning Management System @ <https://vermont.csod.com>!

Tax planning notes 2019 (Kord)

Saturday, July 21, 2018 7:06 AM

General Comments/Opinions

Obviously, during our upcoming local budget prep season we need to keep the issue of tax rates in mind - even more than usual. It will take us some time to finalize that process and collate the budget request(s). Once that is complete, we should compile a comparison to previous years and revisit the departmental requests as required. Is our goal to level fund, lower the budget, keep any local budget increase to within a certain limit?

We need to try and help residents understand that there are other tax rate related issues that significantly impact the total rate(s) we all pay. Income sensitivity (based on the resident's HI-144 filing) is one. The school districts/supervisory union establish their own budget(s). The state levies requirements that cost the town money - like the REI - and the largest issue is the state's "sending town" tax formula - which results in over \$1,000,000 this year in tax money we have to send to the state this year - above and beyond the Elementary School and L&G budgets. The SB does not control any of these budgets/expenses (or income sensitivity calculations). Having said that, I believe we need to prioritize learning as much as we can about these issues how we might be able to influence any of them to the town's benefit. Kathy & Russ have already begun the process of focusing attention on learning more about how the state does their "sending town" calculations. We should collaborate with the school to see whether teaming up in any way could help. We should be looking for any other helpful resources we can think of.

Specific Tasks and Ideas

1. Focus first on the issues over which we have control or substantial influence.
2. Identify, gain an understanding about, and look for help with issues over which we have no control or little influence
3. Learn why the residential versus non-residential tax rates are reversed - and determine if we can begin a process to change that
4. Learn about the education tax rate formula and how it could possibly justify the amount we pay - then consider what we might do to influence that.
5. Continue to focus on self-evaluation of our local municipal budgets/actual costs & article funding requests
6. Grants - find and maximize utilization to reduce local taxpayer funding
7. Review HS122 filing accuracy versus voter checklist
8. Solicit VLCT lobbying help - to try and influence and change whatever it is at a legislative level that is causing such a large education tax bill from the state.
9. Team up with school board to evaluate advantages/disadvantages of the town owning the school building & bus
10. Can we team up with any other "sending towns" to exert pressure on the state?

	2019	YTD	Bal	2019 2020
Auditors				
Mileage	175			175
Payroll	3,000	2092.5		2,500
Employer Fica/Medicare	229	160.1		
Seminar - Workshops	180	180		180
Printing	600	429		450
Auditors Total	4,184	2,862	1,322	

2020

23	Listers/Reappraisal				
24	Computers/Software/Licensees	1,500	775		600
25	Software	800	215		800
26	Contracted Services	1,600			
27	Education & Seminars				
28	General	1,500			
29	Nemrc Training	1,500			
30	Apprasit	1,000			
31	Legal Expense	350			
32	Mileage	500	127.6		
33	Payroll				
34	Listers	6,750	2636.17		
35	Employer Fica/Medicare	516	165.83		
36	Subscriptions	0			
37	Listers Total	16,016	3,920	12,096	

mbellselectboard@gmail.com

From: Kathleen Scott <windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 6:24 PM
To: Alison Cummings; Bill Dunkel; Hal Wilkins; Maureen Bell; Michael Tips-McLaine; Windham.auditors@gmail.com; kordscott@vermontel.net
Subject: Budgeting Schedule

It's time to begin working on the 2020 budget. This coming week we will be sending YTD information on all General Funds categories, including a place for them to make their notes regarding their 2020 requests.

I will need to know who the chair of the Social Services Department is.

I would ask the board to consider creating a separate department for Delinquent Taxes. Perhaps we could add that question to the agenda for the first SB meeting in October and ask Erin to be their to explore the concept.

I would also like to put forward the idea of the Auditors receiving an annual stipend instead of an hourly wage. I think they are being short changed when you think about how much work goes into the creation of the Town Report.

Below is a draft schedule for budget meetings. You will see i have scheduled one for 12/30/19, which will be a third meeting in December. In the past we have added extra meetings just for budgeting and they can certainly be in the daytime rather than in the evening; maybe 4:00 or 4:30.

Let me know your thoughts. If we can maintain the schedule we will be in good shape by mid-January.

10-7-19: Planning & Zoning: Bill Dunkel & Alison Cummings & SB
10-21-19: Auditors & Listers: Imme Maurath & Alison Cummings
11-4-19: Public Services & Town Office M&I: Mike McClain & Select Board
11-18-19: Town Clerk & Town Office: Mike McClain & Select Board
12-3-19: Appropriations & Select Board: Select Board & Meetinghouse Chair
12-12-19: Retreatment & Bridges/Culverts: Richard Pare & Select Board
12-30-19: Equipment Fund & W/S Roads: Richard Pare & Select Board
1-5-20: W/S Roads & Garage M&I: Richard Pare & Select Board
1-12-20: Social Services: SS Chair & Select Board. I left them to last because it allows us to see where the necessary budgets stands first

Kathy Scott

129	<u>Zoning/911</u>				
130					
131	911 Signs	150	11.1		KS thinks to self-fund
132	Payroll/ Admin. & Permit Work	1,000	500		
133	Fica/Medicare	80			
134	Zoning/911 Total	1,230	11	1,219	

D7 \$ 1200 in zoning permits - can this fund the 911 signs
 Talk to Alison



Select Board Provides Winter Roads Policy for 2016-2017

by the Select board and Road Crew

Another winter is soon to be upon us, in attempt to be safe with regards to snow removal and icy roads, the select board and road crew set forth the following winter roads policy:

Plow routes are set up to open the school routes and major traffic routes first. Operations usually begin at 4:00 AM to have the bus route and major roads cleared by 7:00 AM. After 16 hours on the job, the road crew is required to stop operations and get a minimum of six hours of rest. In extreme weather, a third part-time employee is available to accommodate this requirement. In most cases, there will be no maintenance between 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM.

Salt will be applied to paved roads, with sand added as necessary. (Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.) Sand will be applied to the gravel roads.

For your part, we ask the following: All turn-around areas should be kept clear of vehicles. Park your vehicles in your driveways back from where snow will be thrown, so they don't get damaged or buried.

When removing snow from your property, please make sure it does not get pushed or thrown into the plowed road. The resulting piles on our roads are dangerous to passing traffic and can lead to accidents.

The crew will make every reasonable effort to plow close to mailboxes, but not so close as to take them down – sometimes a balancing act. The more thoughtfully your mailbox is located and maintained, the less likely it will be damaged by the weight of the snow or the plow wing itself. The town cannot be responsible for mailbox damage.

When the plows are on the road please be patient. Don't pass unless necessary.

Remember, the drivers are up high above the road, and their primary attention is on the road and the plow, not passing vehicles. We anticipate a safe winter for everyone and thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Adopted 10-17-16