

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

BOARD OF OFFICERS

of

BRANDON FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

BRANDON, VERMONT

Annual Meeting
January 8, 2024
6:00 pm

1856-2023

WARNING

The legal voters of the Brandon Fire District No. 1 are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Brandon American Legion at 550 Franklin Street in Brandon, Vermont on Monday, January 8th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to act on the following business:

- I. To elect a moderator and other officers of the district as required by law for the ensuing year?
- II. To fix the compensation to be paid the district officers for the ensuing year?
- III. Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures for fiscal year 2024-2025 of \$1,030,958.00, of which \$337,600.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$693,358.00 by non-tax revenues?
- IV. Shall the voters authorize the Prudential Committee to spend unbudgeted, unanticipated income received by the Fire District so long as the expenditure of such funds shall not create a deficit?
- V. Shall the voters authorize the Prudential Committee to negotiate purchase/easement of real estate to provide redundancy in replacement of our 1908 underground water storage tank? *(There will be a presentation of potential options for tank replacement prior to vote on Article V)*
- VI. To do any other business that is proper to be done when met.

Dated at Brandon, Vermont
this 16th day of November 2023

Kristy L Pinkham, Clerk
Brandon Fire District No. 1

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Brandon Fire District No. 1

JANUARY 9, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Brandon Fire District No.1 was held at the Brandon Fire Station at 61 Franklin St., Brandon, VT on Monday, January 9th, 2023, at 6:00 PM with 75 members present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Moore.

Article I. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Moderator -	Seth Hopkins
Clerk & Treasurer -	Kristy Pinkham
Prudential Board (3 year) -	Dennis Reisenweaver
Prudential Board (2 year) -	Jon Wyman
Prudential Board (2 year) -	Dave Snow
Auditors-	Scott Trask, AmberLee, Catherine Bresette

Article II. Dennis Reisenweaver moved to adopt with second by Jon Wyman the following salaries for the District Officers:

- \$800.00 – For Each Prudential Board Member
- \$100.00 – For The Treasurer
- \$25.00 – For Each Auditor
- \$10.00 – For The Moderator For Each Meeting
- \$10.00 – For the Clerk For Each Meeting

Motion passed unanimously

Article III. After public comment and much discussion regarding purchase/sales of fire trucks, transparency about purchases, Seth Clifford moved to adopt the proposed budget (second by Roland Euber) with the total general fund expenditures of \$968,161.00, of which \$329,250.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$638,911.00 by non-tax revenues. Motion Passed.

Article IV. Seth Clifford inquired about the use of funds in the Fern and Tank accounts. Discussion about the Board's decision to purchase a state-of-the-art Fire Truck without warning the public. Comment by Dennis Reisenweaver the decision to move forward with the contract was not a unanimous decision, the vote passed 3-2. Public comment proceeded. The article eventually passed with a motion by Mike Markowski and second by Seth Clifford.

Article V. Seth Clifford made motion to adopt the proposed amended article and with removing the word "member" from the verbiage, second by Natalie Steen. Motion Passed

- Article VI. Seth Clifford moved to approve the establishment of an Emergency Reserve Fund with undesignated monies for each of the three accounts: General, Fern (Fire Department) and Tank (Water Department).
- Article VII. After much discussion, Mike Markowski moved to approve, second by Bill Moore. Motion passed.
- Article VIII. Seth Clifford moved to establish a reserve fund to be called the Brandon Water Department Reserve Fund (second by Kristy Pinkham), which will be used to fund capital expenditures and will be tracked separately within the general account.
- Article IX. Seth Clifford made a motion to adopt the article, second by Mike Markowski. Motion Passed.
- Article X. Seth Clifford moved to adopt the article, second by Natalie Steen. Motion Passed.
- Article XI. Seth Clifford moved to adopt the article, second by Natalie Steen. Motion Passed.
- Article XII. Seth Clifford moved to adopt the article; motion carried unanimously.
- Article XIII. Michael Markowski made motion to adjourn; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy L Pinkham, Clerk
Brandon Fire District No. 1

REPORT OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Brandon Fire District No. 1 Prudential Committee would like to send out a heartfelt “THANK YOU” to the residents of Brandon and Forest Dale.

After another busy year for the committee and department heads, the BFD#1 is pleased to announce progress has been made on several items: The new BFD#1 website <https://brandonfiredistrict.org> is live where you can find the current information of the Fire District, we are under contract and anticipate the delivery of our new Fire Truck in the next calendar year, and the consolidation of BFD 2 is near completion.

In addition, we continue to improve our water system by taking care of compliance items in addition to planning for future growth and improvements. This includes researching a location for a replacement storage tank.

BFD #1 Prudential Committee

Jon Wyman, Chair
Natalie Steen, Vice Chair
Dave Snow, Secretary

Michael Markowski
Dennis Reisenweaver

	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
WATER RENTS	\$586,090.44	\$569,359.00	\$558,267.70	\$583,911.00	\$630,358.00
WATER RENT LATE CHARGES	\$9,609.53	\$8,000.00	\$13,856.08	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
INTEREST	\$63.79		\$40.64		
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	\$1,247.50		\$52.50		
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TOTAL REVENUE - WATER	\$597,011.26	\$577,359.00	\$572,216.92	\$591,911.00	\$638,358.00
	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATION - WATER DEPT</u>					
OFFICERS SALARIES	\$2,175.60	\$3,000.00	\$2,720.00	\$3,030.00	\$3,000.00
ADMIN STAFF SALARY		\$9,500.00	\$6,075.00	\$9,690.00	\$9,000.00
COLLECTOR SALARY		\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
FICA/MEDICARE EXPENSE	\$166.43	\$1,100.00	\$949.74	\$1,111.00	\$1,100.00
LEGAL FEES	\$58.80	\$59.39	\$0.00	\$1,010.00	\$1,010.00
PROFESSIONAL AUDIT	\$1,831.80	\$3,000.00	\$471.50	\$3,030.00	\$3,000.00
INSURANCE	\$873.00	\$3,200.00	\$657.99	\$3,232.00	\$2,000.00
ANNUAL REPORT	\$1,172.85	\$1,300.00	\$1,107.16	\$1,313.00	\$1,400.00
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TOTAL ADMINISTRATION - WD	\$6,278.48	\$21,659.39	\$12,481.39	\$22,916.00	\$21,010.00
	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
<u>WATER DEPARTMENT</u>					
OPERATORS SALARIES	\$96,460.00	\$107,100.00	\$105,612.02	\$110,000.00	\$115,000.00
COLLECTOR SALARY	\$16,414.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$21,196.48	\$28,000.00	\$21,912.06	\$28,840.00	\$29,000.00
FICA/MEDICARE EXPENSE	\$8,634.96	\$8,000.00	\$8,172.60	\$8,160.00	\$8,500.00
VMERS - RETIREMENT	\$16,761.16	\$10,000.00	\$47,945.91	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00
TRAINING	\$195.00	\$750.00	\$399.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$3,536.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,749.75	\$6,060.00	\$6,000.00
ENGINEERING	\$2,111.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,511.75	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
WATER TESTING	\$3,690.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,800.00
SUPPORT AGREEMENTS	\$1,656.64	\$0.00	\$1,293.27	\$0.00	\$0.00
WATER/SEWER SERVICES	\$363.84	\$400.00	\$496.48	\$404.00	\$500.00
LAWN CARE	\$2,320.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,957.50	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
WELL MAINTENANCE	\$5,608.77	\$5,000.00	\$3,563.62	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
METERING	\$7,633.92	\$8,000.00	\$8,630.72	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$604.86	\$1,000.00	\$572.20	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$1,160.78	\$500.00	\$3,376.04	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$185.00	\$500.00	\$51.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR	\$18,986.48	\$25,000.00	\$12,137.39	\$30,000.00	\$25,000.00
VERMONT STATE ASSESSMENT	\$5,531.10	\$7,000.00	\$5,980.45	\$7,070.00	\$7,000.00
INSURANCE	\$5,508.00	\$8,000.00	\$9,102.00	\$8,080.00	\$9,000.00
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$3,326.03	\$3,300.00	\$2,952.31	\$3,333.00	\$3,333.00
POSTAGE	\$273.07	\$505.00	\$0.00	\$510.05	\$500.00
PROFESSIONAL DUES	\$1,183.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,302.00	\$1,515.00	\$1,500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$343.31	\$1,515.00	\$759.08	\$1,530.15	\$1,500.00
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$324.27	\$500.00	\$323.52	\$505.00	\$500.00
TOOLS/EQUIPMENT	\$2,728.36	\$4,000.00	\$587.13	\$4,040.00	\$4,040.00
ELECTRICITY	\$41,060.19	\$42,840.00	\$38,175.93	\$43,696.80	\$44,000.00
PROPANE	\$4,039.99	\$6,000.00	\$7,267.59	\$6,060.00	\$7,000.00
GAS AND OIL	\$2,577.83	\$2,600.00	\$2,854.76	\$2,800.00	\$3,000.00
ROAD MATERIALS/PAVING	\$501.46	\$5,000.00	\$1,421.37	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$5,661.31	\$10,000.00	\$3,622.82	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
BUILDING REPAIR FUND				\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
2007 BOND - DISTRIBUTION (30 YR)	\$123,869.82	\$129,982.00	\$119,131.73	\$125,165.00	\$120,149.00
2016 BOND - DISTRIBUTION (40 YR)	\$75,386.00	\$75,386.00	\$75,386.00	\$75,386.00	\$75,386.00
2020 BOND - PARK STREET BASIN ROAD PROJECT	\$31,070.73	\$31,071.00	\$18,878.00	\$18,890.00	\$18,890.00
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TOTAL - WATER DEPARTMENT	\$515,903.90	\$554,749.00	\$535,676.00	\$568,995.00	\$617,348.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION - WD	\$6,278.48	\$21,659.39	\$12,481.39	\$22,916.00	\$21,010.00
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<u>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES - WATER DEP'</u>	\$522,182.38	\$576,408.39	\$548,157.39	\$591,911.00	\$638,358.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT REVENUE

	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
DISTRICT FIRE TAX	\$296,550.00	\$324,550.00	\$324,550.00	\$329,250.00	\$337,600.00
OUTSIDE FIRES	\$47,217.50	\$44,000.00	\$55,997.50	\$46,000.00	\$54,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	\$800.00	\$5,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE - FIRE	\$344,567.50	\$373,550.00	\$381,147.50	\$376,250.00	\$392,600.00

	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
ADMINISTRATION - FIRE DEPT					
OFFICERS SALARIES	\$1,450.40	\$1,600.00	\$1,280.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
ADMIN STAFF SALARY		\$6,000.00	\$6,075.00	\$6,000.00	\$7,500.00
FICA/MEDICARE EXPENSE	\$110.96	\$50.00	\$249.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
LEGAL FEES	\$39.20	\$1,200.00	\$405.72	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
PROFESSIONAL AUDIT	\$1,221.20	\$2,000.00	\$471.50	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
INSURANCE	\$582.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,264.86	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
ANNUAL REPORT	\$781.89	\$700.00	\$1,107.16	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION - FD	\$4,185.65	\$13,350.00	\$10,853.24	\$13,050.00	\$14,900.00

	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
OFFICERS STIPEND	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$8,000.00
PAYROLL	\$55,347.08	\$47,000.00	\$44,757.97	\$60,000.00	\$64,000.00
FICA/MEDICARE EXPENSE	\$4,578.35	\$4,000.00	\$3,941.33	\$4,500.00	\$5,250.00
LOSAP		\$20,000.00	\$14,123.64	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
TRAINING	\$1,377.52	\$2,500.00	\$3,073.57	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00
NEW HIRE EXPENSE					\$1,000.00
WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$2,587.00	\$6,000.00	\$831.50	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00
SUPPORT AGREEMENTS	\$2,230.65	\$0.00	\$1,593.25	\$2,500.00	\$2,600.00
SCBA TEST AND REPAIR	\$20,504.96	\$4,500.00	\$2,392.79	\$4,500.00	\$3,500.00
FIRE HOSE TESTING	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00
MEDICAL	\$3,975.00	\$6,000.00	\$695.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,500.00
METER TEST AND REPAIR	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
WATER/SEWER SERVICES	\$699.63	\$800.00	\$830.06	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
SNOW REMOVAL	\$2,610.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,780.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
CUSTODIAL SERVICES	\$1,002.50	\$1,000.00	\$279.65	\$1,000.00	\$750.00
LAWN CARE	\$630.00	\$1,000.00	\$730.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$19,451.36	\$18,000.00	\$26,899.83	\$18,000.00	\$22,750.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$5,111.64	\$8,000.00	\$6,345.41	\$8,000.00	\$8,300.00
INSURANCE	\$8,527.00	\$14,000.00	\$12,569.25	\$12,000.00	\$13,000.00
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$3,258.03	\$3,000.00	\$2,461.87	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
DISPATCH	\$948.00	\$3,500.00	\$960.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00
POSTAGE	\$120.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
COMMUNICATION	\$6,685.01	\$6,000.00	\$3,866.40	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
PROFESSIONAL DUES	\$816.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,725.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,000.00
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	\$11,537.70	\$15,000.00	\$18,154.34	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$537.75	\$1,500.00	\$417.75	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$3,063.83	\$3,500.00	\$2,761.17	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
TOOLS/EQUIPMENT	\$9,531.31	\$26,000.00	\$14,432.04	\$20,000.00	\$25,000.00
ELECTRICITY	\$3,236.00	\$3,600.00	\$4,269.52	\$3,600.00	\$4,500.00
PROPANE	\$6,337.71	\$12,000.00	\$6,874.34	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
GAS AND OIL	\$3,244.78	\$2,000.00	\$4,391.30	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00
TRUCK PAYMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$9,001.76	\$2,000.00	\$2,138.47	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT FUND	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$106,880.00	\$105,000.00	\$110,000.00
BUILDING REPAIR FUND	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
FIRE STATION BOND					
CAPITAL FUND - EQUIPMENT	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
DUNMORE HOSE COMPANY	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
TOTAL - FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$329,450.57	\$360,200.00	\$327,675.45	\$363,200.00	\$377,700.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION - FD	\$4,185.65	\$13,350.00	\$10,853.24	\$13,050.00	\$14,900.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES - FIRE DEPT	\$333,636.22	\$373,550.00	\$338,528.69	\$376,250.00	\$392,600.00

FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET

	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
TOTAL REVENUE - WATER DEPT	\$597,011.26	\$577,359.00	\$572,216.92	\$591,911.00	\$638,358.00
TOTAL REVENUE - FIRE DEPT	\$344,567.50	\$373,550.00	\$381,147.50	\$376,250.00	\$392,600.00
TOTAL FIRE DISTRICT REVENUE	\$941,578.76	\$950,909.00	\$953,364.42	\$968,161.00	\$1,030,958.00
	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES - WATER DEPT	\$522,182.38	\$576,408.39	\$548,157.39	\$591,911.00	\$638,358.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - FIRE DEPT	\$333,636.22	\$373,550.00	\$338,528.69	\$376,250.00	\$392,600.00
TOTAL FIRE DISTRICT EXPENSES	\$855,818.60	\$949,958.39	\$886,686.08	\$968,161.00	\$1,030,958.00

GENERAL FUND

<u>FIRE DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESERVE</u>	\$26,671.33
GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF 06/30/2023	\$580,076.52

WATER DEPARTMENT RESERVE FUND

CASH BALANCE - 07/01/2022	\$398,811.84
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REVENUE

INTEREST	\$503.30
RENTAL INCOME	\$119,751.22
ARPA FUNDS - BFD#2	\$125,000.00
TRANSFER	\$236,050.64
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT - WATER DEPT	\$7,570.75
WATER ALLOCATION FEES	\$6,473.99
CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND	\$5,000.00
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND	\$5,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$505,349.90

BALANCE BEFORE EXPENSES	\$904,161.74
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EXPENSES

ENGINEERING EVALUATION	\$60,525.87
BFD#2 CONNECTION	\$126,088.47
BASIN ROAD PROJECT	\$94,578.95
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$281,193.29

CASH BALANCE - 06/30/2023	\$622,968.45
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RESERVE BALANCES AS OF 06/30/2023	
WATER DEPARTMENT RESERVE	\$236,050.64
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT - WATER DEPT	\$7,570.75
WATER ALLOCATION FEES	\$6,473.99
EQUIPMENT REPAIR - WATER DEPT	\$5,000.00
CAPITAL REPLACEMENT - WATER DEPT	\$5,000.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVE FUND

CASH BALANCE - 07/01/2022 \$771,560.65

REVENUE

INTEREST \$768.05
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT - FIRE DEPT \$105,000.00
SALE OF FD TRUCK \$14,000.00
SALE OF ENGINE 1 \$325,000.00
CAPITAL REPLACEMENT - FIRE DEPT \$15,000.00
BUILDING REPAIR FUND - FIRE DEPT \$15,000.00

TOTAL REVENUE -----
\$474,768.05

BALANCE BEFORE EXPENSES -----
\$1,246,328.70

EXPENSES

FIRE TRUCK DOWN PAYMENT \$385,000.00
PICKUP TRUCK PURCHASE \$60,015.00
ENGINE 1 SALE \$16,250.00
PICKUP TRUCK PURCHASE \$45,545.00
TRANSFER OUT \$250,076.38

TOTAL EXPENSES -----
\$756,886.38

CASH BALANCE - 06/30/23 -----
\$489,442.32

RESERVE BALANCES AS OF 06/30/2023	
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVE	\$155,906.08
VEHICLE REPLACEMENT - FIRE DEPT	\$183,828.40
BUILDING REPAIR - FIRE DEPT	\$52,927.00
CAPITAL REPLACEMENT - FIRE DEPT	\$96,012.79

2023 REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF

I am proud to report that the members of the Brandon Fire Department continue to be prepared and ready to respond to the emergency needs of the three towns that we cover, Brandon, Goshen, and Leicester. There are currently twenty-four (24) members of the fire department. We put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to keep our equipment at the ready and training so that we are prepared to respond when called upon.

We currently have eight members that hold Firefighter I certification, five Firefighter II and two Fire Instructor I certified personnel on staff. There are four others that are currently in the FFI course. We have a new truck on order, a custom-built rescue pumper, that should be delivered by the end of 2024.

For FY23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the Brandon Fire Department responded to 160 calls for assistance.

Motor Vehicle accidents	33
Structure Fires	7
Chimney Fires	1
Other building related emergencies	4
Alarm Activations	48
Rescues of Person or Animal	2
Assistance to EMS	24
Outdoor fires & other calls	17
Other Good intent & cancellations	15
Mutual Aid to another department	9

I would like to acknowledge our working relationship with the Brandon Area Rescue Squad and the Brandon Police Department, along with our mutual aid departments from Pittsford, Salisbury, and Whiting. I also want to thank the Prudential Committee, the district treasurer, and the Water Superintendent for their guidance and assistance, without which my duty as Fire Chief would be far more difficult than it is.

Not everyone is capable going into a dangerous situation to aid others, it takes a whole team. From the firefighters entering a burning building, to the operators of the apparatus pumping them water, the support staff working on the outside, and the officers making the plan and decisions, it is a team effort for every different call. The Brandon Fire Department is looking for new members willing to join this team. We currently are accepting applications from residents of Brandon, Goshen, and Leicester. Please stop by the fire station to discuss becoming a member. We are normally here on the second and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You also can contact me via email at tkilpeck@brandonfiredistrict.org or by leaving a message on the non-emergency line 802-247-3400.

A huge THANK YOU goes to our firefighters, who respond at any hour of the day or night, to aid those in need in our community, and their families that support them with this.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Kilpeck,
Brandon Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE WATER SUPERINTENDENT

Planning

The Fire District has completed its engineering study which addresses any remaining compliance issues, the replacement of our 1908 underground 500,000 gallon storage tank and potential distribution system upgrades. Comments on the final plan are expected from the Vt Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division in early November. The first step in the tank replacement process is to ask the voters at the annual meeting for authorization to negotiate purchase or easement of land if a preferred site is selected. A presentation of potential tank options will be done prior to the article being discussed.

The water department continues to work on developing an asset management plan, updating mapping and integration of GIS for use by the district. The revised Lead and Copper Rule requires inventories of all pipes in the water system (including customer owned) to determine age, pipe type, size. Plans and schedules for replacement of any of these lines that are or were connected to lead services are required once the inventory is completed. *This will also include the requirement of the homeowners to replace their portion of the service line.* Inventories and service line replacement plans are required by October 16, 2024. The Fire District has applied for and received a grant to complete the inventory which is currently underway.

The consolidation with Brandon Fire District No 2 (Forrestbrook) is expected to be finalized with legislature approval in 2024. ARPA funds allocated to the Fire District by the Town of Brandon provided a permanent connection from North Street which added 58 customers to the system. The low water pressure area on Basin/Frasier Road was addressed with installation of wells to individual homes. That portion of the system (5 connections) is no longer connected or can be served with municipal water by the Fire District.

A grant through EPA helped develop a cybersecurity action plan for the district that was completed in early 2023. The plan will be useful in helping prepare for future budgets. The water department utility truck and plow were replaced in 2023 as part of our replacement plan. The increase in the 2024-2025 budget can be attributed to increases in reserve fund lines and repayment of a portion of the Basin/Frasier Road project. All users can expect an increase in water rates in early 2024 (our first since 2018). A plan is being discussed for incremental increases in rates every 3 years for financial stability.

Water Production

We produced about 117 million gallons of water from November 2022 through October 2023 which compares to the same amount in the previous year. The department has begun a leak detection and valve exercising program with the assistance of grants received from VT DWGPD.

Source Protection

The Fire District, in its source protection efforts is working on updating information for official submittal of its petition to EPA for its aquifer and the Neshobe River Watershed to be designated a “sole source aquifer”. This federal designation provides for review of any federally funded project in the area and its potential impacts on the area.

The Water Department once again would like to thank the Prudential Committee, Chief Kilpeck, Fire Department members and all its citizens for your support which allows us to continue to provide some of the best water in the state to its consumers. **“Quality on Tap, Our Commitment, Our Profession.”**

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond Counter
Water Superintendent

OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT

Moderator

Seth Hopkins

Clerk

Kristy L Pinkham

Prudential Committee

Term Expires 2024 (3 yr.)

Term Expires 2025 (3 yr.)

Term Expires 2025 (2 yr.)

Term Expires 2025 (2 yr.)

Term Expires 2026 (3 yr.)

Michael Markowski

Natalie Steen

Jonathon Wyman

David Snow

Dennis Reisenweaver

Treasurer

Kristy L Pinkham

Auditors

Scott Trask

Amber Lee

Catherine Bresette

WATER DEPARTMENT

Water Superintendent

Water Operator

Raymond Counter

Bradley Danforth

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief

Assistant Chief

Captain

Captain

Lieutenant

Lieutenant

Thomas Kilpeck

Roland Euber

Jesse Bilodeau

Jordan Martin

Cody Taylor

Brian Kilpeck

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

As of November 1, 2023

Kenneth Backus

Steven Bilodeau

Adam Duby

Kyle Hutchins

Brent Scarborough

Ethan West

Scott Bertrand

Jeff Cohen

Harry E Hunt

Mark Muth

Peter Smith

Joselynn Wright

Jake Bertrand

Bradley Danforth

Harry L Hunt

Tracey Murray

Garrett Trask

Brent Young

Brandon Fire District No. 1
58 Franklin Street
Brandon, VT 05733

