

# Pre-Town Meeting 2025



**Agenda Items and Budget Overview**  
**Charter Repeal (Article 10) Public Hearing**

**Town of Danville Selectboard**

**February 8, 2025 – Danville Town Hall 12:30 pm**

**March 3, 2025 – North Danville School 7:00 pm**

## Positions to Elect (and known Candidates)

- Moderator (1 year)
  - Toby Balivet
- One Selectperson (3 years)
  - Alison Low
  - ...?
- Two Selectpersons (1 year)
  - Glenn Herrin
  - Matt Choate
  - ...?
- One Lister (3 years)
  - J. Timothy Ide
- Delinquent Tax Collector (1 year)
  - Ed Ledo



# General Fund taxes up \$198,822

## 2024 General Fund deficit - \$149,905

Due to delinquent taxes and revenues not from taxes

Delinquent taxes no longer budgeted as revenue

Customarily budgeted at \$50,000, delinquent taxes have already been budgeted in a prior year and should not be duplicated in current year

2024 property taxes \$646,900 / 2025 property taxes \$845,722

# Highway taxes up \$604

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Highway budget is essentially flat at  
.05% increase

\$1,282,684.96 in 2024 to \$1,283,289 in 2025

Carryover of \$206,753 used to stabilize taxes

Budget includes scheduled equipment  
purchases





# Property Tax – Budgets, Rates, and Bills

- 2024 Grand List: \$3,409,926.44
  - Taxes per "penny": \$34,099
  - Tax rate for \$10,000: 0.0029
- General Fund Tax Rates:
  - 2024: 0.2039
  - 2025: ~0.2606 (about 26 cents)
  - +0.0567
- Highway Tax Rates:
  - 2024: 0.3762
  - 2025: ~0.3763 (about 37 cents)
  - +0.0001

*Vermonters frequently talk about tax rates as "cents" or "pennies" - a tax rate of 0.20 is 20 cents*

Property Value	2025 Total Tax	2025 Increase	Per budget \$10,000	Per tax rate "penny"
\$100,000	\$260.60	\$56.70	\$2.90	\$10
\$150,000	\$390.90	\$85.05	\$4.35	\$15
\$200,000	\$521.20	\$113.40	\$5.80	\$20
\$250,000	\$651.50	\$141.75	\$7.25	\$25
\$300,000	\$781.80	\$170.10	\$8.70	\$30
\$400,000	\$1,042.40	\$226.80	\$11.60	\$40
\$500,000	\$1,303.00	\$283.50	\$14.50	\$50

*Estimated Municipal tax values based on 2024 Grand List, assuming service agency appropriations pass; actual values will depend on approved budget items and 2025 Grand List*

**Tax Bills have 3 components: Municipal (General Fund), Highway, and Education (School)**

# Train Station

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**Upon advice from the new auditing firm, Sullivan and Powers, the train station project is accounted for in a separate fund.**

Primarily funded by outside sources

- Grants
- Private fundraising
- General building funds set aside for years





## Special Article

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**Shall the town voters raise, appropriate, and expend up to \$20,000 to resurface the public tennis courts on the school grounds.**

Courts are due for resurfacing and new nets.

Courts are primarily used by the public and are available when school is not in session.

**SPEED**

**LIMIT**

**25**

## Special Article

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**Shall the town voters raise, appropriate, and expend an additional \$81,860 to hire or contract additional police or sheriff coverage?**

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We have heard from residents about the impact of speeding in our village centers. This article addresses the issue by expanding enforcement. A speeding task force has been formed to explore other solutions and raise awareness.



# Reserve Funding

**Capital Projects Fund created per vote at 2024 Town Meeting (transferring up to \$637,433)**

Funded to date by the 2023 audited General Fund surplus of \$410,000.

Special article will ask voters to approve a deficit note to cover 2023 audited Highway Fund deficit of \$132,657, with proceeds added to the Capital Projects Fund.

To be used as grant match and for capital project expenditures.



# Special Article

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**Shall the town voters borrow up to \$132,657 over 3 years to replenish the Capital Fund for monies used to cover 2023 audited deficit in the Highway budget.**

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Due to the 2023 flooding, no surplus was available in the Highway Fund to transfer to the Capital Projects reserve fund.

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Monies from the deficit note will be transferred to the reserve fund for use as grant match and capital project expenditures.

# Community Appropriations

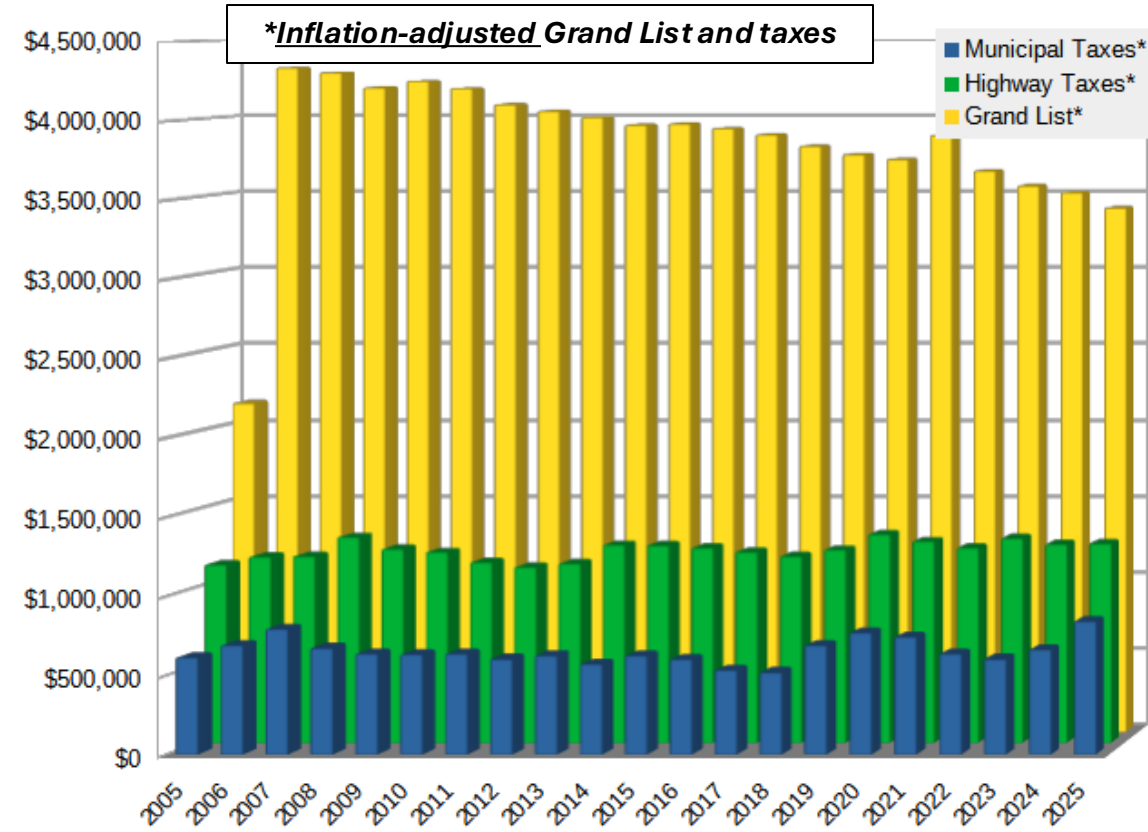
Organization	2024	2025
Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
Catamount Film and Arts	500.00	500.00
Community Restorative Justice Center	250.00	250.00
Danville Senior Action Center	5,000.00	
Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium	2,196.00	2,196.00
Kingdom Animal Shelter	500.00	500.00
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	1,700.00	1,700.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	2,306.00	2,306.00
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	750.00	750.00
Pope Memorial Library	28,000.00	28,000.00
Rural Community Transportation	1,800.00	1,800.00
Umbrella	1,200.00	1,200.00
Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity	500.00	
West Danville Community Club	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$48,302.00</b>	<b>\$42,882.00</b>

# Historical Perspective

- Taxes and budgets seem to fluctuate every year according to **individual pressures** driving lines up and down – fuel goes up, Grand List goes up, consumer prices go down, health care goes up, fuel goes down...
- Selectboards work hard every year to address those issues; **turnover brings in new approaches** to keeping costs and taxes down, but General Fund taxes vary a lot because of **delinquent taxes**...
- In the big picture, **inflation-adjusted** highway and municipal taxes are **remarkably stable over the long term**; in 2025 dollars:
  - 2005-2025 average general fund taxes: **\$656,000**
  - 2005-2025 average highway taxes: **\$1,240,000**

Health Care 2014-2024? Up \$16,818, +7.2%

Wage Summary 2014-2024? Up \$21,048, +4.0%



	2005	2015	2024	2025
Grand List	\$1,294,528	\$2,905,106	\$3,409,926	~\$3,409,926
General Fund - Taxes	<b>\$372,824</b>	\$460,750	\$646,900	<b>\$845,721</b>
Municipal - Tax Rate	<b>0.2880</b>	0.1586	0.2039	<b>~0.2606</b>
Highway – Taxes	<b>\$693,996</b>	\$933,992	\$1,282,685	<b>\$1,283,289</b>
Highway – Tax Rate	<b>0.5361</b>	0.3215	0.3762	<b>~0.3763</b>
Inflation (\$100,000 in 2025)	\$60,504	\$73,429	\$97,182	\$100,000

**INFLATION**


If we only needed **2005-level taxes in 2025**, the municipal rate would be **0.1093** and the highway rate would be **0.2035**

**... on the other hand ...**

If we were paying **2005 tax rates in 2025**, we would raise **\$982,059** for the general fund and **\$1,828,061** for highway

**2025 tax rates estimated based on 2024 Grand List – actual rates will depend on final 2025 Grand List**





## Special Article (Public Hearing)

**Shall the town voters (Australian ballot) propose the General Assembly repeal its charter, 24 App. V.S.A ch. 114, § 101?**

The town charter states "Annual and special meetings. All annual and special meetings of the Town of Danville shall be called and warned in the manner provided by the laws of the State. All voting on the Town budget and the highway budget at all annual and special meetings shall be by Australian ballot."

Without the charter, budgets will continue to be voted by Australian ballot, but the voters will be able to change that if desired and continue to explore options that enhance and expand on participation.

# Other Business

## Other comments or questions on Town Meeting

- Early info meeting?
- Saturday afternoon meeting?
- Third info meeting?