

FHWA

Reimbursements from Emergency Measure expenses are actively being processed at VTrans and checks have begun to arrive. We expect reimbursement of approximately \$850,000 from FHWA for completed emergency repairs. I need to ask staff for updates on what has been received thus far.

I met with Evan Detrick, our Municipal Project Manager from VHB, to work on processing reimbursements for pre-engineering expenses to contractors working on the Mill Street Bridge and Brook Rd Bridge 21 projects. Reimbursements for these two projects were approved and processed by VTrans on March 10, 2026.

These will be reimbursed at 90% from VTrans.

Mill Street Bridge: \$135,152.13 (expected reimbursement: \$121,636.92)

Brook Rd. Bridge: \$121,682.68 (expected reimbursement: \$109,514.42)

FEMA Public Assistance

All projects for the 2023 disaster (DR-4720) were officially closed out last week before the government shutdown of FEMA. We were not able to provide sufficient documentation for the Category Z (administrative, force account hours) item, so had to withdraw that project (approximately \$12,000) from the list. Closeouts cause the release of any state matching funds to the town. We don't have final numbers but will update when we know.

FEMA staff are currently out during the shutdown, so no progress to report on the 2024 (DR-4810) project items. Before the shutdown, we were working on renegotiating repairs for water/wastewater lines for the Recreation Field Road site. This is currently pending. We also had a meeting with Tristan MacGregor and Evan Detrick to discuss best ways to approach having the water/waste water line engineering paid for on the Mill Street and Brook Road bridges. FEMA will pay for construction but not engineering. We will include the engineering expenses for the water/wastewater lines in the FHWA project but show it separately.

FEMA Buyouts

Due to the shutdown, no updated information from last month: 24 properties remain under review in the FEMA Buyout Program. Program rules changes under the current federal administration have required submissions of some applications as many as four times. The State has been very diligent in completing these resubmissions.

EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection) Grant

Two proposals were received for the engineering and design work, but after meeting with NRCS staff to review them, we determined that negotiations are required to work out a number of issues. Brian Voigt and Lincoln Frasca of CVRPC are taking the lead for us on this. We expect to present a contract for approval and signature to the Select Board at the March 23rd meeting.

Properties currently in the grant include:

- ~~1495 Coburn Rd.~~ (has withdrawn from the grant program)
- 99 Brook Rd. (also in the FEMA Buyout program, ineligible if buyout accepted)
- 125 Barre Hill Rd.
- 203 Martin Meadow and properties adjacent along the Winooski to the Plainfield Health Center

BRIC Grant for H & H Study of the Great Brook

The second public meeting was held last month to share progress and modeling. More work will be done once the snow relents. (Please let it be soon!)

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Hatcher
Grants Administrator