

# RESOLUTION OF THE COMMUNITIES OF ADDISON COUNTY, VERMONT

## Supporting the Spirit of Regional Collaboration and Shared Municipal Services

**WHEREAS**, the communities of Addison County are proud rural municipalities characterized by small populations, geographic dispersion, and strong traditions of local governance; and

**WHEREAS**, our rural nature presents unique challenges, including limited labor pools, difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified municipal staff, and increasing competition for skilled professionals in areas such as administration, public works, planning, finance, emergency services, and other essential functions; and

**WHEREAS**, our communities operate within constrained municipal budgets, facing rising costs of materials, infrastructure maintenance, regulatory compliance, and employee benefits, while striving to maintain affordability for our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the communities of Addison County have a long and successful history of collaboration, including decades of mutual aid in police, fire, and emergency services, regional emergency management coordination, cooperation among public works departments, and partnerships through regional school districts, as well as other cooperative efforts that demonstrate the strength and effectiveness of working together; and

**WHEREAS**, these existing partnerships reflect our shared understanding that regional cooperation enhances public safety, strengthens service delivery, and supports our residents in times of need; and

**WHEREAS**, these challenges and successes call for thoughtful, innovative, and collaborative approaches to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality, efficient, and responsive municipal services; and

**WHEREAS**, regionalization and the voluntary sharing of services, personnel, expertise, equipment, and other municipal resources, whenever lawful and appropriate, have the potential to build upon this strong foundation, improve operational efficiency, reduce redundancy, enhance resiliency, and create professional support networks for municipal staff; and

**WHEREAS**, collaboration among communities, to the extent permitted by law, can preserve local control while fostering practical solutions tailored to the needs and capacities of rural municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the communities of Addison County:

1. Affirm their commitment to the spirit and concept of voluntary regional collaboration and shared services, recognizing its long-standing presence in our public safety mutual aid agreements and other cooperative efforts;
2. Encourage municipal legislative bodies, town managers, administrators, department heads, and staff to communicate with counterparts across Addison County to explore additional opportunities for cooperation, whenever lawful and appropriate;
3. Recognize that collaboration can take many forms—including shared staffing arrangements, coordinated service delivery, shared equipment and facilities, cooperative training, and other joint initiatives—with the understanding that adoption of specific initiatives will be voluntary and in accordance with law; and
4. Pledge to embrace the idea of working together in the spirit of cooperation, innovation, and mutual support, while respecting each community’s autonomy, character, and legal requirements.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution reflects a shared vision and commitment among Addison County communities to build upon decades of successful collaboration and to continue exploring lawful regional cooperation guided by the principles of transparency, fiscal responsibility, equity, and the best interests of our rural communities.

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

City/Town of: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s):