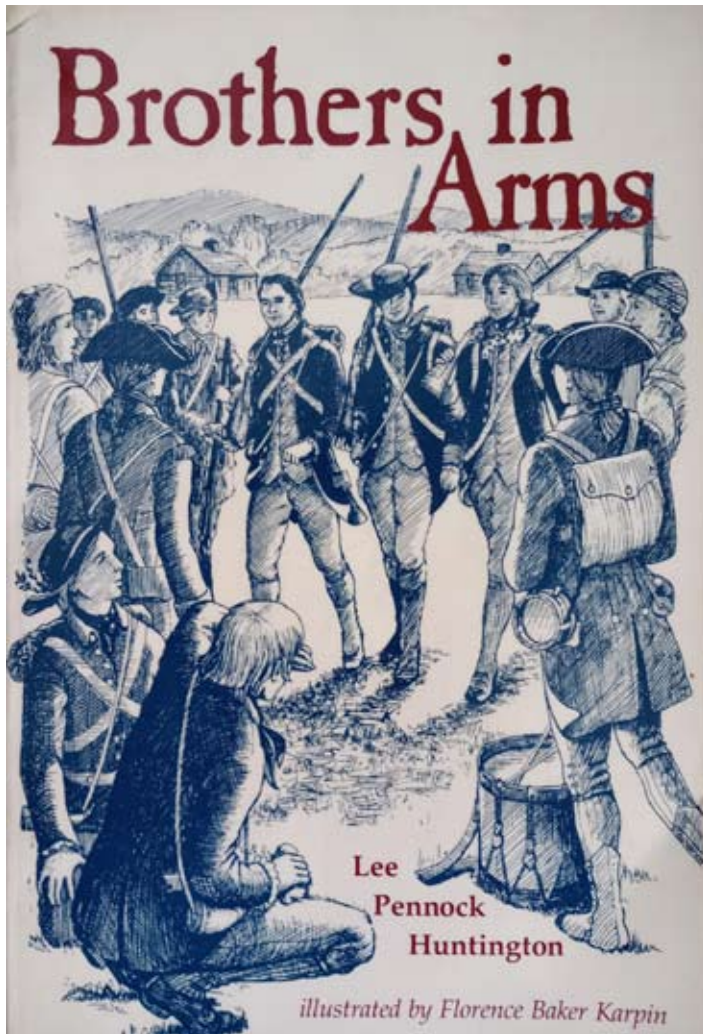


STRAFFORD, VERMONT

TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2025

HISTORICAL NOTE

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR:

STRAFFORD'S CIVIL WAR AND RECONCILIATION

These days when political divisions often seem so intense, it is good to look back at a time when things in Vermont were far worse and learn a lesson on how once the most bitter enemies were able to come together and create a structure of lasting beauty and a religious institution based on inclusion. While it is generally overlooked, the American Revolution was in many ways a civil war. This certainly was the case in Strafford where neighbor turned against neighbor, and brutality and injustice, a hallmark of all civil wars, were present.

In 1776, Strafford was on the frontier edge of what had been Abenaki land which was now being settled by people coming from other colonies. The end of the French and Indian War in 1763 made this possible and starting in 1767, Fredrick Smith and Ezekiel Parish started clearing land and constructing shelters. They were followed the next year by others, including the large Pennock family. By the time of the Revolution, there were a few hundred people living in Strafford, mostly around the Old City and Miller Pond areas of town which were on the route people took to get here from Thetford. There were competing claims and simmering differences on whether the land was part of New York or New Hampshire and tensions with Great Britain made things more difficult. Early settlers Ezekiel Parish, Daniel West, the Pennocks, Peter Thomas, Enoch Bean, Isaac Carrier, Eliphalet

Roberts and Elihu Norton were all either avowed Loyalists or considered so by their fellow townsmen. On the opposite side, strongly allied with the American cause were men such as Fredrick Smith, William Brisco, John and Silas Alger, John Powell, Joshua Tucker, Jonathan Rich, and several Chamberlins.

Things came to a head in the summer of 1777 when General John Burgoyne led an army from Canada down the Champlain Valley. The small Strafford militia, part of every colonial town, split, with Captain Jamie Pennock, Lieutenant Samuel Pennock and Sergeants Jesse and Aaron Pennock, joining their four other brothers, James's teenage son Alexander Pennock, and a handful of other Strafford men to fight in the Queens Loyal Rangers, a Colonial Tory unit attached to the British army.

The Patriot side in Strafford was headed by Fredrick Smith. Smith's leadership made him a target for "the wrath of the Tories." As Justin Morrill wrote, in his history of Strafford for the Vermont Gazetteer, "One day a Tory saw Smith alone in his barn and thereupon went in and seized him and attempted to drag him out. He was a larger and stronger man than Smith, but not more nimble or plucky. Smith caught at once the center post of the barn, and the Tory could not pull him

Continued on inside back cover

Front cover: Lee Pennock Huntington's book about the Pennock family, Brothers in Arms, focuses a great deal on the traumatic events of this large family during the Revolutionary War in Strafford.

Continued from inside front cover
away though he got the forefinger of one hand of Smith between his teeth and held it with the grip of a savage. Smith, seeing a new iron-toothed currycomb within reach of his other hand, seized it and brought it to bear with a merciless sweep down the face of his antagonist. The blood spurted, the Tory roared, and of course opened his mouth, when Smith got away losing a finger, but with no scratched on his face.”

Another time “Smith had a narrow escape when one of the Tories in town, regarding him as a public enemy lay in ambush for him. As Smith passed by, he cocked his gun and aimed it at him; but, as he afterwards confessed when ‘reconstructed’ his heart failed him, and he did not fire.”

The Pennocks meanwhile had an even worse time. At the Battle of Saratoga three of the brothers, Jamie, William and Jesse, were killed, and teenage Alexander wounded fighting for the British. After the battle, two brothers went to Canada and three, Aaron, Peter and Oliver as well as Alexander returned home. There they found much of their land had been confiscated to help pay for the Revolution, as had happened to other Loyalists and those suspected of being Loyalists,

While some of Strafford Loyalists like Ezekiel Parish, Daniel West, and Peter and Freelove Thomas, Strafford’s first Black settlers, never recovered their property or prosperity, twenty years later found a remarkable reconciliation between a number of the people, who had once been on opposing sides. Between 1798 and 1799 they served together on the committees which built the magnificent Strafford Town House and settled

the first minister in Strafford. These included former Patriot leaders Fredrick Smith and Jonathan Rich with former Queen Loyal Rangers members Peter Pennock and Alexander Pennock. Rich had served on the Committee of Safety in 1778 which confiscated Pennock land and land belonging to suspected Loyalist Samuel Bliss (Bliss had married a Pennock), Twenty years later Rich served on the same committee with Bliss to settle the first minister Joab Young, a Universalist.

Universalism was a new sect that had developed in the hill country of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts that unlike the predominate Calvinistic theology which believe in only a few “elect” being saved, had the belief in the ultimate salvation of all as the bedrock of its belief. This religious belief that centered on tolerance and inclusion spoke to the tenor of the times.

By the end of the 1700s, the people of Strafford felt they were no longer a frontier settlement and had come together and embraced the ability to respect diverse views. It is reflected in the Constitution of the Town House itself which declared that “it shall be a free and open house for the Town to meet in and do public business” and “a free and open house for all for all the different religious denominations for people to worship under such regulation as no preference shall be given to one denomination over another.”

This reconciliation, after a period of bitter civil strife, and the resulting belief in inclusion and respect for differences, has set the tone in Strafford up until this day. It is an example that, in our own troubled times, it would be wise to replicate on a broader scale.

John Freitag

DEDICATION

Nellie Pennington and Jeanne Castro



This year's Town Report is dedicated to Nellie Pennington, Town Auditor for the Town of Strafford. First elected in 1994, Nellie has faithfully served the town through consecutive three-year terms and continues in her role today with the same dedication and care she has always shown. For three weeks each year, Nellie works tirelessly to balance the books and complete the Town Report, doing so with precision, patience, and an unfailing smile. She is a true joy to work with, bringing warmth, good humor, and professionalism to an important and often demanding task. Strafford is deeply grateful for Nellie's many years of service, her commitment to excellence, and the positive spirit she brings to town government.

This Town Report is also dedicated to Jeanne Castro, who has served the Town of Strafford as Collector of Delinquent Taxes since 1989, faithfully elected each year to a one-year term. For decades, Jeanne has carried out this important responsibility with remarkable efficiency, earning the well-known nickname "Hurricane Jeanne" in the office for her speed, sharp wit, and ability to get things done. Always smiling, Jeanne balances her effectiveness with genuine compassion for those who may be struggling, approaching her work with both fairness and understanding. Her adventurous spirit and joyful outlook on life shine through in everything she does, making her not only a valued town official but a pleasure to work with. Strafford is sincerely grateful for Jeanne's long-standing service, dedication, and the positive energy she brings to our community.

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TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town & School):

David Grant Term expires March 2026

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2027

Selectboard:

Mary Linehan Term expires March 2028

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2027

Toni Pippy Term expires March 2027

Andrew Duncklee Term expires March 2026

Kelly Harman Term expires March 2026

Listers:

Vacant Term expires March 2028

Tom Jacobs Term expires March 2027

Tim Denny Term expires March 2026

Auditors:

June Solsaa Term expires March 2028

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2027

Suzanna Liepmann Term expires March 2026

School Directors:

Eric Lopez Term expires March 2028

Sarah Root Term expires March 2027

Sanaa Siddiqi Term expires March 2027

Nelle Donaldson Term expires March 2026

Dustin Ray Term expires March 2026

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2026

Trustee of Public Funds:

Gretchen Rittenhouse Term expires March 2028

Therese Linehan Term expires March 2027

Cindy Stableford Term expires March 2026

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2026

Harris Library Trustees:

Becky Proulx Term expires March 2028

Kevin Lynch Term expires March 2026

Carol Wilson (*Selectboard Trustee*)..... Term expires March 2026

Cemetery Commissioners:

Sherm Wilson Term expires March 2028

David Harris Term expires March 2027

Andrew Behrens Term expires March 2027

Lauri Berkenkamp Term expires March 2026

Kate Siepmann Term expires March 2026

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee
Victoria Lloyd

Andrew Lane
Sarah North
Shelby Coburn

Sean Lewis
Vincent Robinson

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman and Supervisor of Public Works	Paul Hardy
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Regina J. Josler
Selectboard Assistant	Chris Behr
Zoning Administrator	Bonnie Bergeron
Zoning Administrator Alternate	<i>Vacant</i>
Development Review Board Clerk	Bonnie Bergeron
Town House Overseer	Paul Kifner
Emergency Management Director	Jason Schumacher
Deputy Emergency Management Director	<i>Vacant</i>
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact	Lisa Bragg
Town Health Officer	Stephen Marx
Dog Officer and Pound Keeper	Courtney Hardy
Tree Warden	<i>Vacant</i>
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	Aaron Dotter
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Calvin Benjamin
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative	June Solsaa
Deputy Registrar	Dennis Cilley

Development Review Board:

Terrence Garrison (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2028
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2028
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2027
Sean Lewis	Term expires March 2027
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2026
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i>	Term expires March 2027

Planning Commission:

Greg Colling	Term expires March 2029
Andrew Silovich	Term expires March 2029
Jonathan Nedeau	Term expires March 2029
Chrissy Jamieson	Term expires March 2028
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2028
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2028
Phoebe Mix	Term expires March 2026
Michael Scanlan (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Stuart Crocker (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026

Appointive Officers (continued)

Conservation Commission:

Michael Hebb (<i>Trails Commissioner</i>)	Term expires March 2029
Kate Bass (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2029
Marty Frank	Term expires March 2028
Joanne Blais	Term expires March 2028
Andrei Kubail Kalousdian	Term expires March 2027
James Erbaugh	Term expires March 2027
Micki Colbeck (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Courtney Potter (<i>Recording Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Erin Yunger	Term expires March 2026

Town House Advisory Group:

Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2026
Curt Albee	Term expires March 2026
Tim Bergeron	Term expires March 2026
Greg Colling	Term expires March 2026
Sarah Havens	Term expires March 2026
Steve Handy	Term expires March 2026
Welly Ramsey	Term expires March 2026
Silas Treadway	Term expires March 2026
Lori Mikusa	Term expires March 2026

Recreation Board:

Leslie Berger	Term expires March 2028
Stephen Drew	Term expires March 2028
Jason Loomis (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2028
Hilary Linehan (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Edmund Huang	Term expires March 2026

Historic Preservation Commission:

Ann Thorp (<i>Clerk</i>)	Term expires March 2027
Tim Utt	Term expires March 2027
Zach Mitchell	Term expires March 2026
Silas Treadway (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
David Taplin	Term expires March 2026

Ashley Community Foreset Board:

David Paganelli	Term expires March 2028
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2028

Regional Planning Commission:

John Echeverria	Term expires March 2026
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i>	Term expires March 2026

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2026
David Webb (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Andrew Behrens (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2026

Appointive Officers (continued)

Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator Steering Committee:

Vacant Term expires March 2026

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2026

Michael Scanlan (*Alternate*) Term expires March 2026

Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:

Elizabeth Preston Term expires March 2026

Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:

Danette Harris Term expires March 2028

Joanna Hawkins Term expires March 2027

Diana Leddy Term expires March 2026

Community-Building Award Committee:

Andy Coffin Term expires March 2027

Brooke Wilkinson Term expires March 2027

Rebecca Seibel Term expires March 2027

Lori Mikusa Term expires March 2027

Vacant Term expires March 2027

Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:

Rockwell Fuller Term expires March 2026

Joanna Hawkins Term expires March 2026

Rod Maclay Term expires March 2026

Maureen Wilson Term expires March 2026

Vacant Term expires March 2026

Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:

Rebecca Seibel Term expires March 2026

Susan Coburn Term expires March 2026

Sherry Duveneck Term expires March 2026

Notaries Public

Lisa Bragg
Victoria Lloyd

Susan Coburn

Regina J. Josler
Sarah North

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Senator Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Senator Peter Welch	800-642-3193
Representative Becca Balint	202-225-4115
Governor Phil Scott	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor David Zuckerman	802-828-2226
State Senator Mark MacDonald	802-433-5867
Representative Rebecca Holcombe	802-828-2228
Representative James Masland	802-785-4146

While the Vermont Legislature is in session, you may call the Sergeant-at-Arms and leave a message at 1-800-322-5616.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD UNIFIED BYLAW FEES **Adopted March 13, 2024**

Recording Fee, All Applications	\$ 15.00
Accessory Building 125sf or greater with utilities	150.00
Additions to Existing Structure	150.00
Deck and Unenclosed Porch (includes lean-to)	75.00
Mobile Home / Tiny Home / Yurt	150.00
Permitted Change of Use only	150.00
Residence (new construction)	250.00
Temporary Permit	75.00
Boundary Line Adjustment	150.00
Site Plan Review (review page 30/31 table 1/2 of Strafford Unified ByLaws for requirements)	150.00
Preliminary Plan Hearing	150.00
Minor Subdivision (2 lots, no other subdivision within 5 yrs.)	150.00
DRB-Major Subdivision (3 lots, \$100 for each additional lot)	500.00
Variance (additional \$150 fee for more than 2 warned hearings)	300.00
Conditional Use (additional \$150.00 fee for more than 2 warned hearings)	300.00
Planned Unit Development (PUD)	700.00
Certificate of Compliance	35.00

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



Newton School Class of 2025

Annora Duncklee, Esmay Gibson, Angel Fisher, Kylie Carter, Iris Smith, Ava MacPhail, Parker Eastman, Zachary Adams, Cashlin Solsaa (front), Elijah Worth, Harrison Maclay-James (The Sharon Academy), and Kaj Donaldson.

Photo by Simone Pyle

TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING

March 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford School District are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to VOTE BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT either via mail as provided by the Town Clerk or at the **Strafford Town Office on MARCH 3, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 o'clock AM (when the polls will open) and 7:00 o'clock PM (when the polls will close)** and thereby act on the following questions:

- Article 1.** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 2.** To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Article 3.** Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027?
- Article 4.** Shall the legal voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,596,531 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Town of Strafford School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,689.64, which is 3.37% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- Article 5.** To elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article 6.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$277,299 existing as of June 30, 2025?

The legal voters of the Strafford Town School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated: 15 January, 2026

Strafford Town School District Board of School Directors

Sarah Root, Chair	Eric Lopez, Vice Chair	Dustin Ray, Clerk
Nelle Donaldson, Member	Sanaa Siddiqi, Member	

**WARNING FOR INFORMATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the Town Strafford School District are hereby notified and warned that the informational meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock am at the **Strafford Town House** and via a virtual online meeting.

To be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026:

- Article 1.** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 2.** To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Article 3.** Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027?
- Article 4.** Shall the legal voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,596,531 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Town of Strafford School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,689.64, which is 3.37% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- Article 5.** To elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article 6.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$277,299 existing as of June 30, 2025?

For the purpose of voting by Australian ballot:

Voters of the Town of Strafford will vote at the Strafford Town Office located at 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, VT 05072. The Polls will open on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 9:00 am and close at 7:00 PM.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots will be publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Town Strafford under the supervision of the Clerk of the Strafford School District.

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in

Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2026

On behalf of the Strafford School District Board of Directors:

Sarah Root, Chair
Eric Lopez, Vice Chair
Dustin Ray, Clerk
Nelle Donaldson, Member
Sanaa Siddiqi, Member

EARLY HISTORY



STRAFFORD, VERMONT

Perhaps the most well researched and detailed book of the early history of Strafford was written by Robert F. Johnston and published by the Strafford Historical Society in 2012. It is a wealth of information, including on Revolutionary War times, and is the go-to source for those interested in the town's settlement by those coming to our area from other colonies.

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

March 4, 2025

School Moderator, 1 Year: David Grant 446; write-in 3

School Director, 3 Years: Eric Lopez 426; write-in 4

School Director, 2 Years: Sanaa Kyra Siddiqi 408; write-in 6

Article 2: To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2025-26 school year. Yes 426; No 40

Article 3: Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026? Yes 392; No 71

Article 4: Shall the legal voters of the school district authorize the School Board of Directors to expend \$4,424,498 which is the amount the School Board of Directors has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of 14,210.51 per equalized pupil, which is 2.36% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year. Yes 360; No 110

Article 6: Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$281,013 existing as of June 30, 2024? Yes 408; No 52

Article 7: Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund In an amount not to exceed \$240,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$281,013 existing as of June 30, 2024? Yes 388; No 70

STRAFFORD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025 - 1:00 PM
@ STRAFFORD TOWN HALL/VIA GOOGLE MEET
APPROVED MINUTES

Participants: Sarah Adams, Karla Bushway, Kerrie Bushway, Tom Cecere, Kaitlin Christie, A. Maher, Becky Proulx, Sonya Schumacher, Cindy Stableford, Heather Waterbury, Glenn Wylie, John Freitag, Mica Tucker, Eric Lopez, Dustin Ray, Maggie Hooker, Sarah Root, Tara Weatherell, Barrett Williams, Jamie Kinnarney, Jim Masland, and other members of the public whose attendance was not captured

To develop each child's potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being by enriching each child's education with involvement, collaboration and outreach.

1) Call to Order

- Root called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

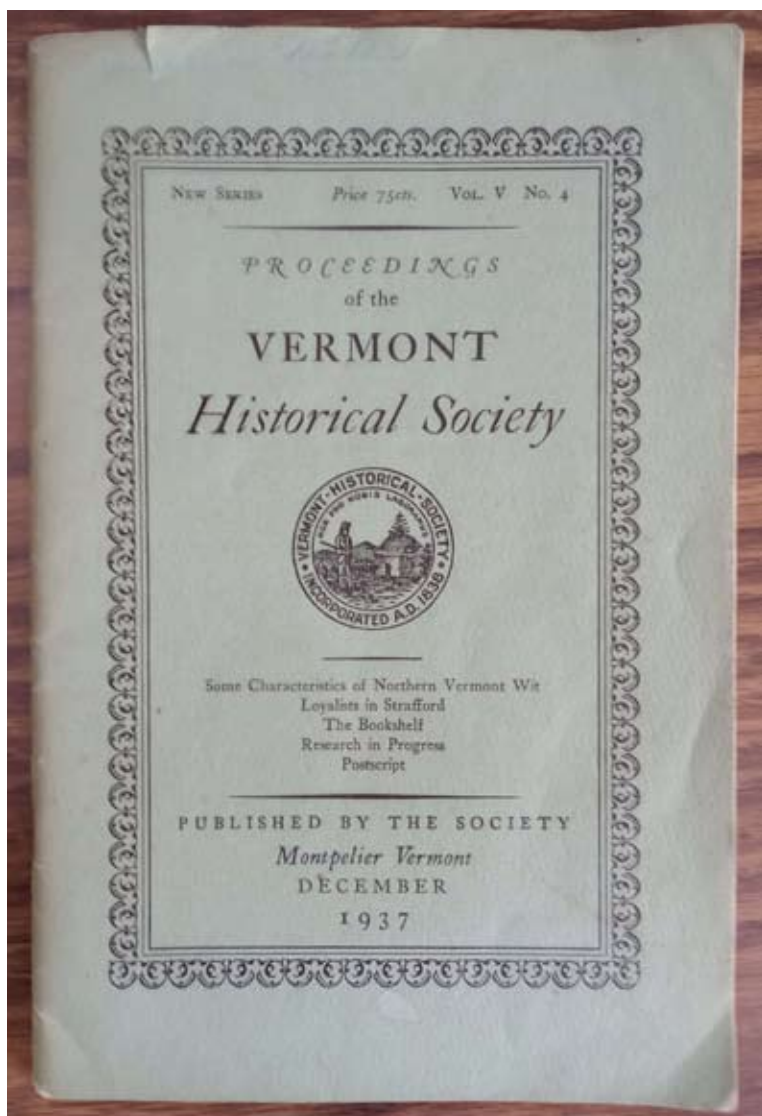
2) Informational Meeting: Annual Meeting Agenda Overview and Budget Presentation

- The Board and public reviewed the Annual Meeting Agenda.
- Budget Presentation:
 - There was a presentation about school events, the proposed budget, and tax impacts.
 - Members of the public asked about the decision to put less into tuition reserves and more in capital reserves, the balances of reserves, estimates of capital projects (estimates shared, impacts of returning money as offsetting revenue shared), asked about equalized tax rate impacts (yield, budget), reappraisal clarification around statewide adjusted (actual CLA 71.34%, with statewide offset 98.59%, 1st year but projected to continue), and the non-homestead tax rate (1.7910, increase of .40 from last year before CLA)
- School Board Director Election:
 - Lopez spoke on behalf of Sanaa noting that she will bring consciousness and thoughtfulness to board and thanked Maggie Hooker for her time on board
- Open Questions
 - Masland commented on the governor's proposal noting infrastructure concerns, the statewide CLA, non-homestead tax rates, and reappraisals.

- Members of the public asked about the statewide CLA adjustment (isn't long term sustainable), funding sources and what is funded by the Ed Fund (certain things should be removed from the Ed Fund to decrease costs), and if a counterproposal coming out of the legislature (currently reviewing infrastructure and financial implications of the proposal).
- Members of the public thanked Maggie Hooker for her time on the Board.

3) Adjournment

- Root adjourned the meeting at 2:17 PM



SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

It has been a busy year for the Strafford School Board of Directors. We are grateful for those of you who have actively participated in shaping the debate in Montpelier over the future of our schools. Many of you wrote and called our elected officials to let your perspectives be known, and your engagement was key in the view of these officials.

This work is not done. We will continue to need active participation from our voters and citizens to ensure that, whatever happens in Montpelier this year, it does not cause irreparable damage to our students or our taxpayers. We thank you in advance for your continued efforts.

Thanks to the incredible advocacy of our citizens, our own Strafford School Board of Directors, and the greater White River Valley Supervisory Union, the WRVSU community culminated this year with the opportunity to address the Senate Education Committee at the White River Valley High School, this past December 17th. On that day, many voices, including Strafford voices, articulately conveyed the challenges created by the proposed changes in Montpelier. Again, we are grateful to you.

This year also saw incredible growth in academic achievement at Newton School. As you might know, Newton students undergo testing on a regular basis and it provides a basis of comparison to our state and our nation. The last round of testing shows remarkable gains in our scores as compared to the state and nation. We are incredibly proud of our faculty and staff who have worked diligently to ensure our students receive a quality education. Test scores are merely a glimpse at the work being done by faculty and staff in some areas—more is underway to ensure Newton leads our region in language and math. We are confident that future testing will evidence the fruits of the enormous efforts of our faculty and staff.

The year ahead promises to be a bumpy ride. There is no question that our reliance on the property tax as a means to fund education has and continues to create an unsustainable means toward discharging our constitutional obligation to educate our youngest citizens. We look forward to continued conversations on how to partner with others to strengthen our schools and continue to provide quality education to our Strafford students.

Respectfully,

Strafford School Board of Directors

*Josie Fisher, Strafford Historian and Instructor of History,
Bryn Mawr College, wrote the first detailed account of the
Pennock family during the American Revolution:
Loyalist in Strafford, published in December 1937.*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

Student Performance:

Student learning and growth continues to be the central focus of our work in Strafford. Across grade levels students are demonstrating steady progress toward proficiency in literacy, mathematics, and transferable skills aligned with the WRVSU Portrait of a Learner (POL). Instructional practices emphasize differentiation, formative assessment, and student reflection, allowing educators to respond to individual needs and support growth for all learners.

Teachers continue to use multiple measures of student performance, including classroom-based assessments, performance tasks, and observational data, to inform instruction and monitor progress. Students are increasingly able to articulate their learning goals, reflect on their progress, and demonstrate ownership of their learning—key indicators of both academic and social-emotional growth.

Act 73 and Personalized Learning:

Act 73 remains a hot topic in Vermont as it has the potential to change education in our small state. In Strafford, we are committed to personalized, proficiency-based learning that ensures equity, flexibility, and clarity for students and families. Educators continue to align instruction and assessment with clearly defined learning targets and proficiency scales connected to the Portrait of a Learner. Students are supported through flexible learning opportunities, targeted interventions, and enrichment experiences that honor individual strengths and needs.

Ongoing professional learning supports staff in refining proficiency-based practices and ensuring consistency across classrooms. Our work under Act 73 reflects a shared commitment to preparing students not only for academic success, but also for active and engaged citizenship.

Strategic Plan Progress:

Goal 1: Student Growth Toward Portrait of a Learner Proficiency

Newton students continue to demonstrate growth toward proficiency in each Portrait of a Learner characteristic, including communication, problem-solving, collaboration, and self-direction. In Strafford, these competencies are embedded into daily instruction and school culture. Teachers intentionally design learning experiences that allow students to practice and demonstrate POL skills across content areas.

Students are increasingly engaged in self-assessment and reflection using POL-aligned proficiency scales. This shared language around learning helps students understand expectations and track their own growth, fostering confidence and independence. At our most recent school community

meeting we celebrated the students who achieved the most growth from the Fall to Winter assessment window.

Goal 2: Community School Model Implementation

Strafford continues to strengthen its implementation of the community school model. Partnerships with families, local organizations, and community members enrich student learning and support the whole child. Community-based learning opportunities, family engagement events, and access to support services reflect our commitment to collaboration and shared responsibility.

We regularly celebrate successes, reflect on challenges, and refine practices to ensure the community school model supports the WRVSU Portrait of a Learner. This work has contributed to a positive school climate where students feel connected, supported, and valued.

Goal 3: Positioning Newton as a Viable and Desired Destination

The Newton School as an extension of the Strafford community continues to position itself as a strong educational institution that is sustainable within our current supervisory union. In Strafford, we highlight our commitment to high-quality instruction, personalized learning, and strong community connections. Clear communication, collaborative leadership, and responsible stewardship of resources help preserve Newton traditions within the WRVSU governance model.

By focusing on student-centered practices and maintaining a strong sense of community identity, Newton remains an attractive and viable option for families, staff, and community partners. We finally have two members from the community interested in coaching a robotics team, and it will be great to offer this to our students. One of the many challenges we face as a small school is having a critical mass for extra curricular activities. We will continue to work on this and hope to find someone interested in doing this work on behalf of the Newton School as we continue to move forward.

Conclusion

The work happening in Strafford reflects a shared commitment to student growth, community partnership, and the long-term strength of our school and supervisory union. Through continued engagement around Act 73 and the Strategic Plan, we remain focused on preparing students to thrive academically, socially, and as engaged members of their communities.

I would like to thank our families for your continued support along with our faculty and staff who care deeply about our school and the students we serve. I would like to thank the Strafford Lion's Club for their continued support of a ski program that can be accessed by all students in addition to annual contributions to the town's baseball program. Perhaps most importantly, I would like to thank our elected officials and board members for

their continued commitment to make our school and town better. We have been diligent in trying to meet state requirements in a fiscally responsible manner, which can be recognized in a process to transition over time to meet the minimum class size requirements as outlined by the legislation in FY 25. This year's budget reflects a combining of grades at the elementary level. In thinking about the future we will need to think about a configuration for the MS that is best for kids development while addressing the class size mandates from the state.

Thank You,
Barrett Williams
Principal
The Newton School

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

We want to begin by thanking the Strafford community for their continued support and commitment to all of the students and faculty/staff of the Newton School. The fiscal year 2027 (FY27) budget was developed with a focus on continuing our academic and social/emotional programming at Newton, while also working carefully to address concerns specific to residential tax rates across the supervisory union, and to begin the process of working towards compliance with Act 73 minimum class size numbers.

The Newton School has worked diligently to continue our work to ensure great teaching and learning for every student in every classroom every day. We continue to implement instructional practices that are research-based and focused on personalized learning in order to achieve individualized student growth in the areas of academics and social/emotional learning. In every classroom at The Newton School, students are being challenged with rigorous academic expectations and supported to meet these expectations based on their individual growth. Flexible pathways, Spanish instruction, school-wide community-building activities, and learning in the woods are all vital aspects of a student's learning journey through Newton. Educators meet regularly to help ensure that students have the right support to make progress toward and meet grade-level expectations and opportunities to explore concepts deeply through integrated, hands-on, and real-world applications. This commitment to student-centered learning and growth aligns with our supervisory union's work to implement the WRVSU Portrait of a Learner, which clearly outlines the characteristics that we expect our students to know, understand, and do as they attend our schools.

The budget as presented continues to provide funding that supports universal academic instruction and intervention K-8 and tuition for grades PreK and 9-12. We've been able to achieve all of this and keep our expenditure budget increase to 3.86% overall and the per pupil change to 3.37%. We are once again challenged by a drop in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) in your town so that drop is contributing to almost all of the change in your finalized homestead tax rate (99.6% of it).

Without a change in your CLA your residential tax rate would only be increasing by .0064 cents per \$100,000 of assessed value, which results in a 64 cent increase on a \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The problem is that when factoring in the drop in CLA (which we have no control over locally) the change in a \$100,000 of assessed value will be \$137.76. Hence, the increase in residential taxes is almost entirely (99.6%) contributed to the drop in your town's CLA.

We are confident that this budget provides the resources necessary to provide a high-quality and responsive education for all students of Newton School, while also making certain that it happens in a fiscally responsible manner. We continue to work diligently across the supervisory union to present fiscally responsible budgets that leverage Federal/State dollars and both formula and competitively-won grants to support our local districts with added revenue. We are proud that we have once again been able to realize a projected surplus in the 2024-25 fiscal year. These surplus dollars enable us to ask your permission to continue our work in proactively funding our reserve funds and utilize 100,000 in revenue to bring your local tax rates down. This will allow us to extend our work in making certain that we have solid financial footing as we move forward. We will continue to do everything in our power to analyze our system and ensure efficiencies have been identified while making certain that opportunities for students are enhanced.

We understand that there continue to be important conversations occurring at the state level this legislative session regarding how best to adjust our educational delivery system state-wide, while also proposing significant changes for the future of education funding in the State of Vermont to make our delivery system more economically sustainable. We have been and continue to be active participants in these conversations locally and in Montpelier. Therefore, we want to invite you to join us for any of our upcoming Community Conversations, our Budget Drop-In sessions on Friday mornings in February at the WRVSU offices or virtually (find information at wrvsu.org), or to give us a call anytime to better understand what is occurring here locally to provide fiscal sustainability while also being active participants in the state-wide conversation on the future of Vermont public education.

In closing, we would like to thank you all for supporting your school and students. Your support and involvement are critical in moving the school system forward with the vision of creating Schools of Excellence. We are creating an educational system throughout the ten towns of the WRVSU that is a destination for young families. This budget supports the work necessary for us to continue our work to deliver on these important goals.

With great appreciation and optimism,

With great appreciation and optimism,
Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools
White River Valley Supervisory Union

Anda Adams
Chief Academic Officer, MTSS
White River Valley Supervisory Union

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES REPORT

I would like to start by thanking the WRVSU community for being so welcoming. It has been wonderful to step into a Supervisory Union with such dedicated professionals who take seriously their duty and commitment to reaching all students. The WRVSU provides quality educational, social/emotional, behavioral, and career education to students within our eight buildings, and we also partner with 16 receiving schools in our region to ensure the same outcomes for our students who attend these schools through school choice.

The professional development focus in the Special Education Department this year is on aligning practices across districts and improving practices to reach all learner profiles. Case managers, service providers, and support staff have worked on improving the quality of IEP goals, both in terms of how they are written and how they are implemented. The remainder of our professional development time in this school year will focus on neurodiverse learner profiles.

Our special education team case manages students on IEPs and 504 plans. These numbers are constantly fluctuating slightly as students move in and out of our SU, or as new students are referred and others demonstrate enough growth that they “test off” of a plan and move onto a different form of support. At the writing of this report, we currently serve 196 students on IEPs and 82 students on 504s within our SU campuses. The current picture of our 10 buildings is as follows.

Winter 2025-26 Active IEP

School	Enrollment	Active IEP	Percentage
WRVHS	227	34	14.9
WRVMS	143	25	17.4
Bethel Elem	120	19	15.8
South Royalton Elem	157	28	17.8
Chelsea	102	22	21.5
Tunbridge	115	23	20.0
Sharon	147	16	10.8
Newton	111	16	14.4
Rochester	75	7	9.3
Stockbridge	51	6	11.7

Winter 2025-26 Active 504 Plans

School	Enrollment	Active 504	Percentage
WRVHS	227	32	14.1
WRVMS	143	9	6.2
Bethel Elem	120	4	3.3
South Royalton Elem	157	2	1.3
Chelsea	102	4	3.9
Tunbridge	115	11	9.6
Sharon	147	7	4.8
Newton	111	6	5.4
Rochester	75	4	5.3
Stockbridge	51	3	5.9

The FY27 budget of \$9,053,455 is an increase of 7% over the previous year's budget. This is a reflection of the increase in salaries and benefits, as well as adding additional positions (two professionals and one support staff) in order to support the creation of in-house programming to support students with complex needs. By creating an in-house continuum, we will be able to keep students in their communities, have more oversight over the rigor of programming, and save on transportation and tuition costs.

With Much Appreciation,
Rebekah Mortensen, M.Ed, NBCT
Director of Special Services

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

White River Valley Supervisory Union's Business office handles the financial management of the Supervisory Union and our six-member districts: First Branch Unified District, Granville Hancock Unified District, Rochester Stockbridge Unified District, Sharon School District, Strafford School District and White River Unified District. We currently have a four-member team: Tara Weatherell, Business Manager, Ellen Blanchard, Accountant, Lisa Blair, Human Resources/Administrative Assistant to the Business Office, Johanna Snelling, Accounts Payable and Lori Rogers, Payroll/Accounting Clerk.

One of my roles as the Business Manager is to assist Superintendent Kinnarney and our Building Administration to develop budgets that align with the WRVSU's Road Map to Success and maintain those budgets throughout the fiscal year.

There are multiple aspects of the current budgeting formula that local School Boards/School Districts do not have any control; these include the Property Yield, the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and the Secondary Tuition costs.

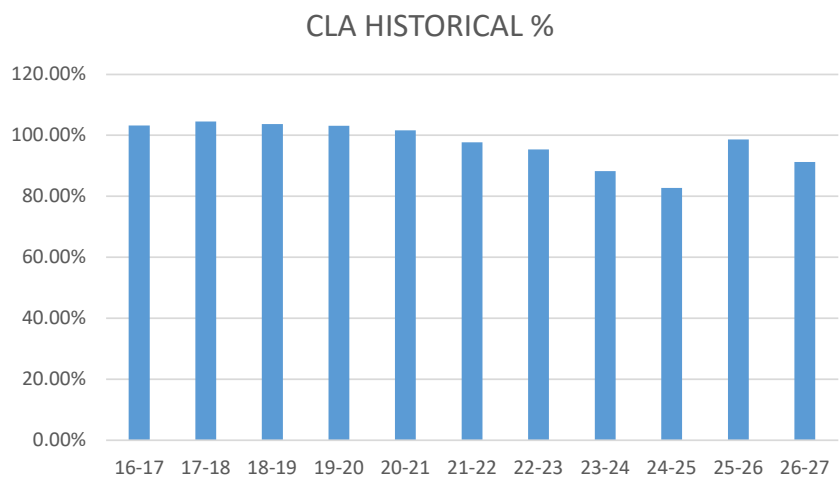
The Property Yield is determined by the State of Vermont Tax Commissioner using a statutory calculation and assumptions provided by the Agency of Education, Department of Taxes, Department of Finance and Management and the Joint Fiscal Office.

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is used to make sure each town is paying their equitable share of education property taxes. The CLA is based on each Town's property value grand list as it compares to property sales over a three-year period. If the grand list value is less than real estate sale prices the town will have a CLA of less than 100%; if the grand list value is more than the real estate sale prices the CLA will be more than 100%. The CLA doesn't change the property value, it impacts the education tax rate to be paid by the town. The CLA is also used to determine when a Town needs to be reappraised. When the CLA is below 85% or above 115% the Town must reappraise.

In 2024 Act 183 was passed providing a "statewide adjustment" that averages the CLAs across the state. This means that each town's CLA is divided by this average, and the result is used to adjust the tax rates. The statewide adjustment for 2026/2027 has been reduced from 72.36% to 70.33%. More information on the statewide adjustment can be found at <https://tax.vermont.gov/statewide-adjustment>.

In essence, the CLA ensures that property taxes for education are fair and equitable across Vermont, so no town is over- or under-taxed compared to others.

For fiscal year 2026-2027 Strafford CLA decreased from 71.34% to 64.20% with the statewide adjustment applied it brings the CLA up to 91.28%. The following is a historical review of Strafford’s Common Level of Appraisal:



The Secondary Tuition is another factor that the District Administration cannot control due to Strafford being a choice district for grades nine through twelve. The following is a comparison of the Secondary Tuition cost for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years that we have available as of the writing of this report:

ANNOUNCED TUITION (SECONDARY)

DISTRICT	FY26	FY27
STATE AVERAGE (PRIVATE)	\$20,910	UNKNOWN
WHITE RIVER UNIFIED DISTRICT	\$19,900	\$22,000
THE SHARON ACADEMY	\$22,900	\$24,700
THETFORD ACADEMY	\$25,060	\$25,975
HARTFORD MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	\$23,000	\$25,500
MOUNTAINVIEW (WINDSOR CENTRAL)		
(WOODSTOCK)	\$22,510	\$23,160
LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL	\$19,450	\$19,983
HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL	\$24,470	UNKNOWN

Each of the above-reviewed variables has a direct impact on the educational tax rate.

The following is an overview of the Strafford School District’s 2026-2027 projected budget as compared to 2025-2026:

NEWTON SCHOOL	2025-2026	2026-2027	DIFFERENCE
EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$4,424,498	\$4,596,531	\$ 172,033
LOCAL REVENUE	\$ 145,145	\$ 211,673	\$ 66,528
EDUCATION SPENDING	\$4,279,353	\$4,384,858	\$ 105,505
EQUALIZED PUPIL	301.14	298.50	(2.64)
PER PUPIL SPENDING	\$14,210.51	\$14,689.64	\$ 479
PRELIMINARY TAX RATE (with discount)	1.6092	1.6432	0.034
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.703	1.785	0.082
PROPERTY YIELD (MAY CHANGE)	\$ 8,596	\$ 8,849	\$ 253
COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL (CLA)	98.59%	91.28%	-7.31%
RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.6322	1.8001	0.1679
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.7274	1.9555	0.2281

The following shows how we calculate the tax rate:

1. Take the ACT 68 Education Spending of \$4,384,858 divide it by the 298.50 Long Term Weighted Average; this results in the Per Pupil Spending of \$14,689.64
2. Divide the Per Pupil Spending of \$14,689.64 by the \$8,849 Yield; this gives you the Preliminary Residential Tax Rate of 1.6600 (utilizing the 1.6879 cent H.850 discount)
3. Take the Equalized Tax Rate of 1.6432 and divide by the CLA of 91.28%; 1.8001; this is the Residential Tax Rate after the CLA. This is the tax rate projected to be on your homestead property tax bill. Which is a reduction of .1679 cents.

This tax rate would translate into the following dollar impact based on the Town’s assessed property value:

Change per \$100,000 of property value	\$ 167.91
Change per \$250,000 of property value	\$ 419.76
Change per \$500,000 of property value	\$ 839.53

Superintendent Kinnarney, Principal Williams, the Strafford School Board and I all feel that this budget supports what is necessary to provide high-quality education to all students at The Newton School.

Sincerely,
Tara Weatherell
Business Manager

ONE PLANET PROGRAMS

SUMMER CAMP 2025

- Offered 7 summer camp locations: Bethel, Chelsea, Newton, Stockbridge (RSUD), Sharon, and South Royalton, Tunbridge.
- Total summer enrollment of 330 students, grades K-6.
- Offered five weeks (2.5hrs/day) of academic intervention for students who were referred based on assessment results and teacher feedback, an increase from 4 weeks in the summer of 2024.
- All intervention instructors were licensed teachers and paraeducators from WRVSU
- Split the First Branch Unified District camp into two camps, one camp in Chelsea and one in Tunbridge, based on community need and feedback.
- Across all sites, offered 29 different weekly themes based on student interest, all with unique enrichment activities.
- Across all sites, offered 26 different exciting field trip locations, many connecting to weekly camp themes, to destinations such as the SEE Science Center, the American Precision Museum, the Path of Life Sculpture Garden, Shelburne Museum, The Roots School, and Storrs Pond.
- Partnered with the Arts Bus for 1 week of high quality arts enrichment at each of the 7 sites.
- Partnered with Matt Denton of Matt Colors the World to design and create screen printed t-shirts for campers.
- Employed high school students (ages 16-18) from WRVSU.
- Offered a CIT program for 14- and 15-year-old students from WRVSU.
- One Planet Director applied for and was awarded a 5-year State Afterschool Grant beginning in fiscal year 2026 to support all 8 sites.

SCHOOL YEAR 25-26

STAFFING

- Hired 1 new site coordinator to lead our Tunbridge site.
- Site Coordinators, head teachers, and Director attended the Annual VT Afterschool Conference in November at the Lake Morey Resort.
- WRVSU high school student employees (ages 16-18 years) continue to bring excitement to the after school programs and act as great role models for our elementary students.

PROGRAMMING

- All 8 sites offered unique enrichment programming including but not limited to: Matt Colors the World visits, The Arts Bus visits, STEAM, Homework Club, Arts & Crafts, Go2Science, Cooking Club, Mountain Biking, Horticulture, and Outdoor Exploration.
- Daily structure of the program ensures all sites have voice and choice strategies in place, including group circle time, structured free choice time, social snack time, and decision/planning opportunities within enrichment programs.
- Continued community partnerships with Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, The Arts Bus, and Matt Colors the World.
- Early Release programming: One Planet is operating on all of WRVSU's Early Release days; sites are incorporating off-site field trips to high-interest and fun locations such as The Montshire Museum, GetAir Trampoline Park, and The Upper Valley Aquatic Center.
- February Camp in South Royalton was a great success once again with students from both WRUD campuses in attendance. Students enjoyed enrichment activities, plenty of outdoor activities, and two field trips.

LOOKING AHEAD

- February Vacation Camp: Our South Royalton site will be open for vacation camp once again this year and will extend an invitation to all FBUD students as well as all WRUD students in an effort to better serve our communities and families.
- Chelsea, Newton, Rochester, and Sharon schools will all host a Jr Iron Chef team this winter, all of whom hope to compete in the VT Afterschool Jr Iron Chef competition in March.
- Summer 2026: We hope to extend additional camps to 7 weeks with enrollment open to all WRVSU students, based on community need.

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

We value our role as an important high school choice for Strafford families and welcome the opportunity each year to provide a program update in the town report.

Congratulations to the following Strafford residents who were part of Thetford Academy's Class of 2025: Heidi Margaret Hewes, Luke McIntyre Miller, Bianca Lorelei Pulaski, Oliver Eric Ransom, and Willow Mae Slayton. The accomplishments of these students during their high school years are evidence of their individual passions, motivation, and leadership – and are also a vibrant reflection of the robust programs we offer at Thetford Academy. From career exploration to the arts, athletics to advanced academic studies, extracurricular activities to outdoor education, these five did it all. We are really proud of them!

Here are a few highlights: Heidi pursued the health sciences program at River Bend Career and Technical Center, and Luke and Oliver participated in the STEM internship at Hypertherm and FujiFilm. Bianca, Heidi, Willow, and Oliver raced on the TA alpine team (co-coached by Amy Huyffer of Strafford). Willow and Heidi had starring roles in many plays and musicals, culminating with a production of 'Grease' their senior spring. Bianca spearheaded the 2025 yearbook, exhibited photography at AVA Gallery, and was selected as a graduation speaker. Willow led the school newspaper, helped launch a new chapter of the International Thespian Society, and was recognized with numerous academic excellence awards. Luke set too many school records to list in both indoor and outdoor track, including three state records in javelin, the 400 meters, and the 4x400m relay. He and Oliver contributed to multiple track championships during their time at TA. Oliver's legacy on campus also includes being a part of the construction team that built a beautiful timber frame headquarters for the school garden. This is just a partial list of all that these five graduates did during their years at Thetford Academy. Next time you see Heidi, Luke, Bianca, Oliver, or Willow, get their take on the activities and accolades that meant the most and are now propelling their college journey.

Enrollment at Thetford Academy for the 2025-26 school year is strong. Eight Strafford students started 9th grade this fall, joining the class of 2029. Across all of the high school grades, we have 24 students from Strafford enrolled at TA in 2025-26. Strafford students generally make up about 10% of our school population and study alongside classmates from a variety of neighboring Vermont towns, including Thetford, Sharon, Tunbridge, Chelsea, Corinth, Topsham, and Washington, as well as the New Hampshire towns of Lyme and Piermont. This diverse mix of communities coming together is one of many aspects that make the high school experience at Thetford Academy such an enriching one.

This past year was an intense one for education on the statewide stage and we expect that to continue. We have been paying close attention to the debates and developments surrounding Act 73 and advocating strongly for maintaining Thetford Academy's role as a secondary school option for towns like Strafford. We are also focused on mapping out our next strategic plan as we look ahead to TA 2030 and beyond. We are proactively readying for the future and positioning Thetford Academy to be relevant, vital, and strong in Vermont's evolving education landscape. We are seeking community input on helping define our next phase of strategic priorities, so look for invitations to participate in forums and surveys this spring.

And most immediately, as you prepare for Town Meeting in the coming weeks, please know that the Thetford Academy Board of Trustees and I strive to strike a balance between cost and quality each year as we budget and set tuition. We work diligently to manage school funding pressures, while also ensuring that TA continues to be academically competitive, fiscally strong and sustainable, and a valued community asset to our sending towns.

I thank you for the long-standing partnership between our school and the Strafford community.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Brennan, Head of School
Thetford Academy

THE SHARON ACADEMY

The mission of The Sharon Academy is to nurture intelligent, independent and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and the difference they can make in the world.

Highlights of the 2025-2026 School Year:

- “Bye Bye Birdie” Performance: The High School Musical Interim featured a lively and well executed performance of Bye Bye Birdie at the Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph. Students showed impressive leadership throughout the process and delivered a show that was both captivating and community building. Their work highlighted the creativity, commitment, and teamwork that define our Interim program.
- Travel Abroad Program: This spring high school students will travel to France and Spain, where they will visit historic sites, explore art and culture, practice language skills, and engage in hands-on learning. These trips are part of TSA’s ongoing commitment to help students connect their academic studies to real-world global experiences.
- STEAM Building: The STEAM building opened last spring, and since then it has begun to support a wider range of hands-on learning at TSA. Students used the space for Interim set-building this year, and it now provides room for experiments, engineering challenges, design projects, and practical fabrication. As new electives develop, students will have more opportunities to build, test ideas, and connect academic learning to real materials and tools.
- Spring Events: We invite you to join us for:
 - Middle School Circus Interim: March 27 (6 PM Carnival, 7 PM show) and March 28 (3 PM Carnival, 4 PM show)
 - Free Family Arts Day: Saturday April 11 (10 AM-1 PM)
 - Phoenix Phest: Saturday, June 6
 - Graduation Ceremonies: Middle School on June 12, High School on June 13

Teaching and Learning Profile: This year we continue to strengthen our student support systems. TSA places great importance on knowing each learner well and understanding how to support their academic, social, and emotional growth. Teachers and staff work closely with families to ensure that each student receives the support they need to thrive. We remain dedicated to meeting diverse learning needs within a close-knit and caring environment.

Student Spotlight: Congratulations to Strafford seniors Lucy Proulx and Phoenix Colburn for their outstanding contributions and leadership in Bye

Bye Birdie. Lucy had the audience in stitches with her hilarious portrayal of Mrs. Mae Peterson, while Phoenix brought the music to life as the head of the sound committee and helped shape the story through thoughtful technical work. Their efforts contributed to a production defined by strong teamwork, imagination, and shared accomplishment.

Thank you to all who have supported TSA by sharing your time, skills, and financial gifts. Your help makes it possible for us to continue our work with students and to guide them as they grow into creative thinkers, capable problem solvers, and thoughtful leaders.

We invite you to visit our campus or join us at an upcoming event. TSA is proud to be part of this community, and we are always glad to welcome you.

Mary Newman
Head of School
The Sharon Academy

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

The Newton School Parent Teacher Association is an organization dedicated to supporting Strafford's school and community. The PTA, which is composed of parents, school personnel, and community members, works to provide and support programs which benefit the entire student body and school community. The PTA typically coordinates and supports a number of events throughout the year, including Winter Carnival, Bike and Walk to School Day, the Fourth of July Fair, Halloween events, Artists In Residence, Staff Appreciation, field trips, and after-school workshops. The PTA also grants teacher and staff requests for classroom enrichment materials.

Winter Carnival 2025 brought back the old and welcomed the new. For the first time since COVID, we were able to bring back the traditional spaghetti dinner at the end of the day. And due to pressure from Mother Nature's very limited snowy weekends, it was the first year (in the recent past at least) that the PTA and the school combined forces to give kids a Winter Carnival on a school day! Children had winter themed activities at school in the morning and then made their way to Harrington Hill in the afternoon for sledding, ski and snowboard races and jump competitions.

Bike and Walk to School Day occurred on a Friday in May. Not only did students enjoy the commute, but they were treated to a community breakfast once they arrived at school!.

The Fourth of July Fair—an annual favorite—once again lined up with some pretty great weather! As always, kids were wandering around the common, figuring out which game to play next (and there were a few new ones this year), eating sno-cones and candy from the PTA, bouncing in the

always popular Bounce House—and lots of people hung around until the fire department's chicken BBQ.

Kids once again carved pumpkins at school and those pumpkins were then displayed along the sidewalk during both trick or treating and the Haunted House. Once kids got their fill of trick-or-treating in the villages, families gathered in Barrett Hall to enjoy a potluck dinner (a big hit again this year—thank you to all that brought a crockpot) as well as the Haunted House (a creepy slaughter house gone wrong).

As always, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Strafford. The PTA would not be able to meet our goals without the continued generosity and volunteer efforts of the Strafford community! Your contributions of time, talent, and funds support great programming for the children of Strafford. The PTA always welcomes new members and ideas. Anyone interested in participating in the PTA is invited to our monthly meetings, which usually occur on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. You may also reach out to a board member regarding ideas or concerns.

Sincerely,

Newton School PTA

Kira Campbell, Co-President

Lauren Phelps, Co-President

Hillary Miner, Secretary

Nicole Ekegren, Treasurer

**STRAFFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
THE NEWTON SCHOOL
2026-2027 PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
1101 REGULAR ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 2,293,628	\$ 2,173,655	\$ 2,518,956	\$ 2,581,290	\$ 62,334	
111 TEACHER SALARY	685,758	728,804	752,909	780,973	28,064	8.4 FTE K-8/1.0 FTE Intervention/.4 Outdoor Ed
121 PARA SALARY	53,688	67,971	66,353	66,285	(68)	2.0 FTE
131 SALARY SUB	30,000	27,430	30,000	30,000	-	
181 SALARY- GENERAL	-	-	-	-	-	
191 OTHER SALARY	7,000	3,600	7,000	7,000	-	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	227,367	150,248	182,289	190,646	8,357	
218 H.S.A.	-	1,900	1,900	-	(1,900)	
219 HRA	38,500	15,881	24,500	27,160	2,660	
220 FICA	59,821	60,253	62,674	64,815	2,142	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	3,550	3,605	3,728	123	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	9,000	10,794	9,300	11,200	1,900	
233 VSTRS	-	3,593	-	-	-	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	2,756	4,457	3,649	3,811	162	
238 EMPLOYER MATCH	-	1,885	1,000	9,040	8,040	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	348	138	192	179	(13)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	5,102	6,130	5,653	6,354	702	
281 DENTAL INS	4,918	3,692	3,743	4,360	617	
292 LIFE	756	597	810	724	(86)	
294 LTD	3,405	1,239	1,966	2,033	67	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	20,000	13,467	15,500	15,500	-	
332 PURCHASED SERVICE	8,000	8,280	8,000	8,000	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	12,000	158	12,000	12,000	-	
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	22,000	32,625	92,000	121,900	29,900	
562 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	844,595	787,679	942,780	957,667	14,887	TUITION IS BASED ON FY26 ANNOUNCED TUITION WITH A 6% INCREASE ENROLLMENT AS OF 11/26/2025 PROJECTED INCREASE \$11,568
563 TUITION TO NON-VT LEA	143,664	117,095	152,284	155,629	3,345	
564 TUITION - SEC OUT OF STATE PRIVATE	40,185	39,548	41,921	22,165	(19,756)	
567 TUITION TO VOC SCHOOLS	11,065	16,776	11,729	12,433	704	
568 TUITION TO PUBLIC W/IN SU	39,800	54,978	59,700	42,188	(17,512)	
569 TUITION-OTHER	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	8,400	5,266	10,000	10,000	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	10,500	5,233	10,500	10,500	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
897 PRIOR YEAR	-	388	-	-	-	
1102 ART	\$ 39,004	\$ 21,531	\$ 30,008	\$ 40,037	\$ 10,028	
111 TEACHER SALARY	26,155	16,852	24,675	33,829	9,154	.4 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	5,290	-	-	-	-	
219 HRA	1,900	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	2,116	1,289	1,888	2,588	700	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	71	109	149	40	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,500	1,542	1,550	1,600	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	23	9	13	13	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	180	216	170	254	83	
281 DENTAL INS	235	-	-	-	-	
292 LIFE	54	-	54	54	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,550	1,551	1,550	1,550	-	
1103 PRESCHOOL	\$ 81,564	\$ 63,066	\$ 67,694	\$ 49,872	\$ (17,822)	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	-	589	-	600	600	
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	7,768	-	7,964	8,212	248	
562 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	73,796	62,476	59,730	41,060	(18,670)	BASED ON PROJECTED PREK ENROLLMENT
1106 WORLD LANGUAGE	\$ 41,383	\$ 36,452	\$ 39,389	\$ 78,208	\$ 38,819	
111 TEACHER SALARY	23,825	30,031	35,689	57,389	21,700	1.0 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	14,654	3,407	-	12,760	12,760	
219 HRA	-	-	-	1,900	1,900	
220 FICA	1,927	2,246	2,730	4,390	1,660	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	121	157	253	95	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	23	-	13	13	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	164	197	246	430	184	
281 DENTAL INS	235	-	-	519	519	
292 LIFE	54	38	54	54	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	500	414	500	500	-	
1108 PE	\$ 41,212	\$ 39,430	\$ 43,388	\$ 34,717	\$ (8,671)	
111 TEACHER SALARY	27,657	28,059	29,593	28,695	(898)	.5 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	6,348	6,333	7,087	750	(6,337)	
219 HRA	1,900	1,221	1,140	-	(1,140)	
220 FICA	2,237	1,976	2,264	2,195	(69)	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	119	130	126	(4)	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,500	925	1,550	1,600	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	23	9	13	13	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	191	229	204	215	11	
281 DENTAL INS	235	268	282	-	(282)	
292 LIFE	54	32	54	54	-	
294 LTD	66	67	71	69	(2)	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	189	1,000	1,000	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
1112 PERFORMING ARTS	\$ 37,183	\$ 43,923	\$ 46,794	\$ 50,583	\$ 3,790	
111 TEACHER SALARY	26,500	30,454	32,586	30,507	(2,079)	.5 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	5,290	6,333	7,087	11,982	4,895	
219 HRA	-	1,711	1,140	2,000	860	
220 FICA	2,144	2,194	2,493	2,334	(159)	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	119	143	134	(9)	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,500	925	1,550	1,600	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	23	9	13	13	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	183	220	225	229	4	
281 DENTAL INS	-	224	-	260	260	
292 LIFE	54	24	54	27	(27)	
294 LTD	64	49	78	73	(5)	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	425	-	425	425	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	1,660	1,000	1,000	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
1201 SPECIAL ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 270,867	\$ 270,867	\$ 281,308	\$ 294,558	\$ 13,250	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	270,867	270,867	281,308	294,558	13,250	PER APPROVED BUDGET
1301 VOC TECH TUITION	\$ 24,321	\$ 25,117	\$ 23,034	\$ 23,034	\$ 0	
566 VOC TECH ON BEHALF	24,321	25,117	23,034	23,034	0	
1401 ATHLETICS & COCURRECULAR	\$ 23,102	\$ 8,493	\$ 23,173	\$ 11,105	\$ (12,068)	
191 OTHER SALARY	16,100	4,698	16,100	5,000	(11,100)	
220 FICA	1,302	359	1,302	383	(920)	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	71	22	(49)	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	5,000	3,135	5,000	5,000	-	
811 DUES & FEES	700	300	700	700	-	
2120 GUIDANCE	\$ 57,367	\$ 87,884	\$ 97,156	\$ 107,522	\$ 10,365	
111 TEACHER SALARY	49,203	69,402	74,260	82,761	8,501	1.0 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	1,500	8,796	11,811	12,760	949	
219 HRA	-	1,900	1,900	1,900	-	
220 FICA	3,981	5,084	5,681	6,331	650	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	288	327	364	37	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,500	1,542	1,550	1,600	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	23	9	13	13	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	118	142	512	621	108	
281 DENTAL INS	470	373	470	519	49	
292 LIFE	54	45	54	54	-	
294 LTD	118	144	178	199	20	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	150	134	150	150	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	250	25	250	250	-	
2132 HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 84,500	\$ 81,762	\$ 91,381	\$ 101,749	\$ 10,368	
111 TEACHER SALARY	60,079	60,964	64,285	71,877	7,592	1.0 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	10,581	10,555	11,811	12,760	949	
219 HRA	1,900	1,312	1,900	1,900	-	
220 FICA	4,860	4,375	4,918	5,499	581	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	237	283	316	33	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,500	1,542	1,550	1,600	50	
238 EMPLOYER MATCH	-	-	1,000	2,000	1,000	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	23	9	13	13	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	415	498	444	539	96	
281 DENTAL INS	470	447	470	519	49	
292 LIFE	54	54	54	54	-	
294 LTD	118	107	154	173	18	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	2,500	1,662	2,500	2,500	-	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	500	-	500	500	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
2212 CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION	\$ 41,354	\$ 41,354	\$ 41,457	\$ 39,266	\$ (2,191)	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	41,354	41,354	41,457	39,266	(2,191)	PER APPROVED BUDGET
2213 STAFF TRAINING	\$ 32,000	\$ 45,426	\$ 32,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 10,000	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	20,000	43,133	20,000	30,000	10,000	
331 INSERVICES & TRAINING	11,000	2,294	11,000	11,000	-	
581 TRAVEL	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
2220 LIBRARY/MEDIA SERVICES	\$ 80,271	\$ 53,073	\$ 62,509	\$ 74,582	\$ 12,073	
111 TEACHER SALARY	66,294	37,515	43,558	48,569	5,011	.6 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	1,200	6,028	7,087	7,656	569	
219 HRA	-	1,592	1,140	1,140	-	
220 FICA	5,363	2,803	3,332	3,716	383	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	182	192	214	22	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	617	-	1,600	1,600	
238 EMPLOYER MATCH	-	563	-	2,000	2,000	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	23	9	13	13	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	457	549	301	364	64	
281 DENTAL INS	470	261	282	311	29	
292 LIFE	54	81	54	32	(22)	
294 LTD	159	94	301	117	(184)	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	250	208	250	250	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	2,400	1,620	2,400	5,000	2,600	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	2,500	950	2,500	2,500	-	
811 DUES & FEES	1,100	-	1,100	1,100	-	
2311 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$ 11,670	\$ 11,827	\$ 13,743	\$ 15,445	\$ 1,702	
141 ADMIN SALARY	2,500	2,000	2,500	2,500	-	
161 CLERICAL SALARY	100	2,575	1,000	2,575	1,575	
220 FICA	210	350	268	388	120	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	17	15	22	7	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	-	-	-	-	-	
311 SECTION 125 ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	660	-	660	660	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	100	-	100	100	-	
520 INSURANCE	4,000	2,788	4,400	4,400	-	
541 ADVERTISING	1,800	2,138	2,500	2,500	-	
581 TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	-	100	100	-	
811 DUES & FEES	2,200	1,959	2,200	2,200	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
2313 BOARD TREASURER	\$ 3,178	\$ 2,361	\$ 6,088	\$ 6,088	\$ 0	
141 ADMIN SALARY	2,200	1,900	2,200	2,200	-	
220 FICA	178	145	178	178	-	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	8	10	10	0	
533 POSTAGE	600	247	3,500	3,500	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	-	100	100	-	
811 DUES & FEES	100	60	100	100	-	
2315 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 105	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
342 LEGAL SERVICES	2,500	105	2,500	2,500	-	
2320 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION	\$ 39,410	\$ 39,410	\$ 44,416	\$ 39,600	\$ (4,817)	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	39,410	39,410	44,416	39,600	(4,817)	PER APPROVED BUDGET
2410 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL	\$ 280,093	\$ 281,433	\$ 306,722	\$ 321,781	\$ 15,058	
141 ADMIN SALARY	105,000	112,000	116,480	121,128	4,648	1.0 FTE
161 CLERICAL SALARY	51,062	57,382	53,395	57,197	3,802	1.0 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	58,617	58,476	65,435	70,692	5,256	
219 HRA	8,400	6,736	8,400	8,400	-	
220 FICA	12,625	11,354	12,995	13,642	646	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	629	747	785	37	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	2,681	3,824	2,937	3,289	352	
235 - RETIREMENT/ANNUITY	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	2,200	-	4,068	4,100	32	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	46	18	26	26	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	1,077	1,293	1,171	1,337	166	
281 DENTAL INS	940	895	940	1,038	98	
292 LIFE	270	270	270	270	-	
294 LTD	375	277	408	428	20	
331 INSERVICES & TRAINING	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	
443 RENTALS OF COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY	6,000	7,621	9,000	9,000	-	
531 TELEPHONE SERVICES	6,000	4,370	5,000	5,000	-	
533 POSTAGE	1,000	1,419	1,000	1,000	-	
551 PRINTING & BINDING	250	279	250	250	-	
581 TRAVEL	1,000	795	1,000	1,000	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	9,000	8,276	9,000	9,000	-	
811 DUES & FEES	9,050	3,519	9,200	9,200	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
2510 FISCAL SERVICES	\$ 96,767	\$ 109,180	\$ 97,434	\$ 95,364	\$ (2,071)	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	81,767	81,767	82,434	80,364	(2,071)	PER APPROVED BUDGET
835 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT	15,000	27,413	15,000	15,000	-	
2570 PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ 700	\$ 646	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ -	
311 SECTION 125 ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	700	646	700	700	-	
2580 ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 88,179	\$ 73,785	\$ 92,022	\$ 100,161	\$ 8,139	
352 OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES	2,500	-	2,500	10,000	7,500	New phone system
432 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY	500	-	500	500	-	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	45,456	45,456	46,229	44,728	(1,501)	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	39,723	28,329	42,793	44,933	2,140	
2610 OPERATION OF BUILDING	162,171	183,175	179,856	199,908	20,052	
151 SUPERVISOR SALARY	44,928	47,860	47,528	50,648	3,120	1.0 FTE
181 SALARY- GENERAL	19,864	20,666	21,164	22,724	1,560	.5 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	
220 FICA	5,242	5,301	5,255	5,613	358	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	287	302	323	21	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	4,373	3,652	4,808	5,319	511	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	46	18	26	26	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	3,369	4,045	3,572	5,319	1,747	
281 DENTAL INS	462	220	463	260	(203)	
292 LIFE	108	81	108	108	-	
294 LTD	156	129	165	176	11	
341 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6,000	2,940	6,000	6,000	-	
411 UTILITY SERVICES	1,200	-	1,200	1,200	-	
425 WASTE REMOVAL	4,000	6,748	4,500	4,500	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	10,000	9,072	15,000	15,000	-	
520 INSURANCE	8,423	9,414	9,265	10,192	927	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	15,000	25,467	18,000	25,000	7,000	
622 ENERGY ELECTRICITY	16,000	20,957	16,000	21,000	5,000	
624 ENERGY FUEL OIL	17,500	20,853	21,000	21,000	-	
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	3,500	3,463	3,500	3,500	-	
2620 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING	\$ 54,600	\$ 55,965	\$ 54,600	\$ 56,000	\$ 1,400	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	50,000	50,015	50,000	50,000	-	
441 RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	4,600	5,950	4,600	6,000	1,400	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	FY25 ACTUALS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
2630 GROUNDS	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,559	\$ 18,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 7,000	
422 SNOW REMOVAL	18,000	19,559	18,000	25,000	7,000	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
2711 TRANSPORTATION-RESIDENT	\$ 151,513	\$ 145,915	\$ 165,456	\$ 158,472	\$ (6,984)	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	151,513	145,915	165,456	158,472	(6,984)	
2713 TECH TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	-	-	-	-	-	
2715 TRANSPORTION-FIELD TRIPS	\$ 9,000	\$ 11,914	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	9,000	11,914	9,000	9,000	-	
2790 OTHER TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	-	-	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	-	-	-	-	-	
3100 FOOD SERVICES	\$ 20,863	\$ 20,863	\$ 21,636	\$ 23,912	\$ 2,277	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	20,863	20,863	21,636	23,912	2,277	
5020 DEBT SERVICE-LONG TERM	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,079	\$ 6,079	\$ 6,079	\$ -	
831 REDEMPTION OF PRINCIPAL	3,000	5,692	4,135	4,410	274	
832 INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	3,000	387	1,943	1,669	(274)	
5390 INTERFUND TRANSFER	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	
910 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	-	TYSON GYM RESERVE
Grand Total	\$ 4,100,400	\$ 3,962,248	\$ 4,424,498	\$ 4,596,531	\$ 172,033	3.89%

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2026-2027 Revenue Budget

Description	STRAFFORD Budget 2024-2025	STRAFFORD UNAUDITED ACTUALS 2024-2025	STRAFFORD Budget 2025-2026	STRAFFORD PROPOSED 2026-2027	Notes
BAL. CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YRS	\$ 28,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	FY25 Unassigned Fund Balance \$277,299
<u>REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</u>					
Interest	\$ 5,000	\$ 87,726	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Tuition	-	-	-	-	
TuitionPK	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous/RENTALS	5,000	6,903	5,000	5,000	
Prior Year Adjustments	-	22,606	-	-	
Transfer from Tuition Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	
Donations	-	-	-	-	
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 10,000	\$ 117,234	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
<u>REV. FROM STATE/FED. SOURCES</u>					
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 3,908,487	\$ 3,907,692	\$ 4,256,319	\$ 4,361,824	Based on FY25 Actual
ACT 60 Related Transportation	45,091	51,673	49,814	51,673	
Vocational Transportation Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	
Small Schools Grant	-	-	-	-	
Medicaid Reimbursement (IEP & EPSDT)	84,500	84,500	85,331	50,000	
State Placed Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	
Unenrolled Vocational Tuition	-	4,319	-	-	
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 4,038,078	\$ 4,048,184	\$ 4,391,464	\$ 4,463,497	
<u>OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS</u>					
School Wide CFP/previously Title I/other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Other FEDERAL Grants	-	-	-	-	
<u>Vocational Education</u>					
Tech Ctr from State to the Tech Ctr	\$ 24,321	\$ 25,117	\$ 23,034	\$ 23,034	
Grand Total All Revenues	\$ 4,100,400	\$ 4,190,535	\$ 4,424,498	\$ 4,596,531	

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027

TAX RATE EXPLANATION

	Act 68 Tax Factors				
Budget	\$ 4,596,531		Property Yield	\$ 8,849	FY26 8,596 12/1 Tax Dept Letter
Changes	0		Common Level of Appraisal with Statewide CLA	91.28%	98.59% -7.31%
Total	4,596,531		Actual CLA prior to Statewide CLA Adjustment		
- Local Revenue	(211,673)		VT Non-Residential rate	1.7850	1.7030
Education Spending	\$ 4,384,858				
			Adjustment for CLA		
LONG TERM WEIGHTED AVERAGE					
(12/18/25)	298.50	FY26 LTWA 301.14	Estimated Actual Residential FY27 Tax Rate	1.7812	AFTER CLA
Education Spending Per Pupil	\$ 14,689.64	\$16,470.00	Estimate Actual Non-Residential FY27 Rate	1.9555	AFTER CLA
Less Exclusions	\$ -				
PP over cap amount	\$ -	0	Actual Residential Tax Rate FY26	1.6322	AS OF 8/18/25
Revised PP spending	\$ 14,689.64		Actual Non-Residential Rate FY26	1.7274	AS OF 8/18/25
Equalized Residential Tax Rate					
BEFORE CLA	1.6600				
H.850 Discount with					
Statewide CLA applied	(0.0341)	Thru 2029 reduces each year			
Equalized Residential Tax Rate					
BEFORE CLA	1.6259				
Equalized Non-Residential Rate					
BEFORE CLA	1.7850		Change in Tax Rates from FY26 to FY27		
			Actual Residential Tax Rate	0.1490	
FY26 PER PUPIL SPENDING W/LTW	\$ 14,210.51		Actual Non-Residential Rate	0.2281	
DIFFERENCE IN FY27 VS. FY26					
PER PUPIL	3.37%				
CHANGE IN FY27 VS FY26					
EQUALIZED TAX RATE	0.0167				
amount to cut .01 cent of tax rate	\$ 26,414.27				
	2025-2026	CHG %	Change per \$100,000 of property value	\$ 149.01	
PRIOR YR BUDGET	\$4,424,498	3.89%	Change per \$250,000 of property value	\$ 372.53	
PRIOR YR ED FUND	\$4,279,353	2.47%	Change per \$500,000 of property value	\$ 745.06	
PRIOR YR TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.6092	1.04%			

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS
FYE June 30, 2025**

General Fund	\$277,299
Tyson Gym Reserve	\$ 31,290
Capital Improvement Fund	\$502,170
Tuition Reserve	\$404,250

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS**

FYE June 30, 2025

Long-term debt included a note payable for \$35,000, annual payments in the amount of \$5,692 thru 2031. Interest rate is 6.85%, the balance at the end of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year was \$25,713.

Short-term debt included a tax-anticipation note for \$593,497 that was paid in full in the fiscal year 2025.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT REPORT**

FYE June 30, 2025

The Strafford School District has hired Telling & Hillman P.C., a professional audit firm, to review the district's finances. A copy of the audit will be available upon completion for review at the White River Valley Supervisory Union Business Office located at 461 Waterman Road, Royalton, Vermont and online at <https://wrvsu.org/approved-budgets-and-audits>

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES
ONLY

District: Stratford SU: White River Valley		FY25 was the first year of Act 127 Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership for pupil counts. Equalized pupils are shown for FY23 & FY24. LTWADM are the new counts to use.			T199 Orange County		Property dollar equivalent yield 8,849	<--See bottom note	Homestead tax rate per \$8,849 of spending per LTWADM 1.00
							12,154		Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027				
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, and full technical center expenditures)	\$3,728,296	\$4,100,400	\$4,424,498	\$4,596,531		1.		
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	+	-	-			2.		
3.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$3,728,296	\$4,100,400	\$4,424,498	\$4,596,531		3.		
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	+	-	-			4.		
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	+	-	-			5.		
6.	Total Expenditures	\$3,728,296	\$4,100,400	\$4,424,498	\$4,596,531		6.		
7.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-		7.		
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-		8.		
Revenues									
9.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc.)	\$257,956	\$167,591	\$145,145	\$211,673		9.		
10.	Offsetting revenues	\$257,956	\$167,591	\$145,145	\$211,673		10.		
11.	Education Spending	\$3,470,340	\$3,932,809	\$4,279,353	\$4,384,858		11.		
12.	Pupils (equp FY23 - FY24, LTWADM FY25 - FY26)	169.65	283.28	301.14	298.50		12.		

Education Spending per Pupil		\$20,455.88	\$13,883.12	\$14,210.51	\$14,689.64	
13.		na	na	-	-	13.
14.	minus Principal & interest payments per LTWADM for voter approved bonds prior to July 1, 2024	na	na	-	-	14.
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$66,446 for an individual (per pupil)	na	na	na	na	15.
		Excess spending penalty suspended for FY24 & FY25 - Sec. 8 of Act 127, 2022.			based on \$66,446	
16.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to the district's need to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the previous fiscal year (per equp)	na	na	na	na	16.
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to the district's need to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the previous fiscal year (per equp)	na	na	na	na	17.
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after the previous fiscal year (per pupil)	na	na	na	na	18.
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning after the previous fiscal year (per pupil)	na	na	na	na	19.
20.	minus Less planning costs for small schools (per pupil)	na	na	na	na	20.
21.	minus Teacher retirement contribution for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per pupil)	na	na	na	na	21.
22.	minus Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	na	na	na	na	22.
		threshold = \$22,204	threshold = \$23,193	threshold = \$15,926	threshold = \$16,470	
23.	Excess spending threshold	na	na	\$15,926.00	\$16,470.00	23.
24.	plus Excess Spending per Pupil over threshold (if any)	+ Suspended thru FY29	+ Suspended thru FY29	-	-	24.
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$13,883	\$13,883	\$14,211	\$14,689.64	25.
26.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	132.461%	140.333%	165.315%	166.003%	26.
		based on yield \$15,443	based on yield \$9,785	based on \$8,596	based on \$8,849	
Prorating the local tax rate						
27.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$14,689.64 ÷ (\$8,849 / \$1.00)]	\$1.3246	\$1.3633	\$1.6092	\$1.6600	27.
		based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	
28.	Tax rate "cent discount" (FY25-FY29) adjusted by statewide adjuster of 70.33%				\$0.034	28.
29.	Cent discount adjusted anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate				\$1.6260	29.
30.	Percent of Stratford pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	30.
31.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.66)	\$1.3246	\$1.3633	\$1.6092	\$1.6260	31.
32.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) divided by Statewide Adjustment	88.22%	82.76%	98.59%	91.28%	32.
33.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.6260 / 91.28%)	\$1.5015	\$1.6473	\$1.6322	\$1.7813	33.
		based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	
		If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.				

34.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$14,689.64 + \$12,154) x 2.00%]	<div>2.33% based on 2.00%</div>	<div>2.67% based on 2.00%</div>	<div>2.33% based on 2.00%</div>	<div>2.42% based on 2.00%</div>	34.
35.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.42%)	<div>2.33% based on 2.00%</div>	<div>2.67% based on 2.00%</div>	<div>2.28% based on 2.00%</div>	<div>2.42% based on 2.00%</div>	35.
36.		<div>-</div>	<div>-</div>	<div>-</div>	<div>-</div>	36.
37.		<div>-</div>	<div>-</div>	<div>-</div>	<div>-</div>	37.

- Using the revised December 1, 2025 Education Fund Outlook FY27 forecast, the FY27 education fund need results in a property yield of \$8,849 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$12,154 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.785. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.

- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
FY26-27 BUDGET**

Description	FY25					NOTES
	FY25 BUDGET	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	
CURRICULUM SALARIES	\$ 62,700	\$ 51,849	\$ 65,170	\$ 66,774	\$ 1,604	.35 FTE, LEADERSHIP & COACHING STIPENDS
CURRICULUM ADMIN	133,875	79,200	137,940	143,000	5,060	1.0 FTE
CURRICULUM HEALTH INS	29,309	29,240	36,852	39,812	2,960	
CURRICULUM HRA	4,000	4,340	4,665	4,665	-	
CURRICULUM FICA	14,285	9,520	14,008	16,048	2,040	
CURRICULUM CCC	-	487	806	923	117	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
CURRICULUM - LIFE INS	292	216	292	292	-	
CURRICULUM - NTHA VSTRS	1,500	1,542	1,500	1,600	100	
CURRICULUM - RETIREMENT CONTR	3,050	2,000	3,050	3,050	-	
CURRICULUM - WORKERS COMP	-	-	1,263	1,423	160	Previously single line item under Central Office
CURRICULUM - PROF DEV	5,000	1,589	5,000	5,000	-	
CURRICULUM - DENTAL INS	692	462	654	701	46	
CURRICULUM - CONTRACTED SERV	9,000	460	9,000	10,000	1,000	
CURRICULUM - ADMIN PROF DEV	4,068	54	4,068	4,152	84	
CURRICULUM - TRAVEL	3,200	4,000	2,700	4,000	1,300	
CURRICULUM- SUPPLIES	2,500	1,123	2,500	2,500	-	
CURRICULUM - CURR-BOOKS & PERIODICALS	700	867	700	1,000	300	
CURRICULUM - TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - DUES & FEES	5,200	7,680	3,645	8,000	4,355	
	\$ 279,371	\$ 194,629	\$ 293,813	\$ 312,939	\$ 19,126	
TECHNOLOGY - SALARIES	\$ 306,576	\$ 321,672	\$ 321,890	\$ 341,256	\$ 19,366	5.0 FTE - INCLUDES DATA MANAGER STIPEND
TECHNOLOGY - HEALTH INS	71,198	70,197	79,890	98,212	18,321	
TECHNOLOGY- HRA	10,600	5,624	10,600	10,600	-	
TECHNOLOGY- EMPER TAXES	24,802	22,440	24,625	26,106	1,481	
TECHNOLOGY- CHILD CARE TAX	-	1,247	1,416	1,502	85	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
TECHNOLOGY - LIFE INS	432	432	432	432	-	
TECHNOLOGY - RETIREMENT CONTR	14,243	20,718	22,532	23,159	626	
TECHNOLOGY - ANNUAL ANNUITY	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY - WORKERS COMP	-	-	2,221	2,427	206	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL/CONF	3,000	299	3,000	3,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY- DENTAL INS	1,872	1,847	1,872	2,595	723	
TECHNOLOGY - CONTR SERV	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY - REPAIR	500	-	500	50	(450)	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL	1,000	2,000	1,000	3,600	2,600	
TECHNOLOGY - SUPPLIES	13,300	7,522	13,300	13,300	-	
TECHNOLOGY - DUES & FEES	100	1,209	1,400	1,400	-	
	\$ 469,123	\$ 457,206	\$ 506,679	\$ 549,637	\$ 42,958	

Description	FY25		FY26		DIFFERENCE	NOTES
	BUDGET	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)	BUDGET	PROPOSED		
BOARD CLERK - SALARIES	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,110	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	
BOARD CLERK - FICA	\$ 77	\$ 238	\$ 77	\$ 77	\$ -	
BOARD CLERK - CHILD CARE TAX	-	14	4	4	(0)	
BOARD ADVERTISING	-	8,100	-	8,000	8,000	
BOARD SUPPLIES	-	521	-	500	500	
BOARD DUES & FEES	-	20,182	225	10,000	9,775	RURAL COMM SCHOOL ALLIANCE
	\$ 1,077	\$ 32,164	\$ 1,306	\$ 19,581	\$ 18,275	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENT SALS	\$ 161,843	\$ 161,843	\$ 171,554	\$ 181,847	\$ 10,293	1.0 FTE
OFFICE OF SUPER - ADMIN SUPPORT	58,968	58,968	61,916	65,591	3,674	1.0 FTE
OFFICE OF SUPER - HEALTH INS	31,445	30,379	35,103	37,922	2,820	
OFFICE OF SUPER - HRA	6,300	704	6,300	6,300	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - EMPLOYER TAXES	17,864	16,196	17,860	18,929	1,069	
OFFICE OF SUPER - CHILD CARE TAX	-	863	1,027	1,089	61	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
OFFICE OF SUPER - LIFE INSURANCE	270	270	270	270	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - RETIREMENT CONTR	5,480	4,128	5,834	6,091	257	
OFFICE OF SUPER - ANNUITY	8,092	9,592	8,600	9,092	492	
OFFICE OF SUPER - WORKERS COMP	-	-	1,611	1,856	245	
OFFICE OF SUPER - COURSE REIMB	5,000	-	5,750	5,750	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DENTAL INS	969	923	969	1,038	69	
OFFICE OF SUPER - CONTR SERV	2,500	15,307	10,500	18,000	7,500	
OFFICE OF SUPER - LEGAL FEES	12,500	3,419	10,000	10,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	500	-	500	500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENTS TRAVEL	8,000	8,421	8,000	8,500	500	
OFFICE OF SUPER - STAFF TRAVEL	200	381	500	500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - IN-SERVICE MTGS, ETC	2,500	3,621	2,500	4,000	1,500	
OFFICE OF SUPER - BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	1,500	-	1,500	500	(1,000)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DUES AND FEES	20,000	9,848	25,000	15,000	(10,000)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - FINGERPRINTING EXP	4,500	4,220	5,000	5,000	-	
	\$ 348,432	\$ 329,082	\$ 380,295	\$ 397,776	\$ 17,480	
TREASURER SALS	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	
TREASURER FICA	96	92	96	96	-	
TREASURER CHILD CARE TAX	-	5	5	5	-	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
	\$ 1,296	\$ 1,297	\$ 1,301	\$ 1,301	\$ -	

Description	FY25					NOTES
	FY25	ACTUALS	FY26	FY27		
	BUDGET	(UNAUDITED)	BUDGET	PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	
FISCAL SERVICES - ADMIN SALARY	\$ 117,075	\$ 116,500	\$ 121,743	\$ 128,440	\$ 6,698	1.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPORT SALS	224,656	223,598	236,939	250,363	13,424	4.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - HEALTH INS	88,747	90,094	109,708	111,675	1,967	
FISCAL SERVICES - HRA	15,000	13,618	17,200	17,200	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - EMPLOYER TAXES	27,646	24,015	27,439	28,978	1,539	
FISCAL SERVICES - CHILD CARE TAX	-	1,274	1,578	1,667	89	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
FISCAL SERVICES - LIFE INS	435	423	432	432	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - RETIREMENT CONTR	23,067	23,741	25,108	26,516	1,409	
FISCAL SERVICES - ANNUAL ANNUITY	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - WORKERS COMP	-	-	2,475	2,841	366	
FISCAL SERVICES - COURSE REIMB	4,068	4,763	7,068	4,200	(2,868)	
FISCAL SERVICES - DENTAL INS	485	2,270	2,424	2,595	171	
FISCAL SERVICES - OTHER CONTR SERV	75,000	105,486	75,000	115,000	40,000	PAYCHEX - ADDED ADDITIONAL SERVICES
FISCAL SERVICES - COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	200	-	200	200	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - TRAVEL/CONF	4,500	5,442	5,000	5,500	500	
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPLIES	5,000	6,083	5,000	5,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - SOFTWARE	20,000	20,794	22,200	22,000	(200)	FINANCIAL SOFTWARE PROGRAM
FISCAL SERVICES - DUES AND FEES	4,000	6,505	10,000	7,000	(3,000)	
FISCAL SERVICES - AUDIT	71,500	80,500	71,500	81,000	9,500	
PERSONNEL ADMIN FEES	7,700	9,660	-	-	-	MOVED TO CENTRAL OFFICE
	\$ 691,079	\$ 736,765	\$ 743,012	\$ 812,607	\$ 69,595	
CENTRAL OFFICE - BLDG/GRDS CONSULT	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,127	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 10,000	Includes CO Cleaning expense
CENTRAL OFFICE - EMPLOYER TAXES	2,023	419	2,023	2,678	655	
CENTRAL OFFICE - CHILD CARE TAXE	-	23	110	154	44	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
CENTRAL OFFICE - WORKERS COMP	9,229	11,612	-	-	-	MOVED TO DEPARTMENTS
CENTRAL OFFICE - UNEMPLOYMENT TAX	1,200	716	1,259	1,395	136	
CENTRAL OFFICE - LTD	3,210	13,492	11,805	14,710	2,905	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SECTION 125 ADMIN	-	-	4,000	8,000	4,000	DATAPATH MONTHLY ADMIN FEES
CENTRAL OFFICE - CUSTODIAL SERVICES	2,500	50	2,500	500	(2,000)	
CENTRAL OFFICE - DISPOSAL SERVICES	1,500	1,673	1,500	1,800	300	
CENTRAL OFFICE - REPAIRS AND MAINT	2,000	1,273	2,000	2,000	-	
						INCREASE PER LEASE AGREEMENT ADDITION
CENTRAL OFFICE - RENTAL OF BUILDINGS	64,275	64,276	66,203	67,793	1,590	OF 2ND FLR
CENTRAL OFFICE - PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	2,400	2,142	2,640	2,904	264	
CENTRAL OFFICE - INTERNET	1,000	948	1,000	1,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - TELEPHONE EXP	8,000	4,052	10,000	5,000	(5,000)	
CENTRAL OFFICE - POSTAGE	5,150	6,536	5,150	6,500	1,350	
CENTRAL OFFICE - ADVERTISING	5,000	2,981	5,000	5,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SUPPLIES	10,000	10,887	10,000	10,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - COPIER LEASE	9,000	9,162	9,000	9,200	200	
	\$ 151,487	\$ 165,367	\$ 159,190	\$ 173,633	\$ 14,443	

Description	FY25					NOTES
	FY25 BUDGET	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	
PREK INSTRUCTION SALARY	\$ 66,294	\$ -	\$ 70,935	\$ 79,136	\$ 8,201	
PREK INSTRUCTION FICA	5,363	-	5,427	6,054	627	
PREK INSTRUCTION CCC	-	157	312	348	36	
PREK INSTRUCTIONAL LIFE	54	-	54	54	-	
PREK INSTRUCTIONAL NTHA VSTRS	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	PreK Literacy/Math Interv.
PREK TUITION REIMB	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	Funded by Title I
PREK INSTRUCTIONAL WORK COMP	-	-	489	594	104	
PREK INSTRUCTIONAL TRAVEL	1,000	256	1,000	1,000	-	
PREK INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	1,000	21	1,000	1,000	-	
	\$ 75,211	\$ 434	\$ 81,717	\$ 90,686	\$ 8,969	
PRESCHOOL COORD - SALARY	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	STIPEND
PRESCHOOL COORD - BENEFITS & TAXES	405	-	405	405	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	22	22	-	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
PRESCHOOL COORD - NTHA VSTRS	1,500	1,542	1,500	1,600	100	
PRESCHOOL COORD - EMPLOYER MATCH	-	869	-	2,000	2,000	
PRESCHOOL COORD - LIFE	-	54	-	-	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - WINOOSKI VALLEY	13,500	10,885	13,500	-	(13,500)	DISCONTINUE WIN. VALLEY PARTNERS
PRESCHOOL COORD - SUPPLIES	1,000	2,258	2,000	3,000	1,000	TS GOLD
PRESCHOOL COORD - TRAVEL	1,000	1,638	2,000	2,000	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - PROFESSIONAL DEV	2,000	489	2,000	2,000	-	
	\$ 24,405	\$ 17,735	\$ 26,427	\$ 21,027	\$ (5,400)	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SALARY	\$ 29,004	\$ 37,203	\$ 31,034	\$ 34,554	\$ 3,520	.4 FTE POSITION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HEALTH INS	11,723	17,541	13,087	14,138	1,051	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HRA	1,600	4,606	1,600	1,600	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CURR EMPER TAXES	2,346	2,563	2,374	2,643	269	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CHILD CARE TAX	-	138	137	152	15	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - LIFE INS	22	54	54	54	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - NTHA VSTRS	1,500	1,542	1,500	1,600	100	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - RETIREMENT CONTR	200	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - WORKERS COMP	-	-	214	259	45	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - PROF DEV	400	4,068	400	400	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DENTAL INS	460	447	470	208	(262)	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CONTR CURRICULUM SERV	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - TRAVEL	300	1,847	1,300	2,000	700	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SUPPLIES	150	-	150	150	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DUES & FEES	100	-	100	100	-	
	\$ 47,805	\$ 70,010	\$ 52,420	\$ 57,859	\$ 5,439	

Description	FY25		FY26	FY27		NOTES
	BUDGET	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)		BUDGET	PROPOSED	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - IMPROVE OF INSTR	\$ 39,363	\$ 41,473	\$ 78,481	\$ 45,911	\$ (32,570)	.5 FTE Community School Cord
COMMUNITY SERVICES - HEALTH INS	8,179	8,160	9,130	9,864	733	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCT	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - CURR EMPER TAXES	3,184	2,896	6,004	3,512	(2,492)	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - CHILD CARE TAX	-	173	345	202	(143)	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
COMMUNITY SERVICES - LIFE INS	54	25	27	27	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - RETIREMENT CONTR	-	58	-	-	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - WORKERS COMP	-	-	291	344	54	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - PROF DEV	1,000	3,629	1,000	4,000	3,000	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - DENTAL INS	235	224	235		(235)	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - CONTRACTED SERV	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - TRAVEL	500	1,241	500	1,200	700	
COMMUNITY SERVICES- SUPPLIES	1,000	366	1,000	500	(500)	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - BOOKS & PERIODICALS	200	-	200	200	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES- DUES & FEES	500	97	5,000	500	(4,500)	
	\$ 57,215	\$ 58,341	\$ 105,214	\$ 69,260	\$ (35,953)	
Total Projected WRVSU Budgeted Expenditures:	\$ 2,146,501	\$ 2,063,030	\$ 2,351,374	\$ 2,506,307	\$ 154,933	
			6.59%			

**White River Valley SU
FY27 Member Assessment Allocation**

	FY25 WRVSU		FY26 WRVSU		FY27 WRVSU		
	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	\$ Change FY26 to FY27
FBUD	21.05%	\$ 418,159	19.54%	\$ 428,195	19.50%	\$ 414,289	\$ (13,906)
GHUD	2.96%	\$ 58,800	3.34%	\$ 73,192	3.14%	\$ 66,711	\$ (6,481)
RSUD	10.24%	\$ 203,418	10.61%	\$ 232,505	10.70%	\$ 227,328	\$ (5,177)
SHARON	15.43%	\$ 306,517	14.74%	\$ 323,009	14.42%	\$ 306,361	\$ (16,647)
STRAFFORD	10.47%	\$ 207,987	9.79%	\$ 214,536	9.60%	\$ 203,957	\$ (10,578)
WRUD	39.85%	\$ 791,621	41.98%	\$ 919,939	42.64%	\$ 905,911	\$ (14,028)
	100.00%	\$ 1,986,501	100.00%	\$ 2,191,374	100.00%	\$ 2,124,557	\$ (66,817)

WRVSU Revenue / Assessment Sources:	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	\$ Change FY26 to FY27
WRVSU BUDGET EXPENDITURES (Non SpEd)	\$ 2,146,501	\$ 2,351,374	\$ 2,506,307	\$ 154,933
LESS LOCAL SOURCE REVENUES:				
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (250,000)	\$ -
FEDERAL TITLE FUNDS:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Title II - Curriculum	\$ (75,000)	\$ (75,000)	\$ (63,750)	\$ -
Title II - Prek	\$ (5,000)	\$ (5,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Title I - Prek Reading / Math Intervention	\$ (80,000)	\$ (80,000)	\$ (68,000)	\$ -
Local Assessment Amount:	\$ 1,986,501	\$ 2,191,374	\$ 2,124,557	\$ (66,817)

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

Special Education

FY26-27

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY24-25		FY25-26		FY26-27		NOTES
	APPROVED	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)	APPROVED	PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE		
EEE TEACHER SALS	\$ 140,358	\$ 151,022	\$ 160,159	\$ 176,395	\$ 16,236	2.0 FTE	
EEE SUPPORT STAFF SALS	-	-	-	-	-		
EEE INSTR - HEALTH INS	21,161	21,111	23,623	25,520	1,897		
EEE INSTR - EMPLOYER TAXES	11,355	10,918	12,252	13,494	1,242		
EEE INSTR - HRA	3,800	5,462	3,800	3,800	-		
EEE INSTR - CHILD CARE TAX	-	613	705	776	71		
EEE INSTR - LIFE INS	108	-	108	108	-		
EEE INSTR - OPEB	1,500	-	1,500	1,600	100		
EEE INSTR - EMPLER RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	-		
EEE INST ER MATCH	-	115	885	1,000	115		
EEE INSTR - WORKERS COMP	968	1,218	1,105	1,323	218		
EEE INSTR - UNEMPLOYMENT	51	30	26	26	(0)		
EEE INSTR - PROF DEV	4,000	-	2,000	-	(2,000)		
EEE INSTR - DENTAL INS	940	895	940	1,038	98		
EEE INSTR - DISABILITY INS	337	-	384	423	39		
EEE - CONTRACTED SERVICES	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-		
EEE - TUITION	500	-	500	1,000	500		
EEE INSTR - TRAVEL	5,000	4,659	5,500	5,500	-		
EEE - SUPPLIES	1,500	499	1,500	1,500	-		
IDEA B PRE-K - SUPPLIES	-	4,955	-	-	-		
EEE-DIRECT INSTR.-DUES&FEES	300	-	300	300	-		
TOTAL EEE INSTRUCTION	\$ 196,878	\$ 201,497	\$ 220,286	\$ 238,803	\$ 18,517		
EEE - OT CONTR SERVICES	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -		
EEE - OT TRAVEL	500	-	500	500	-		
TOTAL EEE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -		
EEE TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
IDEA B PREK TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	-	-		
TOTAL EEE TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
SPEC ED - TEACHER SALS	\$ 1,260,906	\$ 1,056,969	\$ 1,374,454	\$ 1,833,645	\$ 459,191	20.0 FTE (INCREASE OF 3.0) & .65 MTSS CORD - 31 FTE PARA (INCREASE OF 1.0)	
SPEC ED - SUPPORT STAFF SALS	994,406	854,168	875,611	978,810	103,198		
SPEC ED - SUMMER SALS	30,000	12,550	30,000	30,000	-		
SPEC ED - SUBSTITUTES	40,000	17,222	40,000	40,000	-		
SPEC ED - HEALTH INS	619,605	613,680	771,221	832,096	60,875		
SPEC ED - HRA	84,000	86,598	122,735	121,235	(1,500)		
SPEC ED - EMPLOYER TAXES	182,455	136,591	172,130	215,153	43,023		
SPEC ED - CHILD CARE TAX	-	7,956	9,900	12,375	2,475		
SPEC ED - LIFE INS	2,948	2,646	2,735	2,948	213		
SPED-VSTRS OPEB	11,500	13,878	11,500	14,500	3,000		
SPEC ED - RETIREMENT CONTR	68,858	80,195	61,128	72,914	11,786		
SPED ER MATCH	-	2,123	885	11,000	10,115		

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY24-25					NOTES
	FY24-25 APPROVED	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)	FY25-26 APPROVED	FY26-27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	
SPEC ED - WORKERS COMP INS	15,562	19,580	15,525	21,093	5,568	
SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	1,348	805	623	691	68	
SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	18,980	17,186	19,222	21,616	2,394	
SPEC ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES	153,500	275,494	185,000	275,000	90,000	
IDEA B - PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	-	178,441	-	-	-	
SPEC ED - ADVERTISING	150	586	1,000	750	(250)	
SPEC ED - TUITION	1,640,000	1,360,504	1,800,000	1,300,000	(500,000)	
SPEC ED - TRAVEL	3,000	6,773	10,000	10,000	-	
SPEC ED - EXCESS COSTS	670,000	578,216	670,000	670,000	-	
SPEC ED - SUPPLIES	15,000	15,102	15,000	15,000	-	
IDEA B - DIRECT INSTR SUPPLIES	-	4,933	-	-	-	
SPEC ED - BOOKS	-	-	-	-	-	
SPEC ED - SOFTWARE	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	-	
SPEC ED - EQUIPMENT	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION						
DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$ 5,825,718	\$ 5,342,193	\$ 6,202,169	\$ 6,492,326	\$ 290,157	
EXTENDED CLASSROOM REPAIRS/MAINT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Program opened in August of 2025
EXTENDED CLASSROOM RENTAL OF BUILDINGS	-	-	-	67,793	67,793	
EXTENDED CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	
EXTENDED CLASSROOM FOOD EXP	-	-	-	6,000	6,000	
TOTAL EXTENDED CLASSROOM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,793	\$ 83,793	
SPEC ED - PSYCH SRVCS SALARY	\$ 85,000	\$ 58,526	\$ 62,623	\$ 67,793	\$ 5,171	PSYCHOLOGIST 1.0 FTE
SPEC ED - PSYCH HEALTH INS	29,309	-	11,811	12,760	949	
SPEC ED - PSYCH HRA	-	-	-	1,900	1,900	
SPEC ED - PSYCH EMPLOYER TAXES	6,877	4,283	4,791	5,186	396	
SPEC ED - PSYCH CHILD CARE TAX	-	232	276	298	23	
SPEC ED - PSYCH RETIREMENT	-	-	3,992	-	(3,992)	
SPEC ED - PSYCH WORKERS COMP	587	739	432	508	76	
SPEC ED - PSYCH DENTAL INS	485	-	470	519	49	
SPEC ED - PSYCH LIFE INS	-	-	-	54	54	
SPEC ED - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	230,000	198,444	180,000	200,000	20,000	Classroom Case Manager & Other Psych services
IDEA B - PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPLIES	-	5,000	-	-	-	
SPED ED - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	
TOTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ 352,256	\$ 267,223	\$ 264,395	\$ 294,019	\$ 29,625	
SPEC ED - SLP SALS	\$ 324,585	\$ 239,586	\$ 326,850	\$ 352,181	\$ 25,331	3.0 FTE SLP & 2.0 SLP AIDE
SPEC ED - SLP HEALTH INS	71,798	31,638	101,653	73,692	(27,961)	
SPEC ED - SLP HRA	10,300	7,647	12,400	8,400	(4,000)	
SPEC ED - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	26,259	16,984	25,004	26,942	1,938	
SPEC ED - SLP CHILD CARE TAX	-	1,066	1,438	1,550	111	
SPEC ED - SLP LIFE INS	324	162	270	270	-	
SPEC ED - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	4,866	5,250	5,369	5,825	456	
SPED SLP ER MATCH	-	1,000	1,885	2,000	115	
SPEC ED - SLP WORKERS COMP	2,240	2,818	2,255	2,641	386	
SPEC ED - PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY24-25					NOTES
	FY24-25 APPROVED	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)	FY25-26 APPROVED	FY26-27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	
SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	1,872	1,186	1,778	2,076	298	
SPEC ED - DISABILITY	779	-	626	845	219	
SPEC ED- SLP CONTRACTED SERVICES	20,000	-	20,000	30,000	10,000	
IDEA B - SPEECH CONT SVC	54,000	94,874	54,000	60,000	6,000	
SPEC ED - SLP TRAVEL	2,500	1,311	3,000	3,000	-	
SPEC ED - SLP SUPPLIES	1,500	1,492	1,500	1,500	-	
SPEC ED - SLP DUES & FEES	1,000	1,242	1,000	1,500	500	
TOTAL SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 522,023	\$ 406,257	\$ 559,028	\$ 572,420	\$ 13,393	
SPEC ED - OT SALARIES	\$ 181,713	\$ 75,617	\$ 210,910	\$ 195,000	\$ (15,910)	3.0 FTE DUE TO INCREASED NEEDS
SPEC ED - OT HEALTH INS	60,117	21,375	87,617	106,037	18,420	
SPEC ED - HRA	8,000	1,824	12,000	12,000	-	
SPEC ED - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	14,701	5,047	16,135	14,918	(1,217)	
SPEC ED - OT CHILD CARE TAX	-	301	928	858	(70)	
SPEC ED - OT LIFE INS	162	54	163	162	(1)	
SPEC ED - OT EMPER RETIREMENT	12,266	5,966	13,446	-	(13,446)	
SPEC ED - OT WORKERS COMP	1,254	1,578	1,455	1,463	7	
SPEC ED - OT UNEMPLOYMENT INS	77	46	38	38	-	
SPEC ED - DISABILITY	436	-	506	468	(38)	
SPEC ED - OT PROF DEV	-	20	-	-	-	
SPEC ED - OT DENTAL INS	940	447	1,410	1,557	147	
SPEC ED - OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	15,000	18,588	15,000	30,000	15,000	
IDEA B OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	-	210,000	-	-	-	
SPEC ED - OT TRAVEL	1,500	-	3,000	3,000	-	
SPEC ED - OT SUPPLIES	1,000	296	1,000	1,000	-	
TOTAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 297,165	\$ 341,160	\$ 363,608	\$ 366,501	\$ 2,892	
PHYSICAL THERAPY CONT SVC	\$ 40,000	\$ 27,464	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	
TOTAL PHYSICAL THERAPIST	\$ 40,000	\$ 27,464	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	
SPEC ED - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	\$ 17,000	\$ 21,922	\$ 17,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 14,000	31 FTE @ \$1,000 per CBA
TOTAL STAFF TTRAINING/CURRICULUM	\$ 17,000	\$ 21,922	\$ 17,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 14,000	
SPEC ED - ADMIN SALS	\$ 110,250	\$ 110,000	\$ 114,950	\$ 114,500	\$ (450)	1.0 FTE
SPEC ED - SUPPORT SALS	44,990	45,110	47,240	54,912	7,672	.8 FTE
SPEC ED - ADMIN HEALTH INS	30,909	51,551	34,060	36,846	2,785	
SPEC ED - HRA ADMIN COST	4,370	1,400	4,000	4,000	-	
SPEC ED - ADMIN EMPLOYER TAXES	12,559	11,330	12,408	12,960	552	
SPEC ED - ADMIN CHILD CARE TAX	-	502	714	745	32	
SPEC ED - ADMIN LIFE INS	270	540	270	270	-	
SPEC ED - ADMIN RETIREMENT CONTR	3,037	3,191	3,307	3,844	537	
SPEC ED - ADMIN ANNUITY	2,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	-	
SPEC ED - ADMIN WORKERS COMP	1,071	1,348	1,119	1,271	151	
SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	26	16	26	26	(0)	

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY24-25				NOTES
	FY24-25 APPROVED	ACTUALS (UNAUDITED)	FY25-26 APPROVED	FY26-27 PROPOSED	
SPEC ED - ADMIN PROF DEV	2,000	1,491	2,000	4,200	2,200
SPEC ED - ADMIN DENTAL INS	485	1,385	485	519	34
SPEC ED - ADMIN CHILD FIND	500	-	500	500	-
SPEC ED - ADMIN CONTR SERVICES	5,000	2,000	5,000	5,000	-
SPEC ED - ADMIN LEGAL SERVICES	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-
SPEC ED - ADMIN REPAIRS/MAINT	500	-	500	500	-
SPEC ED ADMIN - MILEAGE	-	2,000	-	1,000	1,000
SPEC ED - ADMIN SUPPLIES	500	-	500	1,000	500
SPEC ED - ADMIN BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-
SPEC ED - DUES & FEES	2,000	4,146	6,000	6,000	-
TOTAL SPECIAL ED ADMINISTRATION	\$ 225,466	\$ 241,009	\$ 240,078	\$ 255,092	\$ 15,014
SPEC ED - CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$ 424,500	\$ 529,961	\$ 424,500	\$ 550,000	\$ 125,500
IDEA B - TRANSPORTATION	120,000	85,121	120,000	120,000	-
TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	\$ 544,500	\$ 615,083	\$ 544,500	\$ 670,000	\$ 125,500
IDEA B PROP SHARE SUPPLIES	\$ 5,806	\$ -	\$ 5,806	\$ 5,000	\$ (806)
IDEA B - PROP SHARE PROF SERV	-	3,675	-	-	-
TOTAL PROPORTIONATE SHARE	\$ 5,806	\$ 3,675	\$ 5,806	\$ 5,000	\$ (806)
TOTAL WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$ 8,031,312	\$ 7,467,483	\$ 8,461,371	\$ 9,053,455	\$ 592,084
					7.00%

Home to School Transportation
STA Extra Services/Contracted Service Providers

SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUE			
	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	\$ 8,461,371	\$ 9,053,455	\$ 592,084
Act 73 Census Block Grant (NEW FY23)	\$ 3,845,790	\$ 3,936,274	\$ 90,484
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Extra Ordinary Reimbursement (Excess of \$68,998/per student)	\$ 1,142,703	\$ 1,004,195	\$ (138,508)
IDEA B Basic Flow Through - Based on prior year allocation	\$ 690,072	\$ 810,000	\$ 119,928
IDEA B Pre-School - Based on prior year allocation	\$ 14,692	\$ 18,000	\$ 3,308
EEE	\$ 173,020	\$ 180,072	\$ 7,052
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$ 5,866,277	\$ 6,148,540	\$ 282,264
MEMBER TOWN ASSESSMENT	\$ 2,595,094	\$ 2,904,915	\$ 309,820
TOTAL	\$ 8,461,371	\$ 9,053,455	\$ 592,084

WRVSU FY27 SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

FY27 PROPOSED SpEd ASSESSMENT			\$2,904,915	
%	Amount	Change	FY26 %	FY26\$
21.12%	613,518	72,441	20.85%	\$ 541,077
5.45%	158,318	7,024	5.83%	151,294
11.15%	323,898	38,957	10.98%	284,941
16.37%	475,535	40,856	16.75%	434,678
10.14%	294,558	24,409	10.41%	270,149
35.77%	1,039,088	126,134	35.18%	912,954
SU SpEd Only:	2,904,915	309,821	100.0%	\$ 2,595,094

WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION Assessment Only:		FY27 SpEd Assessment Schedule:		
		%	Amount	Monthly
FBUD		21.12%	\$ 613,518	\$ 51,126
GHUD		5.45%	158,318	13,193
RSUD		11.15%	323,898	26,991
SHARON		16.37%	475,535	39,628
STRAFFORD		10.14%	294,558	24,547
WRUD		35.77%	1,039,088	86,591
SU SpEd Only:			\$ 2,904,915	\$ 242,076
				\$ 2,904,915

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION

(as of January 2026)

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	8	6	8	2	24
Hanover High School	2	0	2	2	6
Hartford High School	3	0	1	1	5
The Sharon Academy	3	5	2	1	11
White River Unified District	0	1	0	0	1
Private School Enrollment	0	0	0	1	1
Total Enrollment	16	12	13	7	48

Secondary Tuition Rate Comparison

	2024-2025 Tuition Rate	2025-2026 Tuition Rate	2026-2027 Tuition Rate
Thetford Academy	\$23,890	\$ 25,060	\$ 25,975
Hanover High School	23,944	24,470	Unknown
Hartford High School	22,000	23,000	25,500
The Sharon Academy	20,900	22,900	24,700
White River Unified District	19,900	19,900	22,000

Congratulations, Graduates!

~ 2025 ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Newton School

Zachary Adams	Kylie Carter	Kaj Donaldson
Annora Duncklee	Parker Eastman	Angel Fisher
Esmay Gibson	Ava MacPhail	Iris Smith
Cashlin Solsaa	Elijah Worth	

The Sharon Academy

Harrison Maclay-James	Emmett Wurm
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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Sharon Academy

Adelaide Alsup	Ryan Lansing	Casey Yunger
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Thetford Academy

Heidi Hewes	Luke Miller	Bianca Pulaski
Oliver Ransom	Willow Slayton	

Hanover High School

Simone Prescott	Quinn Ray
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Kimball Union Academy

Leo Barta

St. Johnsbury Academy

Andrew North

White River Valley High School

Wyatt Cadwell

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	117
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	123
2017-18	12	8	12	11	12	8	10	13	9	16	111
2018-19	15	10	10	14	11	13	8	10	10	9	110
2019-20	16	15	10	9	12	11	11	6	6	10	106
2020-21	16	10	13	12	11	12	9	12	4	6	105
2021-22	14	10	13	14	12	11	13	9	13	3	112
2022-23	19	16	11	13	14	12	10	14	5	11	125
2023-24	18	13	18	11	13	14	13	8	14	6	128
2024-25	17	7	12	14	8	11	13	13	8	11	114
2025-26	17	8	7	12	16	8	10	13	11	9	111

Note: Reflects official October 1st student counts where available.

As of 2016-17, total includes pre-K.

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MARCH 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to vote by Australian ballot either via mail as provided by the Town Clerk or at the Town Clerks Office on March 3, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock AM (when the polls will open) and 7:00 o'clock PM (when the polls will close) and thereby act on the following questions:

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office.
- Article 2:** Shall the town appropriate \$1,842,402 to defray 2026 budget expenses?
- Article 3:** Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes?
- Article 4:** Shall the town collect taxes in two installments, as follows: one half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, September 2, 2026; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 2, 2026? Late taxpayers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and at a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a 7-day grace period ending December 9, 2026, an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes.
- Article 5:** To elect the following officers:
For a term of three years:
Selectboard Member
Lister
Auditor
Cemetery Commissioner
Cemetery Commissioner
Trustee of Public Funds
Harris Library Trustee
For one year to complete a three-year term:
Selectboard Member
For two years to complete a three-year term:
Lister

For a term of two years:

Selectboard Member

For one year to complete a two-year term:

Selectboard Member

For a term of one year:

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Agent to Deed Real Estate

Dated this 22nd day January, 2026

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Strafford:

Toni Pippy

Jeff Solsaa

Mary Linehan

Andrew Duncklee

Kelly Harman

TOWN OF STRAFFORD INFORMATIONAL MEETING

February 21, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford in Orange County in the State of Vermont are hereby notified and warned that the informational meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the Strafford Town House and via a virtual online meeting.

To be voted by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Article 1: To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office.

Article 2: Shall the town appropriate \$1,842,402 to defray 2026 budget expenses?

Article 3: Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes?

Article 4: Shall the town collect taxes in two installments, as follows: one half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, September 2, 2026; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 2, 2026? Late taxpayers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and at a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a 7-day grace period ending December 9, 2026, an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes.

Article 5: To elect the following officers:

For a term of three years:

Selectboard Member

Lister

Auditor

Cemetery Commissioner

Cemetery Commissioner

Trustee of Public Funds

Harris Library Trustee

For one year to complete a three-year term:

Selectboard Member

For two years to complete a three-year term:

Lister

For a term of two years:

Selectboard Member

For one year to complete a two-year term:

Selectboard Member

For a term of one year:

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Agent to Deed Real Estate

Voters of the Town of Strafford will vote at the Strafford Town Office located at 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, VT 05072. The Polls will be open on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2026

On behalf of the Town of Strafford Selectboard.

Toni Pippy

Jeff Solsaa

Mary Linehan

Andrew Duncklee

Kelly Harman

Town of Strafford Select Board Informational Meeting

February 21 · 1:00pm

Google Meet info <https://meet.google.com/zvf-vzxq-rsb>

or dial 413-301-9082

PIN: 592 291 376

TOWN OF STRAFFORD INFORMATIONAL MEETING

February 22, 2025

Town House, 12 Brook Rd., Strafford VT 05072

Selectboard present: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Harmon, Andrew Duncklee, Mary Linehan via ZOOM

Others present: Michael Baker, Kate Bass, Christopher Behr, Claudia Binzen, Joanne Blais, Lisa Bragg, Maria Cabri, Kira Meyer Campbell, Lisa Carlson-Freitag, Matthew Christie, Mark Chute, Noah Chute, Shelby Coburn, Maria Cunningham, Margaret Curtis, Michael Curtis, Timothy Denny, Donna Derenthal, John Echeverria, Thomas Essex, Charlotte Faccio, John Freitag, Rockwell Fuller, Tracy Gillespie, Daniel Gottlieb, David Grant, Nancy Grant, Arthur Hanchett, Kathryn Hardy, Paul Harwood, Joanna Hawkins, John Hawkins, Nathan Hine, Susan Hodges, Edmund Huang, Amy Huyffer, Robyn Jacobs, Thomas Jacobs, Joshua Kahan, Meredith Kendall, Paul Kifner, Ann Kraybill, Kimberly Lakin, Kate Lalonde, Ehrin Lingeman, Jason Loomis, Eric Lopez, Kayla Lopez, Raul Lopez Linehan, Kevin Lynch, Jane Mann, David McWilliams, Kathy Menard, Laureen Mikusa, Patti Morgan, Anita Onofrio, Nellie Pennington, Lauren Phelps, Anni Praetorius, Carin Pratt, Elizabeth Randall, Deborah Richie, Sharon Riso, Gretchen Rittenhouse, Sarah Root, Michael Scanlan, Jason Schumacher, Rebecca Seibel, Charles Sherman, Andrew Silovich, June Solsaa, Elizabeth Spriggs, Kyle Spriggs, Jonathan Stableford, Meghan Teachout, Diane Tensen, Mary Thompson, William Thompson, Jessica Tidman, John Tholiz, Micaela Tucker, Amy Tuller, Martha Walke, Jenevra Wetmore, John Whelihan, Jonathan Wilder, Carolynn Wilson, Glenn Wylie

Meeting called to order at 10am.

Moderator David Grant opened the meeting by acknowledging the Town Report dedications to Rose Silloway, Barbara Murray, Denny Preston, and Hazel Lewis.

Grant then proceeded to open discussion for Article 5 regarding the election of the following Town officers:

- Selectboard Member: 3 years, 2 years, and 1 year to complete a 3-year term.
- 3-year terms: Lister, Auditor, Cemetery Commissioner, Trustee of Public Funds, Harris Library Trustee
- 1 year term: Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Agent to Deed Real Estate

Grant then proceeded to Article 2, the Budget

- Pippy presented the Budget for approval:
 - The budget was broken down into 3 categories:

■ FEMA Projects: Freeman Bridge, Van Dyke Bridge, and Ward Bridge

■ Structures and Better Roads Projects: Kibling Hill Culvert, Bridge 30, and Ayres Road

■ Paving Project: Brook Road, South Strafford Village. The paving project will cost approximately \$750K, of which the Town will borrow \$475K. The loan will be paid back over 4 years.

○ Several questions were asked regarding other options than paving. One question was asked about whether the Town needed to approve the loan.

Grant then proceeded to open discussion about Articles 6-10 that deal with bringing all or pieces of the Town Meeting back.

● A number of people were in support of bringing the Town Meeting back citing the importance of face-to-face meetings. Other folks were in favor of keeping the Australian ballot citing far greater numbers vote when ballots were issued.

Meeting adjourned at 2pm.

Kelly Harman, Clerk

OFFICIAL RESULTS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ELECTION MARCH 4, 2025

Moderator, 1 year: David Grant 456; write-in 3

Selectboard Member, 3 years: Mary Linehan 435; write-in 16

Lister, 3 years: Daniel Gottlieb 423; write-in 4

Auditor, 3 years: June Solsaa 452; write-in 4

Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years: Sherm Wilson (write-in 14), Gary Kendall (write-in 9), John Freitag (write-in 8) other write-in 60

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years: Gretchen Rittenhouse 439; write-in 3

Harris Library Trustee, 3 years: Becky Proulx 444; write-in 2

Selectboard Member, 1 year to complete a 3 year term: Kelly Harman 305; Brian Johnson 151; write-in 3

Selectboard Member, 2 years: Jeff Solsaa 424; write-in 18

Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 Year: Jeanne Castro 451; write-in 5

Agent to Deed Real Estate, 1 Year: Lisa Bragg 448, write-in 5

Article 3: Shall the Town appropriate \$1,855,194 to defray 2025 budget expenses? Yes 421; No 59

Article 4: Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes? Yes 406; No 78

Article 5: Shall the town collect taxes in two installments, as follows: one half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 PM on Wednesday, September 3, 2025; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 3, 2025? Late taxpayers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and at a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a 7-day grace period ending December 10, 2025, an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes. Yes 470; No 19

Article 6: Shall the town vote to eliminate the office of constable pursuant to 17 V.S.A § 2651a(d)? Yes 250; No 214

Article 7: Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford vote to discontinue the use of the Australian ballot system for decisions of public questions and revert to traditional floor voting? Yes 104; No 390

Article 8: Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford vote to discontinue the use of the Australian ballot system for budgetary questions and revert to traditional floor voting? Yes 100; No 395

Article 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford vote to discontinue the use of the Australian ballot system for the election of officers and revert to traditional floor voting? Yes 83; No 411

Article 10: Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford move to hold annual town meeting by floor vote on Saturdays immediately preceding the first Tuesdays in March? Yes 182; No 302

SELECTBOARD REPORT

We faced several critical challenges during 2025 but find that we have ended the year having achieved a great deal. Among our successes is the paving of Brook Road, a project the Selectboard had wished to pursue for over a decade. Thanks to the leadership of Board Chair, Toni Pippy, and the exceptional diligence of the Road Crew, we took a loan to undertake the project which came in on time and within budget. Additionally, we completed repair of Freeman Bridge, Ward Bridge, and Bridge 30, as well as replacing critical culverts on Kibling/Brook Road, Van Dyke Road and seven other road projects. These projects represent an enormous effort by Road Crew and the Town Office staff and have dramatically strengthened the Town's highway infrastructure. To finance this work Strafford received financial support of over \$2,000,000 from FEMA. Unfortunately, we do not expect to be able to count on this funding stream in the coming years, and with the dramatic increase in the cost of materials and contract work, this will become an important budget issue in the event of another flood or extreme weather event.

The Town Office staff and Selectboard members were subjected to severe harassment and disrespect during 2025, prompting legal action and adoption of a Town Policy for Digital Civility and Anti-Harassment Policy for Public Officials and Town Business. Additionally, the Town Clerk felt compelled to limit access to the office until a security system could be installed. Working in such an environment can be extremely stressful, and we are grateful for the commonsense response and resilience of office staff and board members. The office is open again and we thank town residents for their support and patience.

Chris Behr joined the office staff this year, as Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard. He has become an invaluable member of the team, and we are very grateful for his quick grasp of the issues, and for taking on essential tasks. As a result, we have increased the budget line item for this role, to increase the number of hours available to support the board.

The Selectboard has faced increasing demands on their time from the State and town residents. Selectboard members are volunteers, with a very limited scope of authority, so we tried to clarify what town residents can expect, and how best to interact with the Board. On the ballot you will see that four of five selectboard positions are open. We all wish to thank this board, which has worked very well together, sometimes in adverse situations. Toni Pippy has been a member of the Selectboard for 11 years and served as Chair for 10 years. While we will miss her terribly, we wish her nothing but the best as she starts her new life with family in Ohio. Jeff Solsaa has served on the board for 6 years and was instrumental in helping strengthen the Highway Department and the sale of selected town properties. We will miss his incredible negotiating skills, his relationships with key State resources, and his willingness to help with any problem that came up. He will be

moving to Tunbridge in the coming months. And we also wish to recognize Andrew Duncklee and Kelly Harman, both completing 2-year terms. Andrew provided wonderful technical support for IT systems, as well as keen insight into many of the legal issues that arose. Kelly also stepped up to deal with any issue that came up, demonstrating a true commitment to welfare of the Town. Both Kelly and Andrew are greatly appreciated for their strong support of and kindness to the town officers, and the professional skills they brought to our team.

For the first time in three years, we have a fully staffed Road Crew. Staff turnover and difficulty recruiting was primarily due to the increased demand for road crew in all Vermont towns post-COVID, resulting in higher salaries and lots of movement by staff among towns. Our ability to recruit and retain talent rests on the leadership and management of our Road Foreman, Paul Hardy. The current team includes Paul Hardy, Road Foreman; Ryan Kennedy, Assistant Road Foreman; Brad Howe; and newly hired Trevor Mitchell-Litchfield. The Selectboard recognizes the importance of the highway system for all town residents, and because of demonstrated strong, effective management and cost-control efforts, we have increased the authority and responsibility of the Road Foreman, to allow him to manage his budget and lead the department going forward.

We wish to highlight the excellent work of other town staff, including Courtney Hardy, Dog Officer. Since COVID there has been a dramatic increase in the number of dogs in Strafford—currently 395 registered dogs. Courtney has demonstrated excellent skill at managing dog issues and human relations and has been authorized to issue violations when required. We are very grateful for her professionalism and high standard of care. Bonnie Bergeron, Zoning Officer, has also taken on many difficult challenges related to compliance with the Unified Bylaws, passed by the Town in 2024. Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk and Treasurer, was recognized as 2025 Treasurer of the Year by the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association. Lisa's management of and reporting on FEMA funds was critical to Strafford receiving additional FEMA funding and greater flexibility for how funds could be applied.

Finally, we want to note that towns in Vermont rely on volunteers to take on the numerous roles mandated by the State and the town. Currently there are eight unfilled volunteer positions. We understand the challenges faced by town residents to take on these roles. The demands on the Selectboard to deal with complex legal issues, human resource management, balancing the budget and finding additional resources are also increasing. It may be that in the coming years Strafford should consider a hiring a Town Administrator, with critical professional skills that Selectboard members often lack.

Sincerely,
The Selectboard

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

This year marked my 20th year as your Town Clerk/Treasurer. Hired by Shelby Coburn as the assistant in December of 2005 and elected as Town Clerk/Treasurer in March of 2006. Shelby remained working for the town after my election and her retirement provided me with valuable training over the next year. What a pleasure it is to have Shelby visit us and support us over the last 20 years and volunteer to help whenever asked.

We had a positive year, with continued focus on public service, organization, security, and professional development. The office remains committed to maintaining accurate records, safeguarding town assets, and providing efficient service to residents, boards, and state agencies.

Significant progress was made in organizing the town vault and improving records retention practices. Historical and current records were reviewed, reorganized, and properly stored in accordance with Vermont records retention requirements. These efforts ensure the long-term preservation of vital records while improving accessibility and efficiency for daily operations and public requests.

Several improvements were made to the town's network system and computer equipment were updated to improve reliability, efficiency, and cybersecurity. These upgrades help ensure the protection of sensitive information and support the growing technological needs of municipal operations.

In response to safety concerns and to better protect town property, staff, and the public, security cameras were installed in key areas. These measures enhance overall safety and provide added peace of mind for employees working at the town offices.

A significant amount of time was devoted to FEMA-related work stemming from the 2023 disaster. The Clerk–Treasurer's Office worked closely with town officials, state representatives, and FEMA to complete required documentation, track expenditures, and ensure compliance with federal reimbursement requirements. All FEMA projects were completed during the year, bringing this extensive process to a successful conclusion and helping the town recover both financially and operationally from the disaster.

Professional development remained a priority throughout the year. I attended the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association (VMCTA) Conference held at Sugarbush Resort in Vermont, which provided valuable training, updates on legislative changes, and opportunities to collaborate with clerks and treasurers from across the state. I am also the New England Association of City and Town Clerks (NEACTC) Vermont Conference 2027 treasurer, an honor that reflects both professional involvement and commitment to the job.

I am deeply honored to have received the VMCTA Treasurer of the Year Award, recognizing dedication, professionalism, and service in the role of Town Treasurer. This award reflects not only individual effort but also the support and cooperation of the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer Regina Josler, Selectboard, and the residents of the community.

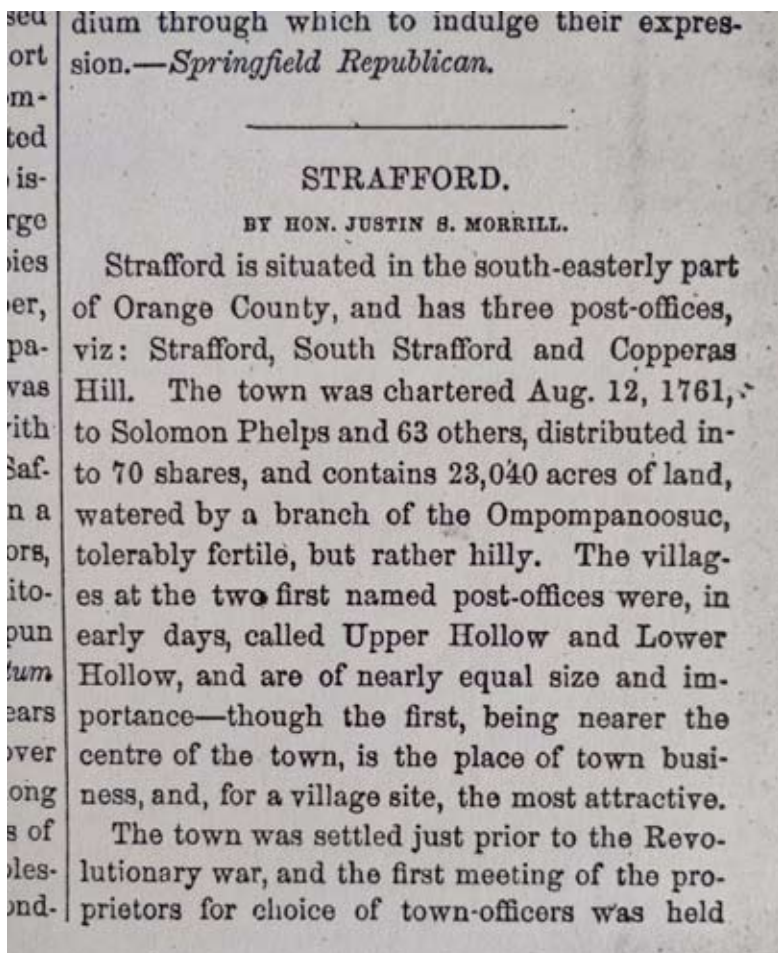
In closing, I would like to thank the Selectboard, town employees, volunteers, and residents for their continued support and collaboration throughout the year.

Special thanks to Regina Josler as well and to acknowledge her 20 years of service on March 15, 2026.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Bragg

Town Clerk/Treasurer



LISTERS' REPORT

The Board of Listers maintains Strafford's Grand List, a database with descriptions of real property parcels and their assessed values, which are the basis used in determining the amount of owners' property taxes. Each year the Listers track changes in ownership and mailing addresses, property assessments and reassessments (primarily due to new construction), sales and transfers and Homestead Declaration status. We also assist the State's Division of Property Valuation and Review in annually updating and certifying the records for property enrolled in Vermont's Land Use Value program (aka Current Use). In 2025 the Listers also assumed the responsibility of maintaining the town's official parcel map. This work is performed by one contracted assessor working three hours one day a week and three elected Listers who, in 2025, logged almost nine hundred hours over the year. Dan Gottlieb was elected to a three-year term in March, 2025, but resigned his position in July. Tim Denny and Tom Jacobs will continue serving and we hope to elect or appoint a new Lister to finish the open Lister position.

This year's Grand List had 669 taxable properties assessed for almost \$218 million (slightly more than 2024). The town and three churches own 27 properties that are non-taxable by statute, and the properties owned by the Fireman's Association and Barrett Hall are tax-exempt by town vote. There were 166 parcels enrolled Current Use. Despite the enrolled forests and fields accounting for about 62% of the total town area, the property value exempted from taxation represents only 8% of the total town assessment. Vermont towns receive an annual 'hold harmless' payment from the state that is intended to compensate them for the missing tax revenue.

Each year the Department of Taxes statistically examines the value of each property sold during the last three years relative to its assessed value and produces both the 'Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)' and 'Coefficient of Dispersion (COD)' values. Strafford's CLA has decreased steadily since 2018, but in the last four years our CLA dropped dramatically, and reached a record low of 64.2% as of December, 2025 (a 10% decrease from 2024). This value, which is not unusual for the State, means that the sale values are now about 36% higher than their assessment. This discrepancy is important because it increases Strafford's education tax rate. Simultaneously, our COD

Left: Justin Morrill wrote the first history of Strafford for the second volume of Abby Hemenway's Vermont Gazetteer published in 1871, which included the towns in Orange County. Morrill, who personally knew people in Strafford who had fought in the Revolution, included in his history a good deal about people and stories of Revolutionary War times.

is at 23.33%. After being ordered by the state to begin the process for a town-wide reappraisal, we have a contract with the New England Municipal Resource Center to do this work. However, because of a backlog of towns needing reappraisal, our project will not begin until July, 2027 and then finish in June, 2029! We expect that the town will have the approximately \$80,000 in ear-marked reserved funds (received from the state) to pay for this project. More information about the process and implications of the reappraisal will be distributed beginning early in 2027.

Property owners whose primary residence is in Strafford are reminded to file a Homestead Declaration (form HS-122) each year on or before the due date for State tax returns. Most residents will also want to file the accompanying Form HI-144 to qualify for a Property Tax Credit, which can substantially reduce the amount of tax owed. Timely submission of these forms avoids taxpayers having to pay a penalty and helps the Listers and Town Clerk reduce the time and expense of sending revised tax bills.

All property owners should remember to notify the Listers if their mailing address changes, because all official Lister correspondence and tax bills are delivered by the US Postal Service. For security reasons, we require a signed change of address form be submitted to the Town Clerk (a phone or email request is not sufficient). A change of address form is available at the Town Office or can be downloaded from the Listers webpage.

We encourage town residents who have questions about assessments or other property-related issues to contact the Listers. Check our website (<https://www.straffordvt.org/auditors--listers>) for office hours, when you can likely get immediate assistance. Outside of office hours, the best way to contact us is by email (Listers@straffordvt.org) or you can leave a message on the office phone (765-4360).

Tim Denny (Chair)

Tom Jacobs

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

As always, we continue to keep the Evergreen Cemetery mowed and clear of debris and full of Veteran flags; some of this is done by our commissioner group. This year we will try to cut some of the other cemeteries for which we are responsible, more. We had Green Valley Memorials back to complete the repairs of all headstones in the Robinson Cemetery, paid for by the Robinson Cemetery Fund. We continue to visit and monitor all of the cemeteries. Please let us know if you see anything that needs to be looked into.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners

Sherm Wilson

Kate Siepmann

Laurie Berkenkamp

Andy Behrens

David Harris

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2025. Based upon our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

We are working with the Town Clerk to follow up on recommendations made by the outside auditors.

We would like to thank Lisa Bragg, Regina Josler, the Selectboard, and other town and school officials for their continued cooperation in the auditing process and in the preparation of the Town Report.

Nellie Pennington
June Solsaa
Suzanna Liepmann

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Zoning Administrator duties continue to grow and evolve due to the new Unified Bylaws being adopted in 2023, I finally feel like I'm settling into the work and enjoying it. I was appointed as Zoning Administrator by the Selectboard in 2024, and also serve as the clerk of the DRB.

Thank you to everyone in town who reached out to me to inquire about future projects and if a permit was necessary or not. Part of my job is to interpret zoning bylaws so the more questions I receive helps expand my knowledge for future inquiries. 2025 included 10 building permits, 4 annexations and 2 lot line adjustments. A reminder to anyone who was approved a building permit, our zoning bylaws require a compliance certificate to be issued once the project is complete and prior to use.

Our forms, zoning regulations and fees are available online at www.straffordvt.org/zoning. I am available to talk or email Monday through Thursday 9am to 6pm or by appointment. My email is BBergeron@straffordvt.org or call 802-272-2799.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bergeron
Zoning Administrator

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

Thank you to all of those who obtained burn permits and individuals who understood when burn permits could not be issued.

In 2025, we had 164 days with moderate or greater fire danger including 69 at high and 18 at very high for for at least some portion of Vermont. In 2025, there were 84 fires reported in 56 towns, with 66 acres burned, which is above the 10-year average for the number of fires.

July and August had 22 fires, the most summer fires since 2001.

After an unseasonably dry summer, the state compiled data from from the past 20 years on fires in July and August. In 2025, July and August acreage was roughly 12 times higher and fire occurrence was 6 times higher than the previous the previous 20-year average.

Causes:

Campfires	14 fires	7.15 acres
Debris burning	28 fires	18.31 acres
Equipment use	5 fires	1.18 acres
Fireworks	2 fires	0.02 acres
Lightning	4 fires	0.8 acres
Other	5 fires	2.56 acres
Powerlines	9 fires	4.37 acres
Undetermined	17 fires	31.93 acres

State Law requires a permit for open burning with 200' of grass, woodlands, or buildings or if there is less than 1 inch of snow on the ground. Although there is no permit required with snow cover, it is always a good idea to call if you are going to have a large fire. If some happens to see it and reports it, the Fire Department would not be called out.

Burn permits are free of charge. Call your local Fire Warden at 802-765-9920. Please remember you cannot obtain a permit by leaving a message; you must speak to the Warden, because the Fire Warden is the only one who issues permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden
802-765-9920

STRAFFORD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Strafford Development Review Board (DRB) is the quasi-judicial body in town that holds hearings for potential approval of land use applications including subdivisions, conditional use permits, variances from zoning ordinances and lot line adjustments. The DRB works with the Zoning Administrator (ZA) to help clarify issues so that the proposed action supports the interests of the property owner as well as the interests of the Town of Strafford. The DRB also acts as a forum for the appeal of decisions of the ZA. The DRB interprets the Town Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances but does not write the ordinances. That is done by the Town Planning Commission with Selectboard approval. In cases where the interpretation or intent is ambiguous, the Selectboard may seek legal counsel.

The volunteer members of the DRB are appointed by the Selectboard. Currently, the DRB members are Terry Garrison, Chair, Dan Ruml, Martha Walke and Sean Lewis. Bonnie Bergeron is the DRB Clerk. The DRB currently has a vacant spot on the board and alternates are needed. Anyone interested in filling a slot is welcome to attend one of our meetings to meet the board and see what you can do for your community. If you can't make a meeting or would like more information, please contact Bonnie Bergeron at 802-272-2799.

The DRB meets on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at the Town Office Building in Strafford, when there is business before the Board. All meetings are open to the public in person or via zoom. The minutes are available to the public in the Town Records.

In 2024, the DRB met six times and held hearings for (1) subdivision application, (1) Conditional Use application and (1) lot line adjustment application. Lot line adjustments are not required to be a warned hearing. With the new Strafford Unified Bylaws approved in November 2023, the duties of the DRB have changed. We encourage everyone to read the new Unified Bylaws dated November 16, 2023. They are available to review on the town website or at the Town Clerk's office. New application forms are available online.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Bergeron

Clerk of the Strafford Development Review Board

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

The March 2025 organizational meeting of the Strafford Planning Commission was more eventful than usual. Long-time member Donald Graham announced that he was resigning as chair and as a member of the Commission. The Commission recognizes that in the future we will miss Donald's expertise and good sense. In his place, another long-serving member, Stuart Crocker, was elected as the new chair. Also, another stalwart of the Commission announced that she would no longer serve as Commission secretary, although she will remain as a member. Over many years Martha has produced innumerable drafts of the Town Plan and especially the revised Zoning Bylaw that was approved by the town in 2023. The Commission is grateful for her past work and is glad that she will continue to serve as a member.

The resignation of Donald Graham left an opening on the nine-member Commission. Since no volunteer came forward to take up the vacancy, at the November meeting the Commission heard that nine members is at the upper end of the range of planning commission members in the state. It was decided that the Commission should be reduced to seven members, because of the persistent problem of finding volunteers. The current eight members will continue serving, but when one resigns, they will not be replaced.

A major task for the Planning Commission is to help the town manage various state requirements for planning. This is done by consulting with the professional planners at the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) and reviewing draft documents produced by them and others before they are forwarded to the Selectboard and the town for votes. Although it is not required, having a Town Plan has various benefits for a town. For instance, it can be referred to in such state actions as Act 250 reviews, and reviews for energy projects or cell towers. More information about Town Plans is here, www.trorc.org/member-towns/town-plan-approvals . Strafford's current Town Plan is not due for revision until 2029, but since it is a process that involves the gathering of extensive information and consultation with townspeople about their attitudes toward future development in the town, the Planning Commission has devoted a number of meetings in 2025 to looking at what should be done about the current Town Plan. One decision that was reached was to formulate and distribute a survey to townspeople about their attitudes toward future development in town. The last such survey was done in 2008, and is clearly out of date. Organizing such a survey is a bit complicated, if it is to be done right, but the Commission hopes to have this finished by the end of 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Crocker, Chair
Michael Scanlan, Secretary

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

We meet on the fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7PM at the Town Office.

Members and the year they joined:

Micki Colbeck- chair – 2018

Kate Bass- vice chair – 2013

Courtney Potter – recording secretary – 2022

Mike Hebb – trail manager – 2006

J.T. Erbaugh- Cobb Town Forest manager – 2021

Erin Yunger – 2023

Andrei Kubail Kalousdian – 2025

Joanne Blais – 2025

Marty Frank – 2025

Margaret Romney (non-voting member) – 2025

We met with David Paganelli, our county forester and the Upper Valley Land Trust to investigate the possibility of putting our Town Forests into conservation to protect them from ever being sold or degraded.

We met with Charlie Honn, a Wetlands Scientists from the state at the Cobb Town Forest Fen to see about reclassifying it to a Class 1 wetland. The process is in the earliest stages.

A graduate student from UVM monitored night pollinators of orchids in Kate's fen using motion sensitive cameras. New moth pollinators have been discovered here. The results will be published with VCE.

We wrote to the state Wetlands Rulemaking Committee in opposition to Governor Phil Scott's executive order allowing housing projects to be built in unmapped class 2 wetlands.

We met with Peg Merrens from the UVLT to investigate supporting the David (Red) Taplin Conservation Trust Fund.

We accepted resignations from Anne Fayen, Kittie Mackie, Steve Faccio, and Elizabeth Howland. We approved new members – Marty Frank, Andrei Kubail Kalousdian, Joanne Blais, and a tenth, non-voting member, Margaret Romney.

We led a series of educational hikes and activities including: Moths with Levi; Bird walk with Marty; Spring ephemerals with Kate; Orchids with Mike and Micki; Ompomponoosuc river walk with Erin; September in the Fen with Levi and Micki; Rebuilding fen boardwalks with Ed, Mike, and Micki.

Trails report: The Strafford 30-mile trail system continues to be a source of enjoyment. There are no new trails, and no trails are closed. Traffic damage has been minimal. Our 11 volunteers who have adopted parts of the trail keep their sections clear and easy to follow. Thank you to them and to

the many landowners who invite the public to cross their property. The Whitcomb Hill trails are still our most popular hikes due to the wonderful views of the surrounding mountains. The Cobb Town Forest is well-visited due to its rich wetlands and many orchids. Hiking opportunities are available on other public trails in Strafford managed by other organizations, like the Ashley Community Forest and the Manning Farm Trail.

You can keep up with our agendas, minutes, and activities on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/share/1F84WP3k8b/> and on the town's website.

Trails Report

Strafford's 30 mile trail system continues to be a well used resource to the town. It is made possible by over 40 land owners who allow the public access to their properties and a 10 man volunteer maintenance team. This year has seen no additional trails but more use of the side trails. We want to give special thanks to new land owners who have allowed the preservation of trails across their properties. When a trail property changes ownership we need to get new permission for its continuation.

The trails are in excellent condition, thanks to the volunteers who clear fallen branches, fight back intruding growth and keep them well-marked. Damage from horses, wheeled vehicles, and erosion has been nonexistent. We have some new volunteers to help keep the trails open this year.

Outside groups like the Green Mountain Club and youth camp groups schedule trips here so the trails are appreciated by many beyond our borders. Winter use is lower than summer but the the beauty of the white woods and animal tracks are appreciated by skiers and snow shoers. Some sections are used almost daily even in winter. There is also a small population of runners who frequent the trails.

The trails through the orchid sanctuary in the Cobb Town Forest get a lot of attention from amateur and state biologists as well as tourists. The biggest attractions are the blooms in late May and late June. Some 12 different orchids have been recorded in the area.

Free maps of all 30 miles of trails are available at the Strafford General Store. More details and maps can be found at straftordtrails.yolasite.com.

I want to pass on the thanks and appreciation I've been getting from its many users to the contributing land owners without whom there would be no trail system.

Mike Hebb
Strafford Conservation Commission

ASHLEY COMMUNITY FOREST

The Ashley Community Forest Board invites all residents of Strafford and Sharon to visit the Forest and enjoy this wonderful asset that is ours to steward. In January 2022, the towns of Strafford and Sharon accepted the generous gift of the 256.4-acre Ashley Community Forest from the Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC). In addition to the forest itself, AVC provided \$37,169 to seed a long-term management fund for the forest. The Ashley Community Forest Board includes two residents from each town appointed by each town Selectboard. Kevin Gish and Erik Skarsten represent Sharon and David Paganelli represents Strafford. Annie Penfield of Strafford, one of the Board's original members, stepped down from the Board this year. Her thoughtfulness, calm demeanor and financial acumen will be sorely missed. That leaves the second Strafford position on the Ashley Community Forest Board vacant and we welcome letters of interest from any Strafford residents. The fifth member of the Board is an "at-large" member chosen by the four appointed members. Michael Sacca of Tunbridge served in this role from March 2022 until his resignation in August 2025. We are grateful to Michael for his dedicated service to the Ashley Community Forest and for his pivotal role in securing the purchase of the Forest and guiding its subsequent transfer to the two towns. In October 2025, the Ashley Community Forest Board welcomed Malcolm McShinsky of Sharon as our new at-large member.

Work at the forest is guided by a comprehensive, 10-year Stewardship Plan that was developed with extensive public input and is posted on both the Sharon and Strafford town websites. Unfortunately, Emerald Ash Borer, an introduced insect that kills ash trees was confirmed to be in both Strafford and Sharon during 2024. A timber sale was conducted during the winter of 2024-25 to salvage ash from part of Stand 2 and to harvest some of the black locust trees in Stand 3. County Forester, David Paganelli marked the trees to be cut and Bob Wilson of South Strafford came out of retirement to do the logging. Most of the black locust was sold to TimberHomes of Vermont for use as kiosk posts and outdoor benches. A smaller amount of the black locust went to several local craftsmen and was used in a commemorative bench for Warren Johnson, built by Mario Sacca and installed at the forest in July 2025.

Following the timber sale, precommercial forest stand improvement was implemented in the area where the black locust was harvested; the purpose being to select the very best 50-100 trees per acre and partially release them from competition. All trees cut during this work were left on site. A new trail was constructed from the landing area to the Sharon meadow, and two existing trails were improved and extended to create new loops. We hope to map these trails and open them to the public in 2026. A third loop trail is under consideration in the northern portion of the forest.

In 2025, we hosted several gatherings at the Forest. These were three invasive plant work days (two days in Sharon and one day in Strafford), during which thousands of invasive barberries, honeysuckles and buckthorns were removed. It was great fun to come together, meet like-minded neighbors and work for the betterment of our forest. Thank you to all our hearty volunteers!

We also spent a day blazing our surveyed boundary lines and Erik Skarsten led a trail day to mark our main loop trail. Dan Healey, the Northern Windsor County Forester, oversaw restoration work at an historic stream crossing on an old logging trail leading into the forest from Clifford Farm Road in Sharon. We are grateful for the good work of contractor Josh Benson and for the cooperation of our Clifford Farm Road neighbors.

As has occurred in previous years, a generous benefactor funded mowing of the entire Strafford meadow and a trail through the Sharon meadow in August 2025. All else in the Sharon meadow was left un-mowed this year to benefit pollinators. In 2026, we will reverse the pattern.

Thank you to the Friends of the Ashley Community Forest, and all the citizens of Strafford and Sharon, for your ongoing support of this wonderful community resource through financial donations and the gift of volunteer time. This is especially important since the Ashley Community Forest is a completely self-funded enterprise, with no direct financial support from either town.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

During 2025, Strafford emergency management continued to monitor notifications from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) and the National Weather Service in Burlington. Important and timely information was then communicated via public forums to the residents of Strafford. These situational awareness efforts have become a primary effort of the emergency management director (EMD), along with preparing the annual Local Emergency Management Plan.

In 2025, the Town of Strafford restocked, replenished, and increased emergency shelter supplies. This action follows previous inventory and assessment efforts.

In October of 2025, the Town of Strafford, including the EMD and members of the selectboard, participated in Binary Blizzard, a full-scale emergency response exercise with Vermont Emergency Management. Working with simulation controllers from the state and outside evaluators, the EMD and selectboard simulated opening the town emergency operations center and emergency shelter while responding to simulated obstacles and challenges. The evaluators gave constructive and generally positive feedback during and after the exercise.

Thankfully, 2025 was a year in which Barrett Hall was rarely opened as an emergency shelter. When it was opened, it was utilized by town residents. The EMD is grateful to the Barrett Hall board of trustees for the continued support in maintaining the hall as an emergency shelter.

It's also important to acknowledge the efforts of Strafford Fire and Rescue, our town clerk's office, our selectboard, our road crew, and each other in keeping the town of Strafford as safe as possible. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and care.

Please feel free to reach out to emd@straffordvt.org to reach the Strafford EMD.

Strafford Emergency Management Director
Jason Schumacher

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

The Rec Board's mission is to support and provide recreational spaces and opportunities for the people of Strafford. Our mission is rooted in the belief that recreation is essential to a healthy mind and body, and that recreation enriches our community, and strengthens our connection to one another. We believe that lifelong exercise through recreation can sustain us, through good times and bad, and that by supporting people of all ages to get out and play, we engender a world we want to inhabit.

Red Barn: The Rec Board manages the Red Barn in the lower village, where residents have access to athletic gear and medical equipment. The Red Barn also stores large items used by other town organizations, like the PTA and the Newton School. Rec Board members continued to organize and maintain the interior in 2025, including the disposal of unwanted and damaged equipment. Strafford residents are welcomed to find sports equipment in the Red Barn. Access is offered during open dates, or by request.

Two sides of the Red Barn were painted by a contractor in 2025.

The Rec Board held several Red Barn open dates in 2025 so residents could look for sports equipment. The Red Barn has a selection of cross-country and downhill skis, ski boots, poles, skates, hockey equipment, and more. We continue to welcome donations of equipment in good, usable condition. Our policy on receiving donations requires that you contact a member of the Rec Board before making a donation. We accept the following items:

- Skis, snowboards, skates
- Ski poles, ski boots, ski helmets, snowboard boots
- Hockey sticks, pads
- Tennis racquets
- Roller blades

The Rec Board does not accept anything that's not listed above, specifically not:

- Bicycles
- Indoor exercise equipment
- Basketball goals
- Toys, strollers, car seats
- Furniture
- Clothing

In addition to sports equipment, the Red Barn houses assistive medical devices for Strafford residents (wheelchairs, crutches, knee scooters, commodes, etc.) These can be borrowed by residents when the need arises. Contact Sheila Keating, Strafford Community Nurse, for access to medical equipment.

Tennis/Pickleball: The tennis courts saw heavy use this summer for tennis and pickleball, and remained in very good condition since their resurfacing in 2023. Please note the signs prohibiting bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and rollerblades. One of the rolling pickleball nets was damaged in June due to inappropriate usage, and was quickly repaired with replacement parts. No further damage has been observed.

Camps: Soccer Camp was held on Murray Field from June 23rd-27th by JT Soccer Training. Children of varying abilities learned soccer fundamentals in a fun and supportive environment. The program, run by Joshua “JT” Taylor (Head Men’s Soccer Coach at South New Hampshire University), along with Erin (Clark) Taylor, is a local favorite. Erin grew up playing soccer on Murray Field. We’re lucky this duo adopted the Strafford community! Soccer Camp was attended by over 30 children from the Strafford area and beyond.

Art Camp was held at the Rosa B. Tyson Gym from August 11th-15th for its 14th year. Art Camp began in 2011 as a Newton PTA project, with Leslie & Aurora Berger at the helm since its inception. In 2025 they were joined by Erin Yunger and counselors Julia Martin, Casey Yunger, Jesse Martin, Ada Breese, and Amelia Bailey-Kellogg (all Art Camp alumni). While most of the 41 campers were Strafford residents, children from Thetford, Sharon, Tunbridge, Chelsea, Norwich, and Orange NJ attended. The program supports children ages 5-14 of every art ability, offering structured projects along with open studio opportunities.

Pocket Park: The Pocket Park, a welcoming gathering space & education center in the lower village, was lovingly maintained by Anne Fayen, lead gardener, until her resignation in Fall 2025. Anne brought many improvements to the park over four full seasons, including a pergola, art installations, innovative beds, barrier fencing, and the introduction of new fruit trees and edible plants. A draw for locals and visitors, the Pocket Park has bound our community in joy and discovery. Highlights of the 2025 season included a Bird Walk led by Marty Frank & Kathy Thompson, a notable plum crop by a particularly prolific tree, birthday parties, potlucks, and celebrations. Michael Scanlon’s regular mowing of the upper garden was an invaluable service. We’re also grateful to the enthusiastic volunteers that kept the fruit trees pruned and noxious weeds at bay. The Rec Board is currently seeking a new individual to take on the role of lead gardener.

Varney Field: The Rec Board made significant upgrades to the ball field in 2025.

Baseball Majors field extension: The field was extended from youth Minors 60’ basepaths and 46’ pitching distance to youth Majors 70’ basepaths and 50’ pitching distance. With this upgrade, Varney field is configured for youth softball, Minors baseball, and Majors baseball. The Rec Board received the donation of 60 tons of jock sand from Pike Industries, Inc, which was trucked in 4 truckloads with a donation from Webster and

Donovan Excavating, Inc. Field work was done over several weeks in early spring with the donation of labor and equipment by Cloca Mora Floral, and equipment by Linehan Design/Build and Rockbottom Farm. Gratitude and special thanks to Welly Ramsey for making this project happen with a significant donation of labor and equipment.

New batting cage: The Rec Board built a new batting cage thanks to a donation of lumber and concrete from Bethel Mills, Inc.. Nets and rigging were acquired with funds raised by the Strafford Youth Baseball & Softball Association. Thanks to Welly Ramsey and Mike Ekegren for donating labor to this project, and to Adrian Lakin for sourcing materials. Thanks to Nicole Ekegren for handling donations, fees, and the association's accounts.

The Rec Board thanks the softball and baseball coaches, parents, and community members who donate their time to maintain these resources. Thanks to Stephen Drew for his stewardship of Varney field.

Trash receptacles at Murray/Varney fields: After considerable debate, trash receptacles will continue to be stationed and maintained periodically at Murray and Varney fields from April through November, to help maintain the cleanliness and hygiene of both facilities. Please note that this decision could be revisited in the future if there is evidence of dumping of household trash. The board recommends that visitors take home all personal trash after using the facilities.

The Rec Board receives many requests to provide programming. We encourage those with ideas to make them happen, or to join the board as a member filling an open position or as a meeting participant. We always welcome your help and your ideas!

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Linehan, Co-Chair
Jason Loomis, Co-Chair
Leslie Berger
Ed Huang
Stephen Drew

THE TOWN HOUSE ADVISORY GROUP

The mission of the Town House Advisory Group is to advise the Selectboard on policies and means of raising revenue for the purpose of using, maintaining, and preserving the historic Strafford Meeting House, and to implement such related procedures as approved by the Selectboard.

The Town House is used for a variety of events including Town Meeting, voting, musical concerts, seminars, weddings, Newton School graduation, memorial services and promotional events for the building itself.

This was the fifteenth year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We currently have a core group of nine official members, plus the Overseer Paul Kifner. If you would like to be on our email list to follow our activities, please send your address to rockwellfuller@gmail.com. Our activities are also posted on the Strafford webpage: www.straffordvt.org/town-house. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

This past year we concentrated on maintenance of the building and grounds. The most significant project was the completion of the exterior painting cycle. We had intended for this project to be completed over a four-year cycle, painting one side per year until completion. Because we waited so



The Strafford Town House is a lasting example of how bitter differences were overcome to create a more inclusive community.

Photo: John Freitag

long to find a qualified painter and not knowing the availability of this company down the road, we decided to complete it in two years instead. The quality and comprehensiveness of the work of this company surpassed all previous contractors. The current paint job should last at least twice as long. The backhouse will be the next painting project.

The bell frame carriage was successfully installed on the belfry deck in the early spring before the painters arrived. Mike Cotroneo headed up the crew that hoisted the frame components to the deck after lifting the bell off the old rotted frame. They completed the task in one day. Now the bell will sit solidly for the foreseeable future on its new black locust frame harvested from trees in the Town Ashley Town Forest.

Annually we improve the grounds around the building with the support of additional community volunteers. This past year we planted a new sugar maple tree to replace the one that had to be removed on the east side of the building near the fire station. Dave Taplin provided this tree. The old stump will be removed when we can line up a stump grinder. We spread a new layer of bark mulch around the old legacy maples and distributed compost around most of the grounds. Steve Handy prunes the crab apple trees in the front of the building each year.

Toward the end of 2025 we added two more board members to our group—Lori Mikusa has returned and Welly Ramsey has joined. Both new members offer a wealth of experience that will be helpful in moving our mission forward.

This next year we will be developing a capital budget for the Selectboard to consider during their budgeting process. We will be looking for proposals to paint the interior woodwork, repair missing slates in the roof, install lightning arresting system, build a reproduction of the SE entry door and paint the backhouse. There is always more to do and we are dedicated to keeping our Town House available for current and future generations.

We are looking forward to an eventful year of activities starting with Town Meeting.

I would like to thank our town Selectboard and all the people in our community for the support they have provided us to do our job.

If you have questions about planned maintenance of the Town House or if you would like to help support our efforts with a contribution, please contact Rocky Fuller at rockwellfuller@gmail.com or call the Town Clerk's office at 802 765-4411.

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky Fuller
Town House Advisory Group Chair

STRAFFORD ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

In March 2020 at Town Meeting, the voters of Strafford resolved to work together to reach net-zero in greenhouse-gas emissions for the whole town by 2030. To meet this commitment, the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee (SECC) serves as an advisor for the citizens and the municipality of Strafford, and we provide ongoing assessment of Strafford's progress in adoption of restorative and renewable policies and practices. As a committee and a town, we must continually ask: Are we doing what we need to do to reach that goal of net-zero energy use by 2030 or not—and if not, why not?

In keeping with our Town Meeting resolution and Vermont's statewide goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050, the SECC's activities for this past year have included the following activities and actions:

We continue to work closely with the Intramunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) at the Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission. See www.trorc.org/programs/energy/. David Lutz has been our committee's representative on the IREC steering committee; Matt Christie will be representing our committee in 2026. We keep up to date on legislative issues through our committee member Susan Hodges.

We continue to provide energy and climate-related recommendations to town officials and residents via public forums, webinars, list-serv postings, and consultations, with the goal of helping Strafford residents better understand where we can identify and adopt lower-carbon and lower-cost alternatives for household appliances and practices.

In 2025 we tried to build on our previous work gathering information about energy usage in Strafford. In order to highlight ways to make our homes more resilient and ways to better prepare for extreme storms, floods, fires, and other emergencies, as well to provide information about water usage during times of increasing drought, we hosted an educational forum at Barrett Hall in June: Strafford Strong: Getting Ready for the Next Flood. Our guest speakers were Didi Pershouse of Thetford, soil-health specialist and watershed-function educator, and Eric Donaldson of Strafford, geomorphologist and hill-slope hydrologist. We broke into neighborhood groups to discuss the presentation, then came back together to set goals for improving resilience in our areas of the town. A brief resource sheet, Strafford Flood Resilience and Recovery Resources, is posted on the SECC page of the Strafford town website.

In the coming year, we will continue to work closely with the Intramunicipal Energy Coordinator (IREC) to explore potential energy savings for the town garage, identified through analysis as highest priority for energy and cost savings among our town buildings, as well as possible installation of an EV charging station in South Strafford village.

We will continue to review and update the town's Enhanced Energy Plan, which is part of the comprehensive Town Plan, to gauge our progress toward the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

If you're interested in learning more about your options for climate-savvy choices—energy conservation and weatherization, solar and storage batteries, heat pumps, electric vehicles and bikes, and rechargeable electric tools—please reach out! The committee is dedicated to bringing informational programs and support to help Stafford residents and our municipal and community-based organizations transition to carbon-free alternatives in order to meet our town's climate resolution.

The Energy and Climate Committee page on the Strafford town website (www.straffordvt.org/energy-commission/) offers helpful information and links to organizations that provide services and financial assistance for your energy-saving and cash-saving projects. Past webinars on topics including heat pumps, plastic alternatives, electric vehicles, and forest carbon can also be viewed via links on this web page.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month (currently remotely, by web-video), and we welcome your questions, ideas, and eagerness to volunteer. You can reach us at energy@straffordvt.org

Respectfully submitted,

Dorian Yates, Chair

Jim Schley, Secretary

Matt Christie

Susan Hodges

David Lutz

Kazmira Nedeau

Vanessa Rule

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2024, 2025, and Proposed 2026

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed	
GENERAL FUND Revenue						
Taxes/Fund Balance						
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,497	<i>a</i>
Current Taxes	551,222 *	684,960	702,599	17,639	478,492	<i>b</i>
Taxes/Fund Balance Total	\$ 551,222	\$ 684,960	\$ 702,599	\$ 17,639	\$ 668,989	
Governmental						
Education Billing Fee	\$ 6,258 *	\$ -	\$ 6,689	\$ 6,689	\$ 6,700	
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	23,509	23,510	25,732	2,222	25,732	
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	129,965 *	125,935	167,456	41,521	167,456	
Governmental Total	\$ 159,732	\$ 149,445	\$ 199,877	\$ 50,432	\$ 199,888	
Interest						
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 1,354	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,539	\$ (461)	\$ 2,000	
Delinquent Tax Interest	3,819	6,000	8,840	2,840	7,500	
Interest	440	400	11,422	11,022	400	
Interest Total	\$ 5,613	\$ 8,400	\$ 21,800	\$ 13,400	\$ 9,900	
Penalty						
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 7,886 *	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,381	\$ (619)	\$ 9,000	<i>c</i>
Penalty Total	\$ 7,886	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,381	\$ (619)	\$ 9,000	

* - Figure adjusted per outside auditor

a - Balance Forward for 2026 includes \$106,572 in unrestricted fund balance from 2025 and \$83,925 in spending from reserves.

b - Current taxes for 2025 affected by a change in deferred revenue from 2024 to 2025, and unanticipated current use penalties

c - Delinquent Tax Penalty represents the 8% delinquent penalty, and is paid to the Delinquent Tax Collector

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
Fees Total					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,796	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,777	\$ 277	\$ 1,500
Dog Violation Fees	640	1,000	745	(255)	500
Liquor License Fees	70	70	140	70	70
Other Fees for Services	1,647 *	2,270	3,112	842	2,120
Recording Fees	9,692	10,000	12,260	2,260	10,000
Recording Surcharge	3,782	3,500	4,425	925	3,500
Subdivision Permit Fees	450	1,200	-	(1,200)	800
Zoning Permit Fees	3,095	3,000	3,240	240	3,000
Fees Total	\$ 21,172	\$ 22,540	\$ 25,699	\$ 3,159	\$ 21,490
Grants					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ 9,834 *	\$ 325,000	\$ 14,591	\$ (310,409)	\$ 316,075
Parcel Mapping	7	-	-	-	1,000
Equal Education Grand List	703	-	703	703	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	5,976	6,000	5,976	(25)	6,000
Grants Total	\$ 16,520	\$ 331,000	\$ 21,270	\$ (309,731)	\$ 323,075
Donations					
Donations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 10	\$ (990)	1,000
Donations - Pocket Park	100	-	75	75	-
Donations - Town House	4,562	500	2,160	1,660	500
Donations - Dogs	123	-	706	706	-
Town House Usage	800	2,500	3,550	1,050	3,400
Donations Total	\$ 6,585	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,501	\$ 2,501	\$ 4,900
Miscellaneous					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	5,943 *	2,000	6,898	4,898	2,000
Recycling Revenue	1,882	2,000	1,391	(609)	1,500
Town Property Sale	-	-	-	-	15,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 7,826	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,289	\$ 4,289	\$ 18,500

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed	
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)						<i>d</i>
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 43,237	\$ 43,237	\$ -	
Conservation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	
Conservation Trails	-	-	-	-	-	
Energy Committee	-	-	-	-	-	
Recreation Revenue	800	-	-	-	-	
Independent Committees Total	25,800	-	43,237	43,237	-	
GENERAL FUND Total Revenue	\$ 802,355	\$ 1,213,345	\$ 1,037,654	\$ (175,691)	\$ 1,255,742	
GENERAL FUND Expenses						
Deficit Reduction						
Deficit Reduction	\$ 46,745	\$ 77,453	\$ 77,453	\$ -	-	<i>e</i>
Deficit Reduction Total	\$ 46,745	\$ 77,453	\$ 77,453	\$ -	\$ -	
Administration						
Select Board Salary	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ 7,500	
Select Board Expenses	226	500	111	389	500	
Select Board Assistant	-	10,400	1,126	9,274	20,000	
Grant Manager	26,212	16,900	4,862	12,038	16,900	
Clerk & Treasurer Office	109,400	116,553	111,799	4,754	120,033	
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	30,930	35,712	36,017	(305)	34,483	
Municipal Retirement	5,818	6,357	6,332	25	6,902	
Employer Child Care Contribution	340	811	608	203	853	
Social Security Tax	12,149 *	14,095	10,241	3,854	14,825	
Unemployment Insurance	656	833	832	1	831	
Workers' Compensation	2,040	1,258	1,258	(0)	1,320	
Property & Liability Insurance	15,445	18,984	18,983	1	19,933	
Financial Services	8,323 *	3,300	67	3,233	3,300	
Administration Total	\$ 219,039	\$ 233,203	\$ 199,735	\$ 33,468	\$ 247,380	

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

d - These committees function independently and revenues are moved to their respective reserve funds

e - To offset the general fund deficit

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
General Services					
Town Office	\$ 38,041	\$ 66,100	\$ 69,556	\$ (3,456)	\$ 75,758
Records Restoration	-	-	-	-	- ^f
VLCT Dues	2,618	2,676	2,676	-	2,754
Town Meeting & Elections	2,154	2,500	953	1,547	2,500
Town Report	2,820	3,300	2,777	523	3,400
Auditing	2,400	2,400	2,400	-	2,400
Outside Audit/Professional Services	39,867	5,000	7,603	(2,603)	31,500
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	7,886	9,000	9,135	(135)	9,000
Listers	5,367	8,050	7,363	687	9,350
Lister Contract Services	9,840	9,240	9,240	-	9,517
Parcel Mapping	-	-	-	-	1,000
Police Services	27,893	40,000	37,114	2,886	40,000
Dog Officer	2,359	3,740	4,211	(471)	4,000
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	74,025	73,250	73,250	-	59,942
Emergency Management	2,250	5,925	4,913	1,012	5,925
Ambulance Service	59,076	61,264	61,264	-	64,428
Solid Waste	10,069	9,846	10,088	(242)	9,846
Recycling	19,623	24,500	28,714	(4,214)	28,000
General Services Total	\$ 306,287	\$ 326,791	\$ 331,257	\$ (4,466)	\$ 359,320

f - Records restoration is paid from reserve funds from the recording surcharge

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
Community Services					
Adult Basic Education	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
Capstone Community Action	300	300	300	-	300
Clara Martin Center/OCMH	2,700	2,700	2,700	-	2,700
Council on Aging	750	750	750	-	750
Health HUB School Clinic	500	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Library	34,000	34,000	34,000	-	37,000
Orange County Restorative Justice	350	350	350	-	350
Orange County Special Investigations	1,500	1,500	(1,500)	3,000	-
Public Health Council	110	110	110	-	110
Red Cross	575	575	575	-	575
Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Senior Citizens Center	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Strafford Historical Society	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,500
Community Nurse	4,000	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
Streetlights	1,268	1,600	1,339	261	1,600
Vermont Center for Independent Living	200	200	200	-	200
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,250	3,250	3,250	-	3,250
Community Services Total	\$ 64,303	\$ 65,135	\$ 61,874	\$ 3,261	\$ 67,135
Planning					
Development Review Board/Zoning	\$ 7,087	\$ 10,400 @	\$ 6,886	\$ 3,514	\$ 10,000
Regional Planning	1,838	1,893	1,893	-	1,947
Regional Energy Coordinator	7,000	7,210	7,105	105	7,210
Zoning	10	- @	-	-	-
Planning Total	\$ 15,935	\$ 19,503	\$ 15,884	\$ 3,619	\$ 19,157

@ DRB & Zoning budgets have been combined

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
General Government					
County Tax	\$ 42,028	\$ 40,000	\$ 30,129	\$ 9,871	\$ 31,000
Legal Fees & Consultants	19,405	15,000	24,581	(9,581)	25,000
General Government Total	\$ 61,433	\$ 55,000	\$ 54,710	\$ 290	\$ 56,000
Municipal Property					
Municipal Building	\$ 10,733	\$ 386,400	\$ 27,773	\$ 358,627	\$ 459,400
Town House	67,607	17,800	42,830	(25,030)	17,800
Town House Restrooms	-	500	305	195	500
Cemeteries	14,800	16,960	11,500	5,460	12,000
Recreation Areas	5,337	7,550	6,145	1,405	9,000
Pocket Park	5,486	4,800	5,302	(502)	4,800
Municipal Property Total	\$ 103,963	\$ 434,010	\$ 93,856	\$ 340,154	\$ 503,500
Grant Expenditures					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ 17,192 *	\$ -	\$ 10,899	\$ (10,899)	\$ -
Grant Expenditures Total	\$ 17,192	\$ -	\$ 10,899	\$ (10,899)	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 4,978	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,194	\$ (5,194)	\$ 2,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 4,978	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,194	\$ (5,194)	\$ 2,000
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 28,083	\$ -	\$ 38,099	\$ (38,099)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	70	-	-	-	1,000
Conservation Trails	577	-	184	(184)	-
Energy Committee	-	250	991	(741)	250
Independent Committees Total	\$ 28,730	\$ 250	\$ 39,274	\$ (39,024)	\$ 1,250
GENERAL FUND Total Expenses	\$ 868,605	\$ 1,213,345	\$ 892,137	\$ 321,208	\$ 1,255,742
General Fund Grand Total	\$ (66,250)	\$ -	\$ 145,518	\$ 145,518	\$ -

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

g - These committees function independently and expenses are moved from their respective reserve funds

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed	
HIGHWAY FUND Revenue						
Taxes						
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ 129,497	\$ 129,497	\$ -	\$ -	<i>h</i>
Current Taxes	1,234,092	1,132,091	1,132,091	-	1,325,766	
Taxes Total	\$ 1,234,092	\$ 1,261,588	\$ 1,261,588	\$ -	\$ 1,325,766	
Governmental						
FEMA	\$ 568,794 *	\$ 2,473,458	\$ 1,192,569	\$ (1,280,889)	\$ -	
Grants	93,690 *	243,914	141,402	(102,512)	98,000	
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	1,131,587	230,568	-	(230,568)	-	
Vermont Gas Tax	162,893 *	140,000	165,114	25,114	165,113	
Governmental Total	\$ 1,956,964	\$ 3,087,940	\$ 1,499,084	\$ (1,588,856)	\$ 263,113	
Loans						
Loan Proceeds	\$ 153,706	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,000	\$ -	\$ 137,944	<i>i</i>
Loans Total	\$ 153,706	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,000	\$ -	\$ 137,944	
Miscellaneous						
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 4,738	\$ -	\$ 24,807	\$ 24,807	\$ -	
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 4,738	\$ -	\$ 24,807	\$ 24,807	\$ -	
HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue	\$ 3,349,500	\$ 4,824,528	\$ 3,260,480	\$ (1,564,048)	\$ 1,726,823	

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

h - Balance forward uses a surplus from a prior year and/or represents spending from reserves

i - Loan for equipment, offset by purchase in Capital Expense

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
HIGHWAY FUND Expenses					
Labor & Benefits					
Highway Department Labor	\$ 264,540	\$ 289,794	\$ 254,446	\$ 35,348	\$ 321,216
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	36,838	43,529	39,487	4,042	48,632
Municipal Retirement	13,962	16,663	12,587	4,076	18,470
Employer Child Care Contribution	506 *	1,275	1,042	233	1,413
Social Security Tax	20,154	22,169	18,468	3,701	24,573
Workers' Compensation	15,553	17,234	16,425	809	18,096
Labor & Benefits Total	\$ 351,551	\$ 390,664	\$ 342,454	\$ 48,210	\$ 432,400
Municipal Property					
Contract Services	\$ 313	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,525	\$ 4,975	\$ 7,500
Materials	2,739	2,600	5,137	(2,537)	2,600
Recycling	242	600	(39)	639	600
Mowing	21,944	22,000	21,626	374	24,000
Town Garage	27,899	32,600	30,809	1,791	35,266
Municipal Roads Permit	2,450	2,500	3,130	(630)	3,130
Municipal Property Total	\$ 55,586	\$ 67,800	\$ 63,187	\$ 4,613	\$ 73,096

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
Materials					
Chloride	\$ 11,093	\$ 12,000	\$ 16,200	\$ (4,200)	\$ 16,200
Gravel	136,343	157,500	127,341	30,159	157,500
Miscellaneous Materials	2,619	20,000	7,160	12,840	20,000
Salt	53,128	50,000	49,634	366	55,000
Sand	42,491	50,000	54,709	(4,709)	55,000
Contract Services	29,250	30,000	66,730	(36,730)	30,000
Contract Services-Hauling	-	3,000	16,547	(13,547)	3,000
Materials Total	\$ 274,925	\$ 322,500	\$ 338,321	\$ (15,821)	\$ 336,700
Bridges					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,914	\$ (43,914)	\$ -
Bridge Contract Services	12,600	-	23,756	(23,756)	-
Materials	110	15,000	6,521	8,479	15,000
Bridges Total	\$ 12,710	\$ 15,000	\$ 74,191	\$ (59,191)	\$ 15,000
Paving					
Paving Grant Contract Services	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 341,912	\$ 8,088	\$ 130,000
Retreatment	24,500	25,000	-	25,000	-
Paving Total	\$ 24,500	\$ 375,000	\$ 341,912	\$ 33,088	\$ 130,000
Grants for Public Works					
Highway Misc. Grants	\$ 141,258	* \$ 273,384	\$ 100,606	\$ 172,778	\$ 143,687
Grants for Public Works Total	\$ 141,258	\$ 273,384	\$ 100,606	\$ 172,778	\$ 143,687

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
Equipment					
Capital Expense	\$ 153,706	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,000	\$ -	\$ 137,944 <i>j</i>
Interest	12,716	35,818	19,863	15,955	35,866
Debt Service	119,017	262,168	278,695	(16,527)	242,298 <i>k</i>
Gas & Oil	72,183	75,000	72,006	2,994	75,000
Supplies	38,300	30,000	22,038	7,962	30,000
Insurance	15,300	14,126	14,124	2	14,832
Backhoe Repairs	1,062	3,000	567	2,433	13,900
Grader Repairs	7,153	7,000	10,838	(3,838)	10,000
Loader Repairs	6,878	7,000	7,874	(874)	2,000
Mower Repairs	1,208	3,000	3,905	(905)	5,000
Truck 1 Repairs - 2024 International	8,100	5,000	1,916	3,084	5,000
Truck 2 Repairs - 2024 Freightliner	8,054	5,000	10,333	(5,333)	5,000
Truck 3 Repairs - 2021 Freightliner	7,100	6,000	16,698	(10,698)	5,000
Truck 4 Repairs - 2020 Freightliner	5,014	7,000	16,578	(9,578)	8,100
Tractor Repairs	3,551	2,000	-	2,000	1,000
Small Equipment	10,179	10,000	11,080	(1,080)	5,000
Equipment Total	\$ 469,523	\$ 947,112	\$ 961,515	\$ (14,403)	\$ 595,940

j - Represents capital purchase + principal of lease payments for equipment; offset by Loan Proceeds when loan is received

k - Principal payments for loans

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
FEMA					
Contract Services	\$ 41,935	\$ 2,354,203	\$ 1,457,041	\$ 897,162	\$ -
Interest	53,559 *	78,865	-	78,865	-
Labor	-	-	1,379	(1,379)	-
Materials	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Expense	2,311	-	-	-	-
FEMA Total	\$ 97,804	\$ 2,433,068	\$ 1,458,420	\$ 974,648	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	5,206	-	2,482	(2,482)	-
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 5,206	\$ -	\$ 2,482	\$ (2,482)	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses	\$ 1,433,063	\$ 4,824,528	\$ 3,683,087	\$ 1,141,441	\$ 1,726,823
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 1,916,436	\$ -	\$ (422,607)	\$ (422,607)	\$ -
GARAGE BOND FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 38,768	\$ 37,312	\$ 37,312	\$ -	\$ 36,396
Taxes Total	\$ 38,768	\$ 37,312	\$ 37,312	\$ -	\$ 36,396
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue	\$ 38,768	\$ 37,312	\$ 37,312	\$ -	\$ 36,396
GARAGE BOND FUND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000 /
Interest	3,768	2,312	2,313	(1)	1,396
Bond Total	\$ 38,768	\$ 37,312	\$ 37,313	\$ (1)	\$ 36,396
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses	\$ 38,768	\$ 37,312	\$ 37,313	\$ (1)	\$ 36,396
Town Garage Bond Grand Total	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ (1)	\$ (1)	\$ -

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

/ - Principal payments for bonds; these are now recorded as expenses and borrowing as revenue

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
FIRE TRUCK FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ -	\$ 38,144
Taxes Total	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ -	\$ 38,144
FIRE TRUCK Total Revenue	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ -	\$ 38,144
FIRE TRUCK FUND Expenses					
Equipment					
Debt Service	\$ 30,998	\$ 33,112	\$ 32,088	\$ 1,024	34,304
Interest	7,145	5,031	6,055	(1,024)	3,840
Equipment Total	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ (0)	\$ 38,144
FIRE TRUCK Total Expenses	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ (0)	\$ 38,144
Fire Truck Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ -

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2026 Proposed
TOTALS					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ (66,250)	\$ -	\$ 145,518	\$ 145,518	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 1,916,436	\$ -	\$ (422,607)	\$ (422,607)	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ (1)	\$ (1)	\$ -
Fire Truck Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ -
ARPA Grant Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 4,228,766	\$ 6,113,328	\$ 4,373,589	\$ (1,739,739)	\$ 3,057,105
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 2,378,580	\$ 6,113,328	\$ 4,650,680	\$ 1,462,648	\$ 3,057,105
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 1,850,187	\$ -	\$ (277,091)	\$ (277,091)	\$ -

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ALL FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS

For Years Ending December 31, 2024 and 2025 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Fire Truck	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2025	12/31/2024
ASSETS							
Cash	\$ 1,037,698	\$ (468,411)	\$ 19,781	\$ -	\$ 2,173,025	\$ 2,762,094	\$ 2,733,369
Delinquent Tax Receivable	65,789	-	-	-	-	65,789	74,734
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	1,137	-	-	-	-	1,137	1,936
Del. Tax Penalty Receivable	5,263	-	-	-	-	5,263	6,016
Accounts Receivable	36	576,955	-	-	-	576,991	483,542
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,109,924	\$ 108,545	\$ 19,781	\$ -	\$ 2,173,025	\$ 3,411,274	\$ 3,299,597
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE							
LIABILITIES							
Deferred Revenue	\$ 46,850	\$ 270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,120	\$ 215,748
Deferred Revenue - Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
Deferred Revenue - 60 Day	-	329,966	-	-	-	329,966	248,474
Accounts Payable	15,190	21,080	-	-	-	36,271	30,570
Accrued Payroll	4,441	12,396	-	-	-	16,837	11,568
Notes Payable	400,000	-	-	-	-	400,000	-
Prepaid Taxes	32	-	-	-	-	32	1,853
Due to School District	-	-	-	-	-	-	(46,391)
Due to Tax Collector	10,163	-	-	-	-	10,163	9,880
Miscellaneous Liabilities	630	-	-	-	-	630	675
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 477,306	\$ 363,712	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 841,019	\$ 476,377
FUND BALANCE							
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 526,045	\$ 48,479	\$ 19,781	\$ -	\$ 2,173,025	\$ 2,767,330	\$ 2,513,861
Unrestricted	106,572	(303,647)	-	-	-	(197,075)	188,979
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 632,617	\$ (255,168)	\$ 19,781	\$ -	\$ 2,173,025	\$ 2,570,256	\$ 2,702,840
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 1,109,924	\$ 108,545	\$ 19,781	\$ -	\$ 2,173,025	\$ 3,411,274	\$ 3,179,217

2024 totals are as adjusted by the outside auditor.

The accompanying notes are a necessary part of this financial statement.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2024 and 2025

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Town Garage Fund	Fire Truck Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2024	\$ 391,672	\$ 177,976	\$ 19,782	\$ -
Prior Year Adj (<i>See Note 4</i>)	\$ 17,974	\$ 118,960	-	
Adj. Fund Bal. Dec. 31, 2024	\$ 409,646	\$ 296,936	19,782	\$ -
Transfers Out (<i>See Note 5</i>)	-	(129,497)	-	
Transfers In (<i>See Note 5</i>)	77,453		-	
Revenues	1,037,654	3,260,480	37,312	38,143
Balances and Additions	\$ 1,524,754	\$ 3,427,919	\$ 57,094	\$ 38,143
Expenditures:	(892,137)	(3,683,087)	(37,313)	(38,143)
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2025	\$ 632,617	\$ (255,168)	\$ 19,781	\$ (0)



*Strafford neighbors who were once mortal enemies later reconciled
after the Revolutionary war.*

They now lie together eternally in the Old City Cemetery.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2025

2021 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
June 30, 2026	\$ 22,440	\$ 440	\$ 22,000	\$ -

Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$110,000.

State of Vermont

2024 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
August 31, 2026	\$ 44,984	\$ 6,242	\$ 38,742	\$ 83,518
August 31, 2027	44,984	4,264	40,720	42,799
August 31, 2028	44,984	2,185	42,799	0

Terms: 5.1% interest. Original amount borrowed \$194,189

Mascoma Savings Bank

2024 International CV 1-Ton

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
May 14, 2026	\$ 37,189	\$ 8,497	\$ 28,693	\$ 98,123
May 14, 2027	37,189	6,574	30,615	67,508
May 14, 2028	37,189	4,535	32,654	34,854
May 14, 2029	37,189	2,335	34,854	-

Terms: 6.7% interest. Original amount borrowed \$153,706.

Mascoma Savings Bank

Brook Road Project

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
October 1, 2026	132,969	\$ 16,155	\$ 116,814	\$ 227,229
October 1, 2027	132,969	10,634	122,335	104,894
October 1, 2028	109,817	4,923	104,894	-

Terms: 4.68% interest. Original amount borrowed \$475,000.

Mascoma Savings Bank

2019 Int'l 4400 SBA 4x2 Fire Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
April 11, 2026	\$ 38,143	\$ 3,840	\$ 34,304	\$ 72,353
April 11, 2027	38,143	2,605	35,539	36,815
April 11, 2028	38,143	1,329	36,815	-

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$288,806.

Mascoma Savings Bank

For other indebtedness information, please refer to Note 6 in the "Notes to Financial Statements."

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

2024	International CV 1 Ton	
2024	Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck	
2021	Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck	
2020	Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck	
2026	John Deere 544G P-Tier Wheel Loader	
2015	John Deere 410 Backhoe	
2021	772G John Deere Grader	
2018	John Deere 6110M Tractor	
1991	Kubota Tractor	
1989	Ford 8000 Chloride Truck	
	1,000 Gallon Aboveground Fuel Tank with Pump	
	2 –Chloride Tanks – 3000 gallon each	
	Chloride Sprayer Tank – 500 gallon	
	Chloride Sprayer Tank – 1,000 gallon	
	1 – Motorola Base Radio	1 – Lincoln Mig Welder
	10 – Motorola 16 channel Scan Mobile Radio	1 – Yamaha 4500 Generator
	2 – Motorola 2 channel Hand Held Radios	1 – Hydraulic Hose Press
	1 – 20' x 20' Sand Screen	1 – Culvert Compactor
	1 – Jonsered Chain Saw	1 – Husqvarna Pole Saw
	3 – Husqvarna Chain Saws	2 – Desktop Computers
	2 – Echo Battery-operated Chain Saws	
	1 – 225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter	
	1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom	
	1 – 8' Sweepster Power Broom	
	1 – American Culvert Thawer	

Highway Department Buildings

Town Garage Building
Rear Storage Shed – Three bays
Salt Shed
Fuel Shed

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending December 31, 2025

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FUND ACCOUNTING—The accounts of the Town are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operation of each fund is accounted for on the modified accrual basis with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenues and expenditures, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

GENERAL FUND: The General Fund is the general operating fund of the town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS: *Highway Fund*—The operating fund for road maintenance and improvements funded by a specific revenue source and restricted for road maintenance use only. *Town Garage Fund*—The Town Garage Fund was established in 2006 to build a new town garage. *Fire Truck Fund*—The Fire Truck Fund was re-established in 2023 at the direction of the outside auditors, to record the revenue & expenses for the Fire Truck purchased in 2019.

Note 2: ENDOWMENTS—This number represents both principal and interest of all endowments/trust funds for the Town of Strafford. As of 2022, it includes all funds managed by the Trustees of Public Funds, whose reports begin on page 113.

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted fund revenue and expenditures are reflected in the General Fund and Highway Fund statements. Net changes to restricted funds in each year will be reported in these notes. In the Highway Fund, restricted funds represent the equipment reserve and any other highway restricted funds; unrestricted funds are still restricted to highway use.

	<i>Ending</i> <i>Balance</i>	<i>Net Change</i> <i>in 2025</i>	<i>Ending</i> <i>Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND:			
Reserve-Town House	\$ 24,459.49	\$(19,785.51)	\$ 4,673.98
Reserve-Town House Clock	118.03	-	118.03
Reserve-Town House Spec Proj	9,312.66	-	9,312.66
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	22,447.57	4,417.00	26,864.57
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	78,271.29	6,678.50	84,949.79

	<i>Ending Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2025</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND:			
Reserve-Tennis Courts	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Reserve-Recreation	6,395.29	1,354.68	7,749.97
Reserve-Municipal Building	279,512.41	44,216.90	323,729.31
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	3,765.88	-	3,765.88
Reserve-Dogs	1,909.40	235.17	2,144.57
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	11,352.68	5,510.00	16,862.68
Reserve-Pocket Park	5,369.96	(502.41)	4,867.55
Reserve-Energy Committee	2,147.48	(600.00)	1,547.48
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	11,649.82	-	11,649.82
Reserve-Conservation Trails	1,619.30	(184.07)	1,435.23
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	5,783.16	15,580.38	21,363.54
Total General Reserve Funds	\$469,124.32	\$ 56,920.64	\$526,044.96

HIGHWAY FUND:

Reserve-Equipment	\$ 48,478.63	\$ -	\$ 48,478.63
Total Highway Reserve Funds	\$ 48,478.63	\$ -	\$ 48,478.63

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

GENERAL FUND:

Adjustments per outside auditors \$ 17,974.

Adjustments included changes in the amount owed to the School, deferred revenue adjustments, miscellaneous grant revenue, accounts payable, and the employer child care credit.

HIGHWAY FUND:

Adjustments per outside auditors \$ 118,960.

Adjustments primarily involved deferral of FEMA and State of Vermont Emergency Funds, miscellaneous grant revenue, and the employer child care credit..

Note 5: TRANSFERS

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER IN:

Deficit Reduction \$ 77,453

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$ 129,497

Note 6: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of June 30, 2025 is \$23,306.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025

Grand List

Real Estate	218,162,000
Plus Equipment	433
Less Exemption	(240,000)
Less Current Use	(18,451,900)
Less Local Agreements	(1,576,700)

Total	<u>197,893,833</u>
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Total Listed Value	197,893,833
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Residential	116,269,600
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Special Exemptions	2,736,900
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Non-approved Contracts	1,576,700
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Non-residential	78,887,333
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Taxes Billed

Tax rate

General Fund	1,978,938.33	x	0.3464	685,504
Highway Fund	1,978,938.33	x	0.5726	1,133,140
Town Garage	1,978,938.33	x	0.0189	37,402
Fire Truck Fund	1,978,938.33	x	0.0193	38,194
Local Agreements	1,978,938.33	x	0.0153	30,278
Homestead Educ.	1,162,696.00	x	1.6322	1,897,752
Nonresidential Educ.	788,873.33	x	1.7274	1,362,700

Total				<u>5,184,970</u>
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Adjustments to Taxes Due

Current use change	(2,396)
State Homestead Declaration errors	(0)
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration	(2,179)
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties	1,360
Tax bill rounding	(3)

Total Taxes Due	<u>5,181,753</u>
------------------------	-------------------------

Taxes accounted for as follows:

Collections	5,072,048
Late billed taxes not delinquent	937
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2025)	108,768

Total Taxes Collectible	<u><u>5,181,753</u></u>
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REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY

2025 Listed Values

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	50,373,900	38,927,400	11,446,500	50,373,900
Residential more than 6 acres	110,228,600	73,953,400	36,275,200	110,228,600
Mobile home without land	55,800	25,400	30,400	55,800
Mobile home with land	1,098,200	673,700	424,500	1,098,200
Vacation home less than 6 acres	1,074,900	321,600	753,300	1,074,900
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,696,800	2,285,500	8,411,300	10,696,800
Commercial	5,774,000	-	5,774,000	5,774,000
Commercial Apartments	213,900	213,900	-	213,900
Utilities Electric	13,637,400	-	13,637,400	13,637,400
Farm	14,041,400	5,560,200	8,481,200	14,041,400
Woodland	8,340,700	-	8,340,700	8,340,700
Miscellaneous	2,626,400	109,500	2,516,900	2,626,400
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	218,162,000	122,070,600	96,091,400	218,162,000
Cable	433		433	433
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	218,162,433	122,070,600	96,091,833	218,162,433
Veterans' Exemptions	(240,000)	(50,000)	(10,000)	(60,000)
Current Use	(18,451,900)	(5,601,000)	(12,850,900)	(18,451,900)
Special Exemptions			(2,736,900)	(2,736,900)
Local Agreements	(1,576,700)	-	-	-
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	197,893,833	116,419,600	80,494,033	196,913,633
<i>2024 TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY</i>	<i>195,443,333</i>	<i>113,439,000</i>	<i>79,407,433</i>	<i>192,846,433</i>

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Year Ending December 31, 2025

Name	Total	Name	Total
Begnoche, Jason	\$ 990.88	Handy, Stephen L	11.46
Billian, Keith E	5,367.06	Hill, Michael W	1,588.55
Breese, Robert B	948.35	Jenks, Cheryl & Pixley, Sidney	3,766.40
Brown, Ellen Brown Trustee	2,528.72	Johnston, John M et al.	43.19
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	1,436.34	Lawrence, Duane	8,157.58
* Case, Colyn & Nancy	218.69	Manning, Alford II & Nancy	9.65
Conant, James & David	1,117.66	Moran, Mark & Onega, Tracy	6,101.98
Corliss, Melba	323.98	Nutting, Dillon, Rae, Lacey	7,362.19
Farina, Chris	17,488.58	* Owen, Kate	4,742.40
Gibson, Terry L	33.05	Phelps, Hugh	94.50
* Gritzmacher, G, T, & G	9.34	^{1,*} Smith, Sarah / Graber, Martha	3,448.30
		Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2025	\$65,788.85

¹ Graber property sold to Smith

* Paid in full by January 20, 2026

	Total	2025	2024	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2025	\$ 65,788.86	\$ 57,898.85	\$ 7,890.01	\$ -
Plus December Collections	51,079.52	50,869.44	210.08	-
	<u>\$116,868.38</u>	<u>\$108,768.29</u>	<u>\$ 8,100.09</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Previously uncollected		\$ 8,100.09		
2025 Delinq. Tax Warrant		<u>108,768.29</u>		
Total Delinquency		<u><u>\$116,868.38</u></u>		

Please Note: Due to legislative changes and a Supreme Court ruling regarding the confidentiality of tax bill information, individual delinquent tax information by year will no longer be reported.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE

Year Ending December 31, 2025

	Total	2025	2024	2023 & prior
Balance January 1, 2025	\$ 75,205.60		\$ 63,686.77	\$ 11,518.83
Delinquent to Collector	108,768.29	108,768.29	-	-
Subtotal	183,973.89	108,768.29	63,686.77	11,518.83
Collections/abatements/discharges	(118,185.03)	(50,869.44)	(55,796.76)	(11,518.83)
Balance December 31, 2025	\$ 65,788.86	\$ 57,898.85	\$ 7,890.01	\$ -

TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES COMPARED TO TOTAL TAXES BILLED

	Delinquent Taxes	2014 - 2025 Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2016	74,804.44	2015	3,785,861.56	1.98%
January 1, 2017	95,605.35	2016	3,899,828.07	2.45%
January 1, 2018	93,628.92	2017	3,866,892.28	2.42%
January 1, 2019	94,455.71	2018	3,897,401.78	2.42%
January 1, 2020	83,125.63	2019	4,058,332.15	2.05%
January 1, 2021	83,951.66	2020	4,383,855.30	1.92%
January 1, 2022	62,936.23	2021	4,430,342.00	1.42%
January 1, 2023	43,398.55	2022	4,214,958.79	1.03%
January 1, 2024	62,116.34	2023	4,322,959.00	1.44%
January 1, 2025	63,686.77	2024	5,089,093.00	1.25%
January 1, 2026	57,898.85	2025	5,181,753.08	1.12%

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

NAME OF CHILD	SEX	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	PARENT'S NAME	PARENT'S NAME
Ella J. Manning	F	4/23/25	Randolph, VT	Kimberly M. Lakin	Asa G. Manning

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Catherine A. C. Holland	Orford, NH	Conor R. Dube	Orford, NH	1/7/25	Strafford, VT
L. Kyle Jones	South Strafford, VT	Elisabeth B. McLane	South Strafford, VT	3/29/25	Strafford, VT
Brent J. Mulherin	Lebanon, NH	Abby R. Nordstrom-Marx	Strafford, VT	6/28/25	Strafford, VT
Emily E. Hands	Winthrop, MA	Benjamin Bushnell	Winthrop, MA	8/9/25	Jeffersonville, VT
Alexa M. Bys	South Strafford, VT	Matthew M. Badams	South Strafford, VT	8/9/25	South Strafford, VT
Elizah G. Markwood	South Strafford, VT	James E. Mannix	South Strafford, VT	8/16/25	Strafford, VT
Brenna E. Nolan	Nashville, TN	Noah B. Kahan	Nashville, TN	8/23/25	Strafford, VT
Olivia A. Baribeau	New York, NY	Zachariah H. Warner	New York, NY	9/13/25	Strafford, VT
Luke W. Crocker	Dorchester, MA	Wendy C. Martinez	Doral, FL	10/7/25	Strafford, VT
Anastasia M. Kahan	Park City, UT	Samuel D. M. Kater	Park City, UT	11/27/25	Strafford, VT

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)

Deaths						
NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE	
Dennis D. Preston	M	80	Strafford, VT	1/18/2025	Strafford, VT	
David A. Moses	M	84	Glover, VT	1/31/2025	Strafford, VT	
Lillian L. Clifford	F	97	Strafford, VT	4/18/2025	Strafford, VT	
Jeremy N. Kendall	M	29	Strafford, VT	7/16/2025	Strafford, VT	
Allan R. Wylie	M	84	South Strafford, VT	7/19/2025	South Strafford, VT	
Anne M. Prescott	F	86	Randolph, VT	10/27/2025	South Strafford, VT	

Burials					
NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
David Almon Moses	M	84	Glover, VT	1/31/2025	Strafford Cemetery
Darlene G. Kill	F	62	Lebanon, NH	12/15/2024	Strafford Cemetery
Hazel Linton Lewis	F	102	Lebanon, NH	1/23/2025	Strafford Cemetery
Lillian L. Clifford	F	97	Strafford, VT	4/18/2025	Evergreen Cemetery

These vital statistics represent marriages, civil unions, births, deaths and burials recorded in the Strafford Town Office.

Certificates filed elsewhere are not automatically forwarded to the Town Office.

If you would like those statistics to be included in this report, please arrange for copies of the records to be sent.

If you would prefer not to have your vital statistics listed in the Town Report due to privacy concerns or for any other reason, please notify the Town Clerk's office.

ANIMAL LICENSING

34	Male dogs
164	Neutered dogs
34	Female dogs
163	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,848.00

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six months of age and older must be licensed annually on or before the first day of April. A late fee of \$20.00 shall be due if a license is obtained after April 1.

Before obtaining a license, a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to the Town Clerk. A dog or wolf-hybrid over three months of age must be vaccinated; the initial vaccination is valid for 12 months. Within 9-12 months of initial vaccination, the animal must receive a booster vaccination. All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination will be valid for 36 months.

License fees are \$11 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$15 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to an increase in the fee.

Proof of spaying or neutering, signed by a veterinarian, must be exhibited to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing.

Dogs should wear tags at all times, because if the dog is lost, it is more likely to be returned. If you should find or lose a dog, report it to the Dog Officer and/or the Town Clerk immediately.

Dog violations

Disturbances and Nuisances & Pooper Scooper: First offense—\$30 penalty/\$15 waiver; Second offense—\$50 penalty/\$25 waiver; Third offense—\$100 penalty/\$50 waiver; Subsequent offenses—Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$100 penalty.

Collar and License: First offense between April 1st and July 1st—\$25 penalty/\$20 waiver; Second offense—\$50 penalty/\$30 waiver.

Humane Care of Dogs: First offense—\$100 penalty per animal/\$50 waiver; Second offense—\$250 penalty per animal/\$100 waiver; Subsequent offenses—Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$250 penalty.

Enforcement, Impoundment, Notice of Impoundment and Release from Impoundment, Investigation of Vicious Dogs: First offense—\$200 penalty/\$75 waiver; Second offense—\$500 penalty/\$200 waiver; Subsequent offenses—Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$500 penalty.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE: 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)
Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2021 Market Value	12/31/2022 Market Value	12/31/2023 Market Value	12/31/2024 Market Value	12/31/2025 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Total Contributions	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 131,395.62	\$ 104,165.20	\$ 122,291.36	\$ 134,001.45	\$ 144,354.16	\$ 10,352.71	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 16,352.71
Gilman	15,344.71	12,872.58	15,083.51	17,519.30	19,807.25	2,287.95	0.00		2,287.95
Mix	141,620.11	117,351.36	137,708.57	160,247.83	180,688.59	20,440.76	0.00		20,440.76
Newton	150,074.55	124,559.35	145,423.59	169,139.00	190,868.78	21,729.78	0.00		21,729.78
Ordway	291,468.01	227,691.82	259,177.65	290,532.04	313,552.61	23,020.57	12,000.00		35,020.57
Robinson	13,552.94	11,354.47	13,308.44	15,486.16	16,418.22	932.06	3,445.00		4,377.06
RWW	36,431.82	30,284.57	35,469.61	41,176.71	46,333.25	5,156.54	0.00		5,156.54
SCE	8,386.82	6,991.71	8,087.90	9,091.33	10,641.30	1,549.97	0.00		1,549.97
SAA	6,336.50	5,394.21	6,235.10	7,008.47	8,242.64	1,234.17	0.00		1,234.17
ERF	22,591.80	18,871.50	22,071.65	25,584.50	28,998.72	3,414.22	0.00		3,414.22
CST	587,368.07	458,834.85	503,849.38	559,845.71	597,233.22	37,387.51	40,000.00		77,387.51
C-B A	78,507.55	63,875.49	74,935.92	84,969.17	94,752.16	9,782.99	1,000.00		10,782.99
STF *	42,795.77	135,549.13	41,792.23	48,471.09	54,711.99	6,240.90	0.00		6,240.90
DKB			355,445.92	413,403.43	466,422.54	53,019.11	0.00		53,019.11
Cash	-	20,923.56	18,414.76			-		-	-
Total	\$1,525,874.27	\$1,338,719.80	\$1,759,295.59	\$1,976,476.19	\$ 2,173,025.43	\$196,549.24	\$ 62,445.00	\$ -	\$258,994.24
Disbursed	49,107.58	40,188.87	45,268.80	45,082.97	62,445.00				

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds.

Change before disbursements and additions

13.10%

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

INVESTMENTS

<u>Cash</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Mascoma checking , CST	\$10,920.86
Mascoma checking , TPF	3,029.63
Fidelity Cash Account	74,954.12
Total Cash 4.1%	\$ 88,904.61

<u>Fixed Income</u>	
Fidelity Total Bond ETF	\$ 92,448.32
JP Morgan Ultra-Short Income ETF	91,314.95
iShares Core US Aggregate Bond ETF	185,177.52
iShares Trust iShares 0-1 Yr Treasury Bond ETF	90,653.45
Total Fixed Income 21.0%	\$ 459,594.24

Total Cash & Fixed Income 25.1% **\$ 548,498.85**

<u>US Equities</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
iShares Core 80/20 aggressive allocation ETF	\$ 7,791.72
Fidelity Enhanced Large Cap Core ETF	140,656.45
iShares Core S&P 500 Growth ETF	562,335.74
iShares Core S&P US Growth ETF	198,505.08
iShares MSCI USA Momentum Factor ETF	92,114.08
iShares Core S&P Mid-Cap ETF	110,286.00
iShares Core S&P Small Cap ETF	112,007.76
Total US Equities 56.0%	\$ 1,223,696.83

<u>Foreign Equities</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
SPDR Portfolio Emerging Markets ETF	\$ 115,012.17
JP Morgan International Research Enhanced	111,795.84
VBanguard FTSE Developed Markets ETF	187,972.23
Total Foreign Equities 19.0%	\$ 414,780.24

Total Equity Funds 74.9% **\$ 1,638,477.07**

End of the year total	100.0% \$ 2,186,975.92
Checking account balances	13,950.49
Investments with MWM	2,173,025.43

FUNDS OVERSEEN BY THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Set forth below are the funds overseen by the Trustees of Public Funds. If you or your organization is interested in accessing these town resources, please contact the fund's committee or the Selectboard as indicated below. If no contact information is listed, please contact the TPF Chair.

DAVID K. BROWN FUND

In 2022 the Town of Strafford received a gift of \$300,000 from the David K. Brown Trust "to establish an endowment fund, the income from which shall be used for the preservation, maintenance, or restoration projects which maintain the historical character of the Strafford Town House." Requests for disbursements are made by the Selectboard.

GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND

In 1968, the Town of Strafford received under the Will of Gardner N. Cobb \$10,000 to be held in Trust with the Corpus to be invested in direct obligations of the United States, with the net income to be disbursed by the Trustees for "the promotion of child hygiene, the treatment of remediable defects of needy children, including dental, or orthopedic or other medical care, routine immunizations against disease, and detection and elimination of tuberculosis and the dissemination of literature on the subject of Child Welfare."

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD FUND

This fund is the result of a \$50,000 bequest from the Edmund Coffin estate. It was established on September 1, 2016.

The purpose of the fund is to give an annual award to persons and/or organizations who, in the opinion of the selection committee, have made major contributions to building a sense of community in the town.

A committee, appointed by the Selectboard, recommends recipients annually.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

This fund was established in 2013 in concert with the wishes of Marion Slusser, who contributed \$10,000 to the Town of Strafford in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene.

The goal of this fund is to support efforts related to emergency management for the residents of the Town of Strafford. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of Town designated shelters, procuring and maintaining communications equipment, and assisting with grant matches when appropriate. The Selectboard shall act as advisors to the Trustees of Public Funds with regard to distributions from this Fund.

ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND

In 1988 \$2,000 was given by Mr. and Mrs. R. Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Gadzinski to establish the Robert I. Gilman and Evelyn Roberts Gilman Trust Fund to be used to benefit the Municipal Building.

ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND

On September 2, 1987 the Town of Strafford received, under a Trust Agreement, \$5,407.83 establishing the Robin Mix Memorial Fund for Preservation of the Strafford Town House. "The purpose of this Fund is to provide an augmenting source of funding for the accomplishment of extraordinary repairs to, and for major preservation and restoration projects for, the Strafford Town House."

NEWTON FUND

In 1931 the Town of Strafford received, under the Will of William E. Newton, \$14,200 to be held in trust, the income from which is "to be used first in keeping the two Newton lots in the cemetery at South Strafford in good condition, and then in any public improvement or for any public purpose in the village of South Strafford."

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND

In 1980 the Town of Strafford received a bequest under the Will of Robert H. Ordway of \$56,671.99 in trust, from which the income is "to be used in assisting a deserving high school graduate or graduates who are inhabitants of the Town of Strafford, Vermont in obtaining education above the high school level." See the Robert H. Ordway Scholarship Committee Report for further information.

WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND

On December 23, 1985 the Town of Strafford received \$1,000 under the Will of Walter C. Robinson “to be held in trust by the Trustees of Public Funds and to use the interest for the care of the Willard Robinson and Daniel Robinson cemetery lots in the Robinson Cemetery.”

CARRIE SANBORN TRUST

In May of 1986 the Carrie Sanborn Trust (CST) began providing assistance to aid Strafford residents in need of assistance. In 2008 authority to manage this trust was transferred from TD Banknorth to the Trustees of Public Funds. The Trustees shall make funds available for distribution by the CST Committee who act on referrals or requests. Please contact Sue Coburn for assistance or the Town Clerk for more information.

SELECTBOARD TRANSFERRED FUND

The Selectboard Transferred Fund (STF) was created when the Trustees of Public Funds accepted a lump sum of \$33,074.53 from the small endowments managed by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will decide how to disburse the funds (except those controlled by the Cemetery Commission).

THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND

This fund was established in December of 1999. The purpose of this fund is to receive and grant money to aid educational programs in the Town of Strafford, Vermont.

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FUND

The SAA Fund was established on October 25, 2004 to provide continued and improved financial support for the enhancement of athletic and recreational facilities for the people of Strafford.

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 and was turned over the Trustees of Public Funds for investment management in 1994. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate; the Newton School Library is named in her honor.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The funds overseen by the Trustees of Public Funds (TPF) that are invested with Mascoma Wealth Management gained 13.1% for the year 2025 (compared to 15.9% in 2024). TPF continued its relationship with Mascoma Wealth Management, which manages and invests all public monies overseen by the TPF.

The TPF oversees 14 separate named funds, each with a specified purpose.

The TPF approved disbursement of a total of \$60,543.67 from the following funds:

The Carrie Sanborn Trust (CST): a total of \$38,098.67 to provide assistance to community members in need.

The Cobb Fund: \$4,000 to the Newton School, \$2,000 for child's dental support.

The Ordway Fund: a total of \$12,000 to three recipients for higher education.

The Community Building Award: \$1,000 for the 2025 recipient of the award.

The Robinson Fund: \$3,445 for repairs at the Robinson Cemetery.

The TPF is grateful for the generosity of past and current community members who have provided gifts that support our town and its residents. We encourage individuals and organizations to contact the TPF with specific fund requests.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah North

Therese Linehan

Cindy Stableford

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee establishes guidelines, evaluates applications and determines award recipients. The awards are funded by proceeds derived from the Trust established by Robert H. Ordway's will.

The Trustees of Public Funds manage the Trust and their financial statement and report appear elsewhere in this report.

The committee has developed criteria based on academic achievement, citizenship and character.

High school students must apply by June 1 of their senior year. Application forms may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office. All graduating seniors wishing to further their education beyond the high school level are encouraged to apply.

2025 Awards: Leo Barta, Luke Miller, and Simone Prescott

Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee:

Joey Hawkins

Diana Leddy

Danette Harris

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate. The Newton School Library is named in her honor.

The award is for Strafford residents recently graduated from High School who are preparing for teaching careers. It will be granted periodically at the discretion of the Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship committee.

Donations to the fund are welcome and can be made through the Trustees of Public Funds. Applications can be picked up at the Strafford Town Clerk's Office, and sent to any member of the committee. Anyone who would like to be on the committee is encouraged to contact any committee member and express his or her interest.

Committee members: Maureen Wilson, Rod Maclay, Rockwell Fuller, and Joanna Hawkins.

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD

The Community Building Award was created in 2016, through a generous bequest from Ned Coffin.

Ned and his wife Vi made their home in Strafford in the early 1970's. Ned had a deep love for the town and its beauty and a real appreciation for its people and institutions. Ned's contributions to Strafford continue after his death by funding an award to be given annually to an individual or an organization who has made a meaningful contribution to our community.

2025 Awards: Chrissy Jamieson and the Strafford Community Trust

Chrissy Jamieson has made meaningful contributions to our community in multiple ways for decades.

The Strafford Food Shelf was quietly run by her and her mother, making sure those in need receive some much-needed help. Also establishing the Angel Tree program, which matched sponsors with children in struggling families to ensure they received Christmas gifts.

More visible in the community are the many other significant contributions she has made, including, but not limited to:

Running the Strafford Little League program, playing a crucial role with the Strafford Lions Club, which provides the town with swimming lessons, the town pond, and rope tow and ski hill to name a few.

Chrissy's role being a mainstay at Coburn's General Store, a centerpiece in town! Her welcoming presence and the care given to every detail of operations. When the store was recently sold, she continued her role to ensure a smooth transition.

Thanks to the Strafford Community Trust, Strafford still has a general store! It's hard to imagine life in town without our store, which has been described as the heart and soul of small towns such as ours.

Ned Coffin took pleasure in "matchmaking", finding people with skills who shared a common vision for the community and were willing to work together to make things happen. The Strafford Community Trust is a perfect reflection of this spirit.

The tasks they took on seemed almost overwhelming: Clarifying the needs of the community; finding a business model that made it possible for someone to take over the business; fundraising, publicity and communications with donors and the community; engaging professionals to review the store's business and building assessments; searching for a suitable store owner/operator; negotiations with the Coburn family; and continuing with necessary improvements to the building.

Community-Building Award Committee members: Lori Mikusa, Rebecca Seibel, Brooke Wilkinson, Andy Coffin and Asa Manning

BARRETT MEMORIAL HALL

It feels like every time we turn around there is something going on at Barrett Hall. We love that the hall is busier than ever and used by so many Strafford residents and the Newton School.

In December our furnace gave out and needed immediate replacement. We had to dig into our reserves to meet the expenses, and many community members helped with extra donations to meet this emergency. Aside from our Annual Appeal, our main fund raisers are the Preschool/Barrett Hall Rummage Sale (it had its best year ever) and the well attended Artisan Fair.

We had a visit from the fire department on Halloween. Not a real fire, just a rogue fog machine. (It's nice to know that our building's smoke detectors and alarms are in excellent working order.)

The Hall's mainstay events are what keep our community informed, healthy and together:

Seniors' Lunches and Meals-on-Wheels, exercise classes and The Community Refrigerator are a few examples of BMH serving the community.

The Trustees hope to undertake many more repairs and improvements this year and more for next year.

As a nonprofit Barrett Memorial Hall remains a vital community resource, we thank you for your support. We receive no funds from the Town. So now, more than ever, we depend on your generous support.

Thank you so very much,

Steve Marx
David McWilliams
Sonya Schumacher
Moe Wilson
Barrett Memorial Hall Trustees

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

We have had an active year at the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library. Use of the library's physical collection of books for children and adults has continued with robust circulation. Use of the online streaming service (available through the Green Mountain Library Consortium/Libby app) for audiobooks and ebooks has more than doubled again this year, with 3,200 books downloaded. We added the Biblioplus streaming service for movies to our offerings and, in February 2026, will begin a streaming subscription to the Mango language learning platform. Weekly interlibrary loan service continues to grow and provides broad and quick access to items not found on our shelves. We share a substantial amount of our collection with libraries throughout Vermont through this service as well. Free WiFi service is available outside the library 24/7 for community use and there are two patron computers and a printer available during open hours.

The library is currently open 1-8 PM on Mondays, 2-5 on Wednesdays, 10-5 on Thursdays, and 9-12 on Saturday mornings. We plan to adjust the hours this year so they are easier to remember and more suited to peak hours of demand for library services. We aim to continue hosting a monthly program for adults and offer increased children's programming on Saturdays in the hopes that more families will be able to attend during this time.

We hired an architectural space planner in 2025 to help us reconfigure our interior space to improve the layout for hosting programs/presentations, and in particular, to allocate more suitable space for young children and their parents. The seed money for this project comes from a generous bequest from the Campbell family, in honor of longtime librarian, Kay Campbell. We are in the planning stages. We will debut a new website this year as well.

We are grateful to the town for its support, and to the Friends of Morrill Library, our donors, our readers, and those who show up for both adult and children's special programs. We hope to see you at the library or on our streaming services in the coming year.

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2025

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2025		\$ 21,104
Prior Year Adjustments		1,756
Adjusting Beginning Balance		22,861
Income		
Endowed Funds	\$ -	
Town of Strafford	34,000	
Friends of the Library	9,636	
Contributions Income	9,936	
Grants	2,750	
Interest and dividends	-	
From Reserve Account	6,705	
Miscellaneous Income	948	
Total Income + Transfers In		\$ 63,974
Expenses		
Memberships	\$ 2,478	
Books, Periodicals, DVDs, Audio Books	3,708	
Programs, Children and Adult	1,954	
Internet Service	2,751	
Interlibrary loan service	1,289	
Electronic Catalog	540	
Personnel Expenses	38,672	
Utilities	3,378	
Building and Grounds Maintenance	5,104	
Administration	5,716	
Volunteer Gifts	57	
Special Project - Children's Space	6,705	
Miscellaneous	24	
Total Expenses + Transfers Out		\$ 72,374
Net Income		\$ (8,400)
Ending Balance		\$ 12,704

Fidelity CD, Bequest

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2025	\$ 136,898
Transfer to Checking	(6,705)
Earnings	5,420
Ending Balance	\$ 135,613

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2025	\$ 492,714
Transfers to the Operating Fund	
from Restricted Funds	\$ 987
Subtotal	491,727

Market Value December 31, 2025	\$ 562,976
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STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

In 2025 the Fire Department and FAST Squad responded to 85 calls for assistance, including motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, and structure fires in Strafford and neighboring towns. This number is in keeping with recent years. We currently have two members enrolled in a Firefighter I/II course with the Vermont Fire Academy. This is a big commitment and we thank them for their dedication. We continued the annual traditions of a Rabies Clinic in the Spring and our annual Chicken BBQ as part of the town's 4th of July celebration.

A summary of our spending vs. budgeted for 2025 is included on the following page. We purchased a used cardiac monitor for the FAST Squad for \$7,500. This is included in the EMS category. New monitors cost upwards of \$30,000 so being able to buy one in good condition for that price was a great opportunity for us. A cardiac monitor will be a huge benefit to our ability to provide patient care before the ambulance arrives. Most of the funds used to purchase the monitor came from a grant from Mascoma Bank.

The following officers were elected at our annual meeting on January 8th:

President: Mike Ekegren

Vice President: Andrew Lane

Treasurer: Pat Kelly

Secretary: Cabot Teachout

EMS Chief: John Lloyd

Board of Directors: John Lloyd, Willis Phelps, Pat Kelly, Jackson Ransom

The Fire Department and FAST Squad welcome applications for new members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Strafford Volunteer Fire Department
and FAST Squad

STRAFFORD FIRE & RESCUE
January 1 - December 31, 2025

EXPENSES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Spending</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 9,649	\$ 7,000
EMS Supplies	8,078	2,500
Utilities	10,847	8,500
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	9,722	11,500
Insurance	12,942	12,000
Dispatch	19,671	17,000
Other	733	2,500
Testing	4,656	5,500
Training	1,871	2,000
Dues	-	525
Building Maintenance	1,751	5,000
Total Expenses	\$ 79,919	\$ 74,025

STRAFFORD COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM

In 2026 our Community Nurse, Sheila Keating, begins her third year assisting Strafford residents by coordinating their health care, advocating for them within the healthcare system, offering emotional support, and reviewing post hospital discharge plans and medications. In 2025 Sheila had a total of 150 interactions (in person, by phone or email) with 25 residents. Since she began her work in Strafford, her interactions with 48 residents total 326. We encourage residents who need help remaining in their homes or navigating their health care journeys to contact Sheila by phone at 802 765-2551 or email at straffordvtnurse@gmail.com.

2025 was a transformative year for our program. In September we added a community resources coordinator, Sandy Alton, to assist Sheila with the many non-medical requests for support that come her way. Sandy will serve as a central hub of Federal, State and local resource information. She is building relationships with many supporting organizations, including COVER, The Listen Center, Tri-Valley Transit, the Lions Club, and local senior centers. She is also developing a list of Strafford volunteers to support our program and other organizations serving the community, including Neighbors Helping Neighbors, UCC Deacons, Food Bank, and the Carrie Sanborn Committee. In her first 3 months Sandy received 25 requests for support from nine residents, helping them with transportation, grocery shopping, fuel assistance, home repairs, short-term finances and companionship. We encourage and welcome Strafford residents who are willing and able to support their neighbors to join her group of volunteers. Please contact Sandy by phone at 802 763-2577 or by email at straffordvtnurse@gmail.com.

In August 2025 we hosted a Health and Wellness Fair for the community with 20+ vendors participating and attended by over 100 persons. Based on favorable follow up survey responses, we plan to hold our next Health and Wellness Fair in October 2026.

We are extremely grateful for the support provided by the Town of Strafford and so many of its residents!

Margaret Gadon and
Cindy Stableford, Co-chairs

STRAFFORD & AREA LIONS CLUB

The Strafford & Area Lions Club is a member of the largest service organization in the world. Lions Clubs International, founded in 1917, is a global leader in community and humanitarian service with over 1.4 million members in 49,000 clubs serving more than 200 countries and geographic areas around the world. The Strafford & Area Lions Club has served our community with pride for over 39 years, seeking to improve the health and well-being of the community and to support those of us who may be in need.

The Club continued to operate and maintain the Lions Club Pond, the Rope Tow on Harrington Hill, and downhill and cross-country ski programs for more than 100 Strafford students. This year the Club continued its youth swimming program at the Lions pond with 59 Strafford youth participating. In support of local food shelves, the Club held its annual “Food from The Heart” food drive, collecting over 900 pounds of food to be donated to the Sharon, Thetford, and Vershire food shelves, and over \$1,800 in cash donations for the Strafford Community Food Shelf. This year the Club was please to honor Strafford’s John Hawkins as Strafford’s Citizen of the Year. On New Year’s Eve, the Club held its annual Midnight Run on the common beginning at the stroke of midnight. The Club also supported the Strafford recycling center, the Vermont Lions Charities Vision Fund, the Vermont Lions Disaster Relief Fund, the Vermont Lions Diaper Drive collecting over 4,750 diapers and wipes, Lions Clubs International Foundation, the Lions Twin State Soccer Association, and the Green Mountain Lions Camp for the deaf and hard of hearing, and made donations in support of The Clara Martin Center, the Strafford Wiseguy Robotics Team, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Junior Warden’s Program, the Friends of The Morrill Homestead, Barrett Memorial Hall, and the Strafford Community Food Shelf. The Club conducted vision screenings at the Strafford Health and Wellness Fair, Club members and others in the community made lap blankets and stuffed toy animals which were given to local hospitals and nursing homes. The Club published and distributed a Strafford Welcome Booklet to those new to the Strafford community, and the Club collected used eyeglasses, hearing aids, and pill bottles to be recycled and given to those in need.

All funds raised in the community go directly to the Club’s charitable endeavors. The Club’s fundraisers included its annual Rose Sale, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, Memory Tree, Chili Cook-Off, and Deer Pool.

The Club has 60 members and holds monthly dinner meetings at Barrett Memorial Hall on the 4th Monday of the month. The meetings include

guest speakers on a variety of topics of interest to our community. Please feel free to attend. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining us in service to the Strafford community, please contact our Membership Chair, Melvin Coburn.

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This has been another eventful year for the Strafford Historical Society and for South Strafford's historic Masonic Hall, henceforth the Strafford Historical Society and Community Center. Looking back, we realize just how far we have come from that late October day in 2020 when we and our many volunteers, employing 7 pickup trucks, transferred the SHS—lock, stock and archives—into a large Pakvan storage trailer in the Park & Ride.

Our future was very uncertain in those days. It was not until the real estate closing some four months later that we had a permanent home, the Masonic Hall, just across the street. The Masons had made us an offer we couldn't refuse: \$1 and all the renovation opportunities and costs we would ever want. Despite the Masonic Hall's proximity, it has been quite a long journey across the street from that Pakvan in the Park & Ride to the Masonic Hall in terms of what it has required so far (i.e., almost five years of time and counting, more than a half-million dollars in grants and donations, plus building permits, construction materials, labor and anxiety).

Today the Masonic Hall has a newly reinforced metal roof and a new floor-system, a new dry basement for storage, a Tasco fire-safety system, an upgraded electrical system, a new plumbing system, heat pumps, recently plastered first floor walls and ceiling, handicapped parking and access, a new climate-controlled attic storage area for our fragile archives, ECFiber internet access and a public hotspot are now available. This fall new hardwood flooring has been installed, the entrance areas and bathroom have been tiled and we have completed our ADA-compliant bathroom.

Still before us is the replacement of the side-porch and porch roof, painting the exterior and on the inside planning a system of movable interior walls for maximum flexibility for our exhibits. Further into the future we plan to add a rear deck for outdoor use.

Moving into our building is our goal and it is closer to becoming a reality. We are grateful to all our donors and supporters, including the energetic Sharon Academy and Newton School students who helped us transfer the contents of the Pakvan up the stairs and into the attic and down into the basement of the Masonic Hall. It is thanks to all of you that we have accomplished what we have so far.

Unfortunately, our historical services are still very limited and our archives are not yet organized after our move (and became more disorganized after the flooding in 2023 damaged those of our documents that were stored in the Morrill Homestead's basement). Thanks to grants (approximately \$17,500)

and the restoration efforts by Dartmouth's Library staff and Vermont's Division of Historic Preservation, we will have those documents available again.

This past year is also notable, because it marked the introduction of our new eNewsletter, published quarterly. In it, you will receive organizational updates (News), recent photographs (Renovation News), brief historical notes (Windows-in-History) which will be tied to more detailed historical blogs, all simply by contacting us through our website at straffordvthistory.org.

Our fundraising efforts of course continue. This past year we received our second \$50,000 Vermont state tax credit, again financed through the Northfield Savings Bank, supplementing previous contributions by such organizations as the Vermont Arts Council (\$18,040), the Mascoma Bank Foundation (\$10,000), the Byrne Foundation (\$3,000), Strafford's Newton Fund (\$23,000), the Preservation Trust, the Strafford Community-Building Fund, the Capstone Community Action-MSFR Fund, a Vermont Humanities Flood Damage Grant, a Vermont Community Foundation Flood Damage Grant with the remainder funded by very generous private donations. Our sincere thanks to all.

My special thanks to the Strafford Historical Society's Board of Directors and Staff in our ongoing renovation efforts and we look forward to the day we can resume the mission on which the SHS was founded: "to preserve the sites, objects, and related materials pertaining to the history of the Town of Strafford for the solution and betterment of the current affairs of said Town."

The Strafford Historical Society's Board and Staff include: Laura Ogden, Secretary; David Webb, Vice President; Roberta Robinson, Treasurer; Simone, Pyle, Curator; John Dumville; Jessica Tidman; Jared Jenisch; Scott Knoerlein; Susan Cloak; Paul Perkins; Earl Ransom; and Historians, John Freitag and Arthur Hanchett.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill State Historic Site and National Landmark, the homestead of Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill, is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead (Friends).

The Summer 2025 Season looked different as the historic site was closed for extensive underground drainage work that due to many factors around the engineered design work shifting, federal employee lay-offs and an over-extended State of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation staff,

actually never started. As we enter the upcoming summer season, the planning is in the final stages, and work is likely to begin by May or June.

In June of 2025 the Friends took the lead in getting the kitchen gardens ready for the extensive dig. Under the direction of Barbara Paulson, our master gardener, volunteer gardeners relocated most of the plants to a temporary spot, a relocation necessary for the installation of an underground tread wall.

We kicked off our summer events in late June with a bus trip open to the public that took guests across the state to visit four historic sites with an association with Justin Morrill's life. The first stop was for a tour at Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home, and the second involved a brief lecture in the apple orchard of the Frost Stone House Museum at Bennington College. The third stop was the Park-McCullough House, the Governor's Mansion, and last stop was the Bennington Monument. The bus was full, the day was long, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Since the major construction work had not begun, the Friends were able to host their typical 4th of July Minis for Morrill Auction on site. The reception in the Education Center was well attended, the weather was perfect, and nearly every Mini found a new home.

The Summer saw the usual informative Village tours led by John Freitag. The Friends hosted a three-part Speaker Series on Sunday afternoons in July, August, and September, featuring Constitutional scholar Meg Mott, writer Julia Alvarez, and Shirley Jefferson, vice president of The Vermont Law School. All three speakers were brilliant, and all three events were well attended.

Once again with the Homestead closed, some summer events of the FMH for 2026 will be off-site, and a committee is hard at work planning them as this report is written. In the spring of 2026 the Friends will launch a new user-friendly, educational web site that will take us into a new era of programming; and we anticipate a new look at the Homestead by Fall of 2026 with a re-designed garden underway and new exhibits for the house and carriage barn being prepared by the VDHP for a grand re-opening planned for 2027.

The Friends are grateful to our many donors and the sponsors who make our events possible. We will continue to remain active during this time of reconstruction, and we believe the changes to the Homestead site will improve the experience of visitors.

We never take your generosity for granted and we want to thank our neighbors and friends for your continued support of our endeavors!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kumari Patricia, Director
Jon Stableford, Board Chair

THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Cemetery Association is a private burial ground that is governed by the executive board made up of trustees of the association.

Plots are available for purchase by residents, former residents or close relatives of residents. The association requests that the sexton be informed prior to any burial or monument installation. The cemetery is guided by a set of rules and regulations which the sexton can provide upon inquiry. No solar lights are allowed and all plastic flowers and planting containers must be removed by September 15th.

Our membership is open to anyone who is interested in the cemetery and new members are encouraged to join.

Officers of the association: President Gary Kendall, Vice President Greg Lewis, Treasurer Samantha Potter, Secretary Sherm Wilson, Sexton C. Punka Brown.

Board of Directors: Melvin Coburn, Therese Linehan, Greg Colling

CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

Cabin Fever University is Strafford's institute of random learning. We're a nonprofit adult education program based in our community, for our community. Established in 1995 by Eva Behrens, CFU focuses on the wealth of knowledge and experience that exists locally. Eva observed that artisans, naturalists, tech gurus, and craftspeople populate our villages. With neighbors as faculty members, CFU provides free and affordable classes, workshops, and presentations. Enrichment and recreational opportunities entertain and educate while building community connections.

Classes offered in the 2025 season included: Hip Hop Dance (Kristin Rainville), Fresh Floral Arrangements (Lori Mikusa), Super Compost! (Cat Buxton), and Barbershop Basics (Robyn Jacobs & the Valley Chords Barbershop Chorus). Presentations included: Moth Mania (Levi Smith) and Probate Party (Tori Lloyd & Jack Lloyd). Travel slideshows included: Adventures in Bhutan (Hadley Clark & Matt Gingo), Western Australia (Jason Schumacher), and Ketchikan to Kodiak (Kent & Annie Penfield).

We're grateful for ongoing partnerships with Barrett Hall and the Newton School, hosts of many CFU classes/presentations. Events are additionally held at private homes and sometimes outdoors: in the Pocket Park, the Morrill Library, on trails, at the ice rink, etc. Possibilities abound! At our institution, any topic is possible. As always, we welcome ideas for new or rerun classes from community members. We also appreciate volunteers providing refreshments for our slideshow series. Leslie Berger, Therese Linehan, and Barbara Masteller are the current board members. Contact us with your suggestions.

Website: www.cabinfever.org

Contact: info@cabinfever.org

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Athletic Association (SAA) is an independent non-profit organization, created in 1964. It is a 501c3 tax exempt entity and welcomes contributions from anyone who believes in our mission. Rosa Tyson helped to create the organization and over the years we've had tremendous support. Special memories and thanks to Kendal Mix, Dave Taplin, John Linehan, Peggy Thorp, Fred Schaafsma, John Freitag and many others in our community who dedicated countless hours and funding over the years. This organization has been primarily responsible for starting many of the recreational facilities in town, including the tennis courts, the Rosa Tyson Gym, the Town Pond (formerly called the SAA Pond) and the Rope Tow. Other town organizations, including the Lions Club and the Newton School, have since taken over responsibility for the recreation areas to provide insurance needs, but the SAA remains active to help care for each facility.

The mission of the Strafford Athletic Association is to provide athletic opportunities for residents of Strafford.

The SAA no longer owns anything in Strafford, but we continue to work with other town organizations and the school athletic department to help as necessary, either with funding or volunteer hours. Together, working with the Recreation Board, we continue to strive and fulfill our mission. In 2025 we again sponsored several Campers to attend the Green Mountain Conservation Camp. We will look to do the same in 2026. We are always open to new ideas and again, we can accept tax deductible donations to help with our cause.

The volunteer board meets as-needed when projects or events arise. If you are further interested, have any questions, or would like to make a donation, please contact Tom Scull at 802-765-4617.

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

The Creative Preschool and Nursery are happy and vibrant spaces in South Strafford and Strafford, respectively. Though the Preschool and the Nursery do not share the same physical location, we are the same organization. We are committed to our mission to create a community and an environment that will help children grow and develop into joyful, curious, and secure individuals who are able to interact positively with the people and world around them.

Our Nursery and Preschool programs are dedicated to providing experiences that are nurturing, playful, engaging, and developmentally appropriate. In addition to the day-to-day enrichment that the teaching team provides to each child, there are weekly visiting educators for Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, and Early Intervention support as well as Music with Brooke Wilkinson. We are thankful for all of their hard work maintaining a child-focused and joyful learning community.

Preschool and Nursery enrollment begin in the spring. Please reach out if you want to enroll your child(ren) at either or both programs. We prioritize placing Strafford children in our programs. However, our space is limited so adding your child or family to the waitlist is highly recommended. New families will be invited to our Spring Open House in April. The Creative Preschool is in community partnership with the Newton School and the Strafford School District through our shared work in educating children and Vermont's Universal Prekindergarten (UPK). UPK allows every Vermont child aged 3-5 to receive 10 hours a week, 35 weeks a year of free instruction, regardless of parental income or circumstance. Or reach out to Jody to learn more about our programs.

As we plan for the 50th year anniversary, we are collecting histories, stories, memories, and memorabilia to commemorate this occasion. Do you or someone you know have anything to share about the Creative Preschool? If so, please send a message to the email address below. We are beginning to plan for this milestone and your memories and input will guide us.

With Joy,

Jody Lowes, Executive Director

straffordcp.info@gmail.com

www.straffordcreativepreschoolinc.com

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As the 2026 legislative session opens, Vermont is grappling with severe challenges related to cost of living. Many relate to the end of federal ACA health care subsidies and other federal cuts. Far too many people are struggling to buy groceries, keep a roof over their heads, and pay their bills. Revenue shortfalls in the Transportation Fund mean deteriorating transportation infrastructure that may require innovative approaches to financing.

These challenges are not small. Vermont now has the highest average health care costs per person in the nation, and this pressure is showing up in every budget from schools to towns to businesses. Leadership on health care and key areas should come from the Governor's office but that has been lacking. Because Vermonters can't wait for reform, the legislature passed legislation that:

- capped outpatient drug prices at 120% of the average sales price, resulting in an immediate \$200 million reduction in health care spending,
- directed the Green Mountain Care Board to cap hospital prices for the upcoming hospital fiscal year, and
- tasked the Agency of Human Services with developing a statewide strategic health care plan that makes sure every Vermont community has access to essential services.

We are advocating for more support for community care coordinators and nurses as a front line support that helps our neighbors avoid costly and unnecessary care and rehospitalization when possible. The strong engagement across our local communities around community care coordination has underscored the need to rethink how we care for people in our communities.

Act 73's push for big school mergers and a new funding formula would put decisions about how much is spent on schools in the hands of the state rather than local communities. Debates about how to pay for schools and mandatory mergers have taken up a lot of the oxygen in the legislature.

At the same time, the Vermont School Districting Task Force provided compelling evidence that the proposed mergers might not reduce cost. Hence the Task Force recommended the legislature use a "regional shared services" model to tackle the cost, quality and access concerns that challenge our schools. This approach is currently under discussion across the state. We are grateful to our local school officials who have been deeply engaged and offered testimony on this important topic. As the Agency of Education loses capacity to support key functions, that work falls back on school districts where it increases demands locally and drives up your property tax.

Vermont continues to face an ongoing workforce shortage that has several causes. These include but are not limited to the high cost of housing, the high cost of living in our area, unaffordable and scarce childcare, and the

reality that more workers retire each year than enter the workforce. State government continues to have a high vacancy rate, and when important work at the agency level is not done, Vermont experiences cuts in important services that must be backfilled by local taxpayers.

We do have bright spots. The legislature moved ahead on promising reforms. As a result, teacher health care costs only increased by about 7% this coming year, as opposed to about 15% last year. And we may need to be open to new ways of operating state government; so, that we can take care of people within our means.

While it may not be apparent yet, we are also investing in several strategies to increase housing availability statewide that are beginning to bear fruit. We are ensuring regional access to vaccines and lower cost prescription medications. We are also working to balance the property tax burden across income groups .

We welcome your thoughts and advice as we work to plan a resilient, shared and prosperous future for our state and communities.

As always, we are here to serve you in Montpelier. Please do not hesitate to reach out. Our contact information is below:

Representative Rebecca Holcombe
RHolcombe@leg.state.vt.us

Representative Jim Masland
JMasland@leg.state.vt.us

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

Strafford is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District consists of 31 member towns and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business added over 900 new customers, and now serves nearly 9,500 customers, via 1,800 miles of network. When completed, the ECFiber network will be available to about 32,000 premises over more than 2,000 miles network. ECFiber is a miracle of collective action; without it few customers in our mostly rural towns would have decent internet.

Construction in 2024 was focused on mainline underground work in the White River Junction, Wilder, and Quechee villages in the Town of Hartford; completing all of the Fairlees and Bradford except for the Bloodbrook/Wild Hill area in West Fairlee, where GMP is putting everything underground; finishing the Newbury cabling and starting the interconnection work at the central hub, with first customers coming on line in the winter; finishing the make-ready work and starting to cable Topsham.

The remaining towns along our northern tier, Corinth and Washington, will see make-ready work completed by spring with cable being run immediately afterwards. Windsor will see the northwest section of town built out. At this point, all "unserved" or "underserved" locations in our 31 towns will have multi-gigabit fiber service available on the nearest utility pole, and ECFiber on its own will have solved 20% of Vermont's rural broadband crisis with only a fraction of its funding – about 15% -- coming from grants.

ECFiber dates its legal existence back to Town Meetings in 2008, when a two-year organizing effort paid off with 23 towns agreeing to create an internet service provider. The first customers began receiving service in 2011, just before the Irene floods; ECFiber became a CUD in June, 2015, opening the way to issuing revenue bonds. In 2020, eight new towns joined; in 2023 the last of the original towns came online, and in November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & Poor's Global Credit arm, a historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This was extended to the six earlier bonds as well.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service.

Stephen Willbanks, David Webb, Andy Behrens

Strafford@ecfiber.net | 802-ECFiber

Sign up today: www.ecfiber.net | About the District: www.ecvtd.gov

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Willbanks

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For over 46 years, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'25 (10/2024-9/2025) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to 140 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and our VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 178 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 115 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 73 individuals with information on assistive technology; 41 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 530 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program served 17 people and provided 7 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is now located at 435 Stone Cutters Way, Ste. B in Montpelier and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'25, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance
- Home Access Program
- Meals on Wheels
- Peer Advocacy Counseling
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund
- VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at: 1-800-639-1522, or, visit our website at www.vcil.org

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT EDUCATION

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVAE), a community-based nonprofit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Strafford residents for sixty years.

CVAE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16 - 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Strafford is served by our learning center in Randolph. The site has welcoming learning rooms with computers, laptops and internet access to support instruction. CVAE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

On average, 1 Strafford resident enrolls with CVAE a year. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more.

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels.

By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Strafford residents for generations to come.

CVAE provided free instruction to 415 people last year in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVAE \$3,804 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Nearly all students are low income. Over 60 community volunteers work with CVAE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Strafford's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVAE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVAE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information regarding CVAE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Randolph Learning Center
10 South Main St., Randolph, Vermont 05060
(802) 728-4492 www.cvae.net

SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The South Royalton Area Senior Citizens Center serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Seniors from other towns are always welcome. To qualify as a senior, you must be 60 years old or older. Suggested donation is \$5.00 for seniors and \$7.00 for all others.

The Board of Directors is composed of three representatives from each of the four towns. Sue Pirie is the director for both meal sites, one being in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday at Barrett Hall and the other in Royalton, at the Royalton Academy building, serving meals on Tuesday only for now and on Thursday to prepare curbside and home-delivered meals. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional required. We serviced a total of 1,141 meals in the Barrett Hall, 1031 meals were prepared for curbside pickup and 454 meals were delivered to homes from September 30, 2024 to October 1, 2025.

There is an established fund that offers aid to any senior who may have a need. Any senior needing assistance may contact Sue Pirie, Senior Director, Karen Eddy, Senior Advisor or one of your Senior Board Representatives with their request. Request are reviewed in a confidential manner.

Fundraising events continue so as to assist in the cost of running the center.

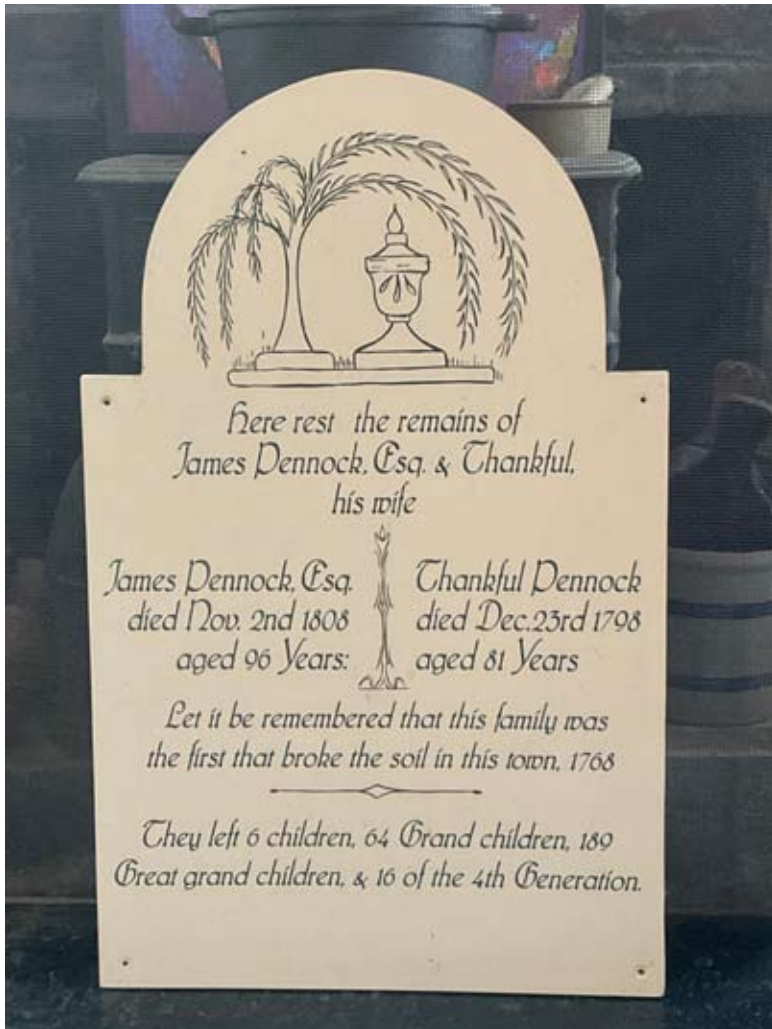
Willing Hands donated approximately 4,300 pounds of fresh produce and eggs to the senior meal sites this year. Panera Bakery donated 100 large boxes of bread, sweets and bagels. Several local farms also donate lots of fresh produce and fruits. We thank them all.

Strafford Senior Representatives are: Debby Richie, June Solsaa, and Lisa Durstin.

Submitted by,
SRASCC Board of Directors
Kay Ingraham, President
Corinne Ingraham, Secretary
Donna Bohonnon, Treasurer

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

A private nonprofit organization, Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) has been dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice for over 40 years. CVCOA's programs and services are available to those age 60 and up, caregivers and their families, and to adults with disabilities. At CVCOA, we are the leading experts and advocates in healthy aging for Central Vermonters. We respect the wishes of aging people to age at home, remain healthy, and stay active and connected to the communities they know and love. CVCOA has many partners from healthcare, social services, and governmental organizations. However, as



the area agency on aging for Central Vermont, CVCOA is the designated community-based provider delivering care coordination, case management, information and assistance, and innovative caregiver supports directly to older Vermonters in their homes, at our offices, or by phone. CVCOA also provides contracted services for transportation, legal, and mental health services. CVCOA provides funding and technical assistance for 13 Meals on Wheels sites under contracts for quality assurance but does not directly produce and deliver meals. Below is a list of programs and services that CVCOA offers to people age 60+ and caregivers in Central Vermont:

- Information & Assistance staff counsels older Vermonters and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, housing, mental health, legal assistance, support groups, healthy aging resources, and more through our Helpline, 1-800-642-5119 (toll free) or (802) 477-1364 (local).
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement, and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Program provides program management support, including menu development, training, and technical assistance for home-delivered, grab and go, and congregate meals at 13 nutrition sites. Free nutrition counseling services for people age 60+ to best support a healthy lifestyle.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, New to Medicare workshops (in-person and on Zoom), and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Program promotes the well-being of family members serving as caregivers to loved ones, including respite funding, training to help caregivers manage stress, and social activities Memorable Times Café / Memorable Times Online.
- Volunteer Programs provide direct service to community members through transportation, companionship, wellness classes, meal delivery, errands and grocery shopping, yardwork and garden help, creative activities, and more.

Left: The Pennocks lost three sons in the Revolutionary War at the battle of Saratoga fighting in the Queens Loyal Rangers. As "Tories," Pennocks also had land confiscated to pay for the Patriot cause. Sons and a grandson who fought against their neighbors later became leaders in town and played a large part in reconciliation afterwards.

- Exercise / Wellness Programs provide free, evidence-based wellness classes throughout the region weekly. Classes include Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, Falls Prevention Tai Chi, Bone Builders, and Walk with Ease.
- Community Programs help alleviate social isolation and loneliness, address the accessibility gap for homebound older adults and enhance social connection through arts and technology opportunities.

CVCOA served 5,254 unduplicated clients in FY25 (07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025). CVCOA services are free of charge. We do charge a modest stipend to private employers who request our New to Medicare workshop for their employees.

Each year, CVCOA mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to provide direct service including transportation, deliver Meals on Wheels, support nutrition sites, provide wellness classes, assist with Medicare information, provide companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

All of us at the Central Vermont Council on Aging extend our gratitude to communities throughout Central Vermont for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters.

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

As an integral part of our rural healthcare system, Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) serves to bridge an otherwise significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year VNH provided over 40,766 visits to 2,428 residents of all ages and at all stages of life throughout 140 communities in Central Vermont and New Hampshire. We deliver skilled nursing, rehabilitation, hospice and other support services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

Our skilled clinical and support staff provide various levels of care through assessments, hands-on treatment and rehabilitation, as well as educational resources, all with the intent of assisting people in leading a more self-sufficient life. Our patients include those who are frail, elderly and disabled in addition to those with terminal illness, recovering from major surgery or illness, and children with chronic medical needs. They all benefit from receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home.

Unfortunately, a significant amount of our services are rendered at a cost that exceeds reimbursement rates or, in some instances, when there is no reimbursement source at all. Municipal and community funding is what allows us to subsidize the cost of services provided to those in need. To continue meeting these needs, we are hopeful that financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire will be considered in your Town's annual budget.

VNH provided 161 home visits to 11 residents of Strafford between July 2024 and June 2025. We respectfully request \$3,250 to continue serving the home health and hospice needs within your community.

On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Martin J. Degen

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The White River Junction Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Northern Windsor and Southern Orange Counties. Some highlights of our work in 2025 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact AHS. VDHWhiteRiverJct@vermont.gov

Meeting the Needs of Families with Children: Our WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) nutritionists served more than 650 people in our district with nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and accessing a debit card to buy healthy foods like fruit and vegetables.

Nurses in our Family and Child Health and School Liaison Programs worked with healthcare providers, childcare centers, schools, and libraries to promote child health through safe sleep, optimal parenting, school success, and more.

Increasing Oral Health Care Access: Our Chronic Disease Specialist brings together dental and public health workers through the Upper Valley Oral Health Workgroup to address barriers to dental care access. In September 2025, the group teamed up with dental providers, the Upper Valley Medical Reserve Corps, and a local Rotary Club to organize a free Dental Care Pop-up Clinic in Hartford. This clinic provided dental care to individuals who typically cannot access it.

Helping to Lessen the Climate's Impact on Health: Our Emergency Preparedness Specialist has supported cooling and warming shelters during times of extreme weather.

We facilitate water testing year-round, but especially during floods.

Our staff organized community events at senior centers to share tips on how people can protect themselves from diseases spread by ticks and mosquitoes.

Supporting Substance Use Prevention and Recovery: Vermont's Prevention Lead Organization gave over \$800,000 to 18 groups in Orange, Windsor, Windham, and Bennington Counties. In the White River Junction Health District, groups like the Hartford Community Coalition, the Clara Martin Center, Second Growth, and the Valley Court Diversion Programs used the funds to support things like a youth center, youth diversion classes, and school programs.

White River Junction Local Health Office
Toll-free: 888-253-8799 Main line: 802-295-8820
Email: AHS.VDHOLHWhiteRiverJunction@vermont.gov

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE UPPER VALLEY

The Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (PHC) is our region's trusted leader in public health, supporting the people, professionals, and organizations, who make our communities healthier places to live, work, and play. Our mission is to improve the health of all Upper Valley residents through four key approaches:

1. Collaborative Action with municipalities, health and human services organizations, businesses, and policymakers to develop and implement actionable plans and best practices to address community priorities.
2. Idea and Information Sharing across the region and create opportunities for people to come together and share their experiences and expertise.
3. Support for Underserved People advocating for health equity, sponsor promising programs, and providing additional technical assistance.
4. Unified Priorities: We align the public health priorities of the region to promote collaboration and progress toward shared goals.

Our work in 2025 included:

- Hosted 6 free flu vaccine clinics providing close to 1,400 vaccines.
- Hosted host 8 learning sessions to address the region's health priorities.
- Supported Upper Valley Food Security Network collective impact efforts.
- Addressed health disparities by bringing together members of underserved communities.
- Completed a Region Public Health Needs Assessment.
- Educated local legislators about regional policy concerns.
- Building capacity in budding community nursing, housing, healthcare access, local food access, and recovery program efforts.

PHC appreciates the opportunity to serve the residents of Strafford. We are requesting support to be used towards continuing public health coordination for Strafford residents, particularly to improve access to high-quality care, to ensure people have access to their basic needs, and that we support vulnerable populations, including older adults. For more information, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org. Thank you.

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

Upper Valley Ambulance continues to experience an increase in call volume. We responded to 1,818 emergency calls during 2025 compared to 1,621 calls in 2024. Additionally, we completed over 500 interfacility transfers (hospital to hospital, hospital to nursing home, etc.) throughout the year.

Upper Valley Ambulance provides 911 coverage to our 9 communities by staffing at least two ambulances 24 hours a day, every day of the week. Additional ambulances are staffed during the daytime hours.

This year, we took delivery of a new ambulance that was put into service over the summer. By careful spending and consistent capital replacement budgeting, we were able to purchase the \$245,000 ambulance and equipment with cash. Our next ambulance is ordered with an expected delivery date in early 2027.

Upper Valley Ambulance is a non-profit agency. We currently carry no debt. We receive approximately 30% of our budget from per capita fees charged to the towns we cover. Most of the remainder of our budget is covered by billing patients (through their insurance first when applicable) for services we provide, and a small percentage is covered by an optional subscription plan and by providing ambulance coverage at special events.

We are committed to delivering reliable, high-quality emergency medical care to our communities. Thank you for your partnership with us.

Sincerely,
Zachary Bryan
Executive Director

SAFELINE

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

In FY 2025, Safeline provided 2,630 services for 298 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse.

31 services were provided for 8 victims (5 adults, 3 children) who identified themselves as residents of Strafford. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. Victims experienced domestic violence (3), stalking (4), and child sexual abuse (4).

Services included 8 crises interventions, 9 emotional support, 9 information/referrals along with safety planning, case management, and other services. We met with service users as many times as they requested.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource to the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence in our society. Safeline offers a full-range of prevention education activities for community organizations, faith communities, youth groups and other groups seeking information about domestic and sexual violence.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

We thank the voters for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Strafford.

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance use services to Orange County and the greater Upper Valley for the last 59 years. Clara Martin Center provides a multitude of services throughout greater Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance use. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School- and Home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital Diversion
- Walk-in Clinic
- Vocational Services
- Substance Use Services
- Justice Involved Services
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center's broad range of programs serve children, families, couples, and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services.

With 59 years of experience and leadership under our belt, Clara Martin Center remains positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. Clara Martin Center remains committed to meeting both the short and long-term mental health and substance use care needs that the pandemic has impacted.

Clara Martin Center is proud to have achieved certification as one of the first Certified Community Based Integrated Health Centers (CCBHC) in the State of Vermont, a federal model of care designed to ensure access to a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services regardless of ability to pay, including crisis mental health services, screening, assessment and diagnosis, patient-centered treatment planning, outpatient mental health and substance use services, primary care screening and monitoring, targeted case management, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and family support services, and services for members of the armed services and veterans.

<u>FY2025</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	502	3
School Services	173	1
Vocational Services	58	0
Adult Services	769	9
CSP Services	150	1
Supportive and Transitional Housing	21	0
Substance Abuse Services	288	5
Justice-Involved Services	103	2
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	276	3
Access	130	1
Other	216	0
Total Served by Program (unduplicated)	1,871	18

RED CROSS

On behalf of the American Red Cross, I am writing to respectfully request your municipality's support for delivery of our humanitarian mission—preventing and alleviating human suffering in the face of life's emergencies.

Each year, the Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters across the country—ranging from home fires to storms and floods—providing shelter, food, emotional support, and recovery assistance to those affected. In Northern New England, more than 1,800 trained volunteers work tirelessly to support local families, train residents in lifesaving skills, and ensure a safe and adequate blood supply for hospitals. In our most recent fiscal year, we:

- Responded to 525 disasters, the majority of which were home fires, assisting nearly 2,200 people.
- Trained more than 41,000 people in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills
- Collected over 137,000 blood products. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross to meet the need for lifesaving blood.
- Installed more than 2,800 free smoke alarms to help keep local residents safe.

In the past year, the American Red Cross has responded to 9 disaster events in Orange County, providing assistance to 32 individuals. Most commonly, these incidents were home fires. Red Cross workers were on the scene to provide food, clothing, lodging, emotional support, and more to families during their hours of greatest need. Our teams also provide support services to first responders during large-scale responses. Things like food, water,

and warm drinks strengthen the brave people of your local fire and police departments as they answer the call to keep your residents safe.

Last year, Red Cross staff and volunteers worked throughout Orange County to educate residents on fire safety and preparedness. We made 2 homes safer by helping families develop emergency evacuation plans.

Orange County is home to 6 American Red Cross volunteers. We have volunteers from all walks of life who are trained and empowered to respond to disaster in the middle of the night, to teach safety courses, to help at our many blood drives, and so much more. The American Red Cross is proud that 90% of its staff is made up of volunteers; they are truly the heart and soul of our organization.

We collected, 760 pints of lifesaving blood at 25 drives in Orange County.

Last year, 326 Orange County residents were taught a variety of important lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR, babysitting skills and water safety.

We proudly assisted 19 of Orange County's service members, veterans, and their families by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission, governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work with you to make the area better today, and to articulate a future vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the area's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work last year.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues: With more than 100 years of combined experience, our staff support your local officials in many areas. We provide advice on zoning, budgeting and capital planning, and reducing flood damage. We are engaged with state and federal initiatives, ensuring as a local government, you can take advantage of these. Our staff has supported towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects. Additionally, TRORC staff have assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws, and studies.

Economic Development: TRORC is part of the East Central Vermont Economic Development District, working to provide resources and opportunities for individuals, businesses, and communities. TRORC works with partners to maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that identifies and proposes strategies to address economic challenges in the area, allowing the partners to seek federal funding.

Emergency Management and Preparedness: TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. We worked with communities in updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, which assist the reduction of future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they happen. When disasters occur, TRORC actively becomes part of the state and local long-term recovery process. Most recently, we aided communities in recovery efforts from the July 2023 and July 2024 floods.

Transportation: TRORC works with towns to identify needs and obtain funding for road, ditch and bridge improvement projects. We assist with managing transportation-related projects and ensuring compliance measures are maintained with the State. We also support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and conduct traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Strafford, TRORC worked with the Town Staff, Clerk, Selectboard, and volunteers to draft a ten-year capital budget and program report. Our staff provided guidance and technical assistance for the completion of annual reporting related to the Town's American Rescue Plan Act. We also assisted the town with Brownfields financial and technical assistance at Coburn's store. Our team managed to completion a ditching project for Brook Road under a grant from VTrans.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret

ORANGE COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJC) is a community-based restorative justice non-profit agency, offering cost-effective alternatives to the family, criminal and civil courts and the state corrections system. We remain committed to our mission and vision—building and advocating for just communities by providing restorative programs to address legal issues, wrongdoing, conflict and the needs of harmed parties (victims); and connecting participants to services that improve the health, well-being and positive behavior of individuals and the community. We want the everyday life in our Orange County communities to be safe, just and provide opportunities for all people to thrive.

We offer 14 programs to Orange County residents: Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) for at-risk youth, Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program (YSASP), Safe Driver Education, Driver's License Reinstatement, Adult and Youth Court Diversion, Pretrial Services, Reparative Panels, Services for Harmed Parties and community education in Restorative Practices; for formerly incarcerated people we offer Restorative Reentry Services, Transitional Housing, Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) and the Healthy Lifestyles leisure activities program.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, we served 526 people in our programs. Local volunteers provided 1,274 hours of their time to support 256 restorative meetings. We supported 82 harmed parties and distributed \$13,554 in restitution to those who experienced losses due to crime. OCRJC helped: 55 people connect with counseling services, 17 people access financial support, 18 people participate in education programs and 19 people reinstate their driver's licenses. We maintained 4 apartments for Transitional Housing and taught 91 people in our Safe Driver Education program.

In FY25, OCRJC worked with 9 Strafford residents and addressed 4 incidents that took place in Strafford. For each incident referred to us, the person responsible and the individuals impacted by the crime are offered services. We also have 1 volunteer from Strafford.

OCRJC's FY25 operating budget was \$713,971. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. The town of Strafford appropriated \$350 in 2025 to support our work. OCRJC requests \$350 in 2026 to support ongoing programs.

Thank you for your support! For additional information, visit our website at <https://ocrjvt.org> or contact Lisa Lee, Victim Services & Community Outreach Coordinator: call 802-685-3172 or email Lisa@OCRJVT.org.

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

This past year has been an eventful one for the recycling committee. After years of dedicated service Mike Scanlan, David Harris and Vince Robinson handed over the reins to a new crew. David continues to help us process batteries, bulbs, corks and can holders and Vince is still trying valiantly to keep up with the redeemables that get dropped off. The new crew—Greg Bagnato, Stephen Drew, Robyn Jacobs and Jonathan Nedean—have been grateful for their mentorship and appreciative of the patience of the community and the many volunteers who brave the weather to make sure things run smoothly as we get ourselves up to speed.

In 2025 we moved over 20 tons of mixed paper, plastic and tin cans, 52 tons of mixed paper, 14 tons of cardboard, 14 tons of scrap metal, 5 tons of compost and over 2 tons of plastic bags. In addition we redeemed about 8 tons of cans and bottles. That averages about 164 pounds per person over the course of the past year. The cost to the town to move these items was approximately \$22,000, just slightly under the budgeted estimate of \$24,500, however our budgeted income from recycling was less than anticipated by about 25%. During the course of this past year we went from receiving revenue for cardboard, to paying to have it removed and the cost for transportation (the most significant component of our cost) has increased.

While it is wonderful that these items are being kept out of the landfill and hopefully find their ways to being recycled, there are things you can do to help us optimize the utility of the materials in the recycling bins and decrease our costs. First, while recycling is better than landfilling items, not generating the waste at all is even better. Think about where you might be able to minimize the generation of waste in your home. Second, when you recycle, please be attentive to what can and cannot be recycled. When non-recyclable items are placed in the bins, they can contaminate the entire load. This leads both to the waste of other items which could have been recycled and also drives up our costs as the recyclers take into account the fact that they will not be able to use all that they receive. As the saying goes: if in doubt, throw it out!

We look forward to the upcoming year and invite anyone who is interested in getting involved to reach out to one of us to learn more about volunteering. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, suggestions or concerns.

The “new” recycling committee,
Greg Bagnato
Stephen Drew
Robyn Jacobs
(robyn.jacobs18@gmail.com)
Jonathan Nedean

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs as well as offering technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV held three special collections in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford in September 2025. We collected 6 tons of tires, 6.6 tons of electronics, and 5.8 tons of “big” trash. Collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- Members of the district recycled approximately 1.5 tons of batteries in 2024. Please recycle your batteries and fluorescent bulbs at the Strafford Recycling Center. Find additional recycling and disposal information on the Strafford page of our website <https://www.guvswmd.org/strafford.html>
- Vermonters saved 93,809 gallons of paint from the landfill in 2024.
- 197 GUV residents (11 from Strafford) participated in household hazardous waste disposal events in 2025.
- GUV residents participated in three Styrofoam collection events in 2025. Events were sponsored by Sustainable Lebanon/Lebanon Rotary, Mascoma Bank/Hartford Climate Action Steering Team, and Sustainable Hanover/Norwich Solid Waste Committee. Along with other Upper Valley communities, GUV residents helped divert 509 cubic yards of Styrofoam from the landfill.
- 2026 GUV collection event dates and recycling updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town listservs, and in local newspapers.
- In 2025, Steve Willbanks stepped down as Supervisor after many decades on GUVSWMD’s Board of Supervisors. We thank him for his dedication and support. In 2025, Jeff Solza joined the board. Thank you, Jeff. We also thank all of the recycling volunteers for their continued dedication at the recycling center.

For information call Andy Scherer at 802-674-4474, email ascherer@marcv.org, or visit www.guvswmd.org.

GREEN UP VERMONT

Green Up Day was a resounding success because your community joined the statewide clean-up effort. With 25,351 volunteers, 14,307 tires, and 426.7 tons, and 97.5% of all roads cleaned, the entire State got a wonderful spring cleaning with nearly all our city and town roads covered. Businesses are more successful with clean streetscapes, our real estate more valued, and our healthy way of life cherished. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, and keep residents civically engaged.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives. We've been able to rally thousands of volunteers for special projects and flood clean-up across the State.

Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of where we all get to live, work, and play. Be an Environmental Hero – Donate on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or at www.greenupvermont.org.

2026 Green Up Day is May 2nd.

Green Up Vermont is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday – 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

TOWN OFFICE: 765-4411 ~ TownClerk@StraffordVT.org

LISTERS: 765-4360 ~ Listers@StraffordVT.org

SELECTBOARD ~ Selectboard@StraffordVT.org

TOWN GARAGE: 765-4550

www.straffordvt.org

Board Meetings

Some meetings may include video conferencing options.

Selectboard – Town Office – Second and Fourth Thursday, 6:00 PM

*Subject to change –check www.straffordvt.org or
call the Town Office for current Selectboard meeting times*

Planning Commission – Town Office – Third Monday, 7:00 PM

Development Review Board – Town Office – Third Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Conservation Commission – Town Office – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Energy Committee – via video conference – Second Tuesday, 7:00 PM

School Directors – Newton School or via video conference –
Second Tuesday, 5:30 PM

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Windsor County Sheriff: 802-457-5211

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Sundays 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM – South Strafford Substation

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12 noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

Mon. 1-8PM, Wed. 2-5PM, Thu. 10AM-5PM, Sat. 9AM-noon

Check the library website for modified current hours.

765-4037 ~ StraffordVTLibrary@gmail.com

www.StraffordLibrary.org

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Second Monday each month – 7:00 PM at Library