

STRAFFORD, VERMONT TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2021

HISTORICAL NOTE

DOWNHILL SKIING IN STRAFFORD

People in Strafford have always enjoyed having winter fun. Elizabeth Harrington, the longtime caretaker of Barrett Hall, once recalled on how when she was young when there was a full moon in winter, people would hitch up their horses and take their sleighs to the Town House for a night of merriment with Irene Chandler playing the piano. There were times when people would stay up all night partying, planning to do chores in the morning before going to bed.

In 2021, a winter full moon became another time of memorable winter fun when Harrington Hill behind Barrett Hall and the Lions Club rope tow there were lit up for night skiing. While night skiing is not the norm, Strafford does have a long history of skiing beginning at the early time of that sport in Vermont.

Possibly the first in Strafford to really embrace the idea of skiing was Rosa Tyson. An avid outdoorsperson, Rosa, according to her grandnephew Sherm Wilson, likely took up skiing in the 1930s. So did Sherm's father, Jim Wilson, when he lived at the Buena Vista Farm on the Mine Road in the late 1930s and did a term at Thetford Academy. Before the war, skiing with Rosa was bushwhacking around the hills. After the war, a rope tow was put in on the hill across from Buena Vista for the use of the many guests who came to visit. Sherm's brother Bob says there are still boot racks in the cellar of Buena Vista from that time for drying boots. Bob says that he remembers using the rope tow at Buena Vista up until the mid-1960s.

At one time in the early 1950s, Strafford had two ski areas, the one for family and guests at Buena Vista and a commercial ski area built by Dewey and June Varney on

Harrington Hill. The ski hill run by the Varneys, which was simply known as the rope tow, included two rope tows, one where the existing Lions Club tow is and one that ran from that to the top of the hill. The remains of the engine that powered the second rope tow are still in the woods. Earl Varney, Dewey's younger brother, remembers bringing 5-gallon cans of gas up the first rope tow on skis to the second engine. "It was quite the balancing act", he says. Earl also remembers taking a truck with a canvas back into Hanover to pick up college kids wanting to ski.

Barbara Murray's fondest memories of the ski hill when she was a girl were of the Canteen near Barrett Hall that June Varney ran and where Barbara spent most of her time when at the hill. It is no wonder, since Barbara said her skis were pretty primitive and her boots held on by canning jar rubbers. Barbara says the ski hill was also popular with the Canadian miners who were then working at the copper mine. Local ski enthusiasts who frequented the Varney rope tows were Hazel Lewis, Marlene Ward, Charlie Brown, Jim Condict and Lib (Josler) Dodge.

While the Varney ski area only lasted a few years, the rope tow at Buena Vista continued in use. Then in 1964, the Strafford Athletic Association (SAA) was started, and Rosa Tyson was a leader in that organization. She offered the Buena Vista rope tow to the SAA and parts of it were moved to Harrington Hill, the site of the old Varney operation. The rope tow there became a central part of winter sports in town. Fridays, the Newton School let out early and lessons

Continued on inside back cover

Front cover: Night skiing at Harrington Hill

Photo by Andrew Silovich

Continued from inside front cover

were given. Weekend skiing and winter carnival events held there. Kendall Mix, Jim Condict, John Linehan, and Charlie Brown were particularly active in running the hill and giving lessons in the early days of the SAA rope tow. In the 1980s steep hikes in insurance were straining the ability of the SAA to keep the rope tow and pond open. In 1986 the newly formed Strafford Area Lions Club, which is part of a nationwide organization which provides insurance coverage for local club projects, took over the ownership and operation of both the pond and ski hill and have been in charge or running them for the last 35 years. Ski lesson for Newton School children moved from Harrington Hill pretty early on. It started first with a group of advanced skiers to the Pinnacle ski area in Randolph and later all the skiers to the Dartmouth Skiway, which had more trails and snow-making as well. Jim Condict coordinated the ski lessons first for the SAA and then the Lions Club for many years. Jim was a ski instructor at the Pinnacle area and then for many years at the Skiway. Amy Huyffer took over the ski lesson program sponsored by the Lions Club from Jim, and she has been followed by Jason Loomis. Newton School teacher and Lions Club member Diane White has for decades coordinated the registration and scholarship end of the program. Rod Maclay, owner of Harrington Hill and a member of the SAA and Lions Club, has generously allowed the rope tow for the last few decades to be used on his property.

In the 1970s cross country skiing became popular in Strafford and two residents, Martha Rockwell and Donald Nielsen Jr., represented the United States in Nordic events in the Olympics during that time, Martha in cross country skiing events and the Nordic relay, and Don in the biathlon which combines cross-country

skiing and target shooting. Cross country skiing in Strafford in those days consisted of bushwhacking or using the snowmobile club trails and still does for many.

However, in 2013 the Strafford Nordic Center opened and once more Strafford has a commercial ski area. A joint project of Jere and Hilary Linehan, Amy Huyffer and Earl Ransom, and Rett Emerson, this premier center provides over 30 kilometers of groomed trails for cross-country skiing over their hilltop farm properties. Its high-altitude location has made it a go-to place in our area, especially when there is less snow elsewhere. The Strafford Nordic Center also provides school programs and elite training opportunities.

Over the years, passing along of the care and running of the volunteer run ski hill on Harrington Hill has been a tricky business. Sherm Wison recalls how John Linehan, who was in charge of the ski hill for the Strafford Athletic Association, one day asked him if he would like to learn how to run the rope tow. They spent a couple of hours going over all the aspects of the operation. Then at the end of the instructions, John turned to Sherm and said, "It's all yours," and walked away. Sherm was able to recruit other to help, including most notably Blake Spencer, Kent Penfield, and Harold Kill.

It is extremely fortunate that a group of younger people in town led by Willis Phelps have taken over the operation and it is now in the best shape it has been in years. He, Cabot Teachout, Neal MacPhail, and Jason Schumacher have all joined the Lions Club. They and other volunteers made improvements to the tow and hill and as seen in the cover photo on these Reports even instituted full moon night skiing. Winter fun and continued community involvement do not get much better than that.

John Freitag

DEDICATION

Robert (Bob) Johnston & Stefanie Johnston



This Town Report is dedicated to Robert and Stefanie Johnston. After moving to Strafford in their retirement, these two talented, energetic individuals, who worked together so incredibly well, became deeply involved in our community. While Bob served and became in effect the head Lister, their real love was Strafford history and they dedicated over twenty years to the Strafford Historical Society. Building on the excellent work that had been begun by many, including Josie Fisher, George Bassingthwaighte, Carrie Judd, and especially Gwenda Smith, they helped usher in a new era of accessibility to, interest in, and understanding of the fine collection of material that had been preserved.

Through their efforts, the Strafford Historical Society found its first public home, first in a room in the Brick Store that used to be part of Richard Montague's bike shop and later in rooms in the much larger ell of that building. Stefanie focused on organizing the collection and curating numerous exhibits. These included, most notably, a series on Strafford families that not only honored the contributions of families with long histories in town but brought to light many related artifacts and contributions to the Historical Society collection. Bob focused his attention in researching and writing books on Strafford history. His works have provided a window into the origins and changes that have taken place here and abundant details about the people who created a town that mirrors the natural beauty surrounding us.

To top it all off, the Johnstons provided us with spirited events of fun and camaraderie. They were the force behind the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the granting of the charter that led to the establishment of our town. They also organized, for a number of years, the most amazing Mardi Gras parties for the town at Barrett Hall, complete with a steel drum band in which Bob played. We are truly grateful for all the Johnstons have given to Strafford and are profoundly saddened by the passing of Stefanie in January, 2022.

Photo by John Freitag

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TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town & School):

David Grant Term expires March 2022

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2024

Selectboard:

Toni Pippy Term expires March 2024

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2023

Mary Linehan Term expires March 2023

Rett Emerson Term expires March 2022

Patrik Kelly Term expires March 2022

Listers:

Tom Jacobs Term expires March 2024

Tim Denny Term expires March 2023

Kerrie Bushway Term expires March 2022

Auditors:

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2024

Suzanna Liepmann Term expires March 2023

June Solsaa Term expires March 2022

School Directors:

Glenn Wylie Term expires March 2024

Jessica Tidman Term expires March 2023

Megan Teachout Term expires March 2023

Aaron Dotter Term expires March 2022

Sarah Root Term expires March 2022

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2022

Trustee of Public Funds:

Therese Linehan Term expires March 2024

John Hawkins Term expires March 2023

Elizabeth Ruml Term expires March 2022

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2022

Harris Library Trustees:

Carol Wilson (*Selectboard Trustee*)..... Term expires March 2024

Curt Albee..... Term expires March 2023

Miriam Newman Term expires March 2022

Cemetery Commissioners:

David Harris Term expires March 2024

Andrew Behrens Term expires March 2024

Kerrie Bushway Term expires March 2023

Alan Donohue Term expires March 2023

Sherm Wilson Term expires March 2022

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee	Alan Donohue	Rosalind Finn
Andrew Lane	Sarah North	Vincent Robinson
	Shelby Coburn	

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman and Supervisor of Public Works	<i>Vacant</i>
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Regina J. Josler
Selectboard Assistant	Lisa Bragg
Town Constable	Edwin Eastman
Zoning Administrator	Brian Johnson
Zoning Administrator Alternate	Ed Eastman
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	Lisa Bragg
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	Bob Wilson
Tree Warden	Bob Wilson
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Recycling Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	Shawn Harlow
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Calvin Benjamin
Fence Viewers	Greg Lewis, Gary Kendall
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative	Susan Coburn
Deputy Registrar	Dennis Cilley

Development Review Board:

Sean Lewis	Term expires March 2024
Bonnie Bergeron (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2023
Terrence Garrison (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2022
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2022
Kip Lindsay (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2024
Alan Donohue (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2023

Appointive Officers (continued)

Planning Commission:

Donald Graham (<i>Interim Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Greg Colling	Term expires March 2025
Tom Scull	Term expires March 2025
Martha Walke (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2024
Chrissy Jamieson	Term expires March 2024
Jason Schumacher	Term expires March 2022
Michael Scanlan (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022
Stuart Crocker	Term expires March 2022
Stephen Willbanks	Term expires March 2022

Conservation Commission:

Michael Hebb (<i>Trails Commissioner</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Kate Bass (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Charles Sherman.....	Term expires March 2024
David Paganelli	Term expires March 2024
Steve Faccio	Term expires March 2023
James Erbaugh (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2023
Micki Colbeck (<i>Recording Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2022
J. T. Horn	Term expires March 2022
Gregory McHugo	Term expires March 2022

Town House Advisory Group:

Curt Albee	Term expires March 2023
Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2022
Tim Bergeron	Term expires March 2022
Greg Colling	Term expires March 2022
Will Cooney	Term expires March 2022
Steve Handy	Term expires March 2022
Susan Lee	Term expires March 2022
Martha Manheim	Term expires March 2022
Silas Treadway	Term expires March 2022

Recreation Board:

Hilary Linehan (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2023
David Taplin	Term expires March 2023
Leslie Berger	Term expires March 2022
Christa Wurm	Term expires March 2022
Jason Loomis (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022

Historic Preservation Commission:

Ann Thorp (<i>Clerk</i>)	Term expires March 2024
Tim Utt	Term expires March 2024
Zach Mitchell	Term expires March 2022
Silas Treadway (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022
David Taplin	Term expires March 2022

Appointive Officers (continued)

Regional Planning Commission:

John Echeverria Term expires March 2022
Vacant (Alternate)..... Term expires March 2022

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks Term expires March 2022
David Webb (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2022

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:

Stephen Willbanks Term expires March 2022
Michael Scanlan (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2022

Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:

Elizabeth Preston Term expires March 2022

Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:

Joanna Hawkins Term expires March 2024
Diana Leddy Term expires March 2023
Danette Harris Term expires March 2022

Community-Building Award Committee:

Roz Finn Term expires March 2022
John Freitag Term expires March 2022
Brooke Wilkinson Term expires March 2022
Rebecca Seibel Term expires March 2022
Lori Mikusa Term expires March 2022

Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:

Rockwell Fuller Term expires March 2022
Joanna Hawkins..... Term expires March 2022
Rod Maclay Term expires March 2022
Maureen Wilson Term expires March 2022

Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:

Barbara Murray Term expires March 2022
Susan Coburn..... Term expires March 2022
Rose Silloway Term expires March 2022

Notaries Public

Susan Coburn
Lisa Bragg

Alan Donohue
Victoria Lloyd

Regina J. Josler
Sarah North

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Senator Patrick Leahy	800-642-3193
Senator Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Congressman Peter Welch	888-605-7270
Governor Phil Scott	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor Molly Gray	802-828-2226
State Senator Mark MacDonald	802-433-5867
Representative Tim Briglin	802-785-2414
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.

Permit Fees

Zoning Application	\$100.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Zoning Variance/Site Plan Appl.	\$150.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Minor Subdivision Application	\$300.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Major Subdivision Application	\$500.00 + \$100.00 per lot + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Highway Access Application	\$ 50.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee

Regional Environmental Office

For information on Sewage Disposal, Water Supply, Act 250, Act 249, Electrical and Plumbing Inspection and Fire Safety, contact the Regional Environmental Office:

Act 250 Permits Springfield Office 100 Mineral St., Suite 305 Springfield, VT 05156 885-8855	Act 249 Permits Barre Office 5 Perry St., Suite 80 Barre, VT 05641 476-0190
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**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2022**

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Strafford Town Office on March 1, 2022, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm to transact the following articles of business by Australian Ballot.

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office.
- Article 2:** Shall the town appropriate \$1,146,711 to defray 2022 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 7, 2022; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 7, 2022? Mailed payments must bear an official US Postal Service postmark dated prior to the respective due dates. Postage machine dates are not acceptable. 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 14, 2022 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
 - Trustee of Public Funds
- For a term of two years:*
- Selectboard member
 - Harris Library Trustee
- For a term of one year:*
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes
 - Agent to Deed Real Estate

- Article 6:** Shall the Town vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Barrett Hall real property for five (5) additional years?
- Article 7:** Shall the Town vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Strafford Firemen’s Association real property for five (5) additional years?
- Article 8:** Shall the Town of Strafford place \$4,800 in the Pocket Park fund annually, beginning in FY 2022, to preserve the beauty and utility of the Pocket Park now and into the future?
- Article 9:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to purchase 9 Justin Morrill Memorial Highway (the Tilles property) for \$300,000, contingent on a feasibility study determining that the site is suitable for the town office?

Polls are open March 1, 2022 from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Strafford Town Office. Ballots must be dropped off, sent by mail, or deposited in the ballot drop box at the Town Office prior to March 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Dated this 27th day January, 2022

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Strafford:

Toni Pippy	Patrik Kelly	Mary Linehan
Rett Emerson	Jeff Solsaa	

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

The Selectboard will conduct an Informational Hearing on February 19, 2022 to provide an opportunity for Strafford voters to discuss the articles for vote and to ask questions of the Selectboard regarding the articles. The Informational Hearing will be held at 9:00 am via Zoom.

Please check the town website:

www.straffordvt.org

for information about how to attend this hearing via Zoom.

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
INFORMATIONAL HEARING**

February 20, 2021

Morrill Homestead Education Center and via Zoom

Selectboard members present: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan, Brent Cadwell (on Zoom)

Others present: Lisa Bragg (Town Clerk), David Grant (moderator), Aaron Dotter (meeting technical manager)

Participating via Zoom: 56 residents and observers

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

David Grant, moderator, opened the meeting and provided guidance to Zoom participants for raising questions and commenting. The Informational Hearing provides the opportunity for voters to discuss the Articles on the Australian ballot, and to ask questions of the Selectboard. Unfortunately, no changes to the articles or voting will take place during the hearing.

2021 General and Highway Fund Budget Highlights. Presented by Toni Pippy

2020 General Fund ended the year with an unrestricted surplus of \$32,154 and the Highway Fund with an unrestricted surplus of \$148,426. The 2021 amount to be raised in taxes to support the General and Highway Fund budgets is \$1,145,787. This is \$38,000 less than last year. The total town tax rate will decrease from .7223% to .7002%. Below are the highlights.

GENERAL FUND – Revenue

- Balance Forward \$32,154
- Fees, fines, and interest increase \$4,750.
- State Hold Harmless (current use payment) reduction of \$3,086.
- Hazard Mitigation Project Grant done every 5 years \$7,613.

GENERAL FUND – Expenses

- Wages 2.5% increase.
- Health benefit credit 3% increase.
- Town Office NEMRC state software license increase of \$2,250.
- Listers increase of \$3,425:
 - \$2,000 mapping project conversion to new software.
 - Stipends from \$1,200 to \$1,800.
 - NEMRC state software license increase for the grand list \$1,875.
 - Moved the Mapping budget of \$700 to the lister budget.
- Police services decreased by \$5,000 used \$1,500 to support new request for Orange County Special Investigation Unit.
- Town Meetings & Elections decrease of \$1,300.
- Fire Department increase of \$1,000.

- Ambulance Service – Upper Valley Ambulance increase of \$2,192.
- Emergency Mgmt. – Hazard Mitigation Project \$10,150.
- County Tax decrease of \$1,973.
- Legal Fees & Consultants increase \$1,000.
- Cemeteries increase \$1,000.

HIGHWAY FUND – Revenue:

- Balance Forward of \$168,426 (\$148,426 unrestricted surplus and \$20,000 from the Equip Reserve)
- Grants \$224,117:
 - \$175,000 Vtrans for Bridge 23 Justin Morrill Highway
 - \$20,000 VT Better Roads – Alger Brook Road
 - \$21,500 Municipal Roads – Turnpike Road for storm water management
 - \$7,617 VT Better Roads – Road Erosion Inventory update

HIGHWAY FUND – Expenses:

- Wages 2.5% increase.
- Health benefit credit 3% increase.
- Materials decrease \$20,000, \$10K Contract Services moved to Highway misc. expenses and \$10K Contract Services hauling
- Bridges increase \$75,000 – Tyson Bridge clean and paint steel beams funded by balance forward.
- Bridge 23 – Justin Morrill Highway-wing wall – \$225,000 expense funded by grant and balance forward.
- Paving increase \$5,000 retreatment.
- Highway misc. grant expenses \$71,396:
 - \$39,521 VT Better Roads
 - \$31,875 Municipal Roads General Grant
- Equipment – \$9,500 increase, excavator rental and trailer.

Article 3: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to 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 1, 2021; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Mailed payments must bear an official US Postal Service postmark dated prior to the respective due dates. Postage machine dates are not acceptable. 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 8, 2021, and additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes.

Article 5: To elect the following officers:

For a term of 3 years:

Selectboard member
Lister
Auditor
Cemetery Commissioner
Cemetery Commissioner
Trustee of Public Funds
Town Clerk
Town Treasurer

For a term of 2 years:

Selectboard member
Harris Library Trustee

For a term of 1 year:

Delinquent Tax Collector
Agent to Deed Real Estate

All positions except Cemetery Commissioner were uncontested. All three candidates were offered a chance to speak; none spoke. Rod Maclay spoke to offer his candidacy for the Selectboard member of 2 Years as a write-in candidate.

Article 6: Shall the Town authorize cannabis retailers and integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 VSA 863? Presented by Mary Linehan

The Selectboard was asked to include Article 6 by several people who may be interested in becoming licensed retailers. The Selectboard reviewed the legislation and agreed that this should be put to the town to vote. The wording of the article comes from Vermont League of Cities and Towns as standard guidance for towns; many Vermont towns are considering this issue during town meeting this year.

In October 2020, Vermont established a regulatory market for marijuana and a State Cannabis Control Board will set state and local license fees. Board members are being vetted. The Board expects to begin making rules in June 2021. The law requires that towns must “opt in” to authorize retail sales shops, and Article 6 provides an opportunity for Strafford to opt in.

What does “opt in” mean?

- Town agrees to allow retail outlets and integrated licensees in Strafford
- But towns have no voice in whether growers, manufacturers, laboratories, or processors are allowed.

Under the law (Act 164 S.54), existing medical dispensaries can start selling to the public as early as May 2022. The Cannabis Control Board will set rules to implement S.54; administer the state licensure programs for cannabis

establishments, including compliance and enforcement; administer the state medical cannabis program; and submit an annual budget to the governor.

Municipalities that host cannabis establishments may create a local cannabis control commission. This provision adds no new authority to towns. Local governments are forbidden from adopting local ordinances to regulate the time, place, and manner of cannabis operations as part of local licenses and permits. The law does not authorize towns to levy a tax on cannabis sales. Town planning and zoning laws would still apply to licensees. The “opt in” opportunity is not time-sensitive and can be exercised at a future date.

Definitions: “Cannabis retailer” means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to sell cannabis and cannabis products to adults 21 years of age and older for off-site consumption. “Integrated licensee” means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to engage in the activities of a cultivator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, and testing laboratory in accordance with state law.

Article 7: Shall the voters direct the Strafford Selectboard to acquire from the Alliance for Vermont Communities approximately 106.7 acres of land (Strafford land parcel number 05.488), contingent upon the Selectboard’s subsequent agreement:

- **On the terms of a conservation easement for the property;**
- **On the terms of an agreement for the acquisition of the property; and**
- **On other terms relating to future management of the property with the Town of Sharon (owner of an adjacent land parcel in Sharon), the Alliance for Vermont Communities, and the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board? Presented by Rett Emerson and Pat Kelly**

In 2015 it was leaked to the public that a project called the New Vista was underway in the towns of Royalton, Tunbridge, Sharon, and Strafford. The long-term plan of those responsible for the project was to create a community of many thousands of people. This group, led by David Hall, quietly purchased many hundreds of acres of property in the four towns and when this was discovered there was an effort to keep this from happening. A group called the Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC) purchased 256 acres called the Ashley Forest situated in both Strafford and Sharon. The Strafford portion is 106.7 acres and sits at the end of Nutting Road. AVC is offering to gift this land to the two towns and include \$20,000 which will remain with the forest and only be used for forest management. As residents of Strafford, we are being asked if we want to acquire this 106.7 acres of land in Strafford which is roughly half the parcel. Sharon will also consider acquiring their portion at a later date. It is intended that ownership of this land will offer the public trails for hiking, skiing, hunting, and educational activities. A “yes” vote asks the Selectboard to acquire the land subject to

acceptable terms set forth by 5 parties consisting of the towns of Strafford, Sharon, the AVC, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Vermont Land Trust.

In order for the town to take ownership of the Ashley Forest the development rights will need to be given up and a conservation easement put in place, the conservation easement and development rights will be held by both the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. While most of the details of this conservation easement have not been worked out, if the town votes to accept this property then our Selectboard will sit down with the Selectboard of Sharon, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Alliance for Vermont Communities to negotiate the terms of this easement.

While most of the specifics of this plan are not finalized at this point, some things are pretty clear, including:

- The Town of Strafford would own its 106-acre part and the Town of Sharon would own its 150 acre part and the two towns would have to work together to manage it as if it were one large parcel.
- There will need to be a management committee formed from residents of both Strafford and Sharon and this board will be in charge of the management of the entire 256-acre parcel. The management work will include trail building and maintenance, periodic mowing of open land, creating a parking area, trail and informational signs, organizing timber sales and cleanup, and ensuring compliance with the Conservation Easement requirements.
- The Conservation Restrictions and Development Rights will last forever and it is intended that the Ashley Forest will never be developed and will stay in conservation perpetually.
- The land will be public land and open to all people for non-motorized recreational, educational, and other appropriate uses.
- The community forest will be required to develop a comprehensive management plan with regular updates with the expectation that periodic timber harvesting will take place and that the forest is managed for conservation of all natural resources.
- Even if the Town of Strafford votes to accept this land, the concept of this Community Forest is contingent upon the Town of Sharon also accepting their portion of this land.
- While there are clearly many important benefits that come generally from putting land into conservation, there are also certain costs and among those costs will be some lost tax revenues. Now, the exact amount of lost taxes to the Town of Strafford is complicated and hard to calculate due to how the State handles the Education tax and how towns are reimbursed

when land is put into current use and it also appears that our town's Listers would devalue this land once the development rights have been restricted.

- According to the Lister's office, this year's tax bill for Strafford's part of the Ashley Forest will be about \$4,300 but in terms of actual lost income for the town budget it seems accurate to say that it will be somewhere between about \$750 and \$1,300 annually.
- There will also be one-time costs associated with the transfer of title to the Town of Strafford, including taxes, documentation, and attorney's fees.
- The Alliance for Vermont Communities is offering \$20,000 in seed money if the towns accept this land. These funds shared by Sharon and Strafford would be used for a forest management plan, upkeep, management, and improvements of the Ashley Forest. It is also anticipated that revenue from timber sales at some time in the future would be used for Ashley Forest expenses.

Extensive discussion followed the presentation, regarding reduction in tax revenue and costs of maintaining the property, the potential challenges of joint management with Sharon, the value of historical land gifts, and the work and time commitment involved in transferring, owning and managing the property if the Town acquires the land. Amy Huyffer clarified that the adjacent land (former Manning Farm) is now owned by herself and Earl Ransom, not the Strafford Organic Creamery, and will not be available for connecting trails from the Ashley Forest, as has been advertised on the AVC website.

Toni Pippy closed the meeting by thanking the David Grant, Aaron Dotter, Lisa Bragg and Regina Josler for their work in making the hearing successful. Thank you to the road crew; Jon, PD, Danny, and Garold. She thanked the town for the opportunity to serve and acknowledged the difficult challenges Strafford faced this year. She recognized the Emergency Management Team that did such a great job this year responding to the pandemic emergency, and the hundreds of wonderful volunteers and officers who make the town function. Special thanks to Brent Cadwell, who graciously stepped in as Selectboard member this year and to the other Selectboard members.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Linehan
Recording Secretary

**OFFICIAL RESULTS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 2, 2021

Moderator, 1 year:	<u>David Grant</u>	436
Selectboard Member, 3 years:	<u>Toni Pippy</u>	435
Lister, 3 years:	<u>Tom Jacobs</u>	425
Auditor, 3 years:	<u>Nellie Pennington</u>	441
Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years: (vote for 2)	<u>David Harris</u>	383
	<u>Will Cooney</u>	166
	<u>Andrew Behrens</u>	274
Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years:	<u>Therese Linehan</u>	440
Town Clerk, 3 years:	<u>Lisa Bragg</u>	450
Town Treasurer, 3 years:	<u>Lisa Bragg</u>	446
Selectboard Member, 2 years:	<u>Jeff Solsaa</u>	349
Harris Library Trustee, 2 years:	<u>Curt Albee</u>	441
Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 year:	<u>Jeanne Castro</u>	444
Agent to Deed Real Estate, 1 year:	<u>Lisa Bragg</u>	447

Article 2. Shall the town appropriate \$1,145,787 to defray 2021 budget expenses? Yes: 424; No: 29.

Article 3. Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes? Yes: 410; No: 44.

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 1, 2021; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 1, 2021? Mailed payments must bear an official US Postal Service postmark dated prior to the respective due dates. Postage machine dates are not acceptable. 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 8, 2021 an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes. Yes: 457; No: 15.

Article 6. Shall the town authorize cannabis retailers and integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A.863? Yes: 293; No: 176.

Article 7. Shall the voters direct the Strafford Selectboard to acquire from the Alliance for Vermont Communities approximately 106.7 acres of land (Strafford land parcel number 05.488), contingent upon the Selectboard's subsequent agreement:

- on the terms of a conservation easement for the property;
- on the terms of an agreement for the acquisition of the property; and
- on other terms relating to future management of the property with the Town of Sharon (owner of an adjacent land parcel in Sharon), the Alliance for Vermont Communities, and the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board?

Yes: 399; No: 70.

Total Ballots: 485



The Buena Vista rope tow, from the 1950s.

Photo courtesy Buena Vista collection

SELECTBOARD REPORT

For the second year in a row, the COVID pandemic has forced the town to modify its annual Town Meeting, a cherished tradition in Strafford. In 2022 we will hold our Town Meeting using Australian Ballot, on the March 1st meeting date, with the informational hearing on February 19 to discuss articles up for vote. Despite the challenges of operating during pandemic shutdown, the Town Meeting last year was successfully conducted, with significantly higher voter participation due in part to use of Australian Ballot. While we hope to return to in-person Town Meetings as soon as safety allows, finding ways to maintain such high levels of participation will also be important.

Despite COVID restrictions, the town managed to keep a few traditions alive, and introduce a few more, which committee reports will describe in detail. The Selectboard thanks the generosity and energy of volunteers who worked so hard to make town life better during the pandemic, including John Stableford for holding the annual Strafford Road Race between the villages; the Volunteer Fire Dept., PTA, and Friends of the Library, and others for helping to celebrate the Fourth of July; Amy Huyffer for the new Strafford half marathon that wound its way from Old City Falls to the Red Barn; Willis Phelps for running the ski tow on weekends; Hilary Linehan, who herded the Ranger Bike Event through the villages safely; Tom Jacobs, for clearing his pond for people to skate—and Jason Loomis for helping clear the snow; and the many landowners who continued to let their neighbors traipse through their woods and fields to snowmobile, ski, walk and look for wildlife and flora.

The Selectboard was exceptionally busy this past year. Brent Cadwell stepped down from the board in March, and Jeff Solsaa was elected for a two-year position. Toni Pippy was reelected and stayed on as Chair. In 2022 Pat Kelly and Rett Emerson will step down and two Selectboard positions will be on the ballot for this town meeting vote. We will miss them both. Board liaisons focused on supporting the goals of boards and committees and the Town Office staff, including addressing violations of the Junkyards Ordinance; drafting processes for committees and boards when raising funds for approved town activities, events, and other initiatives; completing the tax sale of the Henry M. and Evelyn Stanley property on Mine Road; signing off on the new Town Plan; completed a no-cost assessment of the Town Garage, and developed a work scope to reduce energy use; adopting a Green Procurement Policy to encourage efficient, renewable products, and guide purchasing decisions toward Strafford's net-zero by 2030 goal; approving solar array sites; and managing the budget resources efficiently and frugally. Like 2021, the 2022 proposed budget reflects no tax increase from the Town Funds.

The 2021 General Fund and Highway Fund each had a surplus at the end of the year. The balances have been applied to the 2022 budget to complete

planned activities. Strafford has received \$159,328—half of the promised funding from the American Rescue Plan Act fund; a second tranche is due later this year, for a total of \$308,656, which must be committed by 2024 and expended by 2026. We are actively tracking federal and state guidance on how these funds can be used and intend to establish a mechanism in the coming year to engage the town in discussions about priorities and opportunities.

Strafford engages in several multi-town initiatives, including support for a full-time 3-year AmeriCorps VISTA intern, Megan Feurst, who provides support for the 4-Town Coalition to raise funds and operate as a formal entity, and support for Geoff Martin, Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator, working with seven towns to reduce overall energy use, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and move to renewable generation of electricity. After last year's town vote to acquire the Ashley Community Forest, the Selectboard spent many months negotiating with the Town of Sharon to come up with a workable agreement on how to cooperate and manage this new town asset. As of January 31, 2022 the Town of Strafford has entered into a partnership with the Town of Sharon and will soon co-own this 250-acre community forest which is open for all visitors to enjoy.

Town Office: Recognizing the long standing and urgent deterioration of the current municipal building, the Selectboard appointed a Town Office Planning Committee (Mary Linehan, Arthur Hanchett, Bill Riso, Beth Preston, Rebecca Seibel, Morgan Smith). Operating in the COVID pandemic has increased the urgency of addressing the well-documented limitations of the building—it was necessary to close the office and limit access to meetings and services to ensure social distancing in our too-small space. The Committee conducted a thorough review of existing options, including the 2019 renovation plan for the current office, and other town-owned properties, and recommended that the Selectboard seek a structure or land site that can be converted to, or on which to build, a Town Office with at least 2,000 square feet of useable space located outside a flood risk area, with adequate parking, and located in one of the villages.

In September, a utility pole fell on the back stairway, making the upstairs temporarily unusable, and threatening loss of insurance coverage. Review by a structural engineer provided grave warnings about the deterioration of the structure and estimated a cost of \$150,000 just to stabilize it. Unfortunately this sizable investment would do nothing to meet the other needs: work space for auditors, tax collector, and listers; storage; ADA-compliant bathroom; a reliable, well-ventilated, and permanent meeting room for the Selectboard and other committees and boards; a well-equipped, operational Emergency Management Unit that can start up quickly to meet State and Town requirements; and reliable remote access meeting technology to ensure public participation (a priority for Vermont open meeting regulations). This Selectboard takes very seriously their responsibility to ensure

a functioning and safe municipal building. We have included an Article on the ballot to purchase a suitable property to convert into a new municipal building, which represents the board's recommendation for the best way forward, consistent with its commitment to manage available funds and minimize taxes. Further background and details of the Selectboard's analysis of requirements and financing options will be sent to voters prior to Town Meeting and shared in informational hearings.

Highways: Strafford's roads continue to be a major focus of Selectboard energies. The town receives no state funding for the upkeep of any of our roads, including Route 132, so Strafford relies on grants and taxpayers to fund paving and maintenance. Major activities this year included ditching on Alger Brook and Turnpike Roads, repair and re-opening of the Tyson Bridge by the EPA in August, and extensive paving on Route 132. The liaisons and Town Clerk are working hard to prepare grants for road work planned for 2022. The Road Crew lost two staff this year, including the Road Foreman, however, our dedicated and versatile Road Crew, PD Hardy and Danny Prescott, have deftly divided up management responsibilities, hired Shawn Ward to provide surge support, and recruited Ryan Kennedy, who joined in January. In addition, David Harris, Craig Allen, and Michael Stoffel have graciously and generously stepped in to clear the sidewalks in South Strafford village, and we are very grateful for their support.

The Selectboard thanks the town residents for the opportunity to serve, as well as the many other elected and appointed townspeople who serve as board and committee members and the many volunteers who make Strafford the best place to be during a crisis. We thank the Road Crew for their exceptional dedication to maintaining Strafford's roads; and to Lisa Bragg and Regina Josler for their dedication, professionalism, and expertise in keeping Strafford running smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan

Toni Pippy

Rett Emerson

Patrik Kelly

Jeff Solsaa

ELIZABETH MINE

The cleanup of the Elizabeth Mine, initiated in 2003, was finally completed this year. In November the Selectboard was treated to a tour of the site by the EPA team to see the result of nearly two decades of remediation. The first action was the stabilization of the Tailing Dam, which had deteriorated since the mine closure in 1958 and was at risk of catastrophic failure. The tailing dam stabilization was completed in 2005. From 2006 to 2012, the EPA focused on excavating mine waste from other areas of the site and placing that material on the tailing impoundment. About 400,000 cubic yards of material were relocated during this period. The EPA then installed a 45-acre cover system to isolate the mine waste (waste rock and tailing) from water and oxygen. The cover system also substantially reduced the water levels in the tailing impoundment which increased the stability of the tailing impoundment and reduced the leachate generation from 54 gallons per minute to below 10 gallons per minute. The EPA also covered the lead contaminated soil at the former Copperas Factories in a manner that preserved the historic foundations in this area.

In 2014, because of the EPA cleanup efforts, the State of Vermont delisted several nearby waterbodies from the Clean Water Act's "Impaired Waters List" based on the return of a healthy benthic and fish community. The cleanup also replaced eight acres of toxic wetlands with 15 acres of healthy wetlands and reduced the iron load to receiving bodies of water from 800 pounds per day to one-tenth of a pound per day.

The Elizabeth Mine tailings impoundment, once capped, was repurposed into a solar field. This 20,000-panel solar field generates an average of 8.7 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity each year, enough to power 1,333 typical Vermont homes, and offsets the generation of 7,136 tons of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas. Interpretive panels documenting the history of the Elizabeth Mine dating from the 1850s and the cleanup and reuse have been installed through a collaboration between the EPA, the Strafford Historical Society, the property owners, and the State Historic Preservation Officer. The final action at the Elizabeth Mine was to stabilize the 1898 Adit to prevent the sudden release of the 700,000 gallons of low pH water with high metals content to minimize the potential for a future sink hole under Mine Road. Aerial photos of the completed project can be found at: <https://semsub.epa.gov/src/document/01/100019693>.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

When I wrote my report last year, the office was closed in January of 2021 because of the pandemic, and we were at that time scheduling for appointments only to one person at a time. It was not until June that we opened the office again to return to business as normal, doors unlocked, and no appointment needed. I believe that we made it the rest of the year and didn't close again until January of 2022 because of the COVID-19 variant surge, where we are once again closed and asking for residents and researchers to make an appointment before coming.

Our part in the annual dog clinic was modified in 2021 to a drive through clinic at the upper village fire station. David Lamb was there once again donating his time and money raised from the clinic to the Strafford Fire and Rescue. Fire Department volunteers were there to help direct dog owners to remain in their cars, allowing us to safely hold the dog clinic.

In March we held our first successful Australian ballot voting, receiving back 485 ballots total for the March 2021 Town Meeting. Mary Linehan created an effective communication plan that I used to post deadlines and what to expect and when and communicated that to the voters. I am using that same plan for the March 1, 2022, Australian ballot voting again this year. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters on February 9th, 2022 and are due back on March 2, 2022.

In April I reported to the Selectboard that there was a computer backup failure in March, where some data from March 18-April 19 was lost. I was able to recover most of the valuable information and made improvements to our data and safety storage along with upgrading our server and computers. I now receive daily successful emails to ensure backups are completed daily.

In October, the Strafford Town School District had a special town meeting to ask voters if we are to continue providing seventh and eighth grades educational programming at the Newton School. This also was the first drive through voting held at Newton School and a turn out of 457 ballots voted, once again showing Australian ballot voting was a success.

It was a pleasant change to be able to attend two annual conferences this year, the first being the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association annual conference held at the Lake Morey Resort in September, and the second New England Association of City and Town Clerks in November which was held at the Spruce Lodge in Stowe, VT. I attended an unknown number of on-line trainings held by VLCT, the State of Vermont, Two Rivers, and several other vendors.

This summer a large maple tree on a neighboring property came down, pulling with it three electric poles and having one land on the back of the stairs roof causing additional structural damage. Putting in a claim to VLCT

required us to get a structural engineer in and potentially closing off the upstairs if we could not get it fixed before winter. Because we had the same engineer review the Municipal Building in 2019, he was able to clearly see several conditions that had worsened since his last visit and reiterated the desperate need for building maintenance and repairs. In his report he states, “it is my professional opinion that the building is degrading rapidly, and repairs are necessary to limit future exposure to significant repair costs and potential isolated member failures;” “if the building is allowed to continue to decay, serious structural issues and potentially even safety issues will result.” Late in December the temporary repairs to the stairs were completed allowing the use of the upstairs office to continue.

The Selectboard managed an enormous amount of work last year that was not easy and took a bit of time to complete. I want to thank them ALL for the splendid work they have done over the last year and the well-run, thoughtful Selectboard that they are! Rett Emerson and Patrik Kelly are stepping down this year and I want to thank them both for the endless amount of work they did while serving on the board; they will surely be missed.

Thank you to Regina Josler for always getting our work lists checked off and keeping the office running smoothly, and to the Road Crew for their dedication to the town. To the many, many volunteers in town: thank you, we could not do it without each of you.

Sincerely,

Lisa M Bragg

Town Clerk/Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2021. 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 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

LISTERS' REPORT

The Listers maintain 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 program (Current Use). These responsibilities are performed by one contracted assessor working four hours one day a week and three elected Listers who devote many more hours throughout the year.

The Grand List for the tax year 2021 had 786 properties (677 of them taxable) assessed for \$187.6 million. Of these, 169 properties comprising 18,932 acres were enrolled in Current Use; the acreage is more than last year, but with lesser exempted value. Strafford is one of the top ten towns in Vermont for its number of properties enrolled in Current Use. Because the assessed value of enrolled acreage usually is substantially less than it would be normally, towns receive a "hold harmless" payment from the state that is intended to compensate them for the missing tax revenue.

Each year the Department of Taxes performs an Equalization Study for all Vermont towns. This statistical analysis compares the value of properties sold during the last three years to their assessed values. Strafford's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) has steadily decreased since 2018 and was at 95.36% as of December, 2021 (down from 97.67% last year). When the CLA is less than 100% it means that the average sale value was more than the average assessed value and, unfortunately, will result in an upward adjustment of our educational tax rate. This trend was anticipated, because most Vermont cities and towns have observed that sale prices are often above the assessed value (sometimes much higher) since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, an unusually high number of properties are being sold and they are selling more quickly than in the past. Strafford experienced the same activity, but our 2.3% decrease in CLA was relatively small compared to the 4 to 6% change typical for most communities (and a few towns with over 8% change).

Property owners who reside in Vermont 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' website.

We encourage town residents who have questions about assessments or other Grand List-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).

Kerrie Bushway

Tim Denny

Tom Jacobs

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

I would like to thank all who called for a permit. We appreciate your help in preventing unplanned and unwanted fires during these interesting times through the continuing pandemic.

Wildland fire received increased attention this year with the widespread red flag warnings issued in early April. Drought conditions from 2020 were in play for much of Vermont through the spring and into the summer of 2021 with stubborn fires in Killington in late May as well as our neighboring state of Massachusetts, where a fire burned roughly 1,000 acres. Relief showed up for most of Vermont with July's rains. However, northern portions of the state were still experiencing drought conditions late in the year.

This year, there were 94 fires reported from town forest fire wardens in 47 towns that burned approximately 157 acres.

State law requires a permit for open burning within 200' of grass, woodlands, or buildings, or if there is less than 1" of snow.

Although no permit is required with snow cover, it is a good idea to call the fire warden if you are going to have a large fire. If someone happens to report it, then the fire department will not be dispatched unnecessarily.

Burn permits are free of charge. To acquire one or get more information, call 765-9920. Please remember you cannot obtain a permit by leaving a message; you must speak to the fire warden.

Thank you to all those who obtained fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden
802-765-9920

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

In 2021, there were fifteen permit applications applied for and approved for various houses, barns, garages, porches, decks, etc., somewhat down from previous years, which have generally been in the twenties. As always if you have questions or need help feel free to call 802-765-4514 any reasonable time. When a permit is applied for, I try to get it dealt with as soon as possible. The administrator does however have thirty days from the date the fee has been paid to deal with an application. There is then a fifteen-day period when the application is posted at the town clerk's office before it becomes official. So please plan ahead. The zoning ordinances are available at the Town of Strafford website.

Brian Johnson, Zoning Administrator

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year we continued the yearly mowing and trimming of the inactive cemeteries. We also have the Evergreen Cemetery mowed on a regular basis. There were several burials this year as well of hole filling and brush removal.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners
Alan Donohue
Sherm Wilson
Andy Behrens
David Harris
Kerrie Bushway



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) when building permits and other administrative decisions are not clear-cut to help clarify issues so that the proposed action supports the interests of the property owner and 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 the Selectboard. 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, as is the Zoning Administrator. Presently the DRB members are Terry Garrison, Chair, Bonnie Bergeron, Secretary, Dan Ruml, Martha Walke and Sean Lewis with Alan Donohue as an alternate when needed. The Zoning Administrator is Brian Johnson. The Clerk of the Board is Bonnie Bergeron.

The DRB meets on 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, and the minutes are available to the public in the Town Records.

The DRB met five times in 2021 to address business and hear applications.

Applications for Subdivisions, Conditional Use, and/or Variance are considered formally warned Hearings. Lot Line Adjustments do not require warned hearings and are now heard in front of the board not the Zoning Administrator. Decisions are publicly posted for a 15-day period to allow interested parties to appeal the decision.

In 2021, the DRB held four (4) subdivision hearings and one (1) Lot Line Adjustment.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bergeron
Clerk of the Strafford Development Review Board

*Opposite: Biathlon is a winter sport that combines
cross-country skiing with target shooting.*

*Photo provided by Jeremiah Linehan
from the Nordic Center collection*

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

In 2021, the Planning Commission, with help from Victoria Littlefield and Kevin Geiger of TRORC, continued work on the Town Plan. The flood regulations (now titled Flood Resilience in Chap. 8) were updated and a new Enhanced Energy Plan was included to bring the town in to agreement with the state's energy regulations. The Planning Commission completed the Town Plan draft and sent it to the Selectboard and surrounding towns in June. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Town Plan in August with Victoria Littlefield presenting all the changes that were made. The Selectboard adopted the Town Plan in October and the Strafford Town Plan was accepted by TRORC and the state in December.

The Planning Commission approved two sites in Strafford (136 Alger Brook Rd. and 328 Rte. 132) for community solar projects. In November the Planning Commission resumed work on the Unified Bylaw and is currently editing the document prior to a public hearing. The Unified Bylaw will be sent to the Selectboard after Town Meeting for their review. Both the Unified Bylaw (working document) and the Town Plan are posted on the Strafford website.

The members of the Planning Commission are Donald Graham, Interim Chair; Michael Scanlan, Vice Chair; Martha Walke, Secretary; Greg Colling; Stuart Crocker; Chrissy Jamieson; Jason Schumacher; Tom Scull; Steve Willbanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha M. Walke, Secretary

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Twenty years ago, in 2002, the Strafford Conservation Commission was formed. Sally Mansur was its first chairperson, followed by Anne Peyton and then J.T. Horn. In 2014, Stephen Willbanks joined the commission and soon became chair. He led the commission for seven years with passion, professionalism, and steadfast commitment. In October of 2021, Stephen resigned his post as chair and membership on the board. Those of us who have had the honor of working with him over the years are grateful for his energy and persistence in serving our community. We have all benefited from his commitment to conservation. As John Muir wrote, “In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks.” We want to thank Stephen for all of his years of guidance and leadership.

Will Cooney came onto the board early in 2021 to replace Jared Jenisch. In April, Gregory McHugo was appointed to replace Will Cooney, who sadly, could not fulfill his term. In December of 2021, James Erbaugh was approved by the Selectboard to fill the vacancy left by Stephen Willbanks.

Once again, 2021 was a year marked with fewer meetings for the Strafford Conservation Commission due to ongoing COVID precautions, but we still managed to achieve most of our goals and accomplish quite a bit. Perhaps our biggest achievement was the adoption of Article 7 at the 2021 Strafford Town Meeting. On this day, Strafford residents overwhelmingly approved acceptance of a gift of land to the Town of Strafford from the Alliance for Vermont Communities, known to all as the Ashley Community Forest. As noted in JT Horn’s Ashley Community Forest Report, a huge amount of work has been put into this project by the SCC. We want to give due recognition to JT Horn, David Paganelli, and Micki Colbeck, who have worked endless hours on this project. The Ashley Community Forest project will be the culmination of the vision of a community natural resource. We would like to thank our thoughtful community and all those who have given so much of their time to this wonderful project.

2021 was also notable for the continued expansion of the SCC’s Town Trail System. As noted by Mike Hebb, trail manager extraordinaire in his Trail System Report, the 30 mile trail system provided a safe recreational opportunity to people during this difficult 2nd year of COVID. Trail usage has increased again this year, seeing users not only from our Strafford community but also from places far and wide.

We have been able to add about four new miles of trail in the Taylor Valley area, with many thanks to the John Hemenway family. The trails include the new Hemenway Ledges Trail, and a second trail that connects the Cobb Town Forest Fen Trail down to the Taylor Valley Rd. We also have added a new designated parking area for the Alger Brook trail intersection. This new area was very generously provided by the Lauren and Willis Phelps family.

The East Loop Trail made last year in the Cobb Town Forest now has several sections of new boardwalk permitting access to the 55 acre wetland that boasts a lovely Yellow Lady Slipper bloom at the end of May.

It is Mike Hebb who, with his mighty band of 10 trail maintenance volunteers, have created this truly unique outdoor recreation venue for us all to enjoy. A hearty thank you to Mike and his crew. The SCC also wants to extend a huge appreciation to all of the landowners upon whose land this trail network exists. It is you who make this local resource the true gem that it is.

Our SCC member and Orange County Forester, Dave Paganelli, has been working on two new forest management plans. The Cobb Town Forest management plan is in the final stages of development. That map is being finalized and a draft plan will be ready for review by the SCC soon. Dave is also working with the Ashley Community Forest project. As soon as the towns of Strafford and Sharon take possession of the forest, he will be working with the public and committee members to align the forest management plan to more closely meet the objectives of the towns.

And finally, we want to recognize Tim McCormick, our caretaker of the Old City Falls Nature Preserve Area. Most of us are familiar with the picnic and hiking opportunities, the beauty, and the awesome nature to be found at Old City Falls. But do you know that it is Tim McCormick who is responsible for keeping this special area clean and safe and in the great condition that we always expect it to be in? Tim mows all of the lawns and the path to the Old City Cemetery. He rakes the leaves, opens and closes the gates every day, cuts down fallen trees over the paths, repairs the paths and walls, cleans the outhouse, and takes garbage to the transfer station! We want to extend a big thank you to Tim who works quietly behind the scenes to keep this local natural area a beautiful jewel.

Please visit the Conservation Commission and Natural Areas pages of the town website: Straffordvt.org. Town Clerk Lisa Bragg and SCC members Mike Hebb and Micki Colbeck have filled these webpages with tons of photos and maps and interesting information about our trails and natural areas. Free trail maps are available at the Town Clerk's Office and Coburn's Store, courtesy of Mike Hebb.

The SCC meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in Morrill Education Center, or remotely by Zoom. Current board members are: Micki Colbeck (recording secretary), James Erbaugh, Steve Faccio, Mike Hebb, J.T. Horn, Gregory McHugo, Dave Paganelli, Kate Bass (vice chair), and Chuck Sherman.

Respectfully submitted,
Strafford Conservation Commission
board members

STRAFFORD TRAIL SYSTEM

I would like to thank the trail hosts and relay the appreciation of the many hikers for the generous use of their property.

2021 has been a challenging year for our trail system.

Trail use is still high. Nature appreciation, views, and safe exercise are the main attractions. The system has always seen considerable use during the winter.

The challenges have been encountered in preserving the trail and compensating for property transfers and land owner preference changes. We have lost 6 miles of trail including the 4 mile Whiterock Trail and 2 miles of the section from Tyson bridge to the top of Whitcomb Hill. The trail from Tyson Bridge we now call Egg Rock Trail was rescued by adjacent land owners so it is still a good route up Whitcomb Hill and a component of the Cross Town trail from Sharon to Vershire. The north end of the Cross Town trail connects easily to the long Cross Rivendell trail system through Vershire, West Fairlee, Fairlee and Orford via Mood Swamp Road while the south end connects to the Norwich trail system via Copperas Road.

We have been able to add about 4 miles on Taylor Valley area thanks to the Hemenway family. They are the new Hemenway Ledges Trail which has been quite popular and a connector from the Cobb Town Forest Fen Trail down to the Taylor Valley Road. We have also added a designated parking space for the Alger Brook trail intersection generously provided by the Phelps family.

We again have access to the south end of the Cross Town trail now that the EPA has concluded its remediation work. The road is in good condition and it is worth a drive out just to see what they have done with the south cut.

The new East Loop trail in the Cobb Town Forest now has several sections of new board walk permitting access to the dense 55 acre wetland, below the parking lot. The biggest attraction here is the colony of yellow lady slipper orchids that bloom at the end of May but at least 3 other orchid varieties have been found on this route.

The only trail abuse has been from mother nature where a few places are seeing some water damage, random trees coming down, and bears chewing up the trail signs. Litter has been hard to find. Our 10 volunteers are keeping the trails in excellent condition but much of it is due to respectful hikers. Most of the blazes were repainted last summer.

Free maps of all 30 miles of trail are now available at Coburn's Store and the Town Office. More details and maps can be found at: straffordtrails.yolasite.com.

Mike Hebb
Trails Manager
Strafford Conservation Commission

ASHLEY COMMUNITY FOREST

During the past year, the Strafford Conservation Commission (SCC) put significant effort into the creation of the Ashley Community Forest. This 256+/- acre property located at the end of Nutting Road is proposed to be a gift from the Alliance for Vermont Communities to the Towns of Sharon and Strafford. It includes some beautiful woodlands, headwater streams, and an impressive complex of cellar holes and stone walls from an early settlement. At Strafford's March 2021 Town Meeting, the voters adopted Article 7 enabling the town to accept the gift of land by a vote of 399 in favor and 70 opposed. In May, Sharon also voted in favor of accepting the gift of land by a vote of 232 in favor and 72 opposed. After these votes, the two towns formed an ad hoc committee to review the terms of the gift and special management considerations for a two-town community forest. J.T. Horn from the SCC served on this committee along with Selectman Patrik Kelly and two representatives from Sharon. The committee recommended that day-to-day management be the responsibility of a 5-person Ashley Community Forest Committee made up of two representatives appointed by the Strafford Selectboard, two representatives appointed by the Sharon Selectboard and one independent member. The property will also be subject to a conservation easement co-held by the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, which will prevent subdivision or development, but gives the towns flexibility to have trails, outdoor education, timber harvesting, wildlife habitat management, and special events like trail races. The two towns held a joint Selectboard meeting on October 25, 2021 to review the proposal. The Sharon Selectboard adopted these recommendations in early November and Strafford Selectboard adopted these recommendations at their November 22, 2021 meeting, subject to final review by the town attorney. It is anticipated that the property will transfer early in 2022 and there will be a public input process to develop the first management plan.

Respectfully submitted,

JT Horn

Strafford Conservation Commission

Opposite: Remains of the old Buda engine used to power the upper rope tow of the Varney ski area on Harrington Hill are still on the hillside above the current Lions Club rope tow.

Photo by John Freitag

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

In late June of 2021, I took over the office of Strafford Emergency Management Director from Josh Kahan. I'd like to acknowledge and thank Josh for his efforts in this position, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor Scott lifted the pandemic-related state of emergency in June of this past year. Aside from the pandemic, Strafford fortunately experienced no emergency that broadly impacted the town in 2021.

An inventory of town emergency resources began in 2021 and will be completed in 2022. A review of the town Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will also be completed in 2022.

It's also important to acknowledge the efforts of Strafford Fire and Rescue, our town clerk's office, our Selectboard, our constable, our road crew, and each other in keeping the Town of Strafford as safe as possible.

Jason Schumacher

Strafford Emergency Management Director.



STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

The Strafford Recreation Board continues to use our mission to guide us in our work: *The Strafford Recreation Board believes that recreation is critical to a healthy mind and body and that recreation enriches our community and our connection to one another.*

With that in mind, the goal of the Strafford Recreation Board is to ensure we have well-maintained town recreation facilities and encourage outdoor recreation for all ages.

This year, we brought back a few outdoor programs, including soccer camp, tennis lessons and art camp. All camps were managed by people with local connections! All three camps were well attended, in fact Art Camp had the highest turnout since its inception by Rec Board member Leslie Berger. We hope to continue to offer these camps in 2022. Soccer camp is expected to be in late June, tennis lessons probably in July, and art camp is usually in mid-August.

While the normal town skating rink was not in place in the 2021, the early 2022 winter has seen a local Strafford resident allowing locals to use his pond. What a generous neighbor! He posts regularly to the Strafford listserv about ice conditions. We ask that you treat the property with respect so that those who want to skate might continue to benefit from the generosity of the landowner.

The tennis courts have a new sign requesting that use by all wheeled equipment stay in the area outside the tennis court lines. Along the lines of the previous paragraph, we ask that those who use the tennis court area for other purposes treat the area well so that the court surface will last for years.

The Recreation Board continues to hold occasional “red barn” dates for the community to borrow or turn in used athletic equipment. In case you are not aware, there is an equipment exchange area inside the red barn, which is primarily used for sports equipment like skis, skates and helmets, with a few odds and ends from other sports as well as limited medical equipment like crutches, wheel chairs and temporary beds. Please contact any of the board members if you need access to the equipment in the red barn, or if you want to place something you no longer need there.

We also encourage all community members to join the board or attend meetings. We always welcome new ideas as well as bodies to help maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the town. We meet regularly on the second Monday of the month at JMH in winter, and outdoors at the Rec field during the warmer months.

In 2022 Wally and Barbara Smith, the creators and custodians of the Pocket Park, will retire from their full time stewardship of this wonderful Strafford

resource. With their retirement Strafford faces a choice: to let it wither, or to sustain its beauty.

The Smiths and the Rec Board have researched many options available to us to maintain the Pocket Park to keep its landscape, gardens, and installations in good condition. We have decided that our best option is to hire a Master Gardener to maintain the grounds and manage paid and volunteer workers to aid them in that effort.

To that end, the Rec Board put forward an article on the ballot at Town Meeting, which asks the voters to support this effort by funding it annually with \$4,800. Should the voters choose to support the article at Town Meeting, the Rec Board would oversee the hiring and management of a Pocket Park Master Gardener, who will in turn manage the Pocket Park.

The Recreation Board humbly asks the voters of the Town of Strafford to show their support by voting in favor of the article before the voters at Town Meeting. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Linehan, Chair
David Taplin, member
Christa Wurm, member
Jason Loomis, member
Leslie Berger, member

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 eleventh year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We currently have a core group of 9 official members plus the Overseer, Paul Kifner. If you would like to be on our email list to follow our activities please provide me with your address. Our activities are posted on the Strafford Webpage: www.straffordvt.org/townhouse. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

This past year, once again, due to the pandemic, we ceased all events at the Town House with the exception of one memorial gathering. Several maintenance projects were postponed due to the fragmented schedules of contractors and safety concerns due to the pandemic. Despite the elimination

of programs, events and meetings, attention to the building did not stop. We had a new electrical subpanel installed in the attic area of the belltower. This installation will enable us to do more proposed electrical upgrades in this area of the building. During careful inspection above the belltower deck we discovered that the existing railing is beginning to fail and needs replacement. We have a craftsman ready to replace this railing as soon as weather permits. We will also be lining up this same person to tackle some of the deteriorating exterior trimwork on the front of the building. Despite the setbacks during these past two years, the Town House is still being well taken care of while we wait out the pandemic.

We are looking forward to when we can resume the use of the building allowing people to gather and be safe. As of this writing, it is unknown when that will be.

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

If you have questions about plans for 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 802-763-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky Fuller
Town House Advisory Group Chair



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) advocates preserving and protecting Stafford's history and culture. The SHPC continues to explore and utilize grant opportunities that document Stafford's history.

Thanks to our successful completion of over 140 surveys of Stafford's historic sites and structures, South Strafford village can now begin the process to be listed on the National Historic Register. Other Strafford districts for nomination also include, but are not limited to, Old City, the Robinson District on Fay Brook Road, and Camp Kokosing/Thoreau in Miller Pond.

The preservation of the 'Pennock Barn' on Pennock Road, an impressive 1780s framed structure considered to be the oldest barn in Strafford, is on the SHPC agenda for preservation. SHPC hopes to continue work with the owner on grant opportunities through Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Further discussion and research between the SHPC, Selectboard, and Planning Commission regarding "Certified Local Government" guidelines, zoning, and historic districts are expected to continue.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Treadway, President
Andersen Thorp, Clerk
David Taplin
Tim Utt

Opposite: Full moon skiing at Harrington Hill Rope Tow

Photo provided by the Newton PTA

STRAFFORD ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

This year the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee has updated its mission statement to clarify the committee's roles and responsibilities, and to more fully reflect the range of our activities:

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 achieve this commitment, the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee (SECC) serves as an advisor for the citizens and the municipality of Strafford. We will advocate for innovative, workable, and cost-effective options for energy conservation and reduction of our carbon emissions in heating or cooling buildings, powering vehicles, and generating electricity. We will support effective planning for resiliency, sustainability, and ecological wellbeing, and improved carbon sequestration through careful stewardship of soil, plants, and forests.

The Energy and Climate Committee will provide ongoing assessment of Strafford's progress in adoption of renewable and restorative policies and practices, and will:

- Advise the Selectboard and members of Strafford's other committees and commissions
- Provide information to the residents of Strafford and local farms, businesses, schools, and forest managers
- Work closely with the Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator and energy and climate committees in neighboring communities

In keeping with our 2020 Town Meeting resolution and Vermont's statewide goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050, the SECC's activities for this past year have included:

- We worked closely with the Strafford Selectboard and Geoff Martin, the Intramunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator at the Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission. See: www.trorc.org/programs/energy/ and also an additional update from Geoff Martin in this Town Report.
- We co-hosted another WindowDressers weatherization workshop, with 135 inserts produced for 20 households, 86% of which were subsidized for lower-income recipients. All costs and subsidies were covered by funds left over from the 2020 program plus \$1,300 from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and \$1,250 from the Mascoma Bank Foundation. This year 110 volunteers participated in our Community Build sessions.

- We hosted a series of open-access educational webinars on topics including heat-pump technology, electric vehicles, the new community solar project, and ways of reducing use of household plastics, along with a discussion about climate and energy legislation with Representative Tim Briglin. See links for the webinars at: www.straffordvt.org/energy-commission/.
- We worked with the Strafford Planning Commission to complete the Enhanced Energy Plan section of the revised Town Plan.
- And we are continuing to coordinate the new Community Solar project now in development on Alger Brook Road. (For more information, email energy@straffordvt.org).

In addition, Barbara and Wally Smith continue to work with community volunteers on the wonderful Strafford Edible Pocket Park, located alongside the river next to the playing fields. For a map and links to more information, see: www.straffordvt.org/pocket-park/.

The Energy and Climate Committee page on the Strafford town website, currently being updated, has helpful information and links to organizations that can provide services and financial assistance for your energy-saving and cash-saving projects: www.straffordvt.org/energy-commission/.

We meet (currently remotely by web-video) the second Tuesday of each month, 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
 Doc Bagley
 Matt Christie
 Susan Hodges
 David Lutz
 Tii McLane
 Barbara Smith
 Susan Tiholiz
 Jenevra Wetmore

INTERMUNICIPAL REGIONAL ENERGY COORDINATOR

The Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) program, hosted by the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), is a collaboration among seven towns designed to lessen overall energy use, lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and move to renewable generation of electricity. Strafford joined the IREC program in 2020, the program's first year, and thanks to the ongoing support of Strafford residents and the Selectboard, continued its participation in 2021. The program is guided by an IREC Steering Committee, made up of one representative from each of the seven towns. Doc Bagley and David Lutz, both members of the Strafford Climate and Energy Committee, served as Strafford's representatives, with David taking over for Doc halfway through the year.

The Climate Emergency Declaration, passed by Strafford voters in 2020 with a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2030, has been at the heart of much of the IREC work. I completed a municipal GHG emission inventory to understand where the town's emissions are coming from and track progress towards the town's net-zero by 2030 goal, and will update the inventory annually. I also conducted a community-wide GHG emissions inventory using the best available data.

The SECC and I partnered with Vermont Law School's Energy Clinic to develop a community solar array in Strafford. We identified landowners interested in hosting an array, selected Catamount Solar through a competitive bid process, applied for a permit to develop the array, and have held an informational meeting for Strafford residents. We hope to finalize the details soon and will have another informational session for any interested residents. Please contact me to sign up for the next info session!

Last spring, Energy Efficient Investments (EEI), an Energy Services Company, completed a no-cost assessment of the Town Garage, and developed a work scope to reduce energy use and significantly reduce propane consumption with the use of heat pumps. While the proposal did not get beyond the initial planning phase, the scope of work can be used to guide future decisions about the building, particularly with the influx of state and federal funding for these types of projects.

In order to avoid locking the town into future fossil fuel use with the purchase of new equipment like heating systems or vehicles, I drafted a Green Procurement Policy designed to encourage the use of efficient, renewable products, and guide purchasing decisions toward Strafford's net-zero by 2030 goal. The Selectboard adopted the policy in November, which can now be found on the town website.

Finally, since municipal operations make up only a small fraction of the GHG emissions in most towns, including Strafford, I have been working with the IREC Steering Committee on an IREC Climate Action Plan to

address community-wide emissions. This regional plan is designed to be action-oriented, establishing a work plan for the IREC and town energy committees on an annual basis to help move our communities to clean, renewable sources of energy that operate at lower cost. We are hoping to finalize the plan by the middle of 2022 and get to work immediately thereafter.

On behalf of TRORC, I would like to thank Doc Bagley, David Lutz, the Selectboard, and the residents of Strafford for making the IREC program possible.

Sincerely,

Geoff Martin

Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator, TRORC
gmartin@trorc.org; 802-457-3188 x3008



Skis at the Strafford Nordic Center

*Photo provided by Jeremiah Linehan
from the Nordic Center collection*

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
 Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2020, 2021 and Proposed 2022

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
GENERAL FUND Revenue					
Taxes/Fund Balance					
Balances Forward	\$ 51,622	\$ 32,154	\$ 32,154	\$ -	\$ 70,336 ^a
Current Taxes	330,804	340,960	364,779	23,818	349,031
Taxes/Fund Balance Total	\$ 382,426	\$ 373,114	\$ 396,933	\$ 23,818	\$ 419,367
Governmental					
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	\$ 20,555	\$ 20,555	\$ 21,822	\$ 1,267	\$ 21,822
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	118,441	118,441	137,049	18,608	137,049
Governmental Total	\$ 138,996	\$ 138,996	\$ 158,871	\$ 19,875	\$ 158,871
Interest					
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 4,472	\$ 1,400	\$ 2,074	\$ 674	\$ 1,400
Delinquent Tax Interest	7,778	10,000	13,664	3,664	10,000
Interest	547	400	384	(16)	400
Interest Total	\$ 12,798	\$ 11,800	\$ 16,122	\$ 4,322	\$ 11,800
Penalty					
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 12,542	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,112	\$ 3,112	\$ 9,000 ^b
Penalty Total	\$ 12,542	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,112	\$ 3,112	\$ 9,000

a - Balance Forward uses a surplus from a prior year to offset taxes and/or represents spending from reserves

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

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
Fees Total					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,492	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,540	\$ 40	\$ 1,500
Dog Violation Fees	260	300	20	(280)	200
Liquor License Fees	185	185	185	-	185
Other Fees for Services	4,066	3,750	2,445	(1,305)	3,750
Recording Fees	14,363	12,000	13,831	1,831	13,000
Recording Surcharge	5,187	3,000	5,014	2,014	4,000
Subdivision Permit Fees	200	400	1,100	700	1,200
Zoning Permit Fees	1,950	1,500	1,190	(310)	1,500
Fees Total	\$ 27,703	\$ 22,635	\$ 25,325	\$ 2,690	\$ 25,335
Grants					
Miscellaneous Grants	-	7,613	5,964	(1,649)	1,649
Parcel Mapping	\$ 2	\$ 100	\$ 5	\$ (95)	\$ -
Equal Education Grand List	707	-	706	706	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	6,010	6,600	6,001	(599)	6,600
Grants Total	\$ 6,719	\$ 14,313	\$ 12,676	\$ (1,637)	\$ 8,249
Donations					
Donations - Pocket Park	\$ 125	\$ -	\$ 733	\$ 733	\$ -
Donations - Town House	550	500	13,729	13,229	500
Donations - Tennis Court	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
Donations - Dogs	55	-	6	6	-
Town House Usage	550	1,200	750	(450)	1,200
Donations Total	\$ 1,280	\$ 1,700	\$ 20,218	\$ 18,518	\$ 1,700
Miscellaneous					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ 17	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	1,723	4,000	4,415	415	4,000
Recycling Revenue	1,166	1,000	4,372	3,372	3,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 2,906	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,937	\$ 3,937	\$ 7,000

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 11,700	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -
Conservation Trails	-	-	4,375	4,375	-
Energy Committee	1,300	-	2,710	2,710	-
Recreation Revenue	-	1,000	220	(780)	1,000
Independent Committees Total	13,000	1,000	16,305	15,305	1,000
GENERAL FUND Total Revenue	\$ 598,370	\$ 577,558	\$ 667,498	\$ 89,940	\$ 642,322
GENERAL FUND Expenses					
Administration					
Select Board Salary	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ 3,750
Select Board Expenses	126	515	327	188	515
Select Board Assistant	7,778	7,884	7,892	(8)	8,277
Town Clerk/Treasurer	44,077	44,678	44,720	(42)	46,905
Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer	36,163	40,625	37,127	3,498	42,455
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	26,996	27,607	27,607	0	27,607
Municipal Retirement	3,796	4,236	4,262	(26)	4,916
Social Security Tax	8,098	9,829	8,330	1,499	10,376
Unemployment Insurance	652	-	796	(796)	752
Workers' Compensation	1,528	1,370	1,370	-	1,277
Property & Liability Insurance	10,457	10,192	10,192	(0)	9,049
Financial Services	6,169	6,300	2,171	4,129	6,300
Administration Total	\$ 149,590	\$ 156,986	\$ 148,544	\$ 8,442	\$ 162,178

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

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
General Services					
Town Office	\$ 18,782	\$ 21,250	\$ 23,022	\$ (1,772)	\$ 22,150
VLCT Dues	2,433	2,433	2,433	-	2,433
Town Meeting & Elections	861	1,000	1,724	(724)	3,500
Town Report	2,792	2,900	2,979	(79)	3,000
Auditing	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
Outside Audit/Professional Services	2,869	5,000	2,900	2,100	4,000
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	12,542	9,000	11,751	(2,751)	9,000
Listers	1,918	4,450	4,597	(147)	4,600
Lister Contract Services	14,420	14,490	14,511	(21)	14,649
Parcel Mapping	238	-	35	(35)	-
Police Services	28,246	25,500	22,513	2,987	25,500
Dog Officer	1,618	2,000	1,814	186	2,000
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	50,000	51,000	51,000	-	61,100
Emergency Management	-	10,150	-	10,150	10,150
Ambulance Service	48,312	50,904	50,508	396	53,606
Solid Waste	12,086	12,078	12,288	(210)	11,740
Recycling	20,943	19,500	19,127	373	19,000
General Services Total	\$ 219,260	\$ 232,855	\$ 222,402	\$ 10,453	\$ 247,628

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 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	500	500	-	500
Historic Conservation	425	250	-	250	-
Library	34,000	34,000	34,000	-	34,000
Orange County Restorative Justice	340	1,840	340	1,500	350
Orange County Special Investigations	340	1,840	1,500	340	1,500
Public Health Council	111	111	111	-	110
Red Cross	575	575	575	-	500
Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Senior Citizens Center	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Stratford Historical Society	2,000	2,500	2,500	-	3,000
Streetlights	1,125	2,600	1,139	1,461	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	\$ 51,075	\$ 54,376	\$ 52,665	\$ 1,711	\$ 53,560
Planning					
Development Review Board	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,132	\$ 618	\$ 1,750
Regional Planning	1,680	1,680	1,680	-	1,729
Regional Energy Coordinator	3,500	7,000	7,000	-	7,175
Town Planning	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Zoning	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Planning Total	\$ 7,305	\$ 12,430	\$ 10,812	\$ 1,618	\$ 12,654
General Government					
County Tax	\$ 43,375	\$ 45,027	\$ 45,027	\$ -	\$ 45,593
Leaseland Rent	-	85	-	85	85
Legal Fees & Consultants	1,011	4,000	797	3,203	5,000
General Government Total	\$ 44,386	\$ 49,112	\$ 45,824	\$ 3,288	\$ 50,678

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Municipal Building	\$ 7,344	\$ 36,100	\$ 10,334	\$ 25,766	\$ 58,407
Tax Sale Purchase	-	-	-	-	22,217
Town House	7,676	13,450	11,787	1,664	13,450
Town House Restrooms	-	500	320	180	500
Cemeteries	12,700	11,800	5,200	6,600	10,800
Recreation Areas	2,958	5,700	1,650	4,050	6,000
Pocket Park	316	-	1,654	(1,654)	-
Municipal Property Total	\$ 30,994	\$ 67,550	\$ 30,944	\$ 36,606	\$ 111,374
Grant Expenditures					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ 399	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grant Expenditures Total	\$ 399	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 1,854	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,014	\$ 986	\$ 4,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 1,854	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,014	\$ 986	\$ 4,000
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 12,228	\$ -	\$ 8,358	\$ (8,358)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	87	-	52	(52)	-
Conservation Trails	-	-	1,942	(1,942)	-
Energy Committee	-	250	4,996	(4,746)	250
Independent Committees Total	\$ 12,315	\$ 250	\$ 15,347	\$ (15,097)	\$ 250
GENERAL FUND Total Expenses	\$ 517,179	\$ 577,558	\$ 529,552	\$ 48,006	\$ 642,322
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 81,191	\$ -	\$ 137,946	\$ 137,946	\$ -

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

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
HIGHWAY FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Balances Forward	\$ 23,050	\$ 168,426	\$ 149,326	\$ (19,100)	\$ 196,431 <i>e</i>
Current Taxes	869,928	804,827	804,827	(0)	797,680
Taxes Total	\$ 892,978	\$ 973,253	\$ 954,153	\$ (19,100)	\$ 994,111
Governmental					
FEMA	\$ 7,717	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	42,820	224,117	221,660	(2,457)	246,585
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont Gas Tax	148,971	144,697	149,584	4,887	149,584
Governmental Total	\$ 199,508	\$ 368,814	\$ 371,244	\$ 2,430	\$ 396,169
Loans					
Loan Proceeds	\$ 174,631	\$ -	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ - <i>f</i>
Loans Total	\$ 174,631	\$ -	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 43,825	\$ -	\$ 11,403	\$ 11,403	\$ -
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 43,825	\$ -	\$ 11,403	\$ 11,403	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue	\$ 1,310,942	\$ 1,342,067	\$ 1,446,800	\$ 104,732	\$ 1,390,280
HIGHWAY FUND Expenses					
Labor & Benefits					
Highway Department Labor	\$ 214,480	\$ 231,333	\$ 208,009	\$ 23,324	\$ 233,722
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	46,118	39,952	41,792	(1,840)	34,000
Municipal Retirement	9,431	10,988	9,829	1,159	12,016
Social Security Tax	16,023	17,697	15,344	2,353	17,880
Workers' Compensation	14,629	13,328	13,328	0	11,046
Labor & Benefits Total	\$ 300,681	\$ 313,298	\$ 288,300	\$ 24,998	\$ 308,664

e - Balance forward includes a prior year surplus of \$177,825 and \$18,606 from the Equipment Reserve

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

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Contract Services	\$ 6,320	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,388	\$ 2,612	\$ 6,000
Materials	1,629	3,000	2,108	892	3,000
Recycling	233	500	255	245	500
Sidewalks	7,740	9,000	11,430	(2,430)	9,000
Mowing	10,241	10,250	8,685	1,565	10,250
Town Garage	36,341	29,300	29,125	175	29,300
Municipal Roads Permit	1,830	1,590	3,571	(1,981)	1,590
Municipal Property Total	\$ 64,334	\$ 59,640	\$ 58,561	\$ 1,079	\$ 59,640
Materials					
Chloride	\$ 18,571	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,353	\$ 7,647	\$ 12,000
Gravel	49,277	31,800	43,314	(11,514)	37,000
Miscellaneous Materials	6,108	20,000	9,443	10,557	20,000
Salt	52,759	65,000	51,396	13,604	65,000
Sand	32,922	33,000	31,406	1,594	33,000
Contract Services	22,550	10,000	6,808	3,193	12,030
Contract Services-Hauling	5,308	5,000	256	4,744	5,000
Materials Total	\$ 187,494	\$ 176,800	\$ 146,975	\$ 29,825	\$ 184,030
Bridges					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ 175,000	\$ 200,000
Bridge Grant Town Match	-	50,000	-	50,000	80,000
Materials	-	80,000	-	80,000	60,000
Bridges Total	\$ -	\$ 305,000	\$ -	\$ 305,000	\$ 340,000
Paving					
Paving Grant Contract Services	\$ 97,986	\$ 98,000	\$ 128,288	\$ (30,288)	\$ 98,000
Paving Grant Expenditures	-	-	175,000	(175,000)	-
Retreatment	29,750	35,000	29,750	5,250	35,000
Paving Total	\$ 127,736	\$ 133,000	\$ 333,038	\$ (200,038)	\$ 133,000

g - Guard rails, culverts, ditching materials, fabric, etc.

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
Grants for Public Works					
Highway Misc. Grants	\$ 48,585	\$ 71,396	\$ 86,471	\$ (15,075)	\$ 51,296
Grants for Public Works Total	\$ 48,585	\$ 71,396	\$ 86,471	\$ (15,075)	\$ 51,296
Equipment					
Capital Expense	\$ 174,631	\$ -	\$ 110,000	\$ (110,000)	\$ - <i>h</i>
Interest	15,361	19,190	19,502	(312)	16,711
Debt Service	81,664	116,933	115,656	1,277	135,248 <i>i</i>
Gas & Oil	38,661	55,000	45,769	9,231	55,000
Supplies	25,061	32,500	28,864	3,636	43,000
Insurance	8,457	9,311	9,512	(201)	9,190
Backhoe Repairs	3,328	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Grader Repairs	13,448	18,000	10,574	7,426	18,000
Loader Repairs	1,836	3,000	2,052	948	3,000
Mower Repairs	1,258	2,000	1,622	378	2,000
Truck 1 Repairs	4,679	3,000	2,420	580	3,000
Truck 2 Repairs	15,300	15,000	3,730	11,270	15,000
Truck 3 Repairs	9,391	3,000	3,279	(279)	3,000
Truck 4 Repairs	384	3,000	1,885	1,115	3,000
Equipment Rental	-	-	-	-	4,500
Equipment Total	\$ 393,459	\$ 282,934	\$ 354,866	\$ (71,932)	\$ 313,649

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

i - Principal payments for loans

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
FEMA					
Contract Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Labor	2,152	-	215	(215)	-
Materials	5,632	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Expense	182	-	24	(24)	-
FEMA Total	\$ 7,966	\$ -	\$ 239	\$ (239)	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 213	-	525	(525)	\$ -
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 213	\$ -	\$ 525	\$ (525)	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses	\$ 1,130,469	\$ 1,342,068	\$ 1,268,975	\$ 73,093	\$ 1,390,280
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 180,473	\$ -	\$ 177,825	\$ 177,826	\$ -
GARAGE BOND FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 45,068	\$ 43,434	\$ 43,434	\$ 0	\$ 41,805
Taxes Total	\$ 45,068	\$ 43,434	\$ 43,434	\$ 0	\$ 41,805
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue	\$ 45,068	\$ 43,434	\$ 43,434	\$ 0	\$ 41,805
GARAGE BOND FUND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000 <i>j</i>
Interest	10,068	8,434	8,434	-	6,805
Bond Total	\$ 45,068	\$ 43,434	\$ 43,434	\$ -	\$ 41,805
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses	\$ 45,068	\$ 43,434	\$ 43,434	\$ -	\$ 41,805
Town Garage Bond Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -

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

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 128,281	\$ 126,262	\$ 126,262	\$ 0	\$ 124,242
Taxes Total	\$ 128,281	\$ 126,262	\$ 126,262	\$ 0	\$ 124,242
HWY RECON BOND Total Revenue	\$ 128,281	\$ 126,262	\$ 126,262	\$ 0	\$ 124,242
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND FUND Expenses					
Contract Services					
Contract Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contract Services Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 122,222	122,222	\$ 122,222	\$ (0)	122,222 <i>j</i>
Interest	6,059	4,040	4,039	1	2,020
Bond Total	\$ 128,281	\$ 126,262	\$ 126,262	\$ 0	\$ 124,242
HWY RECON BOND Total Expenses	\$ 128,281	\$ 126,262	\$ 126,262	\$ 0	\$ 124,242
Hwy Recon Bond Grand Total	\$ (0)	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 1	\$ -

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

	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	2021 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2022 Proposed
ARPA GRANT FUND Revenue					
Grant					
ARPA Grant Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328
Grant Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328
ARPA GRANT Total Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328
ARPA GRANT FUND Expenses					
ARPA Grant Expenditures					
ARPA Grant Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA Grant Expenditures Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA GRANT Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA Grant Grand Total	\$ (0)	\$ -	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328
TOTALS					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 81,191	\$ -	\$ 137,946	\$ 137,946	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 180,473	\$ -	\$ 177,825	\$ 177,826	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -
Hwy Reconstr. Fund Grand Total	\$ 128,281	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -
ARPA Grant Fund Grand Total	\$ (0)	\$ -	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 2,082,660	\$ 2,089,321	\$ 2,283,993	\$ 194,673	\$ 2,357,977
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 1,820,997	\$ 2,089,321	\$ 1,968,222	\$ 121,100	\$ 2,198,649
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 389,944	\$ -	\$ 475,099	\$ 475,099	\$ 159,328

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ALL FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS
For Years Ending December 31, 2020 and 2021 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Hwy Reconstr.	ARPA Grant	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
ASSETS								
Cash	\$ 367,562	\$ 13,163	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 159,328	\$ 42,796	\$ 602,178	\$ 542,535
Delinquent Tax Receivable	65,062	-	-	-	-	-	65,062	98,782
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	1,265	-	-	-	-	-	1,265	13,157
Accounts Receivable	22,113	314,252	-	-	-	-	336,365	94,608
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 456,001	\$ 327,415	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 159,328	\$ 42,796	\$ 1,004,869	\$ 749,081
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE								
LIABILITIES								
Deferred Revenue	\$ 46,610	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,610	\$ 67,821
Accounts Payable	4,788	26,299	-	-	-	-	31,087	16,652
Accrued Payroll	1,676	4,090	-	-	-	-	5,766	13,070
Prepaid Taxes	3,160	-	-	-	-	-	3,160	4,074
Due to School District	49,795	-	-	-	-	-	49,795	80,572
Due to Tax Collector	4,769	-	-	-	-	-	4,769	6,459
Miscellaneous Liabilities	643	511	-	-	-	-	1,154	1,245
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 111,441	\$ 30,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 142,341	\$ 189,894
FUND BALANCE								
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 274,224	\$ 118,691	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 159,328	\$ 42,796	\$ 614,368	\$ 378,609
Unrestricted	70,336	177,825	-	-	-	-	248,160	180,579
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 344,560	\$ 296,515	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 159,328	\$ 42,796	\$ 862,528	\$ 559,188
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 456,001	\$ 327,415	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 159,328	\$ 42,796	\$ 1,004,869	\$ 749,081

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

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2020 and 2021

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Town Garage Fund	Highway Recon Fund	ARPA Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2020	\$238,768	\$ 268,016	\$19,782	\$ (452)	\$ -
Transfers Out (<i>See Note 5</i>)	(32,154)	(149,326)	-	-	-
Revenues	667,498	1,446,800	43,434	126,262	159,328
Balances and Additions	\$874,111	\$1,565,490	\$ 63,216	\$125,810	\$159,328
Expenditures:	(529,552)	(1,268,975)	(43,434)	(126,262)	-
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2021	\$344,560	\$ 296,515	\$19,782	\$ (452)	\$159,328



Winter Carnival 2014
Amy Donohue Photography

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2021

2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor/Mower

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
August 8, 2022	\$ 22,845	\$ 3,014	\$ 19,832	\$ 63,878
August 8, 2023	22,845	2,300	20,546	43,332
August 8, 2024	22,845	1,564	21,281	22,051
August 8, 2025	22,845	794	22,051	-

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$139,153.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2019 Int'l 4400 SBA 4x2 Fire Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
April 11, 2022	\$ 38,143	\$ 8,364	\$ 29,779	\$ 202,565
April 11, 2023	38,143	7,292	30,851	171,714
April 11, 2024	38,143	6,199	31,945	139,769
April 11, 2025	38,143	5,032	33,112	106,657
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

2020 Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
October 31, 2022	\$ 36,037	\$ 2,266	\$ 33,771	\$ 34,886
October 31, 2023	36,037	1,151	34,886	-

Terms: 3.3% interest. Original amount borrowed \$168,050.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2021 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
September 15, 2022	\$ 21,636	\$ 878	\$ 20,757	\$ -

Terms: 3.0% interest. Original amount borrowed \$174,631.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2021 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
June 30, 2022	\$ 24,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 22,000	\$ 88,000
June 30, 2023	23,760	1,760	22,000	66,000
June 30, 2024	23,320	1,320	22,000	44,000
June 30, 2025	22,880	880	22,000	22,000
June 30, 2026	22,440	440	22,000	-

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

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

2021	Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck	
2020	Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck	
2017	Ford Ton Truck with 2-way Everest Plow and MG 4-Season Side Dump 550	
2014	Western Star 10-Wheeler with MG Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing	
2015	John Deere 544G Loader	
2015	John Deere 410 Backhoe	
2012	772G John Deere Grader	
2018	John Deere 6110M Tractor	
2005	Dump Trailer	
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 – Landa Power Washer
1 –	20' x 20' Sand Screen	1 – Hydraulic Hose Press
1 –	Jonsered Chain Saw	1 – Culvert Compactor
4 –	Husqvarna Chain Saws	1 – Husqvarna Pole Saw
1 –	225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter	2 – Desktop Computers
1 –	325 Husqvarna Power Broom	1 – Printer
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, 2021

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. *Highway Reconstruction Fund*—The Highway Reconstruction Fund was established in 2012 to finance road reconstruction and non-reimbursable expenses from Tropical Storm Irene. *ARPA Fund*—The ARPA Fund was created in 2021 to account for pandemic-related aid for local governments received through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Note 2: ENDOWMENTS—This number represents both principal and interest of all endowments/trust funds for which the trustees are the Selectboard. Each endowment is shown further on in these statements. As of the end of 2019, these funds will be managed by the Trustees of Public Funds.

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>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2021</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND:			
Reserve-Town House	\$ 39,871.34	\$ 16,080.14	\$ 55,951.48
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	-	338.03
Reserve-Town House Spec Proj	9,312.66	-	9,312.66
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	8,165.00	5,014.00	13,179.00
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	51,519.29	6,707.00	58,226.29
Reserve-Tennis Courts	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
Reserve-Recreation	8,550.22	4,270.00	12,820.22
Reserve-Municipal Building	53,684.05	25,513.37	79,197.42
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	3,765.88	-	3,765.88
Reserve-Dogs	1,079.00	6.00	1,085.00
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	7,229.79	150.00	7,379.79
Reserve-Pocket Park	8,484.83	(920.45)	7,564.38
Reserve-Energy Committee	4,433.06	(2,285.58)	2,147.48
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	5,649.82	-	5,649.82
Reserve-Conservation Trails	-	2,432.81	2,432.81
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	4,521.38	642.42	5,163.80
Total General Reserve Funds	\$206,614.25	\$ 67,609.71	\$274,223.96

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2021</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
HIGHWAY FUND:			
Reserve-Equipment	\$119,590.63	\$ (900.00)	\$118,690.63
Total Highway Reserve Funds	\$119,590.63	\$ (900.00)	\$118,690.63

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

This section contains adjustments to fund balances in prior years, if any.

Note 5: TRANSFERS

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$ 32,154.00

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$149,326.00

Note 6: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of November 30, 2021, is \$66,235.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021

Grand List				
Real Estate			208,895,400	
Plus Equipment			1,000	
Less Exemption			(120,000)	
Less Current Use			(18,745,940)	
Less Local Agreements			(215,000)	
Total			<u>189,815,460</u>	
Total Listed Value				
Residential			109,886,600	
Special Exemptions			2,550,300	
Non-approved Contracts			62,500	
Non-residential			77,378,560	
Taxes Billed				
			Tax rate	Tax
General Fund	1,898,154.60	x	0.1796	340,909
Highway Fund	1,898,154.60	x	0.4240	804,818
Town Garage	1,898,154.60	x	0.0229	43,468
Hwy Reconstruction	1,898,154.60	x	0.0665	126,227
Local Agreements	1,898,154.60	x	0.0009	1,708
Homestead Educ.	1,098,866.00	x	1.6638	1,828,293
Nonresidential Educ.	773,785.60	x	1.6505	1,277,133
Total				<u>4,422,556</u>
Adjustments to Taxes Due				
Lister errors and omissions				(231)
Current use change				5,322
State Homestead Declaration errors				(21)
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration				537
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties				2,178
Total Taxes Due				<u>4,430,342</u>
Taxes accounted for as follows:				
Collections				4,312,113
Late billed taxes not delinquent				1,360
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2021)				116,869
Total Taxes Collectible				<u><u>4,430,342</u></u>

REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY**2021 Listed Values**

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	48,372,800	36,945,100	11,427,700	48,372,800
Residential more than 6 acres	103,354,100	67,595,700	35,758,400	103,354,100
Mobile home without land	55,800	25,400	30,400	55,800
Mobile home with land	1,631,300	952,700	678,600	1,631,300
Vacation home less than 6 acres	985,300	261,900	723,400	985,300
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,594,000	1,371,700	9,222,300	10,594,000
Commercial	4,169,400	347,700	3,821,700	4,169,400
Commercial Apartments	825,600	-	825,600	825,600
Utilities Electric	11,481,200	-	11,481,200	11,481,200
Farm	14,409,500	7,649,000	6,760,500	14,409,500
Woodland	10,009,900	448,000	9,561,900	10,009,900
Miscellaneous	3,006,500	-	3,006,500	3,006,500
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	208,895,400	115,597,200	93,298,200	208,895,400
Cable	1,000		1,000	1,000
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	208,896,400	115,597,200	93,299,200	208,896,400
Veterans' Exemptions	(120,000)	(20,000)	(10,000)	(30,000)
Current Use	(18,745,940)	(5,888,700)	(12,857,240)	(18,745,940)
Special Exemptions			(2,550,300)	(2,550,300)
Local Agreements	(215,000)	-	(152,500)	(152,500)
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	189,815,460	109,688,500	77,729,160	187,417,660
<i>2020 TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY</i>	<i>188,229,100</i>	<i>108,665,100</i>	<i>77,166,200</i>	<i>185,831,300</i>

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
Year Ending December 31, 2021

Name	Total	Name	Total
Bates, Robert E.	\$ 2,148.95	Kidder, Christopher	5,359.30
Begnoche, Jason (McPhee)	2,606.98	Lawrence, Duane Sr.	7,377.20
Bousquet, Carmel	368.16	* Linehan, John & Catherine	230.92
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	1,962.70	* Mundell, Samuel & Nathaniel	3,679.53
Burden, William, Dorothy & La'	2,708.02	* Mundell, Samuel	927.21
Churchill Family	57.07	Odell Revocable Trust	4,192.82
Churchill Tree Farm	10.52	Owen, Kate	3,573.30
Claffey, Keran & Rachel	3,183.23	Palmer, Stephen	11.69
Coburn, Lisa & David	1,482.77	* Ransom/Huyffer	33.17
Conant, James	869.18	* Ransom, Earl J	13.40
* Del Rio Properties	5,014.67	* Ransom/Huyffer	1.00
Downey, Kristen	48.06	* Rockbottom Farm	123.50
Dudley, Diana	227.41	Frank Savery Estate	1,924.75
* Gritzmacher, Gray/Thad/Grant	130.11	Stanley, Henry	1,378.50
* Harmon, Mary K.	36.27	* Traendly, K & Bohman, Y	232.20
* Jarnot/Boutwell	24.52	Traudt, Scott & Victoria	5,101.65
Johnson, John/Nancy	9,220.96	* Vidal, Noel	801.79
		Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2021	\$65,061.51

* Paid in full by January 26, 2021

	Total	2021	2020	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2021	\$ 65,061.51	\$ 62,936.23	\$ 1,045.82	\$ 1,079.46
Plus December Collections	58,863.73	53,932.30	3,797.44	1,133.99
	<u>\$123,925.24</u>	<u>\$116,868.53</u>	<u>\$ 4,843.26</u>	<u>\$ 2,213.45</u>
Previously uncollected		\$ 7,056.71		
2021 Delinq. Tax Warrant		<u>116,868.53</u>		
Total Delinquency		<u><u>\$123,925.24</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, 2021

	Total	2021	2020	2019 & prior
Balance January 1, 2021	\$ 98,781.93		\$83,951.66	\$14,830.27
Delinquent to Collector	116,868.53	116,868.53		
Subtotal	215,650.46	116,868.53	83,951.66	14,830.27
Collections/abatements/discharges	(150,588.95)	(53,932.30)	(82,905.84)	(13,750.81)
Balance December 31, 2021	\$ 65,061.51	\$62,936.23	\$ 1,045.82	\$ 1,079.46

**TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES
COMPARED TO TOTAL TAXES BILLED**

2012 - 2021

	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2013	98,441.60	2012	3,331,810.12	2.95%
January 1, 2014	60,587.42	2013	3,409,992.00	1.78%
January 1, 2015	62,386.58	2014	3,703,651.00	1.68%
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%



Aerial view of the Strafford Nordic Center

*Photo provided by Jeremiah Linehan
from the Nordic Center collection*

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

NAME OF CHILD	SEX	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	PARENT'S NAME	PARENT'S NAME
William L. Appleby	M	2/8/21	Randolph, VT	Madeleine H. Appleby	William R. Appleby
Arletta B. L. Teachout	F	3/19/21	Strafford, VT	Meghan M. Teachout	Cabot R. Teachout

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Susan N. Rogers	Strafford, VT	Kevin M. Grady	Strafford, VT	2/21/21	Strafford, VT
Lindsay A. Torrey	Strafford, VT	Linwood A. Vaughan	Strafford, VT	4/11/21	Strafford, VT
Blaize A. Schillinger	Strafford, VT	Benjamin J. Thibodeau	Strafford, VT	6/12/21	Perkinsville, VT
Kelley E. Welch	Strafford, VT	James A. Savery Jr.	Rocky Hill, CT	6/12/21	Strafford, VT
Hillierie R. Lashway	Strafford, VT	Robert W. Stone	Strafford, VT	8/21/2021	Strafford, VT
Brittany M. Davis	S. Strafford, VT	Jason J. Pedro	S. Strafford, VT	10/2/2021	Sharon, VT

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)**Deaths**

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
John F. Linehan	M	86	Stratford, VT	2/1/2021	Stratford, VT
Catherine L. Linehan	F	86	Stratford, VT	7/11/2021	Stratford, VT

Burials

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Gordon D. Bean	M	88	Lebanon, NH	5/22/2021	Evergreen Cemetery
Judy Lancor	F	74	White River Junction, VT	11/25/2020	Evergreen Cemetery
Russell G. Pixley, Jr.	M	75	Rutland City, VT	1/31/2021	Stratford Cemetery
William A. Burden	M	84	Lebanon, NH	7/30/2020	Stratford Cemetery
Nancy B. Lewis	F	93	White River Junction, VT	8/13/2021	Evergreen Cemetery
Lawrence B. Lewis	M	98	White River Junction, VT	8/14/2021	Evergreen Cemetery
Arthur E. Robinson	M	81	Lebanon, NH	8/16/2021	Stratford Cemetery
Mary H. Hill	F	56	Lebanon, NH	9/21/2021	Stratford Cemetery

These vital statistics represent marriages, civil unions, births, deaths and burials recorded in the Stratford 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

23	Male dogs
163	Neutered dogs
16	Female dogs
145	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,544.00

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 \$9 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$13 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: First offense – \$30 penalty; Second offense – \$50 penalty; Third offense – \$100 penalty; Subsequent offenses – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$200 penalty.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE: 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

VSNIIP

The Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIIP), under the oversight of the Vermont Economic Services Department, is administered by Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSAs). VSNIIP helps financially challenged Vermont residents spay/neuter cats and dogs for \$27.00. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters when dogs are licensed by an added \$4.00 fee, the major funding for this important program. Funds are determined by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law when a dog is six months of age. A current rabies vaccination is required to register, and a rabies vaccination can be administered after 12 weeks of age for both cats and dogs.

Prostate and mammary cancer are more likely to occur in unsterilized cats and dogs. It is not pretty and they are likely to die. Animals live longer and happier when they're spayed and neutered, are less likely to fight for territory, and mark what they claim to be "theirs"!

Licensing a dog: 1) helps identify your dog if lost, 2) provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal, but would still need immediate medical attention, 3) if your dog bites an animal or person – which could result in quarantine or possible euthanasia to test for infection, and 4) helps pay for VSNIIP, addressing the population situation in Vermont.

Farms with cats should especially be aware that one rabid cat or dog can affect an entire population of animals on the premise. The answer is neutering through VSNIIP which includes a rabies vaccination and the first of the two-part distemper series.

Look for Rabies Clinics in March across the state. You can call your veterinarian and ask the cost of a rabies vaccination only, or call your nearest Tractor Supply Store for their Monthly Rabies Clinic schedule. Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

To receive a VSNIIP Application, send a 9" S.A.S.E to: VSNIIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if it is for a cat, dog or both. For more information, call 802-672-5302.

Please visit our website: www.VVSAHS.org

VVSA will be hosting Rabies Clinics in March. Call for dates and locations.

The animals thank you in advance! Together we truly do make a difference.

Sue Skaskiw
VVSA Humane Society
Executive Director/VSNIIP Administrator

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2016 Market Value	12/31/2017 Market Value	12/31/2018 Market Value	12/31/2019 Market Value	12/31/2020 Market Value	12/31/2021 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 89,925.47	\$ 101,013.92	\$ 91,128.98	\$ 106,603.45	\$ 124,881.54	\$ 131,395.62	\$ 6,514.08	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 10,514.08
Gilman	9,386.12	10,773.12	9,953.52	11,916.77	14,239.47	15,344.71	1,105.24	-	1,105.24
Mix	90,408.31	103,768.11	80,873.64	109,325.32	130,633.94	141,620.11	10,986.17	-	10,986.17
Newton	107,837.57	121,452.37	112,212.51	134,345.54	160,530.85	150,074.55	(10,456.30)	23,500.00	13,043.70
Ordway	209,961.01	231,247.33	207,154.49	240,514.07	279,892.71	291,468.01	11,575.30	12,000.00	23,575.30
Robinson	8,296.04	9,521.96	8,797.55	10,532.79	12,585.74	13,552.94	967.20	-	967.20
RWW	22,197.20	25,477.32	23,539.06	28,181.95	33,674.90	36,431.82	2,756.92	-	2,756.92
SCE	5,866.47	6,523.37	5,827.08	6,726.43	7,787.48	8,386.82	599.34	250.00	849.34
SAA	3,901.46	4,477.99	4,137.31	4,953.36	5,918.82	6,336.50	417.68	-	417.68
ERF	13,801.16	15,840.58	14,635.46	17,522.19	20,937.44	22,591.80	1,654.36	-	1,654.36
CST	390,752.19	438,204.47	396,639.46	467,913.60	550,386.49	587,368.07	36,981.58	8,357.58	45,339.16
C-B A	51,614.09	58,241.20	52,810.32	62,226.74	73,355.36	78,507.55	5,152.19	1,000.00	6,152.19
STF	-	-	-	33,074.53	39,521.09	42,795.77	3,274.68	-	3,274.68
Total	\$ 1,003,947.08	\$ 1,126,541.73	\$ 1,007,709.37	\$ 1,233,836.74	\$ 1,454,345.83	\$ 1,525,874.27	\$71,528.44	\$49,107.58	\$ 120,636.02
<i>Disbursed</i>	<i>69,008.07</i>	<i>25,760.44</i>	<i>38,172.27</i>	<i>18,209.87</i>	<i>23,478.24</i>	<i>49,107.58</i>			

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds

Change before disbursements and additions

8.29%

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

INVESTMENTS

<u>Cash</u>		<u>Market Value</u>
Mascoma Checking (total of 2 accounts)		\$ 10,712.43
Fidelity Cash Account		-
Fidelity Gov't Cash Reserves (FDRXX)		67,492.35
Total Cash	5.1%	\$ 78,204.78

Fixed Income

JP Morgan Ultra-Short ETF (JPST)		\$ 172,619.95
Total Fixed Income	11.2%	\$ 172,619.95
Total Cash & Fixed Income	16.3%	\$ 250,824.73

US Equities

		<u>Market Value</u>
iShares Core S&P 500 ETF (IVV)		\$ 310,997.48
iShares US Medical Devices ETF (IHI)		150,086.02
Invesco QQQ Trust (QQQ)		75,989.35
iShares Core S&P US Growth ETF (IUSG)		239,721.72
iShares S&P Mid-Cap ETF (IJH)		73,883.88
iShares S&P Small-Cap ETF (IJR)		74,431.50
Total US Equities	60.2%	\$ 925,109.95

Foreign Equities

		<u>Market Value</u>
Vanguard FTSE Developed Markets ETF (VEA)		\$ 291,042.00
SPDR Portfolio Emerging Markets ETF (SPEM)		69,703.20
Total Foreign Equities	23.5%	\$ 360,745.20
Total Equity Funds	83.7%	\$1,285,855.15

End of the year total *100.0%* **\$1,536,679.88**

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 the poor and needy of Strafford. 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, Barbara Murray or Rose Silloway for assistance.

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). A report on the individual funds appears on page 48 in this report.

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

Faced with the increasing difficulty in recruiting new Trustees with the skills and interest to actively manage the investment portfolio for the Town, the Trustees decided in late 2020 to delegate management and investment of the funds to a professional advisor. We have been discussing and researching this situation for several years. While Vermont Statutes authorize the Trustees of Public Funds to make such a decision independently, we presented our plan to the Selectboard and received their support and approval.

We solicited investment management proposals and selected Mascoma Bank's Wealth Management Division. The funds were transferred at the end of 2020 and were reinvested in early 2021 using MWM's ETF investment program. Unfortunately, there was an opportunity cost to the transfer, since there was a period of time when we were not invested in the market, but we nevertheless realized an 8.29% return in 2021, and our ability to make grants from the various funds was not impaired.

The Trustees distributed a total of \$49,107.58 in 2021 from the following Town Funds:

The Carrie Sanborn Trust distributed a total of \$8,357.58 via the CST Committee to provide needed assistance to multiple families and individuals in our community.

The Cobb Fund granted \$4,000 to the Strafford School Based Health Clinic.

The Community-Building Award Fund distributed a total of \$1,000 to Paul Kifner.

The Ordway fund distributed a total of \$12,000 to three recipients.

The Strafford Community Education Fund granted the PTA \$250 to support supplemental programs for the benefit of our Newton Elementary School students.

The Newton Fund distributed \$23,500 to the Strafford Historical Society for the replacement of the roofing on their new home.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hawkins
Elizabeth Ruml
Therese Linehan

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.

2021 Awards: Xia Gillespie, Peter North, Marian Zens

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 2021 Community Building Award—created through a generous bequest from Ned Coffin—was awarded to Paul Kifner.

For those who may not know, Ned and his wife Vi made their home in Strafford in the early 1970s. They had a deep love for the town and its beauty and a real appreciation for its people and institutions. Ned's contributions to Strafford continued after his death by funding an award to be given annually to an organization or individual who has made a meaningful contribution to our community.

Paul has played a valuable backstage role in countless community events for more than a dozen years, bringing clear sound and life to Strafford for all kinds of events, including: Town Meetings (where it is especially important to hear every speaker), Newton School's eighth grade graduations, symposiums, weddings, talent shows, memorial services and funerals, meetings, as well as the Summer Reading series at the Town House.

This last summer, to the delight of all villagers, he arranged the Concerts on the Common once again. Somehow, sitting on the Common amongst many friends and listening to beautiful music, brought a sense of great peace and healing to us all amid the difficulties of enduring COVID.

Paul's wonderful sense of humor, unfailing courtesy and willingness to always help, with a smile for everyone, is greatly appreciated. As a deeply humble man who gives of himself time and time again, Strafford is most fortunate to enjoy his steadfast, skilled and delightful presence among us.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Mikusa

Roz Finn

John Freitag

Rebecca Seibel

Brooke Wilkinson

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

The library made significant strides in 2021 toward returning to its pre-pandemic level of service without ever quite getting there. Most importantly, we were able to open our doors again to the public in June without requiring appointments. Curbside service, digital offerings and scheduled visits had allowed us to continue our basic functions, but it's hard to substitute for the experience of being able to simply walk in the library on a whim, browse the collection and visit with the librarian and other patrons. The past year also saw the return of the summer book sale, one of the library's major fundraisers. Although we have been able to continue our summer children's reading programs by moving them outside, the size and layout of the library made us uncomfortable about resuming after-school children's programming in our building. Fortunately, we have been able to work out an arrangement with One Planet to offer programs at the gym once a week. We're hoping that we'll be able to resurrect our holiday sale next December and, at some point, drop the mask requirement for entering the library.

We did completely close the library for a couple weeks to have the interior repainted — and are quite pleased with the results. Volunteer labor was crucial to the success of that project, as it is to so much of what we do. We also undertook some landscaping work.

Thanks to the support of the town, the work of the Friends organization, the generosity of our benefactors and conservative budgeting, the library remains in sound financial shape. Our budget has grown slowly and steadily over the years — reflecting both increased services and some rising costs — but we have not asked for an increase in town support for many years.

We hope that progress toward normal operations continues in 2022. In the meantime, we're grateful for our patrons' cooperation and understanding as we continue to adapt our operations to public health requirements. And we welcome all suggestions about how we can better serve the people of Strafford.

The Trustees of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

Cindy Binzen
Curt Albee
Rachel Kurland
Miriam Newman
Carol Wilson
Martin Frank

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2021

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2021	\$	32,328
Prior Year Adjustments		689
Adjusting Beginning Balance		33,017
Income		
Town of Strafford	\$	34,000
Friends of the Morrill Library		8,414
Endowed Funds		1,237
Grants		6,700
Contributions Income		7,610
Miscellaneous Income		122
Transfer from CD		761
Total Income + Transfers In	\$	58,844
Expenses		
Special Project: Interior Painting	\$	6,620
Materials and Programs		7,781
Personnel		32,015
Buildings and Grounds		5,230
Utilities (including telephone)		3,465
Administration		6,549
Interlibrary loan service		940
Electronic Catalog		470
Miscellaneous		305
Total Expenses + Transfers Out	\$	63,375
Ending Balance	\$	28,486
Reserve Account		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2021	\$	3,272
Transfer for computer purchase		(588)
Ending Balance	\$	2,684
CD		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2021	\$	25,190
Transfer from CD		(761)
Interest		571
Ending Balance	\$	25,000

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2021	\$	407,217
Transfers to the Operating Fund		
Swan Fund transfer		187
Downer Fund transfer		187
Ordway/Steele/Mattison Fund transfer		863
Subtotal	_____	405,980
 Market Value December 31, 2021	 \$	 453,231

STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

In 2021 our members responded to 85 calls for assistance which consisted of 61 medical calls and 24 fire calls. We had three members complete the Vermont Emergency First Responder training program and we have one member currently enrolled in the Vermont Fire Academy FFII program. These classes require a significant time commitment from our members and allow them to better serve the citizens and visitors of Strafford.

Three FAST Squad members have also been helping staff vaccination clinics offered by the Vermont Department of Health. At the end of 2020 we all began to anticipate the “taming of the VIRUS”. We’re still waiting, and believe me, we understand and share the continuing frustration with the need for masking and social distancing but it is still vital to protect those who are at higher risk for a poor outcome. Thank you for your efforts.

After much training we placed our new self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) into service in January. Our new SCBA will serve the department well for many years to come and allow members to work in ultrahazardous environments much more safely. These were purchased with a grant from FEMA, which covered 95% of the total cost.

We also applied for the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant and were successful. This allowed us to replace all of our aging portable radios and our two remaining outdated mobile radios. These radios play a crucial role in every call as well as the safety of our personnel.

We would like to thank our citizens for your continued support, whether you attend one of our fundraisers, make a donation at some point during the year, or simply thank one of our members your support is greatly appreciated.

Please make sure you have a reflective 911 number marking your driveway that is visible from all directions so we can easily find you in your time of need.

The following officers were elected at our annual meeting in January, 2022: President: Andrew Lane; Vice President: Mike Ekegren; Treasurer: Aaron Dotter; Secretary: John Lloyd; Fire Chief: Shawn Harlow; EMS Chief: Beth Preston.

Board of Directors: Mike Clark, Dustin Ray, Pat Kelly, Shawn Harlow, Beth Preston

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Harlow
Fire Chief

Beth Preston
EMS Chief

STRAFFORD FIRE & RESCUE

January 1 - December 31, 2021

Strafford Fire & Rescue had an unusually high expenditure of over \$230,000 in 2021. This is due in large part to the two grants we received from FEMA: the SCBA grant (\$79,523 received in 12/2019 but goods received and invoiced in 01/2020) and the radio grant (\$65,053). These grants do not cover the full cost of the purchase; the department makes a 10% contribution towards the total cost as well.

I. INCOME	Actual 2021
<u>Category</u>	
Town Operating Income	\$ 51,000
State of VT vaccination clinics	7,500
Donations	13,135
FEMA grant - radios	65,053
4th of July barbecue	2,481
Total Income	\$ 139,169

II. EXPENSES	Amount
<u>Category</u>	
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 4,365
EMS Supplies	4,067
Utilities	6,526
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	9,361
Insurance	11,177
Hanover Dispatch	12,108
Rescue Truck Financing	10,580
Other	3,735
Testing	3,479
Grant Writing	2,500
Training	550
Gear (PPE, Turnout)	6,371
Radios (FEMA grant)	67,085
SCBA (FEMA grant)	88,495
Total Expenses	\$ 230,399

BARRETT MEMORIAL HALL

This year of 2021, life at Barrett Memorial Hall again reflected the community experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. With vaccine distribution, outdoor summer activities resumed somewhat, but public health restrictions continued to put a damper on indoor community gatherings. As infection rates fell events were scheduled, only to be canceled a month or two later when a new surge arose.

There were two bright spots in our year! The first was to host the Creative Preschool for five weeks in the fall, when they were forced to vacate their quarters in the gym basement. The auditorium was transformed into a tiny wonderland, and we were happy to provide assistance so the teachers and parents could carry on. Then on December 4th we saw the successful return of the Strafford Holiday Craft Sale, with everyone vaccinated and masked. It was a wonderful way to welcome in the holiday season, and a heartening end to the year.

Summer 2021 was both hot and wet. We added dehumidifiers in the basement, which will be a summer staple from now on. We also explored heat pumps, and are reviewing estimates for their installation in Barrett Hall. Heat pumps would improve heating efficiency, and also enable cooling capability for future cooling-shelter needs.

We greatly appreciate the many generous donations, including a \$5,000 matching pledge (which was quickly matched!), that made the 2021 fund drive such a success. Community support is crucial to maintaining and improving the building, and sustaining Barrett Memorial Hall as a contributing asset to the life of the Town of Strafford.

Sadly, I close this report with the same words as last year—

As this report is written in January 2022, the pandemic is still rising, and we cannot foresee when Barrett Hall will reopen. We look forward to the day when the community of Strafford and our world are safe from COVID-19 infection, and can gather again to celebrate together.

Steve Marx
David McWilliams
Gretchen Graner
Barrett Memorial Hall Trustees

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As we write our legislative update to you in early-January, we acknowledge the pandemic whiplash we have experienced in the last year. While early-2021 brought a surge in COVID, we looked forward to springtime vaccines which promised a summer season ambling toward normalcy. The Delta wave reignited a health system crisis in the fall, with Omicron bringing holiday season infection rates we couldn't imagine only a few weeks prior, albeit with a COVID strain that may signal a more benign turn for the pandemic later in 2022.

Similarly, as the 2022 legislature opens, state policy makers are toggling between the severe challenges laid bare by the pandemic – our exhausted health care and education systems, the scarcity of housing and childcare, the shrinking workforce in our state, overwhelmed mental health and poverty programs – and the optimism that arises from Vermont's fiscal health and the resources available to address these crises. Largely the result of federal stimulus money and the state's increased sales tax receipts, Vermont has significant surplus balances in both its General and Education Funds, a far cry from recent years when we have opened the year with looming deficits.

The opportunity now before us is to use these funds to address long-deferred solutions in housing, childcare, health systems, and workforce development. Bolstering Vermont's climate preparedness and accelerating our transition to a decarbonized economy will be a critical focus of our investment in a stronger, more resilient post-pandemic Vermont. Despite this abundance of funding, both the governor and legislature are constrained by federal rules in deploying funds and the prudence to avoid near term investments that could lead to deficits down the road when the federal money runs out.

Beyond the investment opportunities and challenges before the legislature in 2022, the resolution of several policy debates in the coming months could reverberate through the next decade and beyond. Vermont has enormous deficits in its teacher and state employee pension systems. Assuming normal investment rates of return and statutorily required contribution rates, these public pensions are over \$5 billion short of necessary funding. Finding a solution that simultaneously honors our commitment to educators and state employees without upending our commitment to addressing the previously mentioned long-deferred, underfunded solutions across Vermont will be an enormous challenge.

While we bemoan the complexity of how we fund education, in recent decades we have taken pride in the equity with which education funding in Vermont is dispersed relative to most other states. We now know, however, that Vermont supports the education of students who suffer from poverty, or are English language learners, or who have special learning needs with fewer funds than necessary to actually provide an equitable education.

This year we will be exploring changes to our education funding system to address these inequities.

In 2022, the legislature will embark on its once-a-decade process of redrawing legislative district lines to reflect shifts in Vermont’s population. While one proposal would shoehorn every legislative district into single-member representation, we are hopeful the legislature sees the folly of that plan. This proposal would bisect many towns in the state such that different neighborhoods of the same community would have different representation. This proposal would divide our district in half with Thetford, Strafford, and part of Norwich with one representative and Sharon and the other part of Norwich in a separate district. With the boundaries of our current House district, we appreciate that each of the communities in this district is represented by two legislators in the State House, regardless of who the voters of Norwich-Sharon-Strafford-Thetford elect to represent them in Montpelier.

As always, we are here to serve you and thank you for playing your civic role at Town Meeting. We look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact us through the medium of your choice at the coordinates below:

Representative Tim Briglin
459 Tucker Hill Road
Thetford Center, VT 05075
(h) 802-785-2414, (m) 802-384-8256
tbriglin@leg.state.vt.us

Representative Jim Masland
714 Pero Hill Rd
Thetford Center, VT 05075
802-785-4146
jmasland@leg.state.vt.us



STRAFFORD AREA LIONS CLUB

The Strafford Area Lions Club is the local chapter of the largest service organization in the world. Started in 1986, Strafford Lions Club members have worked to help make our community a better place. In 2021, while we were limited by COVID restrictions, particularly in regards to having dinner meetings with programs of interest to the community and our ability to do eye screening at local schools, the club nonetheless remained active in service to our town.

Newer members of our club, including Willis Phelps, Neal MacPhail, Cabot Teachout, and Jason Schumacher, took the lead on the Lions Club Rope Tow on Harrington Hill. Having the tow and a place where outside recreational activity could take place was particularly valuable in this time of so many restrictions. Club member Jane Whelihan kept people busy in the winter with a project she headed having people make lap robes for those in hospitals and nursing homes. The club also continued its annual “food from the heart” drive to benefit local food shelves and its mud season rose sale to support club projects. Improvements were made at the Lions Club Pond this past summer including trimming trees, adding more sand and repair of picnic tables and the dock. A highlight of the summer was the outdoor event honoring Barbara Murray as Citizen of the Year. The homemade pie sale before Thanksgiving and the Memory Tree at Barrett Hall were also successful. The year ended with the Lions Club sponsoring a revitalized midnight run on New Year’s Eve on the common which was great fun and is sure to be repeated next year. Besides its own projects, the Lions Club supports many others including the recycling center and regional programs for those with eye and hearing difficulties.

New club members include Mary Mulloy, Jane Gibson, and returning to the club, Roz Finn. Roz’s energy and willingness to push the limits, like her participation in the midnight run, keeps us on our toes. One of the real strengths of the club is its mixture of older and newer residents. The club has been particularly fortunate to have the guidance and leadership for over three decades from Melvin and Sue Coburn and Vince Robinson. We are always looking for new members. Contact Club Membership Chair Sue Coburn or any other club member for information on how to get involved.

Respectfully submitted,
John Freitag, Secretary

Opposite: Strafford Nordic Center

*Photo provided by Jeremiah Linehan
from the Nordic Center collection*

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TRANSITION: Sadly, we must report the passing of Stefanie Johnston, longtime Strafford Historical Society (SHS) Curator and Board Secretary, on January 18, 2022. She and her husband, Bob, Strafford's former historian, collected and collated Strafford's history and maintained its historical archives in recent decades. The simple fact is that she will be irreplaceable.

PROGRESS: On February 15, 2021, the Strafford Historical Society (SHS) acquired ownership of the Masonic Temple Lodge in So. Strafford. The token sales price was \$1. The actual transactional cost, including attorney's fee, sales transfer tax and property tax, was closer to \$10,000. Still, to a homeless Historical Society, it seemed like a bargain. We now owned a 1900-era building assessed at \$267,000. Then in June, a structural engineer's assessment of the roof, required for State grants, revealed rafter-failure in the roof. The building was subsequently closed to public access by the State Fire Marshal.

Approximately \$100,000 later, not an expense we had anticipated, we have a new reinforced and insulated roof, which came in under budget, thanks to Blake Spencer and his construction team, and a new metal roof put on by Flint, Blake & Boles (FBB). The roofing project took center-stage in South Strafford for several weeks this fall and our thanks to Blake and FBB for a great performance.

RENOVATIONS: Now begins planning for the extensive renovations necessary before the SHS can even occupy the building and we can only accomplish this by dedicating ourselves to a long fundraising campaign. As most know, the first floor of the Masonic Hall has been used, and in some cases perhaps misused, by a long list of previous tenants, who changed floor-plans, moved walls and even compromised the structural support system of the floor. This all has to be replaced where necessary and repaired where possible. In the meantime, the majority of our collection of documents and artifacts remains in limbo in the PakVan at the Park & Ride, the basement of the Morrill Homestead's Education Center and in the attic of a private home.

As we proceed with these renovations, we owe a growing debt of gratitude to the following individuals who have shared their expertise, advice and time: Architect Greg Colling, Rockwell Fuller, and Blake Spencer, our contractor.

FUNDRAISING: We have had some early success raising funds thanks to the grant-writing skills of Laura Ogden, SHS Vice President, with the Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Program, which should pay for half of the roof project, and a Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities grant, which will cover almost half the cost of a HVAC heat pump system. We are also grateful for the generosity of a number of local individuals as

well as grants from the Mascoma Foundation, the Byrne Family Foundation and the Trustees of Public Funds through the Newton Fund as well as all who participated in the astonishingly successful sale of the late Harlow Lent's artwork in July, due primarily to the entrepreneurial talents of SHS Board Curator, Kate Siepmann. Also, our thanks to all who contributed to the SHS through the Holiday Sale at Barrett Hall and to the Jeffrey Gale basket raffle just before Christmas.

Despite our fundraising efforts to date, our construction projections tell us that we must still raise at least another \$200,000 to pay for our other necessary renovations as well as for all the public safety and fire code-compliance work tasks, including ADA public restroom facilities and a new handicap-access ramp.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & LANDSCAPING: We are committed to limiting our carbon-footprint and making the Masonic Hall as energy-efficient as possible not only by the installation the heat pump system and insulating where possible, but we also intend to invest in a local community solar project which is due to come on-line this summer to limit the cost of our energy use into the future.

The SHS also anticipates enhancing the Masonic Hall's somewhat dowdy profile in South Strafford Village through an imaginative landscaping concept plan already taking shape through the efforts of SHS Board member Susan Cloke and local landscape architect Janet Cavanagh.

EVENTS: We continue to be grateful for all past and future support from you, our constituents. Since we all share our common history, all residents of Strafford are officially voting members of the Strafford Historical Society and all who attend our annual organizational meeting in August may participate. Regarding voting rights, this past August we were wonderfully entertained by Linda Radke, a singer and historian, who brought us a program of songs and stories dedicated to the passage of the 19th Amendment: "From the Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists." Among those celebrated in the struggle to obtain the vote for women was a Strafford native, Abigail D. Chandler, born here in 1829.

This year of 2021 was also the year that the Environmental Protection Agency completed its Superfund Project at the Elizabeth Mine. The project has lasted for over two decades and resulted in the remediation of more than 250 acres of contaminated landscape. We have memorialized the 200 years of the Elizabeth Mine's history in a series of six historical interpretative panels available to be seen on Mine Road and we look forward to sharing another six panels in the future.

Former SHS Historian Bob Johnston has edited a wonderful collection of all forty-three of the annual Town Report historical essays, entitled: "Reflections: On the History of Strafford, Vermont." It is an immensely entertaining and readable guide to Strafford's history through the centuries

featuring important moments, events, notable and historical trends and is available for sale at Coburns' Store.

WEBSITE: The SHS is in the process of upgrading our website: <strafford-vthistory.org>. Please check out our website to keep current with important SHS events, including the photographic progress of our renovation of the Masonic Hall. SHS Board Member David Webb, with the help and advice of volunteer James Taylor, have been working diligently to keep this website relevant.

Finally, my personal thanks to the dedicated and creative efforts of the Board members and staff of the Strafford Historical Society: Laura Ogden, Vice President; Roberta Robinson, Treasurer; Kate Siepmann, Curator; John Dumville; Jessica Tidman; Susan Cloke; David Webb; Scott Knoerlein; Gil Robertson; Carol Wilson, Registrar; John Freitag, Historian; and, of course, Stefanie Johnson, for all her past efforts as Secretary, Curator and protector of Strafford's history.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill State Historic Site and National Landmark is the homestead of Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill – author of the Land Grant College Acts. The site is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead (Friends). As with many non-profit organizations, 2021 was another challenging year for the Friends. Yet, with the help of Strafford residents and businesses, we continued to adjust our programming to meet changing circumstances and to support the VDHP in safely operating and maintaining the Homestead.

Although the Friends were sad to cancel our larger in-person events (Open House, Gallery In The Garden, and AppleFest) yet again, we were still able to provide a full calendar of outdoor events including art workshops, village tours, children's camps, nature walks, and an Abenaki story time. Both of The Friends online art auctions were successful thanks to all the artists who donated mini paintings and to Micki Colbeck for donating her paintings of Strafford. The Homestead season ended with an enlightening Abenaki speakers series attended by both in-person and virtual participants.

The Homestead's Victorian gardens, historic grounds, and heirloom orchard received much care and attention from the Friends in 2021. Our Master Gardener, AJ Zwickelmaier, along with two teenage assistants and many community volunteers, spent many hours maintaining the health and beauty of the gardens. Friends' board members care for the orchard under the Matt Perry's expertise. We are looking forward to planting some

additional historic apple tree varieties in the spring. The grounds of the Homestead are always open for anyone to enjoy.

In 2022, Morrill's historic home will be open for guided tours Fri.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm, May 27-Oct. 9. This summer the Friends plan to bring back our most popular events including Open House (June 12), Gallery In The Garden (July 1), and AppleFest (September 25) along with a full season of workshops, tours, camps, walks, and more! We are especially excited to be partnering with the Vermont Law School to host a symposium on the Morrill Land-Grant Acts and Tribal Lands. Please visit morrillhomestead.org for the complete calendar of events with all the details.

The Friends greatly appreciate VDHP's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections and the financial support from individuals, area businesses, and foundations whose generosity makes possible all of our activities. We look forward to seeing you and your families at the Homestead in 2022. Again, we would like to thank our neighbors and friends for your continued support of our endeavors!

Respectfully Submitted

Tracey McFadden, Director

Peter Floeckher, Board Chair



Full moon skiing at the Harrington Hill Rope Tow

Photo provided by the Newton PTA

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Athletic Association (SAA) is an independent non-profit organization, created in 1964. It is a 501(c)(3) 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. 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 began in the 1970s as a cooperative nursery school in the Upper Village of Strafford. An inspired group of parents and educators saw a need for young children and they founded the Creative Preschool to create space for togetherness, play, and exploration.

Over the years, the Creative Preschool has adapted to the needs of children, families, and community while remaining dedicated to providing experiences that are nurturing, playful, engaging, and developmentally appropriate for preschoolers. In 2004, the Creative Preschool moved to the lower level of the Rosa B. Tyson Gymnasium to allow for new opportunities for the community's young ones. The close physical proximity to the Newton School helped deepen the relationship between the schools and has supported the professional growth of the Creative Preschool all to the benefit of young children. While considering the future of Early Childhood Education in Strafford, the Creative Preschool looks forward to continuing this connection and collaboration with the Newton School for the shared mission of creating wonderful learning environments and opportunities.

The Creative Preschool offers programming Monday-Friday mornings from 7:45 am to 12:45 pm and until 3:30 pm Monday-Thursdays. Through Vermont's Universal Prekindergarten (Act 166) children that are 3, 4, or 5 years old on or before September 1st have access to 10 hours/week of free preschool. The Creative Preschool typically has a waitlist. Strafford children that are 3 and 4 years old are prioritized for enrollment but the preschool will begin making enrollment decisions in March/April for the 2022-2023 school year. Please reach out to Jody Lowes with enrollment questions.

Learning to operate, pivot, and adjust while maintaining normalcy for children during abnormal times has been the work of the last several years. Again, the Creative Preschool wants to thank parents and caregivers for their love and hard work in raising young children. Your children bring energy, creativity, questions, and a deep well of goodness to the preschool each day. This school year, the Preschool is made up of:

- 22 children ages 3-5 years old (operating with full enrollment of 18 children each day);
- Teaching team: Jody Lowes, Kate Reimanis, Kiersten Harlow, Beth Randall, and Ginger Wallis;
- Visiting educators for Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, and Early Intervention support as well as Music with Brooke Wilkinson;
- Board of Directors: Rachael Rich, Brooke Wilkinson, Erin MacPhail, and Jenn Perry;
- Bookkeeper: Meg Albee

The Creative Preschool would not be where it is today if not for the generous support, dedication, and engagement of this community. In times of ease as well as hardship, the people of Strafford have supported this preschool with words of support and honesty, deeds of service, wisdom from the past, and material and financial donations. The support that the Creative Preschool has received speaks to the value that this community has for its young people and its schools.

With Gratitude,
Jody Lowes, Director
(802) 765-4311
Straffordcp.info@gmail.com



Full moon skiing at the Harrington Hill Rope Tow

Photo provided by the Newton PTA

THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Cemetery Association is privately owned and run by an association. The Association is responsible for the sale of the plots and the maintenance of the cemetery. Only plots available are in section C. These plots are in two sizes: a full plot which will allow for four caskets or twelve urns; and half plots that will allow for two caskets or six urns. The Association not only oversees the maintenance of the cemetery (mowing and trimming) but also the cleaning and resetting of stones as needed.

The Association also places flags on all veterans' graves we are aware of. If you know of a veteran that is not receiving a flag, please notify a member of the Association.

At present there is no water available in the cemetery but the Association is planning on having a well drilled in the spring.

The Association strongly recommends that before buying a plot, you review the rules of the cemetery. The Association also recommends that if your plot has not been registered with the town clerk, you do so, and also, if you have not designated who will control the plot after you, it would be wise to do so. Both of these recommendations can be handled through the secretary of the Association.

Please remember: no solar lights, no shrubs over three feet tall, and artificial flowers are to be removed by September 15.

Officers of the Association are President Gary Kendall; Vice-President Greg Lewis; Treasurer Kerry Claffey; Secretary Bob Murray; Sexton C. Punka Brown; board of directors: Melvin Coburn, Barbara Murray, Ed Eastman.

New members are welcome and needed. Please consider joining.

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

Strafford is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, a Vermont municipality whose mission is to provide internet service to homes and businesses in its area. During the past year ECFiber added almost 1,700 new customers and now serves over 7,000 premises in 23 towns via 1,500 miles of fiber-optic cable. The district consists of 31 member towns, which, when fully built out, will bring fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) to about 31,500 locations over more than 2,000 miles network.

In Strafford, ECFiber has completed construction of its network. As of November, 2021, there were 392 customers along 62 miles of network.

ECFiber is funded entirely by customer revenues, which in turn back tax-free municipal bonds issued by the district to raise capital to build our infrastructure. This model is now the state's strategy for solving the rural broadband crisis and eight CUDs (Community Utility Districts) like ECFiber are working hard to get going. The once-in-a-lifetime ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds the state received for broadband have been put into the Vermont Community Broadband Fund. ECFiber and ValleyNet leadership were deeply involved in the work of the administration and legislature during the last session and continues to engage with the state and other CUDs in pursuit of the statewide goal of bringing fiber to all homes and businesses on the grid in our state. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged until we start service. Contact ECFiber at www.ecfiber.net or call 1-802-763-2262.

Strafford's delegates to the ECFiber Governing Board are Steve Willbanks, David Webb and Andy Behrens, who can be reached at strafford@ecfiber.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For the last 42 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'21 (10/2020-9/2021) 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 186 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and 4 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 148 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 65 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 80 individuals with information on assistive technology; 42 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 484 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program which served 35 people and provided 24 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. Due to the pandemic VCIL was able to start a new (temporary) program, Resilience and Independence in a State of Emergency (RISE) which served 415 people in its first year. The RISE Program can help provide an array of items or services if the needs are directly related to the COVID-19 epidemic.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Montpelier office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY'21, 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
- 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 web site at www.vcil.org

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

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

CVABE 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). CVABE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

On average, 1 Strafford resident enrolls with CVABE a year. In addition, 1 Strafford resident volunteered with us. 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.

CVABE provides free instruction for up to 450 people annually in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVABE \$3,927 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Nearly all students are low income. Close to 100 community volunteers work with CVABE'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 CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE'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 CVABE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Randolph Learning Center
10 S. Main St., PO Box 84
Randolph, Vermont 05060
(802) 222-3282
www.cvabe.org

SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The South Royalton Area Senior Citizen Center (SRASCC) serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Many times, seniors from other towns will come to the center for meals and other activities, all are always welcome. To qualify as a senior, you must be 60 years old or older.

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 and the other in Royalton, at the Royalton Academy building, serving meals on Tuesday and Thursday. We are fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford and Mary Lamb the cook for Royalton. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional required. We served a total of 15,047 meals for the year 2020-2021. The food cost per meal was \$2.62, total cost per meal \$15.65.

Due to COVID, many things had to change, the meal sites were closed down until August 2021 when they reopened with a soft opening. Numbers have remained low for attendance at the centers, however the curbside and home deliveries have remained high.

All fundraising had to be put on hold. The board of directors decided to close the thrift shop as of July 21st. This was a hard decision but we could not find employees and we had lost money for the last two years. The thrift shop for many years was the main fundraiser for the senior center. For the first time ever the board of directors sent out a letter of appeal to all four towns that support the center; thanks to the wonderful response we were able to cover all costs for the center. In addition, the center was granted money from both the state and federal government.

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

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 donated lots of fresh produce and fruits. We thank them all.

Strafford's Senior Representatives are Carol Wilson, Barbara Murray, and Sue Coburn.

Submitted by,
SRASCC Board of Directors
Martha Fisk, President
Kay Ingraham, Vice-President
Corrine Ingraham, Secretary
Susan Coburn, Treasurer



Sign from the 1950s Varney rope tow ski area on Harrington Hill, found this year in the upstairs of Coburn's Store (formerly Varney's General Store), passed on to the Strafford Historical Society.

Photo by John Freitag

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

As a private nonprofit organization, the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA Services are available to those age 60 and up, or to adults with disabilities. For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters to remain independent for as long as possible.

CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, including nutrition and wellness programs, transportation, mental health counseling, family caregiver support, volunteer services, healthy aging resources and opportunities, information and assistance, legal services, health insurance (Medicare) counseling, and case management services. Most of our clients are living at or below the poverty level. Our services are designed to help people live independently at home for as long as possible. Not only is this the preference of older adults, but has also been shown to offer significant physical, emotional and financial benefits to elders, their families, and our communities. At CVCOA, we are the leading experts and advocates in healthy aging for central Vermonters. We respect the wishes of aging persons to age at home, remain healthy, 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 we are the only community-based provider delivering care coordination, case management, information and assistance, and innovative caregiver supports directly to older Vermonters in their homes, at our office, or by phone. CVCOA also provides contracted services for transportation, legal, and mental health services. CVHHH and SASH also provide some case management supports in Central Vermont. CVCOA provides funding and technical assistance for 12 Meals on Wheels sites under contracts for quality assurance but does not directly produce and deliver meals.

Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more of the services listed below to 30 residents of Strafford. Central Vermont Council on Aging Case Manager Karen Eddy was designated to work directly with the seniors in Strafford.

- CVCOA Help Line – (800) 642-5119 – has the answers to hundreds of common questions from elders, families and caregivers.
- Information & Assistance staff counsel elders and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, housing, and more.
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.

- Nutrition Services oversees the menu development and technical assistance for home-delivered and Community meals and provides the largest source of funding for the 14 meal sites that prepare and deliver these meals.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, Medicare & You workshops (now on Zoom), and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Support promotes the well-being of the family members serving as caregivers to loved ones, including administration of the Dementia Respite Grant.
- Volunteer Programs provide direct service to community members. Volunteers offer companionship, transportation, assistance with technology, organizing, wellness classes, meal delivery, special event support, errands and grocery shopping, yardwork, creative guidance, and more.
- Special Projects and Programs are designed to help alleviate social isolation and loneliness, addressing the accessibility gap for homebound older adults.

In FY21, CVCOA mobilized 450 volunteers to provide direct service, deliver meals on wheels, support mealsites, provide wellness classes, assist with medicare information, provide companionship and creative encouragement, and more. These volunteers served 32,870 hours in Central Vermont communities.

CVCOA served 3,070 unduplicated clients in FY21, plus 6,585 additional interactions with community members for outreach and support. CVCOA services are free of charge. We do charge a modest stipend to private employers who request our Medicare & You workshop for their employees.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Strafford for their ongoing commitment to the health, independence, and dignity of those who have contributed to making the Central Vermont communities what they are today.

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the care they need within the comfort of their own home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their time of care.

VNH services reduce costs associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 VNH made 437 in-home visits to 21 residents. This included approximately \$23,703 in unreimbursed care to Strafford residents.

- Home Health Care: 283 home visits to 19 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- Long-Term Care: 24 home visits to 1 resident with chronic medical problems who needs extended care in the home to avoid admission to a nursing home.
- Hospice Services: 130 home visits to 1 resident who was in the final stages of their life.

VNH serves many of Strafford's most vulnerable citizens – the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, people with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs, and the uninsured and underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

Over the past year, this has included many telehealth visits for which we did not receive reimbursement. It is with your help that we are able to provide services like this to those in need. Strafford's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Hilary Davis
Vice President, Strategy Management
1-888-300-8853

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Twelve Local Health District Offices around the state provide health services and promote wellness for all Vermonters. More info on your local health office can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local>

COVID-19

It has been almost two years since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and in response, our families, schools, businesses, first responders, and countless other groups have worked to better protect the health of our communities. Together we ensured towns had access to the vaccine, testing, and other services needed to make more informed decisions about their health. As of December 1, 2021, approximately:

- 494,000 Vermonters received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 546,055 people have been tested and a total of 2,570,835 tests completed.
- Many COVID-19 resources are now provided in over 20 different languages.
- Up-to-date information, including town level data can be found on the Health Department's website:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity> .

Public Health Programs

In addition to COVID-19 response efforts, Local Health offices continue to provide health services and programs to Vermont communities, including but not limited to

- In collaboration with Town Health Officers and other local partners, we help Vermonters better understand the relationship between their environment and their health at a time when more of us are spending time at home with our families. Find information about environmental health and lead, asbestos, toxic chemicals, child safety, food safety, climate change, drinking water, and more at

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment>

- The WIC nutrition program continues to provide primarily remote access to services with phone appointments. In 2021, an average of approximately 11,300 infants, children, and pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding people were served by WIC in Vermont each month.
- As of November 23, 2021, 193,000 flu vaccine doses have been administered. Protecting people from influenza continues to be particularly important as the flu may complicate recovery from COVID-19.

Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov>

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE UPPER VALLEY

Thank you to the residents of Strafford for supporting the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (PHC) in 2021.

The PHC is the largest and broadest coalition of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. Our mission is to improve the health of Upper Valley residents through shared public health initiatives. We have become a trusted and solution-oriented convener that makes a positive difference in the lives of everyone in our region. The PHC is a force multiplier for the organizations, professionals, and citizens, who together make our communities healthier places to live, work, and play.

In 2021, PHC staff and partners worked together to increase collaboration, promote greater health equity, and address priority public health issues for the region. The greatest of these priorities was COVID-19 and its impact on our region. Our work this year has included:

- Hosted regular meetings for PHC partners to share information about pandemic resources and provide opportunities for sharing and problem solving.
- Ensured cross-border communication about COVID vaccination efforts and helped coordinate vaccine clinics as needed, primarily in New Hampshire given the two states different approaches to vaccine distribution.
- Provided staff support to Upper Valley emergency response efforts and committees within Upper Valley Strong.
- Hosted five flu clinics in rural communities, providing about 1,400 free vaccines, with support from Dartmouth Hitchcock, Geisel School of Medicine and many local partners.
- Continued health equity work by facilitating a committee to explore racism and health as well as consulted on several student projects exploring health equity issues.
- Collaborated with local school districts and the Hartford Community Coalition to ensure availability of summer meals for children in the region.
- Hosted Lead-Safe Practices trainings for local contractors and launched a webpage with childhood lead poisoning prevention resources.

PHC greatly appreciates the support we receive from Strafford and will continue to work hard to meet your needs in 2022. For more information about PHC, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org.

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.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Safeline continued to be available 24/7 for victims and their families. Calls to Safeline started to increase as survivors had more flexibility to reach out and as children went back to school where mandated reporters could contact authorities about potential abuse. Safeline provided 3,883 services for 315 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, 22 services were provided for 4 victims 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.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7 days 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.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking.

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

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

As one of 10 Designated Agencies in the state of Vermont, Clara Martin Center provides mental health and addiction recovery services for Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area.

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, hospital diversion, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services.

The agency continues to work with a wide variety of local partners to enhance community health and wellness including Stagecoach, local police departments, primary care providers, schools and supervisory unions, the Chelsea Health Center Board and local officials, to name a few.

With 55 years of experience and leadership under our belt, we remain positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve, such as the opiate crisis. Clara Martin Center is at the forefront of this epidemic, providing help to those in the community dealing with this problem.

For more information about Clara Martin Center services, visit our website at www.claramartin.org.

<u>FY2021</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	558	7
School Services	77	2
JOBS	61	1
Adult Services	825	6
CSP Services	153	2
Supportive and Transitional Housing	17	0
Substance Abuse Services	388	3
Corrections Services	91	0
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	292	5
Access	1,086	11
Total Served by Program (unduplicated)	2,119	20
CVSAS	350	0

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

At the October 21, 2021 meeting of the Upper Valley Ambulance Board of Directors, the proposed budget for 2022 was passed unanimously.

We have done our best to build a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of the communities we serve. This budget supports an ambulance replacement schedule that ensures we have the most up to date and reliable sources of transportation for the sick and injured that reside and travel through your communities. In order to keep up with the rising cost of living in our area and to have competitive wages in order to recruit new folks and hold onto the valuable ones that we have, as well as account for substantial raises in insurance rates, we are forced to increase our fees to the towns we serve. The Board of Directors and I have worked hard to cut the budget where we can to help make up for the increases in wages and insurance.

This budget allows for a 0.49% profit margin. This is an extremely small margin to work with, but we feel that with extreme diligence, we can continue to provide quality care and transportation with this budget.

Since there is no forecast for an increase in reimbursements by health insurance plans or Medicare and Medicaid, the increase in our expenses will have to result in an increase in the fee to our towns.

In 2022, we need to increase our per capita rate by \$3.00/person, bringing the total per capita rate to \$49.00/person. The 2020 census numbers are out and we will be using that data. The census numbers for the Town of Strafford are down by 4, bringing the total population to 1,094. When the new per capita rate is calculated, the total annual fee for the Town of Strafford will be \$53,606, which is up \$3,098 from 2021.

As always, UVA's policy is that our financial operations are transparent to our communities. Any member of town leadership wishing to review our books should please make an appointment with me to do so. In addition, as in previous years, I offer the communities the opportunity to schedule a time when I can meet with either your Selectboard or budget committee.

Upper Valley Ambulance continues to appreciate the support of the towns we serve, and we reciprocate by providing you with high quality emergency medical services.

Best regards,

Alan Beebe, Executive Director

AMERICAN RED CROSS - NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Disaster Response: In the past year, the American Red Cross has responded to 6 disaster incidents 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 Mass Care to first responders. Things like food, water, and warm drinks strengthen the brave men and women of your local Fire and Police Departments as they answer the call to keep your residents safe.

Town/City	Disasters	Individuals
Bradford	1	13
Corinth	2	8
East Corinth	1	5
East Thetford	1	3
Strafford	1	3

Service to the Armed Forces: We proudly assisted 12 of Orange County's service members, veterans, and their families by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

Blood Drives: During the last fiscal year, we collected 714 pints of lifesaving blood at 21 drives in Orange County.

Training Services: Last year, 329 Orange County residents were taught a variety of lifesaving skills such as First Aid, CPR, babysitting skills, and water safety.

Volunteer Services: Orange County is home to 1 American Red Cross volunteer. We have volunteers from all walks of life, who are trained and empowered to respond to disasters 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.

ORANGE COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJ) is a community based restorative justice program, offering cost effective alternatives to the Family, Criminal and Civil Court and the Vermont Corrections system. Throughout this year, OCRJC has remained committed to our mission and vision—building and advocating for a just community by providing restorative programs to address legal issues, wrongdoing, conflict and the needs of harmed parties; 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 Orange County communities to be safe, just and provide opportunities for all people to thrive.

We currently offer 10 programs: Circles of Support and Accountability, Court Diversion, Driver’s License Reinstatement Program, Pre-Trial Services Program, Reparative Panels, Restorative Re-entry after Incarceration, Safe Driver Education Program, Transitional Housing, Victims Assistance, Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021, 224 people were referred for services. Local volunteers provided 1,110 hours of their time to support 189 Restorative Meetings. OCRJC collected \$6,593 in restitution for individuals who experienced losses due to crime, and we paid out \$3,222 in emergency aid. OCRJC helped 70 people connect with mental health services, 25 people received help securing housing, and over 40 people were assisted with reinstating their driver’s license. In FY21, OCRJC worked with 3 cases where the incident occurred in Strafford. Each case involved at least one person responsible and the individuals impacted by their actions.

OCRJ’s FY21 operating budget was \$291,464. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. The Town of Strafford appropriated \$350 for FY21 to support the Orange County Restorative Justice Center. OCRJC requests \$350 for 2022 to support ongoing programs.

Thank you for your support! For additional information, find our website at <https://ocrjvt.org> or contact Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, Orange County Restorative Justice Center at 802-685-3172 or info@ocrjvt.org .

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

About the League. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state. The most recent audited financial statements are posted on our website, vlct.org/about/audit-reports.

Member Benefits. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 139 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal, consulting, and education services,** including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. During the past year, VLCT's timely legal and technical assistance included answering more than 4,000 legal questions and publishing guidance, templates, research reports, and several new groups of FAQs explaining how municipalities can implement the state's COVID-19 requirements. To support Vermont's towns and cities in responding to the pandemic, VLCT quickly researched, assembled, and distributed important information about fiscal impacts, grant opportunities, and how to hold public meetings remotely.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to officials** who carry out their duties required by state law, as well as pertinent statewide topics. In response to the pandemic, the League provided online trainings, a virtual week-long conference, and timely announcements and information from state officials about how to comply with requirements and access funding and assistance.
- **Representation before the state legislature and state agencies,** ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to respond to the pandemic, address road and bridge repair, tackle cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities. This federal partnership was instrumental in securing more than \$200 million in local pandemic aid through the American Rescue Plan Act, and ensuring it reached every city, town, and village in Vermont.
- **Access to two exceptional insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Employment Resource and Benefits (VERB) Trust provides unemployment insurance, life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products to members at a competitive price. Both programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are only available to VLCT members.

- **Access to a host of educational and informative materials and member conferences**, including a news magazine, handbooks, reports, articles, and events that all focus on the needs of local government and provide additional educational and networking opportunities.

At the heart of all these activities is VLCT's commitment to serving as a good steward of member assets, and we are proud of the progress we continue to make in that effort. Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions, and to access resources that can help them carry out the important work of local government. For a comprehensive list of member benefits and services, please visit vlct.org/memberguide.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit the VLCT website at vlct.org.



Sign from the 1950s Varney rope tow ski area on Harrington Hill, found this year in the upstairs of Coburn's Store (formerly Varney's General Store), passed on to the Strafford Historical Society.

Photo by John Freitag

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission is an association of 30 municipalities in east-central Vermont that is governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our member towns. As advocates for our members, we seek to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life. The following are highlights from 2021.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues – Our staff provided technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's citizens, non-profits, and businesses. TRORC staff assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, capital budgets, bylaws and studies. TRORC has applied for funding to assist seven communities review and revise their zoning to enable more housing construction.

Emergency Management and Preparedness – TRORC staff continued to serve on the State Emergency Response Committee, providing state officials with key local information to assist emergency planning. TRORC continues to assist local emergency management directors to meet the needs of our first responders. Again, this past year, TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. Having FEMA approved plans is a condition for many FEMA programs.

Energy – TRORC assisted seven towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goals to meet 90% of Vermont's energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. In addition, TRORC sought and received general energy plan implementation funds to assist town Energy Committees on energy efficiency outreach and education.

Transportation – TRORC managed the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region. This provides funding for towns to implement Best Management Practices (BMP) on municipal roads ahead of the state's forthcoming Municipal Roads General Permit provisions. Funding provides for projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, upsizing and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets.

Specifically in Strafford this past year, TRORC staff helped the Planning Commission update the Town Plan, assisted the Selectboard in determining eligible uses for the federal American Rescue Plan dollars and prepared a planning grant application.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

The most interesting thing about Recycling in Strafford in 2021 is that it cost the town noticeably less than in 2020. We could claim this was because of increased diligence on the part of our volunteers and recyclers, but it was basically because of the luck of commodity markets. We went from paying \$117/ton for the plastic containers and metal cans in the commingled bin in January to paying \$23/ton in December. We went from receiving \$19/ton for cardboard in January to receiving \$114/ton in December. Similarly, mixed paper swung from paying \$21/ton to receiving \$44/ton in October, settling back to receiving \$22/ton in December. These sorts of swings meant that instead of the roughly \$19,000 the town paid in 2020, the overall cost for the town in 2021 was around \$15,000. These numbers indicate that the commodity prices can make a difference to the recycling budget, but the overwhelming part of the cost to the town comes from haul charges. The committee works to minimize these charges by trying to avoid getting only partly filled bins hauled. This means that on an occasional Saturday, if the amount of recyclers is unexpectedly large, it may be that a bin gets overfilled before noon and has to be closed off. We hope that recyclers will see the bigger picture and appreciate that the inconvenience this causes fits into efforts to keep recycling affordable for the town.

As with everyone else, we were hoping that COVID would be behind us at this point, but we aren't quite there yet. People have been very good about wearing masks when recycling, even though we are outdoors. This makes things more comfortable for our volunteers who have to spend three hours with a bunch of outside people. It is probably better for the community in general. We hope that with vaccination and mask wearing there will be no future disruptions to the basic recycling operation, as we had when COVID first arrived.

As always, for us involved with recycling what it is all about is the people who volunteer to come out on one Saturday morning four times a year to keep the Center operating. At the moment, we are actually about two people short for filling out our schedule so that it covers a full three months. If you have thought in the past about working at recycling, this is a great time to jump in (and summer is coming). If you have an interest, contact a Recycling Committee member, or talk to one of the volunteers on Saturday morning.

Michael Scanlan, Chair
Vince Robinson
David Harris
Scott Moore

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. In addition, the district offers technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV held three special collections in 2021 in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford. We collected 5.96 tons of tires; 9.5 tons of “covered” electronics; and 10.6 tons of “big” trash. GUV collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- 2021 data for paint and battery recycling will be available in January 2022. It was not available at the time of this report submission. Remember to take your batteries and fluorescent bulbs to the Recycling Center. Batteries and paint may be taken to participating hardware stores as well.
- 264 GUV residents (10 from Strafford) participated in three household hazardous waste events. 36.3 tons of HHW were collected. Total cost for three events was \$54,451.54, not including district labor costs.
- A majority of Vermonters are making efforts to sort their food scraps from their trash, either by backyard composting, drop-off at Fast Trash, transfers stations, or feeding to livestock. We are grateful for those efforts and we encourage those who are not composting yet to contact our office with questions and concerns. The state law banning food scraps from the landfill went into effect on July 1, 2020.
- Our school and business outreach was limited in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. As we all adjust to the new normal, our efforts begin to increase.
- GUV assisted in the second maple sap line collection event in our region at the South Woodstock Fire Station on November 6. It was organized by the Windsor County Maple Producers Association (WCMPIA), with help from the Northwest, Greater Upper Valley, and S. Windsor/Windham Counties solid waste management districts. Funding came from the WCMPIA and participants paid a nominal drop-off fee. 11 participants brought 4,368 lbs. of unwanted tubing and spouts. Bales of clean, uncontaminated material will be shipped to a processing facility in Texas where it will be re-processed into synthetic fuel. A 2022 event is planned, but not scheduled.
- 2022 GUV collection event dates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town listservs, and in newspapers.

In FY2021, Steve Willbanks once again represented Strafford on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors. We thank him for his dedication and ongoing support of our work. We also thank all of the recycling volunteers for their continuing support.

For information, call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@marcvt.org, or visit www.guvswd.org.



Jim Wilson & Dawson Tyson at Buena Vista, before the rope tow, from the 1930s.

Photo courtesy Buena Vista collection



1930s picture of Rosa B. Tyson, early Strafford skiing enthusiast and rope tow benefactor.

Both the ski school which provides lessons for Newton School students and the school gym are named for her.

Photo courtesy Buena Vista collection

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



Newton School Class of 2021

*Joel Strout, Oliver Ransom, Luke Miller, Willow Slayton,
Heidi Hewes, Rayne Waln. Not pictured: Casey Yunger.*

(Photo by Tracy Thompson)

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING**

March 1, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford School District are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to VOTE in accordance Sec.1(b)(1) and Sec. 2 of S.172 of the 2022 Legislative Session and signed by the Governor on January 14, 2022, BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT either via mail as provided by the School District and the Town Clerk or at the Town of Strafford's Town Clerk's Office on March 1, 2022, 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 question:

- Article 1.** To Elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office.
- Article 2.** To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Article 3.** Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023?
- Article 4.** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,545,997 which is the amount the school board 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 \$19,573.58 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.44% higher than 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 and one (1) School Director for the remaining two (2) years of a three (3) year term.
- Article 6.** Shall the voters authorize the School Board to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the audited fund balance of \$15,907 existing as of June 30, 2021?
- Article 7.** To fix the salary in the amount of \$1,600 for the School District Treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Article 8.** To fix the salary in the amount of \$600 for the School District Assistant Treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year.

Voters of the Town of Strafford will vote at the Strafford Town Clerk's Office located at 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford VT 05072. The Polls will open on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 9:00AM and close at 7:00 PM.

The legal voters of the Strafford 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: January 17, 2022

Strafford Board of School Directors

Aaron Dotter, Chair

Glenn Wylie, Vice Chair

Jessica Tidman, Clerk

Sarah Root, Member

Meghan Teachout, Member

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

The Town of Strafford School District Board of Directors will be holding a public informational hearing by electronic means on Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 1:00 PM to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2022 Annual Unified District Meeting Warning.

For information on how to attend the remote hearing, check the school website: www.newtonschool.org

STRAFFORD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Informational Meeting about Annual Meeting SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021 – 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM MEETING

In attendance: Strafford School Board–Aaron Dotter, Mica Tucker, Meg Teachout, Sarah Root, Glenn Wylie, Moderator David Grant, WRVSU Business Manager Tara Weatherell, WRVSU Superintendent Jamie Kinnarney, Newton Principal Tracy Thompson, Moderator David Grant, Recording Secretary Becky Proulx

Community Members who spoke: Brett Tofel, John Freitag, Heather Waterbury, Patti Morgan (School Board Candidate)

1. Call to Order–David Grant, Moderator, overviewed the plan for today.
2. Additions or deletions to the agenda–none
3. To hear the reports of the School District Board of Directors–Sarah Root overviewed and read parts of the School Director’s Report. She introduced the current Superintendent Jamie Kinnarney. Sarah reviewed the work done during the year regarding the Middle School and PreK as outlined in the Town Report. Sarah offered quotes from students at Newton.

3.1. Public comment–Brett Tofel stated he is concerned about the Ashley Community Forest. He stated that the future value of the lost revenue is sort of glossed over by the folks who want the Town of Strafford to take over the forest. He stated that this may affect both Town and School budgets.

4. Review and discuss **Article II: To fix the annual salaries in the amount of \$500.00 per member for the School District Officers.** – Meg Teachout overviewed Article 2. Meg stated that this has been the precedent for the past two years.

4.1. Public comment–none

5. Review and discuss **Article III: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022?** – Aaron Dotter overviewed Article 3. Aaron stated that the article allows the school district to issue Tax Anticipation Notices to raise money, not to exceed the anticipated revenue. The money is used to cover payroll and other expenses until tax monies are available and the debt can be paid off.

5.1. Public comment–none

6. Review and discuss **Article IV: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,354,119.00 which is the amount the school board 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 \$18,382.33 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .22% lower than spending for the current year. Glenn Wylie overviewed Article 4. Glenn turned it over to Tracy Thompson, Newton principal, to discuss the budget from last year. Tracy overviewed the timeline from March 2020 to today. Tracy stated that one of the large focuses was on the social-emotional health of students. School reopened on September 8, 2020 for in-person learning. The configuration of the school needed to change to grade level classes from multi-age clusters. A SU Virtual Learning Academy was an option for instruction for families looking for an alternative to in-person instruction. Outside learning spaces were established for each grade level. Other than a week of distance learning in January, after the holiday break, Newton has been open for in-person instruction every school day this year. Tracy overviewed the focus of the work for the upcoming year- it includes enhanced practices in Outdoor Education across grade levels, more student voice and choice, and a more robust multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). The student support system works from data. Tracy shared some data from Star 360 grade 3-8 reading assessments. Tracy shared a graph with mathematics testing results. She explained that it shows very flat data. The budget, as proposed, includes a .5FTE math interventionist for next year. Tracy offered an overview of outdoor learning for students and professional development for Newton Staff.

Glenn overviewed changes to the budget. The music and art have been reduced from 0.4FTE to 0.3FTE, the guidance position has been reduced from 1.0 to 0.8 FTE. Changes for FY 22 also include an increase in professional development, an increase to 1.0FTE for nursing, changes to the interventionist position to allow for a 0.5 math and 0.5 literacy position. Jamie Kinnarney overviewed the changes to the central office for 2021-2022. Restructuring the SU Central Office includes a focus on fiscal responsibility. Jamie stated that when he began there were significant deficits that needed to be addressed. This was addressed by focusing on fiscal responsibility through a lens of proactive approach to student support. A previous position of Curriculum Coordinator was reinvested in the schools with personnel in student support. Jamie stated that they are projecting slight surpluses at the SU and in the Strafford District for this year. Jamie stated that they are investing in teachers and not programs. Jamie stated that COVID-19 really brought interdependence throughout the 8 schools. This allowed for networking for the principals throughout the SU.

Glenn stated that the FY20 ended with a General Fund deficit of \$149,261.49. A surplus of \$8,194 is projected for FY21. The FY21 General Fund deficit is projected to be \$141,067.49. Glenn explained that districts can carry a deficit for 3 years and that we are in year 2. This can be eliminated in two ways- incorporate it directly into next year's budget or finance it over 3 years. Over the next year the School Board will determine which is the best deficit elimination plan to pursue.

Glenn overviewed Per Pupil Spending, Equalized Tax Rate, and Final Tax Rate. Glenn reviewed revenue changes from last year. They include: a decrease in interest income (\$20,000), a decrease in tuition income (\$16,300), no transfer from tuition reserve (\$10,000), an increase in education spending revenue of \$50,370, an increase in transportation of \$1,265, an increase in Medicaid funds \$41,514, and a decrease of grants from the SU (\$39,500). The revenue totals differ by a decrease of \$2 from last year. The FY 22 Per Pupil Spending is proposed to be \$18,383.41. Glenn stated that the projected Yield has been adjusted from December 2020 to January 2021. This is a change since the Town Report went to print. The projected Yield has gone from \$10.763 to \$11,385. This is still projected and needs to be passed by the legislature. Glenn overviewed how the Final Tax Rate is calculated. The change in the Final Tax Rate is \$0.0632, The Per Pupil Spending is down \$39.74.

6.1. Public comment—John Freitag thanked the Board and staff for their hard work. John replied to Brett Tofel’s comments about the Ashley Community Forest. He stated that Brett’s characterization of the effect of the conservation gift is not accurate. John replied that the loss of the property tax will become a state-wide burden, not an individual town burden. John stated that we need to put up with the CLA and recognize that we are a property poor town. John stated that it was unfortunate to not see the fund balance deficits in the Town Report. John suggested using some of the tuition reserve to address part of the deficit for the coming year. John stated that he is concerned with the food program deficit. Glenn responded that the deficit was not addressed this year because the state was projecting a tax increase due to losses in revenue. Tara Weatherell clarified that page 140 of the Town Report lists fund balances. Tara stated that the FY21 projected deficit was reduced due to additional funds that came in since the last Board meeting from COVID relief funds. Jamie responded to the food service question. Jamie stated that there is a move to bulk purchasing of supplies to decrease cost and common menu planning to allow for bulk purchasing. Jamie stated that it would be a retroactive enterprise fund that would be assessed out the following year. The SU Board may act on this in March. Brett Tofel responded to John regarding Ashley Community Forest. Brett stated that once the property is moved out of private holding into public holding the revenue changes. John asked if Lisa Bragg or Tara could comment on Ashley Community Forest impact. Tara clarified how education spending is calculated. She stated she was not familiar with the Ashley Community Forest and could not comment directly. Heather Waterbury asked if Newton received money from the CARES act. Tara responded that CARES funds are received through the SU and reimbursed to the districts. The money has been used for increased personnel

for health checks, personal protective equipment, and some equipment.

7. Review and discuss **Article V: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to transfer \$8,000 from the General Fund to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund?** Sarah reviewed Article 5. This was part of the original agreement with the Strafford Athletic Association and needs to be approved every year.

7.1. Public comment – John Freitag clarified that the \$8,000 is not a fixed cost but an initial cost adjusted for inflation.

8. Review and discuss **Article VI: Election of School Directors**–David Grant stated that Glenn Wylie is running for the 3-year School Director position. Glenn stated that he is now the longest serving member on the Board. He is running again to support institutional knowledge in decisions. Patti Morgan is running for the 2-year term. Patti stated that she has lived in Strafford for 18 years. She has worked as a teacher and a therapist. She would like to work specifically to address the Middle School issue. Jessica Tidman, running for the 2-year term, was trying to connect by phone but is unable to connect.

8.1. Public comment–none

9. Review and discuss **Article VII: To fix the salary in the amount of \$1,600.00 for the School District Treasurer for the 2021-2022 school year.** Mica Tucker addressed Article 7 and 8. Mica stated that she has served for the past two years on the School Board. Mica expressed her congratulations to all the 2020 graduates. They are all named in the Town Report. Article 7 and 8 are required of the District by law. The auditors found that we have not consistently been putting this before the town as a vote.

9.1. Public comment–none

10. Review and discuss **Article VIII: To fix the salary in the amount of \$600.00 for the School District Assistant Treasurer for the 2021-2022 school year.**

10.1. Public comment–none

11. Discussion of other non-binding business – Sarah Root thanked Mica for her service to the Board.

To receive a recording of the link to a video of this meeting email Sarah Root at sroot@wrvsu.org. The recording will also be posted on the Newton School website newtonschool.org. David thanked the teachers, parents, and community members for all their support of the Newton School especially with the complications that COVID brings.

12. Meeting adjourned at 11:39 am.

**OFFICIAL RESULTS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 2, 2021

Moderator, 1 year term: David Grant 436

School Director, 3 year term: Glenn Wylie 436

School Director, 2 year term: Patti Morgan 194
 Jessica Tidman 242

Article 2. To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2021-2022 school year. Yes: 421; No: 44.

Article 3. Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022? Yes: 412; No: 49.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,354,119 which is the amount the school board 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 \$18,382.33 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .22% lower than spending for the current year. Yes: 388; No: 77.

Article 5. Shall the voters authorize the School Board to transfer \$8,000 from the General Fund to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund? Yes: 448; No: 22.

Article 7. To fix the salary in the amount of \$1,600 for the School District Treasurer for the 2021-2022 school year. Yes: 425; No: 40.

Article 8. To fix the salary in the amount of \$600 for the School District Assistant Treasurer for the 2021-2022 school year. Yes: 422; No: 43.

Total Ballots: 485

**STRAFFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF SPECIAL MEETING**

October 5, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford School District are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to VOTE in accordance with Sections 3 and 4 of Act 92, 2020 Adjourned Session and H. 48 (2021), BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT at the Town of Strafford's, Town Clerk's Office on October 5, 2021, between the hours of 10:00 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 article:

ARTICLE ONE: "Shall the legal voters of the Strafford Town School District continue to provide resident students in grade levels seven and eight educational programming at the Newton School?"

Voters of the Town of Strafford will vote at the Strafford Town Clerk's Office located at 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford VT 05072. The Polls will open on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 10:00AM and close at 7:00 PM. Voters are reminded that all mail in ballots must be received by October 5, 2021 before the close of the polls.

The legal voters of the Strafford 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.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

In-Person/Remote Public Informational Hearing

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Barrett Hall and Google Meet

Review and discuss Article 1: Shall the legal voters of the Strafford Town School District continue to provide resident students in grade levels seven and eight educational programming at The Newton School?

In attendance: Strafford Board Members—Aaron Dotter, Sarah Root, Jessica Tidman, Meg Teachout, Glenn Wylie, WRVSU Superintendent- Jamie Kinnarney, WRVSU Business Manager Tara Weatherell, Newton Principal Tracy Thompson, WRVSU Technology Coordinator Ray Ballou, Moderator David Grant, Strafford Recording Secretary Becky Proulx, Community Members—Curt Albee, Mary Malloy, Lori Mikusa, Steve Marx, June Solsaa, Roz Finn, Emily Orling, Cesar Alvarez, Martha Walke, Randy Coffin, Jason Loomis, Dana Riddell, Susan Hodges, Beverly Bilsky, Andrew

Lane, Jolin Eastman, Tim Denny, Carol Wilson, B Murray, Danette Harris, Eric Dennison, Jennifer Mullins, Joshua Maher, Judith Englander, John Echternach, Kimberly Hanchett, Meredith Kendall, Patty McIlvaine, Sarah Adams, Shannon Varley, Shawn Harlow, Sherm Wilson, Gabe Zoerheide, Aurora Berger, Leslie Berger, Sarah Smith, Sonya Schumacher, Beverly Bilsky, Emily Girdwood, Johanna Hawkins, Rod Sloat Tom Scull, Neil MacPhail, Therese Linehan, Elizabeth Ruml, Karen Odell, Andy Behrens, Nancy Grant

David Grant called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Aaron Dotter began the presentation. He thanked the members of past School Boards, the Middle School Task Force, the Newton School Staff, Nancy Doda, Scott Thompson, Lisa Bragg, David Grant and Community members who have attended meetings regarding this topic.

Aaron reviewed the history of the process to date. Aaron reviewed the materials in the mailing. He overviewed the three scenarios covered in the mailing.

1. Current operating structure
2. Tuition out grades 7-8 and maintain current staff levels with cuts to only 7-8
3. Tuition out grades 7-8 with significant changes in order to reduce spending and stay within the threshold for per pupil spending.

Aaron reviewed the financial consideration table from the mailing.

The current residential tax rate for FY 22 is \$1.6637.

Aaron presented a table that compared the education tax payments for all three scenarios and appraised home values.

Aaron reminded community members to vote by mail, by depositing a ballot at the town office in the ballot box, or in person at the Town Office on October 5.

Aaron stated that the School Board is not prepared to make a public statement today about how they are all planning to vote. If you would like to speak with them individually outside the meeting you can ask them.

David reviewed the process for asking questions and making statements.

June Solssa stated that both her children went through Newton and asked which kinds of programs can students get at other schools that they cannot get at Strafford? Would they get a better middle school education elsewhere? Tracy responded that during her first year as principal they sent students to TA for the afternoon for electives-for example shop, outdoor ed, choir, art, languages. Tracy stated that at Newton they now have music, art, and world language. This year they are doing a media course and some outdoor

leadership. Tracy stated that they are growing those programs. Students stated that they missed athletics, clubs and the social experiences. Tracy stated that they are building programs based on student interest. Glenn asked about sports. Tracy stated that Newton Middle School students are not part of the Newton sports program but that they can join sports at TA and TSA.

Beverly Bilsky stated that her two children attended Newton but not for Middle School. Beverly asked the larger picture for social-emotional development. She asked about the numbers for different experiences if students were transitioned out. Tracy stated that they had great plans and then COVID interrupted that. Trying to expose students to more people. Tracy stated that this year a multiage advisory has been established with co-teaching experiences to work on teambuilding. There are also cross-grade lunches and recesses. They are trying to build in a leadership capacity and get the students into the community more. Beverly asked about numbers from other schools. Glenn stated that Nancy Doda stated that the optimal number of students for a class is 12. Glenn stated that one benefit is the option to do leadership and mentoring more. Aaron suggested that folks watch the presentation from Nancy Doda.

Stephen Marx stated that it is about students reaching puberty who we are throwing out of our community. He would like each child to go through a ceremony when they reach adulthood. He would like to keep the school as it is and the students here.

Kimberly Hanchett stated that her only child is in 7th grade. Kimberly asked about the rate set by the state. Kimberly asked what the penalty is for going above the threshold. Aaron responded that for every dollar above the threshold each dollar is taxed twice.

Cesar Alvarez asked how it will be determined which of the three scenarios will be used and who will determine it. Cesar asked about options for options for music and theater. Aaron stated that the vote on October 5th will decide between scenario 1 or scenario 2 and 3.

Aaron stated that the difference between scenario 2 and 3 will be based on the budget put forth to taxpayers at the school district meeting in March.

Glenn stated that if community members vote to tuition out students they will then have a vote on whether they will be a choice town or have a designated school.

Meg stated that all of the scenarios are just “scenarios”, and the budget will be built depending on what is voted on October 5.

Sarah Root stated that we currently have control of 10% of the budget. Sarah stated that if 7-8 grade is tuitioned this will increase the size of the pie that the Board no longer controls. Sarah stated all cuts made then will be made to K-6 program.

Tracy stated that the current music position is 0.3 FTE and allows them to meet with each grade about 1 time a week. Tracy stated that they have in the past incorporated theater.

Gabe Zoerheide asked about scenario one. Does that assume that enrollment stays the same?

Gabe stated that the class size of 11 students in 7 or 8th grade has been a fiction. Gabe stated that people are going to pull their kids. He stated that it is disingenuous to have the scenario with cheap options. Gabe stated that Newton Middle School has and continues to fail the social-emotional needs of middle school students. It is too small for kids. Gabe stated that the fundamental problem is that it is too small.

Sarah stated that all the 6th graders from last year have gone on to 7th grade at Newton. Sarah stated that no one sits on the board to lie to the community. Sarah stated that it is not the intent to ruin the school or the community.

Jamie stated that the current enrollment and ADM – Average Daily Membership – were used to create the scenarios. The Equalized Pupil is based on the K-12 students, and it helps to create a tax rate.

Rod Sloat, former middle school teacher, stated that much of the conversation has been about money and there hasn't been much about the model for the emerging students. Rod stated that it is hard to learn how to work with 13-year-olds if there are only 2 other 13 year olds. Rod stated that the dollars and cents play into this but that he is not hearing what the Newton School can provide vs TA or TSA or another school.

Glenn stated that one of the presentations made to the community was made by the teachers and students.

Jessica stated that the Task Force was created to present options, not to come up with a plan, about what is the best practice for students. Jessica stated that everyone has their own idea about what is best for that age and we need to make a decision and move forward with what is best for the students.

Susan Hodges stated that she was privileged to homeschool her own children through 8th grade. She stated that a school is not able to meet all the needs of every student. Susan asked if the community is putting too much on the Newton School. Has anyone looked at how much time students would be spending on school buses in the different scenarios?

Sarah stated that when the middle schoolers were on the buses to TA that was one of the complaints. Jessica added that the Task Force looked at buses and all the local schools asked would offer bus services.

Andrew Lane stated that he has been reticent to speak in public because of his affiliation with TSA. Andrew asked about the reduction in tax rate for FY 23 in scenario 1.

Jamie stated it is based on the current staffing and health insurance.

Andrew asked who proposed the cuts in scenario #3.

Jamie responded that Tara, Tracy, and Jamie created scenario 3 based on how to get below the threshold without impacting universal/core instruction.

Andrew asked about including income sensitivity into the projected tax table so that community members could have a better idea about it.

Andrew stated that he was recently working with Nancy Doda and that she clarified that 13 was the smallest viable class size and that it is better to have 17-20 students per grade. Andrew asked about multiage academics – what was the decision to make grade-based academics vs multiage academics.

Tracy stated that one of the toughest challenges has been living in limbo and that they are doing the best they can right now. They will not begin down the academic road until there is a decision from the vote. Jamie stated that there is money in the ESSER budget to work with the Tarrant Institute to do a PD.

Lori Mikusa had 6 sons go K through 8th grade at Newton from the early 90s to 2014. Class sizes were 18-23 and those 6 sons went to 3 different high schools. Lori thanked the Board for their work. Lori asked about theater and if it would continue. Lori stated that for lacrosse and baseball her sons had to look elsewhere. Lori stated that sports had already opened up their horizons when they went to high school. Lori asked about the influx of children and are there projections for further class sizes. Lori stated that she loves what Newton has given the students for cohesiveness. Lori stated that the partnering of the older and younger students was important to her children and that it offers a little bit of added innocence for children.

Tracy stated that plays happen at the classroom level.

Tracy stated that they do not offer lacrosse or baseball.

Lori asked if there was a way to have more conversations with schools to have students play.

Tracy stated that TA and TSA were willing to have students.

Meg stated, regarding the influx of families, that in the informational booklet they list PreK numbers, and they have some numbers from the PreK study committee.

Sarah Smith, parent of a 5th and 8th grader, stated she would like to see more extracurriculars. With small cohorts it is hard to find other parents to carpool to other schools. Interested in music and cross country running.

Especially important for students who need that kind of interaction because they do not get it in other places.

Tim Denny asked if it was a binding referendum. The Board responded yes.

Emily Orling asked if they have asked the current families if they plan to take their students out?

Have they asked the students? Emily stated that these students are in the midst of a global pandemic. That they need art and music and clubs and sports and it is essential to prepare them for the world we are in right now.

Glenn stated that as a Board they have asked families in the past. They were hesitant to have the families of the middle schoolers make the decision for the town.

Sarah stated that a couple years ago the School Board invited families to come in and talk with the Board in executive session. Sarah stated that they had multiple meetings with parents to accommodate their conversations.

Jessica stated that it is a valid point to look at the numbers of students who might choose other options, but that the board voted not to send out that survey.

Meg thanked Emily for her beautifully stated thoughts.

Leslie Berger stated that no school is required to take Newton's students and that transportation is an important component to think about. Leslie stated that important stuff is happening at Newton right now.

Tim Denny asked if scenario 3 would diminish the experience of grades K-6? Aaron responded yes.

Curt Albee stated that he was a teacher, he had children at the Newton School, he has grandchildren that go to schools in Vermont that are larger than Newton. Curt stated that when he was a school director there were 140 students at Newton. He stated that being a School Board member was his best job. Curt stated that it comes down to two things – leadership and teaching. Curt stated that going to a small school is hard work. Curt stated that many of the problems are not new – transportation, small classes, etc. Curt stated that he would like to keep the middle school in town.

Mary Mulloy asked if the State Board of Education must approve a re-configuration of the school. Mary asked if sending the students out would change that configuration. Glenn responded that the town has the last word based on the operating structure. Glenn stated that with ACT 46 the district was K-8 with designation. Jamie stated that Act 46 is now dead and the State Board cannot stand in the way of mergers or un-mergers.

Cesar Alvarez stated that parenting through the pandemic has been hard. Cesar stated that Newton has been an oasis for their family. Cesar stated

that what he is hearing is that their children need choice. They are likely to spend way more money than they have to send their children to a school that they need. Cesar stated that it is a question of equity. Does Strafford want to listen to what parents of children want? When he was looking for a place to move he chose Strafford based on high school choice and he believes that middle school choice would be a gamechanger. It's going to be about his children at the end of the day.

Roz Finn talked about her son and his attendance at Newton. Roz suggested keeping the students safe in Strafford as long as they can.

Andrew Lane thanked Cesar for his comments. Andrew stated that it is harder at a small school to reinvent or explore, when everyone has known you for your whole schooling experience. Andrew stated he also wrestles with the idea of equity. Andrew stated that he knows of 5th and 6th grade families who are thinking about leaving. Andrew stated that it is not about Tracy or the teachers, it is about the kid's growth.

Jason Loomis stated that he was moved by what Emily and Cesar said. Jason stated that the problem he is having, as a parent, is that education is messy, and we are currently nickel and diming education. Jason stated that doesn't have a sense of how taxpayers have the information to know whether Scenario 2 and 3 gut the elementary school. Jason asked if we have a sense of where we are going if we choose scenario 2 or 3.

Glenn stated that historically Strafford has been very pro-education. Glenn stated that there are districts in the state that routinely go over the cap. Glenn offered the example of Stowe. Glenn asked if we have that same demographic. Glenn thought no, instead we have some fixed income and older populations.

Jamie can get data on that – number of budgets approved over the threshold.

Jason stated that he is concerned by the cuts, and he doesn't feel like he is adequately informed to vote.

Aaron stated that Scenario #3 is just a scenario, and it is not necessarily what the end budget would look like. Aaron stated that the School Board needs community engagement and needs to know what community members are thinking. Please reach out to the Board with your thoughts.

Tom Scull stated that he looks at it from an economic standpoint. Also, it is not 1980 anymore. Tom stated that he does not see the option to offer all the things that TA and TSA and other schools offer. He thinks that we should be voting on the numbers. We should build a really great K-6 and we will attract more people and build a great program.

Steve Marx believes that if we get rid of 7-8 we are going to kill the school. Cuts are going to go to the K-6 program. Steve stated that there is no choice for students who don't want to go.

Therese Linehan stated that families move to Strafford to get tuition and then they move away. Therese stated that it is possible that all the Middle Schools in the Valley would close their doors to Strafford students. Therese stated that the feelings and relationships created at the elementary school continue on into high school citing organized events for Strafford high school students.

David thanked the School Board for their work.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

**OFFICIAL RESULTS
STRAFFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING**

October 5, 2021

ARTICLE ONE: "Shall the legal voters of the Stafford Town School District continue to provide resident students in grade levels seven and eight educational programming at the Newton School?" Yes: 331; No: 126

Total Ballots: 457

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

Since the last Town Meeting the Strafford Board of School Directors has worked through a number of challenges. We were able to bring the Middle School question to a vote last fall. We are grateful to all of those who engaged in the conversation on this issue and to all those who voted in October of 2021. In the end, the community showed strong support for Newton's 7th and 8th grades. With the vote comes a renewed commitment to providing a strong, diverse program that meets the needs of our students in a variety of ways. While the vote brought to a close a multi-year conversation between the school board and the town, now we look ahead to new challenges.

The School Board created a special committee to explore the question of providing a public preschool option in Strafford. The committee concluded several months of conversation and research in 2021 with the recommendation that the School Board should pursue the structural change of becoming a pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade district. The School Board thanks the members of the committee who donated their time and energy to this process. The subject of a public preschool option is a conversation that will continue to unfold throughout 2022.

Members of the Strafford School Board are proud to have adopted the WRVSU Anti-Racism policy in 2021. The policy is the work of many people over more than a year and it is a significant accomplishment for our town and our supervisory union to have adopted this policy.

The past year has also brought some significant changes to our school district. We no longer have a designated high school, since the Thetford Academy board voted to end our designation agreement in March of 2021. While this is a noteworthy change for the operating structure of our district, making us a high school choice town, we continue to have a strong relationship with TA. We have a Strafford representative on the TA Board for the first time in several years.

Managing the rising cost of a high school education is, and will continue to be, a challenge for the School Board even as we learn that Sharon Academy will de-couple its tuition from the statewide average for the next school year and beyond.

As we look at the school district's budget for the 2022-2023 school year, it is worthwhile to point out that the Legislature has eliminated the tax penalty for exceeding the per-pupil spending threshold for this year, meaning that we could consider a larger budget without incurring additional tax repercussions. In fact, we are pleased to bring forth a budget that actually lowers the educational tax rate compared to 2021. The details of this budget are presented in the following pages.

In closing, and as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times, we would like to express our gratitude to our teachers and administrators for continuing to provide the best education they can for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Dotter
Chair

Sarah Root
Member

Meghan Teachout
Member

Jessica Tidman
Clerk

Glenn Wylie
Vice Chair



Strafford Nordic Center

*Photo provided by Jeremiah Linehan
from the Nordic Center collection*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

In June of 2021, as the students were dismissed for the summer, the Newton staff had high hopes for a resolution to the COVID-19 pandemic conditions and envisioned fewer restrictions in the 2021-2022 school year. This did not prove to be realistic, and as the doors opened in September of 2021, we realized many restrictions would remain in place and impact our school, students, and greater community. Although there was progress, which allowed for some shifts toward a more traditional system, many safety conditions and guidelines would remain in place and continue to impact how we operate. The events of our world since March of 2019 have brought to the forefront the importance of the mission statement of our school:

Newton School Mission Statement

“To develop each child’s potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being. Through this process, we will enrich each child’s education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.”

Academic success, engagement and overall well-being remain essential components of our school and are even more critical in these unprecedented times. In the 2021-2022 school year all Newton students returned to in-person learning. Virtual learning was only used when positive COVID cases entered our building, which was infrequently. Bringing our students back to the building was critical for student achievement, social and emotional growth, and for the needs of our families. We continue to work within the ever-changing COVID guidelines and recommendations; I am grateful for the partnership Newton has with the other administrators within our supervisory union, and the leadership of Superintendent Kinnarney and Shane Oakes, our COVID Coordinator. The guidance and leadership they have provided has greatly contributed to the success and safety of the Newton community.

Academic Success: The academic success and growth of the Newton students remains a top priority of the Newton School. The academic performance of our students is assessed and measured regularly through local and statewide assessments. The results of these assessments are used to drive instruction, realign curriculum needs, develop intervention groups, and enhance the programs and services offered at our school. In the 2021-2022 school year the Newton staff volunteered to pilot a new assessment, Track My Progress. TMP was administered in the fall and the information gathered from this assessment helped to support our understanding of student strengths as well as need. Additionally, we continue to use other data collecting measures including the statewide SBAC assessment, the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment for literacy, and the Primary Number and Operations Assessment (PNOA).

Collecting data is the first step in the inquiry process. Through the ESSER funds provided by the Supervisory Union, we have added a full time math interventionist to our staff. The primary goal of this position is to identify and close the gap in the mathematical understanding of our students. Newton also maintains a half-time Literacy Interventionist who facilitates the same work with a focus on literacy. Currently one-fourth of our students receive intervention services either individually or in small groups.

The town vote in the fall demonstrated a strong commitment to the middle school at Newton. The proposed budget reflects this support and returns a fourth teaching position to the middle school team. The accomplishments and hard work of the middle school team is evident in their daily work. In the past two years Newton has formed an Advisory Program, Flexible Pathway opportunities, increased student choice, increased Media within the curriculum, and begun efforts to build a team across the 5th-8th grades. We are committed to the continuation of this work and offering a diverse range of learning opportunities to our middle school students.

Overall Well-being: The overall well-being of our community remains the primary focus of our work. This is not simply the physical health of our students and staff, but also the social-emotional well-being of all within our community. There is no doubt this need has become even more important as we work in unexpected times. With this awareness, the Newton staff worked together for a week in the summer to create a roadmap to support the student needs. The development of the “Roadrunner Roadmap” has allowed us the opportunity to establish consistencies across grade levels, plan for safe school wide initiatives, establish common language, and increase the number of trusted adults present in each student’s day. Additionally the social-emotional health of our students is a focus of our current professional development and training. Throughout the school year, staff are working alongside Sam Drazin and Changing Perspectives to gain insight into the needs of our students and the resources available to support weekly classroom instruction in student wellbeing. A large component of this work centers on continuing the implementation of restorative practices and building the leadership capacity of our middle school students.

Engagement / Collaboration: The community of Strafford and the Newton School are forever intertwined, and we would not want it any other way. Community engagement and collaboration are the foundation of our small school. This is demonstrated in activities that regularly take place in our school. Examples of this include the winter ski program run by the Lions Club, the increased enrichment now offered to students who do not ski or snowboard, the development of a Drama Club and the coordination with our One Planet program. The work of our PTA in providing funding and support for artistic residencies, winter carnival events, and collaborative holiday celebrations, are further examples of the engagement and collaboration the Newton School has with its great community. It is the hope of

the school that, as we move through the conditions of the pandemic, we are able to reinstate many more shared school-community celebrations and opportunities.

As always, our challenge is to find the balance in each of these areas. The budget presented to you in this report supports the work outlined above and allows for the staffing needed to support a highly achieving elementary and middle school program. The Newton School recently received recognition for the work that has taken place in the past two years, and we look ahead in continuing to develop a middle school program that not only meets the needs of today's students, but also instills skills that are transferable to high school, college and into their adult lives. This involves problem solving, communication, self direction and citizenship. Our faculty and staff remain committed to this work, our students, and the community of Strafford.

I am often asked what it is like to be a school leader in the midst of the pandemic. This is certainly not a condition I have trained for or studied. Like the rest of my staff, the ever-changing needs have made for overwhelming moments. There is no doubt that this event has greatly impacted the work we do and how we do it. The greatest challenge in all of our work has been in finding the balance of academics, overall health and well-being and ongoing collaboration. In the 2020-2021 school year, we were asked to find ways to deliver lessons remotely as well as in person. This situation required new practices in how we instruct and present material to students. It also required us to shift to new ideas and take our own learning to a new level. Many of these new practices and new understandings have remained in place and have advanced the offerings and opportunities presented to our students.

This year in particular, I have made a conscious effort to take time to notice the things I am grateful for. There is no doubt that the ongoing support the entire Strafford community has shown to the Newton School is at the top of that list. When many communities are struggling with how to successfully manage during the pandemic, Newton is not. The partnership the Strafford community has with the Newton School has helped us to keep our students and staff safe while we continue to offer a high quality education to our students. I also have to add to this the tremendous gratitude I have for the Newton School staff. The last two years have required a tremendous need for flexibility and willingness. In true Newton fashion, the staff recognizes the students as their top priority and is available to help and support in any way they can. I am forever grateful for the staff of the Newton School and the greater educational community.

Tracy L. Thomsson
Principal

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

We would like to begin by thanking all of our students, parents/guardians, teachers/staff, administrators, and district boards for their continued support and perseverance as we have continued to navigate these unprecedented times of COVID-19. It is hard to believe that we will be soon approaching the two year anniversary of the historic move to virtual learning in the spring of 2020. We have worked diligently since last fall to implement in-person learning in as safe a manner as possible for our faculty/staff and students. We have also been working tirelessly with our faculty/staff and administration to implement a recovery plan that focuses on both academic and social/emotional supports. We know that the concept of recovery almost seems implausible when thinking about the current state of the pandemic, but we are indeed seeing appropriate rates of academic growth, while also ensuring that we are meeting the needs of our students socially/emotionally.

Our recovery plan is located here:

<https://wrvsu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WRVSUrecoveryPlan.pdf>

You will note that the plan aligns nicely with our articulated WRVSU Road Map for Success. The following are the three overarching goals of the WRVSU schools.

The WRVSU will form and sustain a comprehensive MTSS that:

- ***Utilizes evidence-based best practices in instruction***
- ***Utilizes student data to ensure student growth***
- ***Encourages a rigorous, innovative and relevant learning environment***
- ***Encourages the integration of PLP and Flexible Pathways to best meet the needs of all students.***

WRVSU will implement a PK-12 Proficiency Based Learning System. WRVSU school will utilize a comprehensive approach to ensure relevancy, rigor, and personalization. This will be achieved through the following:

- ***Curriculum***
- ***Instruction***
- ***Assessment***

The WRVSU will improve student learning and increase equitable educational opportunities through the development of a culture that promotes interdependence among all stakeholders and enhances student achievement, choice and voice.

These overarching goals continue to be monitored and reported on a monthly basis by all administrators to their respected school boards. In addition,

they continue to serve as our focus for continuous improvement. Therefore, all WRVSU programmatic initiatives and professional learning are aligned to and measured against these aforementioned goals. In addition, we have started to articulate quantitative indicators that will be used to monitor progress toward our outcomes. These goals and indicators can be found on our website at <https://wrvsu.org/wrvsu-roadmap-goals/>.

Through professional learning and collaborative planning, the Newton School academic data team leaders have strengthened their capacity to lead data-based inquiry discussions with their colleagues. Together they have identified school-wide questions about student learning, particularly in mathematics this year, that are informing classroom and cluster-level instructional planning and decision-making as part of a commitment to continuous improvement.

We are focused on creating a Supervisory Union that is a service organization – meaning that our work is consistently focused on supporting the work of our district educators, students, and families. To this end, we are working to ensure that our schools have their own identified mission/vision and identity that aligns to the values of their individual district. The Newton School is working collaboratively to ensure that their students have Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) that articulate their passions, drive relevancy throughout the curriculum, and are rigorous in nature. We are proud of the work that has gone into having successful student-led conferences where students can articulate their personal growth and academic goals and the proficiency-based report cards that have evolved with parent/caregiver feedback. In addition, Principal Thompson and her team continue to work in order to ensure that we are providing more enrichment opportunities that align to the visual and performing arts. There is still a great deal of work to be done, but this budget is a policy statement on supporting the community desires that were shared during the Middle School community forums over the past year.

We are confident that this budget provides the resources necessary to provide a high quality and responsive education for all students of the Newton School and Strafford School District, while also making certain that it happens in a fiscally responsible manner. We have worked diligently to curb spending at the Supervisory Union, while also leveraging Federal and State dollars to support our local districts via added revenue. We are proud that we were able to realize a surplus in the 2020-21 fiscal year that has allowed us to pay off the Strafford School District debt in both the general fund and food service enterprise fund, while also allowing us to ask your permission to place the remaining surplus in both the tuition and building reserve funds. We 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 are confident that this budget supports just that!

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 have the opportunity to create 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 deliver on these important goals.

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 stating how wonderful it has been partnering with the schools and getting to work beside some of the most dedicated and resilient principals, teachers and staff. I can attest to the effort that everyone is putting forth to continue to provide the necessary interventions for all students within the WRVSU community during these challenging times. The WRVSU Special Services Department continues to provide quality academic instruction, social/emotional learning, and behavioral supports to approximately 255 White River Valley Supervisory Union students who receive specialized instruction within our eight school buildings, but also within the seventeen receiving schools through the school choice option in our region.

It is important to note as of July 1, Act 173 of 2018 will be changing special education funding as we have known it to be. Act 173 will be changing the funding model for special education from a reimbursement model to a census-based model. This new model will allow more flexibility in how funds can be used, simplifying administration of funds at both the state and local levels. Act 173 also requires the use of census grant funds to continue to meet the special education maintenance of effort requirements and to carry out all requirements of IDEA.

In August and September, we were feeling the effects of the job shortage with several paraeducator, one speech pathologist, and a few special educator vacancies. Over time, we were able to completely fill the paraeducator and speech pathologist positions. We were able to secure a couple contracted virtual special educators to assist with student services and case management to make the work more manageable for the short term. We are

already in the process of interviewing prospective candidates to join our strong team for FY23.

The emphasis for this year has been and will continue to be enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to all students who require additional support. The FY23 budget contains the same number of personnel as the current budget. We will continue to support the professional growth of our staff so we can provide high quality interventions to all students using our own professionals instead of outside contracted interventions or alternative schools. We plan to continue further professional development in academic screening tools and executive functioning skill development. We are working on a partnership with a neighboring district to share resources that will enhance the support of our students needing more of a functional academic curriculum.

The WRVSU alternative program formally known as The Wildcat Institute, now referred to as Personalized Learning Classrooms, located at the campuses of South Royalton and Bethel Schools serving students in grades 3-12 have been impactful for several students in the areas of social/emotional learning and the ability to sustain increased academic rigor. Alternative programming for high school students was new this year and has been viewed as a needed resource allowing students to utilize flexible scheduling, specialized courses, personalized social/emotional learning opportunities, and the space to have a voice in their educational wants and needs for increased success. This has decreased the amount of students needing to be educated in alternative schools and the likelihood of students dropping out of school before graduation.

The overall FY23 WRVSU Special Education budget is \$7,844,018, which is a decrease of 3.32% from FY22. We have been very vigilant and efficient in our use of funds. We are taking a creative yet thoughtful approach to student programming and professional development opportunities so we can continue to bolster a rich Multi-Tiered System of Supports for all students at a reasonable cost.

With Much Appreciation,
Annette Rhoades
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; Jason Rogers, Associate Business Manager; Lisa Blair, Human Resources/Administrative Assistant to the Business Office; and Johanna Snelling, Accounts Payable.

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.

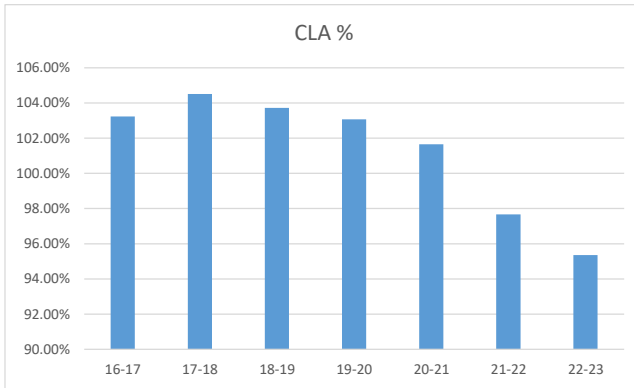
Developing the budgets for the 2022-2023 fiscal year had a couple of variables that were not within the Districts' control. The State of Vermont's significant \$90 million surplus resulted in a significant projected increase in the property yield. We were given two options for the yield depending on how the surplus funds are going to be used by the legislature. We chose to use the more conservative yield of \$12,937, a substantial increase from the FY22 yield of \$11,317. We will not know the final yield until the end of the 2021-2022 legislative session.

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.

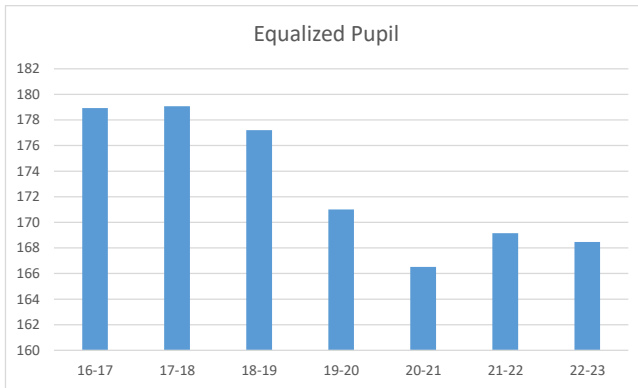
The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is another variable that the School District does not have any control of. In the majority of our 10 towns the CLA decreased resulting in an increase to each Town's Tax Rate.

The Common Level of Appraisal 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.

The following is a historical review of Strafford's Common Level of Appraisal:



Strafford School District did have a decrease in Equalized Pupil for the 2022-2023 school year from 169.16 to 168.47. The Equalized Pupil is based on two years Average Daily Membership data (ADM). The ADM is the full-time equivalent number of resident students whose education is paid for by the district of residence, from the 11th day through the 30th day of the school year. The ADM includes students in ninth through twelfth grade that the District is paying tuition. A two-year average is used to smooth out annual student population fluctuations in school districts. The following is a historical review of Strafford’s Equalized Pupil:



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 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years that we have available as of the writing of this report:

Secondary Tuition	2021-2022	2022-2023	Difference
The Sharon Academy	\$16,842	\$18,500	\$1,658
Hartford HS	\$17,200	\$19,500	\$2,300
Lebanon HS	\$17,459	\$17,924	\$465
St Johnsbury Academy	\$19,150	unknown	
The Thetford Academy	\$19,670	\$20,963	\$1,293
Hanover High School	\$21,399	unknown	
Woodstock	\$18,500	unknown	
White River Valley	\$17,800	\$17,800	\$0
Approved Independent or Private	\$16,842	unknown	

Each of these variables has a direct impact on the educational tax rate. The following is an overview of the Strafford School District's 2022-2023 projected budget as compared to 2021- 2022:

NEWTON SCHOOL	2021-2022	2022-2023	DIFFERENCE
EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	\$191,878
LOCAL REVENUE	\$243,277	\$248,436	\$5,159
EDUCATION SPENDING	\$3,110,841	\$3,297,561	\$186,720
EQUALIZED PUPIL	169.16	168.47	-0.69
PER PUPIL SPENDING	\$18,389.94	\$19,573.58	\$1,184
PRELIMINARY TAX RATE	1.625	1.513	-0.112
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.612	1.482	-0.130
PROPERTY YIELD (MAY CHANGE)	\$11,317	\$12,937	\$1,620
COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL (CLA)	97.67%	95.36%	-2.31%
RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.664	1.587	-0.077
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.651	1.554	-0.096

The following provides a breakdown of the Tax Rate Decrease:

- Expenditure/Revenue/Equalized Pupil/Yield equates to a decrease of .1147
- CLA reduces the tax rate decrease by .0375

The following shows how we calculate the tax rate:

1. Take the ACT 68 Education Spending of \$3,297,561 divide it by the 168.47 Equalized Pupil; this results in the Per Pupil Spending of \$19,573.58
2. Divide the Per Pupil Spending of \$19,573.58 by the \$12,937 Yield; this is the Equalized Residential Tax Rate of 1.513; a reduction of .112 from FY22
3. Take the Equalized Tax Rate of 1.513 and divide by the CLA of 95.36%; 1.5866 this is the Residential Tax Rate after the CLA. This is the tax rate projected to be on your homestead property tax bill.

Superintendent Kinnarney, Principal Thompson, 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

First, we want to thank our communities and schools for the tremendous support you have provided us over the years. It is due to your support that One Planet has been recognized again and again by the state as a leader in after school and summer programming. Even in the face of COVID-19, we have been able to offer our children and families wonderful learning opportunities. Thank you!

SUMMER 2021

We were pleased to come together safely and return to many of our pre-COVID summer camp elements. We engaged close to 300 WRVSU students in exciting theme-based projects for five weeks. Whether they were building useful inventions during “Rube Goldberg” week, preparing locally-sourced meals during “Farm to Table” or engaging in climate change experiments during “Power of One”, students had the opportunity to explore new high-interest topics. In addition, all students participated in a literacy and math block infused with hands-on learning. Our students were thrilled to return to off-site field trips as well, so participants enjoyed swimming at local lakes and pools, hiking, visiting Motio Rec, VINS, Killington Adventure Center and more. Also, we are happy to report our Counselor-in-Training program, which provides local middle school students with leadership and decision-making skills, was reinstated. After a multi-day training, CIT’s worked in our various camps.

Due to COVID’s impact on learning, One Planet and WRVSU administrators and teachers worked together to offer a highly effective summer intervention program. Students in need of targeted academic support were identified and referred to the summer intervention program. 23 WRVSU teachers provided intervention in math and reading to over 100 students. The teacher and parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive, so this will be a model for us to build on next summer.

Ultimately, it was a hugely successful and restorative summer, and a much needed break from COVID for students and teachers, allowing them to be well prepared for returning to school this fall.

FALL 2021

We are very fortunate to have a veteran team of Site Coordinators to lead our programs this school year.

South Royalton: Tara Tucker, 12 yrs with OP
Bethel: Amy Gray, 7 yrs with OP
Rochester: Jola Labejsza, 7 yrs with OP
Chelsea: Leila LaRosa, 5 yrs with OP
Tunbridge: Lindsey Cole, 5 yrs with OP
Stockbridge: Blythe Bates, 4 yrs with OP
Newton: Jennie Friedman, 1 yr with OP

In September, we also welcomed our new Assistant Director, Wendy Bordeau. Wendy comes from a background of collegiate coaching with strong leadership skills and a passion for kids.

This fall, our students enjoyed a variety of enrichments, including theater games, tennis, woodworking, drumming, various arts & crafts, soccer, and nature exploration. We know that learning in the COVID environment is taxing on students, so we have continued to focus on the physical, social and emotional needs of our kids. We are finding that, despite the long day wearing masks, students still love coming to One Planet. Despite the uncertainty and challenges COVID poses, One Planet continues to be a place where kids feel safe, have a voice and feel belonging.

WHAT’S AHEAD

Over the next few months, we have a number of goals to address:

- Our staff have been and will continue participate in a variety of One Planet and school sponsored PD to optimize learning and engagement among our students, including Conscious Discipline, Handle with Care and Social-Emotional Learning.
- All sites will be working through the annual Program Quality Assessment, which allows us to evaluate our program quality, identify our strengths and weaknesses and create an improvement plan.
- One Planet administrators will be working with WRVSU administrators to align our summer work to the larger MTSS efforts.

We look forward to continued collaboration with our communities and schools!

ONE PLANET SUMMER 2021 STATISTICS

	Bethel	First Branch	Newton	Rock-bridge	Royalton	Sharon	Summer Total
Camp Enrollment	48	40	43	40	55	63	289
Intervention Participants	17	28	16	12	20	13	106
% Receiving Financial Aid	33%	45%	28%	38%	55%	25%	37%
# of Meals Served	2,314	1,758	1,515	867	1,884	2,200	10,538

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

For over 200 years, Thetford Academy has thrived because of its reciprocal relationship with the communities it serves, including Strafford. The deep connections between TA and Strafford over the generations are rooted in our school's history and foundations, while the participation and interest of current residents help to shape TA now and into the future.

Thetford Academy's enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year includes 22 high school students hailing from the Town of Strafford, including six new ninth graders whom we welcomed onto campus this fall. The TA Class of 2021 included 53 students from throughout the Upper Valley, from Chelsea to Hartland, Sharon to Corinth, Hanover to Post Mills, Topsham to Thetford, and, of course, from Strafford. Congratulations to Max Higgins, Knute Linehan and Jackson Ransom, who received their diplomas last June in an in-person ceremony held outdoors on the Thetford Academy campus.

Recent program developments at Thetford Academy offer a window into the innovative and mission-driven ways we have responded to the pandemic, adapting our resources to keep our community healthy and students engaged. Two examples of note are the TA Summer Challenge and the school garden initiative. In July, we offered multiple academic sessions for middle school and high school students. Designed around principles of project-based learning, the summer sessions offered opportunities to engage with peers, enhance leadership skills, and pursue academic, outdoor, and artistic projects.

Last year, TA also brought a new level of focus and investment to the school garden. Our goals for the garden curriculum are ambitious and include adding to students' outdoor learning experiences year-round, cultivating indigenous crops, reinvigorating agricultural education, and growing some of the school's food supply on campus. The continued development of the Thetford Outdoor Program at TA has been an important part of our success during COVID. TOP's model of using the school's vast natural resources as a living laboratory and outdoor classroom provided a framework that we could easily adapt and expand.

Central to Thetford Academy's mission is our embrace of each student and the dual commitment we make to both nurture and challenge them during their years at TA. We cultivate an environment of academic excellence within a connected and supportive school culture. This is complex work that requires a team effort involving every adult on campus.

We are grateful to have educators from the Strafford community as part of our stellar TA team. Long-time math teacher and coach Jolene Cadwell (TA 1996 and current parent) makes a big impact on her students, in the classroom and on the playing field. One of our recent hires, Ehrin Lingeman, joined the Thetford Outdoor Program team to head up TA's

school garden. Dean of Students Siobhan Lopez (TA alumni parent) is on the school's leadership team and was awarded the employee of the year award in 2021, in part due to her essential role in helping TA navigate safely through COVID. Librarian Kate Owen has stewarded our classic library collection and inspired readers for over a decade, and more recently has guided innovations in digital teaching and learning. Our coaching roster continues to include standouts Amy Huyffer leading TA's alpine team and Eric Ward at the helm of the girls' basketball program.

I invite the community of Strafford to stay connected to TA and to reach out at any time.

The Thetford Academy Board of Trustees welcomed Sarah Adams, TA Class of 2001, as a new trustee and representative from Strafford in 2021. Our enrollment coordinator and ninth grade counselor Molly Dugan-Sullivan works with the Newton School to provide middle schoolers and their families information about TA's program and ease the transition between eighth and ninth grades.

I am also available to anyone in the community who wants to 'talk TA.' Now in my third year at Thetford Academy, I continue to make new connections and learn about the many communities that add to the richness of our school. I look forward to meeting more of you in post-pandemic days ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Brennan, Head of School
Thetford Academy

THE SHARON ACADEMY

What an incredible year 2021 has been. Like other schools, we started in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic with hybrid learning. We are all so grateful to have returned to face-to-face, in-person learning, allowing us to build strong relationships with our students. It is these relationships that we use at both the middle and high school to encourage deep learning. The joy in our buildings, from both the students and the adults, is palpable. Along with the challenges and transitions COVID-19 has brought, we have introduced some significant changes here at TSA.

In June of 2021, we said goodbye to 38 TSA Seniors from Barnard, Chelsea, Hanover, Hartland, Gaysville, Quechee, Randolph, Rochester, Sharon, Stockbridge, Strafford, and Tunbridge. These students will be attending two- and four-year colleges, gap year, Americorps, and the workforce.

At the high school, we have ushered in our Deeper Learning curriculum. Over the summer, teachers spent weeks re-thinking and innovating their curricula, creating more authentic, real-world learning experiences for our high school students. Paired with this change was also the decision to start the high school day at 9:00 a.m., in keeping with decades of research that shows that a later start time is beneficial to adolescent learning.

Two of TSA's longest-running Deeper Learning initiatives—the Middle School's annual Circus Interim and the High School's annual Musical Interim—were both able to continue in 2021, albeit with some significant alterations to keep everyone as safe as possible from the coronavirus. At the Middle School, we were able to seize a creative opportunity for our Circus as we welcomed TSA Alumnus Trabyrn Fisk to film the creative process and performance of the circus and broadcast it online. In true TSA style, students were involved in producing the video and collecting photographs. Despite the changes in venue and format, our students were able to focus on the deep learning of the circus—perseverance, team-work, collaboration, and creative problem-solving—all while having fun.

The same was true of TSA's 2021 High School Musical Interim—Disney's *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* It was a huge success. With altered seating at the Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, students performed this beloved classic to packed (but socially distanced) audiences in November. As always, students ran almost every aspect of the production, from designing and building sets to running the Box Office, choreography, marketing the show, and more. It is this real-world accountability and consequences that are hallmarks of Deeper Learning, along with the experience of intense communication, collaboration, and creativity. It was wonderful to return to the Chandler stage, after postponing our 2020 High School interim, then finally being able to perform it on an outdoor stage at the high school in June, 2021. Our students showed tremendous flexibility and creativity as

we all navigated a new way to envision the show: Disney's High School Musical.

Clubs have been introduced at the High School, with popular clubs including D&D, chess, traditional music, etc. This time allows students to investigate subjects outside of the normal curriculum, meet new people, and take on leadership roles.

In the Spring of 2022, we anticipate breaking ground on our new Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math wing (STEAM). Through a combination of fundraising and a loan from the USDA Rural Development, we are excited to have a building that will provide state-of-the-art lab space and flexible classroom space for building, art, music, and other classes.

Additionally, several of our High School students have spent the school year in a mentorship training program and look forward to mentoring students throughout the Upper Valley in 2022.

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.

This past year provided some continued hurdles as we tried to coordinate events that balanced COVID safety with what our school community has come to expect—and what we want to deliver! If at all possible, we try to avoid canceling events. Instead we have done our best to adjust traditional activities in order to make them safer, or to provide an alternative event.

Our typical Winter Carnival event morphed into Winter Palooza—a winter-themed activity sheet for students to work on over February break. A big “thank you” to Coburn's General Store and Strafford Organic Creamery for assisting us in this endeavor. They provided both patience with hoards of young people AND sweet frozen prizes for those who participated.

And, after taking a year off—Bike and Walk to School Day was back! The weather cooperated and it was a fun morning with a high percentage of students participating! Not only did students enjoy the commute, but they

were treated to a pancake breakfast once they arrived at school! We were also able to bring back the Fourth of July Fair this year (with slightly fewer activities) on the Common—and we had a great turn out despite the rain!

Last year, in place of our normal Halloween activities, we purchased enough pumpkins so that, with the support of the staff at Newton, each child was able to carve a pumpkin at school. These pumpkins were then transported to the Common for a Halloween night display of well over 100 pumpkins. This activity and display was extremely popular amongst students and the community and it made a reappearance this year—with pumpkins being displayed on Murray Field. It may be the start of a new Halloween tradition! A huge thanks to Kim Hanchett for helping make this event what it is! We also once again distributed candy for Halloween trick-or-treating to houses in the villages that chose to participate and many enjoyed welcoming back Strafford's ghosts and goblins...

The PTA was thrilled to get Sayon Camara Drumming to Newton for the Artist in Residence program this year. Sayon introduced students to the music, dancing and storytelling traditions of the Malinke culture from Guinea. Each class was able to have a daily lesson for a week and Sayon's presence at Newton even earned the students a spot on WCAX!

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. This year, they are being held either in-person or virtually as COVID case counts allow, usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 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
Kiersten Harlow, Treasurer

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET**

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021 APPROVED BUDGET	2020-2021 ACTUALS	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
0000 INTERFUND TRANSFER	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	TYSON GYM FUND TRANSFER
910 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	
1100 REGULAR ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 1,987,538	\$ 1,822,132	\$ 1,977,497	\$ 2,107,435	\$ 129,938	
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 517,805	\$ 490,237	\$ 532,886	\$ 614,639	\$ 81,753	Added 1.0 Middle School
102 PARA SALARY	-	-	-	21,500	21,500	Adding 1.0 FTE Para
103 SALARY SUB	8,800	970	10,000	10,000	-	
108 SALARY- GENERAL	-	-	-	-	-	
109 OTHER SALARY	3,000	-	3,000	4,000	1,000	
130 OVERTIME SALARY	-	-	-	-	-	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	94,695	88,873	106,282	133,414	27,132	
211 HRA	16,025	13,713	25,200	29,800	4,600	
220 FICA	38,457	36,097	40,234	48,665	8,431	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,782	2,658	2,658	2,700	42	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	3,500	0	-	1,183	1,183	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	6,316	104	1,300	54	(1,246)	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	4,193	-	3,607	1,654	(1,953)	
280 DENTAL INS	3,927	1,638	3,798	4,640	842	
291 LIFE	816	1,295	547	634	87	
293 LTD	1,448	2,651	1,351	1,654	303	
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	31,116	6,584	12,000	12,000	-	
332 PURCHASED SERVICE	9,740	-	8,000	8,000	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	9,250	61	10,000	12,000	2,000	Outdoor Education
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	518,875	50,580	576,800	424,226	(152,574)	Based on current enrollment
562 TUITION TO NON- VT LEA	234,763	292,632	221,076	261,690	40,614	Moved TSA from Private to Public
563 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	453,445	822,083	394,801	486,609	91,808	2% increase on FY22 Rate
567 TUITION TO VOC SCHOOLS	-	1,740	7,358	9,672	2,314	
569 TUITION-OTHER VOC	4,449	3,614	5,000	5,000	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	10,604	5,654	6,800	8,400	1,600	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	7,282	948	4,800	5,300	500	
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-	-	-	
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	
810 DUES & FEES	7,250	-	-	-	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUALS	APPROVED BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET		
1102 ART	\$ 25,437	\$ 23,427	\$ 18,895	\$ 31,352	\$ 12,457	Increase to .5 FTE
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 20,399	\$ 19,377	\$ 15,290	\$ 23,872	\$ 8,582	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	-	2,477	2,477	
220 FICA	1,515	1,482	1,170	1,826	656	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	1,329	1,329	1,350	21	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	5	5	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	17	-	106	62	(44)	
280 DENTAL INS	17	-	-	210	210	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	3,490	1,239	1,000	1,550	550	
1106 FOREIGN LANGUAGE	\$ 13,561	\$ 13,528	\$ 14,803	\$ 15,128	\$ 325	
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 11,670	\$ 12,567	\$ 13,221	\$ 13,469	\$ 248	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	867	961	992	1,030	38	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	15	-	-	5	5	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	10	-	90	63	(28)	
280 DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-	
291 LIFE	-	-	-	61	61	
330 INSERVICES & TRAINING	-	-	-	-	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	-	500	500	-	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
1108 PE	\$ 45,326	\$ 33,596	\$ 38,116	\$ 39,076	\$ 960	
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 31,481	\$ 30,354	\$ 32,397	\$ 34,074	\$ 1,677	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	8,058	150	1,500	900	(600)	
211 HRA	546	168	-	-	-	
220 FICA	2,339	2,623	2,432	2,607	175	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	(156)	-	-	-	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	106	(10)	-	3	3	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	195	(22)	220	89	(131)	
280 DENTAL INS	255	(98)	422	253	(169)	
291 LIFE	52	(24)	61	61	-	
293 LTD	34	(2)	84	89	5	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,715	614	1,000	1,000	-	
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	545	-	-	-	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021 APPROVED BUDGET	2020-2021 ACTUALS	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
1112 MUSIC	\$ 24,575	\$ 23,364	\$ 18,976	\$ 29,848	\$ 10,872	Increase to .5 FTE
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 20,987	\$ 21,404	\$ 16,199	\$ 24,626	\$ 8,427	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	300	-	1,500	1,500	
220 FICA	1,559	1,660	1,240	1,884	644	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	5	5	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	69	-	112	64	(48)	
291 LIFE	-	-	-	63	63	
293 LTD	-	-	-	32	32	
430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	325	-	325	325	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECH	100	-	100	100	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLO	-	-	-	-	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,535	-	1,000	1,250	250	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	
810 DUES & FEES	-	-	-	-	-	
1200 SPECIAL ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 296,523	\$ 310,493	\$ 270,753	\$ 245,842	\$ (24,911)	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 296,523	\$ 310,493	\$ 270,753	\$ 245,842	\$ (24,911)	Per FY23 Approved Budget
1300 VOC TECH TUITION	\$ 7,351	\$ 7,351	\$ 6,622	\$ 13,993	\$ 7,371	
566 VOC TECH ON BEHALF	\$ 7,351	\$ 7,351	\$ 6,622	\$ 13,993	\$ 7,371	
1400 ATHLETICS & COCURRICULAR	\$ 2,747	\$ 1,424	\$ 2,677	\$ 18,932	\$ 16,256	
109 OTHER SALARY	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 16,100	\$ 15,100	Adding Athletic Director & Coaches
220 FICA	77	1,259	77	1,232	1,156	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	-	-	-	-	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	970	165	900	900	-	
810 DUES & FEES	700	-	700	700	-	
2120 GUIDANCE	\$ 75,259	\$ 76,691	\$ 63,818	\$ 53,751	\$ (10,067)	
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 59,823	\$ 57,070	\$ 49,252	\$ 46,236	\$ (3,016)	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	7,140	13,461	6,250	1,500	(4,750)	
211 HRA	1,365	38	2,100	-	(2,100)	
220 FICA	4,443	4,453	3,768	3,537	(231)	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	1,329	1,329	1,350	21	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	5	5	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	494	-	340	120	(220)	
280 DENTAL INS	422	316	340	422	82	
291 LIFE	87	-	61	61	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021 APPROVED BUDGET	2020-2021 ACTUALS	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
293 LTD	13	24	128	120	(8)	
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	1,200	-	-	-	-	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	-	100	150	50	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	172	-	150	250	100	
2130 HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 53,865	\$ 45,840	\$ 71,521	\$ 75,168	\$ 3,647	
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 39,620	\$ 29,929	\$ 50,997	\$ 53,774	\$ 2,777	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	5,712	10,152	7,812	8,562	750	
211 HRA	819	365	2,100	2,100	-	
220 FICA	2,943	2,168	3,825	4,114	289	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	1,329	1,329	1,350	21	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	5	5	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	262	-	345	140	(205)	
280 DENTAL INS	422	316	422	422	(0)	
291 LIFE	69	-	61	61	-	
293 LTD	9	16	130	140	10	
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	2,210	-	1,500	1,500	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,800	1,168	2,500	2,500	-	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	-	395	500	500	-	
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	
2212 CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION	\$ 8,838	\$ 8,839	\$ 13,598	\$ 23,253	\$ 9,655	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 8,838	\$ 8,839	\$ 13,598	\$ 23,253	\$ 9,655	Per FY23 Approved Budget
2213 STAFF TRAINING	\$ 21,405	\$ 9,741	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ -	
105 SUPERVISOR SALARY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
220 FICA	-	-	-	-	-	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	14,000	8,295	14,000	14,000	-	
293 LTD	5	8	-	-	-	
330 INSERVICES & TRAINING	6,000	1,438	11,000	11,000	-	
580 TRAVEL	1,400	-	1,000	1,000	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021 APPROVED BUDGET	2020-2021 ACTUALS	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
2220 LIBRARY/MEDIA SERVICES	\$ 49,254	\$ 49,316	\$ 41,500	\$ 59,122	\$ 17,622	
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 33,245	\$ 43,625	\$ 34,214	\$ 47,844	\$ 13,630	
102 PARA SALARY	-	-	-	-	-	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	8,046	600	806	1,200	394	
211 HRA	1,638	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	2,469	3,497	2,617	3,660	1,043	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	5	5	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	165	-	232	124	(108)	
280 DENTAL INS	253	-	253	422	169	
291 LIFE	52	-	61	63	2	
293 LTD	-	-	87	124	37	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-	-	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	180	55	180	180	-	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	2,156	718	2,400	2,400	-	
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	450	202	450	2,000	1,550	Based on current usage
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	
810 DUES & FEES	600	620	200	1,100	900	Based on current usage
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$ 8,601	\$ 20,216	\$ 8,774	\$ 8,774	\$ -	
104 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
106 CLERICAL SALARY	1,000	1,425	1,000	1,000	-	
220 FICA	268	115	191	191	-	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	-	11,768	-	-	-	Budgeted under each function
310 HRA ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	400	262	660	660	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	100	-	100	100	-	
520 INSURANCE OTHER THAN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,936	2,923	2,923	2,923	-	
540 ADVERTISING	800	953	800	800	-	
580 TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	98	-	100	100	-	
810 DUES & FEES	500	1,270	500	500	-	
2313 BOARD TREASURER	\$ 2,916	\$ 2,773	\$ 2,918	\$ 2,918	\$ -	
104 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ -	
220 FICA	168	168	168	168	-	
533 POSTAGE	350	329	350	350	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	98	-	100	100	-	
810 DUES & FEES	100	75	100	100	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021 APPROVED BUDGET	2020-2021 ACTUALS	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
2314 AUDITING	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
341 AUDITING SERVICES	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2315 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,666	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
342 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,666	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
2320 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION	\$ 36,985	\$ 36,985	\$ 42,291	\$ 50,084	\$ 7,793	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 36,985	\$ 36,985	\$ 42,291	\$ 50,084	\$ 7,793	Per FY23 Approved Budget
2410 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL	\$ 212,492	\$ 207,361	\$ 239,381	\$ 241,408	\$ 2,027	
104 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 87,550	\$ 90,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,500	\$ 500	
106 CLERICAL SALARY	41,406	40,616	45,792	43,336	(2,456)	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	39,557	38,644	43,281	47,434	4,153	
211 HRA	5,460	6,990	8,600	8,600	-	
220 FICA	9,578	8,965	10,597	10,621	24	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	2,000	2,748	2,134	2,384	250	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	3,876	1,209	2,200	2,200	-	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	683	-	956	361	(595)	
280 DENTAL INS	844	274	844	844	-	
291 LIFE	435	1,164	267	267	-	
293 LTD	30	55	360	361	1	
330 INSERVICES & TRAINING	850	-	-	-	-	
443 RENTALS OF COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY	6,000	6,246	6,000	6,000	-	
531 TELEPHONE SERVICES	5,000	5,563	6,000	6,000	-	
550 PRINTING & BINDING	800	530	800	950	150	
580 TRAVEL	1,000	419	1,000	1,000	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	5,623	2,838	6,500	6,500	-	
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	
810 DUES & FEES	1,800	1,101	9,050	9,050	-	
2490 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	\$ 15,656	\$ -	\$ 12,708	\$ -	\$ (12,708)	No longer split with Library
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 11,082	\$ -	\$ 11,405	\$ -	\$ (11,405)	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	2,682	-	269	-	(269)	
211 HRA	546	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	823	-	873	-	(873)	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	420	-	-	-	-	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	18	-	77	-	(77)	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021 APPROVED BUDGET	2020-2021 ACTUALS	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
280 DENTAL INS	85	-	84	-	(84)	
580 TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
2510 FISCAL SERVICES	\$ 76,378	\$ 67,566	\$ 84,610	\$ 77,606	\$ (7,005)	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 57,378	\$ 60,676	\$ 65,610	\$ 62,606	\$ (3,005)	Per FY23 Approved Budget
835 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT	19,000	6,890	19,000	15,000	(4,000)	
2570 PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ -	
211 HRA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
310 HRA ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	-	-	660	660	-	
2580 ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 33,150	\$ 26,918	\$ 50,840	\$ 78,321	\$ 27,480	
352 OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,361	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
432 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY	500	114	500	500	-	
532 INTERNET SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	11,650	11,650	16,815	42,930	26,114	Per FY23 Approved Budget
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	3,000	6,834	19,075	32,391	13,316	
734 TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE	15,500	2,959	11,950	-	(11,950)	Moved to software per AOE
2590 OTHER CENTRAL SUPPORT	\$ 6,110	\$ 6,609	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 6,110	\$ 6,609	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2610 OPERATION OF BUILDING	\$ 137,375	\$ 124,920	\$ 139,856	\$ 150,838	\$ 10,982	
105 SUPERVISOR SALARY	\$ 45,627	\$ 46,240	\$ 46,962	\$ 49,608	\$ 2,646	
108 SALARY- GENERAL	19,314	19,735	19,876	20,779	903	
130 OVERTIME SALARY	-	-	-	-	-	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	1,500	750	1,500	2,250	750	
220 FICA	4,823	5,034	5,113	5,385	272	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	1,722	2,934	2,189	3,871	1,682	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	200	-	200	200	-	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	10	10	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	5,000	-	2,911	3,660	749	
280 DENTAL INS	844	824	422	844	422	
291 LIFE	130	41	61	48	(13)	
293 LTD	15	28	122	183	61	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,500	1,675	4,000	4,000	-	
410 UTILITY SERVICES	500	1,660	-	-	-	
421 WASTE REMOVAL	3,000	2,798	3,000	3,000	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLOGY	-	696	-	-	-	
441 MAINTENANCE RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	-	(490)	-	-	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2020-2021 APPROVED BUDGET	2020-2021 ACTUALS	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENC E	NOTES
520 INSURANCE OTHER THAN EMPLOYEE BENE	6,180	6,599	7,000	7,000	-	Replacement of furniture
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	13,720	6,178	13,500	13,500	-	
622 ENERGY ELECTRICITY	16,000	16,167	18,000	18,000	-	
624 ENERGY FUEL OIL	15,000	13,982	15,000	15,000	-	
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	
810 DUES & FEES	300	70	-	-	-	
2620 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING	\$ 44,600	\$ 30,943	\$ 44,600	\$ 44,600	\$ -	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
410 UTILITY SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLO	40,000	25,853	40,000	40,000	-	
441 MAINTENANCE RENTALS OF LAND & BUIL	4,600	5,090	4,600	4,600	-	
2630 GROUNDS	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,257	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -	
422 SNOW REMOVAL	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,224	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLO	-	-	-	-	-	
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	2,500	2,033	-	-	-	
2711 TRANSPORTATION-RESIDENT	\$ 97,285	\$ 73,376	\$ 100,203	\$ 103,209	\$ 3,006	Based on FY23 Contract
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 97,285	\$ 73,376	\$ 100,203	\$ 103,209	\$ 3,006	
2713 TECH TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ 4,102	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT PURCHASED FROM	\$ -	\$ 4,102	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2715 TRANSPORTION-FIELD TRIPS	\$ 7,600	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT PURCHASED FROM	\$ 7,600	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
2790 OTHER TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT PURCHASED FROM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
3100 FOOD SERVICES	\$ 49,295	\$ 49,295	\$ 40,000	\$ 18,180	\$ (21,820)	will become an SU Assessment
912 TRANSFER TO FOOD SERVICE	\$ 49,295	\$ 49,295	\$ 40,000	\$ 18,180	\$ (21,820)	
5020 DEBT SERVICE-LONG TERM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
831 REDEMPTION OF PRINCIPAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
832 INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	-	-	-	-	-	
Grand Total	\$ 3,354,121	\$ 3,097,726	\$ 3,354,119	\$ 3,545,997	\$ 191,878	
					5.72%	

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET - REVENUE**

Description	STRAFFORD Budget 2020-2021	STRAFFORD ACTUAL 2020-2021	STRAFFORD Budget 21-22	STRAFFORD Budget 22-23	Notes
BAL. CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YRS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<u>REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</u>					
Interest	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,541	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Tuition	16,300	-	-	-	
TuitionPK	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous/RENTALS	5,000	6,145	5,000	5,000	
Prior Year Adjustments	-	458	-	-	
Transfer from Tuition Reserve Fund	10,000	10,000	-	-	
Donations	-	-	-	-	
Total Local Source Revenues	56,300	18,144	10,000	10,000	
<u>REV. FROM STATE/FED. SOURCES</u>					
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$3,060,471	\$3,060,971	\$3,104,219	\$3,283,568	
ACT 60 Related Transportation	42,182	40,567	43,447	45,091	FY22 Contract @ 45% Reimbursement
Vocational Transportation Reimbursemen	-	-	-	-	
SMALL SCHOOLS	123,316	117,565	123,316	122,677	Per FY22 actual
Medicaid Reimbursement (IEP & EPSDT)	25,000	25,000	66,514	70,668	Cover Nurse Salary & Benefits
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$3,250,969	\$3,244,103	\$3,337,497	\$3,522,004	
<u>OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS</u>					
School Wide CFP/previously Title I/other	\$ 39,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Other FEDERAL Grants	\$ 39,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<u>Vocational Education</u>					
Tech Ctr from State to the Tech Ctr	\$ 7,351	\$ 7,351	\$ 6,622	\$ 13,993	
Grand Total All Revenues	\$3,354,121	\$3,269,598	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET**

TAX RATES

				CHG %	
		PRIOR YR BUDGET	\$3,354,119	5.72%	
		PRIOR YR ED FUND	\$3,110,841	6.00%	
		PRIOR YR PER PUPIL	\$18,389.94	6.44%	
		PRIOR YR TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.625	-6.89%	
Budget	Act 68 Tax Fac	Property Yield	\$ 12,937	11,317	Per 12/1 Tax Ltr
Changes	3,545,997	Common Level of Appraisal	95.36%	97.67%	
	0	Base rate fixed	1.0000		
Total	3,545,997	VT Non-Residential rate	1.4820	1.6300	Per 12/1 Tax Ltr
- Local Revenue	(248,436)				
Education Spending	3,297,561	Adjustment for CLA			
Equalized Pupils	168.47	FY22 169.16	Estimated Actual Residential FY23 Tax Rate	1.5866	AFTER CLA
Education Spending Per Pupil	\$ 19,573.58	\$19,977.00	Estimate Actual Non-Residential FY23 Rate	1.5541	AFTER CLA
Less Exclusions	\$ 54.65				
PP over cap amount	\$ -	0			
Revised PP spending	\$ 19,573.58		Actual Residential Tax Rate FY22	1.6638	As of 6/29/21
Equalized Residential Tax Rate BEFORE CLA	1.5130		Actual Non-Residential Rate FY22	1.6505	As of 6/29/21
Equalized Non-Residential Rate BEFORE CLA	1.4820				
Prior Year Per Pupil Cost	18,389.94		Change in Tax Rates from FY22 to FY23		
Act 68 per pupil change	6.44%		Actual Residential Tax Rate	(0.0772)	
			Actual Non-Residential Rate	(0.0964)	
	\$ 21,794.96	amount to cut .01 cent of tax rate			

INCOME SENSITIVITY CALCULATION	
PER PUPIL SPENDING	
/ INCOME YIELD	
X INCOME PERCENTAGE	
= TAX AMOUNT INCOME SENSITIVITY	
STRAFFORD/NEWTON	
\$19,573.58 PER PUPIL SPENDING	
\$15,484.00 INCOME YIELD Per 12/1 Tax Ltr	
2.35% INCOME PERCENT	
2.97% INCOME SENSITIVITY	

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS
FYE June 30, 2021**

General Fund	\$ 45,843
Food Service Program	\$ (23,888)
Tyson Gym Reserve	\$ 30,390
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 59,241
Tuition Reserve	\$ 62,250

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS**

FYE June 30, 2021

The Strafford School District had no outstanding long-term debt at the end of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Short term debt included a tax-anticipation note in the amount of \$461,970 that was paid in full in fiscal year 2021 with interest of \$671.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT REPORT**

FYE June 30, 2021

The Strafford School District has hired RHR Smith and Company, 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		T199		Property dollar equivalent yield	←--See bottom note	Homestead tax rate per \$12,937 of spending per equalized pupil
SU: White River Valley		Orange County		12,937		1.00
				15,484		Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$3,209,430	\$3,354,621	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	1.
2.	<i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-		2.
3.	<i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	NA	NA	NA	-	3.
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$3,209,430	\$3,354,621	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	4.
5.	<i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-		5.
6.	<i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-		6.
7.	Total Budget	\$3,209,430	\$3,354,621	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	7.
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-		8.
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-		9.
Revenues						
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$335,970	\$286,299	\$243,278	\$248,436	10.
11.	<i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-		11.
12.	<i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$335,970	\$286,299	\$243,278	\$248,436	13.
14.	Education Spending	\$2,873,460	\$3,068,322	\$3,110,841	\$3,297,561	14.
15.	Equalized Pupils	171.00	166.52	169.16	168.47	15.

		\$16,803.86	\$18,426.15	\$18,389.93	\$19,573.58	
16.						16.
17.	<i>minus</i> Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	<i>minus</i> Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$60,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$22.34	\$28.88	\$8.31	\$14.30	18.
19.	<i>minus</i> Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	<i>minus</i> Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	<i>minus</i> Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	<i>minus</i> Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	<i>minus</i> Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	23.
24.	<i>minus</i> Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	\$9.00	-	\$39.28	\$39.44	24.
25.	<i>minus</i> Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	-	-	-	-	25.
26.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$18,311 \$18,311.00	threshold = \$18,756 \$18,756.00	threshold = \$18,789 \$18,789.00	threshold = \$19,997 \$19,997.00	26.
27.	<i>plus</i> Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	2 year suspension	2 year suspension	27.
28.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$16,804	\$18,426	\$18,390	\$19,573.58	28.
29.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	157.812% based on yield \$10,648	167.541% based on yield \$10,883	162.498% based on \$10,763	151.299% based on yield \$10,763	29.

Prorating the local tax rate						
30.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$19,573.58 + (\$12,937 / \$1.00)]	\$1.5781 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.6754 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.6250 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.5130 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	30.
31.	Percent of Strafford equalized pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	31.
32.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.51)	\$1.5781	\$1.6754	\$1.6250	\$1.5130	32.
33.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	103.07%	101.65%	97.67%	95.36%	33.
34.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.5130 / 95.36%)	\$1.5311 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.6482 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.6638 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.5866 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	34.
<p>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.</p>						
35.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$19,573.58 + \$15,484) x 2.00%]	2.57% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.72% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.67% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.53% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	35.
36.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.53%)	2.57% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.72% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.67% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.53% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	36.
37.	#N/A	-	-	-	-	37.
38.	#N/A	-	-	-	-	38.
<p>- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$13,846 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$16,705 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.385. THESE FIGURES USE THE ESTIMATED \$90,000,000 SURPLUS FROM THE EDUCATION FUND. I DO NOT EXPECT THAT SURPLUS WILL BE USED TO INCREASE THE YIELDS. I would suggest using the figures provided without the surplus: \$12,937 for the property yield, \$15,484 for the income yield, and \$1.482 for the non-homestead tax rate. - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.</p>						

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

FY22-23 BUDGET

Description	FY20-21 Budget	FY20-21 Actual	FY21-22 Budget	FY22-23 Proposed	Difference	NOTES FOR FY23
CURRICULUM - SALARIES	\$ 3,461	\$ -	\$ 14,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 20,000	Added Curriculum Leadership & Coach Stipen
CURRICULUM - COORDINATOR SALARY	92,610	35,619	98,000	113,000	15,000	1.0 FTE
CURRICULUM - HEALTH INS	11,924	9,022	21,911	24,371	2,460	
CURRICULUM - HRA	2,569	(811)	4,400	8,400	4,000	
CURRICULUM - CURR EMPER TAXES	7,350	3,480	8,568	14,489	5,921	
CURRICULUM - LIFE INS	524	476	243	304	61	
CURRICULUM - RETIREMENT CONTR	50	-	1,500	5,750	4,250	
CURRICULUM - WORKERS COMP	523	-	676	492	(184)	
CURRICULUM - UNEMPLOYMENT	41	34	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - PROF DEV	5,000	895	5,000	5,000	-	
CURRICULUM - DENTAL INS	462	402	435	870	435	
CURRICULUM - CONTRACTED SERV	10,000	10,600	5,000	5,000	-	
CURRICULUM - ADMIN PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - TRAVEL	2,500	292	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM- SUPPLIES	1,500	91	1,500	1,500	-	
CURRICULUM - CURR-BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	-	500	500	-	
CURRICULUM - TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	360	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - DUES & FEES	4,500	469	500	2,000	1,500	
	\$ 143,514	\$ 60,928	\$ 162,233	\$ 215,676	\$ 53,443	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SALARY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,334	\$ 26,334	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HRA	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CURR EMPER TAXES	-	-	-	2,015	2,015	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - LIFE INS	-	-	-	61	61	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - RETIREMENT CONTR	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	68	68	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DENTAL INS	-	-	-	422	422	.4 FTE POSITION ADDED TO THE SU IN FY22
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CONTR CURRICULUM SEI	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - ADMIN PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SUPPLIES	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS -BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DUES & FEES	-	-	-	-	-	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,900	\$ 28,900	

Description	FY20-21 Budget	FY20-21 Actual	FY21-22 Budget	FY22-23 Proposed	Difference	NOTES FOR FY23
TECHNOLOGY - SALARIES	\$ 104,266	\$ 101,409	\$ 263,222	\$ 290,086	\$ 26,864	5.0 FTES & \$11K DATA ASST & \$5,400 SUI
TECHNOLOGY - HEALTH INS	7,238	5,214	88,410	77,758	(10,652)	
TECHNOLOGY - HRA	-	2,336	18,900	17,400	(1,500)	
TECHNOLOGY - EMPER TAXES	6,887	7,774	20,137	22,192	2,055	
TECHNOLOGY - LIFE INS	34	428	485	486	1	
TECHNOLOGY - RETIREMENT CONTR	4,757	6,010	13,721	20,658	6,937	
TECHNOLOGY - WORKERS COMP	896	-	1,515	712	(803)	
TECHNOLOGY - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL/CONF	2,876	74	2,800	1,000	(1,800)	
TECHNOLOGY - DENTAL INS	444	591	2,175	2,096	(79)	
TECHNOLOGY - CONTR SERV	4,100	60	10,000	20,000	10,000	Contracted Services
TECHNOLOGY - REPAIR	-	-	500	500	-	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL	3,500	1,728	3,500	1,000	(2,500)	
TECHNOLOGY - SUPPLIES	4,500	2,702	6,300	13,300	7,000	
TECHNOLOGY - SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
TECHNOLOGY - EQUIPMENT	6,000	-	7,000	-	(7,000)	
	\$ 145,498	\$ 128,326	\$ 438,665	\$ 467,189	\$ 28,524	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENT SALS	\$ 130,468	\$ 136,838	\$ 137,550	\$ 143,000	\$ 5,450	1.0 FTE
OFFICE OF SUPER - ADMIN SUPPORT	50,999	46,613	48,179	50,960	2,781	1.0 FTE
BOARD CLERK - SALARIES	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - HEALTH INS	33,643	15,400	23,218	23,762	544	
OFFICE OF SUPER - HRA	-	1,566	6,300	6,500	200	
OFFICE OF SUPER - EMPLOYER TAXES	13,720	13,636	14,208	14,917	709	
OFFICE OF SUPER - LIFE INSURANCE	340	1	303	303	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - RETIREMENT CONTR	2,651	2,797	5,511	5,067	(444)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - WORKERS COMP	763	-	1,282	508	(775)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - COURSE REIMB	4,000	75	5,000	5,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DENTAL INS	888	668	870	870	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - CONTR SERV	5,000	2,660	5,000	5,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - LEGAL FEES	20,000	16,360	15,000	15,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	500	-	500	500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENTS TRAVEL	5,500	-	-	-	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - IN-SERVICE MTGS, ETC	4,500	1,562	2,500	2,500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	200	1,025	-	-	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DUES AND FEES	12,000	15,627	15,000	15,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - FINGERPRINTING EXP	4,000	2,215	4,000	4,000	-	
GEN FUND TRANSFER	-	-	-	-	-	
	\$ 292,172	\$ 257,042	\$ 287,421	\$ 295,887	\$ 8,466	

Description	FY20-21 Budget	FY20-21 Actual	FY21-22 Budget	FY22-23 Proposed	Difference	NOTES FOR FY23
PRESCHOOL COORD - SALARY	\$ 39,169	\$ 25,513	\$ 39,233	\$ 5,000	\$ (34,233)	STIPEND IS \$5K
PRESCHOOL COORD - BENEFITS & TAXES	3,746	2,020	3,001	383	(2,619)	
PRESCHOOL COORD - SUPPLIES	-	-	890	890	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - TRAVEL	1,500	-	1,000	1,000	-	
PRESCHL COORD-WINOOSKI VALLEY	12,000	9,764	11,426	11,426	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - PROFESSIONAL DEV	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	
	\$ 58,415	\$ 37,297	\$ 57,551	\$ 20,699	\$ (36,852)	
FISCAL SERVICES - TREASURER SALS	\$ 1,236	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	
FISCAL SERVICES - TREASURER FICA	94	-	92	92	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - ADMIN SALARY	97,850	98,000	99,750	102,000	2,250	1.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPORT SALS	293,817	264,114	262,858	231,723	(31,135)	4.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - HEALTH INS	75,969	94,061	104,477	96,881	(7,596)	
FISCAL SERVICES - HRA	15,600	1,097	21,000	21,400	400	
FISCAL SERVICES - EMPLOYER TAXES	29,963	24,659	27,740	25,680	(2,060)	
FISCAL SERVICES - LIFE INS	1,574	638	909	848	(61)	
FISCAL SERVICES - RETIREMENT CONTR	15,741	21,261	24,163	25,499	1,336	
FISCAL SERVICES - WORKERS COMP	3,609	-	2,502	872	(1,630)	
FISCAL SERVICES - COURSE REIMB	2,000	1,986	2,000	3,000	1,000	
FISCAL SERVICES - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - DENTAL INS	2,509	2,579	2,610	2,175	(435)	
FISCAL SERVICES - OTHER CONTR SERV	13,254	7,454	10,000	61,000	51,000	PAYCHEX & POTENTIAL ACCOUNTING
FISCAL SERVICES-AUDIT	-	27,290	-	1,500	1,500	FIXED ASSETS MANAGEMENT
FISCAL SERVICES - COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	500	206	500	500	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - TRAVEL/CONF	4,600	1,196	3,000	1,500	(1,500)	
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPLIES	5,000	7,083	5,000	5,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - SOFTWARE	5,000	39,598	30,000	30,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - DUES AND FEES	1,000	2,080	1,000	500	(500)	
FISCAL SERVICES - AUDIT	50,000	50,619	50,000	50,000	-	
	\$ 619,314	\$ 643,921	\$ 648,801	\$ 661,370	\$ 12,569	

Description	FY20-21 Budget	FY20-21 Actual	FY21-22 Budget	FY22-23 Proposed	Difference	NOTES FOR FY23
CENTRAL OFFICE - BLDG/GRDS CONSULT	\$ -	\$ 1,687	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	
CENTRAL OFFICE - HRA	110,000	-	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	558	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - WORKERS COMP	-	43,438	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - UNEMPLOYMENT TAX	4,000	4,000	1,200	1,200	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE-LTD	4,000	15,293	3,100	3,100	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE-HRA OOP COSTS	10,000	-	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE-HRA ADMIN	5,000	170	1,200	1,200	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - CUSTODIAL SERVICES	5,000	12,765	5,000	5,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SECT 125 ADMIN	1,000	1,149	1,000	2,000	1,000	
CENTRAL OFFICE - DISPOSAL SERVICES	1,500	1,330	1,500	1,500	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - REPAIRS AND MAINT	2,000	3,577	2,000	2,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - RENTAL OF BUILDINGS	58,121	57,108	58,821	60,586	1,765	INCREASED 3% PER LEASE
CENTRAL OFFICE - PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	11,254	3,052	1,431	2,333	903	PER CURRENT PLUS 3%
CENTRAL OFFICE - TELEPHONE EXP	6,142	7,163	6,142	7,200	1,058	AVERAGE \$600/MO FOR 12 MOS
CENTRAL OFFICE - POSTAGE	5,135	5,859	5,135	5,135	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - ADVERTISING	2,000	860	2,000	2,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SUPPLIES	10,000	6,011	10,000	10,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SOFTWARE (504)	5,000	55	1,000	1,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - COPIER LEASE	8,000	10,090	5,000	5,000	-	
OTHER - SAL/BEN POOL	-	-	-	-	-	
	\$ 248,152	\$ 174,165	\$ 129,528	\$ 134,254	\$ 4,726	
INSTRUCTION SALARY	\$ -	\$ 35,063	\$ 36,859	\$ 59,805	\$ 22,946	
INSTRUCTION BENEFITS	-	1,034	21,911	1,500	(20,411)	
INSTRUCTION HRA	-	-	4,200	-	(4,200)	
INSTRUCTION FICA	-	2,360	7,497	4,575	(2,922)	
INSTRUCTION LIFE	-	-	61	61	-	
INSTRUCTION RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	-	PreK Literacy/Math Interv.
INSTRUCTION WC	-	-	254	155	(99)	Funded by Title 1
INSTRUCTION DENTAL	-	35	435	435	-	
INSTRUCTION PURCHASED SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
INSTRUCTION TRAVEL	-	75	811	811	-	
INSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	-	4,149	5,000	5,000	-	
	\$ -	\$ 42,716	\$ 77,028	\$ 72,342	\$ (4,686)	

Description	FY20-21 Budget	FY20-21 Actual	FY21-22 Budget	FY22-23 Proposed	Difference	NOTES FOR FY23
GRANT ADMIN - SALARIES	\$ 48,766	\$ 22,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
GRANT ADMIN - HEALTH INS	1,710	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - EMPLOYER TAXES	3,700	1,732	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - LIFE INS	560	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - WORKERS COMP	280	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - PROF DEVELOPMENT	2,000	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - DENTAL INS	430	133	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - AUDIT	-	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - POSTAGE	-	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - TRAVEL/CONFERENCE	1,600	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - SUPPLIES	4,000	1,224	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - SOFTWARE	200	-	-	-	-	
GRANT ADMIN - OTHER EXPENDITURES	-	191	-	-	-	
	\$ 63,746	\$ 26,003	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
DISTRICT WIDE - IMPROVE OF INSTR	\$ 98,213	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
DISTRICT WIDE - HEALTH INS	17,402	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - CURR EMPER TAXES	7,513	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - LIFE INS	295	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE RETIREMENT CONTR	19,152	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - WORKERS COMP	534	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - PROF DEV	3,000	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - DENTAL INS	699	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - CONTRACTED SERV	1,000	990	4,000	4,000	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - TRAVEL	2,500	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE- SUPPLIES	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - BOOKS & PERIODICALS	200	-	200	200	-	
DISTRICT WIDE- DUES & FEES	500	-	500	500	-	
	\$ 152,008	\$ 990	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,700	\$ -	
Total Projected WRVSU Budgeted Expenditures:	\$ 1,722,819	\$1,371,389	\$1,806,927	\$ 1,902,017	\$ 95,091	
				5.26%		

**White River Valley SU
FY23 Member Assessment Allocation**

**FBUD
GHUD
RSUD
SHARON
STRAFFORD
WRUD**

FY19 SU Assessment	FY20 Assessment		FY21 Assessment Assessment Allocation		FY22 WRV SU Assessment Allocation:			FY23 WRV SU Assessment Allocation:		\$\$ Change FY22 to FY23	
	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	\$\$ Change FY21 to FY22	%	Amount		
19.6%	\$ 218,520	20.10%	\$ 242,411	20.20%	\$ 259,326	19.60%	\$ 279,482	\$ 20,156	21.00%	\$ 371,914	\$ 92,432
2.8%	\$ 31,037	3.30%	\$ 39,799	3.00%	\$ 38,514	3.10%	\$ 44,204	\$ 5,690	3.30%	\$ 58,444	\$ 14,240
11.5%	\$ 127,784	10.90%	\$ 131,457	10.60%	\$ 136,082	10.40%	\$ 148,296	\$ 12,215	11.20%	\$ 198,354	\$ 50,058
13.4%	\$ 149,232	14.70%	\$ 177,286	14.20%	\$ 182,298	15.80%	\$ 225,296	\$ 42,998	14.60%	\$ 258,569	\$ 33,272
9.3%	\$ 103,868	8.90%	\$ 107,336	9.50%	\$ 121,960	9.70%	\$ 138,315	\$ 16,355	10.10%	\$ 178,873	\$ 40,558
43.4%	\$ 482,464	42.10%	\$ 507,737	42.50%	\$ 545,611	41.40%	\$ 590,334	\$ 44,723	39.80%	\$ 704,865	\$114,531
100.0%	\$ 1,112,905	100.00%	\$ 1,206,027	100.00%	\$ 1,283,790	100.00%	\$ 1,425,927	\$ 142,137	100.00%	\$ 1,771,017	\$345,091

WRV SU Revenue / Assessment Sources:	FY21 Budget	FY22 Budget	\$\$ Change FY21 to FY22	FY23 Budget	\$\$ Change FY22 to FY23
WRV SU BUDGET EXPENDITURES (Non SpEd)	\$ 1,722,819	\$ 1,806,927	\$ 84,108	\$ 1,902,017	\$ 95,091
LESS LOCAL SOURCE REVENUES:					
<i>INDIRECT RATE</i>	\$ (24,000)	\$ (24,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000
<i>INTEREST</i>	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000
LESS DIRECT GRANT REVENUE					
<i>MEDICAID</i>	\$ (318,021)	\$ (180,000)	\$ 138,021	\$ -	\$ 180,000
<i>EPSDT / MAC</i>	\$ -	\$ (25,000)	\$ (25,000)	\$ -	\$ 25,000
FEDERAL TITLE FUNDS:					
<i>IDEA B</i>	\$ (95,008)	\$ -	\$ 95,008	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Title II - Curriculum</i>		\$ (48,000)	\$ (48,000)	\$ (46,000)	\$ 2,000
<i>Title I - Prek</i>		\$ (25,000)	\$ (25,000)	\$ (10,000)	\$ 15,000
<i>Title I - Prek Reading / Math Intervention</i>		\$ (77,000)	\$ (77,000)	\$ (75,000)	\$ 2,000
Local Assessment Amount:	\$ 1,283,790	\$ 1,425,927	\$ 142,137	\$ 1,771,017	\$345,091

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

Special Education

FY22-23

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
32-211-11-1200-5110-00 EEE TEACHER SALS	\$ 128,070	\$ 108,016	\$ 114,853	\$ 131,672	\$ 16,819
32-211-11-1200-5115-00 EEE SUPPORT STAFF SALS	11,000	6,084	-	-	-
32-211-11-1200-5210-00 EEE INSTR - HEALTH INS	33,533	30,614	29,868	23,762	(6,106)
32-211-11-1200-5220-00 EEE INSTR - EMPLOYER TAXES	10,956	5,437	8,786	10,073	1,287
32-211-11-1200-5211-00 EEE INSTR - HRA	-	8,264	8,400	6,300	(2,100)
32-211-11-1200-5230-00 EEE INSTR - LIFE INS	-	-	122	122	-
32-211-11-1200-5240-00 EEE INSTR - EMPLER RETIREMENT	-	365	-	-	-
32-211-11-1200-5250-00 EEE INSTR - WORKERS COMP	1,600	-	793	342	(451)
32-211-11-1200-5260-00 EEE INSTR - UNEMPLOYMENT	500	500	793	122	(671)
32-211-11-1200-5270-00 EEE INSTR - PROF DEV	4,000	270	4,000	4,000	-
32-211-11-1200-5290-00 EEE INSTR - DENTAL INS	900	32	900	844	(56)
32-211-11-1200-5290-01 EEE INSTR - DISABILITY INS	-	-	-	342	342
32-211-11-1200-5330-00 EEE - CONTRACTED SERVICES	12,000	1,550	6,000	5,000	(1,000)
32-211-11-1200-5560-00 EEE - TUITION	3,000	64	500	500	-
32-211-11-1200-5580-00 EEE INSTR - TRAVEL	3,300	1,431	3,300	2,500	(800)
32-211-11-1200-5610-00 EEE - SUPPLIES	1,200	-	2,500	1,500	(1,000)
32-211-11-1200-5730-00 EEE - EQUIPMENT	1,500	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1200-5810-00 EEE-DIRECT INSTR.-DUES&FEES	1,000	-	300	300	-
TOTAL 1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$ 212,559	\$ 162,627	\$ 181,115	\$ 187,379	\$ 6,264
32-211-11-1210-5110-00 IDEA B PK - TEACHER SALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-1210-5210-00 IDEA B PK - HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5220-00 IDEA B PK - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5230-00 IDEA B PK - LIFE INS	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5240-01 IDEA B PK - VSTR CONTR FED FUNDED SALS	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5250-00 IDEA B PK - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5290-00 IDEA B PK - DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
32-211-11-1210-5290-01 IDEA B PK - DISABILITY INS	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5610-00 IDEA B PRE-K - SUPPLIES	12,500	451	-	-	-
TOTAL 1210 IDEA B PK	\$ 12,500	\$ 451	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-1211-5110-00 IDEA B PK BASIC - SALARIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-1211-5210-00 IDEA B PK BASIC - HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1211-5220-00 IDEA B PK BASIC - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1211-5240-01 IDEA B PK BASIC - VSTR RETIR CONTR	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL 1211 IDEA B PK BASIC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-2150-5110-00 EEE - SLP SALS	\$ 73,809	\$ 23,379	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-2150-5210-00 EEE-SLP HEALTH INS PREM	7,586	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5220-00 EEE - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	5,647	2,103	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5240-00 EEE - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5250-00 EEE-SLP WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5290-00 EEE- SLP DENTAL INS PREM	453	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5330-00 EEE - SLP CONTR SERVICES	500	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5580-00 EEE- SLP TRAVEL	500	-	-	-	-
TOTAL 2150 SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 88,495	\$ 25,482	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-2160-5110-00 EEE - OT SALARIES	\$ 33,364	\$ 24,928	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-2160-5210-00 EEE-OT HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2160-5220-00 EEE - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	2,552	2,037	-	-	-
32-211-11-2160-5240-00 EEE - OT EMPLOYER RETIREMENT	1,860	1,710	-	-	-
32-211-11-2160-5250-00 EEE-OT WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2160-5290-00 EEE-OT DENTAL INS	435	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2160-5330-00 EEE - OT CONTR SERVICES	4,000	7,546	4,000	4,000	-
32-211-11-2160-5580-00 EEE - OT TRAVEL	500	-	500	500	-
TOTAL 2160 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 42,711	\$ 36,221	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
32-211-39-1200-5110-00	\$ 1,254,077	\$ 1,099,951	\$ 1,153,070	\$ 1,024,828	\$ (128,242)
32-211-39-1200-5115-00	1,066,062	1,118,073	953,574	1,052,400	98,826
32-211-39-1200-5116-00	38,000	21,300	38,000	38,000	-
32-211-39-1200-5120-00	70,000	20,075	70,000	70,000	-
32-211-39-1200-5210-00	460,000	572,393	551,359	636,333	84,974
32-211-39-1200-5211-00	-	42,921	125,400	111,340	(14,060)
32-211-39-1200-5220-00	190,000	169,979	161,158	158,908	(2,250)
32-211-39-1200-5230-00	1,600	1,930	3,582	3,477	(105)
32-211-39-1200-5232-00	-	11,071	-	11,500	11,500
32-211-39-1200-5240-00	72,240	67,161	59,598	73,668	14,070
32-211-39-1200-5250-00	13,353	-	14,536	5,241	(9,295)
32-211-39-1200-5260-00	5,875	2,983	14,536	3,405	(11,131)
32-211-39-1200-5270-00	3,500	3,401	3,500	3,500	-
32-211-39-1200-5290-00	28,000	22,617	25,520	23,783	(1,737)
32-211-39-1200-5291-00	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-1200-5330-00	260,000	52,919	200,000	150,000	(50,000)
32-211-39-1200-5530-00	1,500	-	1,500	-	(1,500)
32-211-39-1200-5531-00	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-1200-5540-00	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-1200-5560-00	888,532	1,367,174	893,532	1,605,000	711,468
32-211-39-1200-5580-00	10,000	935	6,000	3,000	(3,000)
32-211-39-1200-5594-00	650,000	369,300	645,000	670,000	25,000
32-211-39-1200-5610-00	43,500	2,511	30,000	20,000	(10,000)
32-211-39-1200-5670-00	6,000	4,479	6,000	6,000	-
32-211-39-1200-5730-00	26,000	712	15,000	15,000	-
TOTAL 1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$ 5,088,239	\$ 4,951,886	\$ 4,970,865	\$ 5,685,385	\$ 714,519

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
32-211-39-1201-5330-00 IDEA B- PROPORTIONATE SHARE EXP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-1201-5610-00 IDEA B PROP SHARE SUPPLIES	5,806	-	5,806	5,806	-
TOTAL 1201 PROPORTIONATE SHARE EXP	\$ 5,806	\$ -	\$ 5,806	\$ 5,806	\$ -
32-211-39-1202-5560-01 IDEA B - TUITION	\$ 300,500	\$ 39,661	\$ 300,500	\$ -	\$ (300,500)
32-211-39-1202-5610-01 IDEA B - DIRECT INSTR SUPPLIES	-	17,539	-	-	-
TOTAL 1202 IDEAB	\$ 300,500	\$ 57,200	\$ 300,500	\$ -	\$ (300,500)
32-211-39-2140-5110-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH SRVCS SALARY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 229,606	\$ -	\$ (229,606)
32-211-39-2140-5210-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH HEALTH INS	-	-	86,053	-	(86,053)
32-211-39-2140-5220-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	17,565	-	(17,565)
32-211-39-2140-5240-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH RETIREMENT	-	-	14,350	-	(14,350)
32-211-39-2140-5250-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH WORKERS COMP	-	-	1,584	-	(1,584)
32-211-39-2140-5290-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH DENTAL INS	-	-	1,760	-	(1,760)
32-211-39-2140-5330-00 SPEC ED - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	572,280	419,488	572,280	350,000	(222,280)
TOTAL 2140 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ 572,280	\$ 419,488	\$ 923,198	\$ 350,000	\$ (573,198)
32-211-39-2141-5330-00 IDEA B - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL 2141 PSYCHOLOGICAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-2150-5110-00 SPEC ED - SLP SALS	\$ 299,202	\$ 287,043	\$ 300,780	\$ 318,396	\$ 17,616
32-211-39-2150-5210-00 SPEC ED - SLP HEALTH INS	53,205	42,875	61,158	78,162	17,004
32-211-39-2150-5211-00 SPEC ED - SLP HRA	-	-	12,800	14,900	2,100
32-211-39-2150-5220-00 SPEC ED - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	22,889	21,570	20,352	24,357	4,005
32-211-39-2150-5230-00 SPEC ED - SLP LIFE INS	110	448	304	305	1
32-211-39-2150-5240-00 SPEC ED - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	2,500	2,573	18,798	3,066	(15,732)
32-211-39-2150-5250-00 SPEC ED - SLP WORKERS COMP	-	-	1,836	828	(1,008)
32-211-39-2150-5270-00 SPEC ED - PROF DEV	5,200	1,932	5,200	5,200	-
32-211-39-2150-5290-00 SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	880	1,691	2,200	2,103	(97)
32-211-39-2150-5270-01 SPEC ED - DISABILITY	-	1	782	828	46
32-211-39-2150-5330-00 SPEC ED- SLP CONTRACTED SERVICES	35,000	13,738	35,000	20,000	(15,000)

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
32-211-39-2150-5330-01 IDEA B BASIC-SLP CONSULTING	12,188	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2150-5580-00 SPEC ED - SLP TRAVEL	3,000	1,297	3,000	2,500	(500)
32-211-39-2150-5610-00 SPEC ED - SLP SUPPLIES	3,000	534	3,000	1,500	(1,500)
32-211-39-2150-5810-00 SPEC ED - SLP DUES & FEES	1,000	823	1,000	1,000	-
TOTAL 2150 SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 438,174	\$ 374,523	\$ 466,210	\$ 473,145	\$ 6,935
32-211-39-2154-5110-00 IDEA B - SPEECH SALS	\$ -	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-2154-5210-00 IDEA B - SPEECH HEALTH INS	-	600	-	-	-
32-211-39-2154-5220-00 IDEA B - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	46	-	-	-
32-211-39-2154-5290-00 IDEA B - SPEECH DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2154-5290-01 IDEA B - SPEECH DISABILITY INS	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL 2154 SPEC ED IDEA B SPEECH	\$ -	\$ 1,246	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-2160-5110-00 SPEC ED - OT SALARIES	\$ 183,432	\$ 172,019	\$ 196,336	\$ 210,905	\$ 14,569
32-211-39-2160-5210-00 SPEC ED - OT HEALTH INS	38,443	48,837	50,770	47,697	(3,073)
32-211-39-2160-5211-00 SPEC ED - HRA	-	5,311	15,400	10,500	(4,900)
32-211-39-2160-5220-00 SPEC ED - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	14,033	12,760	15,020	16,134	1,114
32-211-39-2160-5230-00 SPEC ED - OT LIFE INS	447	208	970	-	(970)
32-211-39-2160-5240-00 SPEC ED - OT EMPER RETIREMENT	10,227	8,483	12,271	5,513	(6,758)
32-211-39-2160-5250-00 SPEC ED - OT WORKERS COMP	-	-	1,356	548	(808)
32-211-39-2160-5260-00 SPEC ED - OT UNEMPLOYMENT INS	-	-	1,356	243	(1,113)
32-211-39-2160-5290-00 SPED ED - DISABILITY	-	-	511	548	37
32-211-39-2160-5270-00 SPEC ED - OT PROF DEV	6,000	375	3,000	3,000	-
32-211-39-2160-5290-00 SPEC ED - OT DENTAL INS	1,305	1,978	1,305	1,692	387
32-211-39-2160-5330-00 SPEC ED - OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	5,000	20,589	15,000	15,000	-
32-211-39-2160-5580-00 SPEC ED - OT TRAVEL	3,000	323	3,000	1,500	(1,500)
32-211-39-2160-5610-00 SPEC ED - OT SUPPLIES	2,000	208	2,000	1,000	(1,000)
32-211-39-2160-5730-00 SPEC ED - OT EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL 2160 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 263,887	\$ 271,092	\$ 318,295	\$ 314,281	\$ (4,014)

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
32-211-39-2190-5330-00 SPEC ED - OTHER SUPPORT SERV	\$ 32,875	\$ 6,756	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ (10,000)
TOTAL 2190 OTHER SUPORT SERV	\$ 32,875	\$ 6,756	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ (10,000)
32-211-39-2200-5270-00 SPEC ED - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	\$ 46,500	\$ 20,098	\$ 36,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 9,000
32-211-39-2213-5330-01 IDEA B - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	-	14,543	-	-	-
TOTAL 2200 STAFF TRAINING/CURRICULUM	\$ 46,500	\$ 34,641	\$ 36,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 9,000
32-211-39-2420-5110-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN SALS	\$ 289,261	\$ 105,000	\$ 110,250	\$ 97,760	\$ (12,490)
32-211-39-2420-5113-00 SPEC ED - SUPPORT SALS	-	71,624	98,739	78,932	(19,807)
32-211-39-2420-5210-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN HEALTH INS	45,000	43,128	46,057	39,876	(6,181)
32-211-39-2420-5211-00 SPEC ED-HRA OOP COST	-	5,378	10,500	8,600	(1,900)
32-211-39-2420-5211-01 SPEC ED - HRA ADMIN	-	-	370	370	-
32-211-39-2420-5220-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN EMPLOYER TAXES	52,000	13,021	15,988	13,517	(2,471)
32-211-39-2420-5230-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN LIFE INS	-	162	364	364	0
32-211-39-2420-5240-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN RETIREMENT CONTR	-	4,060	7,054	7,025	(29)
32-211-39-2420-5250-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN WORKERS COMP	-	-	1,442	595	(847)
32-211-39-2420-5260-00 SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	1,442	243	(1,199)
32-211-39-2420-5270-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN PROF DEV	6,000	50	6,000	6,000	-
32-211-39-2420-5290-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN DENTAL INS	1,350	1,832	1,305	1,741	436
32-211-39-2420-5300-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN CHILD FIND	500	208	500	500	-
32-211-39-2420-5330-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN CONTR SERVICES	7,000	4,979	7,000	5,000	(2,000)
32-211-39-2420-5360-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN LEGAL SERVICES	6,000	2,021	6,000	5,000	(1,000)
32-211-39-2420-5430-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN REPAIRS/MAINT	500	-	500	500	-
32-211-39-2420-5530-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN PHONE	1,000	-	1,000	-	(1,000)
32-211-39-2420-5580-00 SPEC ED ADMIN - MILEAGE	6,000	-	6,000	-	(6,000)
32-211-39-2420-5610-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN SUPPLIES	1,000	765	1,000	500	(500)
32-211-39-2420-5640-00 SPEC ED - ADMIN BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2420-5730-00 SPEC ED - EQUIPMENT	2,500	518	-	-	-
32-211-39-2420-5810-00 SPEC ED - DUES & FEES	2,000	1,715	2,000	2,000	-
TOTAL 2420 SPECIAL ED ADMINISTRATION	\$ 420,611	\$ 254,460	\$ 323,511	\$ 268,523	\$ (54,988)

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
32-211-39-2500-5900-01 IDEA B - INDIRECT COST	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,946	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
TOTAL 2500 CENTRAL SERVICES	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,946	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
32-211-39-2700-5519-00 SPEC ED - CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$ 310,000	\$ 332,786	\$ 365,750	\$ 385,000	\$ 19,250
TOTAL 2700 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	\$ 310,000	\$ 332,786	\$ 365,750	\$ 385,000	\$ 19,250
32-211-39-2711-5519-01 IDEA B - TRANSPORTATION	\$ 200,000	\$ 90,345	\$ 200,000	\$ 120,000	\$ (80,000)
TOTAL 2711 TRANSPORTATION	\$ 200,000	\$ 90,345	\$ 200,000	\$ 120,000	\$ (80,000)
32-211-39-5502-5818-00 IDEA B - INDIRECT RATE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL 5502 INDIRECT RATE TRANSFER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$ 8,040,137	\$ 7,023,149	\$ 8,110,750	\$ 7,844,018	\$ (266,732)
					-3.32%

	FY20-21 BUDGET	FY20-21 ACTUALS	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22-23 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUE					
	FY21 Budget	Y21 ACTUA	FY22 Budget	Y23 BUDGE	DIFFERENCE
	\$ 8,040,137	\$ 7,023,149	\$ 8,110,750	\$ 7,844,018	\$ (266,732)
Act 73 Census Block Grant (NEW FY23)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,279,465	\$ 3,279,465
Expenditure Reimbursement (56.35% of Eligible)	3,409,197	2,825,209	3,346,172	-	(3,346,172)
Extra Ordinary Reimbursement (Excess of \$60,000/per student)	-	-	340,110	1,375,594	1,035,484
Block Grant	627,923	627,923	632,342	-	(632,342)
Local Share Contribution of Block Grant	456,620	409,133	421,561	-	(421,561)
IDEA B Basic Flow Through	556,797	175,677	556,797	706,797	150,000
IDEA B Pre-School	13,585	457	13,585	26,388	12,803
EEE	143,632	145,327	136,511	136,511	-
IEP Medicaid	35,000	-	35,000	-	(35,000)
Admin Serv	-	-	-	-	-
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	30,970	-	-	-
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$ 5,242,754	\$ 4,214,696	\$ 5,482,078	\$ 5,524,755	\$ 42,676
MEMBER TOWN ASSESSMENT	\$ 2,797,383	\$ 2,929,180	\$ 2,628,672	\$ 2,319,264	\$ (309,408)
TOTAL	\$ 8,040,137	\$ 7,143,877	\$ 8,110,750	\$ 7,844,018	\$ (266,732)
WRVSU SpEd Assessment Breakdown:					
	FY21	FY22	FY23		
EEE NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED	\$ 199,048	\$ 35,519.00	\$ 28,980.13		
REGULAR SPECIAL ED SERVICES NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED	\$ 2,598,335	\$ 2,593,153	\$ 2,290,284		
	\$ 2,797,383	\$ 2,628,672	\$ 2,319,264		
		\$ (168,712)	\$ (309,408)		

WRVSU FY23 SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT					
FY23 PROPOSED SpEd ASSESSMENT			\$2,319,264		
%	Amount	Change	FY22 %	FY22 \$	
22.0%	510,238	(28,640)	20.5%	\$	538,878
5.70%	132,198	(12,379)	5.5%	\$	144,577
11.3%	262,077	(21,820)	10.8%	\$	283,897
16.8%	389,636	(75,639)	17.7%	\$	465,275
10.6%	245,842	(24,911)	10.3%	\$	270,753
33.6%	779,273	(146,019)	35.2%	\$	925,292
SU SpEd Only: 2,319,264		(309,408)	100.0%	\$	2,628,672
WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION Assessment Only:			FY23 SpEd Assessment Schedule:		
			%	Amount	Monthly
FBUD			22.0%	\$ 510,238	\$ 42,520
GHUD			5.70%	\$ 132,198	\$ 11,017
RSUD			11.3%	\$ 262,077	\$ 21,840
SHARON			16.8%	\$ 389,636	\$ 32,470
STRAFFORD			10.6%	\$ 245,842	\$ 20,487
WRUD			33.6%	\$ 779,273	\$ 64,939
SU SpEd Only:				\$2,319,264	\$ 193,272

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION**

(as of January 2021)

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	6	6	3	6	21
Hanover High School	2	1	1	4	8
Hartford High School	0	0	1	0	1
White River Valley High School	0	1	1	0	2
Woodstock High School	0	0	1	0	1
Lebanon High School	0	0	0	1	1
Kimball Union	0	1	1	1	3
Sharon Academy	6	5	6	2	19
Other Private Schools	0	1	0	2	3
Total Enrollment	14	15	14	16	59

	2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022	
	Tuition Rate	Amount to be paid	Tuition Rate	Amount to be paid	Tuition Rate	Amount to be paid
Thetford Academy	\$ 19,380	\$ 19,380	\$ 19,670	\$ 19,670	\$ 19,670	\$ 19,670
Sharon Academy	15,933	15,933	16,233	16,233	16,842	16,842
Hanover High School	19,368	19,380	19,670	19,670	21,399	21,399
Hartford High School	17,200	17,200	17,200	17,200	17,200	17,200
Private Schools (state average)	varies	15,933	varies	16,233	varies	16,842

Congratulations, Graduates!

~ 2021 ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Newton School

Heidi Hewes	Luke Miller	Oliver Ransom
Willow Slayton	Joel Strout	Rayne Waln
	Casey Yunger	

The Sharon Academy

Madeline Mintz	Andrew North
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Thetford Academy

Wyatt Cadwell	Bianca Pulaski
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The King's Academy

Quinn Ray

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thetford Academy

Max Higgins	Knute Linehan	Jackson Ransom
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The Sharon Academy

Skylar Clemens	Xia Gillespie	Calliope Goodling
Emerson Jenisch	Tia Kendall	Peter North
Aaron Romano		Erik Younce

Hanover High School

Jack Badams	Jordan Ray
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Hartford High School

Daniel Worth

Kimball Union Academy

Madelyn Bridge

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2011-12		19	10	16	11	16	11	19	17	12	122
2012-13		11	15	8	17	13	15	13	20	17	125
2013-14		8	12	15	8	18	13	15	13	18	131
2014-15		14	8	11	16	10	19	14	16	12	129
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	120
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	120
2017-18	12	8	12	11	12	8	10	13	9	16	117
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

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

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

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

LISTERS: 765-4360 ~ Listers@StraffordVT.org

TOWN GARAGE: 765-4550

www.straffordvt.org

Board Meetings

Some meetings may be held on-line due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Selectboard – Town Office – Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Subject to change – check www.straffordvt.org or

call the Town Office for current Selectboard meeting times

Planning Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –

Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Development Review Board – Town Office – Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Energy Committee – Town Office – Second Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

School Directors – Newton School (odd months),

Sharon Elementary (even months) – Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.,

(Time/date subject to change;

check wrvsu.org/school-boards/strafford-school-board/)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon – South Strafford Substation

Durkee Rubbish Collection - 765-4308

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

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 p.m. at Library