

STRAFFORD, VERMONT
TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2014

HISTORICAL NOTE

REMARKABLE WOMEN

Mary Pennock and Sarah Sloan, were born less than ten years and forty miles apart. The days of their youth were not very different, including teenage marriages for each. Both were early settlers in Strafford, dwelling less than a half-mile apart, and their lives intersected here for about a dozen years. But, the War for Independence and its aftermath overtook the two women, leading to widowhood for both and a very different outcome for each of them.

Most Strafford residents probably do not know that Mary Parish was the first woman of European descent to settle in Strafford. This she did as the wife of one of our two earliest pioneers. Mary had been raised in Hebron, Connecticut, where, as Mary Pennock she married Ezekiel Parish in 1762 at the age of seventeen. The previous year her father, William Pennock, had become one of the original charter grantees of Strafford. By 1767, pioneers Frederick Smith and Ezekiel Parish had constructed dwelling places at Strafford, and Mary journeyed that year with husband Ezekiel and their two very young children to their new home in the wilderness town. The following year, 1768, Mary gave birth to Ezekiel, Jr., the first child born to settlers in Strafford. By 1776, four more children were born at Strafford to Mary and Ezekiel.

Sarah Sloan, born in Palmer, Massachusetts, moved in 1764 at the age of ten with her mother and father to Lyme, New Hampshire, some of the

original settlers of that town. Their first log cabin burned to the ground within a few years, and the family was forced to rebuild. The Sloan property was adjacent to the Connecticut River, where young Sarah sometimes helped row early settlers across to the Thetford side. In 1770, when she was sixteen years old, Sarah married Benjamin Grant of Lyme. During the next five years, two sons were born at Lyme to Mary and her husband.

When the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, Sarah's husband immediately enlisted in the American cause. Benjamin Grant, given the rank of Lieutenant, soon embarked on a military expedition to Canada. There, in the same year, Benjamin contracted smallpox, and he died of the disease while still in Canada. At the time of her husband's death, Sarah Grant was twenty-one years old and the mother of two. Tragically, only a year after the death of her husband, one of her young sons was accidentally killed in the Lyme gristmill operated by Benjamin Grant's father.

Early that same year, 1777, the death in Strafford of Frederick Smith's young wife, Margery, occurred, leaving Fredrick alone with two young children. The widow Sarah Sloan Grant is said to be the same young woman who had rowed Frederick and Margery Smith and their young family across the Connecticut River from Lyme to Thetford several years before. Perhaps that is how they first met. In any case, Sarah and Fredrick married later in

Continued on inside back cover

Cover: Blanche Judd Roberts (1885-1973)

For more than fifty years, Blanche collected and compiled information on over 6,000 Strafford families and their members, including births, marriages, deaths, and where buried in Strafford. The five volumes of her work form the basis of the Historical Society's genealogical collection.

(Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society archives)

Continued from inside front cover

the year 1777, and Sarah moved into Frederick's Strafford house on Old City Falls Road.

Mary Parish was pregnant with her eighth child when Ezekiel Parish declared his loyalty to the British and left Strafford, joining the English military forces in 1777. Ezekiel was captured at the Battle of Bennington and, after escaping, he fled to Canada to rejoin his unit, the Queen's Rangers, in Nova Scotia.

In 1777 Frederick Smith was a Lieutenant in the Patriot cause, and one of his duties was to confiscate the properties in Strafford of those who had joined the British side. Thus it was that the 100-acre farm of Mary and Ezekiel Parish, just up Pennock Road from the Smith farm, was taken from them by the town of Strafford, represented by, among others, the Parish's former pioneering friend and neighbor, Frederick Smith.

Sarah and Frederick Smith continued to actively support the Patriot cause, including provisioning the fort near their Old City home; Sarah was charged with cooking for the troops, a task for which she was paid. The most often-told story of Sarah during the war was an episode that supposedly took place in August 1780, when the residents of Strafford feared an attack by Indians and British troops was imminent. Because her husband was away on a scouting expedition at the time, Sarah was said to have taken one of her children and hidden overnight beneath a projecting rock near Old City Falls. Over the years, Sarah and Frederick Smith produced seven children.

Mary Parish and her eight children did not see their husband and father again after his escape to Canada. Ezekiel Parish never returned to the town he helped establish, for his health declined, and he died at Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1783. Mary was a widow with a very large family at the age of thirty-nine.

Her father, William Pennock, had been permitted to use the confiscated Parish farm to support Mary and her children, and this he did until his death in 1784.

Deprived of most of her farm and never again comfortable in Strafford, Mary Parish and her children moved to Canada in 1790. Two years later, as the widow of a Loyalist soldier, she was granted 200 acres of rough land in Leeds County, Ontario. Mary remarried shortly thereafter, to William Church. Strafford's first female settler died in Canada in 1809, at the age of sixty-three. Her place of burial in Canada remains uncertain. None of Mary Parish's children ever returned to live in Vermont, including Strafford's first-born child, Ezekiel Parish, Jr., who died of cholera at the age of thirty-three in 1802. Like his mother, he was buried in Canada.

Sarah and Frederick Smith, on the other hand, prospered greatly after the war; at one time the Smith landholdings in Strafford totaled more than 1,000 acres. Sarah Sloan Grant Smith died in 1841, living nearly 88 years, and she was buried in Strafford Cemetery.

Mary Parish and Sarah Smith figured prominently in our town's earliest years. But, throughout Strafford's long history there have been numerous women remarkable for the many and varied contributions they made as the town developed – Sally Hatch, Carrie Sanborn, Elizabeth Chandler, Carrie Judd, Rosa Tyson, Elizabeth Root, and Blanche Roberts – to name only a very few. Without their immediate contributions, Strafford could not have grown and prospered as it did. Too often overlooked in the written record, their lives were no less challenging, productive, or heroic than those of the men with whom they shared the times in which they all lived.

Bob Johnston

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TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town):

Curt Albee Term expires March 2015

Moderator (School)

Kerry Claffey Term expires March 2015

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Kendall Term expires March 2015

Selectboard:

Brent Cadwell Term expires March 2017

Stephen Marx Term expires March 2016

John Freitag Term expires March 2016

Roderick Maclay Term expires March 2015

Brian Johnson Term expires March 2015

Listers:

Vacant Term expires March 2017

Mark Castro Term expires March 2016

Vacant Term expires March 2015

Auditors:

Sperry Wilson Term expires March 2017

Ann Kynor Term expires March 2016

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2015

School Directors:

Amanda Higgins Term expires March 2017

Sarah Root Term expires March 2017

Hilary Linehan Term expires March 2016

Paul Perkins Term expires March 2015

Heather Waterbury Term expires March 2015

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2015

Town Agent and Town Grand Juror:

Alan Donohue Term expires March 2015

Trustee of Public Funds:

John Hawkins Term expires March 2017

Elizabeth Ruml Term expires March 2016

Kevin Plunkett Term expires March 2015

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Kendall Term expires March 2015

Harris Library Trustees:

Rachel Kurland Term expires March 2016

Curt Albee Term expires March 2015

Carol Wilson (*Selectboard Trustee*) Term expires March 2015

Town Officers (continued)

Cemetery Commissioners:

Gary Kendall	Term expires March 2017
Alan Donohue.....	Term expires March 2017
Dick Josler.....	Term expires March 2016
Blake Spencer.....	Term expires March 2015
Andrew Behrens	Term expires March 2015

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee	Charles H. Brown	Charles S. Brown
Rosalind Finn	Catherine L. Linehan	Vincent Robinson
	Fred Wolfe	

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman	Jon MacKinnon
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Regina Gioia
Town Constable	Edwin Eastman
Administrative Assistant	Courtney Hardy
Zoning Administrator	Brian Johnson
Zoning Administrator Alternate	Ed Eastman
Administrative Clerk, DRB	Elizabeth Clarke
Town House Overseer.....	Paul Kifner
Emergency Management Director	William Burden
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact	Courtney Hardy
Town Health Officer	Elizabeth Preston, R.N.
Dog Officer and Pound Keeper	<i>Vacant</i>
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	James Condict
Tree Warden	Matthew Perry
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Recycling Coordinator.....	Stephen Willbanks
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	Jeremiah Linehan
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Calvin Benjamin
Fence Viewers	James Condict, Greg Lewis, David Brown
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative	Susan Coburn
Deputy Registrar	Dennis Cilley

Development Review Board:

Martha Walke	Term expires March 2017
Bonnie Bergeron (Secretary)	Term expires March 2017
Terrence Garrison (Chair)	Term expires March 2016
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2016
Steven Campbell (Vice Chair)	Term expires March 2015
Alan Donohue (Alternate).....	Term expires March 2017
Fred Wolfe (Alternate)	Term expires March 2015

Appointive Officers (continued)

Planning Commission:

Steven Campbell (Chair)	Term expires March 2018
Michael Scanlan	Term expires March 2018
Stuart Crocker	Term expires March 2018
Stephen Willbanks (Vice Chair)	Term expires March 2018
Guy Denechaud	Term expires March 2017
Donald Graham	Term expires March 2017
John Echeverria	Term expires March 2017
Martha Walke (Secretary)	Term expires March 2016
Cameron Speth	Term expires March 2016

Conservation Commission:

John Hemenway	Term expires March 2018
J. T. Horn	Term expires March 2018
Jared Jenisch	Term expires March 2018
Michael Hebb (Trails Commissioner)	Term expires March 2017
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2017
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2016
Tii McLane	Term expires March 2016
Amy Metz (Recording Secretary)	Term expires March 2015
Stephen Willbanks (Chair)	Term expires March 2015

Town House Advisory Group:

Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2018
Curt Albee	Term expires March 2017
Lori Mikusa	Term expires March 2016
Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2015
Martha Manheim	Term expires March 2015
Therese Linehan	Term expires March 2015
Peter Rovers	Term expires March 2015
Steve Hardy	Term expires March 2015
Silas Treadway	Term expires March 2015

Regional Planning Commission:

Steven Campbell	Term expires March 2015
Guy Denechaud (Alternate)	Term expires March 2015

Recreation Board:

Hilary Linehan	Term expires March 2017
Erin Masteller	Term expires March 2017
David Taplin	Term expires March 2017
Ellen Bagnato	Term expires March 2017
Scott Moore	Term expires March 2015

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2015
David Webb (Alternate).....	Term expires March 2015
Andrew Behrens (Alternate).....	Term expires March 2015

Appointive Officers (continued)

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:		
Stephen Willbanks		Term expires March 2016
Charles Scott (Alternate)		Term expires March 2016
Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:		
Karen Didricksen		Term expires March 2015
Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:		
Diana Leddy		Term expires March 2017
<i>Vacant</i>		Term expires March 2016
Joanna Hawkins		Term expires March 2015
Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:		
Rockwell Fuller	Joanna Hawkins	Rod Maclay
Cynthia Maclay	Maureen Wilson	
Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:		
Barbara Murray	Susan Coburn	Rose Silloway

Notaries Public

Susan Coburn	Alan Donohue	Regina Gioia
Lisa Kendall	Roderick Maclay	Victoria Lloyd

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Senator Patrick Leahy	800-642-3193
Senator Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Congressman Peter Welch	888-605-7270
Governor Peter Shumlin	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor Phil Scott	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.

*Photos throughout this report are from the
Strafford Historical Society archives.*

Permit Fees

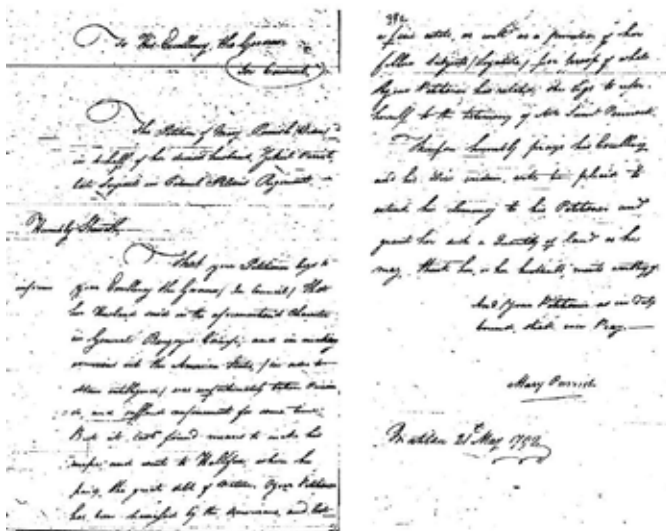
Zoning Application	\$35.00 + \$10.00 Recording Fee
Zoning Variance/Site Plan Appl.	\$50.00 + \$10.00 Recording Fee
Minor Subdivision Application	\$100.00 + \$10.00 Recording Fee
Major Subdivision Application	\$200.00 + \$50.00 per lot + \$10.00 Recording Fee
Highway Access Application	\$15.00 + \$10.00 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



1792 petition of Mary Parish to Canadian Governors' Council requesting land as compensation for her husband Ezekiel's Loyalist service and death

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following articles of business:

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator.
- Article 2:** To elect a Town Clerk for a term of three years.
- Article 3:** To hear the report of the Auditors.
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,036,210. to defray 2015 budget expenses.
- Article 5:** To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for town purposes.
- Article 6:** Shall the Town waive the collection fee on delinquent taxes paid up to seven days after the tax due date?
- Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Strafford office on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of September and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of December. An official United States .Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% (one percent) per month for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% (eight percent) collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after the first Wednesday in December 2015.
- Article 8:** To elect the following officers:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>For a term of three years:</i> | <i>For a term of two years:</i> |
| Town Treasurer (paper ballot) | Selectman (paper ballot) |
| Selectman (paper ballot) | Auditor (paper ballot) |
| Lister (paper ballot) | Lister (paper ballot) |
| Auditor (paper ballot) | <i>For a term of one year</i> |
| Harris Library Trustee | Delinquent Tax Collector |
| Trustee of Public Funds | Town Grand Juror |
| Cemetery Commissioner | Town Agent |
| Cemetery Commissioner | Agent to Deed Real Estate |

Article 9: To transact any legal business to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 30, 2015

By: Strafford Board of Selectmen

Roderick J. Maclay

Brenton Cadwell

John Freitag

Steve Marx

Brian Johnson

WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

March 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, between the polling hours stated below to vote by Australian ballot upon the following article of business:

ARTICLE 1

Shall the Town enter into a telecommunications union district to be known as the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, under the provisions of Subchapter 3, Chapter 121 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated?

Voting upon the above-stated proposition shall be conducted at the Town House from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Only registered voters may vote. Voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said Special Town Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 42, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are further notified and warned that an informational meeting will be held for the purpose of explaining this article during Pre-Town Meeting on February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Barrett Hall.

If approved by the Vermont General Assembly, the proposed telecommunications district would take over the role of the existing Inter-Local Contract, of which the Town is a currently a member. The new telecommunications district would not have the authority to levy taxes, and neither the Town of Strafford nor its taxpayers would be responsible for the district's financial obligations. The creation of this district will make it easier for ECFiber to obtain financing from private sources.

PRE-TOWN MEETING

Pre-town meeting, for discussion of the articles for both the Annual Town Meeting and the Special Town Meeting, will be held on Monday, February 23, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Barrett Hall.

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 4, 2014

The Strafford Annual Town Meeting started off by hearing from Senator Mark MacDonald. Tori Lloyd then presented a quilt as a gift made by the members of the town to Bill and Dot Burden who lost their home due to a fire. They also received a wall hanging made by Stefanie Johnston using quilt squares and an applique square representing Dot's family.

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. All were asked to stand and salute the flag.

Kerry Claffey explained the requirements for a legal voter and that the meeting will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Kerry turned the meeting over to Tori Lloyd to cover Article 1.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator

Article 1 was moved and seconded. Curt Albee has been nominated, and seconded. Kerry Claffey has been nominated and seconded. Motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. By paper ballot vote Albee 102/ Claffey 72. Curt Albee was elected.

Article 2: To hear the report of the Auditors.

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Nellie Pennington thanked Bob Johnston for this year's Historical Notes; thanked Lisa Kendall and other town officials for their work on the town report. No corrections were reported this year. A motion was made and seconded to approve Article 2. The report of the auditors was accepted.

Article 3: To see if the Town will appropriate \$927,768 to defray 2014 budget expenses.

Article 3 has been moved and seconded. Tori Lloyd reviewed the General fund and Highway Fund expenses.

A motion was made to amend Article 3 in the amount of \$77,998 to increase the amount to be raise in taxes to \$1,005,766. The motion was moved and seconded.

The amendment was open for discussion. The question has been moved and seconded on the amendment. The vote on the amendment by a show of hands: 97 in favor, 68 opposed.

Question has been moved and seconded on Article 3. Article 3 was accepted.

Article 4: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for these same purposes.

Article 4 has been moved and seconded. The question has been moved and seconded. Article 4 was accepted.

Article 5: To see if the Town will raise \$15,000 to create a reserve fund for the purpose of purchasing fencing for the Evergreen Cemetery.

Article 5 has been moved and seconded. Discussion followed regarding the condition of the 100-year-old fence of the Evergreen Cemetery and the recent need to remove sections of the fence along Justin Morrill Highway because it had fallen in significant disrepair. The question has been moved and seconded. Article 5 does not pass.

A motion was made to suspend the rules of this meeting and take up Article 10 at this time. The motion was seconded, and passed.

Move to Article 10.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Strafford office on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of September and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of December. An official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% (one percent) per month for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after the first Wednesday in December 2014.

Article 10 was moved and seconded. Open for discussion. A motion was made to amend the article to delete the last sentence and seconded.

Article 10 would read: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Strafford office on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of September and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of December. An official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% (one percent) per month for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter.

The question has been moved and seconded. Vote on the amendment was by paper ballot. 110 opposed/72 in favor of the amendment. The amendment does not pass.

The question has been moved and seconded on Article 10. Vote on Article 10 passes.

Robert's Rules of Order were suspended to hear from Representative Jim Masland.

Article 6*: Shall the Town abolish the eight percent penalty on delinquent taxes?

Article 6 was moved and seconded. Open for Discussion. A motion was made to amend the article to abolish the 8% commission paid to the Delinquent Tax Collector. A motion was made to call the question and seconded. Vote on article 6 does not pass.

Article 7*: Shall the Town change the compensation for the delinquent tax collector from the 8% (eight percent) penalty to a salary or stipend, to be set by the Board of Selectmen?

Article 7 was moved and seconded. Motion was made to table article 7 and seconded. Moderator Albee indicated a 2/3 vote is required to table the Article. Article 7 is not tabled.

The question has been moved and seconded. Vote by show of hands, Article 7 does not pass.

Article 8*: Shall the Town charge 1% (one percent) per month interest on delinquent tax payments for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter?

Article 8 was moved and seconded. The question has been moved and seconded. Article 8 passes.

Article 9*: Shall the Town collect no interest or penalty on taxes paid up to seven business days after the tax due date?

Article 9 was moved and seconded. A motion was made to amend the article to read "Shall the Town collect no penalty on taxes paid up to seven business days after the tax due date?"

An additional change to strike "Penalty" and replace with "Collection Fees" was requested in order to keep the language consistent with Article 10.

Article 9 now reads "Shall the Town collect no collection fees on taxes paid up to seven business days after the tax due date?" The question has been called and seconded.

The amendment on Article 9 passes. The question is called on Article 9 and seconded. Article 9 passes as amended.

Article 11*: To see if the Town of Strafford will vote to increase the number of Selectboard members from three (3) members to five (5) members by electing two members to two-year terms except that for the first election, one member will be elected to a term of one year and the other member will be elected to a two-year term in order to stagger the future terms of the two-year members.

Article 11 was moved and seconded. The question has been moved and seconded. Article 11 passes.

Article 12: To elect the following officers:

A motion was made and seconded to amend Article 12 to “add Selectmen by paper ballot under two year term and add Selectmen by paper ballot under one year term.” The question has been moved and seconded. The amendment to Article 12 passes.

For a term of three years:

Selectman (paper ballot) – Brent Cadwell is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Brent Cadwell.

Lister (paper ballot) – No nomination – vacant.

Auditor (paper ballot) – Sperry Wilson is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Sperry Wilson.

Trustee of Public Funds – John Hawkins was nominated and seconded. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations. John Hawkins was elected.

Cemetery Commissioner – Gary Kendall was nominated and seconded. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Gary Kendall was elected.

Cemetery Commissioner – Alan Donohue was nominated and seconded. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Alan Donohue was elected.

For a term of two years:

Selectman (paper ballot) – John Freitag is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of John Freitag.

Selectman (paper ballot) – Steve Marx is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Steve Marx.

For a term of one year:

Selectman (paper ballot) – Tori Lloyd is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Tori Lloyd.

Delinquent Tax Collector – Jeanne Castro is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Jeanne Castro was elected.

Town Grand Juror – Alan Donohue is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Alan Donohue was elected.

Town Agent – Alan Donohue is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Alan Donohue was elected.

Agent to Deed Real Estate – Lisa Kendall is nominated. The motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Lisa Kendall was elected.

Article 13*: Shall the Town oppose the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont and call upon the Vermont legislature and U.S. Congress to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of any tar sands oil pipeline proposals?

Article 13 was moved and seconded. Open for discussion. The question has been called and seconded. Article 13 passes.

Article 14: To transact any legal business to come before the meeting.

Article 14 was moved and seconded. Open for discussion involved the bridge #29 resolution and further discussion on bridge #29.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

**These articles are included on the Warning as a result of receiving petitions and have been rewritten as articles while retaining the intention of the petitioners.*

Curt Albee
Moderator

Lisa M. Kendall
Town Clerk

Roderick J. Maclay
Selectboard



Carrie Webster Judd (1922 - 2002)

Carrie was the first woman elected to the Strafford Selectboard. She was elected in 1970. Carrie Judd was a charter member of the Historical Society, serving on its Board of Directors and as Treasurer. She was also a member of the Strafford Planning Commission, a Town Auditor, and served as Librarian for the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

2014 was a year with many challenges for the Selectboard, the largest of which was budget. 2013 ended with a deficit of around \$140,000 in the highway fund. This necessitated postponements of projects, and cutbacks mainly in the highway department, and the need to put in the budget \$97,998 in deficit reduction. The good news is while in the coming year we will have to address delayed projects, the combined balance between the general and highway fund ended \$25,000 to the good and the deficit from last year has been retired.

Completing Hurricane Irene repairs in the Old City Falls area, including a new culvert on the Van Dyke Road, a bridge on Old City Falls road, and the Watson Bridge were a challenge not only for those making the improvements, but for those traveling the roads. We appreciate the public's patience with the accompanying detours and delays while the work was being done. The White Bridge in Taylor Valley was rebuilt this summer as well. These were FEMA-funded projects with specifications and requirements dictated by the rules of that agency. DeWolfe Engineering provided the design service for the Town. The projects also required regular oversight by our Road Foreman and a good deal of paperwork by our Town Clerk. Unfortunately, changes from the original plans approved by FEMA for the bridge on Old City Falls necessitated the need to commit approximately \$60,000 of Town money this year to the project. Paperwork requesting reimbursement has been submitted and while we are hopeful there is no guarantee that we will be reimbursed for the needed expenses.

Unexpected repairs were needed at both the Town Office and Town Garage. The septic line where it runs from the Town Office to the pumping station froze and needed to be dug up and replaced. Repairs were made in such a way that should this occur again, they should be able to be thawed out. Due to an ongoing problem with the old heaters, the heaters in the town garage needed to be replaced this year and are providing a more efficient, warmer working environment for our road crew.

In some ways more challenging than the unexpected repairs were the resignations of some a key town employee and town officials. Shortly before Town Meeting, Gary Kendall gave notice that he would be leaving his position on the Road Crew. Gary is a skilled equipment operator who worked with dedication caring for the town's roads as did his father and grandfather. Selectboard member Tori Lloyd resigned in June. Tori put in a tremendous amount of time while serving on the Selectboard and her work after Hurricane Irene was a critical part of our town's timely and successful recovery from that storm event. Our dog officer, Janet Hardy, resigned in August. Janet is an exceptional dog person who had a real talent not only for caring for lost and stray dogs but finding them homes. Gary was replaced on the Road Crew by Jay Thorp. Jay, who grew up and lives in South Strafford, has considerable experience with heavy equipment and served on the Norwich

Road Crew for many years. Tori, who was serving a one year term, was replaced on the Selectboard by Brian Johnson. Brian is a longtime Strafford resident and contractor who also serves as Zoning Officer. Constable Ed Eastman agreed to fill in as Dog Officer until a replacement is found. While he has done this before, he is no longer interested in the position for the long term but is willing to help in the interim. We are still looking for someone to become our regular Dog Officer.

At Town Meeting, voters approved the change from a three- to five-member Board. This too has proved to be a bit of a challenge and issues now have more points of view to consider before making decisions. While the discussions can be robust at times before a vote, once a decision is made and voted on, there is a commitment of the Board to move forward with what was decided. Major decisions that have been made this year include the re-affirmation after Town Meeting of the previous Board's decision to proceed with the plan for the replacement of the South Strafford Rte. 132 bridge, the decision not to have a Special Town Meeting in June to re-vote the budget approved at Town Meeting, and the decision to approve a lease/purchase agreement with for a new backhoe and loader.

The Selectboard on the recommendation of the Town Clerk agreed to a review and update of Town Policies by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. This was completed this year and new policies in line with standards and current law adopted by the Board. This upcoming year there will be a review by the League of Cities and Towns of our town personnel job descriptions and pay rates. To date there has been no comprehensive comparison of what we offer with towns of similar size and this is something the Board feels needs to be done to ensure that we are correctly positioning and compensating those who work for the Town.

The Board this year took advantage of the new five member structure to share the load and divided up responsibilities in the following manner:

Rod Maclay continued as Chair. His duties include the coordination and running of Board meetings, keeping in regular contact with the Town Clerk, as well as serving as spokesperson for the Board.

Town Highway liaison - Rod Maclay and Brent Cadwell. For many years Rod has been the point person with the Road Foreman. This is one of the most critical and time consuming Selectboard jobs. Rod, who has stated his intention not to run for re-election, wisely brought in newly elected Selectboard member Brent Cadwell to learn what needs to be done. Brent is a heavy equipment contractor who has experience with road, and bridge building. Brent with Rod checks in regularly at the Town Garage and stays updated on town highway issues. Brent also serves as the liaison with the Emergency Services and Conservation Commission.

Selectboard member Steve Marx serves as liaison with the Listers, School Board, and Library.

Selectboard member John Freitag serves as liaison with the Recreation Board, Constable and Police Services.

Selectboard member Brian Johnson serves as liaison with the Development Review Board and Planning Commission.

Plans for this next year include:

The replacement of the Farley bridge on the Justin Morrill Highway will be the major project for 2015. This has been put out to bid and awarded to Hook Construction. The total cost for this project is \$249,000. The State is providing a \$175,000 bridge grant for this project and the remaining \$74,000 will come from the Highway budget. The temporary bridge used on Old City Falls will be moved and rebuilt to replace a small town bridge off the Dodge Road for a cost of approximately \$15,000. Work will also be done this summer on the upper section of Carpenter Hill Road. The far portions of this seldom used road that connects with Cross Road are in very bad shape and are, in places, impassable. This part of the road is currently closed to traffic. Even though it is little used, the Town does have the responsibility to repair it. We had hoped to work on reconstruction of this road this summer, but it was one of the things that needed to be postponed for budget reasons. In the meantime, maintenance work will be done to keep the section that goes to a State wildlife access and turn around passable and if needed to provide year round access to a property currently up for sale.

The stairway and roof over it to the upstairs of the Town Office is in need of major work. South Strafford architect Tim Utt volunteered his time to design a replacement. While we do not feel we have the funds to make major improvements this year, work will be done to address safety issues.

The Board approved an overall pay increase of 3% for the Town Road crew. This figure is reflected in the budget.

On the recommendation of the Town Clerk, the Board approved and funded changes in Town Office Personnel. The Town Clerk/Town Treasurer who also serves as the Selectboard Assistant will now work six of her 40 hours/week as Selectboard Assistant.

Her pay for this is covered under the line item Selectboard expenses. Also under this line item are funds for a Recording Clerk for regular Selectboard meetings. The Second Town Clerk Assistant had her hours increased from 12 to 18 hours per week to keep up with the ever-increasing demands of the office. The total cost increase including both changes and pay increases in these areas was approximately 7%.

The Board approved restoring Constable Ed Eastman's stipend to the 2013 level of \$10,000. This amount includes his time, vehicle, gas and equipment costs. In another cost-cutting move, the Board decided to reduce the amount budgeted to the Orange County Sheriff's Office to more closely reflect the amount they actually worked. For the last three years, they have had

difficulties providing the amount of services contracted and the new figure, while lower, will still allow for the same number of hours actually provided in previous years.

Due to decreasing revenue for recyclables, increasing costs for trucking and disposal, and to meet provisions of a new Vermont Solid Waste law Act 148 passed last year, we will be instituting a fee on commercial haulers who use our recycling center to fulfill their recycling requirements. We will hold public hearings in the future to discuss this fee. It should be noted that we are one of the few Recycling Centers run by volunteers. Steve Willbanks and crew deserve our appreciation for their service, as does the Strafford Area Lions Club which has long served as a sponsor and supporter of the Recycling Center. In January, Steve informed the Board that after 27 years of service, he will be stepping down in March as Recycling Coordinator. He has guided the Town's Recycling efforts since its inception and helped make Strafford's recycling a model volunteer effort of local environmental action. Literally, thousands of tons of material has been diverted from landfills into reuse thanks to his efforts.

The Selectboard worked long hours on the budget and there were many debates, and hard choices. The Board is well aware of the pressure from both Town and School needs on property taxes. Unfortunately, we are still dealing with the costs in both time and money from Hurricane Irene and the need to continue making needed improvements to our roads and bridges. The challenges of keeping roads cleared and safe in winter as people often need to travel at all hours of the day in all types of weather also has its costs particularly with a spike this year in the price of road salt. Finally ever more rules and regulations from the State mean ever more costs for our Town.

With all the above taken into account, the Board is asking the Town to approve a sum of \$1,036,210 to be raised by taxes to defray budget expenses. This is an increase of \$30,494 or roughly 3% more than last year.

Finally, the Selectboard would like to thank all the Town employees for their dedication and good work. Auditor Nellie Pennington deserves special praise for the tremendous amount of time-pressured work she does in January not only providing the needed end of the year figures but also her work in putting together the Town Report. We would also like to thank the many, many town volunteers who provide so many services and help for our community and those who generously donate to projects in town. Strafford would not be the special place it is without the willing work and help of so many who whether year round or summer residence consider it a home.

Respectfully submitted,

Roderick J. Maclay

Brenton Cadwell

John Freitag

Steve Marx

Brian Johnson

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

In 2014 there are three areas that I think are important to write about.

The first one is the completion of four large FEMA Bridge projects this year. With total expenditures of just over \$1.3 million to replace a box culvert on Van Dyke Road, two bridges on Old City Falls Road, Bean Bridge and Watson Bridge and the last one White Road Bridge this brings an end to Tropical Storm Irene that came thorough Strafford in 2011. I secured a line of credit for \$1.2 million dollars at 1% interest with MSB to cover the constructions costs of all four bridges. You are eligible to receive up to 75% reimbursement on expenditures during construction, and because I submitted invoices on a regular basis for reimbursement, it was only necessary to borrow from that line of credit \$375,275 because of the cash flow coming back in. Interest on the loan for 2014 came to \$2,174. I worked with three construction companies, Daniels Construction, Tremblay Construction, and Northwoods Construction, along with DeWolfe Engineering that oversaw the design and construction to completion. Final documentation has been submitted to FEMA for closing out the projects, and once the reviews are completed the final funds will be sent to the Town. Nearly three million dollars in damages, close to 50 projects over four years, I'm happy to say my books are closed.

The second one is the part-time position held currently by Courtney Hardy. This position was created to help with projects that needed more attention like 9-1-1 and recording the Town Proceedings and bringing important documents up to date at the office. The Town Proceedings that needed updating for 15 years of records has created two new volumes or an additional 696 pages recorded to history in the town vault. This position is now 18 hours per week compared to 8 hours in 2011; that's an increase of just 3 hours per year. The responsibilities of this position continue to grow with the added responsibilities of keeping the Town website updated on a daily basis. This includes posting of the agendas and minutes for all committees that are now required by law to post on a Town website if one is maintained. This position also covers back-up and training to complete payroll and accounts payable during vacation times, it includes new procedures instituted by the state for 9-1-1 changes, maintaining our records for retention, and following up on our five year plan for records restoration.

I know that there are some that ask the question of why the need for administrative staff support at the office. The fact of the matter is that jobs evolve over time, the State requires more online filing, which in return requires more time to process than before, new state laws require additional work, and a five-person Selectboard requires more support.

We are working with a town volunteer to develop and maintain a calendar for Community Events on the Town's website, and will continue to develop and add information to the web. We have contacted the State of Vermont to

handle DMV renewals at the office, and our server will be updated this year. Just the daily day-to-day operations keep you busy, and the ever evolving state requirements and state laws that change always add additional work and require more staff time to complete such requirements. This year I have also added more of my time to help the Selectboard with their tasks, eliminating the need to hire a Selectboard assistant and I foresee that there is no reason with the current staff as it is now, that I can't continue to help assist the Selectboard.

I want to thank Regina Gioia and Courtney Hardy for all their support and hard work over the year and working together to support each other and the community.

Lisa M. Kendall
Town Clerk/Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TOWN AGENT AND GRAND JUROR

I thought it would be interesting to give a little perspective on what the "Town Agent" is/does as defined by the *VLCT Handbook for Vermont Town Officers* and the Vermont statutes. Reference can be found in 17 V.S.A. §2646 (11) which holds that a Town Agent may "*prosecute and defend suits in which the town or town school district is interested*". Despite the clear meaning of the words, the Vermont Supreme Court, as early as 1863, found that "*it has never been supposed that such town agent had any authority to originate suits in favor of the town, or to settle or compromise suits in which the town was interested, but that his duty consisted merely in conducting the litigation in its progress.*" This implies a role more closely associated with management of outside counsel engaged in litigation on behalf of the town. The VLCT Handbook states: "*The fact that a town agent is elected does not remove the authority of the select board to hire an attorney to represent the town, conduct litigation, and settle suits on behalf of the town. Accordingly, many towns do not have active town agents, and those that do often limit the agent's activities to picking an attorney for the town or acting as a liaison between the select board and the town attorney in particular matters.*" By removing the authority to act independently, the Court has explicitly removed the duty of the Town Agent to act and has relegated the office to an advisory role, when so called upon by the Selectboard, to advise or assist in civil matters (criminal matters being the sole purview of the Town Grand juror). The Town Agent is an asset or sort of tool which can be used, if and when desired, by the Selectboard for advisory purposes. A dusty tool indeed.

Alan Donohue
Town Agent

LISTERS' REPORT

2014 has been a busy year for the listers. We have completed the town-wide reappraisal as ordered by the state on schedule and with very few issues. We would like to thank Tom Cain from Vermont Appraisal Company for going above and beyond the call of duty to accomplish this, and the town clerk's office for their endless help and courteous attitude during this period as well.

Strafford has more than 700 properties and each one had to be visited and documented and appraised. There were a handful of grievances and these were dealt with according to statute, and hopefully resolved fairly. In order to be as consistent and fair as possible in the appraisal process, all appraisals were done by the same person (Tom Cain).

The lister office does not currently have any regular hours but can be reached by phone (leave a message) at 802-765-4360, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Castro

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

The year 2014 saw very little progress in the town cemeteries, with the exception of a new split rail fence installed at the Wood Cemetery in Miller Pond, along with the yearly mowing of the inactive cemeteries.

At present, we are still actively searching for a reasonable solution to the restoration of the fence at the Evergreen Cemetery.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners,
Gary Kendall
Blake Spencer
Alan Donohue
Andy Behrens
Dick Josler

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2014. Based on 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.

In October 2014, the auditors, Treasurer, and OWSU staff met and adopted a new procedure to streamline the reconciliation of the school account.

This reconciliation was a duplication in effort as it was being done both by OWSU and the auditors, and is not required of the town auditors, since the school district is audited annually by outside auditors. The town auditors will cease reconciling the monthly statements and it will be done by the Treasurer and OWSU. As a result, the Auditors' Report will no longer include a statement regarding the examination of the school accounts.

We would like to thank Lisa Kendall, Regina Gioia, Donna Benoit and other town and school officials for their continued cooperation in the auditing process and in the preparation of the Town Report.

Nellie Pennington
Ann Kynor
Sperry Wilson

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

2014 ended with a very low occurrence of reported wildland fires. Much of this past year did not have weather that allowed for many wildland fires to start, except for a brief stretch in late April and early May. Most of the fires reported occurred during this short time.

On April 24, 2014 fire danger was high enough to trigger a Red Flag warning to be issued by the National Weather Service and the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. The fall saw a long stretch of dry weather, in late September and early October.

There were two fires over 15 acres reported in the fall fire season. The total for 2014 was 56 fires that burned a total of 164.361 acres.

I would also like to add the Department of Environmental Conservation provides Fire Warden's information about air quality forecasts. It identifies times of poor smoke dispersion and provides recommendations for minimizing health impacts from open burning to consider when issuing burn permits.

State law requires a permit for open burning within 200 feet of grass, woodlands, or buildings, or if there is less than one inch of snow on the ground.

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 your Fire Warden at (802) 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 obtained fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

In 2014, 22 permits were granted, up one from 2013. One citizen submitted an application for, and was granted, a permit for existing buildings (thank you). Strafford's fees and regulations are minimal, so please comply with the zoning ordinances and apply for a permit before starting your project.

I can be reached at home (early evenings or early mornings) at (802) 765 4514, or through the town clerk's office. Thank you.

	2012	2013	2014
Houses/Camp Houses	3	7	2
Additions/Decks/Porches	6	7	6
Barns/Sheds/Outbuildings	10	3	8
Garages	2	2	3
Lot Line Adjustments	2	1	0
Conditional Use Permits	1	0	0
Other (Yurt, storage overhang, temporary mobile home)	3	1	3
Total	27	21	22
Permits denied		1	
Permits withdrawn	1		

Brian Johnson, Zoning Administrator

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. The DRB works with the Zoning Administrator (ZA) when lot-line adjustments, 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 that are written 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, Steve Campbell, Vice Chair, Bonnie Bergeron, Secretary, Dan Ruml and Martha Walke. Alternate members are Fred Wolfe and Alan Donohue. The Zoning Administrator is Brian Johnson. The Clerk of the Board is Elizabeth Clarke.

The DRB meets on the Wednesday after the third Monday of each month, usually at the Town Office building in Strafford. All meetings are open to the public. Draft minutes are posted on the Town website no later than five

days after the meeting and approved minutes are available to the public in the town records. Applications for subdivisions, conditional use, variance and/or lot line adjustments are considered at formally warned hearings. Hearings are open to the public; anyone wanting ‘interested party’ status must be present at the hearing. Decisions are publicly posted for a 15 day period to allow interested parties to appeal the decision. At the conclusion of the 15 day period, and in the absence of an appeal, DRB decisions have legal standing.

In 2014, the DRB held hearings for three (3) subdivisions. The three subdivisions were approved.

The DRB also took action on two significant topics in 2013 that continued into 2014 for resolution: the State’s interest in lot line adjustments; and the interpretation of Town zoning boundaries.

Relative to lot line Adjustments, the DRB learned that the State’s Department of Water Safety must approve the well and waste water plans for all lot line adjustments. The State letter of approval is required to file the revised deeds and/or transfer the deed.

Relative to the interpretation of zone boundaries, the DRB referred the question to the Planning Commission and Selectboard, who in turn sought legal counsel. The interpretation resulted in the determination that zone boundaries begin and end at parcel boundaries. They do not cut across or divide parcels.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Clarke, Clerk

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

The members of the Strafford Planning Commission are Chair Steve Campbell, Vice Chair Steve Willbanks, Secretary Martha Walke, members Stuart Crocker, Guy Denechaud, John Echeverria, Donald Graham, Michael Scanlan and Cameron Speth.

The Commission has spent the year working on the Strafford Unified Bylaw document which consolidated the Strafford Zoning Ordinance and the Strafford Subdivision Regulations. As we have worked our way through this document, much time has been spent on the subdivision regulations, the village centers, and compliance with new state regulations. We are in the process of finalizing wording and preparing the document for approval.

In October, Strafford was awarded a Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) grant of \$14,000 to help us develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan. This will involve helping the Planning Commission form a

committee, with local individuals, to develop a flood resilience element for our 2015 revision of the Strafford Town Plan.

The Planning Commission meets on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Education Center at the Morrill Homestead. These meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha M. Walke, Secretary

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Membership:

There are currently 8 members: Steve Willbanks (Chair), Amy Metz (Recording Secretary), Matt Perry (Treasurer), Mike Hebb, John Hemenway, Tii McLane, Jared Jenisch, and J.T. Horn. Steve Willbanks and Jared Jenisch were newly appointed in April of this year. An organizational meeting was held in July electing the positions of chair, recording secretary, and treasurer. Matt Perry will be stepping down from the position of treasurer. Draft by-laws have been created but are not yet approved.

The Conservation Commission meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Justin Morrill Education Building. All are welcome to attend. We are looking for new members so please contact Steve Willbanks (stephen.willbanks@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining.

Projects:

River Stewardship – The Maple Hill Road Culvert was identified by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife as a culvert that should be replaced to aid in stream geomorphology and aquatic fish passage. The culvert also sits below Podunk Pond’s failing berm. The SCC worked with Ron Rhodes (North Country River Steward, Connecticut River Watershed Council) to identify three projects and complete the grant writing to secure some of the funding (in progress). Three projects identified are: 1) landowner riparian buffer plantings/livestock exclusion and alternative water source; 2) dry Hydrant relocation; and 3) culvert replacement. Landowners involved have been contacted.

The Town approved proceeding with the second and third projects during an April Selectboard meeting, under the condition that no town funds would pay for the project. Troy Dare (Rural Fire Protection Program Manager) and Dave Kendall are coordinating the relocation of the dry hydrant to Miller Pond. The Town approved plowing into Miller Pond to access the relocated hydrant. The culvert replacement required an engineering design. Ron Rhodes was awarded a Vermont Fish and Wildlife grant to pay for 65% of the design and the SCC matched the remaining 35% from the balance left

in a Mitigation Enhancement Fund Phase III grant. Milone and MacBroom engineering firm surveyed the Maple Hill Road culvert on August 29.

On August 15 a group of volunteers helped clean up a stretch of the West Branch Ompompanoosuc River next to Roz Finn's property. This event was part of the Annual "Source To Sea Clean-up" sponsored by the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

Wetlands Inventory – Completing a town wetlands inventory was a project identified within the Strafford Open Space Plan. There are two pieces for conducting the inventory: 1) remote inventory and landscape analysis and, 2) field identification. The SCC will hire a consultant for the remote inventory but recruit volunteers to conduct the field identification. Training for the field work is funded from seed money awarded from the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund. Ten volunteers began training for wetland identification on September 25. This training will continue in the spring of 2015.

Invasives – The battle to control invasive plant species continues. A public meeting was held on June 18 to discuss invasives management in Strafford. Strafford landowners came together to discuss management plans, with a focus on wild chervil, poison parsnip, Japanese knotweed and purple loosestrife. Noticeable differences have been made on Pennock Rd. due to landowners hosting pulling parties. The recommended approach is to tackle the invasives along the back roads and move into the problem corridors, for example on Justin Morrill Highway. A core group has been identified to resume planning for next season and continue with public education and field work.

Trails – Mike Hebb continues to promote the trails network within our town. Hikes were led throughout the year. Notable hikes were a 10-mile hike on June 7 to celebrate National Trails Day and the June 21st Lady Slipper Orchid Hike at the Town Forest. Mike was able to raise \$850 to construct a boardwalk in the Town Forest to alleviate foot traffic around sensitive areas during the orchid hike. The boardwalk was completed by Mike and Jared the next week and is an important addition to the Town Forest. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this project possible.

Volunteers are needed for trail maintenance as there are many sections that are not covered. Please contact Mike Hebb if you are interested in volunteering.

Old City Falls and Whitcomb Hill – Rett Emerson completed work to fabricate the metal hood in the pavilion. A contractor has been identified to help with repairs on the outhouse. A decision was made to shiplap over the particleboard and update the railing. These improvements will occur in 2015.

We met with the town's insurer for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, to review safety signage in Old City Falls. In general the pathway

to the Falls is well-maintained and the signage appropriate. He did suggest that in addition there were portions of the trail where blazes on the trees might keep people from straying and that dry leaves and dead brush could be kept further away from the fireplace area.

There was a clean-up day for Whitcomb Hill in August which included brush removal, cutting of tree stumps, and brushhogging the clearing. Also signage was updated with mileage and a new parking sign was added.

Mike, Matt & J.T. had accompanied Dave Paganelli on a tour of Whitcomb Hill to determine a forestry plan for the parcel. He offered general advice on maintaining the site, which he will document in the forestry plan.

Guest Speakers & Workshops/Training – Guest speakers this year included Ken Alton (retired – TransCanada), who discussed the relicensing of Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Dams; Craig Layne (Norwich Conservation Commission), who discussed his experience with wildlife cameras and showed footage from the cameras; Dave Paganelli (Orange County Forester), who discussed forest management practices; and John Buck (ANR Wildlife Biologist), who gave a presentation on the Strafford Wildlife Management Areas (including Podunk, Kibling Hill and Clover Hill).

Members of the SCC attended trainings by the Connecticut River Watershed Council (erosion), Upper Valley Land Trust, Upper Valley Naturalist Training, Dave Paganelli (tree farm walk), and on wetlands identification.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

One issue loomed large in town this year with the many power outages in both villages. Emergency management and the Selectboard continue to press Green Mountain Power in their efforts to move power lines out of the woods and relocate them along roadways. Fortunately, Newton School, the town garage and the town office were able to function during power outages with generator power.

In December, we experienced an extended power outage during very cold weather and opened a Red Cross shelter at the preschool in Tyson Gym. Three residents took advantage of the shelter for warming. We were set up for overnight operation as well. Fortunately, the power came back on in early evening and we were able to close the shelter. Many thanks to John Freitag and Lee Vormelker for working to get the shelter set up. We called upon members of the town shelter team to take shifts at operating the shelter, if needed. Danette and David Harris took the first and only shift and we thank them for their support as well as other team members who volunteered.

Besides actually providing shelter services, this was a great training exercise to practice what we had learned earlier this year at a Red Cross shelter management update course. One of the challenges was getting the word out about the shelter opening, with power and many telephones not operating. We worked with Al Wright at the Café in arranging for providing meals, if any were needed. This is one of our long-term arrangements for feeding people at the shelters.

During this incident, we learned that the generator at Barrett Hall was not useable, due to a failed water pump. The generator has been serviced by a nearby generator company and they noted that the generator, although an older one, is worth repairing. They recommended replacement of the pump.

Earlier in the year, we took advantage of an “all-hazards” training session in Brattleboro as a refresher on emergency planning. Lee Vormelker has been a valuable assistant this year in dealing with some issues and learning more about the overall emergency planning work. Lee and I attended the annual Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference in Fairlee this year and got updates on the changes in the state emergency management structure, communications updates including VTAlert, and an annual briefing on the general terrorist threats to the U.S. and particular issues related to northern New England.

Finally, thanks to the many volunteers, including the Selectboard and Town Office staff, who helped me to keep the emergency management process moving forward as Dot and I went through a very challenging year.

Bill Burden
Emergency Manager

STRAFFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Strafford Energy Committee has had another busy and productive year. We continue to encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in Strafford. We also work on sustainability issues such as local food, aging in place and community transportation possibilities.

In 2014, Strafford won the Orange county Vermont Home Energy Challenge of \$10,000 by auditing and insulating 11 homes in 2013. The SEC, in conversation with the Selectboard and Efficiency Vermont, elected to put the money towards insulating the vault area of the town clerk’s office. The vault work was completed by Blake Spencer and it has made a significant improvement to the energy efficiency of the building and the comfort level of its occupants.

A major effort this year was to support the Solarize Strafford and Thetford initiative sponsored by Vital Communities. We kicked off with a Green Ball in March with local food and education on energy independence. Catamount Solar was the chosen installer of the solar panels, and by the end of June the

solarize initiative had generated 139 leads and 21 signed contracts, which enabled cost savings for the participants. Solarize Strafford doubled the number of solar installations in town.

Through the tremendous efforts of Barbara Smith, the Edible Pocket Park in South Strafford was designed, funded with a New England Grassroots grant and donations, and planted using permaculture principles and with the participation of children from the Newton School in the fall on 2014. The park is located on the banks of the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River by the soccer field and features many edible plants including apples, pears, blueberries, herbs and nut trees as well as the native viburnum and elderberry. Invasive knotweed and poison parsnip were removed and the sumac along the river banks has been pruned for wonderful views of the valley. A split rail fence, picnic tables and benches have been donated.

The 108 kilowatt school/municipal solar array has received funding from the Clean Energy Development Fund, and a certificate of public good. We hope that the array will be installed spring 2015. The committee continues to support a 5MW solar array at the Elizabeth Mine and progress has been made with the probability that 3-phase power will be installed to Strafford by Green Mountain power within the next two years.

More recently, using a rebate offered by Efficiency Vermont, the SEC held a double-glazing workshop on Jan. 9, 2015. Ken Alton had gathered all the materials from LaValleys, who cut the plexiglass at no charge. Ten windows were insulated in three hours, with four people participating.

This year we look forward to helping homeowners utilize the new and improved PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program from Efficiency VT and gain access to low and 0% financing for weatherization projects which will pay back in saved energy costs over time. We plan to have a community forum on the topic in the spring.

The Strafford Energy Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room above the Town Clerk's office. All meetings are open to the public. We always welcome more input and new committee members. On occasion, the time and date of the meeting changes, so please contact one of the members to confirm meeting prior to attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Alton
Barbara Smith,
Steve Willbanks
Gus Speth
Lee Vormelker
Gail Boyajian
Dori Wolfe
Janet Cavanagh

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

The Recreation Board is a volunteer board. Our main responsibilities include the maintenance of Varney Fields, Old City Falls and Murray Fields including the tennis courts, the red barn, the preschool playground and the gym.

In addition to regular upkeep and mowing of these areas, the 2014 Recreation Board funds were used to paint one side of the red barn and to purchase wood chips for the preschool and Newton School playgrounds. The woodchips not only beautified the area but also increased the safety of the playgrounds.

The 2014 recreation board was happy to sponsor the summer soccer camp, the edible pocket park, and the summer concert series.

The recreation board continues to work collaboratively with the Strafford Athletic Association in order to pursue funding for new tennis courts. The current tennis courts have many cracks and are not suitable for long term use.

We welcome additional support in writing grant applications and pursuing additional grant funding.

The Recreation Board meets quarterly on the second Monday of March, June, September and December. We welcome new members to the board. Please contact any current board members for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hilary Linehan

Erin Masteller

Scott Moore

Dave Taplin

Ellen Bagnato



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.

This is the fourth year of pursuing our mission. We 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 in the Strafford News as well as the Strafford website: www.straffordvt.org/townhouse. Anyone interested in participating in any way is welcome to contribute. We meet monthly, at the Town House during the warmer months and this past year at Martha Manheim's during the colder months.

This past year we made good progress on the restroom building, now called the Backhouse. We have completed the shell of the building that included the slate roof and primed clapboard siding plus some windows and one door. We also installed a handicap access path and railing with grant funding from the Vermont Secretary of State to meet the mandates of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The bulk of our efforts have been accomplished by volunteer labor. Local professionals provided services we were unable to provide through the volunteers. We have a grant proposal submitted to provide funding for the composting toilet system and is currently pending. Our goal continues to be to finance as much of the project as possible through donations and volunteer labor.

We are marketing the use of the building online as well as through other media sources. The future rentals will further fund our ongoing projects. The season for rentals is from May 1 to October 31.

Our 5th annual Clean Up Day will be in the beginning of May. All are welcome to participate and enjoy a relaxed fun afternoon at our Town House sprucing it up for the upcoming season. The announced date will be posted on the list serve as well as the Town website.

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

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2013, 2014, and Proposed 2015

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2015 Proposed
ADMINISTRATION					
Selectmen-Salary	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ (900.00)	\$ 2,250.00
- Expenses	4,237.34	4,270.00	5,215.68	(945.68)	8,070.00
Town Clerk/Treasurer	35,121.38	36,650.00	36,802.77	(152.77)	36,390.00
Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer	33,962.18	39,150.00	35,554.99	3,595.01	43,220.00
Financial Services	7,505.36	9,900.00	12,077.24	(2,177.24)	6,200.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 82,176.26	\$ 91,320.00	\$ 91,900.68	\$ (580.68)	\$ 96,130.00
GENERAL SERVICES					
Town Office	\$ 15,826.07	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 19,302.22	\$ (5,002.22)	\$ 16,250.00
VLCT Dues	1,895.00	2,084.00	2,084.00	-	2,150.00
Town Meetings and Elections	309.50	500.00	370.06	129.94	300.00
Printing Town Report	2,792.40	3,200.00	2,777.86	422.14	3,000.00
Auditing	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	-	1,200.00
Outside Audit	15,000.00	-	-	-	-
Delinquent Tax Collector	11,553.89	11,500.00	8,685.75	-	9,000.00
Listing & Grand List	20,457.27	10,110.00	8,266.47	1,843.53	10,000.00
Reappraisal	30,187.80	22,666.00	21,701.00	965.00	-
Parcel Mapping	740.00	1,000.00	220.00	780.00	750.00
Police Services	20,685.74	32,936.00	24,004.96	8,931.04	33,000.00
Dog Officer	1,204.39	1,250.00	807.23	442.77	1,050.00
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	34,500.00	34,500.00	34,500.00	-	36,000.00
Emergency Management	1,189.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Ambulance Service	29,646.00	34,038.00	34,038.00	-	38,430.00
Solid Waste	21,834.38	21,200.00	23,586.51	(2,386.51)	24,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL SERVICES	\$ 209,021.44	\$ 191,484.00	\$ 181,544.06	\$ 9,939.94	\$ 176,130.00

EXPENSES (CONTINUED)	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed	2014 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2015 Proposed
COMMUNITY SERVICES					
Clara Martin Ctr./OCMHS	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ -	\$ 2,700.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,040.00	3,040.00	3,040.00	-	3,040.00
Adult Basic Education	800.00	600.00	600.00	-	800.00
CVCAC	300.00	300.00	300.00	-	300.00
Senior Citizens Center	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Streetlights	2,536.55	2,600.00	2,577.38	22.62	2,600.00
Library	34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.00	-	34,000.00
Safeline	1,000.00	900.00	900.00	-	1,000.00
VT Ctr. for Independent Living	200.00	200.00	200.00	-	200.00
Orange County Diversion	200.00	200.00	200.00	-	200.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	600.00	600.00	600.00	-	750.00
Stratford Historical Society	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Resource Conservation & Dev.	100.00	-	-	-	-
Red Cross	500.00	551.00	551.00	-	550.00
SERG	200.00	-	-	-	200.00
Carrie Sanborn	-	-	5,528.30	(5,528.30)	-
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$ 49,176.55	\$ 48,691.00	\$ 54,196.68	\$ (5,505.68)	\$ 49,340.00
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Town Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Regional Planning	1,373.00	1,416.00	1,416.00	-	1,460.00
Development Review Board	1,815.21	1,500.00	855.00	645.00	1,500.00
Town Zoning/Septic	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
County Tax	39,296.32	41,000.00	37,222.70	3,777.30	42,250.00
Leaseland Rent	85.00	85.00	85.00	-	85.00

EXPENSES (CONTINUED)	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed	2014 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2015 Proposed
INSURANCE:					
Social Security Tax	22,376.83	24,500.00	21,248.69	3,251.31	24,500.00
Municipal Retirement	9,960.66	10,850.00	9,197.93	1,652.07	11,100.00
Workmen's Comp.	10,373.80	12,070.00	12,068.28	1.72	14,320.00
Unemployment Ins.	638.00	572.00	641.00	(69.00)	430.00
Health, Dental & Vision Ins.	75,458.32	98,710.00	88,874.73	9,835.27	96,600.00
Property & Liability	10,967.24	12,126.00	11,154.36	971.64	10,040.00
Legal Fees & Consultants	4,263.50	5,000.00	5,711.65	(711.65)	7,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 177,607.88	\$ 208,829.00	\$ 189,475.34	\$ 19,353.66	\$ 210,285.00
MUNICIPAL PROPERTY					
Municipal Building	\$ 7,059.64	\$ 15,150.00	\$ 10,518.73	\$ 4,631.27	\$ 11,050.00
Town House	10,570.06	10,250.00	9,511.49	738.51	10,500.00
Town House Restrooms	12,325.15	-	7,737.30	(7,737.30)	-
Town Garage and Sand Pit	34,824.72	37,700.00	53,279.17	(15,579.17)	38,600.00
Town Cemeteries	8,808.50	10,800.00	10,549.40	250.60	10,800.00
Town Common	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	-	1,200.00
Tennis Court	-	1,000.00	2,100.00	(1,100.00)	1,000.00
Recreation Areas	6,084.84	7,300.00	10,081.20	(2,781.20)	8,975.00
TOTAL MUNICIPAL PROPERTY	\$ 80,872.91	\$ 83,400.00	\$ 104,977.29	\$ (21,577.29)	\$ 82,125.00
GRANT EXPENDITURES					
Planning	-	-	-	-	-
Misc. Grants	24,797.33	5,000.00	13,908.44	(8,908.44)	-
Conservation Commission	904.97	-	900.00	(900.00)	-
TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES	\$ 25,702.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 14,808.44	\$ (9,808.44)	\$ -
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES					
Whitcomb Hill	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous Expense	16,887.68	5,000.00	3,897.92	1,102.08	4,000.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$ 16,937.68	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 3,897.92	\$ 1,202.08	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES GENERAL FUND	\$ 641,495.02	\$ 633,824.00	\$ 640,800.41	\$ (6,976.41)	\$ 618,010.00

HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed	2014 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2015 Proposed
Deficit Reduction	\$ -	\$ 97,998.00 *	\$ -	\$ 97,998.00	
Winter Roads (Nov. 1-Apr. 30)					
Wages	\$ 72,370.54	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 69,482.92	\$ 5,517.08	\$ 82,500.00
Materials (Salt, Sand, Gravel)	161,159.35	105,000.00	106,926.16	(1,926.16)	121,800.00
Contract Services	29,259.37	12,000.00	14,995.00	(2,995.00)	14,600.00
Equipment Use	126,825.00	128,000.00	110,695.00	17,305.00	153,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 389,614.26	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 302,099.08	\$ 17,900.92	\$ 371,900.00
Summer Roads (May 1-Oct. 31)					
Wages	\$ 66,000.30	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 60,689.98	\$ 7,310.02	\$ 65,500.00
Materials	91,439.76	40,000.00	17,562.72	22,437.28	40,000.00
Contract Services	60,338.57	6,000.00	8,063.86	(2,063.86)	20,000.00
Equipment Use	122,465.00	105,000.00	98,847.50	6,152.50	125,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 340,243.63	\$ 219,000.00	\$ 185,164.06	\$ 33,835.94	\$ 250,500.00
Retreatment					
Contract Services	\$ 26,279.90	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,991.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 25,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 26,279.90	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,991.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 25,000.00
Bridges					
Wages	\$ 1,256.46	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,363.50	\$ 1,636.50	\$ 3,000.00
Materials	2,389.71	6,250.00	55.99	6,194.01	5,000.00
Contract Services	16,806.62	35,000.00	19,906.82	15,093.18	79,000.00
Grant Expense	-	175,000.00	-	175,000.00	175,000.00
Equipment Use	-	5,200.00	380.00	4,820.00	6,100.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,452.79	\$ 224,450.00	\$ 21,706.31	\$ 202,743.69	\$ 268,100.00

* Additional funds approved at Town Meeting 2014

EXPENSES (CONTINUED)	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed	2014 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2015 Proposed
FEMA					
Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 529.12	\$ (529.12)	\$ -
Materials	1,918.76	-	-	-	-
Misc Exp	438.80	-	-	-	-
Contract Services	107,742.22	1,280,000.00	1,326,506.68	(46,506.68)	-
Interest	-	12,800.00	3,982.26	8,817.74	2,000.00
Equipment Use	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 110,099.78	\$ 1,292,800.00	\$ 1,331,018.06	\$ (38,218.06)	\$ 2,000.00
Municipal Property					
Wages	\$ 3,244.33	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,350.56	\$ 1,649.44	\$ 4,000.00
Materials	4,346.95	2,000.00	1,205.52	794.48	2,000.00
Contract Services	2,398.00	2,500.00	165.00	2,335.00	1,000.00
Sidewalks	9,052.00	8,000.00	9,855.00	(1,855.00)	9,000.00
Equipment Use	770.00	1,000.00	793.82	206.18	1,200.00
Recycling Center	1,081.79	1,000.00	525.00	475.00	1,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,893.07	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 14,894.90	\$ 3,605.10	\$ 18,200.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES	\$ 907,583.43	\$ 2,192,748.00	\$ 1,874,873.41	\$ 317,874.59	\$ 935,700.00
TOWN GARAGE EXPENSES					
Interest	\$ 23,163.76	\$ 21,700.00	\$ 21,699.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 20,220.00
Debt Service	-	35,000.00	-	35,000.00	35,000.00
TOTAL TOWN GARAGE EXPENSES	\$ 23,163.76	\$ 56,700.00	\$ 21,699.00	\$ 35,001.00	\$ 55,220.00
HIGHWAY RECONSTR. EXPENSES					
Contract Services	\$ 31,500.00	\$ -	\$ 11,454.50	\$ (11,454.50)	\$ -
Interest	18,988.46	18,200.00	18,180.33	19.67	16,160.00
Debt Service	-	122,200.00	-	122,200.00	122,200.00
TOTAL HWY RECONSTR. EXPENSES	\$ 50,488.46	\$ 140,400.00	\$ 29,634.83	\$ 110,765.17	\$ 138,360.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - ALL FUNDS	\$ 1,622,730.67	\$ 3,023,672.00	\$ 2,567,007.65	\$ 456,664.35	\$ 1,747,290.00

GENERAL FUND REVENUE	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed	2014 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2015 Proposed
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ 25,666.00	\$ -	\$ (25,666.00)	\$ 12,500.00
General Fund Taxes	353,781.87	412,018.00	414,214.51	2,196.51	419,510.00
Net Del. Tax Interest Income	6,369.50	4,000.00	6,913.04	2,913.04	6,000.00
1% Interest on 1st Payment	1,066.49	1,000.00	2,009.82	1,009.82	1,000.00
Interest Income	224.68	150.00	229.63	79.63	150.00
Delinquent Tax Penalty	11,553.89	11,500.00	8,685.75	(2,814.25)	9,000.00
PILOT	11,786.20	11,000.00	12,219.91	1,219.91	11,500.00
State of VT Hold Harmless	128,790.00	128,000.00	134,917.00	6,917.00	130,000.00
Fish & Game Land Tax	-	-	-	-	-
Lister Education	390.00	390.00	-	(390.00)	400.00
Equal Education Grand List	-	-	-	-	-
State of VT Reappraisal Fund	6,660.00	6,600.00	6,697.50	97.50	6,600.00
Misc. Income	9,215.48	2,000.00	2,057.71	57.71	2,000.00
Parcel Mapping	30.00	-	26.00	26.00	-
Fees for Services	16,713.70	15,900.00	12,532.60	(3,367.40)	12,650.00
Recording Surcharge	1,232.00	1,000.00	991.00	(9.00)	1,000.00
Donations	-	5,000.00	831.14	(4,168.86)	-
Conservation Fund Revenue	-	-	950.00	950.00	-
Carrie Sanborn	-	-	7,500.00	7,500.00	-
Dog Donations	-	-	40.00	40.00	-
Pocket Park	-	-	2,770.00	2,770.00	-
Evergreen Cemetery	784.00	100.00	-	(100.00)	-
Misc. Grants	23,395.41	5,000.00	13,658.44	8,658.44	-
Town House Donations	3,618.00	3,000.00	4,150.00	1,150.00	500.00
Town House Restrooms	-	-	2,865.00	2,865.00	-
Town House Usage Revenue	1,145.00	1,000.00	2,550.00	1,550.00	2,400.00
Recycling Income	699.14	500.00	991.45	-	2,800.00
TOTAL REVENUE GENERAL FUND	\$ 577,455.36	\$ 633,824.00	\$ 637,800.50	\$ 3,976.50	\$ 618,010.00

	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed	2014 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2015 Proposed
HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE					
Balances Forward	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	
Highway Fund Taxes	575,000.00	593,748.00 *	593,748.00	-	616,700.00
Misc. Income	1,435.26		882.81	882.81	
Gas Tax Appropriations	143,848.53	144,000.00	143,681.20	(318.80)	144,000.00
Grants for Public Works	-	175,000.00	-	(175,000.00)	175,000.00
Endowment	-		-	-	
Sidewalk Grant	-		-	-	
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	7,850.54	64,000.00	134,342.27	70,342.27	-
FEMA	27,215.27	1,216,000.00	1,133,157.27	(82,842.73)	-
TOTAL REVENUE HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 755,349.60	\$ 2,192,748.00	\$ 2,005,811.55	\$ (186,936.45)	\$ 935,700.00
TOWN GARAGE REVENUE					
Town Garage Taxes	\$ 58,164.00	\$ 56,700.00	\$ 56,700.00	-	\$ 55,220.00
TOTAL REVENUE TOWN GARAGE	\$ 58,164.00	\$ 56,700.00	\$ 56,700.00	\$ -	\$ 55,220.00
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION					
Highway Reconstruction Taxes	\$ 18,985.00	\$ 140,400.00	\$ 140,400.00	-	\$ 138,360.00
TOTAL REVENUE HWY RECONSTR.	\$ 18,985.00	\$ 140,400.00	\$ 140,400.00	\$ -	\$ 138,360.00
TOTAL REVENUE ALL FUNDS	\$ 1,409,953.96	\$ 3,023,672.00	\$ 2,840,712.05	\$ (182,959.95)	\$ 1,747,290.00

* Additional funds approved at Town Meeting 2014

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
EQUIPMENT FUND - BUDGET 2015
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2013 and 2014

<u>EXPENSES</u>	ACTUAL 2013	BUDGET 2014	ACTUAL 2014	BUDGET 2015
Wages	\$ 34,709.09	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,807.80	\$ 30,000.00
Gas & Oil	75,618.76	70,000.00	67,913.46	75,000.00
Supplies	40,582.08	28,000.00	29,740.69	28,000.00
Insurance	9,118.96	9,600.00	9,649.08	8,750.00
Debt Service	-	89,500.00	-	62,525.00
Capital Expense	133,638.00	-	-	34,125.00
Interest Expense	6,428.15	8,100.00	7,528.12	8,900.00
Equipment Rental	-	-	-	-
Repairs & Parts - Total	36,260.39	39,000.00	40,295.72	38,000.00
<i>Truck 1</i>	<i>11,411.17</i>		<i>5,811.26</i>	
<i>Truck 2</i>	<i>5,489.85</i>		<i>5,524.37</i>	
<i>Truck 3</i>	<i>8,990.59</i>		<i>15,671.75</i>	
<i>Truck 4</i>	<i>3,016.62</i>		<i>7,852.49</i>	
<i>Grader</i>	<i>2,847.63</i>		<i>3,562.33</i>	
<i>Loader</i>	<i>2,066.59</i>		<i>608.05</i>	
<i>Backhoe</i>	<i>1,257.82</i>		<i>813.32</i>	
<i>Mower</i>	<i>1,180.12</i>		<i>452.15</i>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 336,355.43	\$ 257,830.00	\$ 185,934.87	\$ 285,300.00
<u>INCOME</u>				
Equipment Earnings	\$ 250,060.00	\$ 257,830.00	\$ 210,447.50	\$ 285,300.00
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 250,060.00	\$ 257,830.00	\$ 210,447.50	\$ 285,300.00

<u>HOURLY EQUIPMENT USE RATES</u>	2014	2015
Truck 1 Ford 1-Ton	\$30.00	\$40.00
Truck 2 Western Star 10-Wheeler	\$50.00	\$60.00
Truck 3 International	\$45.00	\$55.00
Truck 4 International	\$40.00	\$50.00
Grader	\$70.00	\$85.00
Loader	\$50.00	\$60.00
Backhoe	\$50.00	\$60.00
Mower	\$25.00	\$35.00

TOWN OF STRATFORD, VERMONT
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ALL FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS
For Years Ending December 31, 2013 and 2014 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Fire Truck	Town Garage	Hwy Reconstr.	Equipment	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2014	12/31/2013
ASSETS									
Cash	\$177,512.53	\$116,563.46	\$6,920.60	\$19,667.38	\$(28,747.16)	\$149,551.78	\$36,177.43	\$477,646.02	\$656,412.93
Delinquent Tax Receivable	62,386.58							62,386.58	60,587.42
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	5,053.44							5,053.44	5,053.44
Accounts Receivable	1,253.52	260,259.11		-		-		261,512.63	85,382.54
Grants Receivable	-	-		-		-		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$246,206.07	\$376,822.57	\$6,920.60	\$19,667.38	\$(28,747.16)	\$149,551.78	\$36,177.43	\$806,598.67	\$807,436.33
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE									
LIABILITIES									
Deferred Revenue	\$47,138.77		\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$47,138.77	\$45,948.60
Accounts Payable	16,362.05	6,481.58				2,417.47	-	25,261.10	24,252.94
Accrued Payroll	5,187.24	4,110.24				1,475.76	-	10,773.24	9,849.57
Notes Payable	-	375,275.00	-	445,000.00		245,015.41		1,065,290.41	1,309,305.10
Construction Bond	-				949,458.98			949,458.98	1,060,226.70
Logging Bond	-	500.00						500.00	500.00
Due to School District	61,425.89							61,425.89	14,451.89
Due to Tax Collector	5,337.71							5,337.71	5,034.88
Miscellaneous Liabilities	(541.85)							(541.85)	969.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$134,909.81	\$386,366.82	\$-	\$445,000.00	\$949,458.98	\$248,908.64	\$-	\$2,164,644.25	\$2,470,539.02
FUND BALANCE									
Restricted (Note 3)	\$75,908.58	\$(9,544.25)	\$6,920.60	\$(425,332.62)	\$(978,206.14)	\$(99,356.86)	\$36,177.43	\$(1,393,433.26)	\$(1,685,587.32)
Unrestricted	35,387.68							35,387.68	22,484.63
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$111,296.26	\$(9,544.25)	\$6,920.60	\$(425,332.62)	\$(978,206.14)	\$(99,356.86)	\$36,177.43	\$(1,358,045.58)	\$(1,663,102.69)
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$246,206.07	\$376,822.57	\$6,920.60	\$19,667.38	\$(28,747.16)	\$149,551.78	\$36,177.43	\$806,598.67	\$807,436.33

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

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2013 and 2014

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Fire Truck Fund	Town Garage Fund	Hwy Recon Fund	Equipment Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2013	\$107,456.09	\$ (140,482.39)	\$ 6,920.60	\$(460,333.62)	\$(1,088,971.31)	\$(123,869.49)
Prior Year Adj (<i>See Note 4</i>)	6,840.08					
Revenues	637,800.50	2,005,811.55	-	56,700.00	140,400.00	210,447.50
Balances and Additions	\$ 752,096.67	\$ 1,865,329.16	\$ 6,920.60	\$ (403,633.62)	\$ (948,571.31)	\$ 86,578.01
Expenditures:	(640,800.41)	(1,874,873.41)	-	(21,699.00)	(29,634.83)	(185,934.87)
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2014	\$111,296.26	\$ (9,544.25)	\$ 6,920.60	\$(425,332.62)	\$(978,206.14)	\$(99,356.86)

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2014**

2011 International

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
December 31, 2015	\$ 20,595.64	\$ 403.84	\$ 20,191.80	\$ -

Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$100,959. State of Vermont.

2012 John Deere Grader

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
March 30, 2015	\$ 5,539.39	\$ 342.75	\$ 5,196.64	\$ 48,266.92
June 30, 2015	5,539.39	451.09	5,088.30	43,178.62
September 30, 2015	5,539.39	417.75	5,121.64	38,056.98
December 30, 2015	5,539.39	380.01	5,159.38	32,897.60
March 30, 2016	5,539.39	342.75	5,196.64	27,700.96
June 30, 2016	5,539.39	316.31	5,223.08	22,477.88
September 30, 2016	5,539.39	282.08	5,257.31	17,220.57
December 30, 2016	5,539.39	244.94	5,294.45	11,926.12
March 30, 2017	5,539.39	210.62	5,328.77	6,597.35
June 30, 2017	5,539.39	178.01	5,361.38	1,235.97

*Terms: 2.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$224,000;
\$110,000 repaid 3/28/13. Mascoma Savings Bank*

2012 John Deere Grader

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
December 31, 2015	\$ 23,320.00	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 22,000.00	44,000.00
December 31, 2016	23,320.00	880.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
December 31, 2017	22,880.00	440.00	22,000.00	-

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

2014 Western Star

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
December 31, 2015	\$ 29,507.27	\$ 2,779.67	\$ 26,727.60	\$ 80,182.80
December 31, 2016	29,507.27	2,779.67	26,727.60	53,455.20
December 31, 2017	28,818.06	2,090.46	26,727.60	26,727.60
December 31, 2018	28,117.44	1,389.84	26,727.60	-

*Terms: 2.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$133,638.
Mascoma Savings Bank*

FEMA Line of Credit

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
October 1, 2015	\$377,449.69	\$ 2,174.69	\$ 375,275.00	-

*Terms: 1% interest. Original amount borrowed \$375,275.
Mascoma Savings Bank*

For other indebtedness information, please refer to Note 5 in the "Notes to Financial Statements."

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
TOWN ENDOWMENTS AND TRUST FUNDS - SELECTMEN, TRUSTEES
Year Ending December 31, 2014

Fund	Principal	Trust Income Balance 12/31/13	Interest Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Frank Brown Fund	\$ 10,000.00	2,964.53	(30.96)	0.00	13,254.28
Selected Highways	320.71				
H.N. Mattison Fund	528.53	530.19	0.00	0.00	1,058.72
Harris Library					
James S. Morrill Fund	1,000.00	1,242.68	0.00	0.00	2,242.68
Municipal Building					
James Morrill Fund	3,000.00	1,370.47	0.00	0.00	4,992.74
Selected Highways	622.27				
George Brown Fund	5,000.00	5,409.26	(15.92)	0.00	10,553.70
Town House	160.36				
Francis Dunbar Fund	200.00	1,424.78	0.00	0.00	1,624.78
Cemetery-Flanders Lot					
Howard Robinson Fund	1,000.00	1,075.21	0.00	0.00	2,075.21
Robinson Cemetery					
Ada J. Smith Fund	50.00	278.44	0.00	0.00	328.44
Smith Lot - Old City Cemetery					
TOTAL	\$ 21,881.87	\$ 14,295.56	\$ (46.88)	\$ -	\$ 36,130.55

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

- 2014 Western Star 10-Wheeler with MG Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2011 International 7400 with Everest Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2008 Ford Ton Truck with 2-way Everest Plow and MG 4-Season Side Dump
- 2007 International 5500 4x4 with Everest Side Dump Body and Plow
- 2005 John Deere 544G Loader
- 2004 John Deere 410 Backhoe
- 2012 772G John Deere Grader
- 2006 Challenger MT445B Tractor
- 2005 Dump Trailer
- 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
- 1 – Desktop Computer
- 1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom
- 1 – Fax Machine
- 1 – York Rake
- 1 – Printer
- 1 – Front Mount York Rake
- 1 – 8' Sweepster Power Broom

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, 2014

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. *Equipment Fund*—The equipment fund was established for the purchase of equipment to be used by the Highway Fund and charged to the Highway Fund for services used. Proceeds from the Highway Fund are used to purchase new equipment and are reflected as Equipment Earnings in the Equipment Fund. *Fire Truck Fund*—The Fire Truck Fund was established in 2001 to purchase a new fire truck. *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.

Note 2: ENDOWMENTS—This number represents both principal and interest of all endowments/trust funds. Each endowment is shown further on in these statements.

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted fund revenue and expenditures are reflected in the General Fund statements. Net changes to restricted funds in each year will be reported in these notes.

GENERAL FUND:	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2014</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
Reserve-Tennis Courts	\$ 2,882.00	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ 1,882.00
Reserve-Town House	9,968.10	1,827.70	11,795.80
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	-	338.03
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	19,411.00	(5,465.61)	13,945.39

<i>(continued)</i>	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2014</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	26,633.34	(15,003.50)	11,629.84
Reserve-Recreation	550.00	-	550.00
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	4,075.00	-	4,075.00
Reserve-Dogs	539.00	40.00	579.00
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	11,340.82	-	11,340.82
Reserve-Pocket Park	-	1,676.75	1,676.75
Reserve-Energy Committee	650.00	-	650.00
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	8,574.27	50.00	8,624.27
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	6,840.08	1,971.70	8,811.78
Total Gen'l Reserve Funds	\$91,811.54	\$ (15,902.96)	\$75,908.58

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

Carrie Sanborn \$6,480.08

Outside auditors requested that the Carrie Sanborn checking account be included in general funds. This balance will be included as a reserve fund amount and activity in the account accounted for in these notes.

Note 5: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of December 31, 2014, is \$122,706.

Elizabeth Freeman Chandler
(1863 - 1949)

Elizabeth was the first woman to serve as Strafford Town Clerk. Elected in 1917, she took over the position following the death of her husband, who had also served as Town Clerk. Elizabeth was succeeded in office by her daughter Lillian Irene, so that the office of Town Clerk was held continuously by the Chandlers for 60 years.



TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2014

Grand List

Real Estate	194,597,300
Plus Equipment	45,716
Less Exemption	(120,000)
Less Current Use	(18,453,900)
Less Local Agreements	(215,000)

Total	<u>175,854,116</u>
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Total Listed Value	175,854,116
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Residential	107,884,200
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Non-residential	67,969,916
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Taxes Billed		Tax rate	Tax
General Fund	1,758,541.16	x 0.2343	412,026
Highway Fund	1,758,541.16	x 0.2933	515,780
Town Garage	1,758,541.16	x 0.0322	56,625
Hwy Reconstruction	1,758,541.16	x 0.0798	140,332
Deficit Reduction	1,758,541.16	x 0.0444	78,079
Local Agreements	1,758,541.16	x 0.0012	2,110
Homestead Educ.	1,078,842.00	x 1.4496	1,563,889
Nonresidential Educ.	679,699.16	x 1.3764	935,538
Total			<u>3,704,380</u>

Adjustments to Taxes Due

Lister errors and omissions	(1,285)
Current use change	(9,883)
State Homestead Declaration errors	(81)
Board of Civil Authority appeal	-
Board of Civil Authority abatement	(1,554)
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration	4,896
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties	7,180

Total Taxes Due	<u><u>3,703,651</u></u>
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Taxes accounted for as follows:

Collections	3,593,433
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2014)	110,219

Total Taxes Collectible	<u><u>3,703,651</u></u>
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REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY**2014 Listed Values**

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education	Education	Total
		Listed Value (Homestead)	Listed Value (Nonresidential)	
Residential less than 6 acres	43,314,900	32,241,200	11,073,700	43,314,900
Residential more than 6 acres	98,160,900	68,558,200	29,602,700	98,160,900
Mobile home without land	107,400	99,900	7,500	107,400
Mobile home with land	1,655,800	1,113,100	542,700	1,655,800
Vacation home less than 6 acres	1,081,300	261,900	819,400	1,081,300
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,630,600	1,735,000	8,895,600	10,630,600
Commercial	1,863,100	674,600	1,188,500	1,863,100
Commercial Apartments	715,600	-	715,600	715,600
Utilities Electric	3,939,200	-	3,939,200	3,939,200
Farm	15,079,700	8,418,300	6,661,400	15,079,700
Woodland	13,079,400	10,000	13,069,400	13,079,400
Other	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	4,969,400	484,600	4,484,800	4,969,400
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	194,597,300	113,596,800	81,000,500	194,597,300
Cable	45,716		45,716	45,716
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	194,643,016	113,596,800	81,046,216	194,643,016
Veterans' Exemptions	(120,000)	(80,000)	(40,000)	(120,000)
Current Use	(18,453,900)	(5,632,600)	(12,821,300)	(18,453,900)
Local Agreements	(215,000)	-	(215,000)	(215,000)
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	175,854,116	107,884,200	67,969,916	175,854,116

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
Year Ending December 31, 2014

Name	Total	Name	Total
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	\$ 1,096.77	Lawrence, Duane & Susan	6,056.64
Butler, Colin	33.08	Lord, Edwin	352.53
Byrne, R & Fischer-Byrne, U	5,298.31	Matson, Timothy	415.89
Churchill Family	5,119.34	Mazella, Robert & Lisa	1,182.32
Clark, Edwin Estate	2,292.50	McPhee, Kevin Sr. & Tanya	1,807.02
Coit, Marie A. Trust	1,358.60	* Nutting, Rae	607.92
* Conant, James/Beth/David	341.03	Palmer, Steven	3,146.01
Devlin, Francis	120.93	Pixley, Marvin & Kandy	1,867.94
Devlin, Francis	7,130.64	Savery, Frank	4,030.50
Dion/Transfer Gaudreau, K.	1,222.53	Sawyer, Pearl	335.39
* Downey, Don & Kristen	68.03	Stanley, Henry	5,040.33
Dudley, Diana	148.43	Traudt, Victoria	1,667.05
Eveleth, Bruce	659.71	Ward, Dana	2,013.61
Jarnot, Joseph	2,787.28	Ward, Shawn & Dorothy	1,161.99
Kendall, Jesse	774.43	Welch, Collamer	9.22
Laroche/Downey	3,890.24	1 Wich, C & Corcoran-Wich, L	350.37
		Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2014	\$62,386.58

* Taxes paid in full by January 30, 2015

1 Bankruptcy Court controlled collection

	Total	2014	2013	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2014	\$ 62,386.58	\$ 55,621.23	\$ 3,407.19	\$ 3,358.16
Plus December Collections	67,564.26	54,597.61	12,123.39	843.26
	\$129,950.84	\$110,218.84	\$15,530.58	\$ 4,201.42
Previously uncollected	\$ 19,732.00			
2014 Delinq. Tax Warrant	110,218.84			
Total Delinquency	\$129,950.84			

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, 2014

	Total	2014	2013	2012 & prior
Balance January 1, 2014	\$ 60,587.42		\$ 54,225.99	\$ 6,361.43
Delinquent to Collector	110,218.84	110,218.84		
Subtotal	170,806.26	110,218.84	54,225.99	6,361.43
Collections/abatements/discharges	(108,419.68)	(54,597.61)	(50,818.80)	(3,003.27)
Balance December 31, 2014	\$ 62,386.58	\$ 55,621.23	\$ 3,407.19	\$ 3,358.16

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

2006 - 2014

	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2007	86,162.54	2006	2,654,965.00	3.25%
January 1, 2008	61,151.75	2007	2,818,975.91	2.17%
January 1, 2009	55,239.94	2008	3,031,833.53	1.82%
January 1, 2010	63,314.83	2009	3,178,527.69	1.99%
January 1, 2011	83,451.96	2010	3,345,109.35	2.49%
January 1, 2012	78,579.70	2011	3,342,306.13	2.35%
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%

**TOTAL DELINQUENT TAX WARRANTS
COMPARED TO NUMBER OF TAX BILLS ISSUED**

2006 - 2014

	Warrants Issued	Total Bills Issued	% of Parcels Delinquent
December 1, 2006	63	674	9.35%
December 1, 2007	78	675	11.56%
December 1, 2008	68	683	9.96%
December 1, 2009	67	678	9.88%
December 1, 2010	72	680	10.59%
December 1, 2011	60	681	8.81%
December 1, 2012	63	682	9.24%
December 1, 2013	58	684	8.48%
December 1, 2014	59	688	8.58%

VITAL STATISTICS

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Dyan R. Robinson	S. Strafford, VT	Joshua P. Hoehl	S. Strafford, VT	1/8/2014	Strafford, VT
Geraldine V. Emmanuel	Lebanon, NH	Samuel B. McWilliams	Lebanon, NH	5/25/2014	Strafford, VT
Patrick J. Brophy	Medford, MA	Susannah B. Cowden	Medford, MA	6/14/2014	Post Mills, VT
Katelyn M. Conway	S. Strafford, VT	Jeremiah R. Goulet	S. Strafford, VT	6/21/2014	Rutland, VT
Jennifer L. Brice	S. Strafford, VT	Patrick M. Mullins	S. Strafford, VT	6/21/2014	Strafford, VT
Stephen R. O'Dwyer	Strafford, VT	Robin L. Cassie	Strafford, VT	6/28/2014	Strafford, VT
Jessie S. Ferriot	Strafford, VT	Joshua A. Michael	Strafford, VT	7/19/2014	White River Jct. VT
Matthew R. Bushnell	Falmouth, MA	Melissa C. Hubbard	Strafford, VT	8/9/2014	Strafford, VT
Jan A. T. Gromadzki	Brooklyn, MA	Lily S. Chesnut	Brooklyn, MA	9/13/2014	Fairlee, VT
Robert M. Cowden	Washington, DC	Kathleen E. King	Washington, DC	9/20/2014	Quechee, VT
Guy C. Denechaud	S. Strafford, VT	Janet A. Pittsey	Long Beach, CA	10/3/2014	Strafford, VT
Dale W. Oehring	Tampa, FL	James P. McArthur	Tampa, FL	10/30/2014	Strafford, VT

Deaths

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
E. Gwenda Smith	F	84	Lebanon, NH	10/10/13	Strafford, VT
Charlene J. Cutforth	F	65	Strafford, VT	1/14/14	Strafford, VT
Ruth M. Manning	F	92	Strafford, VT	2/3/14	Strafford, VT
Roderick J. Maclay II	M	57	S. Strafford, VT	2/26/14	S. Strafford, VT
William B. Tyson	M	79	S. Strafford, VT	2/27/14	S. Strafford, VT
Susan E. Lawrence	F	59	Windsor, VT	3/5/14	S. Strafford, VT
Edward O. Doughtie	M	78	Strafford, VT	3/26/14	Strafford, VT
Gerard D. Stevens	M	67	Strafford, VT	3/18/14	Strafford, VT
Kendall Ankeny Mix	F	86	S. Strafford, VT	6/3/14	S. Strafford, VT
Robert D. Nutting	M	69	Randolph, VT	8/22/14	Strafford, VT
Duane T. Eppler	M	65	Strafford, VT	10/12/14	Strafford, VT

Burials

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
David Ilsley	M	100		3/29/14	Evergreen Cemetery
Mabel H. Dyer	F	88	Lebanon, NH	4/22/14	Strafford Cemetery
Roderick J. Maclay II	M	57	S. Strafford, VT	2/26/14	Evergreen Cemetery
Sandra T. Dabbs	F			1/16/14	Evergreen Cemetery
C. Robert Oman	M	87	Hanover, NH	5/22/14	Strafford Cemetery
Shirley M. Paige	F	70	S. Royalton, VT	7/29/14	Strafford Cemetery
Albay C. Paige	M	73	White River Jct., VT	12/19/07	Strafford Cemetery
Duane T. Eppler	M	65	Strafford, VT	10/12/14	Strafford Cemetery

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

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

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

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

ANIMAL LICENSING

19	Male dogs
161	Neutered dogs
22	Female dogs
165	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,636.00

Dog License Information

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 to 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 \$8.00 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$12.00 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to an increase in the fee. Dogs obtained after April 1st shall be licensed within 30 days. Dogs obtained after October 1st shall be licensed for one-half the fee otherwise required. One dollar of the collected fee is turned over to the State of Vermont for rabies control.

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 – \$20.00 full penalty/\$1.00 waiver penalty (waiver penalty applies when an alleged violator pays the fine without contesting the violation); Second offense – \$25.00 penalty; Third offense – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$50.00 penalty; Subsequent offenses – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$100.00 penalty; Impoundment cost – \$40.00/day.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE

1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2009 Market Value	12/31/2010 Market Value	12/31/2011 Market Value	12/31/2012 Market Value	12/31/2013 Market Value	12/31/2014 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 56,935.38	\$ 62,687.31	\$ 65,195.13	\$ 71,947.96	\$ 80,796.76	\$ 85,455.99	\$ 4,659.23	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,659.23
Gilman	5,837.20	6,120.71	6,396.81	7,230.21	7,921.99	8,574.92	652.93	-	652.93
Mix	30,233.58	34,291.71	35,838.63	40,507.77	76,305.65	82,594.73	6,289.08	-	6,289.08
Newton	61,844.58	68,545.74	70,337.87	79,401.67	92,389.73	99,304.45	6,914.72	700.00	7,614.72
Ordway	145,821.10	159,144.10	161,523.17	178,066.82	200,818.21	211,044.55	10,226.34	6,325.00	16,551.34
Robinson	4,486.49	5,088.69	5,318.24	6,011.12	7,001.95	7,579.05	577.10	-	577.10
RWW	12,004.22	13,615.50	14,229.70	16,083.58	18,734.70	20,278.80	1,544.10	-	1,544.10
SCE	2,858.93	3,142.67	3,284.43	4,842.62	5,440.85	5,714.28	273.43	175.00	448.43
SAA	30,022.74	34,052.57	35,588.70	40,225.29	46,855.76	50,717.59	3,861.83	-	3,861.83
ERF					11,648.34	12,608.39	960.05	-	960.05
CST	238,241.17	260,699.15	267,374.29	296,578.20	346,943.79	370,010.33	23,066.54	5,528.40	28,594.94
Combined	\$ 588,285.38	\$ 647,388.14	\$ 665,086.98	\$ 740,895.24	\$ 894,857.73	\$ 953,883.07	\$ 59,025.34	\$ 14,728.40	\$ 73,753.74
<i>Disbursed</i>	<i>11,077.41</i>	<i>11,385.57</i>	<i>9,830.63</i>	<i>8,652.81</i>	<i>13,559.26</i>	<i>14,728.40</i>			

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds

Change before disbursements and additions

8.24%

INVESTMENTS

Cash	Market Value	Equity Funds	Market Value
Mascoma Checking (total of 2 accounts)	\$ 10,811.68	Fidelity Low Priced Stock (FLPSX)	\$ 45,906.74
Vanguard Prime MM (VMMXX)	1,360.67	37.51% Vanguard Wellesley Inc. (VWIAX)	45,601.38
Fidelity MM (FTEXX)	20,260.79	Vanguard Health Care (VGHAX)	52,488.49
Total Cash	3.4% \$ 32,433.14	Vanguard REIT Index (VGSIX)	53,756.98
Fixed Income		Primecap Odyssey (POAGX)	61,870.46
62.49% Vanguard Wellesley Inc. (VWIAX)	\$ 75,969.87	Oakmark International (OAKIX)	39,403.70
34.87% of Vanguard Wellington (VWENX)	134,684.33	Vanguard International Value (VTRIX)	37,331.25
Vanguard ST Bond (VFSTX)	10,257.21	Vanguard Selected Value (VASVX)	45,488.74
Fidelity New Markets Inc. (FNMIX)	14,775.39	65.13% of Vanguard Wellington (VWENX)	251,562.68
Loomis Sayles Bond (LSBRX)	32,042.49	Vanguard Dividend Growth (VDIGX)	20,310.22
Total Fixed Income	28.1% \$ 267,729.30	Total Equity Funds	68.5% \$ 653,720.63
Total Cash & Fixed Income	31.5% \$ 300,162.44	End of the year total	100.0% \$ 953,883.07

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.

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.”

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.”

THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND

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

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FUND

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

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Trustees distributed a total of \$14,728.40:

The Cobb Fund granted \$2,000 to the Strafford School Based Health Clinic.

Two grants were disbursed from the Newton Fund:

1. The Town received \$100 to help maintain the Newton grave sites in the Evergreen Cemetery.
2. Barrett Memorial Hall received \$600 to help pay for the main floor refinishing project.

Eleven Strafford college students were awarded \$575 each from the Ordway Fund. These awards totaled \$6,325.

The PTA received \$175 to help provide supplemental arts programs for the benefit of our Newton Elementary School students from the Strafford Community Education Fund.

The Carrie Sanborn Trust distributed a total of \$5,528.40 via the CST Committee to provide needed assistance to multiple families and individuals in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hawkins
Elizabeth Ruml
Kevin Plunkett



*Carrie Dow Sanborn
(1851 - 1943)*

In 1935, Carrie made a gift of the clock which is in the Town House tower. Following her death, she left a sizeable sum, the Carrie Sanborn Fund, which has been used ever since to aid the poor and needy in Strafford.

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.

This year, the Ordway Committee marks the untimely loss of Eva Behrens. Eva brought a spirit of love for students and a commitment to their welfare, and we will miss her.

2014 Awards: Jeremy Bauer, Aibhlin Moye-Linehan, Greta Binzen

Joey Hawkins

Diana Leddy

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, Cindy Maclay, Rod Maclay, Rockwell Fuller, and Joanna Hawkins.

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

The most noteworthy project undertaken by the library in 2014 is one that is all but invisible to the public – but will, we hope, pay dividends for years to come. With the help of a Mascoma Foundation grant and a subsidy from Efficiency Vermont, the library implemented the key recommendation of an energy audit conducted at the beginning of the year: We insulated the basement and crawlspace with foam. Our expectation is that this will lower our heating bills and thereby reduce our carbon footprint.

A more visible improvement involved replacing the handrail for patrons using the front steps. The new one is sturdier and at a more convenient height. Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library, we also replaced one of our public access computers.

This is the first full year we were able to offer ECFiber’s broadband service via our two public access computers and the wi-fi signal that many people access by parking their cars in front of the library at all hours. The switch to fiber-optic has proven its value: We are now able to handle demand for high-speed Internet without any of those maddening delays caused when a system is overtaxed.

Once again, we were fortunate to receive a Turrell Foundation grant, although for a reduced amount. We were still able to provide enriching special programming for children throughout the year. We continue to also host book discussion groups and reading by local authors such as Gus Speth and Jim Rooney.

Meanwhile, demand for downloadable audiobooks and e-books remains strong, as it does for more traditional library services. We continue to update our book, DVD, audio and periodical collection, and circulation numbers have remained steady. For those interested in what Strafford residents were reading and watching last year, we note that *Saints of the Shadow Bible*, *The Goldfinch*, *Stone Cold*, *This Dark Road to Mercy* and *Still Life With Breadcrumbs* were among the more popular novels; *Keepers*, *Sixth Extinction*, *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant*, *Everyday Thai Cooking* and the *Lego Play Book* were the more popular nonfiction titles; and *The Butler*, *Philomena*, *Dallas Buyers Club* and *Frozen* were the most widely watched DVDs.

The library continues to be in strong financial shape, thanks to the continuing support and generosity of the town, the Friends, our patrons and support from the Town House Forum. We look forward to another year of serving the information needs of Strafford residents.

The Trustees of Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

Cindy Binzen
Danette Harris
Marty Frank

Curt Albee
Carol Wilson

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2014

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014		\$ 41,747
Prior Year Adjustments		(3,169)
Adjusting Beginning Balance		38,578
Income		
Town of Strafford	\$ 34,000	
Friends of the Morrill Library	9,193	
Endowed Funds	1,408	
Grants	5,832	
Donations	7,998	
Fundraising	491	
Miscellaneous Income	554	
Total Income		\$ 59,475
Expenses		
Miscellaneous	\$ 720	
Materials and Programs	10,115	
Insurance	1,277	
Personnel	33,261	
Supplies	861	
Postage	930	
Buildings and Grounds	3,721	
Equipment	341	
Fundraising	520	
Utilities	1,220	
Reserve	500	
Endowment Contribution	200	
Renovation	4,567	
Total Expenses		\$ 58,233
Ending Balance		\$ 39,820
Reserve Account		\$ 4,109

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2014	\$ 236,735.60
Transfers to the Operating Fund	
Ordway/Steele Fund transfer	1,408.49
Subtotal	<u>235,327.11</u>
Gifts to the Endowment Funds	
Library Board 1/17/14	200.00
Friends of the Library	1,000.00
	<u>1,200.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 236,527.11
Market Value December 31, 2014	\$ 251,459.93

STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION & FIRST AID SQUAD, INC.

2014 has again been a busy year. Total call volume only increased by three, but there were six more FAST calls than last year, and the Fire crew began the year with a structure fire involving difficult logistics, severe cold and mutual aid from several towns.

Radio reception is much improved over last year, though our geography and lack of cell phone coverage continue to cause difficulties. 911 numbers are available from the Town Clerk if yours are invisible, unreadable or missing. Please keep those numbers visible from both directions, and your homes accessible. Remember to have your chimneys checked and cleaned before using them and to periodically check them during the heating season, especially if you have a slow burning system.

Strafford Fire and Fast is always looking for new members. Any interested men or women should contact any current member for more information. We meet the first Thursday of every month and conduct drills the third Thursday of every month. The pay's not much, but the satisfaction of contributing to the welfare of the town makes up for it. For anyone who gets "hooked" enough to make it a career there are also jobs out there that do pay.

We were again this year able to raise about 25% of expenditures through donations and fundraising. For details please see the treasurer's report. The department would like to thank everyone who contributed time and financial support. The "chiefs" would like especially to thank the members who give up large chunks of time and energy to help keep us all safe.

2014 Call Volume - 72

Medical/trauma	54	Brush fire	2
Mutual aid	5	Chimney fire	1
Motor vehicle accident	1	Structure fire	1
Power line issues	3	Vehicle fire	0
Ambulance assist	1	<i>(in Strafford, 1 incl. in mutual aid)</i>	
Alarm activation	4	Haz-mat	1

January's election results are as follows: President, John Lloyd; Vice President, Calvin Benjamin; Secretary, Andrew Lane; Treasurer, Keith Lewandowski; Fire Chief, Jeremiah Linehan; EMS Chief, Beth Preston. The Board of Directors consists of Robert Bushway, Sean Lewis, Jere Linehan, Beth Preston and Jane Brown

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Preston
EMS Chief

Jeremiah Linehan
Fire Chief

**STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
and FIRST AID SQUAD, INC.
January 1 - December 31, 2014**

I. INCOME	Actual
<u>Category</u>	<u>2014</u>
Town Operating Income	\$ 34,500
4th of July	7,017
Donations	4,478
Interest	59
Rabies Clinic	965
Total Income	\$ 47,019

II. EXPENSES	Amount
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 11,532
Buildings Repair & Maintenance	787
Insurance Auto & Liability	11,464
Miscellaneous	726
Electricity	1,527
Phone/Internet	1,248
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	5,165
Heating Oil	6,875
Membership/Dues	3,892
Promotional Materials	445
Training	61
Total Expenses	\$ 43,722

Reserve Fund Deposit/Withdrawal	
III. Reserve Deposit	\$ 3,297
Balance (I + II - III)	\$ -

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Vermont faces some very familiar challenges which will determine the legislature's priorities for the next two years. Health care affordability, rising property tax rates, Lake Champlain degradation and climate change, and addressing social service needs related to addiction, mental health and child welfare are front-and-center issues. Addressing infrastructure issues – not only our under-investment in roads and bridges, but also our continuing challenges with Fairpoint and access to high speed internet – will also be on the agenda.

In early January, both Governor Shumlin and House Speaker Smith set forth ambitious agendas that focus on enhancing educational opportunities for students, addressing education cost and property tax inflation, improving prospects for business development and employment, reducing health care costs, cleaning up the state's waters, and increasing renewable energy production.

All of these issues are before us against the backdrop of an anticipated \$100 million budget deficit for the fiscal year that begins on July 1st. Prioritization of programs that are most needed and most effective has never been more important for Vermont. While it is very early in the legislative session as of this writing, our state's fiscal challenges may result in reductions to some very worthwhile government programs. Of course, these are the same questions faced at school board meetings, in town halls, and around kitchen tables across our state.

Tim serves on the House Health Care Committee, the committee that considers matters related to health care delivery, administration, and cost. In the wake of the governor's decision not to pursue a universal care system this session, the committee will be looking for alternative paths to address issues related to cost, delivery efficiency, and access.

Jim serves on the House Ways and Means Committee that has the responsibility to raise the taxes and fees necessary to pay the state's share of all state agencies and programs. When the Governor wants to implement a new program, it is Ways and Means' responsibility to figure out how to raise the money to pay for it.

For more information, we highly recommend the new legislative website that has a huge amount of accessible information about the day-to-day workings of the Vermont House and Senate. From information about legislators, committees, schedules, bills, committee testimony and presentations, and studies commissioned by the legislature go to: <http://legislature.vt.gov>

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you in Montpelier. Please feel free to contact either or both of us any time. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

Representative Jim Masland
714 Pero Hill Rd
Thetford Center, VT 05075
785-4146
jmasland@leg.state.vt.us
jamesq56@yahoo.com

STRAFFORD SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC

The Clinic is located in the Gardner Cobb Health Room at the Newton School. The Clinic's professional staff provides physical, mental and dental health services to Strafford children including health education. The clinic has a new dental hygienist this year, Samantha Petrone. She does dental cleanings and x-rays twice a year. She sees more than a quarter of the Newton School's students as well as preschool and high school children. Clinic medical services are similar to those provided at a doctor's office. Children are commonly seen for well-child checkups, sports/camp physicals, chronic illness management and acute illnesses and injuries. The easy accessibility to medical services has encouraged prompt and convenient treatment at school. Parents are always welcome to attend their child's visits, but most find phone consultation sufficient and appreciate not having to miss work. The Clinic also provides vaccinations for children.

The Clinic is celebrating its 17th year of operation. The Clinic opened in January 1998 and operates each day whenever school is in session. Eighty percent of Newton School students receive Clinic services, as do several preschool and high school students. School nursing and counselor services are available to all students and parents. The Strafford School-Based Health Clinic is now part of HealthHub, the South Royalton School Clinic. The Newton School is a collaborative partner with the Clinic and community members have been involved since the beginning of the program. The Clara Martin Center provides counseling services and access to specialized mental health programs as needed.

We were one of the first school-based health clinics to open in Vermont and we are very proud of the services we provide to the community and the children of Strafford.

The original Robert Wood Johnson Grant funding ended in June 2001. The Clinic bills health insurance and dental insurance for patient visits. Over the years we have received generous grants from the Vermont Community Foundation, the Byrne Foundation, the Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation and the Wrigley Foundation. Each year the Strafford community generously donates money for mental health services to be used by local families for counseling. We very much appreciate the support that the Strafford community members show during our annual fall fund raising appeal and during our other fundraisers.

The Clinic Advisory Committee welcomes community involvement. Please call the Clinic for information (765-4351). Our website is: www.healthhubvt.org. Clinic Staff: Dr. Rebecca Foulk, Frank Lamson, CPNP, Ellen Gnaedinger, RN, Leah Abrahamsen, MSW and Samantha Petrone, RDH. Clinic Advisory Committee: Karen Minarik, Becky Lewandoski and Jennifer Pomerantz.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Gnaedinger, RN, Clinic Coordinator

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Athletic Association is an independent non-profit organization, created in 1964. This organization is 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 have since taken over responsibility for the recreation areas.

The mission of the Strafford Athletic Association is to provide athletic opportunities for residents of Strafford. To this end, we have two primary objectives for 2015: the tennis court replacement and the town skating rink.

We will continue to raise funds and write grants to raise the full amount needed to replace the tennis courts. We have over \$50,000 available for the project, plus we received many donations and pledges, totaling nearly \$20,000 from generous local donors. We are hopeful that we will be able to complete our fundraising campaign in 2015 and be ready to rebuild the courts in the spring of 2016.

Additionally, we will continue to maintain the town skating rink on Varney Field. Special thanks to Todd Adams, who has been instrumental in getting a new pump and putting up the boards to ensure the rink is available for use. As of this writing, the rink has been up and ready for skating since before the winter holiday season.

The SAA no longer owns anything in Strafford, but we continue to work with other town organizations and the school athletic department to help out as necessary, and are working with the Recreation Board on the tennis court project.

The volunteer board meets as needed when projects or events arise. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact one of the current board members.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Linehan
Tom Scull
Elysabeth Ray
Annie Penfield
Todd Adams
Scott Knoerlein

STRAFFORD AREA LIONS CLUB

Our club is part of a network of Lionism. We are a part of Vermont Lions District 45 and Lions Club International. Our specific dedication is in the field of Sight and Hearing. We are also very dedicated to our community.

Strafford Lions Club has had an active year here in our town. We had the annual Lions Variety Show in July and the annual Pie Sale in November. We sell roses that are delivered in March and are for a “just because” reason. These are major fundraisers for our club. We also hold a Food From The Heart Food Drive in February with food donations going to the Sharon and Thetford Food Shelf and monetary donations going to the Deacons Food Shelf. Without the community and member support we would not be able to do the following activities.

We sponsored swimming lessons at the Lions Club Pond. The pond is the property of Ned Coffin, who has generously let us use the pond for Strafford residents and their guests. Lions Vince Robinson and crew have maintained this area. We do need your assistance in keeping the pond and its surroundings clean and tidy. Please be sure to clean up after you use the pond area so others may enjoy our wonderful water recreation.

Ski and ride lessons are sponsored by our club and taught by many volunteers. This activity’s location is at the Dartmouth Skiway in Lyme, NH. We currently have 65 Newton School students attending. We offer scholarships for those who have financial hardship. Many thanks to those who volunteer their time to teach the children as well as to Amy Huyffer and Erin Masteller for organizing the program.

We sponsor the Saturday skiing at Harrington Hill and fund the maintenance of the rope tow. Rod and Cindy Maclay own the property and they generously let us use the hill every year. The ski tow is now run by a group of new individuals including, but not limited to Kent Penfield and Ashley Denk. We thank them for all their hard work.

The Lions Club also participates in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest. This year 26 students in the 6th and 7th grade from Newton participated. The posters were then posted at Coburns and our club members voted for their favorite. The winning poster was then sent on to the District for that contest. The top 3 winners receive a gift certificate to the Norwich Bookstore. Thank you to Janet Cathey for organizing the students in her art class and thank you to the students for participating.

We held the Citizen of the Year dinner in May and the recipient was Fred Wolfe.

We donate to Newton School trips and activities throughout the year and make donations to other charities to assure the health and well being of our community.

If you wish to become a Lion or know more about Lionism, please speak to any Lions Club Member or join us at one of our meetings. We meet the 2nd Monday at 7:30 in Diane White's room at Newton School and the 4th Monday's Sept. thru Nov. and March thru May at Barrett Hall for a dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Erin Masteller
President, Strafford Area Lions Club



Sarah (Sally) Hatch Smith (1772 - 1857)

Sally Hatch Road, located just in the front of the Town House. The road honors Sally who along with her husband Joel Hatch ran the first successful store and a tavern in Strafford Village in 1798. The store was in what is now the wing of the Stone Soup Restaurant; the tavern was located in what is now the house owned by Ned Coffin. Following the early death of Joel, Sally remarried, to Frederick Smith, Jr., and she continued to help run the tavern.

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At long last, on Saturday, May 4, 2014, the Strafford Historical Society had its grand opening in the Brick Store. After decades spent in cramped or temporary quarters, the SHS welcomed the public to its new and spacious headquarters in the Brick Store, in what formerly had been Africa Place, where Kendall Mix once displayed her collection of African artifacts. This space, at Kendall's behest, was leased to the SHS, although sadly she did not actually live to see its transformation. Kendall, great friend and benefactor to the SHS and to the entire community of Strafford, died on June 3, 2014. Her life was celebrated in a well-attended memorial service on September 21st in the Town House, a structure both she and her late husband, Robin, revered.

The theme of our exhibit in 2014 was 'Strafford 200 Years Ago – Taking the Turnpike Into the 19th Century.' Also featured was a large, impressive panorama of the Elizabeth Mine, both above ground and underground, with lights to locate specific features of the mine, which will be on permanent display and represents a remarkable collaboration through the efforts of graphic designer Mat Doyle, Phyl Harmon, Tom Root, Oliver Boles and his assistants, and Bob and Stefanie Johnston. It is not to be missed.

The SHS and the Friends of the Morrill Homestead, working cooperatively, sponsored exhibits at both the Vermont History Expo in June on the creative legacies of the Senator and the Storekeeper—Justin Morrill and Royal Hatch, respectively, and at the Vermont Welcome Center on I-91 in Guildford with a display promoting Strafford's historical attractions and businesses.

For those who haven't yet visited our new quarters and seen our exhibits of Strafford memorabilia, the Historical Society will be opening for the summer on the third weekend in May. Subsequently, the SHS will be open weekly from 10 a.m.–noon, Wednesdays, and 2–4 p.m., Sundays. "Strafford's Civil War Years, 1861-1865, Service and Sacrifice" will be our theme.

Unfortunately, this fall the SHS learned that the Mix family, as a consequence of settling Kendall's estate, has decided to sell the Brick Store. How and when this will happen is as yet unknown, but the SHS Board, along with some of our loyal friends, have been discussing ways and means to make our foothold in the Brick Store a permanent one and we are in communication with the Mix family.

As a part of these efforts to secure our place in the Brick Store and also explore options for the re-use of the Elizabeth Mine area, the SHS has formed an Advisory Board, made up primarily of Strafford residents and supporters. Our first Advisory Board event took place on November 15th with a showing of the final version of *Riches and Remains*, Phyl Harmon's documentary on copper and copperas mining in Strafford and Vermont, which is available on DVD.

ANNUAL MEETING: At our annual meeting on August 31st, the SHS membership and friends were treated to a presentation on Taylor Valley's

once thriving, but highly illegal, ‘apple brandy’ moonshine industry in the 19th Century, the fame (or infamy) of which was celebrated in newspapers as far away as San Francisco and Boston. Brennan Gauthier, an archaeologist with the Vermont Agency of Transportation, discovered references to this all but forgotten chapter in Strafford’s history in some of his research and contacted Bob Johnston for assistance in identifying local individuals who were involved. We plan to have Brennan back as a guest speaker in the coming year.

At the annual election of officers: Steve Willbanks was elected President; Alan Donohue, Vice President; Roberta Robinson, Treasurer; Toni Pippy, Secretary; Stefanie Johnston, Curator; and Bob Johnston, Registrar/Historian. Two new Board members were elected, Gen Gibson and Sandy Stevens. Sandy joined the Board on the death of her husband, Gerard, SHS’s Vice President for the past 20 years and whom we all miss. Subsequently, in October, Tim Matson, was elected by the SHS Board to fill a position on the Board made vacant by a resignation. The new Board members join current members Linka Lewis, Silas Treadway and Francis Devlin.

ACQUISITIONS: The SHS now has in its possession the 1835 portraits of a prominent Strafford couple, James S. Moore and Julia Ann (Comstock) Moore, which, with the help of several Strafford benefactors, we were able to acquire at an auction sale in Manchester, NH. James Moore, by the 1860s, was considered Strafford’s wealthiest individual.

In the entranceway to the Brick Store, we now have on display the cenotaph for George Day, a Strafford resident and Civil War casualty, who is buried at the site of the Confederate prison in Andersonville, Ga. A cenotaph is a stone monument for someone buried elsewhere and the Day cenotaph had in the intervening years found its way to Cornish, NH. We were privileged to be able to bring it back to Strafford.

Our especial thanks go to Morgan Smith, Gwenda’s son, who has made available to the SHS his mother’s extensive computer files of historical information after first engaging in the time-consuming effort of shifting them into a more accessible format.

NEW PROJECTS: The SHS has been working with the EPA and the Zageski family to develop a scenic overlook at the bus turnaround on Mine Road, which will include a series of interpretative panels identifying and explaining different aspects of the long history of the Elizabeth Mine. The panels are based on industrial archaeologist Matt Kirstead’s history of the Elizabeth Mine, From Copperas to Cleanup, which is available from the SHS.

The mission of the SHS is to preserve the history of Strafford and, as always, we are deeply grateful for the support of the community.

Stephen Willbanks
President

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill Homestead is a State-owned Historic Site operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead.

In 2014, more than 1,743 people attended the Morrill Homestead's programs and events and took guided tours of the historic house. Hundreds more visited to stroll the gardens, take a self-guided tour of the grounds and hike the adjacent Coburn Trail. Program participants arrived from all corners of Vermont and New Hampshire, and from as far as Massachusetts and Connecticut. Visitors to the historic house came from throughout the United States and from a number of other countries. Some direct descendants of Justin Smith Morrill also came to tour the house and support the Homestead. This is a testimony to the beauty of the site, to the efforts of the Friends to present and maintain the lovely gardens and grounds and to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections.

Offering such a rich and varied calendar was made possible by the dedication and hard work of our Board members, supporters from the Strafford community, Master Gardeners, volunteers from throughout the Upper Valley and help from many others. As a private, non-profit organization, the Friends are extremely grateful for the generous financial support from the individuals, area businesses and foundations who made it possible for us to produce our projects, calendar of events and exhibits. We also wish to acknowledge the long term support of the Campbell family for their work to donate, plant and maintain Morrill's orchard. A devastating storm badly damaged the orchard in 2013, but a management plan is now being prepared that will eventually restore the orchard by planting Morrill's historic heirloom apples.

From our first Preschool Nature Camp and Watercolor Painting Workshops for Children and Adults, to Pillars of the People—a major event at the Strafford Town House to mark the sesquicentennial of the legislation Justin Morrill wrote to create National Statuary Hall—the Homestead offered something of interest for all ages. The Homestead's Open House on June 15, which featured a performance of acoustic music by Spencer Lewis and Rudy Dauth, was produced in partnership with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's weekend-long "Vermont Days." Our regular annual events included Wake Up the Garden, Open House, Gallery in the Garden, and Morrill's 19th Century Apple and Cheese Harvest Festival. We also offered programs on horticulture and history, rustic furniture, invasive species and wild edible and medicinal plants. The Statues of Liberty Exhibit, which was designated a "top ten exhibit for 2014" by the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, brought many visitors to the site, including tour groups from the Newton School, Hartford High School, Sharon Elementary and Tunbridge Central School. This exhibit was voted

“Best Special Event at An Historic Site” by readers of *The Complete Hoot* magazine (the first write-in candidate in the history of the magazine’s Owl Awards).

Please visit The Friends’ website (www.morrillhomestead.org) for descriptions of 2015’s programs, events and exhibits. A highlight of the coming year is “America’s Michelangelo,” a world-class exhibit celebrating the artwork of Constantino Brumidi that will come to Strafford from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Justin Morrill’s support for Brumidi in the mid-to-late 19th century made it possible for the artist to create many famous classical paintings in the U.S. Capitol. And don’t miss our annual Apple and Cheese Harvest Festival on September 28, when we’ll also celebrate the birthday of Johnny Appleseed.

It was a pleasure to host our many friends at the Homestead in 2014. We look forward to seeing you and your families in 2015.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Caduto, Director

Chip Lewis, Outgoing Board Chair

Cameron Speth, Incoming Board Chair

CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

Cabin Fever University is a nonprofit adult education program based in Strafford. It offers affordable classes taught by community members on a variety of topics. The mission of this “university” is to allow local people to share their knowledge and experience with their neighbors. Cabin Fever University currently offers informal classes and free slide shows featuring travel photos. Some of the most popular offerings have involved food preparation: sushi, sour dough breads, chocolates and gourmet meals. Other workshops of interest have included financial planning, water-color classes, gardening, wool felting, raising chickens, and ski waxing. At this institute of random learning, any topic is possible. Classes are held at the Newton School, Barrett Hall, the library, or private homes. Held in late winter, the classes are a wonderful chance to meet and learn from your neighbors. We welcome volunteers and ideas for new or rerun classes.

Ellen Bagnato, Leslie Berger, and Therese Linehan are the current board members. Contact them with your ideas or wishes.

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

The Creative Preschool is a fully licensed early education program for children ages two to six. It is located in the downstairs classroom in the Rosa B. Tyson Gym in South Strafford. The school serves children from Strafford and surrounding towns five mornings per week from 7:45 to 12:45, and four afternoons, from 12:45 to 3:30. The preschool accepts the Vermont childcare subsidy and provides scholarships to families with demonstrated financial need.

The 2014-2015 Creative Preschool staff includes director and teacher Dawn Doyle, teacher Jody Lowes, and classroom assistants Kate Reimanis and Karen Minarik. Regular professional visitors include math enrichment, and speech/language and occupational therapy.

The volunteer Board of Directors meets monthly to provide support and oversight. The Board currently consists of Kiersten Harlow, Mary Newman, Becky Proulx, and Sulynn Walton. We are looking for a community member who might assist with grant writing. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Becky Proulx.

We are happy to announce some developments that will help to bring preschool to more of the children of Strafford. In conjunction with the Strafford School District we were awarded a one year grant from the Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative. The Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative is an initiative supported by the Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children, the A.D. Henderson Foundation, the Turrell Fund, The Vermont Children's Trust Fund, other private funders and the State of Vermont. The grant is being used to help offset the tuition of Strafford's 3- and 4-year-olds for 10 hours of preschool per week for the 2014-2015 school year.

We are in the planning phases of our annual fundraiser and silent auction. Keep an eye out for more news in the coming months. We also invite prospective families to our annual open house this spring. You will have a chance to meet the teachers and tour the classroom.

We are very grateful for the continued support of the Strafford community- from attendance at our annual fundraisers to generous donations to our annual giving appeal to educational visits from the Fire Department. We continue to offer the quality of program that has served Strafford youth so well thanks to your help.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Proulx

Strafford Creative Preschool Board Chair

THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Cemetery Association is a private, nonprofit organization responsible for the care and maintenance of the Strafford Cemetery, located across the river and up the hill from the Strafford Town House. Entrance on foot is through a white gate just beyond John Hemenway's house, or by car on the marked road just beyond the bridge. Though burials began there much earlier, the Association was incorporated only in May, 1868 as the Orchard Hill Cemetery. The name was changed to the Strafford Cemetery Association in 1900. Justin Smith Morrill is buried there in the impressive Morrill Mausoleum, and the graves of 65 veterans of wars from the American Revolution through the Vietnam War are marked in the cemetery by small American flags.

All lot owners are members of the Association, but only those members who show interest by attending the quarterly meetings and pay a small fee become trustees. Any Strafford member is eligible to become a trustee by participating in the meetings. Current Board Officers of the Association are Jim Condict, President; Bob Murray, Vice President; Punka Brown, Secretary; Kerry Claffey, treasurer; and Mel Coburn, auditor. Any Board member will be glad to answer questions about the Cemetery.

In 2014, the Cemetery Association completed work supporting the road system through the grounds, improving the watering system and planting in Annex C (the newest part of the cemetery), and did stone cleaning and repair. We also completed work on the storage building, making it into a cemetery office. It clarified the bylaws of its constitution and wrote new rules for lot owners.

New cemetery plots are currently available for purchase in the new section. Plots are of two sizes: full plots 10x14 feet (\$825) and half lots 10x7 feet (\$450). These figures include four corner markers, which the SCA will install. Included are perpetual care, mowing, trimming, and stone cleaning as necessary. A full plot allows installation of one monument and four normal size caskets with headstones, or twelve burial urns with headstones. Half plots allow one monument and two caskets of normal size or six burial urns with headstones. Headstones are flush with the ground to allow for mowing. Ownership is limited to residents, former residents, and relatives of former residents. Punka Brown is the one to contact about purchase and rules for the cemetery.

Visit the cemetery for a real sense of Strafford history.

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

In 2014, ECFiber focused on customer connections along the 140 miles of fiber cable hung in 2013 and this year added another 50 miles to the network. This put us on track to reach 1,000 subscribers in 11 towns by early 2015. By 2016, a total of 300 miles of network will pass 3,800 premises in 19 towns.

As projected, ECFiber reached “cash-flow positive” status (i.e., before debt service and capital expenditures) in 2014. Service offerings expanded to a top level of 400Mbps, fastest in the area, with 1Gbps service available by 2016. To date, \$6.3 million in investments, mostly from local individuals, has been raised to finance the construction of the network in ECFiber’s 24-town service area.

The next step for ECFiber is to become a Vermont Municipal Utility District, organizationally similar to a union school district or a solid waste district, but without taxing authority. This step requires legislative approval, preceded initially by an Australian ballot vote in at least two of ECFiber’s member towns. ECFiber is currently a municipally-owned 24-town consortium operating under an Inter-local Contract, which is a Vermont legal construct that is not widely used outside the state. In order to access larger outside investments to facilitate construction of its network, ECFiber has been advised that obtaining status as a municipal utility district would be advantageous. Organizationally, there would be very little difference between the current ILC structure and that of the municipal utility district.

At the request of ECFiber, the Strafford Select Board has placed the following question on the Warning for Town Meeting on March 3rd. The first paragraph below is the ballot question and the second paragraph is explanatory.

Shall the Town enter into a telecommunications union district to be known as the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, under the provisions of Subchapter 3, Chapter 121 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated?

If approved by the Vermont General Assembly, the proposed telecommunications district would take over the role of the existing Inter-Local Contract, of which the Town is a currently a member. The new telecommunications district would not have the authority to levy taxes, and neither the Town of Strafford nor its taxpayers would be responsible for the district’s financial obligations. The creation of this district will make it easier for ECFiber to obtain financing from institutional and private investors.

In Strafford, there has been significant progress in connecting new customers this past year, especially with the completion of the Orange County Fiber Connector along Rte. 132 by the Vermont Telecommunications Authority. Currently, there are 85 ECFiber customers in Strafford and counting.

ECFiber is a municipally-owned, 24-town consortium. Its monthly Governing Board meetings are open to the public. More information is available at www.ecfiber.net or contact any of our local representatives: Steve Willbanks, delegate (stephen.willbanks@gmail.com); David Webb, alternate (dvwebb@gmail.com); Andy Behrens, 2nd alternate (andy@behrens.net); and Chuck Sherman (chucksherman@mac.com), who is a Board member of ValleyNet, ECFiber’s operating partner.

Respectfully submitted
Stephen Willbanks

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESOURCE GROUP

SERG is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, that helps Upper Valley towns and residents reduce their energy use. Following is a list of services that SERG provided to Strafford in 2014 and plans for 2015:

2014 Services

SERG provided information, referral and networking services to the Strafford Energy Committee (SEC):

- Members of SEC attended the annual, state-wide Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) conference for energy committees in December, that SERG helped organize.
- Members of SEC attended the free annual Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable gathering organized by SERG in May.
- Members of SEC attended a training and feedback session on improvements to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program.

SERG educated and informed Strafford residents by:

- Providing free regular e-newsletters on energy-saving improvements and opportunities to more than 50 Strafford residents – this service is free to anyone who requests it by sending their name and contact information to SERG@serg-info.org.
- Organizing a free forum on and trail drives of electric vehicles at the Montshire Museum, attended by more than 250 Upper Valley residents, including several from Strafford.
- SERG helped promote the Solarize Thetford/Strafford effort that more than double residential solar capacity in our two towns.

2015 Plans

In 2015 SERG plans to help educate Strafford residents and SEC on improvements to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program, including holding free public forums open to Strafford residents. We will also be educating homeowners about new, high efficiency cold climate heat pumps and incentives that Efficiency Vermont plans to provide for them. We will continue to help organize the annual statewide and regional energy committee meetings and provide free ongoing energy information and education to homeowners.

For more information contact SERG Director Bob Walker: 802-785-4126, bwalker@serg-info.org or www.SERG-info.org.

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Since 1979, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with significant 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 conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

Final numbers for FY2014 (10/2013-9/2014) show VCIL responded to over 2,383 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 provided one-on-one peer counseling to 304 individuals to help increase their independent living skills (including 12 peers who were served by the AgrAbility program and 6 peers who received specialized Benefits to Work Counseling). VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 215 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 51 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 125 individuals with information on assistive technology; 36 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 447 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY2014, 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

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 COUNCIL ON AGING

Central Vermont Council on Aging is a private, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the mission of supporting elders and family caregivers in leading self-determined, healthy, interdependent, meaningful and dignified lives in their homes and communities. For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters aged 60 and up to remain independent for as long as possible. We connect the elders in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive. All services are

made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income or resources.

Some of the options we make available include:

- Senior HelpLine – (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, 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 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 provides personalized Medicare counseling, group training, and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Support promotes the well-being of the family members who help to make it possible for seniors to remain in their home.

In the past year, we have touched the lives of thousands of elders throughout Central Vermont, including an estimated 49 in your town. Karen Eddy is the Case Manager dedicated to serving the seniors in Strafford and worked directly with 24 families in the past year.

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.

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (CVABE) is a community-based nonprofit organization serving the basic education and literacy needs of Strafford adults and teens for forty-nine years.

CVABE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16-90+) in basic reading, writing and numeracy; English language skills for immigrants and refugees; college and employment readiness skills; GED (General Equivalency Diploma) and high school diploma preparation and assessment.

CVABE has six welcoming learning centers located throughout the organizations tri-county service region, including centrally located sites in Randolph and Bradford. We collaborate closely with schools, libraries, employers, and a great number of other community resources to make our unique service locally accessible. Our welcome extends to everyone.

Over the past 10 years, an average of 2 residents of Strafford have enrolled in CVABE's free programs annually. 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 one's 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. As parents gain literacy, their children are twice as likely to grow up literate themselves.

In recent years, CVABE has provided free instruction to 500-600 people annually in its overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. Nearly all students are low income. It currently costs CVABE \$2,790 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Over 100 community volunteers work with CVABE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We are deeply appreciative of Strafford's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support of \$800 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, or we could not help many of the neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information about Central Vermont Adult Basic Education programs in Strafford, please contact:

Randolph Learning Center
10 S. Main St., PO Box 84
Randolph, Vermont 05060
(802) 728-4492

Bradford Learning Center
24 Barton St., PO Box 917
Bradford, Vermont 05033
(802) 222-3282

www.cvabe.org

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

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home healthcare and hospice support services to individuals and their families. VNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay.

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, 2013 and June 30, 2014, VNH made 368 homecare visits to 32 Strafford residents. This includes approximately \$25,839 in unreimbursed care to Strafford residents.

Home HealthCare: 339 home visits to 29 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.

Hospice Services: 27 home visits to 2 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.

Maternal and Child Health Services: 2 home visits to 1 resident for well baby, preventative and palliative medical care.

Additionally, residents made visits to VNH wellness clinics at local senior and community centers throughout the year, receiving low- and no-cost services including blood pressure screenings, foot care, cholesterol testing, and flu shots.

Strafford's annual appropriation to the 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,

Jeanne McLaughlin, President & CEO
1-888-300-8853

SAFELINE

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

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, Safeline staff and volunteers provided approximately 2,962 services and worked with 417 individuals. No victims identified that they were 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 referral through Safeline's 24/7 Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Victims can also choose from a wide array of other free and confidential services including legal advocacy, advocacy while at the hospital, economic empowerment, financial literacy, and day shelter services. This co-location of services is enormously beneficial to service users who have safety concerns, transportation issues, limited financial resources and/or difficulty finding childcare.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline acts as a resource to the community and is committed to changing our culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline also offers a full range of prevention education activities, media resources and training curricula.

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: in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday, and at the Royalton Academy building in Royalton, serving meals on Tuesday and Thursday. We are very fortunate to have Linda Ducharme (for Strafford) who has cooked for many years, and Mary Lamb (for Royalton) who is new to the center this summer. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional requirement. We served a total of 13,604 meals for the year 2013-2014. The food cost per meal was \$2.57, total cost per meal \$11.38.

Each year fundraisers are held to help raise money for the services and trips. Fundraisers include raffles, proceeds from the Thrift Shop, and an annual craft sale held on the first Saturday of December, at the Royalton Academy building in Royalton, Vermont.

A fund has been established to offer assistance to any senior who may have a need. The funding comes from the Thrift Shop's profits. Any senior needing assistance may contact Sue Pirie, the senior director, Karen Eddy, the senior advisor, or one of your Senior Board Representatives with your request. Requests are reviewed in a confidential manner.

Services offered include home-delivered meals, transportation to the meal site, blood pressure clinics, and foot clinics. A person is often available to help seniors with their taxes in April. Karen Eddy, the senior adviser, is available to assist seniors with any problems that they may have. Karen has an office at the Royalton Academy. Another service is the distribution of USDA commodities. Entertainment is offered during many of the meals.

Each year, about four different trips are offered to the seniors. Sue Pirie works very hard to make each trip a memorable time.

Strafford Board Representatives are Barbara Murray, June Solsaa, and Susan Coburn.

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

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Clara Martin Center (CMC) provides a multitude of services throughout greater Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient counseling
- Psychiatric services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School- and home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital diversion
- Walk-in clinic
- Vocational services
- Alcohol and other drug treatment
- Respite care
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center continues to enhance a broad range of programming. The agency continues to increase access to services for at risk young adults while contracting with partnering schools to deliver services for students and families. Clara Martin Center also provides mental health and substance abuse services within its Criminal Justice Program and for returning veterans and their families.

We here at CMC are embracing the challenges and continue to adjust to the changes that have occurred throughout this fiscal year. The launch of the Vermont Health Exchange is one. The other is the new “Hub and Spoke” model. CMC contracts with CVSAS and other healthcare providers to create a coordinated, systemic response to the complex issue of opiate and other addictions in Vermont.

Town funds support services to the under- and un-insured and allows the Clara Martin Center to assist the community in its service needs as a whole. It is through the continued financial support from our local towns that we are able to report these successes.

<u>FY2014</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	673	7
School Services	138	8
Adult Services	858	11
CSP Services*	173	1
Safe Haven & Chris’s Place	34	
Substance Abuse Services	681	3
Corrections Services	213	
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	503	4
Central VT Substance Abuse Services	734	
Total Served by Program	4,007	27

* CSP is our community support program that serves the chronically mentally ill population.

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

We are pleased to present our 24th annual report. Upper Valley Ambulance, Inc. has provided emergency ambulance service to its member towns since July 1, 1990. This past year, UVA responded to 1,072 emergency calls. Of these, 399 calls (37%) resulted in no patient being transported, therefore no bill was generated to help offset the costs of responding. This is higher than the national average of 29-32%. UVA responded to 59 emergency calls in the town of Strafford, and did not transport from 28 of them (47%).

The Upper Valley Ambulance Board of Directors continues to discuss the many challenges of operating a rural emergency ambulance service. There are several factors which contribute to these challenges, the most pressing being increased operating expenses and declining revenues. Costs increasing beyond our control include dispatch fees, fuel, medications and supplies. The Affordable Care Act has made it difficult for budget planning. Not only are we uncertain of future reimbursement levels, we are unclear about our own healthcare costs for our employees.

Despite the increase in calls, reimbursement for and revenue from our services is declining. Seventy-five percent of our patients have either Medicare, Medicaid, or are uninsured. Medicare and Medicaid are a fixed scheduled reimbursement, regardless of the actual charges. This reimbursement is 11% to 34% below our costs of providing the service. Current legislation at the State and Federal level would further reduce these reimbursement levels. While the Affordable Care Act should reduce the number of our patients without insurance, most will still end up with a high deductible plan that essentially leaves them uncovered for ambulance service.

For more than 21 years Upper Valley Ambulance had been able to keep costs down by providing other services such as, non-emergency services for Norris Cotton Cancer Center, DHART, other DHMC departments and Upper Valley businesses. These contracts are no longer available, and there is increased competition for all non-emergency services. This has significantly reduced income from these sources.

Given all of the challenges with increasing costs, fixed and decreasing reimbursements, and limited opportunities for growth, the Board of Upper Valley Ambulance has set the 2015 funding request at \$35.00/per capita. We will continue to search for grants, donations, and any other funding sources to help us maintain our goal of excellent public service.

You may not be familiar with our subscription service, and we want that to change. The yearly membership fee of \$50 per household entitles you to medically necessary emergency medical services at no additional cost to you. Applications with more information are available at your local Town Offices, at our business office on Lake Morey Road in Fairlee, or, at our website www.uppervalleyambulance.com.

Long time Administrator John Vose is retiring February 1st, after 25 years of service. After a nationwide search, Clay Odell, who is currently a per diem paramedic, has been hired as the new Executive Director.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the last twenty-four years, and look forward to serving you in the future. The Board of Directors, Administration and Employees of Upper Valley Ambulance, Inc. will continually strive to provide the highest quality emergency medical care at the lowest possible cost to all the citizens we serve.

Larry Lancaster, Chair

CAPSTONE COMMUNITY ACTION

Since 1965, Capstone Community Action (formerly known as Central Vermont Community Action Council) has served low-income residents of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington Counties and nine communities in Windsor, Addison, and Rutland Counties. We help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. This year, Capstone Community Action served 18,815 people in 9,237 Vermont households through Head Start and Early Head Start, business development, financial education, food shelves and nutrition resources, housing counseling, tax preparation, teen parent education, emergency heating assistance, home weatherization, workforce training, healthcare navigation, ongoing disaster relief, and more.

Programs and services accessed by 12 Strafford households representing 34 individuals this past year included:

- 5 households with 17 family members were able to keep heating their homes with help from our Crisis & Supplemental fuel programs as well as other utility costs.
- 1 household worked with housing counselors to find and retain affordable, safe, secure housing.
- 2 people attended classes or met one-on-one with a financial counselor to be better able to manage and grow family finances.
- 1 woman received training, counseling and technical assistance from the Vermont Women's Business Center to pursue dreams of business ownership.
- 1 childcare provider received nutrition education and was reimbursed for the cost of serving nutritious meals and snacks to the 6 children in their care.
- 2 people received information and assistance for signing up for Vermont Health Connect.

Capstone thanks the residents of Strafford for their generous support this year!

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors comprised of municipal officials from across the state elected by the membership.

VLCT's mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 134 other municipal entities, including villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions and fire districts.

Vermonters use local government services – including highways, police, fire, recreation, libraries, sewer, and water – on a daily basis. In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead these local governments.

VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns, so that they may provide their citizens with quality services at affordable costs:

Legal, consulting, and education services. In the past year, VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) responded to nearly 3,500 inquiries for assistance from municipal officials. MAC also conducted 18 workshops that attracted more than 1,250 people. For example, our workshop on how to comply with the new Open Meeting Law changes and the Public Records Act drew more than 140 attendees. Additionally, we conducted 10 on-site workshops held at municipal offices on a wide range of topics, and we provided 26 municipalities with legal review of ordinances and policies, financial assistance, and other specialized consulting services. We produced new materials to help members comply with the Open Meeting Law and revised our Town Officers Handbook. These and all of our publications may be purchased or accessed free of charge on our website at our Resource Library. The Library also contains nearly 1,000 other electronic documents, including technical papers, model polices, and newsletter articles that are currently accessible to the general public. MAC has also retained the services of professionals in municipal finance, administration, and policing to provide consulting advice to towns.

Advocacy representation before the state and national governments to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority they need to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education property tax debate, enhancing local voter authority in governance decisions, municipal efforts to clean up our lakes and rivers, and securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs. Municipalities will face significant challenges in the 2015 legislature as limited financial resources at the national and state level continue to force more demand for services to the local level. We also provide a *Weekly Legislative Report* that details legislative issues affecting

municipal government. It is available to all free-of-charge on the VLCT website.

Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost. Examples include municipal unemployment, property, casualty and workers' compensation insurance coverage for town operations. The VLCT Employee Resource and Benefit Trust continues to assist towns navigate their way to Vermont Health Connect and to help municipalities not in the exchange to secure health insurance through the marketplace. The substantial municipal damages resulting from recent weather events makes the value of VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund to all our members quite clear, as members benefit from the broad coverage, excellent re-insurance, and prompt service and claims payments. Our two Trusts are responsible in 2014 for \$24 million in municipal tax dollars spent for insurance and risk management services.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including its audited financial statements, visit the VLCT website at www.vlct.org.

ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Orange County Court Diversion Program (OCCDP) is a community based, cost-effective alternative to the criminal court system for eligible offenders referred by the State's Attorney. The State's Attorney dismisses the charges of participants who successfully complete Diversion.

A citizen Review Board, comprised of volunteers throughout Orange County, interviews each offender. The main criteria for acceptance into the program are an admission of wrongdoing and a willingness to take responsibility for the offense. Throughout the discussion, the client is made aware of the concerns and needs of both the victim and the community, and held responsible for amending the wrongdoing. Approximately 85% of the clients who participate in the Orange County Court Diversion program successfully complete the program. Those who fail have their cases returned to court for prosecution.

The Orange County Court Diversion program also administers Orange County's Teen Alcohol Safety Program for civil offenses of underage drinking and minors in possession of marijuana.

A total of 179 clients were referred for services during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014. Of this number, 68 clients were referred from juvenile and adult court for criminal offenses, and 111 clients were referred for a civil offense of underage drinking and/or possession of marijuana. During FY2014, OCCDP processed 6 cases in which either the offender resided in Strafford and/or the offense occurred in Strafford. OCCDP's FY2014 operating budget was \$103,164.

For a number of years we have been proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. Strafford appropriated \$200.00 for FY2014 to support OCCDP. Our program is requesting the same appropriation for FY2015.

Thank you for your continued support. Questions and additional information concerning the program should be directed to David Savidge, Executive Director, Orange County Court Diversion, P.O. Box 58, Chelsea, VT 05038. (802-685-3172)

COUNTY OF ORANGE

This report highlights the activities and expenses of Orange County during the county's 2014 fiscal year which began February 1.

County Support for the Sheriff's Department

The Orange County budget supports operations at the Sheriff's Department except the salaries of the Sheriff and deputies. The county has finished nearly three years of significant upgrades and energy efficiency work at the Sheriff's building and jail on Rt. 113 in Chelsea including a new roof installed late fall 2013. This concludes all renovations and improvements and we can now return to a schedule of regular maintenance. The Sheriff's department budget accounts for about 60% of the total county budget. We support the Sheriff's department at a higher level than many surrounding counties due to the fact that there are no other 24/7 staffed law enforcement agencies in Orange County. You can call the Sheriff's department directly for assistance at all hours at 685-4875.

County Courthouse

We completed the finishing touches on a significant, state-funded project to create a new handicapped entrance to the courthouse this past year. The new entrance gets regular use and provides very good, ADA-compliant access to the courthouse.

Planned repairs to the courthouse bell tower have been delayed until June 2015 due to significantly higher cost estimates than originally budgeted. During the contractor inspection process all bidders determined that the tower requires more extensive repairs than we'd thought. The bid has been awarded to an experienced steeplejack company, Skyline Engineering of Fitchburg, Mass. An \$18,000 grant from the Department of Historic Preservation will be used to help pay for the project. The remainder of the cost will be met from the current capital reserve fund, any budget surplus from 2014 and \$35,000 allocated in the 2015 budget.

The unexpected higher cost and subsequent delay in the bell tower project has tabled for this year the plan to replace the boiler in the courthouse. We have been told that the boiler has reached the end of its expected lifespan and we are in the process of deciding how to proceed with replacement. We have spoken with an engineer about a wood pellet boiler rather than staying with fuel oil. No decision has been made yet on that.

We encourage more interest and participation in the budgeting process. The preliminary budget hearing is always held in mid December and the annual meeting in the 3rd or 4th week of January. As per statute, we send notices of these meetings and copies of the proposed budget to town clerks and selectboards and publish notices in *The Journal Opinion* and *The Herald of Randolph*.

Please contact us with questions or comments at the courthouse 685-4610.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce E. McKeeman
Assistant Judge from Corinth

Victoria N. Weiss
Assistant Judge from Tunbridge

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) is an association of thirty municipalities in east-central Vermont and is governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our member towns. As advocates for our member towns, we articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life. Our staff provides technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's citizens, non-profits and businesses. Highlights from 2014 include:

Technical Assistance

In 2014, TRORC staff assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, ranging from minor updates to comprehensive, substantive overhauls. A number of our towns were among the first in Vermont to satisfy new flood resiliency requirements ahead of the July 2014 statutory deadline. Collaborative efforts to improve town plans, zoning, and other ordinances demonstrate a regional commitment to foster vibrant, resilient towns and villages.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

Our LEPC #12 efforts with local emergency response and town officials continue across the region. With TRORC's help, all thirty member towns successfully completed annual updates to Local Emergency Operations Plans, which are critical components to disaster response efforts. Further, we have been working diligently with numerous TRORC towns to update Hazard Mitigation Plans, often in tandem with the remaining TS Irene property buy-outs in the region.

Working Landscape and Economic Development

TRORC is committed to projects that preserve and protect our region's natural, scenic, and economic heritage. We continually seek to find a healthy, equitable balance between development and conservation that will both secure the region's future vitality and prosperity while ensuring

effective stewardship of our landscape. To this end, we continue to refine the goals and actions that will guide our focus on working landscapes and the region's economy from our East Central Vermont Sustainability Plan, pursue brownfield assessment work, and begin an update to our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Over the past year, we have provided the Town of Strafford, in particular, with forestry outreach and parcel mapping.

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure and public transit services are integral components to safety and growth. We continue to work with towns on grants to enhance our roadways, inventory infrastructure, establish new park and ride locations, and make downtowns and village centers more accessible and pedestrian-friendly. We also have continued sponsoring Transportation Advisory Committee meetings and facilitating meetings with our region's road foremen. TRORC supported Strafford in 2014 with Rte. 132 bridge reconstruction public outreach.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
William B. Emmons, III, Chairperson, Pomfret



*Home of Sarah (Sloan) and Frederick Smith
on Old City Falls Road*

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

With the implementation of Act 148, there will be significant changes in the collection of recyclables and solid waste throughout the state. These changes will be phased in over the next few years. The two major themes of the law are the requirement that trash haulers provide recycling services without charging directly for the recyclables and a mandate on the composting of both food and yard waste.

While the law's purported goal is reduce trash going into landfills, the unintended consequence seems to be a reduction in competition by forcing many small haulers out of business, particularly those who may not have the means to handle the collection of recyclables. The composting requirement, on the other hand, is a new and significant unfunded mandate requiring local public expenditures to create the infrastructure necessary to cope with the huge volumes of compost that will result.

As of 7/1/2015, all trash collection costs must be unit-based (i.e., by volume or weight), rather than, for example, a set monthly fee covering all the solid waste a resident generates. This doesn't really affect Strafford, because we pay by the bag already, but there is a new requirement that local trash haulers must also collect and manage recyclables, which will affect us. For a small hauler providing curb-side collection, this will mean additional trips to accommodate the recyclables and the haulers will have to charge more to cover their costs. A large hauler, especially one with its own recycling processing facility, can more cheaply manage the recyclables, profit from the processing fee and then undercut the smaller hauler's collection fees.

One solution in Strafford would be for our local trash hauler to set up at the Recycling Center (i.e., known as 'Fast Trash'), so that the trash customer could at the same time use the recycling center to dispose of recyclables. The hauler will then need to increase the charge per bag of trash to cover the Town's costs to have the recyclables hauled away under the current arrangement with the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA). This would comply with the new law by removing the costs of recycling from the property tax.

Curb-side trash collection can continue as it has if the curbside trash customers agrees to take his or her own recyclables to the Recycling Center (which is what they currently do). If customers want the hauler to pick up recyclables at the curb-side, the hauler must collect them. For the hauler, taking them to the Recycling Center and sorting them would be very time-consuming. If significant curbside recycling is required, it might make sense to consider single-stream recycling (i.e., all recyclables mixed together).

Currently one the challenges facing recycling is the falling commodity market prices for recyclables that the Town receives and the simultaneous rise in both hauling charges and processing fees for separating the commingled containers. This could mean a change from source-separating recyclables (i.e., not mixing them together) to what is called 'zero-sort' or single-stream recycling. The

resulting mixed recyclables must then be separated or ‘processed’ mechanically at an additional cost. A hauler providing single-stream services charges a processing fee for sorting them. This conversion to single-stream would make recycling easier and simplify the curb-side collection of recyclables for the hauler, but it would likely increase the cost of recycling.

The Selectboard has agreed that Durkee Rubbish Removal may station its truck at the Recycling Center on Saturday mornings, so that customers can bring in their trash and also use the recycling center for recyclables. An increase in the cost per bag of trash is unavoidable.

The other major change on the horizon is a mandate on composting food and yard waste to keep it out of landfills. While the initial phases affect only the larger commercial and institutional producers of food and yard waste (i.e., restaurants, colleges, etc.), the mandate will by 2020 apply to residential food and yard waste as well. The challenge here is that there are not nearly enough composting facilities state-wide, either public or private, to handle the volume of compostable waste. In East-Central Vermont, there are no composting facilities at all. The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District owns land in North Hartland that is permitted for such a facility, but there is as yet no obvious way to finance the construction of such a facility and there are serious doubts that revenue generated by such a facility (i.e., the sale of compost) will be sufficient to cover even operational costs. Such compost is also notoriously susceptible to contamination by chemicals and other undesirable substances, which as a consequence would require disposal of the tainted compost in a landfill.

As these complicated matters are sorted out, life goes on and our recycling center is still available every Saturday morning. Thanks go to our 36 volunteers who, year in and year out in all weather, make this happen each week. In particular, I want to thank our Recycling Committee, which includes Dori Wolfe, Vince Robinson, Corky Scott and Mike Scanlan, for its efforts and also the Strafford Area Lions Club, which has supported our recycling program from its earliest days back in the spring of 1988.

We also want to thank Marianne Wakerlin and Solmate socks for a generous donation, which we have used to purchase additional snow removal implements for the Recycling Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District is composed of 10 Upper Valley towns. The GUVSWD was established in 1992 for the purpose of providing an integrated system for waste management for both solid waste and unregulated hazardous waste through the establishment of recycling and reuse programs, composting and food diversion, and special collections for bulky wastes. In addition to these programs, the District provides outreach and education program to area businesses and schools. In our 22 year history, thousands of tons of recyclables and hazardous waste have been removed from the waste stream through these education and diversion programs.

The programs and services the District provides include special collection events for household hazardous waste, electronics, tires, fluorescent bulbs, and other hard to dispose of items. The District also provides outreach and education for students, residents, businesses and technical assistance to member towns.

During the 2014 fiscal year the GUVSWD provided direct services to Strafford and its residents including the following:

- Assisted in the recycling and disposal of hard-to-manage materials collected at regional events including fluorescent light bulbs, used motor oil, and tires.
- 439 GUV residents participated in district sponsored Household Hazardous Waste events held in Hartford in June and Norwich in September, in which nearly 20,000 pounds and 3,500 gallons were disposed of.
- District residents also recycled 1,372 tires and over 20,000 pounds of electronics at our collection events. Many residents also utilized our bulky trash, fluorescent bulb, book, and scrap metal collections.

The next household hazardous waste day will be held on the first Saturday in June at the Hartford Recycling Center.

In FY2014, Stephen Willbanks and Charles Scott were Strafford's representatives to the GUVSWD Board of Supervisors. We thank them for their service.

The District's *Green Guide* will be available in the spring at Town Meeting. After Town Meeting, the *Green Guides* can be picked up at your Town Clerk's office, at the district office, or on the district's website. Contact the GUVSWD by email at guvswd@valley.net, call us at 296-3688 or visit us on the web at www.guvswd.org.

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

March 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Strafford Town School District are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED to meet at the Town Hall in Strafford on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 1:00 P.M., to transact the following business:

- Article I.** To Elect a Moderator.
- Article II.** To Hear and Act upon the report of the School Directors.
- Article III.** To Vote the sum of \$3,327,708 for the support of the School District for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Article IV.** To Vote a sum of \$8,306.00 from the 2014 – 2015 school year general fund balance to be allocated to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund and any remaining funds over \$6,900 to be allocated to the Tuition Reserve Fund.
- Article V.** To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article VI.** To Elect one (1) School Director to complete a two (2) year term due to expire in 2016.
- Article VII.** To Address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 7, 2015

Strafford Board of School Directors

Paul Perkins, Chairperson

Amanda Higgins Vice Chair

Erik Reimanis, Member

Heather Waterbury, Member

Hilary Linehan, Member

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

March 4, 2014

The Strafford School District warning was read in its entirety.

Article 1: to Elect a moderator.

The article was moved and seconded. Curt Albee is nominated and seconded. Kerry Claffey is nominated and seconded. Curt Albee withdraws his nomination. Motion was made to close nomination in favor of Kerry Claffey. Moved and seconded. Kerry Claffey is elected.

Article 2: To Hear and Act upon the report of the School Directors.

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Amanda Higgins introduced Greg Bagnato as Newton School Principal. Moderator Claffey asked to suspend the Roberts Rules of Order to hear from Thetford Academy Head of School, Bill Bugg. Sarah Root introduced the Supervisory Union staff. Paul Perkins provided information about kindergarten and how this affected the overall budget. The generator was installed with the additional funds from the 2013 amended school budget and the School District will return of \$16,000 of unexpended expenses. There is a 6.22% increase in this year's budget due primarily to secondary tuition and special education costs.

There being no more discussion the vote was called and the report of the school directors was accepted.

Article 3: To Vote the sum of \$3,176,285.00 for the support of the School District for the 2014-2015 school year.

Hilary Linehan summarized the budget. A motion was made to reduce the amount of the budget by \$17,000. A motion was made to call the question and seconded. Discussion was closed. The amendment failed. There being no more discussion the vote was called. Article 3 passes.

Article 4: To vote a sum of \$8,064.00 to be allocated to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Article 4 was moved and seconded. There being no more discussion the vote was called. Article 4 passes.

Article 5: To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, and one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.

Article 5 was moved and seconded. Sarah Root is nominated for a three year term. Sarah withdrew her name. Eric Reimanis is nominated for a three year term. Motion was made to close nominations. Eric Reimanis is elected.

Amanda Higgins is nominated and seconded for a two year term. Motion was made to close nominations. Amanda Higgins is elected.

Article 6: To address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Article 6 is moved and seconded. Motion was made to close the School District Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m..



Rosa Buchanan Tyson (1900 - 1991)

A founding member of the Strafford Athletic Association, Rosa lived at and maintained Buena Vista Farm most of her life. At one time, Rosa ran Buena Vista as an inn and as a ski resort with its own rope tow. She also operated Ken Jockatee, a camp for girls. When the Free Will Baptist Church was put on the market, Rosa purchased the structure and donated it to the Strafford Athletic Association, and since 1975 the building has been in use as the town and school gymnasium.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

New Superintendent, Bruce Labs

We are fortunate to have Bruce Labs as our new Superintendent. Mr. Labs brings a wealth of experience, data-driven practices and collaborative approach to the office of Superintendent. Many of you have already met him because he forged a presence early on in each school and community within the Supervisory Union. Mr. Labs has also demonstrated respect for the diversity of the schools under his supervision, including those that provide some form of high school choice. Mr. Labs' skill set will serve us well when the Supervisory Union expands in 2016.

Expansion of the Orange Windsor Supervisory Union

For years, the State Board of Education has proposed the dissolution of the Windsor-Northwest Supervisory Union (WNWSU). Beginning last October, the executive committees of the Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union (OWSU) and WNWSU, together with OWSU administrators and Vermont School Boards Association staff, met periodically to devise a plan for dissolving WNWSU and integrating its school districts into OWSU. On January 20, 2015, the State Board approved the plan. As a result, the two supervisory unions will begin to operate side-by-side until July 2016, when WNWSU will dissolve and OWSU will absorb the Bethel, Rochester, Stockbridge, Hancock and Granville school districts.

The benefits of this integration may include decreased costs, greater efficiency and increased educational opportunities throughout the OWSU districts. We expect to achieve these goals by sharing educational resources, expanding curricula, eliminating redundant staff from the former WNWSU, sharing office space and by coordinating financial management software and busing contracts.

The expansion will also present challenges, such as how to maintain an acceptable level of local control within the expanded Supervisory Union, how to structure meetings and ensure public participation at the district and supervisory union levels and how to structure staffing changes within the Supervisory Union.

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

We propose a budget of \$3,327,708. This is an increase of 4.77%, or \$151,423, over last year's budget of \$3,176,285. Of this budget, \$1,088,330 is for high school, \$587,108 is for special education and \$15,000 is for the new preschool program. Thus, the budget for Kindergarten - 8th grade is up by \$33,234, or 2.07%. Below are some of the largest components of our budget.

Secondary Tuition

The budget for secondary tuition costs is \$1,088,330, an increase of 10.57%, or \$104,012, over this year. Secondary tuition comprises nearly 33% of the

total budget. The rising cost is due to an increase in students who will attend high school next year.

OWSU Assessment

The budget for the OWSU assessment is \$670,224, an increase of .08%, or \$5,451, over this year. The OWSU assessment comprises a little more than 20% of the budget.

Direct Instruction

The budget for direct instruction is \$845,484, an increase of 1.22%, or \$10,228, over last year's budget of \$835,256. Direct instruction comprises about 25% of the budget.

Facilities Costs

The budget for facilities is \$196,675, a decrease of .62%, or \$1,219, from last year's budget of \$197,894. Facilities costs comprise about 6% of the budget.

Preschool

The budget includes \$15,000 for preschool. Last year, our legislature passed Act 166, which mandates that we pay for all three and four-year-old children to attend a preschool for up to 10 hours per week, for 35 weeks.

After Act 166 passed, we appointed a committee to explore the best option for implementing Act 166. Acting on the report of the preschool committee, we decided to partner with the Creative Preschool. Shortly thereafter, the Governor delayed implementation of Act 166 for one year. But, because of the educational benefits and future cost savings that preschool is likely to provide, and because we must fund preschool at some level in order to receive future preschool grants, we will go forward with our partnership with the Creative Preschool and allocate \$15,000 toward preschool instruction next year. This is enough cover one-half of the students expected to attend next year. We expect to receive U. S. Department of Education "Race to the Top" grant to pay for the other half of eligible preschool students.

A Note on the Tax Rate

The state residential education tax rate is projected to be 1.00 (up .02 from last year). After factoring in the budget and the common level of appraisal (which is very low this year), the district residential tax rate will be 1.5310 (up .08 from last year).

Projected Surplus

We project a surplus of \$33,984. Of that amount, we propose the following:

- 1) Allocate \$8,306.00 to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve fund, as required by the Warranty Deed on the Tyson Gym property from the Strafford Athletic Association to the Strafford School District;

- 2) Return \$6,900 to the town, which is equivalent to the grant we will receive to offset the remaining costs of the generator installed in 2013; and
- 3) Allocate any remaining funds to the tuition reserve fund.

(Please see Article IV of the Warning.)

Vacancies

This year, we have three vacancies. Heather Waterbury will not seek another term. Heather has served two very busy years on the school board. In addition, she has negotiated the teacher contract as a member of the OWSU negotiation team, has helped govern the OWSU both as a member of the OWSU board and as alternate to the OWSU executive committee.

Amanda Higgins will not serve after March 3, 2015. Amanda is our current Vice Chair and has served more than five years on the school board. In addition, she has represented the town as a member of the Thetford Academy Board, has been the facilities liaison, overseeing many changes to our building including the walkway project in 2012 and has served on the OWSU full board, the last principal search committee and the kindergarten committee.

Paul Perkins also will not seek another term. Paul is our current Chair and has served five years on the school board. In addition, he has been heavily involved with OWSU, serving on its board and executive committees and as a member of the Supervisory Union Integration Committee and Supervisory Union Transition Team, which devised and began to implement the plan for the expansion of OWSU.

We thank Heather, Amanda and Paul for their years of dedicated service.

Acknowledgments

We are fortunate to receive high-quality services from the administrators and staff at the OWSU central office, our Principal, our own faculty and staff and our parent-teacher association. We substantially rely on their skills and knowledge and benefit from their dedication, competence and professionalism. Most importantly, because of the good work of all these people, our children receive extremely high-quality instruction in a safe and supportive environment.

Finally, we thank you for your attendance at our meetings and your questions and concerns. We appreciate your involvement in the governance of our school. There is no doubt that our school is a success, in large part because of your thoughtful contributions.

The Newton School Board of Directors

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

Last year, I described how the Newton School Staff had created a “Definition of Learning”. This school-wide document aligns to the Strafford School Board’s Mission and Statement of Core Values. It also articulates what learning should look like at our school. For this report, I will use our Definition of Learning to report on the past year.

The Definition of Learning states that the Staff at the Newton School will:

Develop each child’s potential for academic success in core and non-core classes by supporting each student’s individual needs through people and programs.

- We are using test data and work samples to discuss individual and grade-wide student achievement.
- We are organizing the support we give students by developing a clear system incorporating education support teams, individual education plans, and personal learning plans.
- We continue to do well in the state standardized tests (NECAP):

	Mathematics (grades 3-8)		Reading (grades 3-8)		Writing (grades 5 and 8)		Science (grades 4 and 8)	
	Newton School	State Average	Newton School	State Average	Newton School	State Average	Newton School	State Average
% of Students scoring “ Proficient ” and “ Proficient with Distinction ”	85	62	90	71	71	54	77	56
% of Students scoring “ Partially Proficient ” and “ Substantially Below Proficient ”	15	38	10	29	29	46	23	44

Develop each child’s potential for engagement, by having students learn through a variety of methods.

- Through professional development in school, we are creating engaging units of study aligned to the Common Core State Standards.
- We have integrated peer feedback and collaborative learning into each of our grades.

Reach each child’s potential for well-being by making sure that students’ emotional, social, physical, and academic needs are met by providing a safe, supportive, and caring environment.

- We have a more clearly articulated K-8 Health Program. All middle school students take a health class.
- In the past year, staff have been trained in Responsive Classroom and many in CPI (a nonviolent crisis intervention).

Enrich each child's education through community involvement and outreach.

- We have secured a Farm to School Grant through Vermont FEED, which has helped us organize many initiatives to increase community outreach (Hike for Hunger, Harvest For Hunger, Food Drive, and Strafford's Pocket Park).
- We have hosted several assemblies (Veteran's Day, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, etc) involving the community.

The Newton School also continues to grow and develop new programs to prepare our students for life after Newton. Last summer, the Strafford School District received a grant from VCPC to fund the tuition of preschool children to prequalified preschools. With this, we were able to assist eleven Strafford families with their child's preschool education. This year, there are fourteen Kindergartners in our full day program. The extra classroom time has allowed the students to slow down and dig deeper into their learning. The newly aligned third through fifth grade cluster is busy, but more developmentally appropriate for our students. Many middle school students are taking advantage of online math classes.

I look forward to continue to work with the school district, parents, and town community to further enhance the education of all of Strafford's children. I would like to thank the students, teachers, parents, and members of the community for your support. I would like to specifically acknowledge the work of the PTA. The Parent Teacher Association has enhanced the education of Newton School students by providing numerous enrichment activities such as performing art field trips, classes at the Hood Museum, Artist-in-Residence Program (this year it was Capoeira), and funds for many initiatives here at school.

Sincerely,
Greg Bagnato
Principal

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

It has been a real privilege and a sincere pleasure to offer my first report to the residents of the five towns making up the Supervisory Union. I have truly enjoyed building relationships with members of the staff and making a somewhat modest contribution here in Orange Windsor since beginning here on July 1, 2014. Since that time in the day-to-day schedule of meetings, I have tried to establish a presence in each of the schools each week. I have attended meetings and watched our students and teachers in action in the classroom. I have to say that I am generally impressed by the hardworking, skilled and caring nature of the people I see within our system.

We are working to reach a decision on a new collective bargaining agreement for both professional staff and support staff. In the case of the professional staff we are trying to fold the language from each of the five district collective bargaining agreements into one. This effort has gone on for a long period of time and there are signs that we are almost at the resolution point of this process now. It has been obvious to me that the people involved in this work care and respect and wish to preserve the relationship they have with one another. They are determined to come up with a responsible agreement that everyone can live with using thoughtful deliberation and compromise.

As I am sure you are aware, work to integrate Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union with Orange Windsor Supervisory Union began in October. Phase I of this process was completed on January 5, 2015 and a report on this phase was sent to the State School Board for review and potential vote on January 20th. On January 20th the Vermont School Board will vote to integrate both SUs into one. If the State Board approves this consolidation the Phase II of this process will begin on January 21st and will last until June 30, 2016 when Windsor Northwest SU will officially be dissolved and become part of Orange Windsor SU. A transition board, empowered to make decisions for the newly configured SU, composed of board members from the 10 individual districts, will be seated sometime in February.

We have tried to outline some of the possible advantages of joining the SU's together. The following are some of the potential opportunities we may see as an outcome of building this new union:

- 1) There is strength in numbers and we think there will be strength if we concentrate on developing expanded programming for all of our students if joined together.
 - a) We truly need to do the best we can do for each of the students we serve.
 - b) Increased numbers of students allow us to create more opportunities for better curriculum offerings for diverse and discrete populations that are currently too small to otherwise serve well.

- 2) We believe that it is more efficient to negotiate contracts with the teachers regionally and not locally.
 - a) We are aware that the cost of maintaining a quality teaching staff is the number one factor in driving the cost of education.
 - b) We have tried to gain a regional approach to negotiations at OWSU and we are in the last phase of completing a unified contract.
 - c) WNWSU already has a unified contract.
- 3) We are all feeling the rising cost of education.
 - a) We believe that a collaborative approach to purchasing and funding can be applied to use our increased size to our advantage.
 - b) We believe we can share technology, special education, curriculum, transportation services and food services to serve our region better.
- 4) Consolidation of Central Office functions will build a more efficient and effective leadership model.
- 5) We think there is a chance to share faculty and staff between buildings if we are together and the current SU boundaries are erased.

In short, we believe that we will be able to deliver an enhanced education for our students and do it at a lower cost for our taxpayers. If you would like to read the full Phase I report, it can be found on our website at www.owsu.org.

I want to once again thank all of the voters and taxpayers for their combined support of the students in our communities. It is an honor and pleasure to serve the schools in the Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the operations of our schools. We will continue to try to earn your trust and will never take your support for granted.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce C. Labs
Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

In August 2014, Thetford Academy welcomed 83 new students to campus, including ten new freshmen from Strafford. The Academy's official enrollment of 314 students – the highest enrollment in five years – includes 26 from Strafford, with which Thetford Academy has a long-standing partnership agreement. Of the school's students, 64% are residents of Thetford, 33% are from twelve other towns across the Upper Valley (including Strafford), and 3% are international students – seven from China and two from Europe.

Since the 2014 Strafford Town Meeting, the Academy has received many accolades, notably:

- The Wellness Award from the Vermont Department of Health in 2014.
- Girls Varsity Basketball Division III State Championship in 2014.
- VEX High School Robotics World Championship Contenders in 2014 (and TA's Team 4886A, which has won three tournament championships and earned a world ranking in driver skills and programming skills this year, is eager to return in 2015).
- 2014 State Finalist in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, a nationwide competition to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

TA students have been recognized for their academic and artistic talents:

- Four students earned a spot in the Winooski Valley Music Festival Chorus in October 2014.
- The Young Writers Project has published the works of six students in 2014-15; in 2013-14, twelve TA students had works published in the *Valley News* and/or *Times Argus*.
- AVA Gallery featured the works of ten Thetford Academy young artists in their "Best of the Upper Valley High School Art Exhibition 2014."
- TA had two Commended Students in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program.

And several of our employees have been honored for some prestigious prizes, most notably:

- Science teacher and Dean of Academics Marc Chabot won the 2014 Angelo J. Dorta Award for Teaching Excellence, 2015 California Casualty's Award for Teaching Excellence, and 2014 Siemens Teachers as Researchers (STARS) Fellowship.
- Former Athletic Director and current Dean of Students Jade Huntington was inducted into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame in November 2014.

- English Teacher Joe Deffner was named a 2014 Summer Scholar by the National Endowment for the Humanities for study in Mississippi.

The past two years, Thetford Academy faculty members have designed 14 new elective courses, including Environmental Studies, Timber Framing, Mobile App Design, Making Music with your Mac, Yoga, and Why Food Matters. Over the past two years the school has offered more than 100 courses taught by 34 teachers – a staggering diversity of offerings for a small school. An embedded honors program has been launched to enable students to probe more deeply into their studies. Including both embedded honors courses and traditional honors courses like Pre-Calculus and Advanced Chemistry, 67 percent of the members of the Class of 2014 took at least one honors course during their Thetford Academy high school career. See below for more information on the Class of 2014.

In other news, Thetford Academy began a two-year partnership with the Dartmouth College Environmental Studies department in March 2014. In the first year, 17 students from Dartmouth, led by Professor and Thetford resident Nick Reo and guided by Thetford Academy teachers and administrators, conducted research in such areas as alternative energy, sustainable food and outdoor leadership. The second year of the program is set to begin in March 2015.

Traditions, both old and new, loom large at Thetford Academy. By the numbers, the Academy held the 72nd Founders' Day in February 2015; the 36th Annual Frederick G. Torrey Mountain Day in September 2014; the 29th Annual TA Alumni Association Craft Bazaar in November 2014; the 24th Woods Trail Run in October 2014; the 18th Annual 10-Minute Play Festival (featuring original student works) in January 2015; the 4th Annual Mr. TA Pageant (a fun, irreverent and highly effective fundraiser for Raise Rwanda) in December 2014; the 3rd Annual Thetford Historical Society Geography Bee in November 2014; and the 2nd annual Founders' Night in February 2015.

Community service remains integral to the life of the Academy. In January 2015, Melissa Thaxton's World Literature class raised money for women and children in Afghanistan through the community screening of *View from a Grain of Sand*. In November 2014, Jennifer Gernhard's Meal Prep class sponsored an Empty Bowl Project during the Alumni Craft Bazaar to raise funds for the Thetford Food Shelf. Since 2007, Karyn Neubauer's art classes have participated in The Memory Project to support neglected, orphaned or disadvantaged children around the world. And for the communities of the Upper Valley, the school makes accessible an exciting array of athletic contests, plays, musicals, choral and instrumental music performances, international films and outside speakers.

Visit www.ThetfordAcademy.org to find out more about Thetford Academy. It's an honor to serve the families of Strafford, Thetford and the Upper Valley.

Sincerely,
 William A. Bugg III
 Head of School

Profile of the Class of 2014 *

GPA (Grade Point Average at TA)	SAT Average (1600)	SAT Average (2400)	Percent Taking 1+ Honors Classes	Percent Taking Pre-Calculus or Higher	Percent Taking Language Level 3 or Higher	Percent Applying to 4-Year Colleges	Percent Attending Tech Programs
<i>First 20%</i>	1208	1789	100	75	92	100	8
<i>Second 20%</i>	1116	1655	77	54	54	92	15
<i>Third 20%</i>	1072	1612	85	31	54	85	8
<i>Fourth 20%</i>	964	1446	62	23	15	69	15
<i>Fifth 20%</i>	**	**	8	0	0	25	75
TOTAL	1089	1622	67	37	43	75	24

* 63 students; first and fifth quintile calculated with 12 students; second through fourth with 13 students.

** Sampling is too small to tabulate.

Parent Surveys, November 2014

<i>Percentage Replying Very Satisfactory or Satisfactory (out of 5 choices)</i>	
Student excitement about learning	75
Academic quality of Thetford Academy	84
Overall performance of faculty	89
Overall satisfaction with Thetford Academy	86
<i>Percentage Replying Strongly Agree or Agree (out of 5 choices)</i>	
Positive school spirit is evident at Thetford Academy	94
Each student feels well known by Thetford Academy	84
Thetford Academy has a caring and supportive environment	91

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

Thanks to the time, energy and generous contributions of many, The Newton School students and the Strafford community have enjoyed an amazing year of arts and cultural events, as well as town-wide celebrations, sponsored by the Newton PTA!

In December, the Brazilian dance/martial art called Capoeira came to Newton School via the fantastic teacher Fua Nascimento, who spent a week with our students. Capoeira was developed in Brazil and combines elements of dance, acrobatics and music. Fua also focused on social skills, self esteem, willpower, positivity, and the connection between one's own behavior and one's own culture and ethnicity. The week-long residency concluded with an outstanding, energetic all-school performance. A tremendous outpouring of support from staff, parents and volunteers helped the residency run smoothly.

In addition to the big arts events, the PTA has funded numerous other programs and projects throughout the school year. The Vermont Symphony played to the school during an assembly. Costumes and scripts were purchased for the school performances. Our new art teacher, Janet Cathey, introduced pottery to the students, and the PTA helped to fund the firing of pots, bowls, cups and other creative objects. One of the most beloved programs funded by the PTA, "Images" and "ArtStart", allows 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to travel to the Hood Museum in Hanover multiple times throughout the year. Students explore specific collections with an instructor, and then create art in the Peter Smith Studio. Finally, each school cluster visits Hopkins Center, Lebanon Opera House, or Pentangle Arts Center to attend two wonderful, live performances during the school year!

As important as the arts programs, some of the community events that are organized by the PTA include: Town Meeting luncheon; Bike-to-School Day; 4th of July festivities on the Common; Halloween activities; the Arts & Crafts Event at the Winter Craft Sale; and the Strafford Winter Carnival! The Newton PTA spends a great deal of time fund-raising for these amazing opportunities and events. It is very clear how valuable our programs are to families and to members of our community. Please continue to support the Newton PTA!

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET SUMMARY
FY 2016 Budget Summary

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget FY2014	Actual FY2014	Budget FY2015	Proposed Budget FY2016	Budget to Budget %	Dollar Change Budget to Budget
INSTRUCTION -K-8								
Elementary Instruction	\$ 459,139	\$ 449,393	\$ 535,030	\$ 509,916	\$ 590,916	\$ 586,788	-0.70%	\$ (4,128)
MS Instruction	241,862	241,052	202,552	209,343	168,865	179,990	0	11,125
Athletics	5,914	3,976	6,022	3,281	3,945	4,053	0	108
Remedial Instruction	35,343	34,952	42,046	35,883	71,530	74,654	0	3,124
Total Direct Instruction	\$ 742,258	\$ 729,373	\$ 785,649	\$ 758,423	\$ 835,256	\$ 845,484	1.22%	\$ 10,228
SUPPORT SERVICES								
Student Support (incl Guidance/Health)	\$ 63,326	\$ 67,817	\$ 67,626	\$ 69,182	\$ 69,121	\$ 70,977	2.69%	\$ 1,856
Staff Support Services	27,500	28,641	20,000	21,035	17,500	26,932	1	9,432
Library/Technology	65,301	64,599	68,292	58,682	69,093	68,380	(0)	(713)
School Board/Admin/Treasurer/Audit	208,421	219,708	229,705	242,696	235,330	242,705	0	7,375
Supervisory Union (less Spec Ed)	75,936	75,936	75,162	75,162	76,833	83,116	0	6,283
Buildings and Grounds	192,662	183,483	218,290	212,071	197,894	196,675	(0)	(1,219)
Transportation	81,000	89,810	88,000	82,137	87,000	87,000	-	-
Food Service Subsidy	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	-
Total Support Services	\$ 730,147	\$ 745,994	\$ 783,075	\$ 776,965	\$ 768,771	\$ 791,785	2.99%	\$ 23,015
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS PK-8 w/o Spec Ed	\$1,472,405	\$1,475,367	\$1,568,725	\$1,535,388	\$1,604,027	\$1,637,270	2.07%	\$ 33,243
Preschool	-	-	-	-	-	15,000		15,000
Local/SU- Special Education K-12	539,308	603,657	556,088	582,338	587,940	587,108	(0)	(832)
Secondary Tuition (incl vocational)	773,460	802,651	865,453	827,744	984,318	1,088,330	0	104,012
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS	\$2,785,173	\$2,881,675	\$2,990,266	\$2,945,470	\$3,176,285	\$3,327,708	4.77%	\$151,423

**ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXPENDITURE BUDGET FY 2015-2016**

Description	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	PROPOSED Budget 2016
Guidance Services						
Contracted Services(Counseling Services)	\$ 16,900	\$ 17,500	\$ 18,025	\$ 17,500	\$ 18,025	\$ 18,500
Books & Periodicals	100	79	100	98	150	100
Supplies	100	128	100	-	50	-
Total Guidance Services	\$ 17,100	\$ 17,707	\$ 18,225	\$ 17,598	\$ 18,225	\$ 18,600
Health Services						
Nurse's Salary	\$ 30,387	\$ 35,545	\$ 31,751	\$ 34,759	\$ 33,013	\$ 33,385
Heath Insurance	12,295	12,118	13,815	13,330	13,930	14,557
Employer Taxes	2,325	2,164	2,429	2,054	2,525	2,554
Life Ins	20	20	20	21	23	23
Workers Comp.	198	136	206	188	215	267
Dental Benefits	252	252	260	319	279	261
Contracted Services	-	-	-	-	-	600
Supplies	500	(413)	500	453	550	435
Books & Periodicals	50	172	50	135	110	115
Audio Visual	100	-	100	207	50	50
Equipment	100	116	270	118	200	130
Total Health Services	\$ 46,226	\$ 50,110	\$ 49,401	\$ 51,584	\$ 50,896	\$ 52,377
Support Services						
Course Reimb.	\$ 10,000	\$ 13,637	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,958	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,500
Contracted Services	-	-	-	-	-	850
Long Term Disability Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	15	-	81	-	-
Employer Contribution to Teacher Retirement	-	-	-	-	-	6,582
School-Wide Prof Dev	17,500	14,893	10,000	12,907	7,500	5,000
Mileage Reimbursement	-	96	-	89	-	-
Total Support Services	\$ 27,500	\$ 28,641	\$ 20,000	\$ 21,035	\$ 17,500	\$ 26,932

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
School Library/Media						
Salaries	\$ 15,219	\$ 21,298	\$ 21,830	\$ 22,234	\$ 23,170	\$ 23,633
Salary Aide	4,509	85	-	-	-	-
Employer Taxes	1,509	1,636	1,670	1,701	1,773	1,808
Workers Comp	128	95	142	108	151	189
Repairs & Maint.	-	-	200	131	150	-
Supplies	100	51	250	342	200	200
Technology Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	400
Books & Periodicals	2,200	2,066	1,700	1,473	1,800	1,800
Audio-Visual	300	233	1,000	950	950	650
Dues & Fees	200	150	200	96	250	100
Equipment	100	145	300	284	150	200
Total School Library	\$ 24,265	\$ 25,759	\$ 27,292	\$ 27,319	\$ 28,593	\$ 28,980
School Board						
Board stipends	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ -
Board Secretary	750	930	1,100	225	1,100	1,100
Employer Taxes	172	92	172	115	-	-
Contracted Services	-	2,028	-	1,166	-	-
Legal Fees	3,000	2,450	3,000	1,760	2,500	2,500
Other Services(sect 125 admin)	500	297	500	459	500	500
Errors & Omissions/Catastrophic Insurance	2,200	1,745	2,400	2,048	2,400	2,500
Advertising	1,500	2,416	1,500	1,365	1,500	1,500
Travel Reimb./VSBA Conference	-	1,133	-	-	-	-
Supplies	200	138	200	240	200	200
Dues/Fees	1,300	1,344	1,300	1,366	1,300	1,350
Total School Board	\$ 11,122	\$ 13,773	\$ 11,672	\$ 10,244	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,650

Description						PROPOSED
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Supervisory Union						
Office of the Superintendent	\$ 32,315	\$ 32,315	\$ 31,674	\$ 31,674	\$ 30,673	\$ 31,942
Curriculum Services	-	-	3,312	3,312	7,598	8,193
Grant Administration	-	-	-	-	-	1,780
Fiscal Services/Central Office	43,621	43,621	40,176	40,176	38,562	41,201
SU Pool - Special Education	539,308	603,657	556,088	582,338	587,940	587,108
Total Supervisory Union	\$ 615,244	\$ 679,593	\$ 631,250	\$ 657,500	\$ 664,773	\$ 670,224
Office of the Principal						
Principals Salary	\$ 86,726	\$ 87,908	\$ 82,000	\$ 83,500	\$ 86,005	\$ 87,725
Assistant Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	1,000
Administrative Assistant	29,019	29,016	29,741	33,804	31,686	32,960
Health Ins Benefits	16,393	28,417	30,912	32,585	33,432	34,937
Employer Taxes	8,931	8,699	8,625	8,440	9,042	9,309
Life/Disability Ins Premiums	230	177	230	248	265	265
Professional Development	1,500	2,195	1,000	638	1,000	1,000
Retirement Contribution	4,861	1,161	1,190	1,563	1,465	1,318
Workers Comp.	905	491	874	556	916	973
Dental Ins.	732	673	754	787	810	758
Mentoring	-	-	-	2,835	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	400	450	-	243	-	200
Telephone Exp	4,000	3,369	4,000	6,080	3,500	4,000
Postage	1,200	1,125	1,200	456	1,200	600
Printing	200	-	200	-	-	-
Mileage Reimbursement	4,996	2,888	1,000	482	1,000	500
Supplies	4,500	5,561	4,500	4,967	4,500	5,000
Copier Lease / other equipment	3,100	4,579	4,000	5,691	4,500	5,000
Technology/Tel System	-	3,260	-	-	-	-
Dues & Fees	700	6,378	700	2,179	1,500	2,000
Total Office of the Principal	\$ 169,392	\$ 187,347	\$ 171,925	\$ 186,054	\$ 181,322	\$ 187,547

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Town Services						
Treasurer Services	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400
Employers Taxes	107	107	107	107	107	107
Audit Services	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	5,000	5,000
Postage	400	338	400	379	400	400
Supplies	100	-	100	61	-	-
Dues & Fees	400	314	400	369	400	400
Total Town Services	\$ 6,907	\$ 6,659	\$ 6,907	\$ 6,816	\$ 7,307	\$ 7,307
Buildings & Grounds						
Director of Buildings/Grounds	\$ 39,077	\$ 42,098	\$ 40,060	\$ 37,586	\$ 37,714	\$ 39,488
Other Salaries	15,757	17,632	16,150	19,276	19,195	16,973
Health Ins.	15,762	12,259	13,991	13,259	17,873	14,729
Employers Taxes	4,195	4,414	4,300	4,207	4,354	4,319
Professional Development	-	-	-	-	1,000	500
Life Ins	20	20	20	21	23	23
Employee Retirement	1,563	1,563	1,602	2,471	1,509	1,580
Workers Comp	2,742	2,286	2,811	2,254	2,845	3,105
Dental Ins.	337	336	346	362	372	348
Contracted Services	-	-	-	130	-	-
General Liability Insurance	4,900	4,666	5,000	5,180	5,200	5,800
Supplies	11,900	9,677	11,900	11,852	10,500	10,500
Rubbish Removal	4,500	6,311	5,000	3,890	5,500	5,500
Repairs & Maintenance (includes bldg & grounds)	18,000	17,214	18,000	20,477	17,500	17,500
Building Projects	25,000	24,319	50,000	46,588	26,000	26,000
Summer Painting	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Barret Hall Rental	5,200	4,200	5,200	4,600	4,600	4,600
Electricity	15,000	15,696	15,000	16,794	16,000	17,000
Fuel Oil	18,000	13,787	18,000	14,746	17,000	16,000
Mowing	2,500	1,250	2,700	2,700	3,000	3,000
Snow Removal	3,000	3,170	3,000	3,430	4,000	4,000
Furniture/Equipment	5,000	2,420	5,000	1,983	3,500	3,500
Dues & Fees	210	165	210	265	210	210
Total Buildings & Grounds	\$ 192,662	\$ 183,483	\$ 218,290	\$ 212,071	\$ 197,894	\$ 196,675

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Transportation						
Field Trip Trans.	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,970	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,608	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Transportation - Homeless	-	5,904	-	-	-	-
Contracted Transportation	76,000	78,936	80,000	77,529	82,000	82,000
Total Transportation	\$ 81,000	\$ 89,810	\$ 88,000	\$ 82,137	\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000
Debt Service						
Long Term Debt (walkway)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201
Interest (short term borrowing)	21,000	11,929	18,000	18,381	16,000	17,000
Total Debt Service	\$ 21,000	\$ 11,929	\$ 39,201	\$ 39,582	\$ 37,201	\$ 38,201
Art - Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 9,123	\$ 9,324	\$ 9,557	\$ 9,625	\$ 11,895	\$ 11,756
Health Ins	2,445	2,411	2,748	2,652	1,410	-
Employer Taxes	698	682	731	702	910	899
Workers Comp.	68	42	72	47	89	94
Dental Ins.	67	67	69	72	75	-
Supplies	800	127	800	691	-	1,000
Total Art Elementary	\$ 13,202	\$ 12,653	\$ 13,978	\$ 13,789	\$ 14,379	\$ 13,749
Phys Ed - Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 17,709	\$ 15,938	\$ 18,152	\$ 18,213	\$ 18,536	\$ 17,567
Health Ins. Benefits	5,502	5,424	6,183	3,604	3,172	225
Employer Taxes	1,355	1,219	1,389	1,393	1,418	1,344
Life Ins	13	11	13	13	14	14
Workers Comp.	133	79	136	89	139	141
Dental Ins.	151	151	156	177	168	-
Supplies	500	750	500	334	500	500
Equipment	750	447	750	-	750	750
Total Phys Ed - Elementary	\$ 26,113	\$ 24,019	\$ 27,279	\$ 23,823	\$ 24,696	\$ 20,540

Description	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	PROPOSED
						Budget 2016
Music - Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 8,486	\$ 13,567	\$ 12,961	\$ 17,179	\$ 10,582	\$ 10,793
Employer Taxes	649	1,038	991	1,314	809	826
Workers Comp.	64	55	97	64	79	86
Maintenance & Repair	100	171	250	-	250	250
Supplies	300	60	300	-	200	420
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Music Elementary	\$ 9,598	\$ 14,891	\$ 14,599	\$ 18,557	\$ 11,920	\$ 12,375
Preschool Tuition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000
General Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 273,889	\$ 276,346	\$ 328,057	\$ 341,182	\$ 373,225	\$ 364,340
Substitutes Salary	3,500	8,207	3,500	4,823	5,000	6,000
Paraprofessional Salaries	22,429	26,984	26,084	17,483	26,475	28,673
Health Ins. Benefits	61,459	48,039	67,427	47,520	80,981	86,472
Employer Taxes	22,936	22,984	27,360	27,094	30,960	30,442
Life Ins	139	155	155	167	166	200
Workers Comp.	2,249	1,312	2,682	1,776	3,035	3,192
Retirement Contribution	897	1,094	1,043	479	1,059	1,147
Unemployment	3,000	4,104	3,500	2,360	4,500	4,500
Dental Ins.	2,229	1,876	2,516	1,724	3,019	2,481
504/EST Expenses	5,000	169	5,000	-	1,500	500
Supplies	6,000	3,464	6,000	5,572	5,000	6,650
Books & Periodicals	3,500	3,096	3,500	3,344	3,500	5,525
Distance Learning/Tech	2,500	-	1,000	-	-	-
Audio-Visual	-	-	1,350	223	1,500	-
Equipment	500	-	-	-	-	-
Total General Elementary	\$ 410,226	\$ 397,830	\$ 479,174	\$ 453,747	\$ 539,920	\$ 540,123

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Summer Remedial Program						
Salaries	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,799	\$ 1,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Benefits	122	138	122	-	-	-
Supplies	-	56	-	-	-	-
Total Summer Remedial Program	\$ 1,722	\$ 1,993	\$ 1,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Art - Middle						
Salaries	\$ 4,561	\$ 4,662	\$ 4,779	\$ 4,812	\$ 5,948	\$ 5,878
Health Ins	1,223	1,205	1,374	1,326	705	-
Employer Taxes	349	341	366	351	455	450
Workers Comp.	34	21	36	24	45	47
Dental Ins.	34	34	35	36	37	-
Supplies	600	889	600	403	-	700
Total Art - Middle	\$ 6,801	\$ 7,152	\$ 7,189	\$ 6,952	\$ 7,190	\$ 7,075
World Language Middle						
Salaries	\$ 7,312	\$ 7,312	\$ 7,695	\$ 8,618	\$ 7,954	\$ 9,118
Employer Taxes	559	560	589	659	608	698
Worker Comp.	55	33	58	38	60	73
Supplies	200	-	200	-	200	200
On Line Course	-	-	-	-	-	-
Books & Periodicals	1,000	1,209	500	-	500	200
Total World Language-Middle School	\$ 9,126	\$ 9,114	\$ 9,041	\$ 9,315	\$ 9,322	\$ 10,289
Physical Education-Middle						
Salaries	\$ 8,855	\$ 10,626	\$ 9,076	\$ 8,971	\$ 9,268	\$ 8,783
Health Ins. Benefits	3,668	3,616	4,122	2,676	2,115	150
Employer Taxes	677	813	694	686	709	672
Life Ins	8	8	8	9	11	11
Workers Comp.	66	39	68	45	70	70
Dental Ins.	101	101	104	95	112	-
Supplies	800	441	800	961	850	850
Equipment	750	545	750	-	800	700
Total Physical Education-Middle	\$ 14,926	\$ 16,189	\$ 15,623	\$ 13,443	\$ 13,934	\$ 11,237

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Music - Middle						
Salaries	\$ 8,486	\$ 13,145	\$ 9,007	\$ 11,013	\$ 7,936	\$ 10,793
Employer Taxes	649	1,006	689	842	607	826
Workers Comp.	64	55	68	44	60	86
Repairs/Maint	-	-	-	-	-	250
Supplies	1,000	105	1,500	408	500	500
Books & Periodicals	400	-	400	-	400	-
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dues & Fees	-	-	-	-	-	100
Total Music Middle	\$ 10,598	\$ 14,311	\$ 11,664	\$ 12,307	\$ 9,503	\$ 12,555
Athletics						
Coaching/ Other Stipends	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,000
Employer Benefits	214	233	222	233	145	153
Supplies	1,100	1,043	1,100	598	1,100	1,100
Officials	1,800	700	1,800	350	800	800
Total Athletics	\$ 5,914	\$ 3,976	\$ 6,022	\$ 3,281	\$ 3,945	\$ 4,053
Computer Technology/Instruction						
Technology Support Services	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,752	\$ 20,000	\$ 12,993	\$ 18,000	\$ 16,000
Employer Taxes	536	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000	169	1,500	-	1,000	1,000
Computer Hardware	18,500	21,919	18,500	18,245	18,500	16,500
Assessment Tools	-	-	-	-	1,500	5,500
Internet Connection	1,000	-	1,000	125	1,500	400
Total Computer Technology	\$ 41,036	\$ 38,840	\$ 41,000	\$ 31,363	\$ 40,500	\$ 39,400
Food Service Program Subsidy	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
Sub-Total	\$2,011,713	\$2,079,024	\$2,124,813	\$2,117,726	\$2,191,967	\$2,239,378

Description	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	PROPOSED
						Budget 2016
General Secondary						
Tuition to Other LEA's in VT	\$ 40,635	\$ 58,106	\$ 29,200	\$ 69,573	\$ 60,800	\$ 15,200
Tuition to Designated HS-TA	447,250	409,476	514,632	335,486	436,616	484,848
Tuition to LEA's Outside of VT	68,500	89,360	55,116	110,232	164,248	223,776
Tuition to Private Schools	150,000	173,065	194,985	248,586	244,800	288,800
Total General Secondary	\$ 706,385	\$ 730,007	\$ 793,933	\$ 763,877	\$ 906,464	\$1,012,624
Vocational Ed.						
Tuition other VT LEA'S	\$ 50,000	\$ 48,713	\$ 55,000	\$ 39,644	\$ 55,000	\$ 50,000
Dual Enrollment	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
Voc Transportation	-	6,856	-	7,266	-	-
Tuition paid by State on behalf of District	17,075	17,075	16,520	16,957	22,854	23,206
Total Vocational Ed.	\$ 67,075	\$ 72,644	\$ 71,520	\$ 63,867	\$ 77,854	\$ 75,706
Total Expenditure Budget	\$2,785,173	\$2,881,675	\$2,990,266	\$2,945,470	\$3,176,285	\$3,327,708

**ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2015-2016**

Description	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016
PRIOR YR FUND BALANCE CARRY-OVER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9,545)	\$ 33,984
REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES						
Tuition	\$ 8,500	\$ 12,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	18,500	13,347	18,500	15,764	15,000	15,000
Rentals (includes Preschool)	6,000	5,120	6,000	4,859	6,000	5,500
Unspent Generator Funds	-	-	-	-	16,212	-
Refunds/Reimbursements	500	-	500	252	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	5,309	-	2,595	-	-
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	16,333	-	(448)	-	-
Title I from OWSU	35,000	35,900	35,000	31,790	35,000	27,000
Donations/PTA/Miscellaneous	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 71,500	\$ 88,127	\$ 63,000	\$ 54,812	\$ 72,212	\$ 47,500
REVENUES FROM STATE/FEDERAL SOURCES						
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 2,234,159	\$ 2,234,160	\$ 2,419,467	\$ 2,419,030	\$ 2,576,925	\$ 2,716,949
ACT 60 Related Transportation	36,000	33,721	37,683	37,632	36,992	33,075
Vocational Transportation Reimb	-	6,856	-	7,267	-	-
Small Schools Grant	63,242	94,104	83,726	88,307	85,214	99,571
Medicaid Reimbursement(IEP & EPSDT)	32,000	38,000	32,000	36,000	35,000	35,000
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 2,365,401	\$ 2,406,841	\$ 2,572,876	\$ 2,588,236	\$ 2,734,131	\$ 2,884,595

Description	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016
SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUES						
Block Grant	\$ 61,431	\$ 61,431	\$ 64,587	\$ 64,587	\$ 64,861	\$ 65,556
Expenditure Reimbursement	231,010	247,995	233,808	238,925	247,470	248,554
Extraordinary	25,393	37,110	27,250	37,229	31,023	13,573
Early Education Grant	13,363	13,363	12,225	12,225	13,279	10,740
Total Special Ed. Revenues	\$ 331,197	\$ 359,899	\$ 337,870	\$ 352,966	\$ 356,633	\$ 338,423
SUB- TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE -	\$ 2,768,098	\$ 2,854,867	\$ 2,973,746	\$ 2,996,014	\$ 3,153,431	\$ 3,304,502
Vocational Tuition						
Received for Tech Ctr- sent directly to Tech Ctr	\$ 17,075	\$ 17,075	\$ 16,520	\$ 16,957	\$ 22,854	\$ 23,206
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,785,173	\$ 2,871,942	\$ 2,990,266	\$ 3,012,971	\$ 3,176,285	\$ 3,327,708

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
FY 2015-2016
PRELIMINARY BUDGET
(INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Expenditures						
Salaries	\$35,000	\$35,133	\$37,000	\$37,387	\$38,000	\$38,700
Benefits	4,887	4,922	5,300	5,273	5,500	5,700
Repairs/Maintenance	200	250	300	1,781	250	300
Food	34,000	40,834	38,000	36,109	41,000	38,150
Supplies	3,500	4,205	5,000	5,378	3,600	4,000
Propane	500	424	-	(458)	400	400
Commodities	3,400	4,090	3,500	4,204	4,000	4,300
Equipment	-	550	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$81,487	\$90,408	\$89,100	\$89,674	\$92,750	\$91,550
Revenues						
Sales	\$33,837	\$26,371	\$34,350	\$23,510	\$30,000	\$25,000
State Lunch Match	650	690	750	610	750	750
State Bkfst Match	500	401	500	375	500	500
Federal Lunch Reimb	17,000	23,522	21,000	25,535	25,750	28,000
Federal Bkfst Reimb	10,000	14,288	13,000	15,547	15,750	17,000
Commodities	3,500	4,090	3,500	4,204	4,000	4,300
Transfer from General Fund	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Total Revenue	\$81,487	\$85,362	\$89,100	\$85,781	\$92,750	\$91,550

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES**

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Transportation Expenditures						
Contracted Transportation	\$76,000	\$78,936	\$80,000	\$77,529	\$82,000	\$82,000
Homeless Transportation	-	5,904	-	-	-	-
Contracted Field Trip Transp	5,000	4,970	8,000	4,608	5,000	5,000
Total	\$81,000	\$89,810	\$88,000	\$82,137	\$87,000	\$87,000

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS
FYE 6/30/14

General Fund	\$ 50,196
Food Service Program	\$ (4,091)
Medicaid Funds	\$ 22,589
<i>(these funds are held at OWSU and drawn down as needed for qualifying expenditures)</i>	
Tyson Gym Reserve	\$ 1,088
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 36,598
Tuition Reserve	\$ 90,271

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending June 30, 2014

The Strafford School District had an outstanding loan of \$79,347 for the covered walkway as of June 30, 2014.



Elizabeth Chapman Root
(1923 - 2013)

Elizabeth was the first woman to serve as Strafford's Postmaster. She was appointed in 1959 as Acting Postmaster, then appointed Postmaster in 1960.

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
EXPENDITURE BUDGET
FY 2015-2016

Description	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016
Office of the Superintendent						
Administrator's Salary	\$ 112,426	\$ 111,151	\$ 113,930	\$ 113,930	\$ 117,348	\$ 112,200
Clerical Support	38,097	37,027	39,225	38,430	39,526	40,310
Health Insurance	21,283	24,952	30,070	29,016	30,322	31,686
Employer Taxes	11,515	10,868	11,716	11,182	12,001	11,667
Life Ins Premiums	211	229	187	251	332	355
Support Staff Retirement Cont.	1,905	1,802	1,961	1,969	2,026	2,167
Workers Comp	1,129	775	1,149	755	1,177	1,220
Professional Development	2,000	2,100	2,000	1,728	2,000	3,500
Dental Insurance	1,016	973	1,046	1,230	1,124	1,052
Legal Fees	500	2,522	1,000	883	1,500	1,500
Contracted Services-	2,500	1,981	1,100	9,697	1,100	1,100
In-Service, Meetings, Etc.	1,500	3,196	2,000	5,549	1,500	1,500
Repairs & Maintenance	500	-	500	-	500	500
Superintendent's Travel	3,000	2,407	4,000	1,660	3,000	3,000
Staff Travel	500	915	400	1,349	400	400
Books & Periodicals	400	222	400	-	400	400
Equipment Contingency	500	-	-	-	-	-
Dues & Fees	4,400	6,076	4,000	6,081	5,000	5,000
Fingerprinting Expense	3,000	5,335	3,000	4,258	4,500	4,500
Total Office of the Superintendent	\$ 206,381	\$ 212,531	\$ 217,684	\$ 227,968	\$ 223,755	\$ 222,057
Curriculum Services						
Salaries	\$ -	\$ 42,500	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 87,550	\$ 89,301
Employer Taxes	-	3,251	6,503	5,994	6,698	6,832
Health Insurance	-	5,837	13,115	12,656	13,225	13,821
Workers Comp, Life Ins, Dental Ins	-	502	1,280	1,191	1,520	1,520

Description					Proposed	
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Prof Development	-	-	-	2,229	1,300	2,000
Mileage				1,639	1,700	1,700
Supplies	-	3,281	500	1,516	750	750
Books & Periodicals	-	-	500	24	750	750
Dues & Fees				99	600	600
Total Curriculum Services	\$ -	\$ 55,371	\$ 106,897	\$ 110,348	\$ 114,093	\$ 117,273
Fiscal Services						
Administrators Salary	\$ 78,649	\$ 78,649	\$ 80,616	\$ 80,616	\$ 83,035	\$ 84,695
AP/Payroll Personnel	80,315	68,563	80,798	73,219	83,211	84,884
Health Insurance	23,549	20,088	25,555	23,325	25,769	26,928
Employer Taxes	12,161	10,742	12,348	11,149	12,718	12,973
Workers Comp Ins	1,192	809	1,211	764	1,247	1,272
Life Ins	228	248	228	213	362	390
Support Staff Retire. Contrib.	7,948	7,361	8,071	7,826	8,520	9,115
Professional Development	500	649	500	540	500	500
Dental Insurance	1,524	1,168	1,464	1,280	1,574	1,473
Other Contracted Services	-	-	-	1,725	-	-
Treasurer Services	600	600	600	600	600	600
Audit Services	2,400	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900
Computer Maintenance	10,500	11,972	10,500	13,217	10,500	10,500
Travel/Conference	1,500	2,585	1,500	2,674	2,600	2,600
Supplies	2,500	4,406	2,500	5,533	2,500	2,500
Equipment Contingency	11,500	11,402	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Dues & Fees	1,500	383	1,500	406	1,000	500
Total Fiscal Services	\$ 236,566	\$ 223,525	\$ 232,290	\$ 226,987	\$ 239,035	\$ 243,829
Central Office						
Unemployment Tax	\$ 600	\$ 3,734	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,000
Section 125 Admin	450	765	450	1,421	650	1,000
Custodial Services	4,500	6,525	4,500	4,403	3,250	3,250
Repairs & Maint.	3,000	1,428	3,000	2,214	1,500	2,000

Description					Proposed	
	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Budget 2016
Disposal Services	900	750	900	728	850	850
Rental of Building	23,175	21,200	23,175	21,600	21,200	21,200
Property & Liability Insurance/Other ins	3,500	5,390	5,000	5,002	5,600	5,600
Telephone Expense	4,500	4,370	5,000	4,597	4,600	4,800
Postage	4,000	3,261	4,500	3,628	2,900	2,900
Advertising	3,500	3,643	3,000	2,515	3,150	3,150
Supplies	9,500	7,191	9,005	6,660	7,500	7,500
Electricity	2,200	1,781	2,200	2,001	2,000	2,200
Heat	5,000	5,342	5,000	6,680	5,400	5,400
Equipment/lease	5,000	4,933	4,000	4,876	5,000	5,000
Total Central Office	\$ 69,825	\$ 70,313	\$ 71,230	\$ 67,325	\$ 67,100	\$ 66,850
Student Support						
Distr Music Prog- Sals	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Distr Music Prog- Employer Taxes	27	168	27	92	27	27
Distr Music Prog- Contr Services	500	-	500	-	500	500
Distr Music Prog- Supplies	2,523	2,892	2,523	2,634	2,523	2,523
Distr Collaborative Projects	600	479	1,000	630	1,000	1,000
Total Student Support	\$ 4,650	\$ 5,739	\$ 5,050	\$ 4,556	\$ 5,050	\$ 5,050
Technology						
Technology -Website	\$ 1,500	\$ 573	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Grant Administration						
Administration Salaries	\$ 46,481	\$ 35,538	\$ 36,426	\$ 30,355	\$ 36,426	\$ 38,269
Health Ins	9,226	6,904	7,869	3,797	5,300	1,200
Employer Taxes	3,556	1,994	2,787	1,940	2,787	2,928
Life Ins	170	210	170	(73)	302	320
Workers Comp	349	269	273	138	273	306
Prof Development	2,000	294	2,000	35	2,000	2,000
Dental Ins	406	231	314	164	337	316

Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Proposed
	2013	2013	2014	2014	2015	Budget 2016
Audit	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	3,900	3,900
Wireless Internet	-	336	-	180	-	-
Mileage Reimb	1,500	584	1,500	540	798	798
Supplies	500	1,503	500	1,924	500	500
Books/Periodicals	1,000	92	1,000	497	1,000	1,000
Other expenses/software	100	207	100	106	100	100
Total All Grant Administration	\$ 67,688	\$ 50,562	\$ 55,339	\$ 42,003	\$ 53,723	\$ 51,637
Title 1 Services						
LEA Services						
Early Ed Services, ie..Story Lady	\$ 35,535	\$ 34,824	\$ 32,000	\$ 31,498	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000
Other Wages	-	-	-	1,150	-	-
Tutoring Services	4,000	10,015	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Parental Communications	-	-	-	12,397	-	-
ALL LEA ARRA Funded Services	-	5,304	-	-	-	-
Employer Taxes	2,907	3,922	2,754	3,517	2,754	2,754
Health Ins	9,226	9,204	10,492	10,125	11,138	11,138
Workers Comp	297	276	270	-	270	270
Dental Ins	420	406	420	437	420	420
Professional Development/Training Exp	5,500	1,000	5,500	-	5,500	5,500
Other Contracted Services	-	2,834	-	3,144	-	-
Homeless Services	1,000	425	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Travel/Mileage Reimb	1,400	1,721	1,400	1,920	1,400	1,400
Supplies	500	4,353	1,000	6,049	1,000	1,000
Books & Periodicals	400	6,814	400	-	400	400
Dues & Fees	-	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,100	2,100
After School Program Remediation	5,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total LEA Title 1	\$ 66,185	\$ 83,198	\$ 61,336	\$ 72,437	\$ 61,982	\$ 61,982
Return Funds to State	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,650	\$ -	\$ -
Total Supervisory Union Budget	\$ 652,795	\$ 701,812	\$ 751,326	\$ 759,274	\$ 766,238	\$ 770,179

**ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2015-2016**

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016	Nov-14 Enrollment	Assessment % Based on Enrollment	Diff from FY2015
Local Assessments:							K-12		
Chelsea	\$ 95,211	\$ 95,211	\$ 110,357	\$ 110,357	\$ 122,932	\$ 122,269	178	20.55%	\$ (663)
Royalton	202,689	202,689	205,205	205,205	227,297	234,235	341	39.38%	6,938
Sharon	60,164	60,164	69,795	69,795	72,991	83,116	121	13.97%	10,125
Stratford	75,936	75,936	75,162	75,162	76,833	83,116	121	13.97%	6,283
Tunbridge	65,421	65,421	71,583	71,583	76,833	72,125	105	12.12%	(4,708)
Total Local Assessments	\$499,422	\$499,421	\$ 532,102	\$532,102	\$576,886	\$594,860	866	100.00%	\$ 17,974
State/Federal Sources									
Other Grant Admin Fees	\$ 7,500	\$ 4,900	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,693	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000			
Title 1/Other Grant Funding/ARRA	133,873	133,874	170,124	171,594	172,752	159,519			
Total State/Federal Sources	\$141,373	\$138,774	\$ 177,624	\$178,287	\$177,752	\$164,519			
Other Sources									
Interest	\$ 2,000	\$ 491	\$ 600	\$ 227	\$ 600	\$ 300			
Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	17,000	-	-			
21ST Century Admin Fees/OP	5,000	5,398	6,000	8,982	6,000	6,500			
Prior Period Adj	-	(1,990)	-	(2,296)	-	-			
Misc.	-	4,020	-	1,940	5,000	4,000			
Balance from Prior Years	5,000	5,000	35,000	35,000	-	-			
Total Other Sources	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,919	\$ 41,600	\$ 60,853	\$ 11,600	\$ 10,800			
Grand Total	\$652,795	\$651,114	\$ 751,326	\$771,242	\$766,238	\$770,179			

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
STATE AID FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
Estimated 2014-2015

	State Block Grant	Extraordinary Reimbursement	Expenditure Reimbursement	Essential Early Education Grant	Total Estimated State Aid	Anticipated Special Ed Expenditures
Chelsea	\$ 54,650	\$ 22,554	\$ 214,692	\$ 10,258	\$ 302,154	\$ 526,738
Royalton	109,277	48,412	468,402	23,098	649,189	1,130,635
Sharon	90,000	35,428	333,320	19,080	477,828	827,394
Stratford	64,861	26,325	249,571	13,678	354,435	614,796
Tunbridge	69,951	27,661	260,542	14,789	372,943	645,997
Total	\$ 388,739	\$ 160,380	\$ 1,526,527	\$ 80,903	\$ 2,156,549	\$ 3,745,560

Estimated 2015-2016

	State Block Grant	Extraordinary Reimbursement	Expenditure Reimbursement	Essential Early Education Grant	Total Estimated State Aid	Anticipated Special Ed Expenditures
Chelsea	\$ 64,333	\$ 11,221	\$ 250,840	\$ 12,029	\$ 338,423	\$ 597,300
Royalton	117,004	20,391	455,733	20,484	613,612	1,085,412
Sharon	88,464	16,138	364,569	17,185	486,356	859,047
Stratford	65,556	11,421	255,242	10,740	342,959	607,953
Tunbridge	70,806	12,300	274,697	14,091	371,894	654,748
Total	\$ 406,163	\$ 71,471	\$ 1,601,081	\$ 74,529	\$ 2,153,244	\$ 3,804,460

*The above information is based on the service plans that were submitted in the Fall of the previous year.
The budgeted revenues and expenditures may that occurred following that submission.*

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
Special Education
Expenditure Budget FY2015-2016

Program Area	Budget 2012-2013	Actual 2012-2013	Budget 2013-2014	Actual 2013-2014	Budget 2014-2015	Budget 2015-2016
Direct Instruction - Essential Early Ed						
Teacher and Support Staff Salaries	\$ 69,575	\$ 70,656	\$ 71,890	\$ 69,251	\$ 72,817	\$ 130,014
Benefits (Taxes, Insurance & Professional Dev)	20,820	22,225	23,294	24,977	25,259	32,700
Contracted Services	5,500	9,812	3,000	3,881	3,000	4,000
Tuition	43,000	21,938	45,000	11,425	20,000	20,000
Mileage	-	1,295		523	1,000	1,000
Supplies/Equipment	3,000	1,005	4,000	916	3,000	6,000
Psychological Services	10,000	6,130	15,000	3,500	10,000	2,000
Speech Pathology & Audiology						
Salaries	4,536	26,554	22,356	18,665	23,000	26,154
Benefits	1,564	7,281	7,974	4,499	6,900	7,846
Contracted Services	-	-	-		3,000	2,000
Occupational Therapy Services						
Salaries	5,295	13,525	3,049	-	12,500	27,692
Benefits	405	3,547	919	-	3,750	8,308
Contracted Services	-	-	-	-	3,000	2,000
Total Essential Early Ed	\$ 163,695	\$ 183,968	\$ 196,482	\$ 137,637	\$ 184,226	\$ 269,714

Direct Instruction K-12

Teacher/Support Staff Salaries/Summer/Substitutes	\$1,247,049	\$1,284,405	\$1,168,452	\$1,188,907	\$1,201,936	\$1,110,846
Benefits (Taxes, Insurance & Professional Dev)	351,656	390,597	416,973	382,422	453,263	413,906
Contracted Serv	123,000	83,926	139,150	120,755	85,000	185,884
Phone/Postage/Travel	2,500	3,816	3,000	2,101	3,500	4,000
Tuition	471,500	707,422	443,200	784,128	573,000	557,500
Excess Cost	310,000	301,181	413,500	275,901	377,000	214,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals/Equip	36,000	14,704	17,000	8,523	10,000	10,000
Travel	-	-	-	6,461	-	5,000
Software	-	-	2,100	-	2,000	10,000
Equipment	-	-	10,000	1,963	10,000	12,000
Psychological Services	175,000	211,652	180,200	233,238	195,000	311,000
Speech Pathology and Audiology						
Salaries	192,681	171,239	183,201	184,870	186,661	218,654
Benefits (Taxes, Insurance & Professional Dev)	67,182	75,212	79,756	53,018	56,976	65,596
Travel	1,000	1,952	1,000	1,748	2,000	2,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals/Dues	2,500	2,672	3,500	3,896	4,000	4,000
Occupational Therapy Services						
Salaries	87,203	91,805	103,811	106,861	97,566	125,659
Benefits (Taxes, Insurance & Professional Dev)	36,149	31,318	43,297	38,979	36,166	34,698
Contracted Services	11,000	900	-	1,550	-	1,500
Supplies/Books & Periodicals/Travel	4,800	1,641	4,800	2,957	3,000	3,000
Other Support Services	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	25,000
Administration						
Salaries	123,656	125,406	128,860	130,955	152,884	137,585
Benefits (Taxes, Insurance & Professional Dev)	30,683	35,306	33,948	35,109	37,202	40,392
Contracted Services	6,000	5,909	6,000	4,079	6,000	6,000
Repairs/Maintenance	2,000	120	1,500	249	1,000	1,000
Child Find Activities	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Travel Reimbursement/Conference	3,000	2,808	3,000	2,563	3,000	3,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals/Equip/Dues	2,550	1,080	2,750	1,204	2,500	2,500
Transportation	175,600	293,956	197,700	246,485	230,000	237,000
TOTAL ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$3,631,404	\$4,022,995	\$3,788,180	\$3,956,559	\$3,916,880	\$4,013,434

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION

Special Education

Revenue Budget FY 2015-2016

IDEA B Basic Flow Through	\$ 262,600	\$ 242,885	\$ 250,000	\$ 280,235	\$ 260,000	\$ 260,000
IDEA B Pre-School & PS portion of FlowThrough	22,100	37,591	35,000	11,472	35,000	50,000
Tuition and Excess Cost Revenue	12,000	9,329	24,000	7,021	15,000	3,000
State Placed Reimbursement	-	3,176	-	-	-	-
Prior Year Adjustment	-	-	-	15,537	-	-
IEP Medicaid	22,000	22,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$ 318,700	\$ 314,981	\$ 334,000	\$ 339,265	\$ 335,000	\$ 338,000
BALANCE TO MEMBER TOWNS	\$3,312,704	\$3,708,014	\$3,454,180	\$3,617,294	\$3,581,880	\$3,675,434

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
Apportionment Calculation For
Member Towns FY2013-2014

			December 2012	EEE	K-12	
			Equalized Pupils	Allocation	Allocation	Total
Chelsea	14.147%	147.88	\$ 22,845	\$ 465,818	\$ 488,663	
Royalton	31.619%	330.52	51,058	1,041,118	1,092,176	
Sharon	20.999%	219.49	33,910	691,434	725,344	
Strafford	16.099%	168.28	25,997	530,091	556,088	
Tunbridge	17.136%	179.13	27,672	564,237	591,909	
Total	100.000%	1045.3	\$ 161,482	\$ 3,292,698	\$ 3,454,180	

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
Apportionment Calculation For
Member Towns FY2014-2015

			December 2013	EEE	K-12	
			Equalized Pupils	Allocation	Allocation	Total
Chelsea	14.063%	148.6	\$ 20,986	\$ 482,750	\$ 503,736	
Royalton	30.185%	318.95	45,044	1,036,157	1,081,201	
Sharon	22.090%	233.41	32,964	758,268	791,232	
Strafford	16.414%	173.44	24,494	563,446	587,940	
Tunbridge	17.247%	182.24	25,737	592,034	617,771	
Total	100.00%	1056.64	\$ 149,226	\$ 3,432,655	\$ 3,581,880	

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
Apportionment Calculation For
Member Towns FY2015-2016

			December 2014	EEE	K-12	
			Equalized Pupils	Allocation	Allocation	Total
Chelsea	15.70%	169.55	\$ 34,497	\$ 542,571	\$ 577,068	
Royalton	28.54%	308.2	62,706	986,260	1,048,967	
Sharon	22.58%	243.79	49,601	780,144	829,746	
Strafford	15.97%	172.5	35,097	552,011	587,108	
Tunbridge	17.21%	185.85	37,813	594,732	632,545	
Total	100.00%	1079.89	\$ 219,714	\$ 3,455,720	\$ 3,675,434	

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES ONLY

District: **Stratford**
County: **Orange**

T199
Orange - Windsor

Statutory calculation. See note at bottom of page. Recommended homestead rate from Tax Commissioner. See note at bottom of page.

9,459 **1.00**

Expenditures

		FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$2,821,173	\$2,990,266	\$3,193,894	\$3,327,708	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)	-	-	-	-	3.
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$2,821,173	\$2,990,266	\$3,193,894	\$3,327,708	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	\$2,821,173	\$2,990,266	\$3,193,894	\$3,327,708	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)	\$533,939	\$554,279	\$586,051	\$587,553	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)	-	-	-	-	12.
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$533,939	\$554,279	\$586,051	\$587,553	13.
14.	Education Spending	\$2,287,234	\$2,435,987	\$2,607,843	\$2,740,155	14.
15.	Equalized Pupils (Act 130 count is by school district)	168.28	173.44	172.50	176.08	15.

16.		Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$13,591.84	\$14,045.13	\$15,117.93	\$15,561.99	16.
17.	minus	Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus	Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual	\$134.72	\$36.45	\$23.90		18.
19.	minus	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	-	-	-		19.
20.	minus	Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils	-	-	-		20.
21.	minus	Estimated costs of new students after census period	-	-	-		21.
22.	minus	Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition	NA	-	-		22.
23.	minus	Less planning costs for merger of small schools	-	-	-		23.
24.	minus	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015	NA	NA	NA		24.
25.	plus	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	threshold = \$14,841 -	threshold = \$15,456 -	threshold = \$16,166 -	threshold = \$17,103 -	25.
26.		Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	\$13,592	\$14,045	\$15,118	\$15,562	26.
27.		District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%) (\$15,562 / \$9,459)	155.816% <small>based on \$8,723</small>	153.482% <small>based on \$9,151</small>	162.821% <small>based on \$9,285</small>	164.520% <small>based on \$9,459</small>	27.
Prorating the local tax rate							
28.		Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate to be prorated (164.520% x \$1,000)	\$1,3868 <small>based on \$0.89</small>	\$1,4427 <small>based on \$0.94</small>	\$1,5956 <small>based on \$0.98</small>	\$1,6452 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	28.
29.		Percent of Stratford equalized pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	29.
30.		Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.65)	\$1,3868	\$1,4427	\$1,5956	\$1,6452	30.
31.		Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	111.57%	113.97%	110.07%	107.46%	31.
32.		Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (1.6452 / 107.46%)	\$1,2430 <small>based on \$0.89</small>	\$1,2659 <small>based on \$0.94</small>	\$1,4496 <small>based on \$0.98</small>	\$1,5310 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	32.
<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>							
33.		Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated (164.520% x 1.94%)	2.80% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	2.76% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	3.16% <small>based on 1.94%</small>	3.19% <small>based on 1.94%</small>	33.
34.		Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 3.19%)	2.80% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	2.76% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	3.16% <small>based on 1.94%</small>	3.19% <small>based on 1.94%</small>	34.
35.		Percent of equalized pupils at union 1	-	-	-		35.
36.			-	-	-		36.

- Following current statute, the base education amount is calculated to be \$9,459. The Tax Commissioner has recommended base tax rates of \$1.00 and \$1.535. The administration also has stated that tax rates could be lower than the recommendations if statewide education spending is held down.
 - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
 - The base income percentage cap is 1.94%.

Comparative Data for Cost-Effectiveness, FY2016 Report 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2)(K)

School: Newton School
S.U.: Orange - Windsor S.U.

A list of schools and school districts in each cohort may be found on the DOE website under "School Data and Reports":
<http://www.state.vt.us/educ/>

FY2014 School Level Data

		School level data	Grades Offered	Enrollment	Total Teachers	Cohort Rank by Enrollment (1 is largest)			
						15 out of 34			
					Total Administrators	Stu / Tchr Ratio	Stu / Admin Ratio	Tchr / Admin Ratio	
Smaller ->		Brownington Central School	PK - 8	116	10.40	1.00	11.15	116.00	10.40
		Lowell Graded School	PK - 8	118	12.06	1.00	9.78	118.00	12.06
		Tunbridge Central School	K - 8	121	15.60	1.00	7.76	121.00	15.60
		Newton School	PK - 8	121	11.82	1.00	10.24	121.00	11.82
-< Larger		Millers Run School USD #37	PK - 8	126	11.05	1.00	11.40	126.00	11.05
		Charleston Elementary School	PK - 8	130	13.21	1.00	9.84	130.00	13.21
		Montgomery Elementary School	PK - 8	130	10.25	0.75	12.68	173.33	13.67
Averaged SCHOOL cohort data				122.94	11.87	1.00	10.35	123.49	11.93

School District: Stratford
LEA ID: T199

Special education expenditures vary substantially from district to district and year to year. Therefore, they have been excluded from these figures.

The portion of current expenditures made by supervisory unions on behalf of districts varies greatly. These data include district assessments to SUs. Including assessments to SUs makes districts more comparable to each other.

FY2013 School District Data

Cohort Description: K - 8 school district, FY2013 FTE < 200
(35 school districts in cohort)

		School district data (local, union, or joint district)	Grades offered in School District	Student FTE enrolled in school district	Current expenditures per student FTE EXCLUDING special education costs	Cohort Rank by FTE
						(1 is largest)
Smaller ->		Lowell	K-8	111.31	\$11,552	16 out of 35
		Orleans ID	PK-8	111.43	\$12,626	
		Tunbridge	PK-8	116.12	\$13,756	
	Stratford	K-8	116.31	\$13,260		
-< Larger		South Hero	PK-8	120.47	\$14,946	
		Montgomery	PK-8	120.60	\$10,817	
		Orwell	PK-8	123.90	\$12,061	
Averaged SCHOOL DISTRICT cohort data				120.4	\$12,622	

Current expenditures are an effort to calculate an amount per FTE spent by a district on students enrolled in that district. This figure excludes tuitions and assessments paid to other providers, construction and equipment costs, debt service, adult education, and community service.

FY2015 School District Data

		School district tax rate					Total municipal tax rate, K-12, consisting of prorated member district rates		
		SchIDist	SchIDist	SchIDist		MUN	MUN	MUN	
		Equalized	Education	Equalized		Equalized	Common	Actual	
		Pupils	Spending per	Homestead		Homestead	Level	Homestead	
			Equalized Pupil	Ed tax rate		Ed tax rate	of Appraisal	Ed tax rate	
				Use these tax rates to compare towns rates.				These tax rates are not comparable due to CLA's.	
LEA ID	School District	Grades offered in School District							
Smaller ->	T203	Sutton	PK-8	159.22	13,543.46	1.4295	1.4295	121.17%	1.1797
	T061	Dummerston	PK-8	160.39	16,467.83	1.7700	1.7595	98.80%	1.7809
	T218	Walden	PK-8	160.98	12,896.88	1.3612	1.3612	90.57%	1.5029
	T199	Stratford	PK-8	172.50	15,117.93	1.5956	1.5956	110.07%	1.4496
<-Larger	T116	Lunenburg	PK-8	180.46	12,996.84	1.3718	1.3718	116.56%	1.1769
	T161	Putney	PK-8	180.82	16,729.92	1.8253	1.7947	103.84%	1.7283
	T128	Montgomery	PK-8	181.01	11,509.39	1.2148	1.2148	102.14%	1.1893

The Legislature has required the Department of Education to provide this information per the following statute:

16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2) The school, at least annually, reports student performance results to community members in a format selected by the school board. . . . The school report shall include:

(K) data provided by the commissioner which enable a comparison with other schools, or school districts if school level data are not available, for cost-effectiveness. The commissioner shall establish which data are to be included pursuant to this subdivision and, notwithstanding that the other elements of the report are to be presented in a format selected by the school board, shall develop a common format to be used by each school in presenting the data to community members. The commissioner shall provide the most recent data available to each school no later than October 1 of each year. Data to be presented may include student-to-teacher ratio, administrator-to-student ratio, administrator-to-teacher ratio, and cost per pupil.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION**

**FY 2014-2015 First Semester Secondary Enrollment
(as of November 2014)**

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	9	7	6	3	25
Hanover High School	5	3	2	2	12
Woodstock				1	1
S. Royalton			1	1	2
Sharon Academy	6	5	4	5	20
Special Program				1	1
Total Enrollment	20	15	13	13	61

Secondary Education Tuition Paid during FY 2013-2014

	<u>Tuition Paid</u>
Thetford Academy	\$ 405,505
Hanover High School	110,232
Tabor Academy	13,084
Sharon Academy	248,596
S. Royalton	36,534
Woodstock UHSD	30,400
Vocational (all schools)	5,819
Total Tuition Paid	\$ 850,170

Per pupil costs*

	2013-2014		2014-2015	
	Tuition Charged	Amount to be paid	Tuition Charged	Amount to be paid
Thetford Academy	\$ 18,372	\$ 18,372	\$ 18,648	\$ 18,648
Hanover High School	18,902	18,372	19,327	18,648
Private Schools (state average)	varies	13,094	varies	13,752

*vocational not included

Congratulations, Graduates!
~ 2014 ~

The Newton School

Ian Barker	Emma Bauer	Kezar Berger
Treed Brooks	Anne Essex	Clay Goodling
Sam Knoerlein	Eliza Masteller	Nicholas Moses
Hannah Osheyack	Graham Penfield	Clifford Ransom
Danielle Robinson	Isabelle Rule-Becker	Nikole Spaneas
Cole Ward	Sarah Ward	Iva Wich

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thetford Academy

Jeremy Bauer	Kipling Haviland-Hack	Jeremy Kendall
Joseph Kifner	Angel McPhee	Aibhlin Moye-Linehan
Abigail Osheyack	Logan Wich	Mary Younce

The Sharon Academy

Greta Binzen	Rosemary Connelli	Sierra Dreesman
Mollie Faccio	Hannah McFadden	

Mid-Vermont Christian School

Dylan McCormick

South Royalton High School

Clark Clogston

Woodstock Union High School

Jessica Tensen

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2004-05	13	11	10	11	11	10	15	15	16	112
2005-06	14	14	11	9	13	10	9	16	15	111
2006-07	14	14	11	9	13	10	9	16	15	111
2007-08	10	16	14	18	12	10	13	10	9	112
2008-09	13	12	15	15	16	12	9	13	11	116
2009-10	15	14	14	11	18	17	12	9	12	122
2010-11	13	17	10	16	11	18	19	11	10	125
2011-12	19	10	16	11	16	11	19	17	12	131
2012-13	11	15	8	17	13	15	13	20	17	129
2013-14	8	12	15	8	18	13	15	13	18	120
2014-15	14	8	11	16	10	19	14	16	12	120

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

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

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

TOWN OFFICE: Telephone 765-4411

TOWN GARAGE: Telephone 765-4550

LISTERS: Telephone 765-4360

www.traffordvt.org

Board Meetings

Selectboard – Town Office – Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

*Subject to change –check www.traffordvt.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 –
Wednesday after Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission – Town Office – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Energy Committee – Town Office – Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

School Directors – Newton School – Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.,
Fourth Monday, 7:30 a.m.

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

Monday 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Second Monday each month – 7:00 p.m. at Library